

CITY OF TRINIDAD	Initial Study
Planning Department	409 Trinity Street, Trinidad, CA 95570, (707) 677-0223

INITIAL STUDY and CHECKLIST

PROJECT: Yurok Indian Housing Authority Trinidad Housing Development, North Westhaven Drive, Trinidad, California, County of Humboldt

LEAD AGENCY: City of Trinidad
Planning Department
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INITIAL STUDY and CHECKLIST PREPARATION ASSISTANCE BY:

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2660 Clay Road
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(707) 496-0054

Trinity Valley Consulting Engineers
PO Box 1567
Willow Creek, CA 95573

PROJECT LOCATION:

The proposed project site is located on the eastern extent of Trinidad City limits, situated between Highway 101 and North Westhaven Drive (APN: 515-151-066). The latitude and longitude of the project site is 41.0611°N, and -124.1361°W (Figure 1).

PROJECT PROPONENT / PROPERTY OWNER:

Yurok Indian Housing Authority
15540 Highway 101 North
Klamath, CA 95548
(707) 482-1506

ZONING/GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATION: The property exhibits a mixed zoning arrangement, where the northern approximately one-third of the property, nearest to Parker Creek, falls under the Special Environmental (SE) zoning category, while the southern two-thirds are zoned Planned Development (PD). The project's development will take place within the PD zoning region. The PD designation, as articulated in the City of Trinidad's General Plan, is intended to apply to areas where mixed uses may be appropriate or where design flexibility is necessary to adapt the use of the site to surrounding areas. The SE designation is intended to protect natural and scenic character of an area by minimizing development.

PROJECT SUMMARY: The proposed project for this parcel consists of the development of five (5) single-story, single-family residences (approximately 1,440 square feet each) with related infrastructure. This infrastructure includes site access, emergency vehicle turnaround, parking, stormwater drainage improvements, onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS), utilities, and mitigation measures for the conservation and protection of natural resources and sensitive areas in the vicinity. Additionally, the project includes the removal of approximately 424 trees over an area of approximately 25,540 sq. ft. (0.58 acres).

Each residential building will have three (3) bedrooms and two (2) bathrooms, a kitchen, laundry, fireplace, rear and front covered patio, and a storage/utility room located at the rear of the residence. Of these five residences, one will be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which will include, but is not limited to, dedicated ADA parking, exterior access, and various interior building features. Each residence will have two (2) dedicated parking spaces, with additional spaces for parking overflow for a total of 13 parking spaces, one of which will be ADA compliant.

SURROUNDING LAND USES AND SETTING: The City of Trinidad is a small community located on a coastal terrace above the Pacific Ocean. The project area is located on the eastern extent of Trinidad City limits, situated between Highway 101 and North Westhaven Drive (Figure 1). The project is also within the California Coastal Zone. Surrounding land uses are mostly rural residential. The parcel immediately to the northwest, within the City of Trinidad, is zoned Visitor Services and contains an RV park. Lands to the north and east are within Humboldt County's jurisdiction and zoned a mix of Residential Single Family (RS) and Rural Residential Agriculture (RA). Highway 101 is located to the southwest of the project site.

The site itself is heavily forested with second and/or third growth trees consisting mostly of redwoods. The southern portion of the site, where the development will occur, is mostly flat and exhibits signs of previous clearing and grading activities. The northern portion of the site drops steeply into the Parker Creek riparian corridor. There are several seeps and wetland areas within the riparian corridor (Figure 2).

Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration: YIHA Trinidad Housing Development
 North Westhaven Drive, Trinidad, California

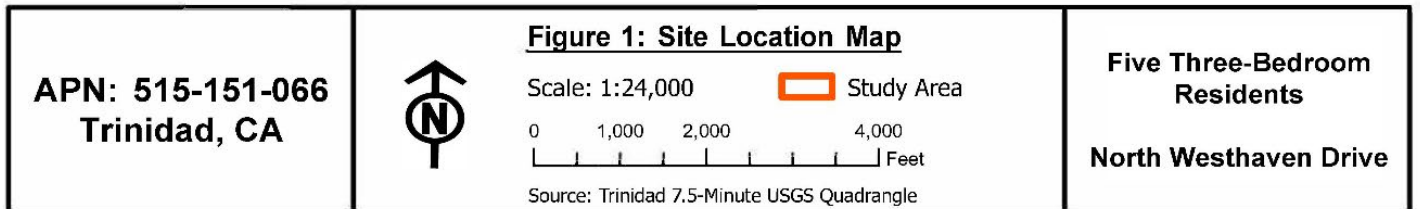
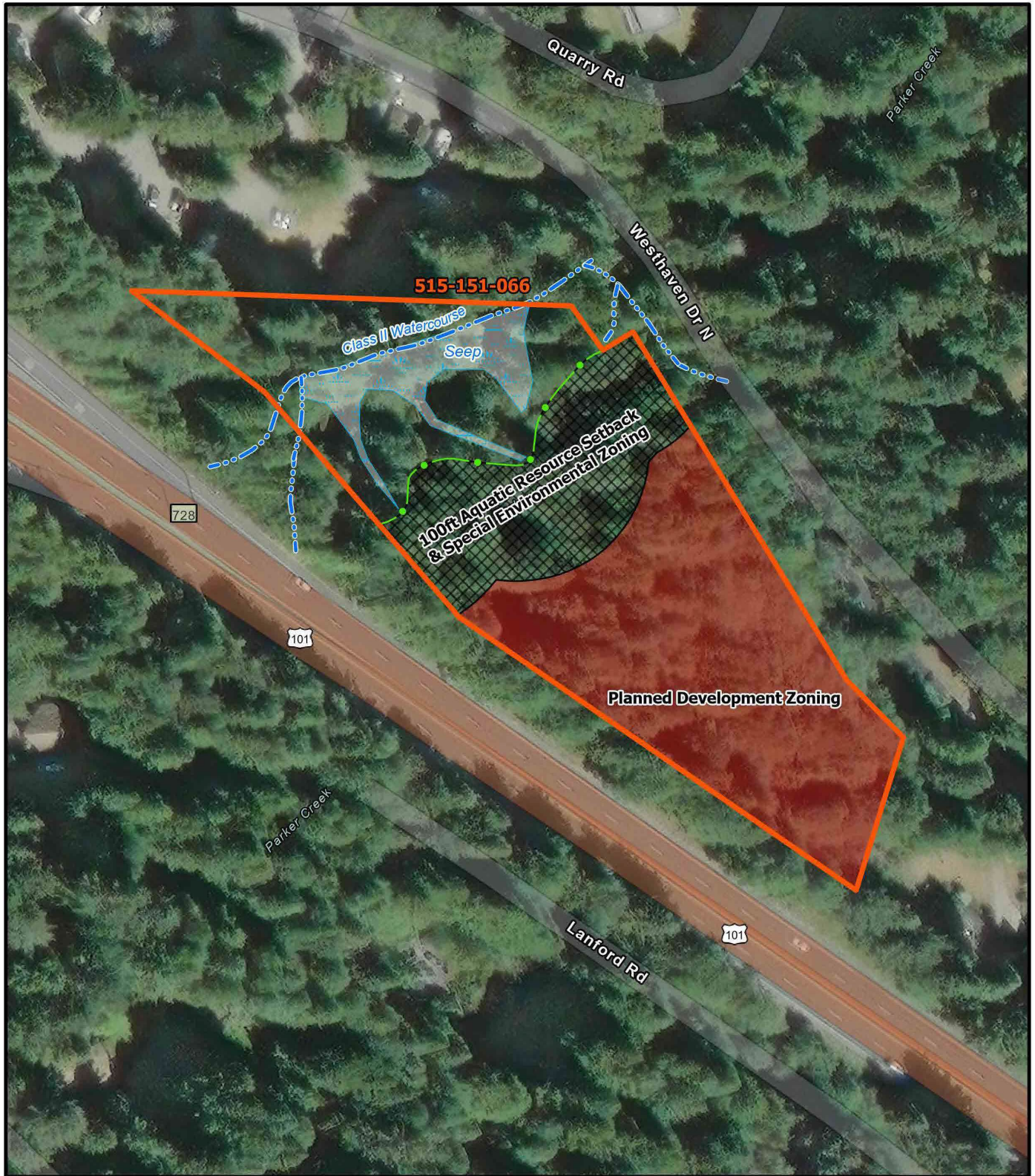
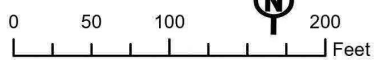


Figure 1



Map 2: Aquatic Resource Setbacks

Scale: 1:1,307



Source: Trinidad 7.5-Minute USGS Quadrangle

- Study Area
- Planned Development Zoning
- Wetland/Seep
- Class II Top of Bank
- Class II Watercourse
- Class III Watercourse
- Aquatic Resource 100ft Setback



Figure 2

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a **“Potentially Significant Impact”** as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

<input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural/Forestry Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation
<input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic
<input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources
<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Noise	<input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems
<input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils	<input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance
<input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gasses	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire	<input type="checkbox"/> Energy
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None

DETERMINATION:

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

Signature Date

Printed Name For

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 referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A “No Impact” answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must consider 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 Section 21, “Earlier Analyses,” 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 Addresses. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyze 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 they address site-specific conditions for the project.

- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plan, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
- 7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats, however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
- 9) The explanation of each issue identified:
 - a) The significant criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b) The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION / SETTING:

1. LOCATION / SETTING:

The project is located on a 3.1-acre parcel (APN: 515-151-066), in Section 24, Township 8 North, Range 1 West, Humboldt Meridian within the USGS 7.5' Trinidad topographic quadrangle map at approximately 225 feet (~ 68.5 meters) above mean sea level. The project is situated within the Parker Creek watershed (CDFW Region: 1), with Parker Creek running east-west along the northwestern portion of the property. Parker Creek is a small coastal stream which empties into the Pacific Ocean at Old Home Beach in Trinidad, approximately 0.40 air-miles south to southwest of the project site. Access to the project site is provided from North Westhaven Drive, approximately 1,200 feet southeast of its intersection with Highway 101.

The project area is located on the eastern extent of Trinidad City limits, situated between Highway 101 and North Westhaven Drive. The City of Trinidad is located in rural northern California, approximately 25 miles north of the county seat, Eureka and 295 miles north of San Francisco. The Westhaven-Moonstone community has a population of 1,187 people, and 307 people live within the Trinidad City limits (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020). The project is also within the California Coastal Zone. Highway 101 runs along the southeast boundary of the project site. Surrounding land uses are mostly rural residential. The parcel immediately to the northwest, within the City of Trinidad, is zoned Visitor Services (VS) and contains an RV park. Lands to the north and east are within Humboldt County's jurisdiction and are zoned a mix of Residential Single Family (RS) and Rural Residential Agriculture (RA).

The City of Trinidad is one of California's smallest incorporated cities, with a population of 307 at the time of the 2020 Census (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020). Trinidad is primarily a residential community, which has minimal infrastructure and services. It is also a destination community due to its harbor, coastal access and recreational opportunities. Because of Trinidad's small size, residents of all ages often walk and bike to get to school, run errands, or head down the street to get a cup of coffee. Many parents and students use active modes of transportation to get to Trinidad Elementary School, located at the heart of town. Visitors come to Trinidad to enjoy the beaches, shop, and hike on the many nearby trail systems. While many residents and visitors travel Trinidad on foot, there are portions of town including the project area where non-motorized infrastructure is lacking, and most get in their cars to bypass these areas. Trinidad is also relatively isolated from the nearby population centers of McKinleyville, Arcata, and Eureka, and there is limited transit service.

The development area is located within the southern third of the parcel and consists of undeveloped, primarily third-growth redwood forest with a variety of vegetation, including but not limited to brush cover, redwoods, and alders. The site is accessible via a driveway off Westhaven Drive and an old dirt access way encircles a stand of alders and redwood and stumps located in the central part of the southern third of the property. The terrain gently slopes toward the northwest, with gradients ranging from 0-3% within the project

development area. The project site has been disturbed in the past by logging and grading activities. The site was historically logged, and more recently, trees were cut down, stumps were removed and piled in the center of the property, and the area was partially graded. Since then, trees and vegetation have regrown around the project area.

Moving from the northern boundaries of the project site, the land descends into a gully at a slope of approximately 10-25% leading to Parker Creek, which flows from northeast to southwest through the northern portion of the property. Two springs and a wetland are situated on the southern slope above and south of Parker Creek. The riparian area is heavily forested with second growth redwood and red alder, and the understory consists of a sparse cover of mostly ferns. The riparian area occupies approximately half of the parcel.

Trinidad Bay lies 1,700 feet to the south. Trinidad Bay is part of the Trinidad Head Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS), which is a designated State Water Quality Protection Area (SWQPA). In addition, the surrounding coastline has been designated as a Critical Coastal Area by the California Coastal Commission. The City has also been designated by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as a Gateway to the California Coastal National Monument.

