DRAFT Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for West Sequoia Avenue Multimodal Improvements

April 2024



Prepared By:



4Creeks, Inc. 324 S Santa Fe, Suite A Visalia, CA 93292 Prepared For:



City of Woodlake 350 N Valencia Blvd. Woodlake, CA 93286

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Section 1

Initial Study/Negative Declaration Process



City of Woodlake

350 N Valencia Blvd Woodlake, CA 93286

SECTION 1 CEQA Review Process

Project Title: West Sequoia Avenue Multimodal Improvements

1.1 California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines

Section 15063 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines requires that the Lead Agency prepare an Initial Study to determine whether a discretionary project will significantly affect the environment. All phases of the project planning, implementation, and operation must be considered in the Initial Study. The purposes of an Initial Study, as listed under Section 15063(c) of the CEQA Guidelines, include:

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

1.2 Initial Study

The Initial Study provided herein covers the potential environmental effects of the proposed improvements to West Sequoia Avenue in Woodlake, California. The Project is located in the northwest portion of the City of Woodlake and within the City's Sphere of Influence. The City of

Woodlake will act as the Lead Agency for this Project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines.

1.3 Environmental Checklist

The Lead Agency may use the CEQA Environmental Checklist Form [CEQA Guidelines, Section 15063(d)(3) and (f)] in preparation of an Initial Study to provide information for determining if there are significant effects of the Project on the environment. A copy of the completed Environmental Checklist is outlined in **Section Three**.

1.4 Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration/Notice of Preparation

The Lead Agency shall provide a Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15072) to the public, responsible agencies, trustee agencies, and the County Clerk within which the Project is located, sufficiently prior to adoption by the Lead Agency of the Negative Declaration to allow the public and agencies the review period. The public review period (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15105) shall not be less than 30 days when the Initial Study/Negative Declaration is submitted to the State Clearinghouse unless a shorter period, not less than 20 days, is approved by the State Clearinghouse.

Before approving the Project, the Lead Agency shall consider the proposed Negative Declaration and any comments received during the public review process. It shall adopt the proposed Negative Declaration only if it finds, based on the whole record before it, that there is no substantial evidence that the Project will significantly affect the environment and that the Negative Declaration reflects the Lead Agency's independent judgment and analysis.

The written and oral comments received during the public review period will be considered by The City of Woodlake before adopting the Negative Declaration. Regardless of the type of CEQA document that must be prepared, the overall purpose of the CEQA process is to:

- Assure that the environment and public health and safety are protected in the face of discretionary projects initiated by public agencies or private concerns;
- 2) Provide for full disclosure of the project's environmental effects to the public, the agency decision-makers who will approve or deny the project, and the responsible trustee agencies charged with managing resources (e.g. wildlife, air quality) that may be affected by the project; and
- 3) Provide a forum for public participation in the decision-making process pertaining to potential environmental effects.

According to Section 15070(a), a public agency shall prepare or have prepared a proposed negative declaration for a project subject to CEQA when:

"The initial study shows that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project may have a significant effect on the environment. Less than significant impacts with mitigation measures have been identified."

The Environmental Checklist Discussion contained in Section Three of this document has determined that the Project's environmental impacts are less than significant with mitigation measures and that a Mitigated Negative Declaration is adequate for adoption by the Lead Agency.

1.5 Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration

The Lead Agency shall prepare or have prepared a proposed Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration (CEQA Guidelines Section 15070) for a project subject to CEQA when the Initial Study shows that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project may have a significant effect on the environment. The proposed Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration circulated for public review shall include the following:

- (a) A brief description of the project, including a commonly used name for the project.
- (b) The location of the project, preferably shown on a map.
- (c) A proposed finding that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
- (d) An attached copy of the Initial Study documenting reasons to support the finding.
- (e) Mitigation measures, if any.

1.6 Intended Uses of Initial Study/Negative Declaration Documents

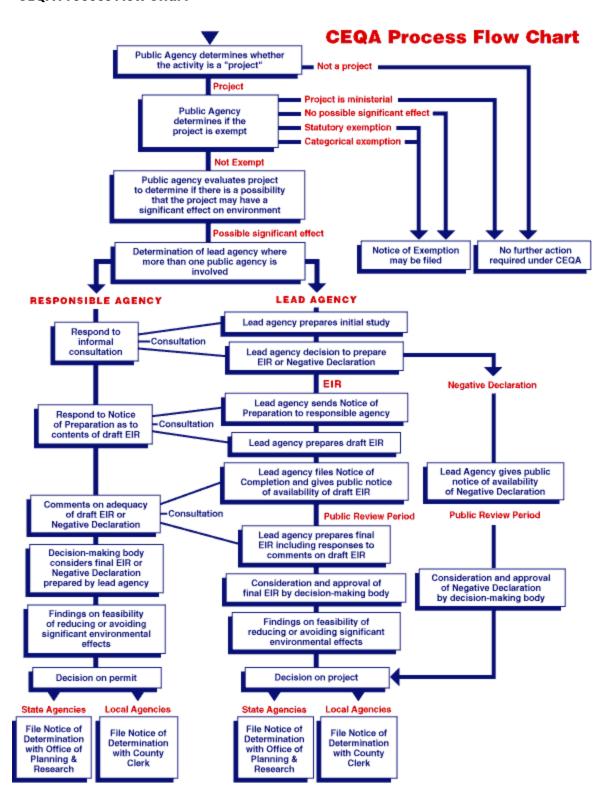
The Initial Study/Negative Declaration document is an informational document intended to inform decision-makers, other responsible or interested agencies, and the general public of the potential environmental effects of the proposed project. The environmental review process has been established to enable public agencies to evaluate environmental consequences and examine and implement methods to eliminate or reduce any adverse impacts. While CEQA requires consideration to avoid environmental damage, the Lead Agency must balance any potential environmental effects against other public objectives, including economic and social goals. The City of Woodlake, as the Lead Agency, will decide, based on the environmental review for the Environmental Study, Initial Study, and comments from the general public, if there are less than significant impacts from the proposed Project and the requirements of CEQA can be met by adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration.

1.7 Notice of Determination (NOD)

The Lead Agency shall file a Notice of Determination within five working days after deciding to approve the Project. The Notice of Determination (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15075) shall include the following:

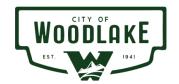
- (1) An identification of the project including the project title as identified on the proposed negative declaration, its location, and the State Clearinghouse identification number for the proposed negative declaration if the notice of determination is filed with the State Clearinghouse.
- (2) A brief description of the project.
- (3) The agency's name and the date on which the agency approved the project.
- (4) The determination of the agency that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
- (5) A statement that a negative declaration or a mitigated negative declaration was adopted pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
- (6) A statement indicating whether mitigation measures were made a condition of the approval of the project, and whether a mitigation monitoring plan/program was adopted.
- (7) The address where a copy of the negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration may be examined.
- (8) The identity of the person undertaking a project which is supported, in whole or in part, through contracts, grants, subsidies, loans, or other forms of assistance from one or more public agencies or the identity of the person receiving a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement for use from one or more public agencies.

1.8 CEQA Process Flow Chart



Section 2

Project Description



City of Woodlake

350 N Valencia Blvd Woodlake, CA 93286

SECTION 2 Project Description

Project Title: West Sequoia Avenue Multimodal Improvements

2.1 Project Description & Purpose

The Project aims to improve the safety and ease of alternative modes of transportation by creating a continuous active transportation network along West Sequoia Avenue, which will close a critical pathway gap along a primary route used by students, families and seniors who walk and bike to local destinations. The Project proposes bicycle and pedestrian facilities, which will include ADA-compliant ramps, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, 15 crosswalks, 21 streetlights, a Class IV bikeway, and signage along a portion of Sequoia Avenue in the City of Woodlake. The Project will span approximately 0.79 miles, but the proposed pedestrian and bicycle improvements will total approximately 0.49 miles, starting west of the intersection of West Sequoia Avenue and Valencia Boulevard (State Route 245) to Mulberry Street, with improvements extending into portions of the north/south cross streets. The Project will provide a continuous active transportation network along Sequoia Avenue by closing a critical pathway gap along the primary route used by students, families, and seniors who walk and bike to facilities in the area. The Project will benefit all residents in the area, as these improvements will provide a safe, well-lit, accessible, and protected route along Sequoia Avenue.

The total Project area will cover approximately 8.18 acres, the majority of which will occur within the immediate Public ROW. The Project will include minor encroachments on adjacent properties, so ROW acquisition will be required to accommodate the proposed design. Equipment staging will be provided within the temporary construction easement areas. These facilities will be established in accordance with the City Standard Specifications and the Local Roadway Safety Plan (LRSP). Construction activities will include demolition of existing asphalt, sidewalk, and curbs where needed, adding aggregate base and pavement placement, installation of an irrigation system for landscaping, streetlight installation, and utility pole relocation. Roadway detours and/or lane closures may be used to control traffic during construction. Maps showing the Project layout and regional location are provided in Figures 2–1, 2–2, and 2–3. Detailed improvement plans and street cross–sections are provided in Appendix A.

2.2 Project Location

The proposed Project site is located within the northwest portion of Tulare County in the City of Woodlake, which is approximately 17 miles northeast of the City of Visalia. The Project would cover approximately 8.18 acres of existing and future ROW. The Project will also include temporary construction easement areas along West Sequoia Avenue. Adjacent general plan land uses include low, medium, and high-density residential and public facilities. Zoning designations adjacent to the Project site include low-density residential (7,000 square feet), medium-density residential and public facilities.

2.3 Existing Setting

The Project area is relatively flat and often used by residents as a travel corridor for the several schools and recreational facilities near the site. The roadway is also used by pedestrians to access a large network of single-family residences. West Sequoia Avenue and the surrounding local streets currently have no bike lanes, but there are bike routes with accompanying signage along the surrounding local streets. Additionally, there are eight pedestrian crossing signs, seven streetlights and two ADA-compliant ramps in the Project area. There are no sidewalks for roughly 0.23 miles on the north side of West Sequoia Avenue starting at Bravo Lake High School, extending eastward until the intersection with Valencia Boulevard.

2.4 Other Permits and Approvals

Other permits and approvals required for the West Sequoia Avenue Multimodal Improvements Project are listed below. It should be noted that this list is not exhaustive, and additional permits and approvals may also be required.

- City of Woodlake Encroachment Permit
- City of Woodlake Excavation Permit
- San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). The proposed Project is within the jurisdiction of the SJVAPCD and will be required to comply with Rule VIII, 3135, 4101, and 9510.
- Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, SWPPP. The proposed Project Site
 is within the jurisdiction of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
 (RWQCB). The Central Valley RWQCB will require a Storm Water Pollution Prevention
 Plan (SWPPP) to prevent impacts related to stormwater as a result of Project
 construction.

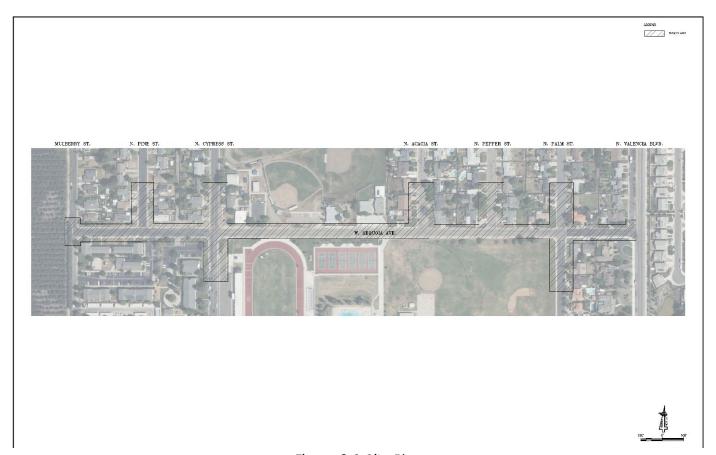


Figure 2-1. Site Plan

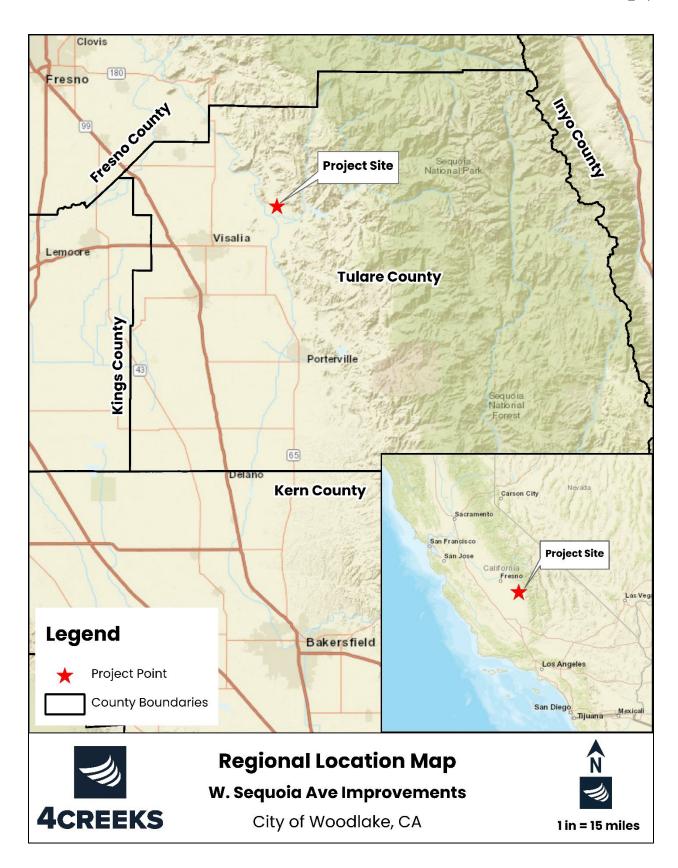


Figure 2-2. Regional Location Map



Figure 2-3. Vicinity Map

Section 3

Evaluation of Environmental Impacts



City of Woodlake

350 N Valencia Blvd Woodlake, CA 93286

SECTION 3 Evaluation of Environmental Impacts

Project Title: West Sequoia Avenue Multimodal Improvements

This document is the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed construction of multimodal improvements along West Sequoia Avenue which will include features such as ADA-compliant ramps, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, crosswalks, streetlights, a Class IV bikeway, and landscaping. The proposed Project site is located within the City of Woodlake. The City of Woodlake will act as the Lead Agency for this Project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines.

3.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this environmental document is to implement the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Section 15002(a) of the CEQA Guidelines describes the basic purposes of CEQA as follows.

- (1) Inform governmental decision-makers and the public about the potential, significant environmental effects of proposed activities.
- (2) Identify the ways that environmental damage can be avoided or significantly reduced.
- (3) Prevent significant, avoidable damage to the environment by requiring changes in Projects through the use of alternatives or mitigation measures when the governmental agency finds the changes to be feasible.
- (4) Disclose to the public the reasons why a governmental agency approved the Project in the manner the agency chose if significant environmental effects are involved.

This Initial Study of environmental impacts has been prepared to conform to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations Section 15000 et seq.).

According to Section 15070(a), a Negative Declaration is appropriate if it is determined that:

- (a) The initial study shows that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the Project may have a significant effect on the environment.
- (b) The initial study identifies potentially significant effects, but.

- Revisions in the Project plans or proposals made by, or agreed to by the applicant before a proposed mitigated negative declaration and initial study are released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur, and
- 2. There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the Project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment.

3.2 INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

1. **Project Title:** West Sequoia Ave Multimodal Improvements

2. Lead Agency: City of Woodlake

350 N Valencia Blvd Woodlake, CA 93286

3. Applicant: City of Woodlake

Contact Person: Emmanuel Llamas

350 N Valencia Blvd Woodlake, CA 93286 (559) 564-8055

- **4. Project Location:** The proposed Project site is located within the northwest portion of Tulare County in the City of Woodlake, which is approximately 17 miles northeast of the City of Visalia. The total Project area will cover approximately 8.18 acres, the majority of which will occur within the immediate Public ROW. The Project will include minor encroachments on adjacent properties. Approximately 1,734 square feet (0.0398 acres) of ROW acquisition will be required to accommodate the proposed design. Equipment staging will be provided within the temporary construction easement areas. Additionally, the Project will cover approximately 0.79 miles of roadway. The proposed bicycle and pedestrian improvements will cover approximately 0.49 miles of the public roadway. Adjacent land uses include low and mediumdensity residential and public facilities.
- **5. General Plan Designation**: According to the City of Woodlake General Plan Circulation Element, North Valencia Boulevard is designated as a north/south arterial street. West Sequoia Avenue and North Cypress Street are designated as collector streets. North Pine Street, North Acacia Street, North Pepper Street, and North Palm Street are all designated as local roadways.
- **6. Zoning Designation:** The majority of the Project is located within the existing Public Right-of-Way, with only minor portions extending onto adjacent lands. The surrounding zoning designations include Multi-Family Residential, Single-Family Residential, and Public Facilities.
- **7. Project Description:** The Project aims to improve the safety and ease of alternative modes of transportation by constructing ADA-compliant ramps, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, 15 crosswalks, 21 streetlights, a Class IV bikeway with vertical elements, and signage along a

portion of West Sequoia Avenue in the City of Woodlake. The total Project area is 8.18 acres, and the distance spans approximately 0.79 miles, starting west of the intersection of West Sequoia Avenue and Valencia Boulevard (State Route 245) to Mulberry Street, with improvements extending into portions of the north/south cross streets. However, the pedestrian and bicycle improvements will only affect 0.49 miles of the roadway. The Project will provide a continuous active transportation network along West Sequoia Avenue by closing a critical pathway gap along the primary route used by students, families, and seniors who walk and bike to facilities in the area. The Project will benefit all residents in the area, as these improvements will provide a safe, well-lit, accessible, and protected route along West Sequoia Avenue.

The Project area will cover approximately 8.18 acres, which encompasses the existing roadway and future ROW acquisitions. Equipment staging will be provided within the temporary construction easement areas. No specific disposal or borrow sites have been identified. These facilities will be established in accordance with the Standard Specifications. Construction activities will include demolition of existing asphalt, sidewalk, and curbs where needed, adding aggregate base and pavement placement, installation of an irrigation system for landscaping, streetlight installation, and utility pole relocation. Roadway detours and/or lane closures may be used to control traffic during construction. Maps showing the Project layout and regional location are provided in Figures 2-1, 2-2, and 2-3. Detailed improvement plans and street cross-sections are provided in Appendix A.

8. Surrounding Land Use Designations and Settings:

<u>Northeast:</u> Planned for Low-Density Residential, currently under Low-Density Residential use <u>Northwest:</u> Planned for Low-Density Residential and Public Facilities, currently under Low-Density Residential and Public Facilities use

<u>Southeast:</u> Planned for Low-Density Residential and Public Facilities, currently under Low Density Residential and Public Facilities use

<u>Southwest:</u> Planned for High-Density Residential and Public Facilities, currently under High-Density Residential and Public Facilities use.

- **9. Required Approvals:** Discretionary approvals are required from the City of Woodlake for the proposed Project and are listed below.
 - City of Woodlake Encroachment Permit
 - City of Woodlake Excavation Permit

- San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). The proposed Project is within the jurisdiction of the SJVAPCD and will be required to comply with Rule VIII, 3135, 4101, and 9510.
- Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, SWPPP. The proposed Project site is within the jurisdiction of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The Central Valley RWQCB will require a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to prevent impacts related to stormwater as a result of Project construction.

10.Native American Consultation: A Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File search and Native American outreach were conducted as part of an Archaeological Survey Report prepared by Applied Earthworks in December 2023. The Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands File search and Native American contacts did not identify any sacred areas or provide information on Native American resources.

- **11. Parking and access:** During construction, workers will utilize temporary construction easements adjacent to the Project site for parking and equipment staging.
- **12. Landscaping and Design:** The landscape and irrigation plans will be a component of the overall Project site plan, which will be subject to approval by the City of Woodlake.
- **13. Utilities and Electrical Services:** The Project will involve the installation of an irrigation system to maintain landscaping, which will connect to the existing water mains near the site. Southern California Edison (SCE) will provide electrical services, and the Project will involve the relocation of six existing power poles.

Acronyms

BMP Best Management Practices

CAA Clean Air Act

CCR California Code of Regulation

CDFG California Department of Fish and Game
CEQA California Environmental Quality Act

CWA California Water Act

DHS Department of Health Services
FEIR Final Environmental Impact Report
FPPA Farmland Protection Policy Act

ISMND Initial Study Mitigated Negative Declaration

MCL Maximum Contaminant Level

ND Negative Declaration
NAC Noise Abatement Criteria

RCRA Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976

RWQCB Regional Water Quality Control Board SHPO State Historic Preservation Office

SJVAPCD San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

SWPPP Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan



Figure 3-1. Site Plan



Figure 3-2. Vicinity Map

3.3 EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- 1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites, in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the reference information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to Projects like the one involved (e.g., the Project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on Project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the Project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a Project-specific screening analysis).
- 2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as Project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4. "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses," as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).
- 5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c) (3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following.
 - a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated." Describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the Project.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checat least one impact that is a "Pofollowing pages.			
Aesthetics	Agriculture / Forestry Resources		Air Quality
Biological Resources	✓ Cultural Resources		Energy
Geology/Soils	Greenhouse Gas Emi	ssions	Hazards and Hazardous Materials
✓ Hydrology/Water Quality	Land Use / Planning		Mineral Resources
√Noise	Population / Housing		Public Services
Recreation	Transportation	\checkmark	Tribal Cultural Resources
Utilities / Service Systems	Wildfire	\checkmark	Mandatory Findings of Significance
DETERMINATION			
On the basis of this initial evalua	ation:		
I find that the proposed pro- NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be		significant effec	ct on the environment, and a
I find that although the propwill not be a significant effect in the to by the project proponent. A MITI	is case because revisions	in the project h	-
I find that the proposed pENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPO		ificant effect o	n the environment, and an
I find that the proposed projection unless mitigated" impact on the error an earlier document pursuant to measures based on the earlier and REPORT is required, but it must an	nvironment, but at least on applicable legal standards Ilysis as described on attac	e effect 1) has , and 2) has b ched sheets. An	een addressed by mitigation ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
I find that although the probecause all potentially significan NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to that earlier EIR or Nithat are imposed upon the propose	t effects (a) have been uant to applicable standar EGATIVE DECLARATION	analyzed adeq ds, and (b) hav , including revis	e been avoided or mitigated
Symany Lossignature	1	4-29	-2024
Signature		Date	1

3.5 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

The following section provides an evaluation of the impact categories and questions contained in the checklist and identify mitigation measures, if applicable.

I. AESTHETICS

Except as provided in Public Resource Code Section 210999, would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				Ø
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within state scenic highway?				Ø
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 a 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?				☑
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?			Ø	

Environmental Setting

A scenic vista is generally considered a view of an area that has remarkable scenery or a resource that is indigenous to the area. The Sierra Nevada Foothills, Bravo Lake, St. Johns River, Antelope Mountain, and agricultural lands are all identified as aesthetic resources in the City of Woodlake General Plan (City of Woodlake, 2008). No scenic vistas, highways, or roadways occur within the Project area according to the City's General Plan. The Project area does not provide any visual resources that would be considered a scenic vista and is not unique compared to the surrounding visual setting. The Project area does not contain any ridgelines, peaks, or overlooks that may be associated with scenic vistas. The visual characteristics of the Project area include single and multi-family homes and educational facilities.

Sierra Nevada Mountains: The Sierra Nevada mountain range and its foothills stretch along the east area of the county and are a valuable aesthetic resource. Additionally, Sequoia National Park is located within the stretch of the Sierra Nevada Mountains located in Tulare County. Sequoia National Forest is a U.S. National Forest known for its mountain scenery and natural resources. Located directly north of Sequoia National Park is Kings Canyon National Park, a U.S. National Park known for its towering sequoia trees and scenic vistas. The Sierra Nevada Mountains are approximately 7.2 miles east of the proposed Project site, and views of the mountains can be visible on clear days.

The following photos demonstrate the aesthetic character of the Project area. The proposed Project site is located in a relatively flat area with primarily residential and public facility uses.



Photo 1: West Sequoia Ave looking east. Source: Google Earth, August 2022



Photo 2: West Sequoia Ave looking east. Source: Google Earth, August 2022



Photo 3: West Sequoia Ave looking west. Source: Google Earth, August 2022



Photo 4: View of Palm Street looking north.. Source: Google Earth, August 2022

Regulatory Setting

State Scenic Highways: The State Scenic Highway Program was implemented by Caltrans and developed to preserve the aesthetic quality of specific highway corridors. Highways included in this program are designated as scenic highways. A highway is designated as scenic based on how much of the natural landscape is visible to travelers, the quality of that landscape, and the extent to which development obstructs views of the landscape. There are no designated

eligible or officially designated state scenic highways within the City of Woodlake. However, there is State Scenic Highway, State Route 198, approximately 6 miles east of the Project site.

Discussion

a) Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

No Impact: A scenic vista is defined as a viewpoint that provides expansive views of a highly valued landscape for the benefit of the general public. The Sierra Nevada Mountains are the primary scenic vista within this region. The foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains are approximately 7.2 miles east of the proposed Project site; however, views of the mountains are not visible on most days due to poor air quality. The proposed Project would not result in any vertical construction that could affect views of the Sierra Nevada Mountains or any other scenic vista. There is *no impact*.

b) Would the Project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within state scenic highway?