Much of the urban Trinidad area overlies a fairly uniform sand aquifer, above a low permeability Franciscan melange (bedrock). The coastal bluffs adjacent to Trinidad are subject to instability. The southern bluffs were also the location of a Yurok Village called Tsurai. While the village site itself is located well away from the project area, much of Trinidad holds cultural significance to the Yurok People, and therefore there is the potential for cultural resources within and adjacent to the project area.

2. PURPOSE AND NEED

Purpose / Objectives

This project-level Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) has been prepared under the oversight of the City of Trinidad upon request from Mad River Properties Inc. on behalf of Trinity Valley Consulting Engineers (TVCE) for the Yurok Indian Housing Authority (YIHA) Trinidad Housing Development Project.

The YIHA seeks to build five (5) three-bedroom residential units along with supporting infrastructure and improvements to the subject property. These enhancements encompass the establishment of off-street parking spaces, access driveways, sidewalks, and the necessary infrastructure to support utilities. Additionally, provisions have been made for both primary and reserve leach fields for wastewater disposal.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that all state and local government agencies consider the environmental consequences of projects over which they have discretionary authority before acting on those projects. An IS is a public document

used by the decision-making lead agency to determine whether a project may have a significant impact on the environment. If the agency finds that the project may have a significant impact on the environment, but that these impacts will be reduced to a less-than-significant level through revisions to the project and/or implementation of specific mitigation measures, an MND shall be prepared.

This IS/MND is a public information document that describes the project, existing environmental setting at the project site, and potential environmental impacts of construction and operation of the project. It is intended to inform the public and decision-makers of the project's potential environmental impacts and to document the lead agency's compliance with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines.

Need for the Project

The YIHA's primary mission is to provide affordable, safe and sustainable housing to lower-income tribal members. It also provides supportive services and resources to ensure that these developments have the means necessary to ensure ongoing functionality and aesthetic maintenance.

A high percentage of tribal members have substandard housing. This housing development is needed to provide members of the native community with access to affordable safe housing. Based on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determinations, up to 80% Average Medium Income would qualify for these homes. The construction funding source is a complexity of governmental agencies and maintenance will be subsidized by the YIHA.

One of the five (5) houses will be fully ADA compliant to accommodate an individual or family with accessibility needs. This is a desirable goal for this project, since YIHA does not have many ADA units available for tribal members.

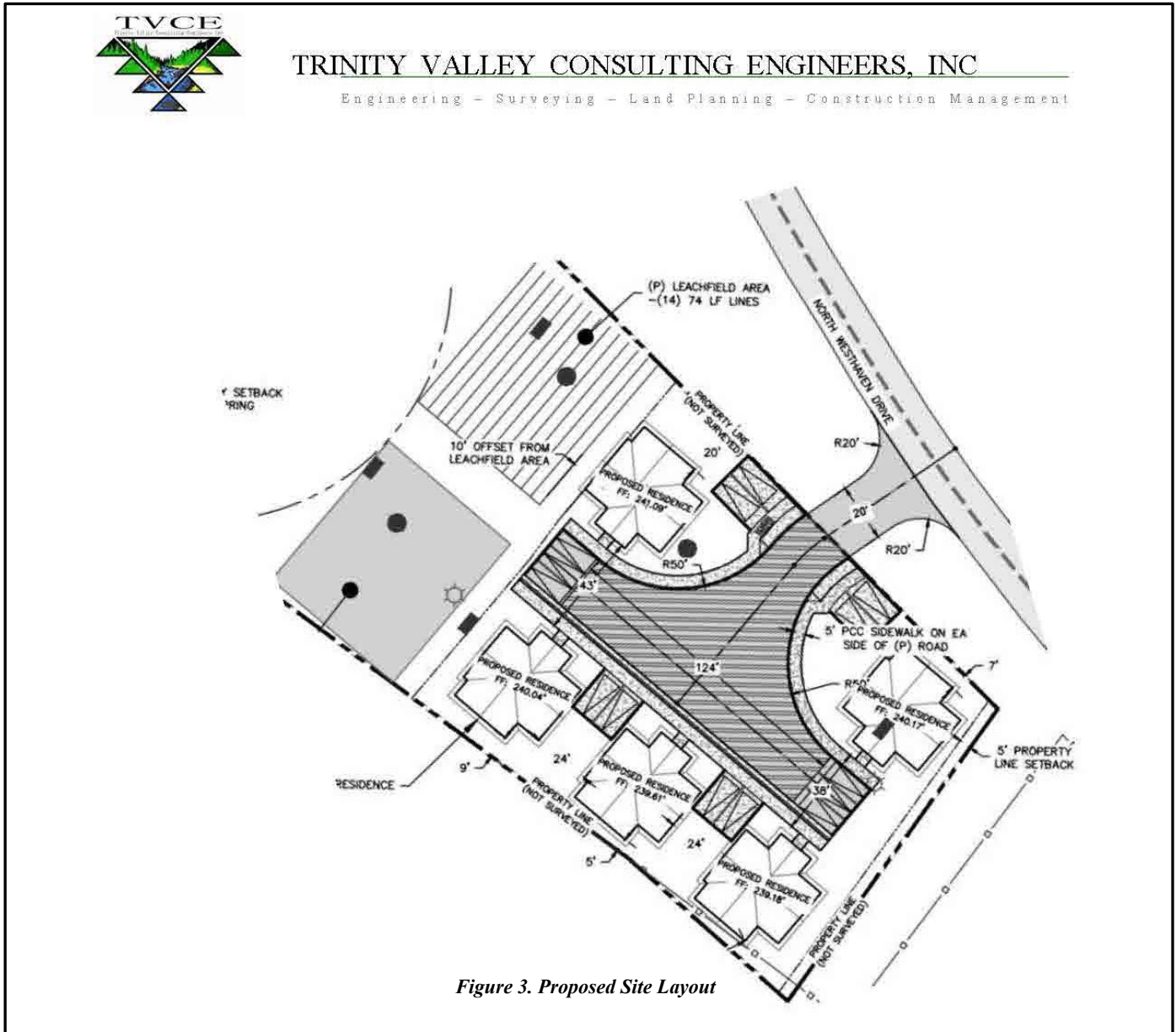
3. DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Site Development

The parcel currently has no developed access. The project will need to obtain a Humboldt County encroachment permit to access the site from North Westhaven Drive. Based on initial assessments, there is adequate site distance for traffic pullout. Access to and from the parcel will be solely through the single paved driveway entrance off North Westhaven Drive. The access road will be a two-lane road, 20 feet in width, in compliance with Humboldt Counties and City of Trinidad Public Works standards, and where required for emergency accesses purposes, California Fire Safe Regulations for ingress and egress (14 CCR § 1273.00).

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There will be a dedicated emergency vehicle turn-around located at the center of the hammerhead access and circulation layout within the development. The turn-around will be stripped and marked with “No Parking” signage. Off-street parking will be provided around the site, near each residence and immediate points of use. Sidewalks throughout the development will provide pedestrian access. The total paved area, including the driveway, concrete sidewalks, and parking spaces is approximately 12,723 square feet (Figure 3).



In addition to the five single-family residences and parking/access/circulation, an onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS) will be installed to support the wastewater disposal needs for all five residences combined. The leach field will cover an area of approximately 5,625 square feet. When combined with the residences and access infrastructure, the total development area will be 25,540 square feet or approximately 0.58 acres.

Onsite stormwater management will be designed to comply with the regulations outlined in the latest edition of the Humboldt Low Impact Development Stormwater Manual (LID) and MS4 permit requirements as outlined in the Stormwater Control Plan (TVCE, 2025c). Additionally, a standard grading, drainage, and erosion control plan(s) shall be provided to avoid erosion and impacts to the riparian areas.

Structures

The building development consists of a total of five (5) individual single-family residences. The floor area of each residence is approximately 1,438 square feet. The houses will be wood framed single story, with a slab on grade foundation and truss roof system. The combined square footage of the five buildings will be approximately 7,192 square feet.

Utilities

Electrical utilities are currently available adjacent to the property. Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) will provide the electrical needs of the development. Each house will have an individual meter. There will be one extra electrical meter installed for site infrastructure needs such as septic pumps and street lighting. The sixth meter will be subsidized by the YIHA as part of their support services. Once initial permitting for the project is approved, an application with the utility company will come immediately after due to the extensive timeline for PG&E design and installation of services. Due to the limited electrical demand for each individual house, it is foreseeable to have only single-phase electrical demand for the site. However, it is unclear if a transformer will be placed onsite. This will be up the PG&E design parameters.

Phone/Internet/Cable will be supplied by a local provider on an individual basis.

Water services are also adjacent to the property. There is a City of Trinidad water main along North Westhaven Drive that the housing project will tap into to obtain domestic potable water. The City of Trinidad Water Department provides potable water in this vicinity. Coordination with Trinidad Public Works agency will also take place soon after initial approval process to facilitate installation of water connections and meters. Each house will have a dedicated water meter. At this time, no added meters are proposed for whole site purposes.

Fire suppression services are provided by the City of Trinidad Volunteer Fire Department with mutual aid from the Westhaven Volunteer Fire Department and CAL FIRE. It will be up to the jurisdictional agencies whether a fire hydrant is to be installed at the site. This will depend on development density, and proximity of nearest hydrant. Per regulation of the CA Building Code, each house will have a fire suppression residential sprinkler system installed.

Septic services will be located onsite with no connection to a municipal-type wastewater treatment facility. The design will include a sewage connection to each house, that will flow into a 6000-gallon septic tank. From there the effluent will pass through a pump chamber and be disposed into a pressurized leach field located north of the residences. The leach field location meets all regulatory setbacks from adjacent creeks and springs present in the vicinity. Because the septic system is not a gravity system – in which no mechanical or electrical parts are present – the system will have a propane fueled backup emergency generator installed to ensure continuous operation in the event of power outages.

Gas service to the property are currently not proposed. Gas is provided via individual propane tanks in the Trinidad area. The applicant is assessing the feasibility of having all components and appliances be electric. In that case the propane tank will only feed the backup generator for the septic system.

Construction

The project construction will begin as soon as the permitting process is complete and the project has received approval from all jurisdictional agencies. The project owner and stakeholders are hoping to start site clearing and grading operations by summer 2025. The overall construction process is estimated to take approximately 1.5 years until obtaining certificate of occupancy for the proposed homes. Figure 4 shows the tentative construction project schedule.

There is no phasing contemplated for the project. Sequence of events are linear, as shown above, with some overlapping of activities. The project delivery system will be a traditional design, bid, build.

Figure 4. Project Construction Timeline

Task	2025						2026											
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	
Site/Tree Clearing																		
Grading																		
Encroachment																		
Sediment Mitigation Measures																		
Wet Utilities Installation																		
Septic Leach Field Installation																		
Compaction and Road Base																		
House Foundation Systems																		
Vertical Construction																		
Parking and Sidewalks																		
Connection Remaining Utilities																		
Paving and Stripping																		
Punchlist																		
Final Completion																		
Certificate of Occupancy																		

A 50% design plan-set for the site layout and all components have been produced. The design reflects the required setbacks and regulations from applicable codes and agencies. The following is a summary of the different elements of the construction activities that are to take place.

Site Clearing

A tree clearing plan for the development part of the site has been created. This plan determined tree types, size and number of each species to be removed (TVCE, 2025b)). Prior to the clearing and grubbing phase, a survey team will be deployed to flag the extents of the project to ensure that nothing beyond what is needed for the development will be disturbed. The applicant will obtain an exemption for timberland conversion of less than three acres from CAL FIRE.

Grading

Per the engineering plans, approximately 400 cubic yards of dirt are anticipated to be mobilized onsite to obtain the desired grades for the development. It is the aim of the design team to balance the cut and fill quantities so that no dirt will need to leave the site. Grading limits and grading elevation benchmarks will be established to ensure that no excess disturbance is to take place. Equipment that will be used for these activities will vary from bulldozers, excavators, haul trucks, water trucks, rollers, and miscellaneous equipment per the contractor's discretion. As part of the grading scope, road access, encroachment, driveway, and residential site preparation will fall under this item. A grading permit from the City of Trinidad is required.

Vertical Construction

This portion of the project will take place after a substantial amount of the utilities, site access, and driveway are installed. The construction of the residences will follow a sequential order – as one residence is completed or in process, the same will occur with the next residence, and so forth, until all units are finished. This process will require the greatest amount of onsite workforce, it can be estimated upwards of 20 to 25 workers onsite any given day.