No Impact: There are no designated Eligible or Officially Designated State Scenic Highways within the City of Woodlake. State Route 198 is the nearest State Scenic Highway and is located approximately 6 miles east of the Project site. Significant urban development between the Project site and State Route 198 completely eliminates visibility of the Project site from the highway. There is *no impact*.

c) In non-urbanized areas, would the Project substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from a publicly accessible vantage point). If the Project is in an urbanized area, would the Project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

No Impact: The proposed Project site is located in an area characterized by agricultural, residential, and school site activity; however, the Project would not negatively impact the existing visual character but enhance the visual surroundings by improving the appearance of the streetscape. Proposed improvements include new crosswalks, street lighting, sidewalks, ADA-compliant ramps, signage, landscaping, and a Class IV bikeway. All proposed improvements will be made in accordance with City development standards and will not affect the surrounding visual character. There is *no impact*.

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

Less than Significant Impact: The proposed Project would result in new street lighting consistent with the City's development standards, which are developed to minimize impacts related to excessive light and glare. The impacts are *less than significant*.

Mitigation Measures for Aesthetic Resources

None Required

II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES:

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in the Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?				Ø
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act Contract?				Ø
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned				v

timberland Production (as defined by				
Government Code section 51104(g)?				
d) Result in the loss of forestland or				
conversion of forest land to non-				Ø
forest use?				
e) Involve other changes in the existing				
environment, which, due to their location				
or nature, could result in conversion of	П	п	п	M
Farmland, to non-agricultural use or	Ц		_	· ·
conversion of forestland to non-forest				
use?				

Environmental Setting

Agriculture is an important component of the City of Woodlake's economy and is a significant source of the City's cultural identity. The City began as a small but productive agricultural shipping hub for the Central Valley region, and it is known for miles of citrus orchards that are part of California's larger citrus belt. As such, preserving the productivity of agricultural lands is integral to maintaining the City's culture and economic viability.

According to the California Department of Conservation, land on the eastern portion of the Project site is designated as Farmlands of Statewide Importance. However, the Project will not require ROW acquisition of any Prime Farmland, as they have already been converted to land uses other than agriculture. The ROW to be acquired is not currently used for crops and is currently under single family, multi-family, and public facility land uses.

Regulatory Setting

California Land Conservation Act of 1965: The California Land Conservation Act of 1965, commonly referred to as the Williamson Act, allows local governments to enter into contracts with private landowners to restrict the activities on specific parcels of land to agricultural or open space uses. The landowners benefit from the contract by receiving significantly reduced property tax assessments. The California Department of Conservation oversees the California Land Conservation Act; however, local governments are responsible for determining specific allowed uses and enforcing the contract.

California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP): The California Department of Conservation (DOC) implemented the FMMP to conserve and protect agricultural lands within the State. The land included in this program is based on soil type, annual crop yields, and other factors that influence the quality of farmland. The FMMP mapping categories for the most important statewide farmland are as follows:

- Prime Farmland has the ideal physical and chemical composition for crop production.
 It has been used for irrigated production in the four years before classification and can produce sustained yields.
- Farmland of Statewide Importance has also been used for irrigated production four years before classification and is only slightly poorer quality than Prime Farmland.
- Unique Farmland has been cropped in the four years before classification and does
 not meet the criteria for Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance but has
 produced specific crops with high economic value.
- **Farmland of Local Importance** encompasses farmland that does not meet the criteria for the previous three categories. These may lack irrigation, produce major crops, be zoned as agricultural, and/or support dairy.
- Grazing Land has vegetation that is suitable for grazing livestock.

City of Woodlake General Plan (2008): The following goals, objectives and action plans have been adopted by the City in order to avoid significant, unavoidable impacts on agricultural resources.

Goal: Establish policies to reduce the impact of urbanization on agricultural lands, while allowing the City to grow.

- Preserve and protect agricultural lands as a means for providing open space and for the managed production of resources.
 - a. The City shall strive to ensure that new development is designed in a manner that uses land efficiently and reduces the need to expand the urban area outward onto prime agricultural lands.
 - b. The Planning Department shall conduct an annual review of canceled Williamson Act contracts and development proposals on agricultural land within the City Limits and Sphere of Influence.
- Develop buffers and transition areas between urban uses and agricultural land to reduce incompatibility issues that are associated with cultivation, pest control and harvesting of crops.
 - a. Adoption of the Land Use Element and land use map will provide the implementation of this policy.
 - Promote infill and moderately increase overall residential densities in the City of Woodlake to reduce the rate of urbanization of surrounding agricultural lands.
 - a. Strive to create an overall community-wide residential density of four units per acre. All unit types (single and multi-family residential) shall be counted in calculating community-wide density.
 - 4. Establish and maintain "hard edges" around Woodlake that define where urbanization stops and agricultural open space begins.

0.0
a. Where appropriate, the City will discourage zoning requests in Woodlake's Sphere of Influence and surrounding county areas to permit parcelization for development of large lot residential purposes ie; ranchettes.

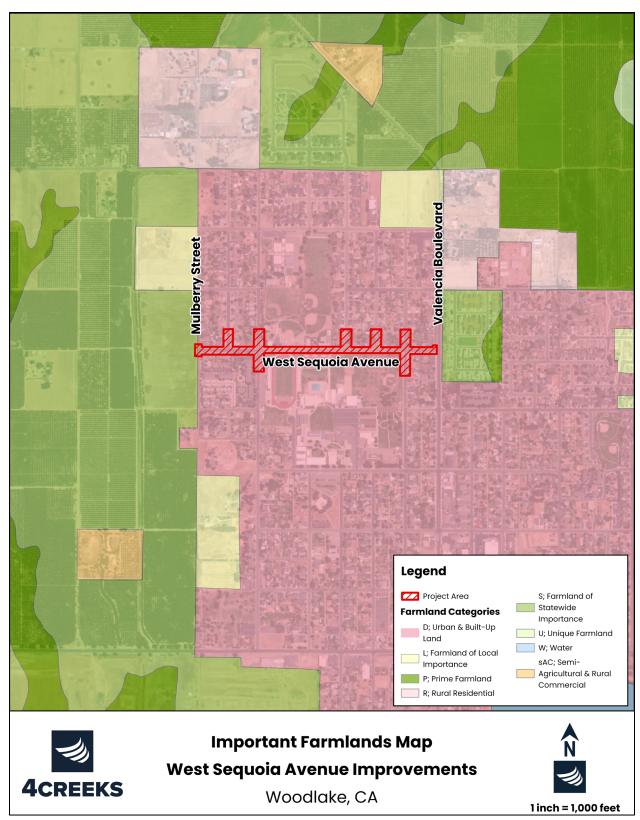


Figure 3-3. Important Farmlands Map

Discussion

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

No Impact: The eastern portion of the proposed site includes lands classified as Farmland of Statewide Importance by the California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. However, the Project will not require a ROW acquisition of Farmland of Statewide Importance, the area has already been converted to non-farmland, and the Project does not propose the development of adjacent agricultural properties. The Project would not result in a significant loss of agricultural lands, and there is *no impact*.

b) Would the Project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act Contract?

No Impact: The proposed Project site is within the public ROW and is therefore not zoned for agricultural use or under a Williamson Act Contract. There is *no impact*.

C) Would the Project conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g)?

No Impact: The Project site is located within the public ROW and is therefore not zoned for forest or timberland production. There is no *impact*.

d) Would the Project result in the loss of forestland or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No Impact: The proposed Project site is located within the public ROW and would not convert forestland to non-forest use. There is *no impact*.

e) Would the Project 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?

No Impact: As discussed above, the proposed Project site is located within the public ROW. The Project would not result in the loss of Farmland to non-agricultural use or forestland to non-forest use. There is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures for Agricultural and Forest Resources	
None Required	

III. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?				V
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?			Ø	
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			Ø	
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?			Ø	

Environmental Setting

Air pollution is directly related to regional topography. Topographic features can either stimulate the movement of air or restrict air movement. California is divided into regional air basins based on topographic air drainage features. The proposed Project site is within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin, with the eastern border set by the Sierra Nevada Mountains, Coastal Ranges to the west, and the Tehachapi Mountains to the south. The mountain ranges surrounding the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (SJVAB) restrict air movement and prevent pollution dispersal. Table 3-1 shows that the SJVAB is nonattainment for several pollutant standards.

Pollutant	Designation/Classification				
Pollutant	Federal Standards	State Standards			
Ozone – One hour	No Federal Standard ^D	Nonattainment/Severe			
Ozone – Eight hour	Nonattainment/Extreme ^c	Nonattainment			
PM 10	Attainment ^A	Nonattainment			
PM 2.5	Nonattainment ^B	Nonattainment			
Carbon Monoxide	Attainment/Unclassified	Attainment/Unclassified			
Nitrogen Dioxide	Attainment/Unclassified	Attainment			
Sulfur Dioxide	Attainment/Unclassified	Attainment			
Lead (Particulate)	No Designation/Classification	Attainment			
Hydrogen Sulfide	No Federal Standard	Unclassified			

Sulfates	No Federal Standard	Attainment	
Visibility Reducing Particles	No Federal Standard	Unclassified	
Vinyl Chloride	No Federal Standard	Attainment	

- A. On September 25, 2008, EPA redesignated the San Joaquin Valley to attainment for the PM10 National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) and approved the PM10 Maintenance Plan.
- B. The Valley is designated nonattainment for the 1997 PM2.5 NAAQS. EPA designated the Valley as nonattainment for the 2006 PM2.5 NAAQS on November 13, 2009 (effective December 14, 2009).
- C. Though the Valley was initially classified as serious nonattainment for the 1997 8-hour ozone standard, EPA approved Valley reclassification to extreme nonattainment in the Federal Register on May 5, 2010 (effective June 4, 2010).
- D. Effective June 15, 2005, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) revoked the federal 1-hour ozone standard, including associated designations and classifications. EPA had previously classified the SJVAB as extreme nonattainment for this standard. EPA approved the 2004 Extreme Ozone Attainment Demonstration Plan on March 8, 2010 (effective April 7, 2010). Many applicable requirements for extreme 1-hour ozone nonattainment areas continue to apply to the SJVAB.

Table 3-1. San Joaquin Valley Attainment Status; Source: SJVAPCD

Regulatory Setting

Federal Clean Air Act – The 1977 Federal Clean Air Act (CAA) authorized the establishment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and set deadlines for their attainment. The Clean Air Act identifies specific emission reduction goals, requires a demonstration of reasonable further progress and an attainment demonstration, and incorporates more stringent sanctions for failure to meet interim milestones. The U.S. EPA is the federal agency charged with administering the Act and other air quality-related legislation. EPA's principal functions include setting NAAQS, establishing minimum national emission limits for significant sources of pollution, and promulgating regulations. Under CAA, the NCCAB is identified as an attainment area for all pollutants.

California Clean Air Act – California Air Resources Board coordinates and oversees state and federal air pollution control programs in California. As part of this responsibility, the California Air Resources Board monitors existing air quality, establishes California Ambient Air Quality Standards, and limits allowable emissions from vehicular sources. Regulatory authority within established air basins is provided by air pollution control and management districts, which control stationary-source and most categories of area-source emissions and develop regional air quality plans. The Project is located within the jurisdiction of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

The state and federal standards for the criteria pollutants are presented in Section 8.4 of The San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District's 2015 "Guidance for Assessing and

Mitigating Air Quality Impacts." These standards are designed to protect public health and welfare. The "primary" standards have been established to protect the public health. The "secondary" standards are intended to protect the nation's welfare and account for air pollutant effects on soils, water, visibility, materials, vegetation, and other aspects of the general welfare. The U.S. EPA revoked the national 1-hour ozone standard on June 15, 2005, and the annual PM_{10} standard on September 21, 2006, when a new $PM_{2.5}$ 24-hour standard was established.

	Averaging	California :	Standards ¹		National Stando	ards²	
Pollutant	Time	Concentration ³	Method ⁴	Primary ^{3,5}	Secondary ^{3,6}	Method ⁷	
	1 Hour	0.09 ppm (180 μg/m³)	Ultraviolet		Same as	Ultraviolet 8	
Ozone (03)	8 Hour	0.070 ppm (137 μg/m³)	Photometry	0.075 ppm (147 μg/m³)	Primary Standard	Hour Photometry	
Respirable	24 Hour	50 μg/m		150 μg/m³		Inertial	
Particulate Matter (PM10)	Annual Arithmetic Mean	20 μg/m3	Gravimetric or Beta Attenuation		Same as Primary Standard	Separation and Gravimetric Annual Analysis	
Fine	24 Hour			35 μg/m³		Inertial	
Particulate Matter (PM _{2.5})	Annual Arithmetic Mean	12 μg/m³	Gravimetric or Beta Attenuation	Beta	15 μg/m³	Same as Primary Standard	Separation and Gravimetric Annual Analysis
Carbon	1 Hour 20 ppm (23 mg/m³)		Non-Dispersive	35 ppm (40 mg/m³)		Non-Dispersive	
Monoxide (CO)	8 Hour	9.0 ppm (10 mg/m³)	Infrared Photometry (NDIR)	9 ppm (10 mg/m³)		Infrared Photometry (NDIR)	
	8 Hour (Lake Tahoe)	6 ppm (7 mg/m³)	(NDIK)			(NDIK)	
Nitrogen Dioxide	1 Hour	0.18 ppm (339 μg/m³)	Gas Phase	100 ppb (188 μg/m³)		Gas Phase Annual	
(NO ₂) ⁸	Arithmetic Mean	0.030 ppm (57 μg/m³)	Chemilumi- nescence	53 ppb (100 μg/m³)	Same as Primary Standard	Chemilumin- escence	
C1,16	0.25 ppm (655 μg/m³)	l litrovii a lat	75 ppb (196 μg/m³)		Ultraviolet Fluorescence;		
Sulfur Dioxide	3 Hour		Ultraviolet Fluorescence		0.5 ppm (1300 μg/m³)	Spectrophoto metry (Pararosan-	
	24 Hour	0.04 ppm (105 μg/m³)		0.14 ppm (for		iline Method)	

	Averaging	California 9	Standards ¹	National Standards ²			
Pollutant	Time	Concentration ³	ntration³ Method⁴		Secondary ^{3,6}	Method ⁷	
				certain areas)9			
	Annual Arithmetic Mean			0.030 ppm (for certain areas)9			
	30 Day Average	1.5 μg/m³					
Lead ^{10,11}	Calendar Quarter		Absorption	Same as Primary	High Volume Sampler and Atomic		
	Rolling 3- Month Average			0.15 μg/m³	Standard	Absorption	
Visibility Reducing Particles ¹²	8 Hour	See footnote 12	Beta Attenuation and Transmittance through Filter Tape				
Sulfates	24 Hour	25 μg/m³	Ion Chromato- graphy	No National Standard		dard	
Hydrogen Sulfide	1 Hour	0.03 ppm (42 μg/m³)	Ultraviolet Fluorescence				
Vinyl Chloride ¹⁰	0.01 ppm Gas Chror						

- 1. California standards for ozone, carbon monoxide (except 8-hour Lake Tahoe), sulfur dioxide (1 and 24 hour), nitrogen dioxide, and particulate matter (PM10, PM2.5, and visibility reducing particles), are values that are not to be exceeded. All others are not to be equaled or exceeded. California ambient air quality standards are listed in the Table of Standards in Section 70200 of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations.
- 2. National standards (other than ozone, particulate matter, and those based on annual arithmetic mean) are not to be exceeded more than once a year. The ozone standard is attained when the fourth highest 8-hour concentration measured at each site in a year, averaged over three years, is equal to or less than the standard. For PM10, the 24 hour standard is attained when the expected number of days per calendar year with a 24-hour average concentration above 150 μ g/m3 is equal to or less than one. For PM2.5, the 24 hour standard is attained when 98 percent of the daily concentrations, averaged over three years, are equal to or less than the standard. Contact the U.S. EPA for further clarification and current national policies.
- 3. Concentration expressed first in units in which it was promulgated. Equivalent units given in parentheses are based upon a reference temperature of 25°C and a reference pressure of 760 torr. Most measurements of air quality are to be corrected to a reference temperature of 25°C and a reference pressure of 760 torr; ppm in this table refers to ppm by volume, or micromoles of pollutant per mole of gas.
- 4. Any equivalent measurement method which can be shown to the satisfaction of the ARB to give equivalent results at or near the level of the air quality standard may be used.

	Averaging	California S	standards ¹	National Standards ²		
Pollutant		Concentration ³	Method ⁴	Primary ^{3,5}	Secondary ^{3,6}	Method ⁷

- 5. National Primary Standards: The levels of air quality necessary, with an adequate margin of safety to protect the public health.
- 6. National Secondary Standards: The levels of air quality necessary to protect the public welfare from any known or anticipated adverse effects of a pollutant.
- 7. Reference method as described by the U.S. EPA. An "equivalent method" of measurement may be used but must have a "consistent relationship to the reference method" and must be approved by the U.S. EPA.
- 8. To attain the 1-hour national standard, the 3-year average of the annual 98th percentile of the 1-hour daily maximum concentrations at each site must not exceed 100 ppb. Note that the national standards are in units of parts per billion (ppb). California standards are in units of parts per million (ppm). To directly compare the national standards to the California standards the units can be converted from ppb to ppm. In this case, the national standards of 53 ppb and 100 ppb are identical to 0.053 ppm and 0.100 ppm, respectively.
- 9. On June 2, 2010, a new 1-hour SO2 standard was established and the existing 24-hour and annual primary standards were revoked. To attain the 1-hour national standard, the 3-year average of the annual 99th percentile of the 1-hour daily maximum concentrations at each site must not exceed 75 ppb. The 1971 SO2 national standards (24-hour and annual) remain in effect until one year after an area is designated for the 2010 standard, except that in areas designated nonattainment for the 1971 standards, the 1971 standards remain in effect until implementation plans to attain or maintain the 2010 standards are approved. Note that the 1-hour national standard is in units of parts per billion (ppb). California standards are in units of parts per million (ppm). To directly compare the 1-hour national standard to the California standard the units can be converted to ppm. In this case, the national standard of 75 ppb is identical to 0.075 ppm.
- 10. The ARB has identified lead and vinyl chloride as 'toxic air contaminants' with no threshold level of exposure for adverse health effects determined. These actions allow for the implementation of control measures at levels below the ambient concentrations specified for these pollutants.
- 11. The national standard for lead was revised on October 15, 2008 to a rolling 3-month average. The 1978 lead standard (1.5 µg/m3 as a quarterly average) remains in effect until one year after an area is designated for the 2008 standard, except that in areas designated nonattainment for the 1978 standard, the 1978 standard remains in effect until implementation plans to attain or maintain the 2008 standard are approved.
- 12. In 1989, the ARB converted both the general statewide 10-mile visibility standard and the Lake Tahoe 30-mile visibility standard to instrumental equivalents, which are "extinction of 0.23 per kilometer" and "extinction of 0.07 per kilometer" for the statewide and Lake Tahoe Air Basin standards, respectively.

Table 3-2. Ambient Air Quality Standards; Source: SJVAPCD

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) – The SJVAPCD enforces air quality standards in the Project area. To meet state and federal air quality objectives, the SJVAPCD adopted the following significance thresholds for Projects (Table 3-3). Additionally, the following SJVAPCD rules and regulations may apply to the proposed Project:

- Rule 3135: Dust Control Plan Fee. All Projects that include construction, demolition, excavation, extraction, and/or other earth-moving activities as defined by Regulation VIII (Described below) must submit a Dust Control Plan and required fees to mitigate dust-related impacts.
- **Rule 4101:** Visible Emissions. District Rule 4101 prohibits visible emissions of air contaminants that are dark in color and/or have the potential to obstruct visibility.

- **Rule 9510:** Indirect Source Review (ISR). This rule reduces the impact of PM10 and NOX emissions from growth on the SJVB. This rule places application and emission reduction requirements on applicable development Projects to reduce emissions through onsite mitigation, offsite SJVAPCD-administered Projects, or a combination of the two.
- **Regulation VIII:** Fugitive PM10 Prohibitions. Regulation VIII comprises eight rules that aim to limit PM10 emissions by reducing fugitive dust. These rules contain required management practices to limit PM10 emissions during construction, demolition, excavation, extraction, and/or other earth-moving activities.

	Construction	Operation	al Emissions
Pollutant/	Construction Emissions	Permitted Equipment and Activities	Non-Permitted Equipment and Activities
Precursor	Emissions (tpy)	Emissions (tpy)	Emissions (tpy)
СО	100	100	100
Nox	10	10	10
ROG	10	10	10
SOx	27	27	27
PM10	15	15	15
PM2.5	15	15	15

Table 3-3. SJVAPCD Thresholds of Significance for Criteria Pollutants; Source: SJVAPCD

Woodlake General Plan: The City's General Plan contains the following goals, objectives, and action plans to improve and maintain air quality.

- 1. Participate in the regional planning efforts to meet air quality goals by working to improve air quality for the entire planning area.
 - a. The Planning Department will send proposed development plans to the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District for review of potential air pollution impacts.
- 2. Consider traffic flow in the planning of residential, commercial, and industrial developments.
 - a. The Planning and Engineering departments will review all new Projects to ensure that efficient traffic flow is maintained, thereby minimizing vehicle-related air emissions.
 - b. The Circulation Element will ensure that proper roadway connectivity is provided in the planning area. This design feature will reduce vehicle miles traveled.
- 3. Maintain adequate roadway levels of service (LOS) to avoid congestion which contributes to the air pollution problem.
 - a. The Planning and Engineering departments will review all proposed development Projects to ensure that roadway service levels do not fall below Level C for arterials,

collectors, and intersections. The City will utilize gas tax and transportation funds to maintain these transportation standards.

- 4. Develop an organized and efficient circulation system to reduce vehicle trips in the planning area, idling time, intersection delays, and other emissions-producing activities.
 - a. The Circulation Element establishes policies that will encourage increased connectivity in the City's street patterns.
- 5. The City shall encourage residents to use alternative modes of transportation.
 - a. The City will seek funds to implement the bike path system, consistent with the Circulation Element map.
 - b. The City will apply for State funds for bike path improvements consistent with the Tulare County Bike Path Plan.

Discussion

a) Would the Project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

No Impact: The proposed Project is located within the boundaries of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) and would result in air pollutant emissions that are regulated by the air district during both its construction and operational phases. The SJVAPCD is responsible for bringing air quality in Tulare County into compliance with federal and state air quality standards. The air district has Particulate Matter (PM) plans, Ozone Plans, and Carbon Monoxide Plans that serve as the clean air plan for the basin. Together, these plans quantify the required emission reductions to meet federal and state air quality standards and provide strategies to meet these standards.

Construction Phase. Project construction would generate pollutant emissions from the following activities: grubbing/land clearing, grading/excavation, drainage/utilities/subgrade, and paving. The construction-related emissions from these activities were calculated using Road Construction Emissions Model, Version 9.0.0. The full Emissions Model results are available in Appendix B. As shown in Table 3-4 below, Project construction-related emissions do not exceed the thresholds established by the SJVAPCD.

	CO (tpy)	ROG (tpy)	SOx (tpy)*	NOx (tpy)	PM10 (tpy)	PM2.5 (tpy)
	(tpy)	(tpy)	(tpy)	(tpy)	(tpy)	(tpy)
Emissions Generated from Project Construction	6.36	0.61	0.01	5.72	8.65	1.96
SJVAPCD Air Quality Thresholds of Significance	100	10	27	10	15	15

^{*}Threshold established by SJVAPCD for SOx; however, emissions are reported as SO2 by the Road Construction Emissions Model.

Table 3-4. Projected Project Emissions Compared to SJVAPCD Thresholds of Significance for Criteria Pollutants related to Construction; Source: SJVAPCD, Road Construction Emissions Model, Version 9.0.0 (Appendix B)

Operational Phase. The proposed Project is being implemented as part of the Active Transportation Program (ATP) and the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) and Safe Routes for Seniors (SRS) program, which funds infrastructure and non-infrastructure Projects that promote the use of active modes of transportation such as walking and biking. As such, the Project is expected to result in emissions reductions by promoting alternative modes of transportation. The Project would not generate any additional vehicle trips, and there will be no stationary source emissions resulting from the Project.

Because the emissions from Project construction would not exceed the thresholds of significance established by the SJVAPCD, and the Project would not result in operational emissions, the Project would not conflict with or obstruct the implementation of an applicable air quality plan, and there is *no impact*.

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

Less Than Significant Impact: The SJVAPCD accounts for cumulative impacts on air quality in Section 1.8, "Thresholds of Significance – Cumulative Impacts," in its 2015 Guide for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts. When developing its significance thresholds, the SJVAPCD considered basin-wide cumulative impacts on air quality. Because Project emissions are below the significance thresholds adopted by the air district, and compliance with SJVAPCD rules will address any cumulative impacts regarding operational emissions, impacts regarding cumulative emissions would be less than significant.

c) Would the Project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Less Than Significant Impact: There are approximately 280 single-family residences, 120 multi-family residences and five Woodlake District schools in the immediate area surrounding the proposed improvements. Additionally, there is a senior living facility adjacent to the Project. Although there will be sensitive receptors in the area, Project

construction and operation is not expected to release substantial pollutant concentrations, as shown in Table 3-4. The Project would not exceed emissions thresholds established by the SJVAPCD and would not increase operational emissions beyond existing conditions. The impact would be *less than significant*.