Site Finishes and remaining utilities

Near the completion of the vertical components of the project, the installation of the remaining utilities, paving of the access road, concrete pouring of the parking and sidewalk, will take place. Other items in the list of finishes will be landscape, stripping of the driveway and parking, outside lighting, street and stop signs, among others. Concurrent actions will be punch-list items for buildings, utilities, site elements among others, striving for final completions and certificate of occupancy. Landscaping shall be native, drought-tolerant vegetation. All outdoor lighting shall be dark sky compliant, including but not limited to

being downcast, and shielded to prevent light from shining offsite or into the riparian habitat northwest of the project.

Summary

As shown on the site layout plans, the portion of the parcel, zoned Special Environment (SE), has a Class II creek – Parker Creek - running through it. There is also a series of springs located in the immediate vicinity. Stream and riparian protections and setback requirements, as per City, state and Humboldt County development standards, have been followed to protect aquatic and wildlife resources. A biological resource assessment (Naiad, 2025) has been completed for this project and all the recommendations of the report have been incorporated herein.

As stated previously in the Construction section, prior to any equipment onsite for tree clearing or grading, clearing limits will physically be flagged using topographical survey equipment and instrumentation to ensure accuracy of site layout. The clearing of trees and vegetation will follow a strict protocol, and the process will utilize a Tree Recognizance Overview map (TVCE, 2025b) to ensure that only trees needed cleared will be affected.

Parking and circulation pavement is to be graded in accordance with a standard drainage plan to avoid erosion and impacts to the riparian areas. During the development and construction of this project Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be used to prevent impacts to riparian areas. Trinidad LID requirements will ensure adequate stormwater control measures will take place.

As part of the process, several technical studies have been conducted on the parcel to identify key factors of environmental sensitivity. A Wetland Delineation Report was conducted in August 2023, by J. Regan Consulting, identifying wetland locations which mimic the creek and spring layout shown on the site map found herein (Regan, 2023a). J Regan Consulting also conducted a Botanical Survey Report which summarized that “no plants considered sensitive, rare, threatened, or endangered were detected during seasonally appropriate surveys within the subject parcel” (Regan, 2023b).

This Initial study has been created to address the requirements of CEQA. The document outlines the potential impacts of the project and specific protection measures to address these. As other possible concerns are brought up during the permit review process, by the different reviewing agencies, these will be addressed to ensure adequate mitigation of any environmental impacts.

DISCUSSION OF CHECKLIST RESPONSES

1. AESTHETICS. 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?			X	
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?			X	
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?			X	
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?			X	

Setting:

The project is proposed to occur in Trinidad, California which presents an aesthetic setting characterized by a combination of coastal and forested landscapes. Trinidad Bay and the bay bordering Trinidad on the west, including all their islands, offer some of the most uniquely beautiful views that can be found along the California coastline, combining ocean, islands, bay and rugged, timber shorelines. Inland, the City is surrounded by dense redwood forests interspersed with rural residential development, contributing to its visual appeal. Views to, from, and along the coastline are protected by the Coastal Act and Trinidad’s Local Coastal Program (LCP). One of the main reasons that residents and visitors come to Trinidad is its scenic beauty. Both the California Coastal Act and Trinidad ordinances protect coastal viewsheds.

The City of Trinidad also has design review requirements to protect the aesthetic character and viewsheds of the City. The City's architecture is designed to integrate with the natural environment. Parks and trails encourage community interaction with nature. Trinidad's commitment to preserving its distinct aesthetic identity is essential for maintaining a sustainable environment, balancing the coastal and forested elements for future generations. Situated along the eastern side of Highway 101, the project area itself is characterized by dense forested habitat, visible from the highway and Westhaven Drive. However, the site is not readily visible from coastal areas, trails, or other open space or recreation areas.

Analysis

- a) **Finding:** The project will not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: There are designated vista points in town and informal overlooks. However, these are all focused on coastal viewsheds away from the project site. The project site may be generally visible at a distance from elevated locations such as Trinidad Head. However, the proposed development, consisting of five single-story, modest-sized residences, is consistent with surrounding development. Although trees will be removed to make way for the improvements, significant tree cover will remain on the property including the northern two-thirds as well as the trees within Highway 101 right-of-way and Westhaven Drive right-of-way, except for the accessway to the site from Westhaven Drive. The remaining trees will screen the development. This is consistent with surrounding development, where cleared areas around buildings and adjacent forested areas are common. In addition, the project requires a Coastal Development Permit and Design Review approval from the City of Trinidad, which requires development to blend with its surroundings and minimize aesthetic impacts. The buildings will be discreetly positioned, with the public view in mind. Therefore, anticipated impacts on scenic vistas are expected to be minimal, maintaining the current landscape aesthetics.

- b) Finding: The project will not substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: According to the California Scenic Highway Mapping System, there are no designated State Scenic Highways in the project vicinity (Caltrans, 2011). However, Highway 101 is listed as “Eligible State Scenic Highways.” Scenic Drive, Stagecoach Road and Edwards Street are all local roads that are eligible for designation as scenic routes. The project property is adjacent to Highway 101. However, there are a substantial number of trees along the highway right-of-way that will screen the development, so the view will not substantially change. The development is also consistent with surrounding rural residential development visible from the highway. The project site does not contain any scenic resources such as landmark trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings. The development will blend into the mosaic of existing residences and forestland in the surrounding area. Therefore, the project will not damage scenic resources along a scenic highway or other scenic routes.

- c) Finding: The project will not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: The intensity and design of the proposed project is consistent with existing surrounding land uses. Public views of the site are limited in extent and distance, and the development will be screened by existing vegetation. Although trees will be removed to make way for the improvements, significant tree cover will remain on the property including the northern two-thirds as well as the trees within Highway 101 right-of-way and Westhaven Drive right-of-way, except for the accessway to the site from Westhaven Drive. The remaining trees will screen the development. The project also requires Design Review

approval from the City of Trinidad which requires development to blend with its surroundings and minimize aesthetic impacts. Therefore, the project will not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings.

- d) Finding: The project will not result in significant impacts related to substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: Construction of the proposed project will not take place at night. Equipment used during construction could cause glare, but this would be minimal. The project will result in new sources of light or glare due to the installation of the street, parking area and porch lighting which has potential to affect day or nighttime views in the area. The project description calls for lights to be downcast and shielded from shining offsite or into the riparian area. In addition, in accordance with Coastal Act requirements, the City requires lighting to be dark sky compliant when adjacent to sensitive habitats, which includes but is not limited to, low level, downcast, and shielded so that it does not shine onto adjacent properties or into the adjacent riparian habitat. The proposed residential buildings will be constructed within a buffer created by the road right of ways and riparian area, thus the surrounding vegetation would help block any light that could potentially have the risk of being visible from offsite.

Cumulative Impact:

The proposed operation is a land use that has potential to cause impacts to the aesthetic value surrounding the project site. However, aesthetic impacts are rather subjective and difficult to quantify. Land use in the surrounding area is a mixture of forested timber lands with dispersed rural residential ownerships. Parcels within 1,000 feet of the property range in size from a third acre lot to about six acres with generally one or two residences per ownership. The property to the north has been developed as an RV park representing the highest level of development in the immediate area. The proposed project would occupy approximately one third of the parcel, and the remaining two thirds would remain forestland and open space. This appears consistent with the level of development in the surrounding community. The proposed development would not result in a cumulatively significant impact on aesthetics.

Mitigation Measure(s):

No mitigation measures are necessary, significant impacts were avoided during project planning and through regulatory requirements.

2. AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY RESOURCES. 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?			X	
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				X
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)) or timberland (as defined in Public Resources Code section 4526)?				X
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?			X	
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in the conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?			X	

Setting:

There are no lands in Trinidad that are zoned or designated for agricultural or forestry use. Few areas are suitable for agriculture or forestry uses in the City or within 1,000 feet of the project area. There are no privately owned parcels greater than eight acres in size in the City or within 1,000 feet of the project area. Additionally, soils are generally very sandy or have other limitations such that they are not conducive to large-scale agriculture. Coastal Act policies are very protective of agricultural land, and Trinidad’s land use regulations have been certified by the Coastal Commission as part of the City’s LCP.

Most of the large parcels in the community are located on steep slopes and/or in environmentally sensitive habitat areas, which limit the types of uses that could be appropriate. There is a substantial amount of commercial and non-commercial forest land, including land designated as Timberland Production Zone (TPZ), in upland areas east of Trinidad, outside City limits.

Analysis

- a) Finding: The project would not 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. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: Though California’s Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program has not mapped Humboldt County, agriculture is still important in the region in general. However, Trinidad does not contain agriculturally zoned land or known agricultural uses other than a small private horse pasture and a community garden. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has mapped a portion of the project site as having Megwil and Cannonball soils with 0 to 5 percent slopes, and this soil is classified as “prime farmland if irrigated” (NRCS, 2023). However, slopes greatly exceed 5 percent on much of the property. The site is not zoned or used for agriculture or timber production, nor has it been historically used for agriculture. The size, location, and the presence of steep slopes and environmentally sensitive habitat areas (ESHA) make the property unsuitable for agricultural production. Therefore, the project will not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide importance to non-agricultural use.

- b) Finding: The project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract. *No impact.*

Discussion: The parcel is zoned a mix of Special Environment and Planned Development, neither of which allow agricultural use. No change in zoning is proposed, and no Williamson Act contract exists on the project parcel. There is no agriculturally zoned land in the City or within 1,000 feet of the project boundary.

- c) Finding: The project would not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)) or timberland.. *No impact.*

Discussion: There is no land zoned for timber production in the City of Trinidad or within 1,000 feet of the project area. The project parcel is zoned a mix of Special Environment and Planned Development, neither of which are designated for forestry uses. The northern two thirds of the parcel is forested and meets the definition of timberland as defined by California Public Resources Code section 4526. The development area located within the southern third of the property is sparsely vegetated. The project area was cleared in the 1990s for anticipated residential use. Stumps were removed and the area was graded but no other improvements occurred. The proposed development is consistent with the existing zoning and no change in zoning is proposed. The proposed project is consistent designated intended use of the site.

- d) Finding: The project will not result in a significant loss of forest land or significant conversion of forest land to non-forest use. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: The project area is occupied by young forest land with commercial species. However the parcel has been logged in the past, and the development area was previously cleared of vegetation, trees and stumps were removed and the site was graded. The site resembles an old landing with some trees and vegetation regrowth. Trees are present within the project area but are not considered a crop of commercial trees as per the Forest Practice Rules. Surrounding land uses are rural residential. There are large tracks of commercial timberland approximately one-half mile east of the project site, outside of the residential areas. All trees greater than six inches in diameter at breast height (DBH) within the potential development area were mapped. The project proposes removing vegetation and trees over roughly one acre of previously cleared land or one third of the subject parcel. A total of 210 trees greater than 10 inches DBH are proposed to be removed as well as 214 trees between six and 10 inches DBH are proposed to be removed. The vast majority of these trees are redwood and red alder. Most of the trees onsite are redwood and red alder. The northern two thirds of the parcel is occupied by a mature second growth redwood stand and shall remain undisturbed. Therefore, the project will not convert forestland.

- e) Finding: The project would not involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: The project site is not zoned or used for agriculture or timber production. Due to its small size, location near residential development and the presence of ESHA, the property is not suitable for agriculture or timber production. The site is currently forested, but the development will occur in the area zoned for Planned Developments. The minimum number of trees will be removed to accommodate the development, and the rest of the parcel will remain forested. Also see discussion a-d above.

Cumulative Impact:

This project will not impact any agricultural or forestry resources. The site is not located on prime agricultural land and will not be expanded to impact or convert any prime agricultural land or result in conversion of timber and forest land due to its locations and property characteristics. This project will not cause a cumulatively significant impact to agricultural resources or forestry resources.

Mitigation Measure(s):

Based on the above evaluation, no mitigation measures are required for the project to result in a less than significant impact.

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3. AIR QUALITY. 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?		X		
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions, which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?		X		
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?		X		
d) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?			X	

Setting

The air quality setting of Trinidad, CA is influenced by a variety of natural and anthropogenic factors. The town is located in a region with generally good air quality, due in part to the area's low population density, limited industrial activity, and prevailing onshore winds. The predominant sources of air pollution in the region are associated with transportation and mobile sources, including on-road and off-road vehicles. Other sources of pollutants include periodic wildfires and limited commercial and fishing related activities in town.

The project site is located in Humboldt County, which lies within the North Coast Air Basin (NCAB). The NCAB extends for 250 miles from Sonoma County in the south to the Oregon border. The climate of NCAB is influenced by two major topographic units: the Klamath Mountains and the Coast Range provinces. The climate is moderate with the predominant weather factor being moist air masses from the ocean. Dominant winds in the NCAB exhibit seasonal patterns. In the coastal areas, strong north to northwesterly winds are common in the summer and from the southwest during storm events occurring during winter months.