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

Less Than Significant Impact: The Project will create temporary localized odors during construction. Diesel exhaust and ROGs would be emitted during construction, which may be objectionable to some; however, these odors are not likely to be noticeable for extended periods beyond the perimeter of the Project site. Once constructed, the Project will not create any new sources of odor that result directly from the Project. The Project would not create objectionable odors at a level that would induce a negative response, therefore the impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures for Air Quality

None Required

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	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 & Game or U.S. fish and Wildlife Service?		Ø		
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?				Ø
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through director removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?			Ø	
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?				Ø
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				V
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?				Ø

Environmental Setting

The proposed Project site is located in a portion of the central San Joaquin Valley that has experienced intensive agricultural and urban disturbances for decades. The Central San Joaquin Valley experiences a Mediterranean climate with warm, dry summers and cool, wet winters. Summer temperatures are often over 90 degrees Fahrenheit, and winter temperatures range from mid-50s to high-60 degrees Fahrenheit. Due to the heavy disturbance associated

with converting upland, riparian and aquatic habitats to agricultural and urban land uses once abundant native plant and animal species have experienced significant population reductions or have been locally extirpated. As a result, the remaining suitable habitats for native species that still occur in the region are particularly valuable.

Residential and educational facilities are the dominant land use directly adjacent to the existing roadway and surrounding area. There are currently orchards to the east, and a mix of residential and educational facilities, to the north, south, and west. The Project is approximately 2 miles north of St. John's River, which passes through the southern portion of the Woodlake planning area. The Project is approximately 1 mile northwest of Bravo Lake, a 350-acre natural lake that is used for storing irrigation water. According to a survey detailed in the City of Woodlake's General Plan (2008), the St. John's River contains riparian woodland habitat and there are six small vernal pools north of the River. Both riparian woodlands and vernal pools may contain special status species and/or may contain habitats and resources that are associated with special status species. The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) indicates that special-status species do occur within the Woodlake U.S.G.S. 8.18-minute quadrangle, but not as prevalent in the Woodlake Planning area. According to the National Wetlands Inventory Database, there are no natural wetlands on or near the proposed improvements associated with the Project.

Special Status Species

In order to identify potential species that may be present at the site, a desktop review of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) inventory database were conducted. Twenty-two special status species have been recorded in the Woodlake 8.18-minute USGS topographic quad, but the Project site does not contain suitable or desirable habitat for most of the species, because it has been previously disturbed by urban development and is currently paved. Table 3-5 indicates all special status species that would reasonably occur in the Project vicinity, their protections, and the potential for suitable habitat on the Project site. Of the 22 special status species recorded in the Woodlake Quad Map, nine species have a low potential for occurrence but are not expected to occur on or near the Project site due to the area being highly disturbed by development, lacking suitable habitat for the species and/or being outside the species' current range. The full species list obtained from the CNDDB can be found in Appendix C.

Species Name	Federal Status	State Status	CDFW Status	Rare Plant Rank	Habitat Type ¹	Potential to Occur
Burrowing owl – Athene cunicularia	None	None	SSC	-	Grassland and upland scrub, open agricultural fields with friable soil, ground squirrel burrows.	Low. Burrowing owls can occur in disturbed areas.
Pallid bat – Antrozous pallidus	None	None	SSC	-	Arid/semi-arid locations with rock crevices, caves, mine shafts, bridges, buildings, and trees hollows for roosting.	None. No roosting habitat present at the Project site.
Bald eagle – Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Delisted	Endangered	FP	-	Within two and a half miles of a body of water; large, mature, accessible trees, cliffs, and man-made structures.	Low. St. John's River and Bravo Lake are within 2.5 of the Project; may nest in mature trees near the site.
Golden eagle – Aquila chrysaetos	None	None	FP/WL	-	Tunda, grasslands, intermittent forest, woodland- brushlands, arid deserts and canyonlands; open country near hills, cliffs, and bluffs.	Low. Golden eagle tend to avoid developed areas, may occasionally forage but no known suitable habitat near the site.

¹ Habitat information for animal species was obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or California Department of Fish and Wildlife species search database. https://www.fws.gov/species/search

Tricolored Blackbird – Agelaius tricolor	None	Threatened	SSC	-	Freshwater wetlands, wetland- riparian; ponds, sloughs, and ditches.	Low. There are occurrences within 5 miles of the Project site but wetland conditions are generally absent at Project site.
Western spadefoot – Spea hammondii	None	None	SSC	-	Cismontane woodland and, valley and foothill grassland.	Low. There are no suitable grassland habitats present near the Project site but may occasionally forage near the site.
Crotch bumble bee – Bombus crotchii	None	Candidate Endangered	None	-	Open grasslands, shrublands, chaparral, desert margins and semi-urban settings.	Low. Site is semi-urban, although lack of native vegetation on and near the site.
San Joaquin Kit Fox – Vulpes macrotis mutica	Endangered	Threatened	None	-	Desert and grasslands in the San Joaquin Valley; minimal shrubs and grasses	None. No suitable habitat on or within the immediate vicinity of the site.
Winter's sunflower – Helianthus winteri ²	None	None	-	1.B.2	Relatively steep, open areas including grassy slopes, rock outcrops, roadcuts in southern Sierra Nevada Foothills.	Low; Site is highly disturbed and contains little open soil.

-

² Plant species habitat information was from CalFlora species database. https://www.calflora.org/search.html

Pseudobahia peirsonii – San Joaquin adobe sunburst	Threatened	Endangered	-	1B.1	Foothill woodlands, valley grasslands	Low; Site is highly disturbed and contains little open soil.
Delphinium recurvatum – Recurved larkspur	None	None	-	1B.2	Occurs in foothill woodlands, shadscale scrub and valley grasslands	Low; little open soil and no pristine habitat within the Project area.

Table 3-5. Special status species list; protections and potential habitat suitability on the Project site.

Regulatory Setting

Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA): defines an *endangered species* as "any species or subspecies that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range." A threatened species is defined as "any species or subspecies that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range."

The Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (FMBTA: 16 USC 703-712): FMBTA prohibits killing, possessing, or trading in any bird species covered in one of four international conventions to which the United States is a party, except in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior. The name of the act is misleading, as it covers almost all birds native to the United States, even those that are non-migratory. The FMBTA encompasses whole birds, parts of birds, and bird nests and eggs.

Although the USFWS and its parent administration, the U.S. Department of the Interior, have traditionally interpreted the FMBTA as prohibiting incidental as well as intentional "take" of birds, a January 2018 legal opinion issued by the Department of the Interior now states that incidental take of migratory birds while engaging in otherwise lawful activities is permissible under the FMBTA. However, California Fish and Game Code makes it unlawful to take or possess any nongame bird covered by the FMBTA (Section 3513) and any other native non-game bird (Section 3800), even if incidental to lawful activities.

Birds of Prey (CA Fish and Game Code Section 3503.5): Birds of prey are protected in California under provisions of the Fish and Game Code (Section 3503.5), which states that it is unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any birds in the order Falconiformes (hawks and eagles) or Strigiformes (owls), as well as their nests and eggs. The bald and golden eagle are afforded additional protection under the federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 USC 668), making killing birds or their eggs unlawful.

Clean Water Act: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of (1972) is to maintain, restore, and enhance the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters. Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulates discharges of dredged and fill materials into "waters of the United States" (jurisdictional waters). Waters of the US, including navigable waters of the United States, interstate waters, tidally influenced waters, and all other waters where the use, degradation, or destruction of the waters could affect interstate or foreign commerce, tributaries to any of these waters, and wetlands that meet any of these criteria or that are adjacent to any of these waters or their tributaries. Waters of the United States also include non-navigable tributaries to traditional navigable, relatively permanent waters, meaning that they contain water at least seasonally (40 CFR § 120.2).

California Endangered Species Act (CESA) prohibits taking any state-listed threatened and endangered species. CESA defines *take* as "any action or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill any listed species." If the proposed Project results in a take of a listed species, a permit under Section 2080 of CESA is required from the CDFG.

Discussion

a) Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish & Game or U.S. fish and Wildlife Service?

Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporation: Based upon a preliminary screening using "CNDDB QuickView" (see Appendix C) and the CNPS Rare Plant Inventory Database, there are four species listed on either/both the Federal Endangered Species Act and California Endangered Species Act, six species designated as "species of special concern" or are "federally proposed/watchlist" by the CDFW, and three plants with a California Rare Plant Ranking. From these known species, there is minimal suitable habitat within the Project limits or in the general Project vicinity due to intense urban development. Therefore, it is highly unlikely that any of the special status species occur on the Project site.

All properties adjacent to the proposed improvements have undergone either intense urban or agricultural development, which has removed any natural habitat for the majority of the species recorded in the Woodlake area. However, there may be suitable habitat for a wide variety of nesting bird species, most of which is outside of the Project area. Nesting migratory birds may utilize mature trees near the site, but no trees or shrubs are anticipated to be removed. Project activities adjacent to nesting birds could result in direct impacts to nests due to noise and vibration resulting from construction activities and increased human presence, potentially leading to nest failure. No indirect impacts are anticipated due to the short duration of construction (6 months), so overall loss of nesting habitat would be insignificant. Although all disturbance will occur within the immediate ROW, no tree or shrub removal is proposed, and there is virtually no native vegetation found on the existing site, Mitigation Measure BIO-1 is recommended to avoid and minimize impacts to nesting bird species. With implementation of MM BIO-1, impacts are less than significant with mitigation incorporation.

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

No Impact: The Project will occur within or immediately adjacent to a heavily disturbed public right-of-way. There is no riparian habitat or any sensitive community within the Project area, so proposed Project activities would not impact any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), or United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). There is *no impact*.

c) Would the Project 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?

Less than Significant Impact: There are no federally protected wetlands on the Project site, and proposed improvements will not be close enough to cause a substantial adverse effect on a federally protected wetland. The nearest waterways include St. Johns River, which is two miles south of the Project site, and Bravo Lake, which is one mile southeast of the Project site. Any construction-related impacts related to water quality and erosion will be temporary and subject to best management practices (BMPs) required by the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), which are developed to prevent significant impacts related to water quality and erosion. Implementation of the required best management practices associated with the SWPPP as well as the Project's distance from local waterways ensures that the impact will remain less than significant.

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

No Impact: The Project involves pedestrian and bicycle improvements which will include re-paving and installing safety features such as signs, streetlights, and road markings on an existing roadway. The Project is not expected to impact the ease of movement of resident or migratory wildlife species. There is *no impact*.

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

No Impact: The Project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance, and no tree removal will occur as part of Project construction. There is *no impact*.

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

No Impact: The proposed Project is not located within the boundaries of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Communities Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. There is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures

BIO-1: If construction is planned outside the nesting period for raptors (other than burrowing owl) and migratory birds (February 15th–August 31st), no mitigation shall be required. If construction is planned during the nesting season for migratory birds and raptors, a preconstruction survey to identify active bird nests shall be conducted by a qualified biologist to evaluate the site and a 250-foot buffer for migratory birds and a 500- foot buffer for raptors. If nesting birds are identified during the survey, active raptor nests shall be avoided by 500 feet and all other migratory bird nests shall be avoided by 250 feet. Avoidance buffers may be reduced if a qualified onsite monitor determines that encroachment into the buffer area is not affecting nest building, the rearing of young, or otherwise affecting the breeding behaviors of the resident birds. Because nesting birds can establish new nests or produce a second or even third clutch at any time during the nesting season, nesting bird surveys shall be repeated every 30 days as construction activities are occurring throughout the nesting season.

No construction or earth-moving activity shall occur within a non-disturbance buffer until it is determined by a qualified biologist that the young have fledged (left the nest) and have attained sufficient flight skills to avoid Project construction areas. Once the migratory birds or raptors have completed nesting and young have fledged, disturbance buffers will no longer be needed and may be removed, and monitoring may cease.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?		☑		
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?		V		
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?		Ø		

Environmental Setting

A cultural resources records search was conducted at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC) of the California Historical Information System (CHRIS) for the proposed Project. The purpose of the search was to determine whether any known cultural resources or previously conducted cultural resource surveys were located on or near the proposed Project site. The records search covered an area within one-half mile of the Project site and included a review of the National Register of Historic Places, California Points of Historical Interest, California Registry of Historic Resources, California Historical Landmarks, California State Historic Resources Inventory, and a review of cultural resource reports on file.

The records search indicated that there has been one previous cultural resource study completed within the Project area. And ten previous cultural resource studies within a half-mile radius of the Project site. According to the information on file at the SSJVIC, there are no recorded cultural resources on the site or within a half-mile radius that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, the California Points of Historical Interest, California Inventory of Historic Resources, or the California State Historic Landmarks. The cultural records search include known and recorded cultural resource sites, inventory and excavation reports filed with the SSJVIC, and resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the OHP Built Environment Resources Directory, California State Historical Landmarks, California Register of Historical Resources, California Inventory of Historic Resources, and California Points of Historical Interest.

Regulatory Setting

National Historic Preservation Act: The National Historic Preservation Act was adopted in 1966 to preserve historic and archeological sites in the United States. The Act created the National

Register of Historic Places, the list of National Historic Landmarks, and the State Historic Preservation offices.

California Historic Register: The California Historic Register was developed as a program to identify, evaluate, register, and protect Historical Resources in California. California Historical Landmarks are sites, buildings, features, or events that are of statewide significance and have anthropological, cultural, military, political, architectural, economic, scientific, religious, experimental, or other value. In order for a resource to be designated as a historical landmark, it must meet the following criteria:

- The first, last, only, or most significant of its type in the state or within a large geographic region (Northern, Central, or Southern California).
- Associated with an individual or group having a profound influence on the history of California.
- A prototype of, or an outstanding example of, a period, style, architectural movement, or construction or is one of the more notable works or the best surviving work in a region of a pioneer architect, designer, or master builder.

Woodlake General Plan: In order to protect historic and pre-historic artifacts, the City has established the following goals, objectives, and action plans.

Goal: Take actions to promote Woodlake's historic identity and protect cultural resources.

- Work with developers and architects in creating new buildings and renovating old buildings
 in a manner that is sensitive to the architectural character of Woodlake and the San
 Joaquin Valley.
 - a. The City shall adopt design guidelines that promote good architectural design that reinforces Woodlake's identity and sense of place.
- 2. Protect cultural resources that may be impacted by new development.
 - a. The Planning Department may require preparation of a cultural resources analysis where warranted. Areas along waterways are of particular concern. When cultural resources are uncovered during construction Projects, all work in the vicinity of the "find" must be stopped and a qualified cultural resources expert consulted to determine appropriate protective measures.

Discussion

a) Would the Project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation: A cultural records search was conducted at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center in November 2023 for the proposed Project. The results from the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center records search did not identify any historic resources within the Project area that could qualify for inclusion in the CRHR or NRHP. One previous cultural resources investigation was previously conducted on the Project site, and ten cultural resource studies were prepared within a half-mile of the Project site. The full CHRIS Records Search Report is available in Appendix D.

Based on the results of this cultural records search, it can be presumed that there are no prehistoric or historic archaeological materials located within the Project site. The presence of remains or unanticipated cultural resources under the ground surface is possible. Implementation of Mitigation Measures CUL-1 and CUL-2 will ensure that impacts to this checklist item will be *less than significant with mitigation incorporation*.

b) Would the Project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation: There are no known archaeological resources located within the Project area. Implementation of Mitigation Measures CUL-1 and CUL-2 will ensure that potential impact will be less than significant with mitigation incorporation.

c) Would the Project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation: There are no known human remains buried in the Project vicinity. If human remains are unearthed during development, there is a potential for a significant impact. As such, implementation of Mitigation Measure CUL-2 will ensure that impacts remain less than significant with mitigation incorporation.

Mitigation Measures for Impacts to Cultural Resources:

Mitigation Measure CUL-1: If cultural resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, work in the immediate area must halt and an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for Archaeology (NPS 1983) should be contacted immediately to evaluate the find. If the discovery proves to be significant under

CEQA, additional work such as data recovery excavation and Native American consultation may be warranted to mitigate any adverse effects.

Mitigation Measure CUL-2: The discovery of human remains is always a possibility during ground disturbing activities. If human remains are found, the State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. In the event of an unanticipated discovery of human remains, the County Coroner must be notified immediately. If the human remains are determined to be prehistoric, the coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which will determine and notify a most likely descendant (MLD). The MLD shall complete the inspection of the site within 48 hours of notification and may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.

VI. ENERGY

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

Environmental Setting

Southern California Edison (SCE) provides the region with electricity services, and Southern California Gas provides natural gas services to the region. Southern California Edison is the largest subsidiary of the Edison International Corporation and serves approximately 15 million people throughout a 50,000-square-mile service area in much of Southern California. SCE supplies power to its customers from various renewable and nonrenewable sources. Table 3-6 below shows the proportion of each energy resource sold to California consumers by Southern California Edison in 2022 compared to the statewide average.

Fuel Type		2022 SCE Power Mix	2022 California Power Mix
	Coal	0%	3%
Large H	ydroelectric	3.4%	9.2%
Nat	ural Gas	24.7%	37.9%
N	uclear	8.3%	9.3%
Other (Oil/Petroleum Coke/Waste Heat)		0%	0.2%
Unspecified 9	Sources of Power ¹	30.3%	6.8%
	Biomass	0.1%	2.3%
	Geothermal	5.7%	4.8%
rii milala	Eligible Hydroelectric	0.5%	1%
Eligible Renewables	Solar	17.0%	14.2%
kenewables	Wind	9.8%	11.4%
	Total Eligible Renewable	33.2%	33.6%

^{1.} Unspecified power is electricity that has been purchased through open market transactions and is not traceable to a specific generation source.

Table 3-6. 2021 Southern California Edison and State average power resources; Source: California Energy Commission and Southern California Edison.

Regulatory Setting

California Code of Regulations, Title 20 and Title 24: Title 20 of the California Code of Regulations establishes standards and requirements for appliance energy efficiency. The standards apply to a broad range of appliances sold in California. Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations is a broad set of standards designed to address the energy efficiency of new and altered homes and commercial buildings. These standards regulate energy consumed for heating, cooling, ventilation, water heating, and lighting. Title 24 requirements are enforced locally by the City of Woodlake Building Department.

California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen): CalGreen is a mandatory green building code that sets minimum environmental standards for new buildings. It includes standards for volatile organic compound (VOC) emitting materials, water conservation, and construction waste recycling.

Woodlake General Plan (2008): The City's General Plan outlines several goals, objectives and action plans pertaining to energy conservation.

Goal 1: Consider energy conservation in the planning and design of new and existing development in Woodlake.

- Development in the planning area shall be designed in a fashion that maximizes energy efficiency.
 - a. Street standards shall be revised to increase shading along all future streets. Residential street widths for future streets shall be narrowed, thereby reducing the amount of pavement area reducing heat buildup. Shaded trees will also help to reduce heat buildup. For more information, see the Circulation Element.

Goal 2: The City of Woodlake should explore opportunities for generating energy or conserving energy.

- 1. The public works department should investigate the opportunity of installing solar panels on city owned buildings or on city owned property.
- 2. The City of Woodlake should investigate the use of energy savings technologies, including LED lighting, upgraded heating and cooling units, and installation of insulation, solar panels or double-paned windows.

Discussion

a) Would the Project result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during Project construction or operation?

Less Than Significant Impact: The proposed Project involves the installation of a Class IV bikeway, ADA-compliant ramps, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, 15 crosswalks, and 21 streetlights along West Sequoia Avenue to provide multimodal safety improvements for all users. During construction, energy use is primarily from the electricity and fuel consumed by construction vehicles and equipment. Energy use associated with Project construction was estimated using the Road Construction Emissions Model Version 9.0 (Appendix B) and EMFAC data. Energy use calculations are provided in Appendix E and summarized below in Table 3-7.

Source	Energy Use		
Source	Gallons	MBTU	
Off-Road Equipment Fuel (Diesel)	176,429	24,523	
On-Road Vehicle Fuel (Gasoline)	11,830	1373	
On-Road Vehicle Fuel (Diesel)	3,169	440	
Total Construc	26,336		
Average Annual Construc	26,336		

Table 3-7. Construction Related Energy Use. Source: Road Construction Emissions Model & EMFAC (See Appendix E)

Title 24 Building Energy Efficiency Standards would guide construction techniques to maximize energy conservation. As such, it is anticipated that construction vehicle fuel energy would not involve wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary energy consumption.

During Project operations, energy consumption would be minimal. Street lighting is proposed throughout the Project area, resulting in some energy use. However, the City of Woodlake Engineering Standards requires new streetlights to utilize energy-efficient LED luminaires. Additionally, promoting pedestrian and bicycle transportation would reduce fuel-based energy usage in the area. Therefore, it is not anticipated that Project operations would result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary energy consumption.

Because the proposed Project will comply with all energy efficiency standards required under Title 24 of the California Building Code and City of Woodlake Engineering Standards, it is presumed that the Project will not result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary energy consumption. The impact is *less than significant*.

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

No Impact: The proposed Project will not conflict with or obstruct any state or local renewable energy or energy efficiency plans. The Project will be designed to meet Title 24 and the City of Woodlake's energy efficiency standards. The City of Woodlake Planning and Building Division will enforce compliance with these standards. There is *no impact*

Mitigation Measures for Energy

None Required

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
		Mitigation Incorporation		
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
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.			Ø	
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?				☑
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				Ø
iv) Landslides?				✓
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			☑	
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?				Ø
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct and indirect risks to life or property?				Ø
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?				Ø
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?			Ø	

Environmental Setting

Geologic Stability and Seismic Activity

• **Seismicity**: Tulare County is considered a low to moderate earthquake hazard area. The San Andreas Fault is California's longest and most significant fault zone and is

approximately 40 miles west of the Tulare County Boundary. Owens Valley fault zone is the only active fault located within Tulare County. Section 5 of the 2017 Tulare Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies the Project site as likely to experience earthquake hazards with unlikely frequency, limited extent, limited magnitude, and low significance. Ground shaking can result in other geological impacts, including liquefaction, landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, or collapse.

- Liquefaction: Liquefaction is a phenomenon whereby unconsolidated and/or near-saturated soils lose cohesion and are converted to a fluid state due to severe vibratory motion. The relatively rapid loss of soil shear strength during strong earthquake shaking results in temporary, fluid-like behavior of the soil, which can result in landslides and lateral spreading. No specific countywide assessment of liquefaction has been performed; however, the 2017 Tulare Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies the risk of liquefaction within the county as low because the soil types in the area were either too coarse or too high in clay content to be suitable for liquefaction.
- Landslides: Landslides refer to a wide variety of processes that result in the downward and outward movement of soil, rock, and vegetation under gravitational influence. Natural and human-induced slope stability changes can cause landslides and often accompany other natural hazard events, such as floods, wildfires, or earthquakes. The eastern portions of the County are considered to be at a higher risk of landslides with steep slopes. However, because of its relatively flat topography, most of the County, including the proposed Project site, is at low risk of landslides and mudslides. The 2017 Tulare Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan states that landslide events within Tulare County's populated areas are unlikely.
- **Subsidence**: Land Subsidence refers to the vertical sinking of land due to either manmade or natural underground voids. Subsidence has occurred throughout the Central Valley at differing rates since the 1920s due to groundwater, oil, and gas withdrawal. Tulare County is prone to accelerated subsidence during drought, with some areas sinking up to 28 feet. Although western portions of the County show signs of deep and shallow subsidence, most of the County, including the proposed Project site, is not considered at risk of subsidence-related hazards.

Soils Involved in Project: The proposed Project involves the construction on top of three soil types. The properties of this soil are described below:

• San Joaquin Loam, 0-2, 2-9 percent slopes: The San Joaquin series consists of moderately deep to a duripan, moderately well-drained soils formed from alluvium derived from acid igneous rock and granite. These soils may have medium to very high runoff and very slow permeability due to the high clay content and tendency of hard pans to form at roughly 20-60 inches below the surface. These soils are prone to rare or occasional flooding.

- **Porterville Clay, 0 to 2 percent slopes:** The Porterville series consists of deep, well-drained soils formed in fine textured alluvium from igneous rock. These soils have very slow to rapid runoff, slow permeability, and occur on alluvial fans and foothills with slopes ranging from 0 to 15 percent.
- Exeter Loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes: The Exeter series consists of moderately deep to a duripan, well drained soils that formed in alluvium mainly from granitic sources. Exeter soils occur primarily on alluvial fans and stream terraces with slopes ranging from 0 to 9 percent. These soils have very slow to medium runoff, moderately slow permeability above the hard pan (duripan) and permeability of the duripan is very slow.

Regulatory Setting

California Building Code: The California Building Code (CBC) contains general building design and construction requirements relating to fire and life safety, structural safety, and access compliance. CBC provisions provide minimum standards to safeguard life or limb, health, property, and public welfare by regulating and controlling the design, construction, quality of materials, use and occupancy, location, and maintenance of all buildings and structures and specific equipment.

Tulare County General Plan (2012): The City of Woodlake has adopted the Tulare County Health and Safety Element for issues related to structural safety, erosion, and natural disasters. The following goals, objectives and policies have been established to prevent adverse impacts related to geology and soils.

Goal HS-1: To protect County residents and visitors from injury and damage resulting from natural catastrophes, man-made events, and hazardous conditions.

HS-1.11 Site Investigations: The County shall conduct site investigations in areas planned for new development to determine susceptibility to landslides, subsidence/settlement, contamination, and/or flooding.

Goal HS-2: To reduce the risk to life and property and governmental costs from seismic and geologic hazards.

- **HS-2.1 Continued Evaluation of Earthquake Risks:** The County shall continue to evaluate areas to determine levels of earthquake risk.
- **HS-2.2 Landslide Areas:** The County shall not allow development on existing unconsolidated landslide debris.

HS-2.4 Structure Siting: The County shall permit development on soils sensitive to seismic activity permitted only after adequate site analysis, including appropriate siting, design of structure, and foundation integrity.

HS-2.7 Subsidence: The County shall confirm that development is not located in any known areas of active subsidence. If urban development may be located in such an area, a special safety study will be prepared and needed safety measures implemented. The County shall also request that developments provide evidence that its long-term use of groundwater resources, where applicable, will not result in notable subsidence attributed to the new extraction of groundwater resources for use by the development.

HS-2.8 Alquist-Priolo Act Compliance: The County shall not permit any structure for human occupancy to be placed within designated Earthquake Fault Zones (pursuant to and as determined by the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act; Public Resource code, Chapter 8.18) unless the specific provision of the Act and Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations have been satisfied.

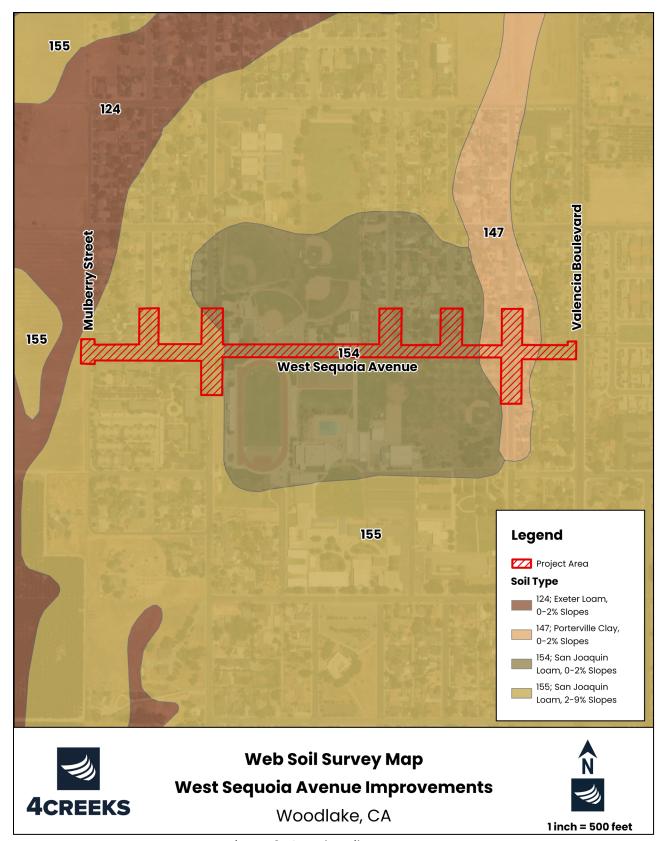


Figure 3-4. Web Soil Survey Map

Discussion

- a) Would the Project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:
 - 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.

Less than Significant Impact: According to the Tulare Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, no active faults underlay the Project site. Although the Project is located in an area of relatively low seismic activity, the Project could be affected by ground shaking from nearby faults. The potential for strong seismic ground shaking on the Project site is not a significant environmental concern due to the infrequent seismic activity of the area and the distance to the faults. The Project has no potential to cause the rupture of an earthquake fault indirectly or directly. Therefore, the risk of loss, injury, or death involving a rupture of a known earthquake fault would be less than significant.

ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?

No Impact: According to the Tulare Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Project site is located in an area of relatively low seismic activity. The proposed Project does not include any activities or components which could feasibly cause strong seismic ground shaking, either directly or indirectly. There is *no impact*.

iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

No Impact: No specific countywide assessment of liquefaction has been performed; however, the Tulare Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies the risk of liquefaction within the county as low because the soil types are unsuitable for liquefaction. There is *no impact*.

iv. Landslides?

No Impact: The proposed Project site is generally flat, with no hill slopes. As a result, there is almost no potential for landslides. No geologic landforms exist on or near the site that would result in a landslide event. There is *no impact*.

b) Would the Project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Less Than Significant Impact: Because the Project site is relatively flat, the potential for erosion is low. However, construction-related activities and increased impermeable

surfaces can increase the probability of erosion. Construction-related impacts related to erosion will be temporary and subject to best management practices (BMPs) required by SWPPP, which are developed to prevent significant impacts from construction. Therefore, erosion-related impacts would remain *less than significant*.

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

No Impact: The soils associated with the Project site are considered stable and have a low capacity for landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. Because the Project area is considered stable, and this Project would not result in a substantial grade change to the topography to the point that it would increase the risk of landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse, there is *no impact*.

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

No Impact: Expansive soils contain large amounts of clay, which absorb water and cause the soil to increase in volume. Conversely, the soils associated with the proposed Project site do not have a high shrink/swell capacity. Because the soils associated with the Project are not suitable for significant expansion, implementation of the Project will pose no direct or indirect risk to life or property caused by expansive soils, and there is *no impact*.

e) Would the Project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

No Impact: No wastewater will be generated as a part of the proposed Project. There is no *impact*.

f) Would the Project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

Less Than Significant Impact: There are no unique geologic features and no known paleontological resources located within the Project area and no excavation is proposed in undisturbed soils, particularly to a depth with a potential to unearth paleontological resources. Potential impacts resulting from Project implementation would be *less than significant*.

Mitigation Measures for Soils and Geology

None Required

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

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

Environmental Setting

Natural processes and human activities emit greenhouse gases. The presence of GHGs in the atmosphere affects the earth's temperature. Without the natural heat-trapping effect of GHGs, the earth's surface would be about 34°C cooler. However, it is believed that emissions from human activities, such as electricity production and vehicle use, have elevated the concentration of these gases in the atmosphere beyond the level of naturally occurring concentrations.

The effect of greenhouse gasses on the earth's temperature is equivalent to how a greenhouse retains heat. Common GHGs include water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, ozone, chlorofluorocarbons, hydrochlorofluorocarbons, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulfur, and hexafluoride. Some gases are more effective than others. The Global Warming Potential (GWP) has been calculated for each greenhouse gas to reflect how long it remains in the atmosphere, on average, and how strongly it absorbs energy. Gases with a higher GWP absorb more energy, per pound, than gases with a lower GWP and thus contribute more to global warming. For example, one pound of methane equals twenty-one pounds of carbon dioxide.

GHGs, as defined by AB 32, include the following gases: carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride. GHGs, as defined by AB 32, are summarized in Table 3-8. Each gas's effect on climate change depends on three main factors. The first is the quantity of these gases in the atmosphere, followed by how long they stay, and finally, how strongly they impact global temperatures.

Greenhouse Gas	Description and	Lifetime	GWP	Sources
Methane (CH4)	Is a flammable gas and is the main component of natural gas	12 years	21	Emitted during the production and transport of coal, natural gas, and oil. Methane emissions also result from livestock and other agricultural practices and by the decay of organic waste in municipal solid waste
Carbon dioxide (CO2)	An odorless, colorless, natural greenhouse gas.	30-95 years	1	Iandfills. Enters the atmosphere through burning fossil fuels (coal, natural gas and oil), solid waste, trees and wood products, and also as a result of certain chemical reactions (e.g., manufacture of cement). Carbon dioxide is removed from the atmosphere (or "sequestered") when it is absorbed by plants as part of the biological carbon cycle.
Chloro- fluorocarbons	Gases formed synthetically by replacing all hydrogen atoms in methane or ethane with chlorine and/or fluorine atoms. They are non-toxic nonflammable, insoluble and chemically unreactive in the troposphere (the level of air at the earth's surface).	55-140 years	3,800 to 8,100	Were synthesized in 1928 for use as refrigerants, aerosol propellants, and cleaning solvents. They destroy stratospheric ozone.

	Description and	Description and			
Greenhouse Gas	Physical Properties	Lifetime	GWP	Sources	
Hydrofluorocarbons	A man-made greenhouse gas. It was developed to replace ozone-depleting gases found in a variety of appliances. Composed of a group of greenhouse gases containing carbon, chlorine an at least one hydrogen atom.	14 years	140 to 11,700	Powerful greenhouse gases that are emitted from a variety of industrial processes. Fluorinated gases are sometimes used as substitutes for stratospheric ozonedepleting substances. These gases are typically emitted in smaller quantities, but because they are potent greenhouse gases.	
Nitrous oxide (N2O)	Commonly known as laughing gas, is a chemical compound with the formula N2O. It is an oxide of nitrogen. At room temperature, it is a colorless, non- flammable gas, with a slightly sweet odor and taste. It is used in surgery and dentistry for its anesthetic and analgesic effects.	120 years	310	Emitted during agricultural and industrial activities, as well as during combustion of fossil fuels and solid waste.	
Pre-fluorocarbons	Has a stable molecular structure and only breaks down by ultraviolet rays about 60 kilometers above Earth's surface.	50,000 years	6,500 to 9,200	Two main sources of pre- fluorocarbons are primary aluminum production and semiconductor manufacturing.	
Sulfur hexafluoride	An inorganic, odorless, colorless, and nontoxic nonflammable gas.	3,200 years	23,900	This gas is manmade and used for insulation in electric power transmission equipment, in the magnesium industry, in semiconductor manufacturing and as a tracer gas.	

Table 3-8. Greenhouse Gases; Source: EPA, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Regarding the quantity of these gases in the atmosphere, we first must establish the amount of particular gas in the air, known as Concentration or abundance, measured in parts per million, parts per billion, and even parts per trillion. To put these measurements in more relatable terms, one part per million equals one drop of water diluted into about 13 gallons, roughly a full gas tank in a compact car. Therefore, it can be assumed more significant emissions of greenhouse gases lead to a higher concentration in the atmosphere.

Each designated gas described above can reside in the atmosphere for different lengths of time, ranging from a few years to thousands of years. All of these gases remain in the atmosphere long enough to become well mixed, meaning that the amount measured in the atmosphere is roughly the same all over the world regardless of the emission source.

Regulatory Setting

AB 32: AB 32 set the 2020 greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal into law. It directed the California Air Resources Board to develop discrete early actions to reduce greenhouse gases while also preparing a scoping plan to identify how best to reach the 2020 limit. The reduction measures to meet the 2020 target will be adopted by the start of 2011.

SB 1078, SB 107, and Executive Order S-14-08: SB 1078, SB 107, and Executive Order S-14-08 require California to generate 20% of its electricity from renewable energy by 2017. SB 107 then changes the 2017 deadline to 2010. Executive Order S-14-08 required that all retail sellers of electricity serve 33 percent of their load with renewable energy by 2020.

Tulare County General Plan (2012): The City has adopted the Tulare County Open Space and Conservation Element, which contains the following goals, objectives and policies pertaining to greenhouse gas emissions.

Goal AQ-1: To improve air quality through a regional approach and interagency cooperation.

AQ-1.7 Support Statewide Climate Change Solutions: The County shall monitor and support the efforts of Cal/EPA, CARB, and the SJVAPCD, under AB 32 (Health and Safety Code §38501 et seq.), to develop a recommended list of emission reduction strategies. As appropriate, the County will evaluate each new Project under the updated General Plan to determine its consistency with the emission reduction strategies.

AQ-1.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan/Climate Action Plan: The County will develop a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan (Plan) that identifies greenhouse gas emissions within the County as well as ways to reduce those emissions. The Plan will incorporate the requirements adopted by the California Air Resources Board specific to this issue. In addition, the County will work with the Tulare County Association of Governments

and other applicable agencies to include the following key items in the regional planning efforts.

- c) Inventory all known, or reasonably discoverable, sources of greenhouse gases in the County;
- d) Inventory the greenhouse gas emissions in the most current year available, and those Projected for year 2020, and;
- e) Set a target for the reduction of emissions attributable to the County's discretionary land use decisions and its own internal government operations.

AQ-1.9 Support Off-Site Measures to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions: The County will support and encourage the use of off-site measures or the purchase of carbon offsets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Discussion

a) Would the Project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment.

Less Than Significant Impact: Greenhouse gas emissions for the proposed Project's construction were modeled using the Road Construction Emissions Model, Version 9.0.0. The Emissions Model results can be found in Appendix B.

Construction: Greenhouse gasses would be generated during construction from activities including grubbing/land clearing, grading/excavation, drainage/utilities/subgrade, and paving. The Road Construction Emissions Model report predicts that this Project will create a maximum of 1,296 metric tons of CO2e emissions during construction. Because the SJVAPCD does not have numeric thresholds for assessing the significance of construction-related GHG emissions, predicted emissions from Project construction were compared to Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) thresholds for construction-related GHG emissions. The CEQ currently has a presumptive threshold of 10,000 metric tons of CO2e per year for construction emissions amortized over a 30-year Project lifetime. Because Project construction would generate far less GHG emissions than this threshold, impacts related to GHG emissions during Project construction would be less than significant.

Operation: The Project is funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Active Transportation Program (ATP). Therefore, the Project is expected to result in significant emissions reductions by encouraging the use of non-vehicular modes of transportation. The Project would not generate any additional vehicle trips, and there will be no stationary source emissions resulting from the Project. Because the Project's construction will result in less than significant increases in GHG emissions, and the Project's operation would reduce GHG emissions by promoting alternative modes of transportation, the impact is considered less than significant.

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

No Impact: The proposed Project will comply with all Federal, State, and Local rules on regulating greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, the Project will implement Best Performance Standards developed by the SJVAPCD. Projects implementing Best Performance Standards are determined to have a less than significant impact on global climate change. The Project will not conflict with any plan, policy, or regulation developed to reduce GHG emissions. There is *no impact*.

<u>Mitigation Measures for Greenhouse Gas Emissions</u>

None Required

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	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?			Ø	
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?			Ø	
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				Ø
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 or excessive noise to the public or the environment?				Ø
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 for people residing or working in the Project area?			Ø	
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				V
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?				

Environmental Setting

Several school sites are immediately adjacent to the Project site. These include Bravo Lake High School, Woodlake High School, and Luke Blair Kress Preschool. The Project site is 1.7 miles from the nearest public airport (Woodlake Airport), and 12.6 miles from the nearest private airstrip (Exeter Airport).

The Department of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC's) Envirostor was used to identify any sites known to be associated with releases of hazardous materials or wastes within the Project area. This research confirmed that the Project would not be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

Regulatory Setting

Tulare County General Plan: The City has adopted measures pertaining to the management of hazards and hazardous materials from the Health and Safety Element of the County's General Plan. The following goals, objectives and policies have been adopted to prevent impacts from hazards and hazardous materials.

Goal HS-4: To protect residents, visitors, and property from hazardous materials through their safe use, storage, transport, and disposal.

HS-4.1 Hazardous Materials: The County shall strive to ensure hazardous materials are used, stored, transported, and disposed of in a safe manner, in compliance with local, State, and Federal safety standards, including the Hazardous Waste Management Plan, Emergency Operations Plan, and Area Plan.

HS-4.2 Establishment of Procedures to Transport Hazardous Wastes: The County shall continue to cooperate with the California Highway Patrol (CHP) to establish procedures for the movement of hazardous wastes and explosives within the County.

HS-4.3 Incompatible Land Uses: The County shall prevent incompatible land uses near properties that produce or store hazardous waste.

HS-4.4 Contamination Prevention: The County shall review new development proposals to protect soils, air quality, surface water, and groundwater from hazardous materials contamination.

Goal HS-3: To minimize the possibility of the loss of life, injury, or damage to property as a result of airport hazards.

HS-3.1 Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan: The County shall require that development around airports is consistent with the safety policies and land use compatibility guidelines contained in the adopted Tulare County Comprehensive Airport Land Use Plan (CALUP).

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S. Code [U.S.C.] §9601 et seq.). The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, or the Superfund Act) authorizes the President to respond to releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances into the environment.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) sets and enforces Occupational Safety and Health Standards to ensure safe working conditions. OSHA provides training, outreach, education, and compliance assistance to promote safe workplaces. The proposed Project would be subject to OSHA requirements during construction, operation, and maintenance.

Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976 (15 U.S.C. §2601 et seq.). The Toxic Substance Control Act was enacted by Congress in 1976 and authorized the EPA to regulate any chemical substances determined to cause an unreasonable risk to public health or the environment.

Hazardous Waste Control Law, Title 26. The Hazardous Waste Control Law creates hazardous waste management program requirements. The law is implemented by regulations contained in Title 26 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), which contains requirements for the following aspects of hazardous waste management:

- Identification and classification;
- Generation and transportation;
- Design and permitting of recycling, treatment, storage, and disposal facilities;
- Treatment standards;
- Operation of facilities and staff training; and
- Closure of facilities and liability requirements.

California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Chapter 11. Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations contains regulations for identifying and classifying hazardous wastes. The CCR defines waste as hazardous if it has the following characteristics: ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, and/or toxicity.

California Emergency Services Act. The California Emergency Services Act created a multiagency emergency response plan for California. The Act coordinates various agencies, including CalEPA, Caltrans, the California Highway Patrol, regional water quality control boards, air quality management districts, and county disaster response offices.

Hazardous Materials Release Response Plans and Inventory Law of 1985. Pursuant to the Hazardous Materials Release Response Plans and Inventory Law of 1985, local agencies are required to develop "area plans" for response to releases of hazardous materials and wastes. Tulare County maintains a Hazardous Material Incident Response Plan to coordinate emergency response agencies for incidents and requires the submittal of business plans by persons who handle hazardous materials.

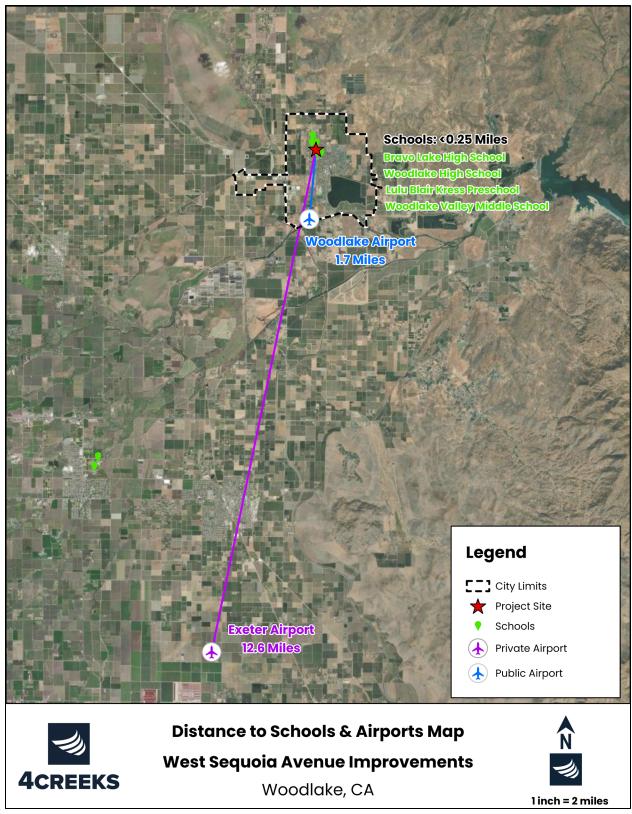


Figure 3-5. Distance to Schools and Airports Map

Discussion

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

Less than Significant Impact: Once constructed, the Project itself will not contain, use, or produce any hazardous materials. Project construction activities may involve using and transporting hazardous materials, such as fuels, oils, and other chemicals (e.g., paints, lead, adhesives, etc.) typically used during construction. Improper use, transportation, and storage of hazardous materials could result in accidental releases or spills that could pose health risks to workers, the public, and the environment. However, all materials used during construction would be contained, stored, and handled in compliance with all applicable standards and regulations established by DTSC, the EPA, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). In addition, a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) is required for the Project and will include emergency procedures for incidental hazardous materials releases. The SWPPP also includes Best Management Practices which include requirements for hazardous materials storage. Therefore, the impact is less than significant.

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

Less Than Significant Impact: There is no reasonably foreseeable condition or incident involving the Project that could result in the release of hazardous materials into the environment other than any potential accidental releases of standard fuels, solvents, or chemicals encountered during typical construction. Should an accidental hazardous release occur or should the Project encounter hazardous soils, existing regulations for handling hazardous materials require coordination with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control for an appropriate plan of action, which can include studies or testing to determine the nature and extent of contamination, as well as handling and proper disposal. Therefore, potential impacts are considered to be less than significant.

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

Less than Significant Impact: The Project is approximately 105 feet from the nearest school. The Project is within one-quarter mile of five schools, the closest one being Bravo Lake High School, but the Project does not involve emissions or handling of hazardous materials, so potential impacts are considered to be *less than significant*.

d) Would the Project be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

No Impact: The Project site is not listed as a hazardous materials site pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and is not included on a list compiled by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). The Project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment, and there is *no impact*.

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?

Less than significant: The proposed Project is located within an airport land use plan and is within two miles from an airport. Woodlake Airport is the nearest airport to the Project site, located approximately 1.7 miles south of the Project area. The proposed Project area is within the airport influence area, but outside of the airport safety zone boundary and noise boundary. Since the Project will be outside of the Airport Impact Zone, implementing the proposed Project would not result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the Project area so the impact is less than significant.

f) Would the Project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

No Impact: The City's site plan review procedures ensure compliance with emergency response and evacuation plans. In addition, the site plan will be reviewed by the Fire Department per standard City procedure to ensure consistency with emergency response and evacuation needs. Therefore, the proposed Project would have *no impact* on emergency evacuation.

g) Would the Project expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

No Impact: The land surrounding the Project site is developed with urban, suburban, and agricultural uses and is not considered wildlands. Additionally, the 2017 Tulare County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan finds that fire hazards within the City of Woodlake, including the proposed Project site, have occasional frequency, limited extent, magnitude, and is of medium significance to the community. The proposed Project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, and there is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures for Hazards and Hazardous Materials
None Required

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
 a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise sustainably degrade surface or ground water quality? 			Ø	
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the Project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?				Ø
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:				
(i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?		Ø		
(ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite?		Ø		
(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; or		Ø		
(iv) impede or redirect flood flows?		V		
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones risk the release of pollutants due to Project inundation?				V
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater movement plan?				V

Environmental Setting

Regional and Local Hydrology: The San Joaquin Valley has a variety of water sources, including the Sierra snowpack, rivers, and groundwater. The Central Valley has typical hot and dry summers. The Pacific Ocean is the source of storm events that spread rain over the Valley and its foothills while covering the high Sierra Nevada Mountains with snow.

Snowmelt runoff and flood flows caused by heavy rains are captured behind the Pine Flat Dam on the Kings River, the Terminus Dam on the Kaweah River, and the Friant Dam on the San Joaquin River. These large flows are managed and stored for flood control and spring and summer irrigation by tens of thousands of valley farmers.

The Project is in the Kaweah Subbasin aquifer of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin. Kaweah Lake and the Sierra Nevada Foothills bound the Subbasin to the east, the Elk Bayou River to the south, and the Tulare Lake and Kings Subbasins to the north and west. Pumping water from the aquifer is vital for sustaining crops in places and at times when surface water is not available. Groundwater is also the primary source of drinking water. The aquifer is not a limitless resource, and more water is being pumped out than replenished. However, this Project will not involve a well or sewage disposal or result in a threat of aquifer contamination or hazard to public health.

According to the National Wetlands Inventory, there is an area designated as an excavated freshwater pond on the school site, south of the proposed road improvements, but more accurately indicates a portion of the park area that has a propensity to flood or collect surface water during the growing season. The Project would not interfere with any manmade or natural water features due to the nature of the road improvements. Within Woodlake are small manmade ponds, but the main water features are Bravo Lake and St. Johns River, which are both 1–2 miles south of the Project area. Numerous agricultural ponds, groundwater recharge basins, and other similar features also occur in the surrounding landscape.

Existing Water Quality

- Surface Water Quality Objectives/Standards and Beneficial Uses: Woodlake does not use surface water. The City may explore future opportunities to purchase surface water. The agricultural channels adjacent to the Project site are man-made surface water delivery canals that deliver groundwater to rural and urban users. There is one natural water course In the southern portion of the City, which is St. John's River. The lower Kaweah river, which includes St. John's River is currently listed as an impaired water body by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and it appears on the 303(d) list under the Clean Water Act for impaired water bodies. The Kaweah River, which is near St. John's River is also listed as an impaired water body for acidity and toxicity.
- Groundwater Quality Objectives/Standards and Beneficial Uses: The groundwater in Woodlake and the Project area is the sole water supply source. The water quality from the Kings Subbasin is sufficient for drinking water, agricultural uses, and all other uses. The Kings Subbasin is designated as critically over-drafted. The Project construction will require minimal water for dirt compaction and landscaping and will not affect the groundwater supply.

Regulatory Setting

Clean Water Act: The Clean Water Act (CWA) is enforced by the U.S. EPA and was developed in 1972 to regulate discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States. The Act made it unlawful to discharge any pollutant from a point source into navigable waters unless a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit is obtained.

Central Valley RWQCB: The proposed Project site is within the jurisdiction of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The Central Valley RWQCB requires a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for Projects disturbing more than one acre of land area. Because the Project is greater than one acre, an NPDES Permit and SWPPP will be required.

City of Woodlake General Plan: The Woodlake General Plan contains the following hydrology and water quality policies.

Goal: Protect air and water quality from negative impacts.