Project activities are subject to the authority of the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District (NCUAQMD) and the California Air Resources Board (CARB). The NCUAQMD is listed as "attainment" or "unclassified" for all the federal and state ambient air quality standards except for the state 24-hour particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM₁₀) standard. PM₁₀ air emissions include chemical emissions and other inhalable particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of less than 10 microns. Primary human sources of PM₁₀ emissions include vehicle emissions, construction dust, road dust,

open burning of vegetation, wood stoves, and stationary industrial sources (NCUAQMD, 1995). Natural sources of PM₁₀ include smoke from wildfires as well as airborne salts and other particulate matter naturally generated by ocean surf. Therefore, any use or activity that generates unnecessary airborne particulate matter may be of concern to the NCUAQMD and requires compliance with the NCUAQMD Rules and Regulations.

In determining whether a stationary source project has significant air quality impacts on the environment, agencies often apply their local air district's thresholds of significance to projects in the review process. The NCUAQMD has not formally adopted specific significance thresholds, but rather utilizes the Best Available Control Technology (BACT) emissions rates for stationary sources as defined and listed in the NCUAQMD Rule and Regulations, Rule 110 - New Source Review (NSR) and Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) (NCUAQMD 2015)

The project site has no history of contamination and is not adjacent to any industrial uses. The surrounding residential uses and neighborhoods may produce some pollutants in the form of smoke from wood burning fireplaces, exhaust from vehicles and pollutants from other household chemicals. Salt air and fog can also be sources of PM₁₀ that are common in Trinidad.

Analysis

a) Finding: The project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan. *Less than significant impact with mitigation.*

Discussion: As noted above, air quality in the City of Trinidad is regulated by the NCUAQMD. As required by the California Clean Air Act, the NCUAQMD adopted a Draft Attainment Plan in 1995 to identify major PM₁₀ sources and develop and implement control measures to meet state ambient air quality standards. The NCUAQMD's attainment plan established goals to reduce PM₁₀ emissions and eliminate the number of days in which standards are exceeded.

The proposed project will generate a minor amount of particulate emissions during construction in the form of dust and vehicle emissions as a result of ground disturbing activities, including mechanical clearing, grading, base laying and surface application, in addition to exhaust emissions from on-road haul trucks, worker commute vehicles, and construction equipment. The area of greatest activity and disturbance will be site preparation, where tree removal, excavation, and other grading activities will be required. The area of disturbance will be less than one acre, and primary soil disturbing activities (site preparation, grading, and leach field construction) are anticipated to take approximately six months. Other portions of the project will not require significant soil disturbance.

Prior to construction, the project is required to obtain a Coastal Development Permit and Grading Permit from the City. Section 15.16.080 allows the City to put conditions on

permit approvals in order to control dust and other nuisance impacts. In addition, §15.16.210.B includes the following minimum requirements: “All graded surfaces shall be wetted, protected, or contained in such a manner as to prevent a nuisance from dust or spillage. Equipment and materials on the site should be used in such a manner as to avoid excessive dust and noise.” Additionally, compliance with NCUAQMD Rule 104 – Prohibitions will be required during construction activity. Rule 104(D) requires dust control measures that would reduce fugitive dust during construction (NCUAQMD, 2015).

To ensure compliance with the NCUAQMD Draft Attainment Plan, Mitigation Measure AQ-1 will be included for the project, which requires the implementation of dust control measures to reduce fugitive dust during construction activity. In compliance with existing regulatory requirements and Mitigation Measure AQ-1, particulate matter emissions from project construction activity would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the NCUAQMD Draft Attainment Plan for PM₁₀. Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur with the mitigation.

Due to the size and nature of the proposed project, during project operations, it is not anticipated that the project would have significant air quality impacts. Emissions resulting from five new homes will be consistent with surrounding rural residential development, including passenger vehicle trips and wood smoke. These uses are not considered significant sources of emissions, and the project will be consistent with existing regulations protecting air quality. Therefore, the project operation will not obstruct implementation of the NCUAQMD Draft Attainment Plan for PM₁₀, and a less than significant impact would occur.

b) Finding: The project would not 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 with mitigation.*

Discussion: During certain times of the year, mostly in the winter, the NCAB is non-attainment for the state standard for PM₁₀, mainly in the area surrounding Humboldt Bay due to inversion layers that trap wood smoke and salt air. Currently, the NCAB is non-attainment only for a few days per year. The Draft Attainment Plan for PM₁₀ in the NCAB was adopted in 1995. No final attainment plan currently exists for the NCAB. This project as proposed consistent with past operations will not be generating any additional PM₁₀. Additionally, Mitigation Measure AQ-1 would help reach the attainment goals for PM₁₀ established in the 1995 Draft Attainment Plan (NCUAQMD, 1995).

c) Finding: The project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. *Less than significant impact with mitigation.*

Discussion: The sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the project site include rural residences, and recreationists. Dust generated from construction activities and maintenance work has the potential to be considered objectionable by residents and recreationists in the general

area. Additionally, as stated above, compliance with NCUAQMD Rule 104 – Prohibitions will be required during construction activity. Rule 104(D) requires dust control measures that would reduce fugitive dust during construction (NCUAQMD, 2015). To ensure compliance with the NCUAQMD Draft Attainment Plan, Mitigation Measure AQ-1 will be included for the project, which requires the implementation of dust control measures to reduce fugitive dust during construction activity.

Due to the limited timeline for construction activities that will occur, the rapid dissipation of the dust, compliance with Rule 104 and Mitigation Measure AQ-1, impacts are not significant. Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur.

d) Finding: The project would not result in emissions (such as those leading to odors adversely affecting a substantial number of people). *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: Any objectionable odors arising from this site would be associated with emissions from construction and trucking activities and would not affect a substantial number of people. Because construction is only temporary and during a limited time, the impact from odors generated by on site operations is considered insignificant.

Cumulative Impact:

During certain times of the year the NCAB is non-attainment for the state standard for PM₁₀, mainly in the area surrounding Humboldt Bay. While the percentage of days in the year the state standard has been exceeded has been decreasing over the past few years, the standard is still exceeded on several days every year, usually in the winter months when wood stoves are predominantly used for providing heat to residences. Particulate matter generated by this project was not determined to be a cumulatively considerable addition to the limited PM₁₀ non-attainment status of the NCAB, and as proposed consistent with past operations would therefore not currently be determined to be a cumulatively considerable addition.

Mitigation Measure(s):

AQ-1-Fugitive Dust Control. During short-term construction activities the following dust control measures shall be implemented by the contractor to reduce nuisance dust generation; the measures shall be included as notes on the final construction plans:

- Equipment and activity must not emit dust that is visible crossing the property lines.
- All exposed surfaces (e.g., parking areas, staging areas, soil piles, active graded areas, excavations, and unpaved access roads) shall be watered two times per day in areas of active construction.
- All haul trucks transporting soil, sand, or other loose material off-site shall be covered.
- All vehicle speeds on unpaved roads shall be limited to 15 mph, unless the unpaved road surface has been treated for dust suppression with water, rock, wood chip mulch, or other dust prevention measures.

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- Idling times shall be minimized either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the maximum idling time to five minutes. Clear signage shall be provided for construction workers at all access points.
- All construction equipment shall be maintained and properly tuned in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.
- Post a publicly visible sign with the telephone number and person to contact at the Lead Agency regarding dust complaints. This person shall respond and take corrective action within 48 hours. NCUAQMD's phone number shall also be visible to ensure compliance with applicable regulations.

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4. 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 and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?		X		
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?		X		
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected artificial wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?		X		
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?		X		
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?			X	
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				X

Setting:

The biological resources setting of Trinidad, CA is characterized by a diverse array of plant and animal species, including several rare and endangered species. Most of the project site is composed of second growth redwood forest with a lightly stocked understory of sword fern, huckleberry and salal, and extensive English ivy. The parcel also contains a small stand of red alder that has grown in since that portion of the study area was graded and leveled in the past. The northern portion of the study area contains a relatively low gradient

perennial watercourse with several small perennial tributaries and seeps as well as areas of perennial slope wetland between the watercourse and the break in slope to the south. The site does not contain any true oak woodlands, areas of coastal scrub, coastal prairie, dune, or salt marsh habitat types. The biological resources setting of Trinidad, CA is highly valued for its biodiversity and ecological significance and is subject to numerous conservation and management efforts aimed at preserving its unique natural heritage.

According to the Biological Resources Assessment Report (Naiad, 2023), special-status species found in the 7.5-minute USGS Trinidad quadrangle, and the two (2) adjacent quadrangles, include forty-six (46) special-status animal species (5 amphibians, 16 birds, 12 fishes, 2 insects, 9 mammals, 1 mollusk, and 1 reptile), forty-six (46) special-status plant species (2 bryophytes, 2 lichens, 42 vascular plants), and three (3) mapped special-status habitat communities (Coastal and Valley Freshwater Marsh, Sitka Spruce Forest, Sphagnum Bog). A List of the 25 species most likely to occur within the project area potentially occurring special status species has been provided in Table 1 below. For a more detailed discussion of each species referred to the Botanical Report (J Regan Consulting, 2023b), and the Biological Resources Assessment (Naiad, 2023).

A Botanical Survey Report (J. Regan Consulting, 2023b), a Wetlands and Waters Delineation (J. Regan Consulting, 2023a), and a Biological Resources Assessment Report (Naiad, 2023), were prepared for the project by J. Regan Consulting and Naiad Biological Consulting. The purpose of these reports was to provide information as to whether the project area contains or potentially contains sensitive plants, wildlife species and/or jurisdictional wetlands. The reports concluded the following:

No plants considered sensitive, rare, threatened, or endangered (including candidate species) in the United States and/or the State of California were detected during seasonally appropriate surveys within the subject parcel.

No uncommon species included in California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) 3 or 4 were detected during surveys.

Areas of Sensitive Natural Vegetation Community have been detected. These are areas of Redwood Forest and woodland alliance (G3, S3, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Sensitive) and Red alder forest alliance (G4, S3, CDFW Sensitive). A majority of the approximately 5-acre study area can be described as redwood forest composed of second growth (old growth stumps and remnants are present) redwoods and a few grand fir, Douglas fir, and spruce mixed in. In the southern half of the parcel, a portion of the site has been graded and all redwood stumps have been pushed into piles. The graded areas have grown back with scattered red alder trees creating a post-impact red alder stand surrounded by second growth redwoods. Alliances with an S rank of 1-3 are considered sensitive in CA as are any alliances or associations included on the CDFW Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program (VegCAMP) list of Sensitive Natural Vegetation Communities and may qualify as ESHA under California

Coastal Commission guidelines. All other vegetation communities encountered are either dominated by native species not listed or ranked as sensitive in CA or are non-native, planted, or escaped ornamentals and invasives common to disturbed areas and ruderal vegetation communities in the region (J. Regan Consulting, 2023b).

A comprehensive reconnaissance survey was conducted to assess the presence and utilization of special-status animal species within most of the habitat features. This survey specifically included species derived from the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) list and focused on their potential occurrence in both the proposed project area and the surrounding habitats. No special-status wildlife species were observed during the initial reconnaissance site survey. The species audibly observed during this initial survey include mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) and common raven (*Corvus corax*).

Table 1. The 25 special-status species with known occurrences within 2-miles of the Study Area with CDFW Status, Global Rank, State Rank and Rare Plant Rank.