- Promote the use of native and drought-tolerant new landscaping in existing and future parks.
 - The City shall stress the use of native and drought-tolerant species in private and public landscaping areas.
- 2. Allow for adequate groundwater recharge by developing storm ponding and retention basins where feasible. In some areas these ponds or basins can be incorporated into a recreational area or used as wildlife habitat area.
 - b. The Engineering Department shall implement the policies of this Element with regard to locations of future park/pond basins.

Discussion

a) Would the Project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?

Less than Significant Impact: The Project will have less than a significant impact on water quality due to potentially polluted runoff generated during construction activities. Construction would include demolition of existing pavement, grading, and other earthwork that may occur across most of the 8.18-acre Project site. During storm events, exposed construction areas across the Project site may cause runoff to carry pollutants, such as chemicals, oils, sediment, and debris. However, implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be required for the Project. An SWPPP identifies all potential sources of pollution that could affect stormwater discharges from the Project site and

identifies best management practices (BMPs) related to stormwater runoff. Therefore, implementation of the SWPPP would render the impacts *less than significant*.

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

No Impact: The proposed Project, once operational, will not require ongoing use of water and, therefore, will not affect an aquifer or local water table. Therefore, the Project will have no impact.

- 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:
 - i. Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?
 - ii. Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite?
 - iii. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?
 - iv. Impede or redirect flood flows?

Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Implementation:

Short-Term Impacts during Construction: During Project construction, there will be no changes to any nearby surface water features.

Construction activities would involve soil-disturbing activities such as trenching, grading, and preparing the soil for the new piping and infrastructure for utilities, including an irrigation system and electrical services (power pole relocation). Disturbed soil would be exposed to wind and water-generated erosion. All disturbed soil will be compacted to a minimum of 90% density to reduce erosion. All temporarily affected areas will be restored to pre-construction contours and conditions upon completion of construction activities.

The disturbed area of the Project site would not discharge to a sensitive water body directly, but may discharge nonpoint sources of pollution indirectly, since Bravo Lake and St. John's River are within 1-2 miles of the Project area. However, the receiving water risk is low, and the impact will be rendered less than significant with the implementation of Mitigation Measure HYD-1.

Long-Term Impacts During Operation and Maintenance: Runoff pollution from West Sequoia Avenue during operation can include dirt, rubber deposits, metal deposits, antifreeze, engine oil, and litter. However, there are no surface waters within the immediate

vicinity of the Project site. Therefore, impacts from the street and vehicles will be minimal. The proposed underground pipes/utilities are expected to be consistent with requirements outlined in the City of Woodlake Public Works Improvement Standards to safely divert water and prevent contamination and pollution from the roadway.

By implementing Mitigation Measure HYD-1, the Project will not significantly impact water quality during construction or operation. The impact is less than significant with mitigation.

d) Would the Project, in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk the release of pollutants due to Project inundation?

No Impact: The proposed Project is located inland and not near an ocean or large body of water and, therefore, would not be affected by a tsunami. The proposed Project is located in a relatively flat area and would not be impacted by inundation related to mudflow. Since the Project is located in an area that is not susceptible to inundation, the Project would not risk the release of pollutants due to Project inundation. As such, there is *no impact*.

e) Would the Project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

No Impact: The proposed Project will not conflict with or obstruct the implementation of a water quality control plan. The proposed Project will be subject to the requirements of the NPDES Stormwater Program and will be required to comply with an SWPPP, which will identify all potential sources of pollution that could affect stormwater discharges from the Project site and identify BMPs to prevent significant impacts related to stormwater runoff.

The proposed Project site is within the jurisdiction of the Greater Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). The Greater Kaweah GSA adopted the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) in January 2020. The plan was reviewed for consistency with the proposed Project, and it was determined that it does not conflict with and would not obstruct the implementation of the GSP. There is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures for Hydrology and Water Quality

Mitigation Measure HYD-1: The Project shall implement the following Best Management Practices to prevent run-on and runoff pollution, properly dispose of wastes, and train employees and subcontractors.

• The amount and duration of soil exposed to erosion by wind, rain, runoff, and vehicle tracking should be minimized by applying water or other dust palliatives, as necessary. Watering should occur at least twice a day with complete coverage, preferably in the late morning and after work is completed for the day. Covering small stockpiles or areas is an alternative to applying water. The stockpiles should be located a minimum of fifty feet away from concentrated flows of stormwater, drainage courses, and inlets. The stockpiles should be protected using a temporary perimeter sediment barrier. All clearing, grading, earth moving, or excavation activities will cease during periods of

- high winds greater than twenty mph. Vehicles will be prohibited from being on non-active portions of the Project site. All vehicles on site will be limited to 15 MPH to reduce dust forming. The contractor shall maintain dust control on the site as specified by "Caltrans Standard Specifications 2015".
- Stabilized construction access should be provided at entrances to reduce or eliminate
 the tracking of sediment onto public streets. Visible sediment tracking should be swept
 or vacuumed daily. For solid waste management from clearing and grubbing, BMPs
 would include providing designated waste collection areas and containers and
 arranging for regular disposal. For concrete waste management, the washout should
 be conducted offsite or in a designated area at least fifty feet from the Ditch.
- Vehicle and equipment cleaning, fueling, and maintenance should be done offsite or in a designated, contained area only. The discharge of petroleum products or other excavated materials to surface water channels is prohibited. The Discharger shall notify the City of Woodlake immediately of any spill of petroleum products or other organic or earthen materials.
- Following construction, all trenches will be filled to reduce any impact.
- The Discharger shall maintain a copy of the supporting documentation at the Project site during construction for review by site personnel and agencies. All personnel (employees, contractors, and subcontractors) performing work on the proposed Project shall be adequately informed and trained regarding the conditions of the certification.
- The Project disturbs over one acre of soil, therefore a Water Pollution Control Program and SWPPP will need to be prepared by the contractor per Caltrans 2010 Standard Specification Section 13–2.
- The Discharger shall notify the City of Woodlake immediately if any of the above conditions are violated, along with a description of measures it is taking to remedy the violation. By incorporating proper and accepted engineering practices and BMPs, the proposed Project will not produce significant impacts on water quality during construction or its operation.

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?				Ø
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?				Ø

Environmental Setting

The proposed Project site is perpendicular to the western boundary of the City of Woodlake city limits and would involve approximately 8.18 acres total acres, including existing and future Public ROW and temporary construction easement areas along West Sequoia Avenue and the associated local streets. The Project will require a minor amount of ROW acquisition, approximately 0.0398 acres (1,734 S.F.) to accommodate the proposed design. The proposed design would affect approximately 0.49 miles of the public roadway in order to achieve the pedestrian and bicycle improvements. Valencia Boulevard is designated as an arterial street, West Sequoia Avenue and Cypress Road are collector streets, and the rest of the streets are designated as local roadways according to the Circulation Element of the City of Woodlake General Plan. General Plan Land Use designations for properties adjacent to the affected roadways include low, medium, and high-density residential and public facilities. The City of Woodlake zoning ordinance designates the adjacent properties as Low-Density Residential (7,000 SF minimum), Medium-Density Residential, and Public Facilities.

Regulatory Setting

City of Woodlake General Plan: The Woodlake General Plan defines arterial roads as highways that provide through traffic movements on continuous routes throughout the City, and are often two-lane, undivided roadways with rights-of-way width ranging from 60 to 80 feet. The only arterial road included in the improvements is North Valencia Boulevard. Collector streets are those that provide traffic movement around and through Woodlake and provide traffic movement primarily through neighborhoods and link them to arterial streets. Collectors usually contain two travel lanes, two parking lanes, curbs, gutters, and sidewalks. Improvements to collector streets are contained within the City rights-of-way and range from 50-60 feet wide. West Sequoia Avenue and Cypress Street are designated as collector streets in the City of Woodlake General Plan. The other streets that are involved in the Project are designated as local roadways. Local roadways provide internal traffic movement within residential

neighborhoods, contain two travel lanes, two parking lanes, curbs, gutters, and sidewalks. The rights-of-way widths range from 52-60 feet. The local roadways included in the Project are Mulberry Street, North Pine Street, North Acacia Street, North Pepper Street, and North Palm Street.

The Land Use Element of the City's General Plan contains the following goals, objectives and policies pertaining to compatible land uses and maintaining a contiguous community.

Goal 1: Protect existing neighborhoods from incompatible land uses.

- Ensure that the city's zoning ordinance regulations do not permit uses that will be incompatible with residential neighborhoods. Persons wishing to conduct a business in a residential district shall be required to comply with Woodlake's Home Occupation regulations, which serves to minimize the impact of the business on the residential neighborhood.
- 2. The planning and building department will work together to insure that building and zoning code violations are corrected and/or eliminated.
 - a. The city on a monthly basis will send out correction letters to persons who are in violation of planning or building code regulations.
 - b. The planning and building department will work with the Police Department's code enforcement officer to ensure that zoning and building codes are enforced.

Goal 2: Promote attractive, well-maintained, and designed residential neighborhoods.

- 1. The City should continue to utilize its Planned Development Combining District which promotes:
- a. Tree-lined streets.
- b. Neighborhood parks.
- c. Dwellings that are architecturally interesting.
- d. Common areas that are maintained by Landscaping and Lighting Districts.
- e. Narrow streets.
- 2. Encourage residential developments and adjacent land uses to be pedestrianoriented.
- a. All residential developments with walls should provide openings for pedestrian and bike traffic.
- b. Land uses adjacent to residential developments should provide for pedestrian access between the two types of developments.

Goal 3: Schools that are easily accessible and free from land use and circulation conflicts

- 1. Schools should be located in areas of the community where they are easily accessible for school-aged students.
 - a. Roadways adjacent to schools should be provided with sidewalks, properly striped crosswalks, and signage.
 - b. Sidewalks should be installed on all streets around the school site.
 - c. Schools should be connected to bike path systems.

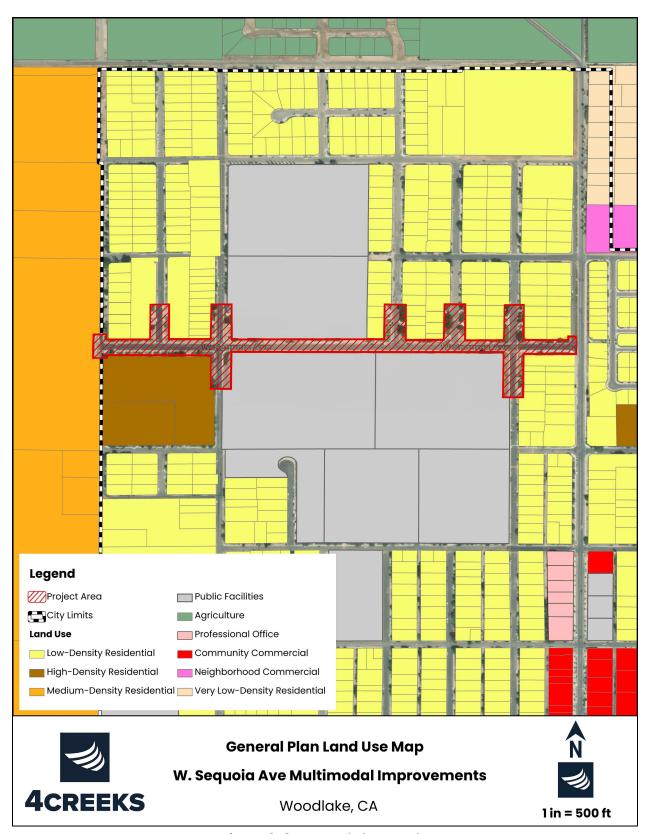


Figure 3-6. General Plan Land Use Map

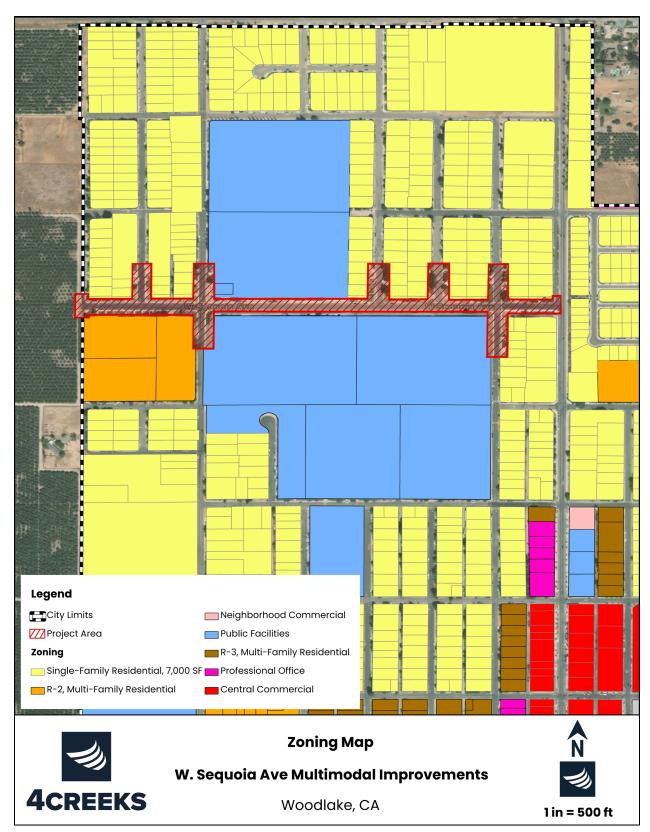


Figure 3-7. Zoning Map

Discussion

a) Would the Project physically divide an established community?

No Impact: The Project proposes pedestrian, bicycle and infrastructure improvements along West Sequoia Avenue, in addition to portions of Valencia Boulevard, Cypress Street and several local roadways. The Project would not act as a physical barrier within a community but would improve circulation throughout the community. There is *no impact*.

b) Would the Project cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

No Impact: The proposed Project does not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted to avoid or mitigate an environmental effect. There is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures for Land Use and Planning

None Required

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the Project:		Less Than		
	Potentially	Significant	Less than	No
	Significant	With	Significant	
	Impact	Mitigation	Impact	Impact
		Incorporation		
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?				V
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 lands use plan?				Ø

Environmental Setting

Tulare County has no mineral resource zones, and no mineral extraction occurs on or adjacent to the proposed Project site. Historical mines within the County include mineral deposits of tungsten, copper, gold, magnesium, and lead; however, most of these mines are now closed – leaving only 37 active mining operations. According to the Open Space and Conservation Element of the City of Woodlake General Plan, there are no known mineral resources and no known past or active mining operations within the City of Woodlake. The closest significant mineral resource are sand and gravel deposits along the St. John's River southeast of Woodlake near the Sierra Nevada Foothills. There are several open–pit sand and gravel mines along the river, but this is outside the Woodlake planning area.

Regulatory Setting

California State Surface Mining and Reclamation Act: The California State Surface Mining and Reclamation Act was adopted in 1975 to regulate surface mining, prevent adverse environmental impacts, and preserve the state's mineral resources. The California Department of Conservation's Division of Mine Reclamation enforces the Act.

Tulare County General Plan (2012): The Environmental Resources Management Element contains several goals, objectives and policies aimed at protecting the County's mineral resources.

Goal ERM-2: To conserve protect and encourage the development of areas containing mineral deposits while considering values relating to water resources, air quality, agriculture, traffic, biotic, recreation, aesthetic enjoyment, and other public interest values.

ERM-2.1 Conserve Mineral Deposits: The County will encourage the conservation of identified and/or potential mineral deposits, recognizing the need for identifying, permitting, and maintaining a 50-year supply of locally available PCC grade aggregate.

ERM-2.2 Recognize Mineral Deposits: The County will recognize as a part of the General Plan those areas of identified and/or potential mineral deposits.

ERM-2.3 Future Resource Development: The County will provide for the conservation of identified and/or potential mineral deposits within Tulare County as areas for future resource development. Recognize that mineral deposits are significantly limited within Tulare County and that they play an important role in support of the economy of the County.

ERM-2.5 Resources Development: The County will promote the responsible development of identified and/or potential mineral deposits.

Discussion

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

No Impact: The Project site has no known mineral resources that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state, therefore, the proposed Project would not result in the loss or impede the mining of regionally or locally important mineral resources. There is *no impact*.

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

No Impact: No known mineral resources are essential to the region, and the Project site is not designated under the City's or County's General Plan as an important mineral resource recovery site. Therefore, the proposed Project would not result in the loss of availability of known regionally or locally significant mineral resources. There is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures for Mineral Resources

None Required

XIII. NOISE

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

Environmental Setting

Noise is often described as an unwanted sound. Sound is the variation in air pressure that the human ear can detect. If the pressure variations occur at least 20 times per second, they can be detected by the human ear. The number of pressure variations per second is called the frequency of sound and is expressed as cycles per second, called Hertz (Hz). Ambient noise is the "background" noise of an environment. Ambient noise levels on the proposed Project site are primarily due to the school sites and traffic. Construction activities usually result in an increase in sound above ambient noise levels.

Regulatory Setting

Tulare County General Plan (2012): The City of Woodlake has adopted the Tulare County General Plan Health and Safety Element, which outlines criteria applicable to construction noise. The following Tulare County General Plan policies are outlined below:

HS-8.11 Peak Noise Generators: The County shall limit noise generating activities, such as construction, to hours of normal business operation (7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.). No peak noise generating activities shall be allowed to occur outside of normal business hours without County approval.

HS-8.18 Construction Noise: The County shall seek to limit the potential noise impacts of construction activities by limiting construction activities to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday when construction activities are located near sensitive receptors. No construction shall occur on Sundays or national holidays without a permit from the County to minimize noise impacts associated with development near sensitive receptors.

HS-8.19 Construction Noise Control: The County shall ensure that construction contractors implement best practices guidelines (e.g., berms, screens, etc.) as appropriate and feasible to reduce construction-related noise impacts on surrounding land uses.

Discussion

a) Would the Project result in generation of a substantial temporary or permeant increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the Project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation: Construction for the proposed road improvements will take place within 50-100 feet of many sensitive receptors including school sites, senior living facilities, and residences. Project construction is anticipated to last approximately 12 months and will involve temporary noise sources. The average noise levels generated by construction equipment used in the proposed Project are shown below.

Type of Equipment	dBA at 50 feet
Air Compressors	81
Excavators	81
Concrete/Industrial Saws	76
Cranes	83
Forklifts	75
Generators	81
Pavers	89
Rollers	74
Dozers	85
Tractors	84
Loaders	85
Backhoes	80
Graders	85
Scrapers	89
Welders	74

Table 3-9. Noise levels of noise-generating construction equipment. Source: Federal Highway Administration Construction Noise Handbook.

The Tulare County General Plan identifies the following noise thresholds (Table 3-10). However, Section 8.24.040 of the Woodlake Noise Ordinance states that noise regulations do not apply to construction, repair, or remodeling work accomplished according to a building electrical, plumbing, mechanical, or other construction permit issued by the city or other governmental agency or to the site preparation and grading, provided such work does not take place between the hours of seven a.m. and ten p.m. on any day. The Project will comply with these regulations as well as Tulare County General Plan policies, therefore construction will only occur Monday through Friday between 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM.

Land Use Category	Noise Threshold (dB)
Low-Density Residential	55-70
Multi-Family Residential	60-70
Schools, Libraries, Churches,	60-70
Halls	
Playgrounds, Neighborhood	65-75
Parks	

Table 3-10. Conditionally Acceptable Noise Exposure Based on Land Use Type.

Although some construction equipment would generate noise exceeding the conditionally acceptable levels outlined in the Tulare County General Plan, the Project itself will not generate long-term noise levels and Mitigation Measure NS-1 will be implemented to reduce noise impacts. Additionally, the Project will improve local roadway operations without generating additional vehicle trips, which may reduce long-term operational noise levels associated with traffic. Therefore, the Project is not considered growth-inducing and will not result in long-term noise impacts beyond what was previously analyzed in the City's General Plan EIR. In order to lessen short-term noise impacts from construction, the Project will implement Mitigation Measure NS-1.

Because of the following factors, the impact is less than significant with mitigation incorporation.

- The noise generated from construction would be temporary and be subject to standards outlined in Mitigation Measure NS-1.
- The construction activities would comply with all measures established by the City to limit construction-related noise impacts.
- Operational noise would be consistent with existing noise levels, which was previously analyzed in the City's General Plan EIR.

b) Would the Project result in generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

Less than Significant Impact: Ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels may occur as part of construction activities associated with the Project. Construction activities

will be temporary and will not expose persons to such vibration or noise levels for an extended period. Therefore, the impacts are less than significant.

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

No Impact: The Project site is approximately 1.7 miles from the nearest airport (Woodlake Airport). Although the site is within an Airport Land Use Plan, it would not expose people to excessive airport noise, as the noise levels have already been analyzed in the City's General Plan and the Tulare County Comprehensive Airport Land Use Plan. There is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures for Noise

Mitigation Measure NS-1: The Project applicant will ensure that construction occurs between the hours of 7a.m. and 7p.m. as well as occur outside of the typical school year to ensure there are no direct noise impacts to the several school sites surrounding the Project site.

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING

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

Environmental Setting

The United States Census Bureau estimated the population in the City of Woodlake to be 7,590 in 2022. This population is an increase from the 2020 census, which counted the population in the City of Woodlake to be 7,431. Factors that influence population growth include job availability, housing availability, and the capacity of existing infrastructure.

Regulatory Setting

The development code and Land Use Element of the General Plan control the population size in the City of Woodlake. These documents regulate the number of dwelling units per acre allowed on various land uses and establish minimum and maximum lot sizes. These factors have a direct impact on the City's population size. The Project site is located entirely within the public ROW. Therefore, no residences are permitted within the Project area.

Woodlake General Plan: The Land Use Element of the City's General Plan contains several goals, policies and actions related to population growth management and housing.

Goal 1: Maintain Woodlake as a small, agriculturally oriented city surrounded by farmland and open space features.

- 3. Ensure that Woodlake is surrounded by agricultural land that is zoned for large parcel agriculture (e.g., AE-20).
 - a. The City shall notify the County of Tulare that all agricultural land that is within its Sphere of Influence (SOI) and outside its city limits should be zoned to the AE-20 zone district.
 - b. The City shall protest any division of land requests within its Sphere of Influence that would create non-viable agricultural parcels.

Goal 2: Promote Smart Growth planning principals in order to discourage urban sprawl and the premature urbanization of agricultural land.

- 1. The City shall amend its Zoning Ordinance to add Smart Growth planning principles to its Planned Unit Development (PUD) zone district.
 - a. The Smart Growth planning principles shall potentially include reduced yard standards, passive solar orientation, narrower streets, unique architectural dwelling designs, and water and energy conservation measures.
- 2. The City shall promote mixed-use development where appropriate.
 - a. The City shall amend its Zoning Ordinance to provide for a mixed-use zone district. The City should identify sites in the downtown core where mixed-use development would be appropriate.

Discussion

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

No Impact: The Project proposes no new homes or residential structures currently on-site. The Project will improve local roadway operations but not generate additional vehicle trips. The Project is not considered to be growth-inducing. The proposed Project will not affect any regional population, housing, or employment Projections anticipated by City of Woodlake policy documents. Therefore, there is *no impact*.

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

No Impact: The Project does not involve the removal of existing residences and would not displace any people. There is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures for Population and Housing

None Required

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the Project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable serve ratios, response times of other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
a. Fire protection?				Ø
b. Police protection?				Ø
c. Schools?				Ø
d. Parks?				Ø
e. Other public facilities?				

Environmental Setting

Fire: The Woodlake Fire District serves the Project site. The Woodlake Fire District will continue to provide fire protection services to the proposed Project site upon development.

Police: Law enforcement services are provided to the Project site via the Woodlake Police Department. The City of Woodlake will continue to provide police protection services to the proposed Project site upon development.

Schools: The proposed Project site is located within Woodlake Unified School District.

Regulatory Setting

Woodlake General Plan (2008): The Land Use Element of the City's General Plan contains several goals, objectives and policies guiding the provision of public services throughout the community.

Goal 1: A community that is free of crime and fire hazards.

1. Through Woodlake's site plan review process, new developments should be designed so that crime and fire safety are considered in the design.

- a. Ensure that all new uses have water available to the site and that proper water pressure is also available.
- b. Ensure that all new uses are properly equipped with on-site lighting to promote safety.
- 2. The City will continue to upgrade its water system to ensure that adequate water pressure is maintained throughout the system.
 - a. The City should amend its development impact fee schedule to provide funds for replacement of older water lines.
 - The City should amend its development impact fee schedule to provide funds for the construction of new water wells and water storage tanks.
- 3. Residential development should be designed so that two points of access are provided.
 - a. The Site Plan Review Committee will ensure that new developments provide proper access for public safety vehicles.

Discussion

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

a. Fire protection?

No Impact: The Woodlake Fire District will continue to provide fire protection services within the Project site. No additional fire personnel or equipment is anticipated, as the Fire Station already serves the site. There is *no impact*.

b. Police protection?

No Impact: The proposed Project will continue to be served by the City's Police Department. No additional police personnel or equipment is anticipated. There is *no impact*.

c. Schools?

No Impact: The proposed Project does not contain any residential uses typically associated with an increased demand for schools. The Project would not increase the population within the City of Woodlake and would therefore not increase demand for School District resources. There is *no impact*.

d. Parks?

No Impact: The proposed Project would not increase demand for parks or other recreation facilities because it would not cause an increase in population. There is *no impact*.

e. Other public facilities?