Scientific Name	Common Name	State Status	Federal Status	Global Rank	State Rank	CDFW Status	Rare Plant Rank
Lichens							
<i>Sulcaria spiralifera</i>	twisted horsehair lichen	None	None	G3G4	S2	-	1B.2
Ferns							
<i>Lycopodium clavatum</i>	running-pine	None	None	G5	S3	-	4.1
Dicots							
<i>Castilleja litoralis</i>	Oregon coast paintbrush	None	None	G3	S3	-	2B.2
<i>Empetrum nigrum</i>	black crowberry	None	None	G5	S1?	-	2B.2
<i>Gilia capitata ssp. pacifica</i>	Pacific gilia	None	None	G5T3	S2	-	1B.2
<i>Layia carnosa</i>	Beach layia	Threatened	Endangered	G2	S2	-	1B.1
<i>Oenothera wolfii</i>	Wolf's evening primrose	None	None	G2	S1	-	1B.1
<i>Romanzoffia tracyi</i>	Tracy's romanzoffia	None	None	G4	S2	-	2B.3

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Monocots							
<i>Carex leptalea</i>	bristle-stalked sedge	None	None	G5	S1	-	2B.2
Amphibians							
<i>Ascaphus truei</i>	Pacific tailed frog	None	None	G4	S3S4	SSC	-
<i>Rana aurora</i>	Northern red-legged frog	None	None	G4	S3	SSC	-
<i>Rhyacotriton variegatus</i>	Southern torrent salamander	None	None	G3G	S2S3	SSC	-
Birds							
<i>Cerorhinca monocerata</i>	Rhinoceros auklet	None	None	G5	S3	WL	-
<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	American peregrine falcon	Delisted	Delisted	G4T4	S3S4	FP	-
<i>Fratercula cirrhata</i>	Tufted puffin	None	None	G5	S1S2	SSC	-
<i>Hydrobates furcatus</i>	Fork-tailed storm-petrel	None	None	G5	S1	SSC	-
<i>Nannopterum auritum</i>	Double-crested cormorant	None	None	G5	S4	WL	-
<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Bank swallow	None	Threatened	G5	S2	-	-
Fishes							
<i>Spirinchus thaleichthys</i>	Longfin smelt	Candidate	Threatened	G5	S1	-	-
<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii clarkii</i>	Coast cutthroat trout	None	None	G5	SNR	SSC	-
Insects							
<i>Bombus caliginosus</i>	Obscure bumble bee	None	None	G2G3	S1S2	-	-
Mammals							

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<i>Aplodontia rufa humboldtiana</i>	Humboldt mountain beaver	None	None	G5TNR	SNR	-	-
<i>Arborimus albipes</i>	White footed vole	None	None	G3G4	S2	SSC	-
<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>	North American Porcupine	None	None	G5	S3	-	-
<i>Eumetopias jubatus</i>	Steller Sea Lion	Delisted	None	G3	S2	-	-

Analysis

a) Finding: The project will not 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 CDFW or USFWS. *Less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated.*

Discussion: Based on the Botanical Survey Report, no rare, threatened, sensitive, or endangered plants listed in the state of California were located onsite (J. Regan Consulting, 2023b). As previously mentioned, uncommon plants (CRPR 4) were detected during botanical surveys. A total of 46 special-status animal species were identified in the Trinidad 7.5 quadrangle CNDDDB database query, as well as from other databases and local knowledge of the biologist, as having potential to occur in the project vicinity. The database query included birds, mammals, amphibians, insects, and fish. (Naiad, 2023) none of which were found onsite.

Hohman and Associates Forestry Consultants have conducted comprehensive protocol-level surveys for Northern spotted owls during the 2023 and 2024 seasons. These surveys involved the use of "calling" techniques to detect the presence or absence of species within the project location. Currently, 2025 season surveys are being conducted to reaffirm the absence of the species in the surrounding habitat, thus ensuring that the proposed project will not have any adverse impact on these owls.

No special status species were identified on the project site during reconnaissance surveys. However, due to the possibility of these species existing onsite, the implementation of mitigation measures detailed in the Mitigation Measure section below, as recommended in the Botanical and Biological Reports (J. Regan Consulting 2023a and 2023b, and Naiad, 2023), can effectively avoid and mitigate potential impacts to listed aquatic and terrestrial species. By incorporating these measures, the project will achieve a less than significant impact on all species with the potential for occurrences.

In order to ensure a less than significant impact to special-status animal species project design and mitigation measures have been incorporated covering a wide range of scope. Project design measures start with project planning. The project aims to minimize impacts on riparian areas, forests, and non-forested habitats through strategic design. Recommendations include limiting the footprint within the riparian zone, avoiding expansion towards the creek or steep slopes, and conducting road work during the dry season. Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be employed during development and construction to prevent the entry of sediment, fuels, or contaminants into terrestrial and aquatic environments. BMPs involve erosion control measures, centralized in construction equipment areas. Pre-construction surveys for amphibians, nesting birds, raptors, northern spotted owls, and special status mammals, and treatment of invasive English Ivy. Specific protective measures and consultations with relevant agencies are outlined for each.

These measures have been designed to ensure that the project has a less than significant impact on special-status animal species with mitigation incorporated. These measures include implementing Best Management Practices, protection of aquatic/riparian resources setback zone, preconstruction visual encounter surveys for amphibians completed within three day of construction activities, preconstruction nesting bird surveys prior to any ground disturbance or vegetation clearing, northern spotted owl surveys and preconstruction surveys for special-status mammal species. These are described in detail below as Mitigation Measure BIO-1 through BIO-5. These measures have been put in place to avoid significant impacts to special status species that are believed to be absent from the project area. If special status species are found during surveys, additional protection measures can be incorporated at that time through consultation with resource agencies (e.g. CDFW).

- b) Finding: The project will not have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by CDFW or USFWS. *Less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated.*

Discussion: According to the Wetland Report, the area north of the project contains a sizable gently sloping perennial watercourse and two perennial tributaries supporting native riparian herbaceous vegetation as well as an approximately one-quarter acre area (9,670 ft²) perennial seep/slope wetland which originates on the southern slopes of the perennial watercourse in the northern portion of the study area (J. Regan Consulting, 2023a). The entire northern end of the parcel adjacent to the project is considered riparian habitat, and Sensitive Vegetation Communities, including Redwood Forest and Woodland Alliance (G3, S3, CDFW Sensitive) and Red Alder Forest Alliance (G4, S3, CDFW Sensitive), are in the study area. Although CDFW designates these communities as "sensitive," the state ranking does not warrant higher protection measures. The biological report determined the following, "given the human disturbance, presence of invasive species, and history of logging, the stands of both Redwood Forest and Woodland Alliance and Red Alder Alliance are not considered high quality and should not warrant special protection" (Naiad, 2023).

The proposed construction at North Westhaven Drive will impact several trees but only outside of the riparian area (J. Regan Consulting, 2023b). A 100-foot buffer/setback has been established by the project biologist to protect riparian habitat and strategically delineated around identified habitats to serve as a protective measure for ESHA.

For this specific project, the presence of English ivy within the Study Area has significantly impacted the ecosystem by outcompeting other species. To reduce the adverse effects of nonnative and invasive species, the Biological Resources Assessment (Naiad, 2023) recommended giving priority to the removal of invasive species within the project site, particularly English ivy. Invasive species pose a significant threat to native flora and fauna, disrupting the ecosystem's natural balance. Through targeted eradication methods and ongoing monitoring, the project can effectively curtail their spread. To enhance the habitat, it is highly recommended to replace the removed species with a diverse selection of native plants. Native plants offer essential resources for local wildlife and contribute to overall biodiversity. Implementing this mitigation measure, along with continued monitoring and maintenance, will restore and enhance the project site's habitat, fostering ecological integrity and long-term sustainability.

Mitigation measures have been identified in the biological report and will be implemented to help ensure that the proposed project will have a less than significant impact on sensitive natural communities. These measures include implementing Best Management Practices, and a 100 ft aquatic resource setback to safeguard the wetland features and other aquatic habitats. These measures are included as Mitigation Measure BIO-1, BIO-2 & BIO-6 (Naiad, 2023). These measures will reduce impacts to riparian areas and sensitive communities by preventing erosion and the movement of contaminants and sediment beyond the project area and zoned PD area, especially in the case of significant ground disturbances, ensuring an appropriate setback and buffer between the development and the ESHA, and by ensuring any special status species and their habitat will be protected. The edge of the protected area shall be clearly marked in the field prior to site preparation activities.

- c) Finding: The project will not have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means. *Less than significant impact with mitigation.*

Discussion: The area north of the project site contains a large, relatively low gradient perennial watercourse with two perennial tributaries which contain native riparian herbaceous vegetation as well as an approximately one quarter-acre area (9,670 ft²) perennial seep/slope wetland which originates on the southern slopes of the perennial watercourse in the northern portion of the study area. These slope wetlands have positive indicators of wetland soils, perennial hydrology, and native hydrophytic vegetation. This area is delineated as a three-parameter wetland that would fall under the jurisdiction of the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and be considered a wetland under the definitions of

state and local agencies. Impacts to these wetland features will be avoided, and considered less than significant, since the project will adhere to Federal, State, and local ordinances, as well as obtaining appropriate permits and implementing required measures outlined by those permits for alterations. Protection measures include implementing Best Management Practices, and a 100 ft aquatic resource setback to safeguard the wetland features and other aquatic habitats. These measures are included as Mitigation Measure BIO-1 & BIO-2. These measures will reduce impacts to riparian areas and sensitive communities by leaving those areas undisturbed, by preventing erosion and the movement of contaminants and sediment beyond the project area and zoned PD area, especially in the case of significant ground disturbances, ensuring an appropriate setback and buffer between the development and the ESHA, and by ensuring any special status species and their habitat will be protected. The edge of the protected area shall be clearly marked in the field prior to site preparation activities.

- d) Finding: The project will not impact with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. *Less than significant impact with mitigation.*

Discussion: There are no proposed significant long-term modifications that could disrupt native resident fish and wildlife species. Protection measures incorporated to protect wetlands, and riparian habitat will also prevent significant interference with the stream corridor and therefore to important corridors and nursery sites for fish and wildlife. These measures include implementation of Best Management Practices, a 100 ft aquatic resource setback, pre-construction surveys for amphibians, preconstruction nesting bird survey, and preconstruction surveys for special status mammals. These measures are included as Mitigation Measure BIO-1 through BIO-5. These measures will reduce impacts to wildlife by preserving habitat within the property and retaining a corridor to adjacent habitat off the property. Wildlife surveys will allow for early detection of species that may be present facilitating protection prior to disturbance.

- e) Finding: The project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: As described in the setting and discussions above, ESHA areas exist on the northern portion of the ownership; however, the project area to the south does not contain any significant biological resources including waterways, riparian vegetation, wetlands, or significant tree cover. The Trinidad General Plan biological resource protection policies (15-18) are fairly limited, focusing on riparian and rare plant habitats, neither of which exist within the development area. However, as discussed above, the northern portion of the property contains a large, relatively low-gradient perennial watercourse, with two perennial tributaries that support native riparian herbaceous vegetation. With the implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-6, the project would protect biological resources

and align with the relevant policies in the Trinidad General Plan. Therefore, the project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances aimed at protecting biological resources, such as tree preservation policies or ordinances.

- f) Finding: The project would not 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.*

Discussion: There are no applicable Habitat Conservation Plans or Natural Community Conservation Plans applicable to the project site or in the project vicinity. Therefore, the proposed project will not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Plan, or other approved plan applicable to the project area.

Cumulative Impact:

Mitigation measures recommended by the biological reports have been incorporated to ensure that project construction and maintenance activities shall have an insignificant impact on special status species or their habitats. The project is determined to have a less than significant cumulative impact with mitigation incorporated on various environmental factors. Regarding species of concern, the implementation of recommended mitigation measures outlined in the Botanical and Biological Reports (J Regan Consulting, 2023b and Naiad, 2023) is expected to effectively avoid and mitigate potential impacts to aquatic and terrestrial species. Identified mitigation measures proposed include minimizing the project footprint and adopting specific measures tailored to each individual species. In addition, project planning and design minimizes impacts on riparian areas, forests, and non-forested habitats. Pre-construction surveys for various species are proposed, each with specific protective measures, ensuring a less than significant impact on special-status animal species. The cumulative impact assessment further finds that the project will not significantly affect riparian habitats or other sensitive natural communities, federally protected wetlands, movement of native resident or migratory fish and wildlife species, or local policies protecting biological resources. Additionally, the project is determined not to conflict with adopted habitat conservation plans, supporting a less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated where applicable.

Mitigation Measures:

The following mitigation measures, aimed at the protection of special-status animal species and their habitats shall be followed through the development of the proposed project and operations:

BIO-1 Best Management Practices: During the development and construction of this project BMPs shall be used to prevent sediment, fuels or contaminants from entering the surrounding terrestrial and aquatic environments/habitats. Complete lists of BMPs for project specific actions can be found at California State Water Resources Control Board BMP Databases and Humboldt County: Title III - Land Use and Development - Division 3 - Building Regulations (Ch. 7 § 337-13)7. The implementation of specific BMPs will be

dependent on the project construction methods and timing and shall be explicitly described in the construction plan to be approved by the City of Trinidad.

Essential BMPs for this project shall encompass the installation of erosion control measures such as silt fences, berms, and waddles. Additionally, construction equipment fueling and maintenance activities will be centralized at a designated location on the project site, or off-site if feasible, situated at least 200 feet away from any wetland or other aquatic habitat. This designated area shall be clear of vegetation, level, and equipped with fuel mats to contain potential spills. Construction activities shall be limited to daylight hours. A thorough inspection of equipment for hydraulic fluid, oil, or fuel leaks will be conducted every morning and periodically throughout the day during construction. If any leaks are identified, they must be promptly repaired before any further work is carried out to prevent the release of pollutants into nearby watercourses.

BIO-2 100 ft Aquatic Resource Setback: To protect the wetland features and other aquatic habitats in the Study Area, it is essential to maintain the 100-foot Aquatic Resource Setback shown in Figure 2 herein and as detailed in the Biological Resources Assessment (Naiad, 2025). This buffer has been strategically delineated around identified habitats to safeguard ESHA. Maintaining this setback throughout all phases of project planning and implementation is critical to preserving the aquatic resources, as well as the plants and animals that depend on them.

Additionally, to prevent project-related activities or equipment from encroaching on the setback, an exclusion fence shall be installed along the 100-foot line from the top of the bank prior to construction. This will ensure that no equipment or activities enter the ESHA or disturb the aquatic habitats.

BIO-3 Preconstruction Visual Encounter Surveys for Amphibians: Given the presence of perennial water in the Study Area and the potential for special status amphibian species to inhabit adjacent upland areas, preconstruction visual encounter surveys for amphibians shall be conducted within three days before any construction begins. These surveys are designed to identify and document amphibian species that may be affected by the proposed project.

Qualified biologists or herpetologists, experienced in amphibian identification and habitat assessment, shall carry out these site-specific surveys in accordance with established protocols. The surveys should involve a systematic search using techniques such as visual observations, dip netting, and trapping, while also documenting overall habitat conditions—including vegetation cover, water quality, and other critical features. If special-status amphibian species are detected, consultation with CDFW staff will be initiated to develop and implement appropriate mitigation measures.

In addition, to ensure that no amphibians enter the construction area during project activities, an exclusion fence shall be installed along the 100-foot buffer from the top of the

bank shown in Figure 2 herein and as detailed in the Biological Resources Assessment (Naiad, 2025). This fence must be constructed from durable, noncorrosive materials, stand at least 4 feet tall, and feature mesh openings no larger than 1/4 inch. The fence's base will extend at least 6 inches into the ground or incorporate an L-shaped barrier to prevent burrowing. Regular inspections and maintenance are critical to ensure the fence remains intact and effective throughout the construction period.

BIO-4 Preconstruction Nesting Bird Surveys: Prior to any ground disturbance or vegetation clearing, preconstruction nesting bird surveys must be conducted to confirm the absence of bird species within the proposed project area and its potential impact zone within the Study Area. A qualified biologist shall undertake these surveys within approximately 500 feet of the project area, no sooner than 7 days prior to construction commencement and prior to any vegetation removal. These surveys should be conducted during the breeding season, typically spanning from February 1 to August 31, to identify active nests and nesting behavior, thereby enabling the avoidance or mitigation of impacts to nesting birds during construction.

Experienced biologists proficient in identifying and documenting nesting bird behavior utilize various survey techniques, including visual and auditory surveys as well as nest searches. These methods are designed to minimize disturbances to nesting birds, ensuring no loud noises or excessive light disrupt their nesting activities.

If active nests are discovered during the survey, temporary exclusion zones must be established to protect them from construction activities. The size of these exclusion zones will be determined based on the specific species, the type of activities occurring nearby, and the location of the nest. These zones should be clearly marked and remain in place until the birds have fledged and vacated the nest. Biologists should continuously monitor active nests during construction to ensure that activities do not adversely affect them. They should also work closely with the construction team to adjust activities as needed to minimize impacts on nesting birds.

BIO 5- Preconstruction Surveys for Special-Status Mammal Species: Preconstruction surveys for all special-status mammal species with the potential to occur within the Study Area will be conducted prior to any grading or habitat alteration that could be suitable for denning/nesting. These surveys aim to identify and document the presence of these species within or in proximity to the proposed project area. These surveys must be carried out by qualified biologists with expertise in identifying these special-status mammal species and their specific habitat requirements. The surveys shall be tailored to the site and adhere to established protocols and methodologies. During the surveys, biologists will systematically search the project area for signs of these special-status mammal species, including burrows, tracks, and other indicators of activity. If any of these special-status mammal species or signs of their presence are discovered within or near the project area, CDFW staff shall be notified immediately, and appropriate mitigation measures will be developed and put into practice

to mitigate potential impacts. These measures may involve project design adjustments to avoid disturbing their habitats or implementing protection.

BIO 6- Treatment of Invasive English Ivy: Manual removal of English ivy will occur to prevent its further spread and establishment. Manual removal entails physically pulling or cutting the ivy vines at their base and is particularly effective for small infestations that require precision to avoid harming surrounding vegetation. However, manual removal can be labor-intensive, especially in larger areas. Diligent efforts are essential to ensure the complete removal of the plant, including its roots, to prevent regrowth. This method aligns with environmentally friendly practices, minimizing chemical use, making it suitable for projects with ecological concerns. Regular monitoring and maintenance are typically required to prevent ivy resurgence, emphasizing the importance of ongoing vigilance throughout the removal process.

All climbing English ivy within the project area shall be cut 6 feet above the ground so that it cannot re-root into the substrate. Vines shall be collected and taken to a green-waste facility. Young plants and runners on the ground shall be hand-pulled when the soil is moist, to ensure all roots are removed. Repeated treatments of removal over multiple years are required for successful management.

*Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration: YIHA Trinidad Housing Development
North Westhaven Drive Trinidad, California*

5. 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 as defined in '15064.5?		X		
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to '15064.5?		X		
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?		X		

Note: Archaeological and other heritage resources can be damaged or destroyed through uncontrolled public disclosure. Archaeological site locations and culturally sensitive information are considered confidential and public access to such information is restricted by state and federal law, therefore, this information has been redacted for use in the MND. Professionally qualified individuals, as determined by the California Office of Historic Preservation, may contact the lead agency directly in order to inquire about its availability.

Information regarding the location, character or ownership of a historic resource is exempt from the Freedom of Information Act pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 470w-3; Section 304 of the National Historic Preservation Act, 36 CFR 800(6)(a)(5) and 36 CFR 800.11(c); Section 9(a) of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act; Executive Order 13007; Section 6254.10 and GC 6254(r) of the California State Government Code and the California Public Records Act (CPRA); and the 2005 California Senate Bill 922.

Setting:

The City of Trinidad lies within the traditional territory of the Yurok people who lived within the Trinidad area and the ancestral village of Tsurai located approximately one-half mile southwest of the project site which is listed on the California Register of Historic Places. The surrounding areas, including all of the Trinidad townsite and Trinidad Head, as well as the coastal margin to the north and south are part of an associated cultural landscape with immeasurable significance to the Yurok people, who are now part of the Trinidad Rancheria, Tsurai Ancestral Society, and Yurok Tribe. The Yurok Tribe considers Tsurai Village and Trinidad Head to be sacred sites, as well as areas of archaeological and cultural significance.

Although no specific Native American archaeological sites are known directly in the project parcel and none were found during the field survey, it is anticipated that such deposits could exist. Historic research indicated that the general area has a high potential for native American archaeological sites. Pre-contact era archaeological site indicators

would predominantly include stone tools or chert and obsidian, stone tool debitage, ground stone implements, milling stone features, locally darkened midden soils, possibly shell and/or bone debris, pit features and rock alignments. Site types associated with Native American religious activity could include cupule boulders, rock rings and prominent outcrops, as well as human remains.

Trinidad, one of the oldest cities in California, is also historically significant. One of the first recorded contacts in the area were Spanish traders in 1775, Heceta and Bodega anchored in Trinidad Bay for nine days, traded with the Yuroks, Bodega cited by Gould. After this date the area was visited by numerous ships from various places and overland primarily to trade with the Native Americans. Trinidad was an important supply port for the gold rush along the Trinity River and served as the County seat of Klamath County. Trinidad has also been an important center for logging, whaling, and fishing industries. This raises the possibility of encountering Euroamerican historic resources. Historic period cultural resources associated with Gold Rush-era Trinidad could be located in the project vicinity. Expected historic period cultural resource indicators include ceramic, glass or metal artifacts; structures; trails; tailings and pits.

Analysis:

- a) Finding: The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5. *Less than significant impact with mitigation.*

Discussion: A Cultural Resources Investigation was completed by the Archaeological Research and Supply Company (ARSC) in February 2025. Background research for this investigation included a records search and background literature review. The literature review for this project included an examination of historical maps, records and published documents. The archaeological report field survey concluded that no historical resources were found. However, it does note that 14 prehistoric and historic resources have been previously recorded within this ¼-mile buffer. As a result, due to the sensitivity of the area, the report recommends that a qualified monitor, specifically a tribal cultural resources specialist from either Trinidad Rancheria, Yurok Tribe, Tsurai Ancestral Society, Big Lagoon Rancheria, or Resighini Rancheria (now Pulikla Tribe of Yurok People), and/or a qualified archaeologist, be present during the project with an inadvertent discovery protocol be in place. The recommendations from the Cultural Resources Assessment Report are included as Mitigation Measure CUL-1 for the project. With the implementation of Mitigation Measure CUL-1, the project will not cause adverse impacts to historic resources.

- b) Finding: The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5. *Less than significant with mitigation.*

Discussion: The City of Trinidad lies within the traditional territory of the Yurok people who lived within the Trinidad area and the ancestral village of Tsurai. There are recorded archeological sites within the Trinidad area. Qualified professionals can refer to the 2025

Cultural Resources Investigation Report, prepared for the proposed project, for further details regarding archaeological sites.

Background research for this investigation included a records search at the Northwest Information Center (NWIC) and a background literature review. The literature review for this project included an examination of historical maps, records and published documents. The entire 3.05-acre parcel was surveyed by qualified staff of Archaeological Research and Supply Company, in February of 2025. The area of potential effect (APE) had poor 0-25% visibility. Ten to 20-meter pedestrian transects were used within the survey area. The archaeological report concludes that no archaeological resources were located during the survey. However, it does note that 14 prehistoric and historic resources have been previously recorded within this ¼-mile buffer.

Due to the sensitivity of the buffer area, the report recommends that a qualified monitor, specifically a tribal cultural resources specialist from either Trinidad Rancheria, Yurok Tribe, Tsurai Ancestral Society, Big Lagoon Rancheria, or Resighini Rancheria (now Pulikla Tribe of Yurok People), and/or a qualified archaeologist, be present during the project. Based in past experience and consultation with local Tribal entities, it is the City's policy to require qualified cultural monitors to be from the Trinidad Rancheria, Tsurai Ancestral Society, or Yurok Tribe. The recommendations from the Cultural Resources Assessment Report, modified to include the City's standard policies, are included as Mitigation Measure CUL-1 for the project. With the implementation of Mitigation Measure CUL-1, the project will not cause adverse impacts to archaeological resources.

c) Finding: The project will not disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries. *Less than significant impact with mitigation.*

Discussion: The archaeological report concludes that no historic or precontact era resources were located during the survey. However, it does note that 14 prehistoric and historic resources have been previously recorded within this ¼-mile buffer. As a result, due to the sensitivity of the buffer area, the report recommends that a qualified monitor, specifically a tribal cultural resources specialist from either Trinidad Rancheria, Yurok Tribe, Tsurai Ancestral Society, Big Lagoon Rancheria, or Resighini Rancheria, and/or a qualified archaeologist, be present during the project. The recommendations from the Cultural Resources Assessment Report are included as Mitigation Measure CUL-1 for the project. With the implementation of Mitigation Measure CUL-1, the project will not cause adverse impacts to resources.

Mitigation Measures:

CUL-1 Cultural Monitoring and Inadvertent Discovery Protocols: To ensure that the proposed project does not cause adverse impacts to historic and prehistoric archaeological resources, the applicant and its construction contractors shall be responsible for implementing the following mitigation measures:

Monitoring of ground disturbing activities by a qualified cultural monitor or tribal cultural resource specialist from either Trinidad Rancheria, Yurok Tribe, or Tsurai Ancestral Society, and/or a qualified archaeologist shall be required for this project during ground disturbing activities. The Monitors must be kept informed by the contractor and understand the ground disturbance schedule. Field notes shall be kept by the Cultural Resource Monitor and a brief letter report of the monitoring effort filed with the North Coastal Information Center. The Monitors need only be present during ground disturbing activities.

The qualified archaeologist and tribal cultural resource monitors shall have the authority to stop all work if archaeological materials are discovered. If buried archaeological resources are discovered during project implementation, all work shall be halted within 100 feet of the find and tribal representatives, city officials and qualified archaeologists shall be contacted immediately by the monitoring tribal cultural resource professional and qualified archaeologist to evaluate the find.

If human remains are discovered during project implementation, all work shall be halted, and the permitting agency shall be contacted immediately. The City shall contact the County Coroner immediately and the coroner will evaluate the find to determine the subsequent course of action. Inadvertent discovery procedures included below.

If suspected archaeological resources are encountered during the project:

1. The Cultural Resource Monitors, archaeological or tribal, shall have the authority to stop work within 100' of the find.
2. Call the City project representative, a professional archaeologist and representatives from the Trinidad Rancheria, Big Lagoon Rancheria, Resighini Rancheria, Tsurai Ancestral Society and the Yurok Tribe.
3. The Tribes, professional archaeologist and City officials will coordinate to provide an assessment of the find and determine the significance and recommend next steps.