No Impact: The proposed Project is not growth-inducing and is within the land use and growth Projections identified in the City's General Plan. The Project would not result in increased demand for, or impacts on, other public facilities. There is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures for Public Services

None Required

XVI. RECREATION

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the Project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				Ø
b) Does the Project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				Ø

Environmental Setting

The City of Woodlake owns and operates 3 parks within the City limits. Woodlake City Park, Castle Rock Park, and Willow Court Park. There are also a number of neighborhood parks that are open to the public, which include Castle Rock Estates Park, Alsumiri Park, and Valencia Heights Park. Valencia Heights Park is the closest recreational area to the Project site and is located approximately 0.25 miles east of the Project site.

Regulatory Setting

Woodlake General Plan: The City's Open Space and Conservation contains the following goals, objectives, and action plans to guide the future development of parks and recreational facilities.

Goal 1: Plan for adequate park and recreation facilities to meet existing and future needs in Woodlake.

- Maintain compliance with adopted city park standards now, and as the City grows.
 - c. The City shall review and, if necessary, increase its park impact fees in order to ensure that it maintains its ratio of at least three acres of parkland per 1,000 people.
 - b. The City shall purchase the necessary acreage to increase Woodlake's parkland acreage to equal or exceed three acres per 1000 people.
- 2. Provide a variety of park sites and recreational facilities to accommodate the City's diverse population.

3. Plan for the acquisition of parks prior to urban growth and development. These lands may be acquired and left vacant until funding for development is available.

Goal 2: Establish parks in appropriate locations and ensure their design caters to the needs of the community.

- 1. Design park sites that fulfill the open space, and passive and active recreational needs of all the citizens of Woodlake.
 - a. Prior to the design of each new park, the Planning Commission shall conduct public workshops to receive input from citizens regarding the design of the park.
- 2. Locate future parks so that they are accessible and available to all the citizens of Woodlake.
 - a. Adoption of this Element and the Land Use Element map and its policies will provide implementation of this policy. The City must observe this policy when considering the location of new parks.
- 3. Locate park and recreational facilities so that they do not conflict with adjacent land uses.
 - a. Adoption of this Element's and its policies will provide implementation of this policy.
 Factors to consider include avoiding streets with high traffic, industrial uses, and noisy land uses.
- 4. Parks and other facilities that may require a significant amount of night lighting, such as ball parks and tennis courts, should be designed in such a way as to minimize the impacts of lighting on the surrounding neighborhood.
 - a. The Planning Department shall review lighting schemes for all Projects.

Discussion

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

No Impact: The proposed Project does not contain any features that would increase the use of existing neighborhood parks, regional parks, or other recreational facilities. There is *no impact*.

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

No Impact: The proposed Project does not include any recreational facilities and would not necessitate the construction or expansion of additional recreational facilities. There is *no impact*.

Mitigation	Measures	<u>for Parks and</u>	d Recreation

None Required

XVII. TRANSPORTATION

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	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?			Ø	
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with the CEQA guidelines Section 15064.3, Subdivision (B)?			Ø	
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?			Ø	
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?			Ø	

Environmental Setting

Vehicular Access: The Project includes pedestrian, bicycle and infrastructure improvements which will include a Class IV bikeway with vertical elements, crosswalks, new sidewalks, curbs, gutters, and signage along West Sequoia Avenue. Vehicular access to the western portion of the Project site is available from Mulberry Street, and access to the eastern portion is accessible from Valencia Boulevard. The area can also be accessed from the north and/or south from North Pine Street, North Cypress Street, North Acacia Street, North Pepper Street, and North Palm Street. The Project proposes approximately 0.49 miles of roadway improvements, which will include some alteration to underground utilities due to the installation of an irrigation system and the relocation of utility poles. The construction may use roadway detours and/or lane closures to control traffic during construction.

Parking: During construction, workers will utilize a temporary construction easement adjacent to the Project site for parking and equipment staging. No permanent personnel will be on-site during Project operations, and no additional parking facilities will be required.

Regulatory Setting

City of Woodlake Improvement Standards: The City of Woodlake Improvement Standards are developed and enforced by the City of Woodlake's Engineering Division to guide the development and maintenance of City Roads.

City of Woodlake General Plan: Valencia Boulevard is designated as an arterial road, West Sequoia Avenue and Cypress Street are designated as collector roads, and the remaining streets are designated as local roadways, according to the City's General Plan.

The Circulation Element of the City's General Plan outlines several goals, objectives and policies pertaining to the transportation system and vehicle miles traveled within Woodlake.

Goal 1: Ensure that traffic on Woodlake's streets operates in an efficient and safe manner.

- 1. Substandard streets and streets that are not fully built-out or lack proper connection to adjacent streets shall be upgraded.
 - a. The City will program into its 5-year capital budget street improvements that will implement the above goal.
 - b. The City shall develop a traffic impact fee for new development in Woodlake. Said fee shall be consistent with the requirements of AB 1600.
 - c. The City shall purchase the necessary right-of-way either along or adjacent to substandard roadways to allow for the upgrade or extension of the roadway.

Goal 2: Maximize roadway connectivity throughout the community.

1. The Circulation Element map shall delineate new roadways that enhance connectivity throughout the community.

Goal 3: Woodlake shall encourage the full build-out of State Highways 216 and 245 (Valencia Boulevard).

- 1. Study redesigning State Highways 216 and 245 to install curb and gutter, sidewalks, street trees and lighting.
 - a. The City should contract with a traffic consultant to prepare a preliminary road design for these two roadways.
 - b. The City should seek state or federal funds to construct improvements along these roadways, including sidewalks, signalization, and left-turn pockets.
 - c. Arterial roadways will be constructed consistently, where possible, with street crosssection illustrations contained in Appendix A of the Circulation Element.

Goal 4: Woodlake shall utilize redevelopment funds, or Measure R or gas tax funds to install curbs, gutters, or sidewalks, where lacking.

1. New collector and local roadways shall be constructed to include two travel lanes, sidewalks, on-street parking, and tree-lined parkways.

2. Local and collector roadways shall be constructed to ensure proper connection with surrounding roadways as well as promoting safe and efficient vehicular movement within a new development.

Goal 5: Woodlake shall continue to utilize Safe-Route-To-Schools funds to improve the travel routes of school-aged children, including the installation of sidewalks, and street crossings upgrades, which include blinking lights, painted crosswalks or flashing lights mounted on the surface of the street.

 Working with Woodlake's two school districts, Woodlake should identify streetscape Projects that will improve safety conditions for school-aged children walking or riding to school.

Goal 6: Promote alternative modes of transportation, including bicycles, buses, and walking.

- 1. Woodlake shall adopt the Tulare County Regional Bike Plan.
- 2. Develop a bike path plan that is part of the Circulation Element.
- 3. Attempt to provide safe and convenient pedestrian access to all areas of the city, including between neighborhoods.

Discussion

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

Less than Significant Impact: The Project includes the installation of pedestrian/cyclist facilities where needed (sidewalks, crosswalks, bicycle ramps, Class IV bike lane), and related improvements (signage/striping, landscaping). The Project also includes the installation of an irrigation system, utility pole relocation, curbs, and gutters where needed. The proposed Project is located in the City of Woodlake and would not conflict with a program plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities. The proposed pedestrian, bicycle and infrastructure changes will support the general plan goal of improving circulation and promoting connectivity of multimodal transportation throughout the planning area. A Project's effect on automobile delay, typically measured based on "level of service" (LOS), would not constitute a significant environmental impact under the CEQA Guidelines effective July 1, 2020. This impact is less than significant.

b) Would the Project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, Subdivision (b)?

<u>Less than Significant Impact</u>: As described in Section 15064.3: "Vehicle miles traveled" refers to the amount and distance of automobile travel "attributable to a Project." The OPR

Technical Advisory recommends several VMT metrics, screening criteria, VMT evaluation methodology, and significance thresholds for different types of Projects.

For Transportation Projects, OPR recommends evaluating Projects based on their likelihood of inducing a measurable and substantial increase in vehicle travel. The OPR Technical Advisory states that active transportation Projects generally reduce VMT and therefore are presumed to cause a less-than-significant-impact on transportation, and no transportation analysis is needed for these types of Projects.

Because installation of the proposed pedestrian, bicycle and infrastructure improvements are not anticipated to result in a substantial or measurable increase in vehicle travel, and may actually decrease VMT, the Project would not conflict with or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, Subdivision (b). The impact is *less than significant*.

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

Less than Significant Impact: The proposed Project is not anticipated to substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment). Improvements would include creating a Class IV bike lane, install new sidewalks, curbs, gutters, crosswalks, streetlights and signage along West Sequoia Avenue and portions of nearby streets. The proposed bikeway would also include vertical elements to enhance safety.

Construction activities will include the demolition of parts of the existing asphalt, sidewalks, and curbs within Project limits, placement of aggregate base and pavement, the installation of an irrigation system, utility pole relocation and streetlight installation. The proposed Project design will be subject to review and permitting by the City of Woodlake and other agencies (as described in the Project Description) to ensure the design and construction are consistent with applicable standards. This impact is *less than significant*.

d) Would the Project result in inadequate emergency access?

Less Than Significant Impact: The proposed Project would implement pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure along West Sequoia Avenue and nearby local streets, as well as install an irrigation system for landscaping, relocate utility poles, and install streetlights. The Project is expected to improve the connectivity of the City's active transportation network as well as improve safety for the many pedestrians and bicyclists in the immediate area. Therefore, the proposed Project is anticipated to enhance emergency access and would not result in inadequate emergency access. This impact is less than significant.

Mitigation	Measures	for Transi	portation
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None Required

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

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

Environmental Setting

Tribal Cultural Resource investigation included a records search with the Southern San Joaquin Information Center to identify previously recorded resources and prior studies within a half-mile of the Project area.

The SSJVIC records search did not identify any cultural resources within the APE, and there was one prior cultural resource study (TU-01013) within the Direct APE. There have been ten previous cultural resource studies completed within a half-mile radius: TU-00014, 00015, 00016, 00231, 00548, 00566, 00575, 01394, 01498 and 01967. There are no recorded resources within the Project area, but there is one recorded cultural resource within a half-mile radius (P-54-004034), which is a historic era electric railroad. However, there are no recorded cultural resources within the Project area or half-mile radius that are listed in the National Registers of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, the California Points of Historical Interest, California Inventory of Historic Resources, or the California State Historic Landmarks. The full SSJVIC California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) records search results can be found in Appendix D.

The Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands File search and Native American contacts did not identify any sacred areas or provide information pertaining to Native American resources.

Definitions

- Historical Resources: Historical resources are defined by CEQA as resources that are listed in or eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources, resources that are listed in a local historical resource register, or resources that are otherwise determined to be historical under California Public Resources Code Section 21084.1 or California Code of Regulations Section 15064.5. Under these definitions, Historical Resources can include archaeological resources, Tribal cultural resources, and Paleontological Resources.
- Archaeological Resources: As stated above, archaeological resources may be considered historical. If they do not meet the qualifications under the California Public Resources Code 21084.1 or California Code of Regulations Section 15064.5, they are instead determined to be "unique" as defined by the CEQA Statute Section 21083.2. A unique archaeological resource is an artifact, object, or site that: (1) contains information (for which there is a demonstrable public interest) needed to answer important scientific research questions; (2) has a special and particular quality, such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type; or (3) is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person.
- Tribal Cultural Resource (TCR): Tribal Cultural Resources can include site features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, or objects, which are of cultural value to a Tribe. It is either listed on or eligible for the CA Historic Register or a local historic register or determined by the lead agency to be treated as TCR.
- Paleontological Resources: For the purposes of this section, "paleontological resources" refers to the fossilized plant and animal remains of prehistoric species. Paleontological Resources are a limited scientific and educational resource and are valued for the information they yield about the history of the earth and its ecology. Fossilized remains, such as bones, teeth, shells, and leaves, are found in geologic deposits (i.e., rock formations). Paleontological resources generally include the geologic formations and localities in which the fossils are collected.

Regulatory Setting

National Historic Preservation Act: The National Historic Preservation Act was adopted in 1966 to preserve historic and archeological sites in the United States. The Act created the National Register of Historic Places, the list of National Historic Landmarks, and the State Historic Preservation offices.

California Historic Register: The California Historic Register was developed to identify, evaluate, register, and protect Historical Resources in California. California Historical Landmarks are sites, buildings, features, or events of statewide significance and have anthropological, cultural, military, political, architectural, economic, scientific, religious, experimental, or other value. For a resource to be designated as a historical landmark, it must meet the following criteria:

- The first, last, only, or most significant of its type in the state or within a large geographic region (Northern, Central, or Southern California).
- Associated with an individual or group having a profound influence on the history of California.
- A prototype of, or an outstanding example of, a period, style, architectural movement, or construction or is one of the more notable works or the best surviving work in a region of a pioneer architect, designer, or master builder.

Discussion

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

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

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation: A CHRIS request with the SSJVIC was conducted on November 15, 2023, which indicated that there are no cultural resources in the direct APE, and one cultural resource, which is a historic era electric railroad. This resource would not be classified as a tribal cultural resource, nor would the Project affect the area where that resource is located. The full report can be found in Appendix D. A review of the Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File, initiation of Native American outreach, and a review of pertinent topographic maps, aerial photographs, and General Land Office Plat Maps did not indicate the presence of any tribal cultural resources.

The Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands File search and Native American contacts did not identify any sacred areas or provide information pertaining to Native American resources. The Project will occur on a previously developed road, which can act as a cap for potential subsurface materials, and little excavation will occur as part of the proposed improvements. However, the Project is within 1.5 miles of a natural water way, so there is a reasonable probability that subsurface cultural resources will be encountered.

Although no tribal cultural resources were identified, the presence of remains or unanticipated cultural resources under the ground surface is possible. Implementing Mitigation Measures CUL-1 and CUL-2 will ensure that impacts on this checklist item will be less than significant with mitigation incorporation.

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

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation: Based on the findings of the Cultural Resources Records Search, Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File Search, Archival Research, and Native American Outreach, there are no known tribal cultural resources within the Project area. The full CHRIS Records Search Results are available in Appendix D.

Although no tribal cultural resources were identified, the presence of remains or unanticipated cultural resources under the ground surface is possible. Implementing Mitigation Measures CUL-1 and CUL-2 will ensure that impacts on this checklist item will be less than significant with mitigation incorporation.

Mitigation Measures for Impacts to Cultural Resources:

Mitigation Measure CUL-1: If cultural resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, work in the immediate area must halt and an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for archaeology (NPS 1983) should be contacted immediately to evaluate the find. If the discovery proves to be significant under CEQA, additional work such as data recovery excavation and Native American consultation may be warranted to mitigate any adverse effects.

Mitigation Measure CUL-2: The discovery of human remains is always a possibility during ground disturbing activities. If human remains are found, the State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources

Code Section 5097.98. In the event of an unanticipated discovery of human remains, the County Coroner must be notified immediately. If the human remains are determined to be prehistoric, the coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which will determine and notify a most likely descendant (MLD). The MLD shall complete the inspection of the site within 48 hours of notification and may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	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 relation of which could cause significant environmental effects?			Ø	
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?			Ø	
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?				V
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?				Ø
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				V

Environmental Setting

Wastewater: The Woodlake Public Works Department is responsible for operating the City's water and sewer system, which includes wastewater management. The Woodlake Water Wastewater system provides for the treatment, disposal, and reuse of effluent, which meets all of the state's discharge requirements for the City.

Solid Waste: Recycling and solid waste services are provided by Mid-Valley Disposal. All hazardous waste is directed to the Visalia Hazardous Waste Collection Facility.

Storm Drainage: The City of Woodlake contains an underground storm drain system, as well as a network of storm water retention basins to promote groundwater recharge and divert stormwater flows from impervious surfaces.

Electricity: Electricity services are currently provided by Southern California Edison, which serves the greater San Joaquin Valley region.

Water: The Woodlake's water supply system is a groundwater system. The City is located within the Tulare Buena Vista Lake Hydrologic Region, which is within the Tulare Lake Groundwater Subbasin. The system contains seven groundwater wells, and the system does not use surface water. Groundwater is recharged by rain and snowfall in addition to percolation from stormwater basins, local waterways, and agricultural irrigation.

Regulatory Setting

CalRecycle: California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Natural Resources – Division 7 contains all current CalRecycle regulations regarding nonhazardous waste management in the state. These regulations include standards for the handling of solid waste, standards for the handling of compostable materials, design standards for disposal facilities, and disposal standards for specific types of waste.

Central Valley RWQCB: The Central Valley RWQCB requires a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for Projects disturbing more than one acre of the total land area. Because the Project is more than one acre, a SWPPP to manage stormwater generated during construction will be required.

The Central Valley RWQCB regulates Wastewater Discharges to Land by establishing thresholds for discharged pollutants and implementing monitoring programs to evaluate program compliance. This program regulates approximately 1500 dischargers in the region.

The Central Valley RWQCB is also responsible for implementing the federal program, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The NPDES Program is the federal permitting program that regulates discharges of pollutants to the surface waters of the U.S. Under this program, an NPDES permit is required to discharge pollutants into the Waters of the U.S. There are 350 permitted facilities within the Central Valley Region.

Woodlake General Plan (2008): The Land Use Element of the City's General Plan contains several goals, objectives and policies pertaining to the maintenance of public infrastructure, specifically utilities and service systems.

Goal 1: Adequately finance infrastructure systems.

- The City shall install water, sewer and storm drainage improvements that correct existing infrastructure deficiencies.
- The City should continue to seek state and federal grants for the upgrading and expansion of its infrastructure systems.

Goal 2: Maintain, rebuild, and upgrade infrastructure systems.

- The City shall update its 5-Year Capital Improvement Program to ensure that its infrastructure system can accommodate the urban growth provided for by the Land Use Element.
- 2. The Redevelopment Agency shall prepare a 5-Year Capital Improvement Program to assist in the maintenance, rebuilding and upgrading of Woodlake's infrastructure system.
- 3. The City should work with the private sector to participate in the upgrading of the infrastructure system when it is developing in the City.
- a. From time to time, the City may wish to work with a developer to upgrade a part of the infrastructure or street system that is not part of the Project being developed.
- 4. Upgrade public improvements in blighted neighborhoods, including sidewalks, alleys, street trees, roadways, parkways, and streetlights.
- a. Establish an annual objective for repairing or replacing broken curbs, gutters, and sidewalks.
- b. Replant vacant parkways with street trees.

Discussion

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

Less than Significant Impact: The proposed Project will include the installation of an irrigation system for landscaping, utility pole relocation, and the installation of streetlights as part of improvements to West Sequoia Avenue.

The Project does not propose the undergrounding of any overhead utilities. The proposed improvements to utilities are minor and would not increase energy consumption or necessitate the construction of new power generation facilities. As such, no environmental impacts beyond those analyzed in this Initial Study are anticipated.

The Project itself will not generate wastewater. Therefore, it does not have the potential to exceed wastewater treatment capacities and would not result in the construction of new wastewater treatment facilities.

The proposed improvements would create new impervious surfaces that could increase the amount of stormwater runoff. However, stormwater would be collected and conveyed via the existing stormwater collection system, which has adequate capacity to accommodate the

proposed Project. The Project will also incorporate appropriate pollution prevention and BMPs in accordance with the City design standards and RWQCB requirements.

Although the Project will result in a slight expansion of water facilities to accommodate a new irrigation system for landscaping, these improvements would not result in additional impacts beyond those analyzed in this Initial Study. Additionally, drought tolerant landscaping will be implemented, so water use will be minimal. The Project proposes utility pole relocation and streetlight installation, but it will not expand electricity usage beyond what is currently used on the site. The impact is *less than significant*.

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

Less than Significant Impact: The only water the proposed Project uses would be to support Project landscaping. The Project would incorporate drought-tolerant landscaping, so water use is expected to be minimal. Existing water supplies are sufficient to serve the Project during normal, dry, and multiple dry years. The impact is *less than significant*.

c) Would the Project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the Project that it has adequate capacity to serve the Project's Projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

No Impact: The Project itself will not generate wastewater. There is no impact.

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

No Impact: The Project itself will not generate solid waste and would, therefore, not impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals. There is *no impact*.

e) Would the Project comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

No Impact: The Project will not generate solid waste and would, therefore, not conflict with any federal, state, or local management and reduction statutes or regulations related to solid waste. There is *no impact*.

<u>Mitigation Measures for Utilities and Service Systems</u>

None Required

XX. WILDFIRE

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				Ø
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?				N
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?				Ø
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?				Ø

Regulatory Setting

Definitions:

Fire hazard severity zones: geographical areas designated under California Public Resources Codes Sections 4201 through 4204 and classified as Very High, High, or Moderate in State Responsibility Areas or as Local Agency Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones designated according to California Government Code, Sections 51175 through 51189.

Tulare County Disaster Preparedness Guide (2011): The Tulare County Preparedness Guide provides guidelines regarding disaster preparedness and evacuation planning for Tulare County residents.

Tulare County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (2018): The 2018 Tulare County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan assesses the natural, technological, and human-caused risks to Communities within Tulare County. The proposed Project site is not in an area

designated as a Fire Hazard Severity Zone by the Tulare County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Discussion

a) Would the Project substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

No Impact: The Project would not substantially impair an adopted emergency response or evacuation plan. There is *no impact*.

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

No Impact: The Project is on flat land with little fire risk. The Tulare County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies fire risk within the City of Woodlake as having an occasional frequency, limited extent, limited magnitude, and medium significance. The Project would not exacerbate wildfire risks and expose Project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of wildfire. There is *no impact*.

c) Would the Project require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?

No Impact: The proposed Project involves the relocation of fire hydrants as part of proposed street improvements. Relocating these features would not alter or increase fire risks within the vicinity of the Project site. There is *no impact*.

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

No Impact: The Project site is located on land with relatively flat topography. Therefore, the Project would not be susceptible to downslope, downstream flooding, or landslides due to post-fire instability or drainage changes. There is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures for Wildfire

None Required

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Does the Project have the potential substantially to 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?		Ø		
b) Does the Project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a Project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past Projects, the effects of other current Projects, and the effects of probable future Projects)?			Ø	
c) Does the Project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?			Ø	

Discussion

a) Does the Project have the potential to 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, reduce the number, or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation: This initial study/mitigated negative declaration found the Project could significantly impact hydrology and water quality, noise, cultural, and tribal cultural resources. However, implementing the identified mitigation measures for each respective section would ensure that impacts are less than significant with mitigation incorporation.

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

Less Than Significant Impact: CEQA Guidelines Section 15064(i) states that a Lead Agency shall consider whether the cumulative impact of a Project is significant and whether the Project's effects are cumulatively considerable. The significance of the cumulative effects of a Project must be assessed in connection with the effects of past Projects, other current Projects, and probable future Projects. Due to the nature of the Project and consistency with environmental policies, incremental contributions to impacts are considered less than cumulatively considerable. The proposed Project would not contribute substantially to cumulative adverse conditions or create any substantial indirect impacts (i.e., an increase in population could lead to an increased need for housing, an increase in traffic, air pollutants, etc.). Impacts would be less than significant.

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

Less Than Significant Impact: The analyses of environmental issues in this Initial Study indicate that the Project is not expected to impact human beings, either directly or indirectly, substantially. Mitigation measures have been incorporated in the Project design to reduce all potentially significant impacts to less than significant, resulting in a *less significant* impact on this checklist item.

3.6 MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

As required by Public Resources Code Section 21081.6, subd. (a)(1), a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) has been prepared for the Project to monitor the implementation of the mitigation measures adopted for the Project. This Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) has been created based upon the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) findings for the West Sequoia Ave Multimodal Improvements Project in the City of Woodlake.

The first column of the table identifies the mitigation measure. The second column names the party responsible for carrying out the required action. The third column, "Timing of Mitigation Measure," identifies when the mitigation measure should be initiated. The fourth column, "Responsible Party for Monitoring," names the party ensuring the mitigation measure is implemented. The City of Woodlake will use the last column to ensure that the individual mitigation measures have been monitored. Plan checking and verification of mitigation compliance shall be the responsibility of the City of Woodlake.

Mitigation Measure	Responsible Party for Implementation	Implementation Timing	Responsible Party for Monitoring	Verification
Mitigation Measure BIO-1: If construction is planned outside the nesting period for raptors (other than burrowing owl) and migratory birds (February 15th-August 31st), no mitigation shall be required. If construction is planned during the nesting season for migratory birds and raptors, a preconstruction survey to identify active bird nests shall be conducted by a qualified biologist to evaluate the site and a 250-foot buffer for migratory birds and a 500- foot buffer for raptors. If nesting birds are identified during the survey, active raptor nests shall be avoided by 500 feet and all other migratory bird nests shall be avoided by 250 feet. Avoidance buffers may be reduced if a qualified onsite monitor determines that encroachment into the buffer area is not affecting nest building, the rearing of young, or otherwise affecting the breeding behaviors of the resident birds. Because nesting birds can establish new nests or produce a second or even third clutch at any time during the nesting season, nesting bird surveys shall be repeated every 30 days as construction activities are occurring throughout the nesting season. No construction or earth-moving activity shall occur within a non-disturbance buffer until it is determined by a qualified biologist that the young have fledged (left the nest) and have attained sufficient flight skills to avoid Project construction areas. Once the migratory birds or raptors have completed nesting and young have fledged, disturbance buffers will no longer be needed and may be removed, and monitoring may cease.	Project Sponsor & Construction Contractor	Prior to the Start of Construction; Potentially Ongoing during Construction	City of Woodlake	
Mitigation Measure CUL-1: If cultural resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, work in the immediate area must halt and an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for archaeology (NPS 1983) should be contacted immediately to evaluate the find. If the discovery proves to be significant under CEQA, additional work such as data recovery excavation and Native American consultation may be warranted to mitigate any adverse effects.	Project Sponsor & Construction Contractor	Ongoing during construction.	City of Woodlake	

Mitigation Measure	Responsible Party for Implementation	Implementation Timing	Responsible Party for Monitoring	Verification
Mitigation Measure CUL-2: The discovery of human remains is always a possibility during ground disturbing activities. If human remains are found, the State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. In the event of an unanticipated discovery of human remains, the County Coroner must be notified immediately. If the human remains are determined to be prehistoric, the coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which will determine and notify a most likely descendant (MLD). The MLD shall complete the inspection of the site within 48 hours of notification and may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.	Project Sponsor & Construction Contractor	Ongoing during construction.	City of Woodlake	

Mitigation Measure HYD-1: The Project shall implement the following Best Management Practices to prevent run-on and runoff pollution, properly dispose of wastes, and train employees and subcontractors.