If human remains are encountered:

1. All work shall stop and per CA Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5:
2. Call the Humboldt County Coroner: (707) 445-7242.
3. The Coroner will determine if the remains are of precontact/historic Native American origin. If the remains are Native American, then;
4. The Humboldt County Coroner will contact the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours.
5. The NAHC is responsible under CA PRC 5097.98. (a) for identifying the most likely descendent (MLD) immediately and providing contact information. Within 48 hours the MLD may contact the landowner, and with landowner permission inspect the location, making subsequent recommendations regarding the most appropriate disposition of their descendent.

6. 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?			X	
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy and energy efficiency?			X	

Setting

The energy setting of Trinidad, CA is characterized by its reliance on a combination of renewable and non-renewable energy sources. The town is primarily served by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), which provides electricity to the region from a mix of sources, including natural gas, hydroelectric, and renewable energy. The town has a growing interest in renewable energy, but relies heavily on non-renewable energy sources such as propane and gasoline/diesel for heating and transportation.

Analysis

a) Finding: The project would not result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: During construction of the proposed project, energy would be consumed in the form of petroleum-based fuels used to power construction vehicles, equipment, portable generators, construction worker travel, and delivery trucks. Construction activities will consist of site preparations, grading, trenching, paving, and building construction. There are no unusual project characteristics that would need construction equipment or practices that would be less energy efficient than at comparable construction sites in the region or state. Construction activity would be temporary and fuel consumption would cease once construction ends. Further, various equipment would be supplied by onsite generators and would not require permanent connectors to or otherwise burden local utilities. Due to the temporary nature of construction activities, the fuel and energy needed during project construction would not be considered a wasteful or inefficient use of energy. Therefore, it is expected that construction energy consumption would be comparable to other similar construction projects and is not considered to be inefficient, wasteful, or unnecessary.

Energy use during long term operation of the project will increase slightly from that of pre-project levels. The energy will be consumed in the form of electricity from the power grid and propane for gas appliances and the emergency backup generator during times of power

outages. As required by State regulations and the City of Trinidad building code, the design and construction of the residential units would be in accordance with California's Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings (Title 24, Part 6, of the California Code of Regulations). These requirements regulate insulation, window space and type, and other building features to maximize structural energy efficiency. These standards also require the installation of solar panels on the new buildings to offset electricity use. Compliance with these standards restricts unnecessary residential energy consumption and would result in the new buildings being energy efficient, which reduces wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less than significant impact on this resource category.

b) **Finding:** The project would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy and energy efficiency. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: California passed AB 32 which requires local governments to take an active role in addressing climate change and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions using methods such as energy efficiency in new development. Trinidad does not have local plans for renewable energy or energy efficiency. However, the City is participating in the development of a Regional Climate Action Plan (RCAP), which includes policies and implementation actions to increase renewable energy and energy efficiency. The proposed project will not interfere with the implementation of the RCAP once adopted. Therefore, it has been determined that the proposed project would not conflict or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency, and the proposed project would result in a less than significant impact in this resource category.

Cumulative Impact:

The project is determined to have a less than significant impact on energy resources, both during construction and long-term operation. Construction activities, involving the temporary use of energy in the form of petroleum-based fuels, are not expected to be wasteful or inefficient, with no unusual characteristics deviating from comparable construction sites in the region or state. Long-term operation will see a slight increase in energy consumption consistent with residential uses. This increased energy usage is not deemed wasteful or inefficient. Additionally, the project aligns with California's AB 32, showing consistency with local efforts to address climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy-efficient practices in new development. Consequently, the proposed project is anticipated to have no impact on energy resources and is in accordance with state and local plans for renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Mitigation Measures:

Based on the above evaluation, no mitigation measures are required for the project to result in a less than significant impact.

*Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration: YIHA Trinidad Housing Development
North Westhaven Drive Trinidad, California*

7. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Expose people or structures to 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.			X	
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?			X	
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?			X	
iv) Landslides?			X	
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			X	
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?			X	
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?			X	
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?			X	
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?		X		

Setting:

The entire Trinidad area is underlain by a geologic unit commonly referred to as the Franciscan Formation, or Franciscan Complex. Franciscan rocks have their origins in the deep sea, where they were formed by turbidity currents that deposited sand, mud, gravel,

and silica from the shells of marine creatures. Geologists refer to this formation as a *mélange* because of its mixture of different rock types.

Local topography is characterized by a series of marine terraces, which in cross-section have the appearance of wide stair steps. These gently sloping surfaces were formed in the geologic past by wave erosion and deposition and have been moved above sea level due to periodic sea-level changes and uplifting of the coastline. The terrace surfaces range in elevation from about 60 feet at the western edge of town, to 250 feet at the eastern edge. Most of the ground surface in Trinidad has a slope of 15% or less, but steeper slopes are found at sea cliffs, stream banks, and the boundaries between marine terraces (Streamline Planning Consultants, 2007).

The project area is located within the northern Coast Ranges Geologic Province which is a seismically active area in which large earthquakes may be expected to occur during the economic lifespan (50 years) within the entire project area. The entire northern coast of California is subject to seismic activity, due mainly to the proximity of the Triple Junction. Multiple tectonic plates (pieces of the Earth's crust) collide off the coast of northern California and southern Oregon to form the Triple Junction, which also forms the southern end of the Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ), a 750-mile-long thrust fault capable of producing very large earthquakes. According to the State of California (Dept. of Conservation) Special Studies Zones Maps, the project site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Zone, though one does cross the City in a northwest direction just west of the project parcel (part of the Mad River Fault).

Slope instability is a concern, particularly near coastal bluffs. Several types of slope failure have the potential to occur in the Trinidad area. Earthflows and debris flows are the most common and tend to happen on the clay-rich material of the Franciscan matrix. This type of landslide poses a danger to structures because it often involves the movement of large blocks of material. Active flows are generally characterized by a "head" scarp at the upslope end and either a lumpy "toe" of debris or a cohesive block of material at the downslope end, so they can be recognized in the field. (Streamline Planning Consultants, 2007)

Analysis

a.i) Finding: The project would not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act was passed in 1972 to mitigate the hazard of surface faulting to structures for human occupancy. This act prohibits the siting of structures designed for human occupancy across active faults and regulates construction within fault zones. Within Trinidad, the Trinidad Fault (part of the Mad River

Fault Zone) has been designated under the Alquist-Priolo Act of 1972. The zone encompasses about 60 acres, or 19% of the land within the City limits. In this zone, any new development of structures for human occupancy, including wood-framed, single-family residences two stories or less in height in groups of four or more, would be required to undergo a geologic study before a building permit would be issued.

Per the California Department of Conservation (DOC) California Geological Survey Fault Activity Map system, the closest active fault to the project site is the Mad River Fault Zone, which is located on the western side of Highway 101 (DOC, 2024). Though the hazard zone extends to the east of 101, it does not affect the subject parcel. As such, there are no known active faults traversing the project site and the project site is not located in an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone.

a.ii) Finding: The project would not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: The project area is located within the northern Coast Ranges Geologic Province which is a seismically active area in which large earthquakes may be expected to occur during the economic lifespan of any development within the project area. The extent of ground-shaking during an earthquake is controlled by the earthquake magnitude and intensity, distance to the epicenter, and the geologic conditions in the area. Trinidad and much of the surrounding region has been mapped (Earthquake Shaking Potential for California, CGS) as being in a region that is near major, active faults and will on average experience stronger earthquake shaking more frequently than many other areas in California. This intense shaking can damage even strong, modern buildings, which are designed to protect lives, but not necessarily avoid catastrophic damage. However, this is not unique to Trinidad, and the City is already subject to the highest level of seismic building standards as outlined in the Uniform Building Code and California Building Code. Therefore, impacts related to strong seismic ground shaking will be less than significant.

a.iii) Finding: The project would not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: Liquefaction is the transformation of saturated, loose, fine-grained sediment to a fluid-like state because of earthquake shaking or other rapid loading. Liquefaction is known to occur in loose or moderately saturated granular soils with poor drainage. The ancestral alluvial deposit at the site where new development is proposed is well compacted as can be observed along the access road and the exposed terrace at the site. Due to the lack of loosely consolidated material and the nature of the substrate surrounding the project site, the potential for liquefaction is greatly reduced. According to the Humboldt County WebGIS and other mapping (e.g. CDMG), there is low potential for liquefaction to occur in the Trinidad area (Humboldt County, 2024).

In July 2018, 2020, Pacific Watershed Associates, from Arcata CA, provided an On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems Feasibility Report for the existing site. Five (5) subsurface exploration test pits were excavated by backhoe to depths ranging from seven to eight feet below ground surface. In general, site soils consisted of Sandy Loam and Loamy Sand with underlain evidence of sands and coarse gravels. TVCE (2025a) found that based on the geographical setting and results of the soils investigation, it is determined that the existing site has a low probability of seismic liquefaction. Therefore, the project will not expose people or structures to substantial adverse effects involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction.

a.iv) Finding: The project would not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: The youthful topography within the coast range is known for its potential for mass wasting in the form of rotational/translational slides, debris torrents, and debris slide slopes. The proposed development area is located on a mostly flat site, with steep slopes mainly found along the Parker Creek corridor on the northern part of the property. The project site is not mapped as being unstable or of questionable stability on Plate 3 of the Trinidad General Plan (City of Trinidad, 1978). More recent NRCS soils data also does not show the site as having soils with high or moderate slippage potential (NRCS, 2023). The project does not involve any construction or development within the sloped area. Additionally, the proposed project incorporates an erosion control plan to ensure that storm runoff is directed away from any potential unstable areas that could exist within the site onto gentle, well vegetated, stable topography. Therefore, with the implementation of BMP's as well as compliance with the specific erosion control and surface erosion prevention practices, and setbacks from the riparian corridor, the project would not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects involving landslides.

b) Finding: The project would not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: Construction activities, including cut, fill, removal of vegetation, and operation of heavy equipment would disturb soil and, therefore, have the potential to cause erosion. An erosion control plan has been drafted for the project and a final grading and erosion control plan will be approved by the City in accordance with the City's Grading Ordinance prior to the start of construction and soil disturbance. The erosion control plan shall include BMPs designed to reduce erosion of exposed soil and minimize the sediment entrained in runoff from the site during construction. BMPs may include silt fences, straw bales and wattles, soil stabilization controls, site watering for controlling dust, and sediment detention basins.

In general, the project is designed to reduce erosion potential through LID designs and BMPs. The proposed project will require City approval of a Grading Permit and any erosion

and sediment control plan and grading, drainage and erosion control specifications will be addressed during the permit process per City standards consistent with Chapter 15.16 (Grading) of the Trinidad Municipal Code. Therefore, the proposed project will not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil.

- c) Finding: The project would not 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. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: The project site is not mapped as being unstable or of questionable stability on Plate 3 of the Trinidad General Plan (City of Trinidad, 1978). More recent NRCS soils data also does not show the site as having soils with high or moderate slippage potential (NRCS, 2023). In July 2018, 2020, Pacific Watershed Associates, from Arcata CA, provided an On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems Feasibility Report for the existing site. Five (5) subsurface exploration test pits were excavated by backhoe to depths ranging from seven to eight feet below ground surface. In general, site soils consisted of Sandy Loam and Loamy Sand with underlain evidence of sands and coarse gravels. TVCE (2025a) found that based on the geographical setting and results of the soils investigation, it is determined that the existing site has a low probability of soil strength loss or liquefaction. Therefore, the project will not be located on a soil or geologic unit that is potentially unstable.

- d) Finding: The project would not be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the UBC (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: As discussed above, though a portion of the property has steep slopes, the property is mapped as being stable and no soil hazards were identified based on site specific soil testing. Therefore, the project would not create substantial risks to life or property.

- e) Finding: The project would not 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. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: The project will be served by an onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS) meeting all applicable requirements. In July 2018, 2020, Pacific Watershed Associates, from Arcata CA, provided an On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems Feasibility Report for the existing site. Five (5) subsurface exploration test pits were excavated by backhoe to depths ranging from seven to eight feet below ground surface. The soil data from the PWA report was used by TVCE (2025a) to design a septic system consisting of a 6,000-gallon tank, a pressure-distribution leachfield and reserve area to serve the five proposed residences. TVCE found that the site is suitable for an OWTS meeting Humboldt County Division of Environmental Health (DEH) requirements. The applicant will be required to obtain an OWTS construction permit from DEH and the OWTS will also be subject to the City's OWTS

Management Program that requires all systems to be periodically inspected and maintained. Therefore, the project will not have soils incapable of adequately supporting an OWTS.