- The amount and duration of soil exposed to erosion by wind, rain, runoff, and vehicle tracking should be minimized by applying water or other dust palliatives, as necessary. Watering should occur at least twice a day with complete coverage, preferably in the late morning and after work is completed for the day. Covering small stockpiles or areas is an alternative to applying water. The stockpiles should be located a minimum of fifty feet away from concentrated flows of stormwater, drainage courses, and inlets. The stockpiles should be protected using a temporary perimeter sediment barrier. All clearing, grading, earth moving, or excavation activities will cease during periods of high winds greater than twenty mph. Vehicles will be prohibited from being on non-active portions of the Project site. All vehicles on site will be limited to 15 MPH to reduce dust forming. The contractor shall maintain dust control on the site as specified by "Caltrans Standard Specifications 2015".
- Stabilized construction access should be provided at entrances to reduce or eliminate the tracking of sediment onto public streets. Visible sediment tracking should be swept or daily. For solid vacuumed waste management from clearing and grubbing, BMPs would include providing designated waste collection areas and containers and arranging for regular disposal. For concrete waste management, the washout should be conducted offsite or in a designated area at least fifty feet from the Ditch.
- Vehicle and equipment cleaning, fueling, and maintenance should be done offsite or in a designated, contained area only. The discharge of petroleum products or other excavated materials to surface water channels is prohibited. The Discharger shall notify the City of Woodlake immediately of any spill of petroleum products or other organic or earthen materials.
- Following construction, all trenches will be filled to reduce any impact.
- The Discharger shall maintain a copy of the supporting documentation at the Project site

Project Sponsor & Construction Contractor	Ongoing during construction.	City of Woodlake	
---	------------------------------	---------------------	--

	1		,	
Mitigation Measure	Responsible Party for Implementation	Implementation Timing	Responsible Party for Monitoring	Verification
during construction for review by site personnel and agencies. All personnel (employees, contractors, and subcontractors) performing work on the proposed Project shall be adequately informed and trained regarding the conditions of the certification. • The Project disturbs over one acre of soil, therefore a Water Pollution Control Program and SWPPP will need to be prepared by the contractor per Caltrans 2010 Standard Specification Section 13–2. The Discharger shall notify the City of Woodlake immediately if any of the above conditions are violated, along with a description of measures it is taking to remedy the violation. By incorporating proper and accepted engineering practices and BMPs, the proposed Project will not produce significant impacts on water quality during construction or its operation.				
Mitigation Measure NS-1: The Project applicant will ensure that construction occurs between the hours of 7a.m. and 7p.m. as well as occur outside of the typical school year to ensure there are no direct noise impacts to the several school sites surrounding the Project site.	Project Sponsor & Construction Contractor	Ongoing during construction.	City of Woodlake	

3.7 Supporting Information and Sources

- **1.** AB 3098 List
- 2. City of Woodlake General Plan EIR (2008)
- 3. City of Woodlake General Plan Circulation Element (2008)
- 4. City of Woodlake General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element (2008)
- **5.** City of Woodlake Public Improvement Standards (2022)
- **6.** City of Woodlake Zoning Ordinance
- 7. Engineering Standards, City of Woodlake
- **8.** SJVAPCD Regulations and Guidelines
- **9.** Flood Insurance Rate Maps
- 10. California Air Resources Board's (CARB's) Air Quality and Land Use Handbook
- 11. 2008 (California Environmental Quality Act) CEQA Guidelines
- 12. California Building Code
- 13. CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Indicator Maps
- 14. California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) BIOS6 Viewer
- **15.** California Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP)
- **16.** "Construction Noise Handbook." U.S. Department of Transportation/Federal Highway Administration.
- 17. California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare Plants Database
- 18. Government Code Section 65962.5
- 19. California Environmental Protection Agency (CEPA)
- **20.** California Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan: New Residential Zero Net Energy Action Plan 2015–2020, June 2015
- 21. City of Woodlake Improvement Standards (2022)
- **22.** National Wetlands Inventory (USFWS)
- 23. San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Mitigation Measures (http://www.valleyair.org/transportation/Mitigation-Measures.pdf)
- **24.** "Residential Water Use Trends and Implications for Conservation Policy." Legislative Analyst's Office/The California Legislature's Nonpartisan Fiscal and Policy Advisor. March 2017.
- **25.** Tulare County Comprehensive Airport Land Use Plan (2012)
- **26.** Tulare County General Plan (2012)
- **27.** Tulare County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (2018)
- **28.** Microsoft Word 1 Master Excavation Disposal Restoration Plan

Section 4

List of Report Preparers



City of Woodlake

350 N Valencia Blvd Woodlake, CA 93286

SECTION 4 List of Preparers

Project Title: West Sequoia Avenue Multimodal Improvements

List of Preparers

4-Creeks Inc.

- Lisa Wallis-Dutra, PE, TE, PTOE, RSP
- David Duda, AICP, GISP
- Molly Baumeister, AICP Planner/Project Manager
- Annamarie Wagner, Assistant Planner

Persons and Agencies Consulted

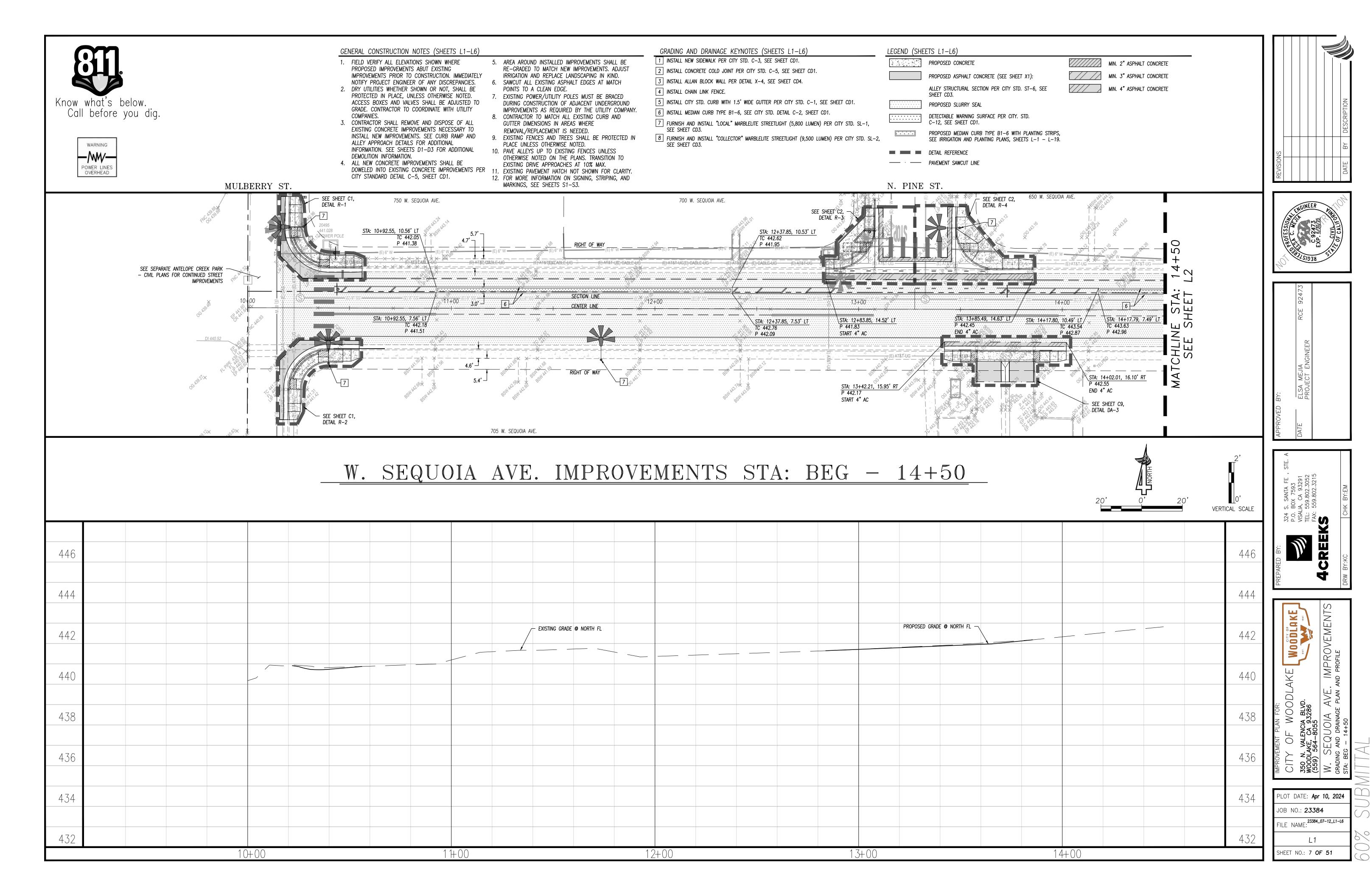
The following individuals and agencies contributed to this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration:

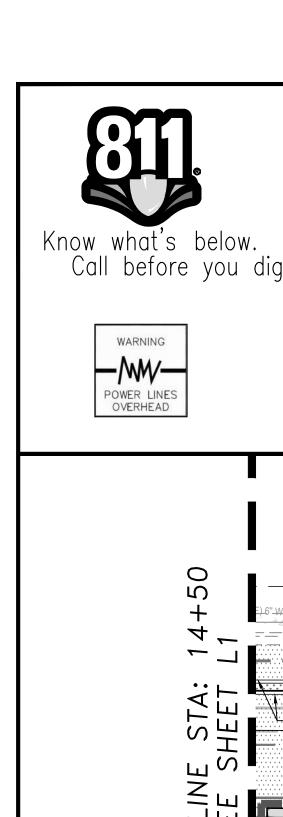
City of Woodlake

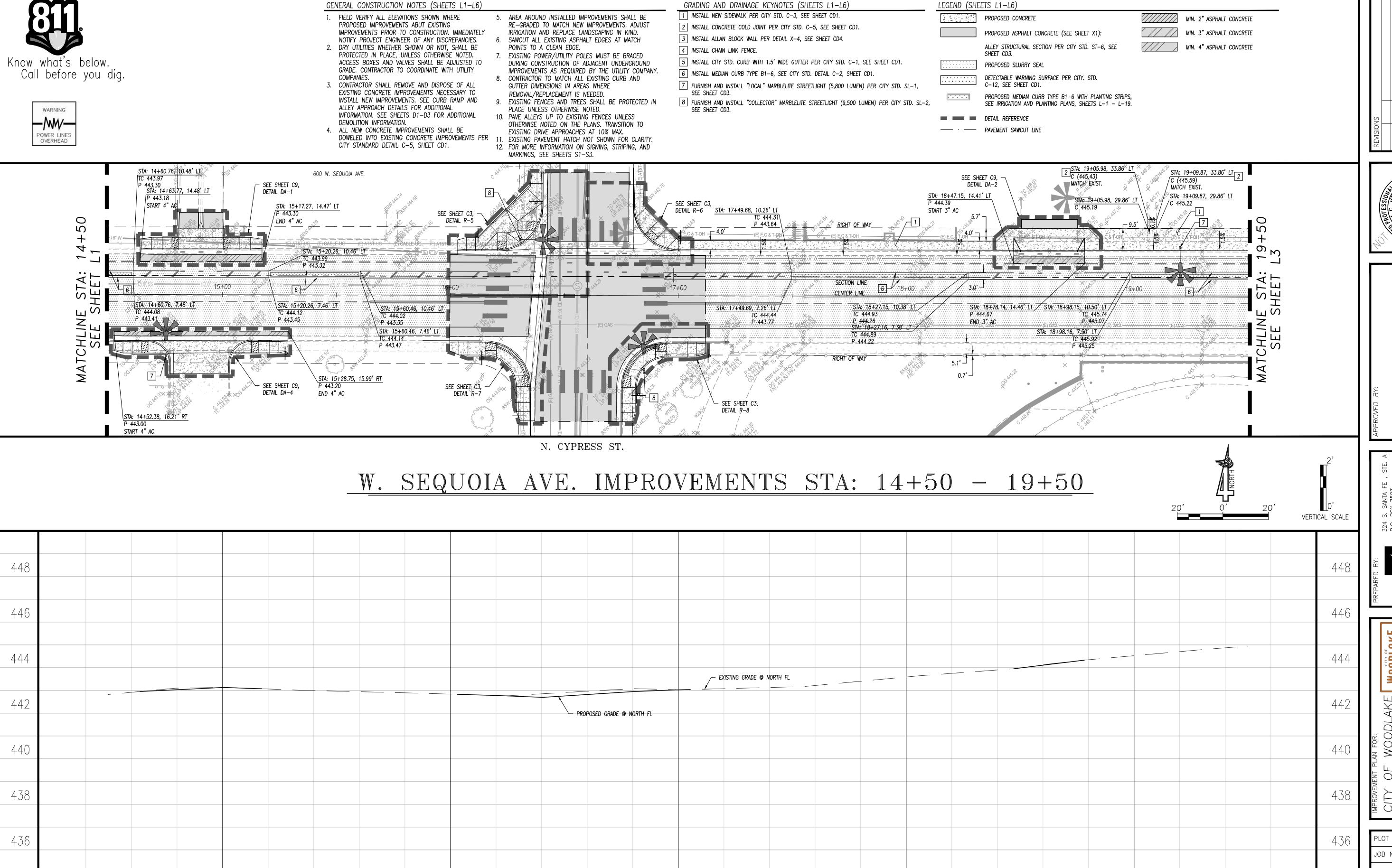
Emmanuel Llamas, Community Development Director

Appendix A

Detailed Improvement Plans







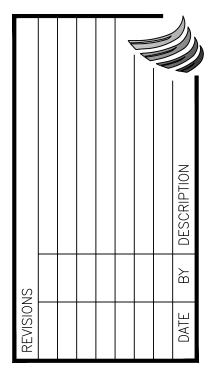
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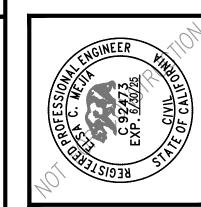
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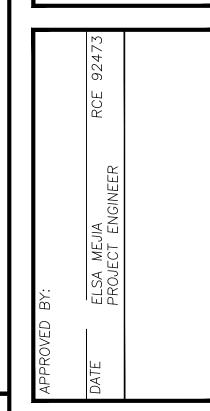
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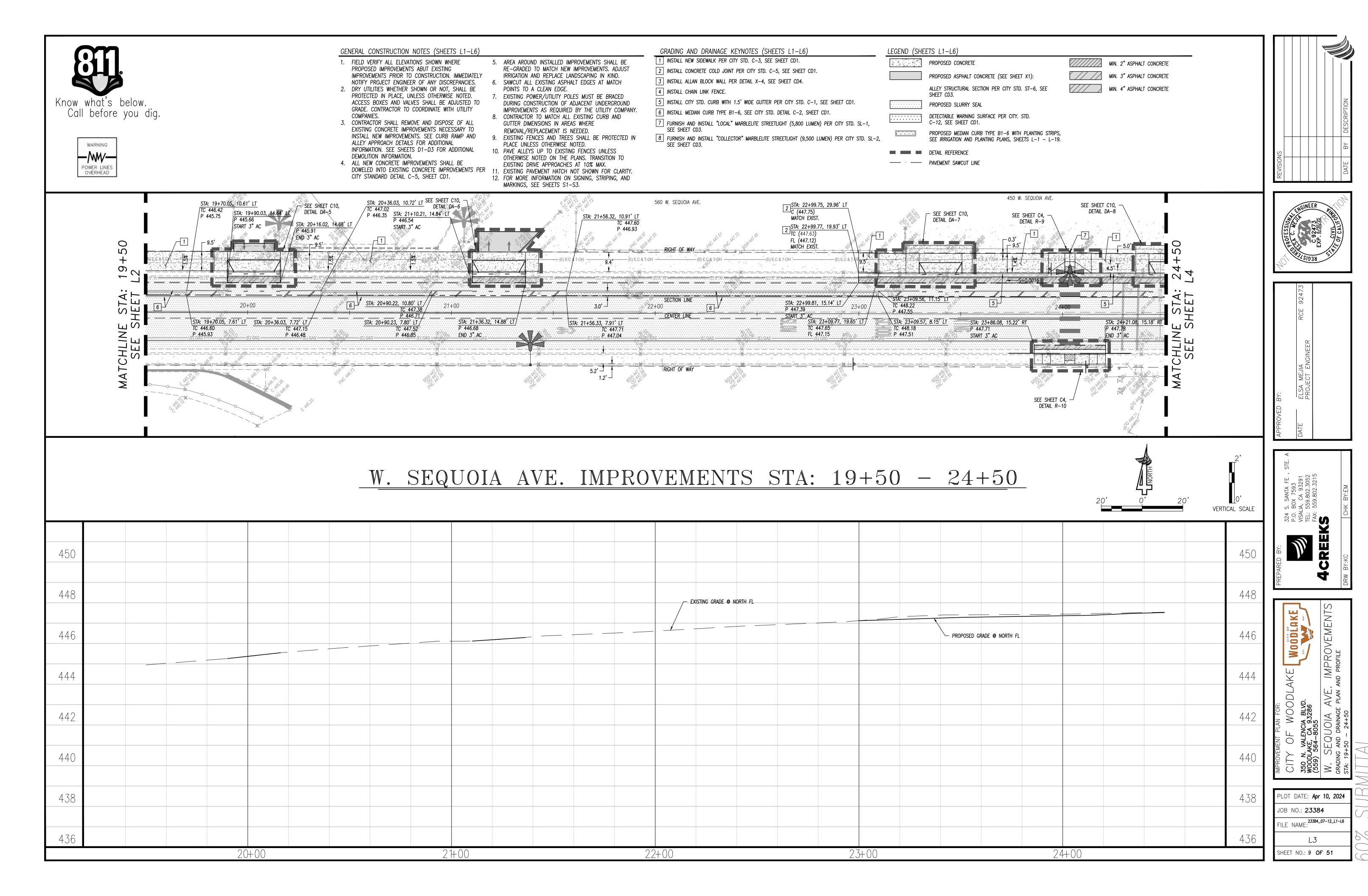


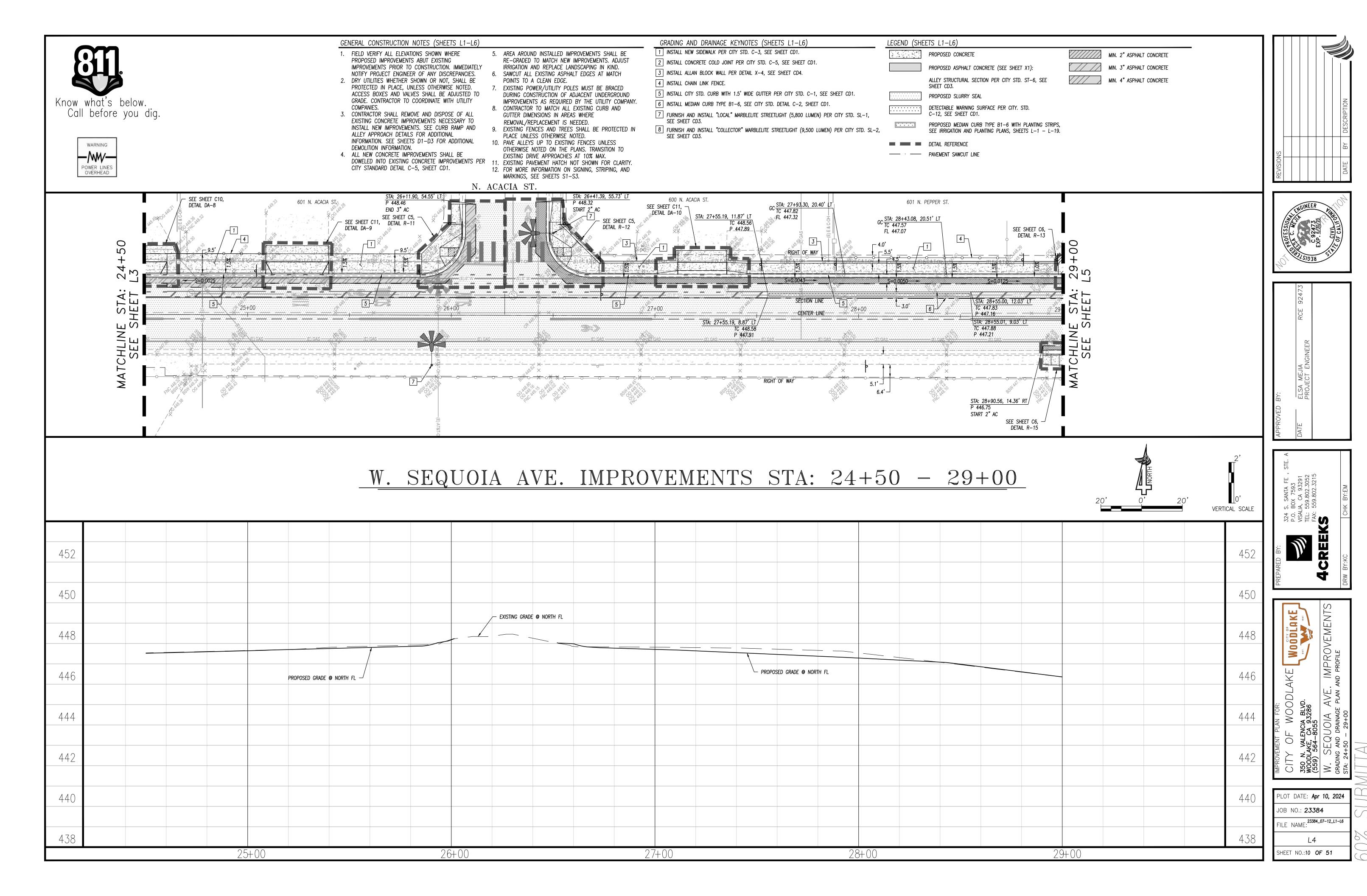


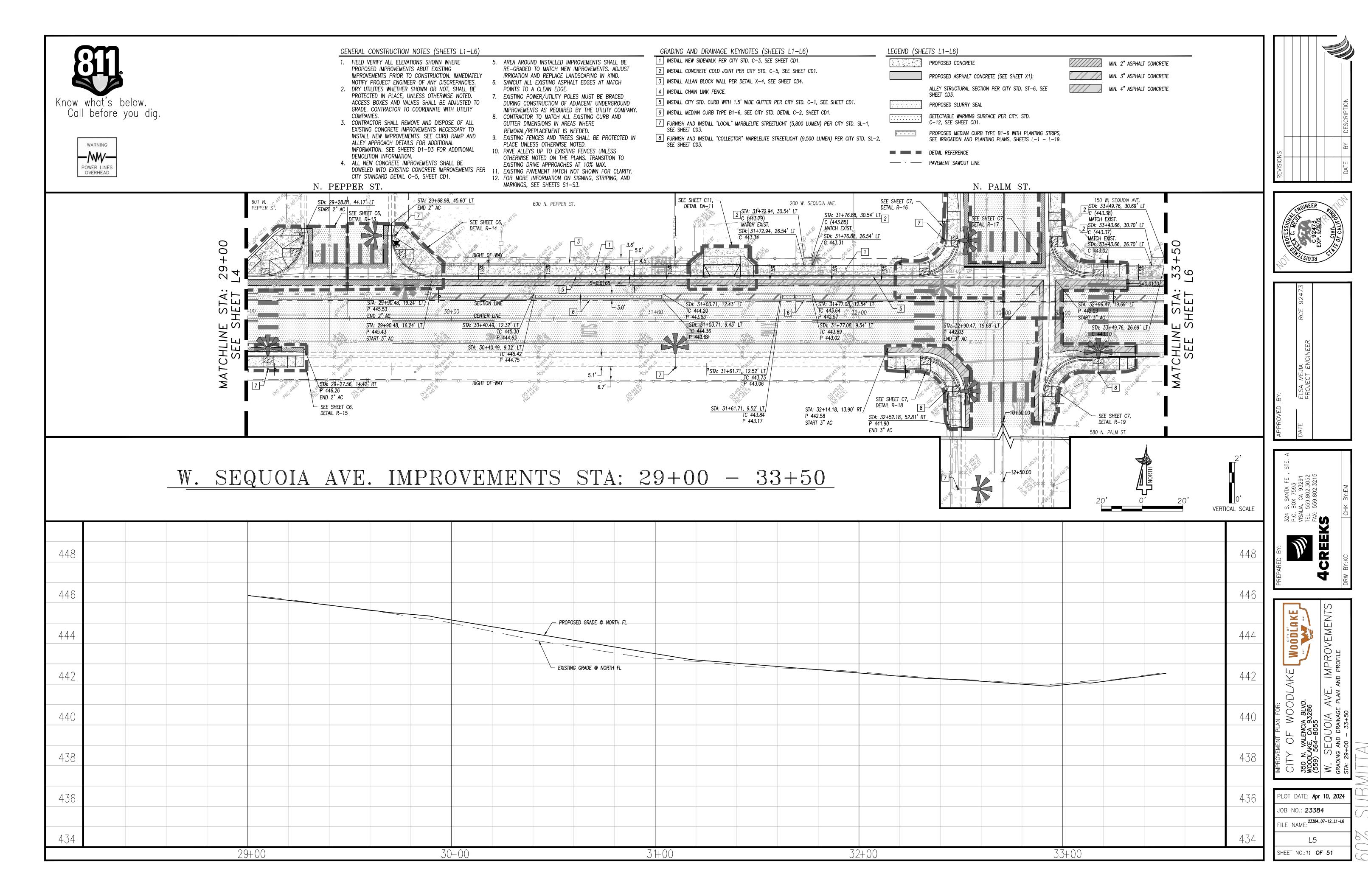


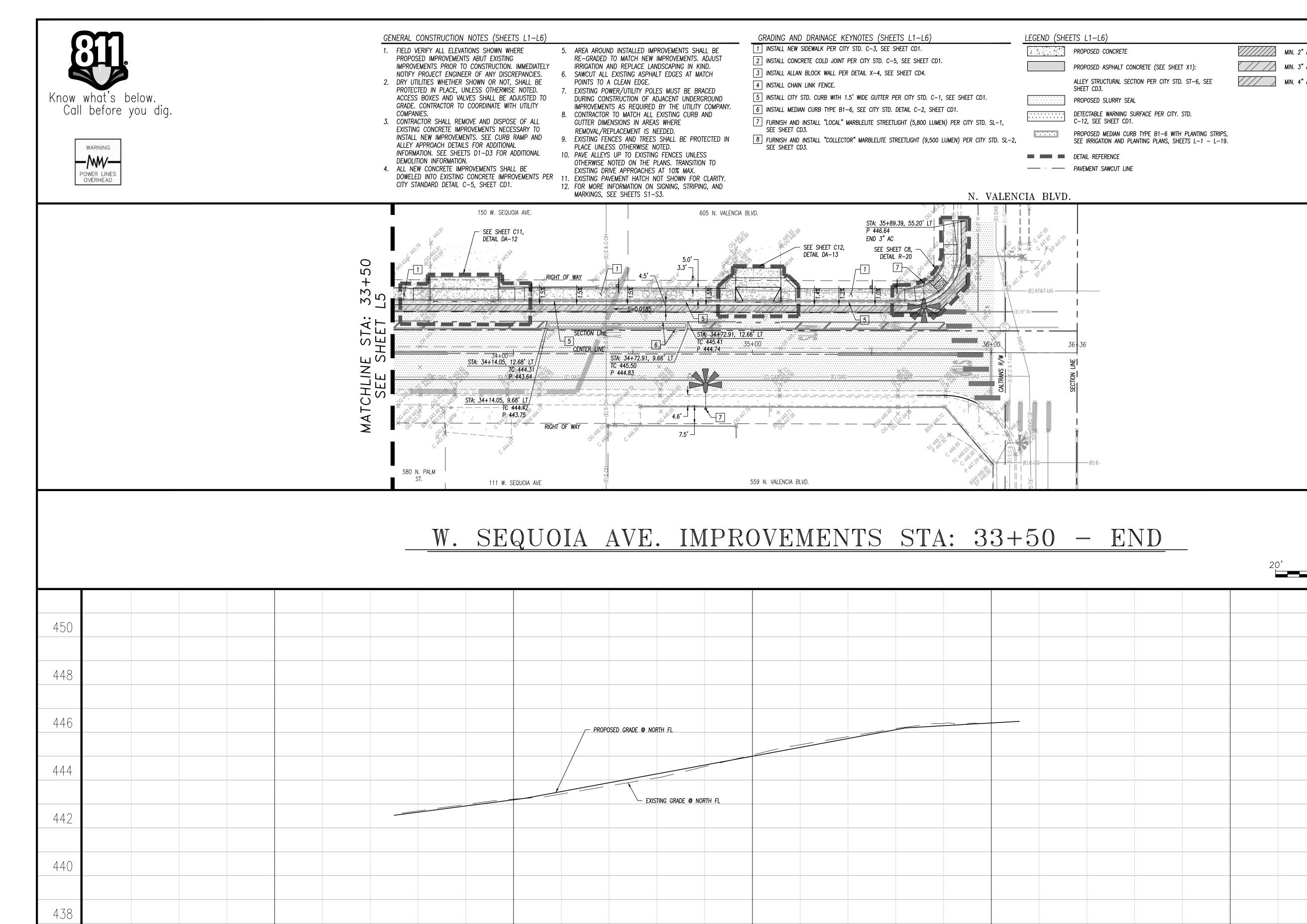


SHEET NO.: 8 OF 51









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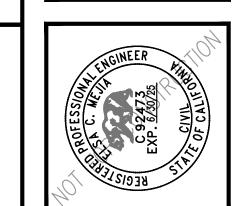
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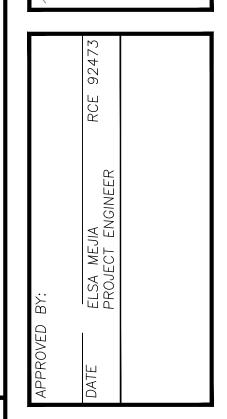
33+00

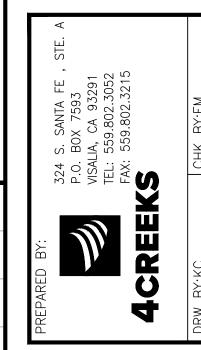
MIN. 2" ASPHALT CONCRETE MIN. 3" ASPHALT CONCRETE MIN. 4" ASPHALT CONCRETE

37+00

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JOB NO.: **23384** SHEET NO.:12 OF 51

Appendix B

Road Construction Emissions Model Calculations

Road Construction Emissions Model, Version 9.0.0

Daily Emissi	on Estimates for -> Se	equoia Ave Improvem	ents		Total	Exhaust	Fugitive Dust	Total	Exhaust	Fugitive Dust					
Project Phases (Pounds)		ROG (lbs/day)	CO (lbs/day)	NOx (lbs/day)	PM10 (lbs/day)	PM10 (lbs/day)	PM10 (lbs/day)	PM2.5 (Ibs/day)	PM2.5 (Ibs/day)	PM2.5 (lbs/day)	SOx (lbs/day)	CO2 (Ibs/day)	CH4 (lbs/day)	N2O (lbs/day)	CO2e (lbs/day)
Grubbing/Land Clearing		1.41	15.33	13.05	75.57	0.57	75.00	16.10	0.50	15.60	0.04	3,638.39	0.99	0.08	3,686.77
Grading/Excavation		6.48	62.63	62.00	77.57	2.57	75.00	17.89	2.29	15.60	0.16	15,202.29	4.52	0.21	15,377.06
Drainage/Utilities/Sub-Grade		4.57	49.94	41.97	76.70	1.70	75.00	17.16	1.56	15.60	0.11	10,286.12	2.14	0.12	10,374.65
Paving		1.78	27.28	16.76	0.82	0.82	0.00	0.72	0.72	0.00	0.05	4,456.53	1.21	0.08	4,511.60
Maximum (pounds/day)		6.48	62.63	62.00	77.57	2.57	75.00	17.89	2.29	15.60	0.16	15,202.29	4.52	0.21	15,377.06
Total (tons/construction project)		0.61	6.36	5.72	8.65	0.24	8.42	1.96	0.21	1.75	0.01	1,414.17	0.37	0.02	1,429.21
Notes:	Project Start Year ->	2026													

	Volume	(yd³/day)		Daily VM I	(miles/day)	
Phase	Soil	Asphalt	Soil Hauling	Asphalt Hauling	Worker Commute	Water Truck
Grubbing/Land Clearing	0	0	0	0	360	80
Grading/Excavation	1	0	30	0	1,280	80
Drainage/Utilities/Sub-Grade	0	0	0	0	1,000	40
Paving	3	0	30	0	680	40

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

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

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

Total Emission Estimates by Phase for	 Sequoia Ave Improven 	nents		Total	Exhaust	Fugitive Dust	Total	Exhaust	Fugitive Dust					
(Tons for all except CO2e. Metric tonnes for CO2e)	ROG (tons/phase)	CO (tons/phase)	NOx (tons/phase)	PM10 (tons/phase)	PM10 (tons/phase)	PM10 (tons/phase)	PM2.5 (tons/phase)	PM2.5 (tons/phase)	PM2.5 (tons/phase)	SOx (tons/phase)	CO2 (tons/phase)	CH4 (tons/phase)	N2O (tons/phase)	CO2e (MT/phase)
Grubbing/Land Clearing	0.02	0.20	0.17	1.00	0.01	0.99	0.21	0.01	0.21	0.00	48.03	0.01	0.00	44.15
Grading/Excavation	0.34	3.31	3.27	4.10	0.14	3.96	0.94	0.12	0.82	0.01	802.68	0.24	0.01	736.56
Drainage/Utilities/Sub-Grade	0.21	2.31	1.94	3.54	80.0	3.47	0.79	0.07	0.72	0.00	475.22	0.10	0.01	434.83
Paving	0.04	0.54	0.33	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	88.24	0.02	0.00	81.04
Maximum (tons/phase)	0.34	3.31	3.27	4.10	0.14	3.96	0.94	0.12	0.82	0.01	802.68	0.24	0.01	736.56
Total (tons/construction project)	0.61	6.36	5.72	8.65	0.24	8.42	1.96	0.21	1.75	0.01	1414.17	0.37	0.02	1,296.57

Total (tons-construction project) 0.01 6.38 5.72 8.65 0.24 8.42 1.96 0.21
PM10 and PM2 5 estimates assume 50% control of fugitive dust from watering and associated dust control measures if a minimum number of water trucks are specified.
Total PM10 emissions shown in column F are the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns G and H. Total PM2.5 emissions shown in Column lare the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns G and H. Total PM2.5 emissions shown in Column lare the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns G and H. Total PM2.5 emissions shown in Column lare the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns G and H. Total PM2.5 emissions shown in Column lare the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns G and H. Total PM2.5 emissions shown in Column lare the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns G and H. Total PM2.5 emissions shown in Column lare the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns G and H. Total PM2.5 emissions shown in Column lare the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns G and H. Total PM2.5 emissions shown in Column lare the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns G and H. Total PM2.5 emissions shown in Column lare the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns G and H. Total PM2.5 emissions shown in Column lare the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns G and H. Total PM2.5 emissions shown in Column lare the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns G and H. Total PM2.5 emissions shown in Column lare the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns G and H. Total PM2.5 emissions shown in Column lare the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in Column lare the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in Column lare the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in Column lare the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown i

Appendix C

CNDDB Species List

Organism Type	Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	CDFW Status	Rare Plant Rank	Data Status	Taxonomic Sort
	Ambystoma californiense	California tiger salamander	Threatened	Threatened	WL	-	Mapped	Animals - Amphibians - Ambystomatidae - Ambystoma californiense pop. 1
Animals - Amphibians	Rana boylii pop. 5	foothill yellow-legged frog	Endangered	Endangered	-	-	Mapped	Animals - Amphibians - Ranidae - Rana boylii pop. 5
Animals - Amphibians	Spea hammondii	western spadefoot	None	None	SSC	-	Mapped	Animals - Amphibians - Scaphiopodidae - Spea hammondii
Animals - Birds	Aquila chrysaetos	golden eagle	None	None	FP WL	-	Unprocessed	Animals - Birds - Accipitridae - Aquila chrysaetos
Animals - Birds	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	bald eagle	Delisted	Endangered	FP	-	Unprocessed	Animals - Birds - Accipitridae - Haliaeetus leucocephalus
Animals - Birds	Ardea alba	great egret	None	None	-	-	Unprocessed	Animals - Birds - Ardeidae - Ardea alba
Animals - Birds	Ardea herodias	great blue heron	None	None	-	-	Mapped and Unprocessed	Animals - Birds - Ardeidae - Ardea herodias
Animals - Birds	Agelaius tricolor	tricolored blackbird	None	Threatened	SSC	-	Mapped	Animals - Birds - Icteridae - Agelaius tricolor
Animals - Birds	Athene cunicularia	burrowing owl	None	None	SSC	-	Unprocessed	Animals - Birds - Strigidae - Athene cunicularia
Animals - Crustaceans	Branchinecta lynchi	vernal pool fairy shrimp	Threatened	None	-	-	Mapped	Animals - Crustaceans - Branchinectidae - Branchinecta lynchi
Animals - Crustaceans	Linderiella occidentalis	California linderiella	None	None	-	-	Mapped	Animals - Crustaceans - Chirocephalidae - Linderiella occidentalis
Animals - Insects	Bombus crotchii	Crotch bumble bee	None	Candidate Enda	-	-	Mapped	Animals - Insects - Apidae - Bombus crotchii
Animals - Insects	Chrysis tularensis	Tulare cuckoo wasp	None	None	-	-	Mapped	Animals - Insects - Chrysididae - Chrysis tularensis
Animals - Mammals	Vulpes macrotis mutica	San Joaquin kit fox	Endangered	Threatened	-	-	Mapped	Animals - Mammals - Canidae - Vulpes macrotis mutica
Animals - Mammals	Eumops perotis californicus	western mastiff bat	None	None	SSC	-	Mapped and Unprocessed	Animals - Mammals - Molossidae - Eumops perotis californicus
Animals - Mammals	Taxidea taxus	American badger	None	None	SSC	-	Unprocessed	Animals - Mammals - Mustelidae - Taxidea taxus
Animals - Mammals	Antrozous pallidus	pallid bat	None	None	SSC	-	Unprocessed	Animals - Mammals - Vespertilionidae - Antrozous pallidus
Animals - Mammals	Euderma maculatum	spotted bat	None	None	SSC	-	Unprocessed	Animals - Mammals - Vespertilionidae - Euderma maculatum
Community - Terrestrial	Sycamore Alluvial Woodland	Sycamore Alluvial Woodland	None	None	-	-	Mapped	Community - Terrestrial - Sycamore Alluvial Woodland
Plants - Vascular	Eryngium spinosepalum	spiny-sepaled button-celery	None	None	-	1B.2	Mapped and Unprocessed	Plants - Vascular - Apiaceae - Eryngium spinosepalum
Plants - Vascular	Helianthus winteri	Winters sunflower	None	None	-	1B.2	Mapped	Plants - Vascular - Asteraceae - Helianthus winteri
Plants - Vascular	Pseudobahia peirsonii	San Joaquin adobe sunburst	Threatened	Endangered	-	1B.1	Mapped	Plants - Vascular - Asteraceae - Pseudobahia peirsonii
Plants - Vascular	Erythranthe sierrae	Sierra Nevada monkeyflower	None	None	-	4.2	Unprocessed	Plants - Vascular - Phrymaceae - Erythranthe sierrae
Plants - Vascular	Orcuttia inaequalis	San Joaquin Valley Orcutt grass	Threatened	Endangered	l-	1B.1	Mapped	Plants - Vascular - Poaceae - Orcuttia inaequalis
Plants - Vascular	Tuctoria greenei	Greenes tuctoria	Endangered	Rare	-	1B.1	Mapped	Plants - Vascular - Poaceae - Tuctoria greenei
Plants - Vascular	Delphinium recurvatum	recurved larkspur	None	None	l-	1B.2	Mapped	Plants - Vascular - Ranunculaceae - Delphinium recurvatum
Plants - Vascular	Brodiaea insignis	Kaweah brodiaea	None	Endangered	l-	1B.2	Mapped	Plants - Vascular - Themidaceae - Brodiaea insignis

Appendix D

Cultural Records Search Results

<u>California</u>
<u>H</u>istorical
<u>R</u>esources
<u>I</u>nformation
<u>S</u>ystem



Fresno Kern Kings Madera Tulare Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center

California State University, Bakersfield

Mail Stop: 72 DOB 9001 Stockdale Highway Bakersfield, California 93311-1022

(661) 654-2289 E-mail: ssjvic@csub.edu Website: www.csub.edu/ssjvic

Record Search 23-477

To: Annamarie Wagner

4 Creeks

324 S. Santa Fe Street, Suite A

Visalia, CA 93292

Date: November 15, 2023

Re: West Sequoia Avenue Multimodal Improvements (23384)

County: Tulare

Map(s): Woodlake 7.5'

CULTURAL RESOURCES RECORDS SEARCH

The California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) contracts with the California Historical Resources Information System's (CHRIS) regional Information Centers (ICs) to maintain information in the CHRIS inventory and make it available to local, state, and federal agencies, cultural resource professionals, Native American tribes, researchers, and the public. Recommendations made by IC coordinators or their staff regarding the interpretation and application of this information are advisory only. Such recommendations do not necessarily represent the evaluation or opinion of the State Historic Preservation Officer in carrying out the OHP's regulatory authority under federal and state law.

The following are the results of a search of the cultural resource files at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center. These files include known and recorded cultural resources sites, inventory and excavation reports filed with this office, and resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the OHP Built Environment Resources Directory, California State Historical Landmarks, California Register of Historical Resources, California Inventory of Historic Resources, and California Points of Historical Interest. Due to processing delays and other factors, not all of the historical resource reports and resource records that have been submitted to the OHP are available via this records search. Additional information may be available through the federal, state, and local agencies that produced or paid for historical resource management work in the search area.

PRIOR CULTURAL RESOURCE STUDIES CONDUCTED WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA

According to the information in our files, there has been one previous cultural resource study completed within the project area: TU-01013. There have been 10 previous cultural resource studies completed within the half-mile radius: TU-00014, 00015, 00016, 00231, 00548, 00566, 00575, 01394, 01498, 01967. It should be noted that the study in the PA only covered the easternmost intersection with Mulberry St.

KNOWN/RECORDED CULTURAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA

According to the information in our files, there are no recorded resources within the project area. There is one recorded resource within the half-mile radius: P-54-004034. This resource is a historic era electric railroad.

There are no recorded cultural resources within the project area or radius that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, the California Points of Historical Interest, California Inventory of Historic Resources, for the California State Historic Landmarks.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

We understand this project consists of the demolition of existing asphalt, sidewalk, and curbs where needed, and addition of aggregate base and pavement placement, underground utilities, signage, and street light installation. Further, we understand the project area is a previously developed road that can act as a cap for potential subsurface materials. This area of Tulare County is considered moderately sensitive for prehistoric cultural resources and is within 1.5 miles of a natural water way. As such, there is a reasonable probability that subsurface cultural resources will be encountered during ground disturbance activities. We recommend an archaeological monitor be present during ground disturbance activities to identify any unearthed cultural resources and make the appropriate mitigation recommendations. A list of qualified consultants can be found at www.chrisinfo.org.

We also recommend that you contact the Native American Heritage Commission in Sacramento. They will provide you with a current list of Native American individuals/organizations that can assist you with information regarding cultural resources that may not be included in the CHRIS Inventory and that may be of concern to the Native groups in the area. The Commission can consult their "Sacred Lands Inventory" file to determine what sacred resources, if any, exist within this project area and the way in which these resources might be managed. Finally, please consult with the lead agency on this project to determine if any other cultural resource investigation is required. If you need any additional information or have any questions or concerns, please contact our office at (661) 654-2289.

By:

Jeremy E David, Assistant Coordinator

Please note that invoices for Information Center services will be sent under separate cover from the California State University, Bakersfield Accounting Office.

Date: November 13, 2023

Appendix E

Energy Calculations

Construction Equipment Energy Use

Phase Name	Off Road Equipment Type	Off Road Equipment Unit Amount ¹	Usage Hours Per Day ¹	Horse Power (lbs/sec) ¹	Load Factor ⁵	Total Operational Hours	BSFC ²	Fuel Used (gallons) ³	МВТU⁴
Grubbing/Land Clearing	Excavators	3	8	158	0.38	888	0.367	2752.40	382.5832918
Grubbing/Land Clearing	Crawler Tractors	2	8	212	0.43	592	0.367	2786.02	387.2561946
Grading/Excavation	Cranes	1	8	231	0.29	1296	0.367	4482.01	622.9989714
Grading/Excavation	Crawler Tractors	2	8	212	0.43	2592	0.367	12198.23	1695.554149
Grading/Excavation	Excavators	4	8	158	0.38	5184	0.367	16068.05	2233.459217
Grading/Excavation	Graders	3	8	187	0.41	3888	0.367	15388.96	2139.065434
Grading/Excavation	Rollers	3	8	80	0.38	3888	0.408	6783.46	942.9014183
Grading/Excavation	Rubber Tired Loaders	2	8	97	0.37	2592	0.408	5339.00	742.1213136
Grading/Excavation	Scrapers	3	8	367	0.48	3888	0.367	35358.28	4914.800663
Grading/Excavation	Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes	5	8	97	0.37	6480	0.408	13347.51	1855.303284
Drainage/Utilities/Subgrade	Air Compressors	2	8	78	0.48	1776	0.408	3816.19	530.4509733
Drainage/Utilities/Subgrade	Generator Sets	2	8	84	0.74	1776	0.408	6335.86	880.6846288
Drainage/Utilities/Subgrade	Graders	2	8	187	0.41	1776	0.367	7029.52	977.1039636
Drainage/Utilities/Subgrade	Plate Compactors	2	8	8	0.43	1776	0.408	350.63	48.73801678
Drainage/Utilities/Subgrade	Pumps	2	8	84	0.74	1776	0.408	6335.86	880.6846288
Drainage/Utilities/Subgrade	Rough Terrain Forklifts	2	8	100	0.4	1776	0.367	3667.42	509.7712083
Drainage/Utilities/Subgrade	Scrapers	2	8	367	0.48	1776	0.367	16151.31	2245.032401
Drainage/Utilities/Subgrade	Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes	4	8	97	0.37	3552	0.408	7316.41	1016.981059
Paving	Pavers	2	8	130	0.48	880	0.367	2834.82	394.0393664
Paving	Paving Equipment	2	8	132	0.36	880	0.367	2158.82	300.0761329
Paving	Rollers	3	8	80	0.38	1320	0.408	2303.03	320.1208519
Paving	Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes	4	8	97	0.37	1760	0.408	3625.25	503.9095339
Total			•					176429.04	24523.6

Construction Phases

PhaseNumber	Phase Name	Phase Start Date	Phase End Date		Total Number of Days
	1 Grubbing/Land Clearing	5/28/2025	7/3/2025	5	37
	2 Grading/Excavation	7/4/2025	1/11/2026	5	162
_	3 Drainage/Utilities/Subgrade	1/12/2026	4/29/2026	5	111
	4 Paving	4/30/2026	5/23/2026	5	55

Notes

- 1. Roadway Construction Emissions Model Default Values Used
 2. BSFC Brake Specific Fuel Consumption (pounds per horsepower-hour) If less than 100 Horsepower = 0.408, if greater than 100 Horsepower = 0.367
 3. Fuel Used = Load Factor x Horsepower x Total Operational Hours x BSFC / Unit Conversion
 4. MBTU calculated for comparison purposes. Assumed 1 gallon of diesel = 0.139 MBTU
 5. CalEEMod Default Values Used

Mobile Energy Use (Construction)

Worker Trips

	Daily Worker Trips ¹	Worker Trip Length ¹	VMT/Day	MPG Factor ³	Gallons of Gas/Day	# of Days ¹	Total Gallons of Gas	МВТИ
Grubbing/Land Clearing	16	20	320	29.23	10.9	37	405	47
Grading/Excavation	60	20	1200	29.23	41.1	162	6651	772
Drainage/Utilities/Subgrade	48	20	960	29.23	32.8	111	3646	423
Paving	30	20	600	29.23	20.5	55	1129	131
Total	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	365	11830	1373

Water Truck

	Daily Vendor Trips ¹	Vendor Trip Length ¹	VMT/Day	MPG Factor ³	Gallons of Diesel/Day	# of Days ¹	Total Gallons of Diesel	МВТИ
Grubbing/Land Clearing	10	8	80	7.12	11.2	37	416	58
Grading/Excavation	10	8	80	7.12	11.2	162	1820	253
Drainage/Utilities/Subgrade	5	8	40	7.12	5.6	111	624	87
Paving	5	8	40	7.12	5.6	55	309	43
Total	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	365	3169	440

Fleet Characteristics

	Vehicle Class			Average MPG Factor
Assumed Vehicle Fleet for	LDA	33%	33.24	
Workers	LDT1	33%	28.07	
Workers	LDT2	33%	26.38	29.23

Notes

- 1. Road Construction Emissions Model Default values used
- 2. MBTU calculated for comparison purposes. Assumed 1 gallon of gasoline = $0.11609 \; \text{MBTU}$
- 3. MPG Factor Based on EMFAC2017