- f) Finding: The project would not directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature. Less than significant impact with mitigation

Discussion: There are no known unique paleontological resources, or unique geological features on or near the site. Regional uplifting and other seismic activity in the area have limited the potential for discovery of paleontological resources. However, there is a potential for unknown fossils to be discovered and inadvertently damaged during project construction even in an area with a low likelihood of occurrence. As such an inadvertent discovery protocol for paleontological resources has been included as Mitigation Measure GEO-1. With the proposed Mitigation Measure GEO-1, the project would not directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.

Cumulative Impact:

As described previously the project will not individually have geologic or soil related impacts that could have cumulatively considerable effects.

Mitigation Measures:

GEO-1-Paleontological Resources. If a paleontological discovery is made during construction, the contractor shall immediately cease all work activities in the vicinity (approximately 100 feet) of the discovery and shall immediately contact the County. A qualified paleontologist shall be retained to observe all subsequent grading and excavation activities. The paleontologist shall establish procedures for resource surveillance and establish, in cooperation with the project developer, procedures for temporarily halting or redirecting work to permit sampling, identification, and evaluation of fossils. If major resources are discovered that require temporarily halting or redirection of work, the paleontologist shall report such findings to the City. The paleontologist shall determine appropriate actions, in cooperation with the applicant and City that ensure proper explorations and/or salvage. Excavated finds shall first be offered to a state-designated repository such as the museum of Paleontology, University of California, Berkeley, or California Academy of Sciences. Otherwise, the finds shall be offered to the City for purposes of public education and interpretive displays. The paleontologist shall submit a follow up report to the County that shall include the period of inspection, an analysis of the fossils found, and the present repository of fossils.

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

Setting

The project site is located within the North Coast Air Basin, which is under the jurisdiction of the North Coast Air Quality Management District (NCAQMD). The NCAQMD applies air pollution regulations to all major stationary pollution sources and monitors air quality. GHGs are emitted into the atmosphere around from a variety of sources, including the combustion of fuel for energy and transportation, cement manufacturing, and refrigerant emissions. GHGs are those gases that have the ability to trap heat in the atmosphere, a process that is analogous to the way a greenhouse traps heat. GHGs may be emitted as a result of human activities, as well as through natural processes. Increasing GHG concentrations in the atmosphere are leading to global climate change.

The parcel is located next to Highway 101, which is a major transportation corridor for commercial and passenger vehicles, contributing to vehicle emissions. In addition, the region relies on some non-renewable energy sources such as propane and diesel, which also contribute to GHG emissions. The GHG emissions setting of Trinidad, CA is an important consideration in the CEQA process, as it can have significant impacts on the environment and public health.

The primary GHGs that are of concern for development projects include Carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O). CO₂, CH₄, and N₂O occur naturally, and through human activity. Emissions of CO₂ are largely by-products of fossil fuel combustion and CH₄ results from off-gassing associated with agricultural practices and landfills. CO₂ is the most common GHG emitted by human activities. As a result, CO₂ is sometimes used as a shorthand expression for all greenhouse gases, however, this can cause confusion, and a more accurate way of referring to several GHGs collectively is to use the term “carbon dioxide equivalent” or “CO₂e”. The Assembly Bill (AB) 32 Scoping Plan contains the main strategies California will use to reduce GHG emissions.

Humboldt County has existing programs in place that reduce and minimize GHG emissions. The City is participating with the County in developing a Regional Climate

Action Plan, which is currently undergoing the CEQA review process (Humboldt County 2024 and 2025).

- a) Finding: The project would not generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: GHG emission impacts are inherently cumulative in nature, given the global impact of climate change. Sources of greenhouse gas emissions from the project would occur during short-term construction activities (e.g., equipment) and long-term operation of the project (e.g., vehicular traffic, propane, and woodstoves). The proposed project would significantly impact GHG emissions if it were to generate substantial GHG emissions exceeding the CEQA thresholds of significance adopted by the NCUAQMD, City of Trinidad, or Humboldt County. None of these jurisdictions have adopted thresholds of significance for GHG emissions. Therefore, for the purpose of this analysis, the thresholds from other air districts in the state are used.

The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) thresholds are applied for construction, and the Mendocino County Air Quality Management District (MCAQMD) thresholds are used for operations. Both air districts have a CO_{2e} threshold of 1,100 metric tons per year (MT/yr.) (MCAQMD, 2013 & SMAQMD, 2020). It should be noted that an individual project's GHG emissions will generally not result in direct impacts under CEQA, as the climate change issue is global in nature, however an individual project could be found to contribute to a potentially significant cumulative impact.

Project construction activities would result in a small, temporary increase in GHG emissions, including exhaust emissions from on-road trucks, worker commute vehicles, and off-road heavy-duty equipment. Construction would require clearing, earthmoving, and delivery equipment, as used for similar projects, and which have been accounted for in the State's emission inventory and reduction strategy for both on and off-road vehicles. Paving and architectural coating are additional contributors. Additionally, the operation of the proposed project would generate GHG emissions from vehicle trips from residents, customers, workers and deliveries (VMT) and from gas and electric consumption in buildings resulting from heating, cooling, lighting, and appliance use.

Construction and operation emissions were estimated using CalEEMod version 2022.1.1.29 (Hohman and Associates, 2025) and were estimated to be approximately 261 metric tons of CO_{2e} from all construction activities. The project's construction emissions would be approximately 3.6 metric tons of CO_{2e} per year when annualized over the assumed 60-year lifespan of the housing project. Based on CalEEMod modeling, project emissions during construction of the project would not approach the threshold level of emissions, which is associated with much larger projects. Therefore, the project would not cause a considerable contribution to the cumulative GHG impact. Given the project's relatively limited scale, scope, and duration, it would not have a noticeable or considerable contribution to the

cumulative GHG impact. Project emissions of 3.6 metric tons of CO_{2e} per year (annualized construction) would be less than the 1,100 metric tons of CO_{2e} threshold applied. Therefore, the project's impact would be less than significant.

b) Finding: The project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gas. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: The City of Trinidad is a participant in the Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan which is in the environmental review stage and has not yet been adopted (Humboldt County 2024 and 2025). The proposed project is subject to numerous State and local regulations governing design, construction, and operation, aimed at curbing GHG emissions, enhancing energy efficiency, and ensuring compliance with the CARB Climate Change Scoping Plan (CARB, 2022). California boasts the most comprehensive GHG regulatory requirements in the U.S., influencing project-related emissions.

CARBs 2022 Climate Change Scoping Plan provides California's climate policy portfolio and recommended strategies to put the State on a pathway to achieve the 2045 GHG target. The scenario includes ongoing and statutorily required programs, continuing the Cap-and-Trade Program, and high-level objectives and goals to reduce GHGs across multiple economic sectors. Existing programs, also known as "known commitments," identified by the 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan include: SB 350, the LCFS, CARB's Mobile Source Strategy, SB 1383 for short-lived climate pollutants and California's Sustainable Freight Action Plan. The highlevel objective and goals recommendations cover the energy, transportation, industry, water, waste management, agriculture, and natural and working lands, and are to be implemented by a variety of State agencies.

Project construction would cause a temporary increase in GHGs; however, as discussed above in a), project emissions would not exceed the identified emission thresholds. Project construction has been analyzed for consistency with the 2022 Climate Change Scoping Plan. Although the project would produce a minor amount of construction-related emissions, the project would not conflict with these plans and policies and there would be no impact.

Cumulative Impact:

The project's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are determined to have less than significant impacts, both in terms of generation and compliance with relevant plans, policies, or regulations aimed at reducing emissions. While an individual project's GHG emissions are unlikely to have direct CEQA impacts due to the global nature of climate change, they may contribute to a cumulative impact. However, in the case of this project, the limited construction period and adherence current standards and permitting requirements indicate no significant cumulative impact on GHG emissions, as it does not increase baseline emissions or result in a net increase.

Mitigation Measures:

Based on the above evaluation, no mitigation measures are required for the project to result in a less than significant impact.

*Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration: YIHA Trinidad Housing Development
North Westhaven Drive Trinidad, California*

9. 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?			X	
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?			X	
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?			X	
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				X
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				X
f) Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?			X	
g) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized area or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?			X	

Setting:

There are several sources of hazardous materials that can affect Trinidad. Fuel oil spills are a constant threat from towing, parking and operation of fleet vehicles, visitor/resident/patron parking and delivery vehicles. Business and household hazardous waste tends to accumulate in and around residential areas in the form of cleaners, solvents, lubricants, paints, and adhesives. Machinery/appliance leaks from businesses or

construction sites can potentially be uncontained. If these materials are not properly disposed of or recycled, they present a serious threat to the health and wellbeing of the residents and the environment.

The City has an adopted Trinidad Emergency Response Plan (2014) developed in consultation with the Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services. The purpose of this plan is to ensure that the City will be prepared to respond effectively in the event of emergencies to save lives, restore and protect property, repair and restore essential public services, and provide for the storage and distribution of medical, food, water, shelter sites, and other vital supplies to maintain the continuity of government.

Site Conditions: The project site is located within the City of Trinidad, County of Humboldt, State of California. The parcel centroid for the project is Latitude 41.06096, and Longitude -124.13586. The approximate average site elevation for the project is two hundred and sixty six feet (266') above mean sea level.

The existing undeveloped site is characterized by heavily vegetated terrain. This parcel has two zoning designations, which also characterize its topography and habitat features. The northern, approximately one third of the property is zoned Special Environment. This part of the parcel has a Class II creek - Parker Creek - running through it with several natural springs in the immediate vicinity. The terrain forms into a ravine topography with slopes in the 30 to 40%. This portion of the parcel is undevelopable due to natural constraints and also due to zoning.

The southern two-thirds of the property is zoned Planned Development which is intended for residential development with limited commercial uses. However, the steeper slopes and wetland/riparian setbacks encompass approximately half the parcel. The natural grades on the southern portion of the parcel average 5 to 10% which allows for easier development and access.

The northeast and southwest side of the property are bordered by North Westhaven Drive (a Humboldt County Road) and Highway 101 respectively. The southeast side of the property is bordered by a residential zoned parcel of similar gentle topography as the PD zone. To the northwest, across Parker Creek, there is an RV Park. The property is not located within any geographical features that would be considered an immediate hazard to any proposed development.

Analysis

- a) **Finding:** The project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: Project construction would require the use of hazardous materials such as fuels, lubricants, paints, and solvents. Numerous laws and regulations ensure the safe transportation, use, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials. Additionally, worker safety regulations cover hazards related to exposure to hazardous materials. Standards of operation and BMPs minimize potential impacts of spills from this project. Regulations and criteria for the disposal of hazardous materials mandate disposal at appropriate landfills. Because the City, contractors, and other construction service providers would be required to comply with existing hazardous materials laws and regulations for the transport, use, and disposal of hazardous materials, the impacts associated with the potential to create a significant hazard to the public or the environment would be less than significant.

Following construction, the project would not result in the storage or transport of hazardous materials other than small amounts of household hazardous waste. Therefore, the project will not create a significant hazard to the public or environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.

b) Finding: The project would not 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.*

Discussion: During construction, routine transport of hazardous materials to and from the project area could indirectly result in an incremental increase in the potential for accidents. Caltrans, the Federal Department of Transportation, and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) regulate the transportation of hazardous materials and wastes, including container types and packaging requirements, as well as licensing and training for truck operators, chemical handlers, and hazardous waste haulers. Because the City, contractors, and other construction service providers would be required to comply with existing hazardous materials laws and regulations for the safe transport of hazardous materials, the impacts associated with the potential to create a significant hazard to the public or the environment would be less than significant. Further, with Mitigation Measure BIO-1, an additional level of safety would occur with the requirement to implement BMPs to ensure that hazardous materials and sediment are not transported to the stream and wetland areas.

c) Finding: The project would not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: No schools exist within one-quarter mile of the project. The closest school is Trinidad Elementary located approximately 1,800 feet from the project site, and it is not located where construction vehicles for this project would pass it. As noted above, the City, contractors, and other construction service providers would be required to comply with existing hazardous materials laws and regulations for the safe transport, use, and disposal of hazardous materials. Therefore, the impact is less than significant.

- d) Finding: The project would not 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 not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. *No impact.*

Discussion: The site is not included on any list of hazardous material sites, such as the California Department of Toxic Substances (DTSC) EnviroStar database, or the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) GeoTracker site for Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Cleanup and other Cleanup Programs. Therefore, the project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment (DTSC, 2023 and SWRCB, 2023).

- e) Finding: 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. *No impact.*

Discussion: No Public Airports are located within two miles of the project area. The closest airport is the California Redwood Coast Humboldt County Airport located mostly six miles to the south.

- f) Finding: The project would not impair implementation of, or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: The project Area is covered under the City of Trinidad Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and the Humboldt County EOP. The City of Trinidad EOP identifies the emergency response and evacuation policies and procedures associated with natural disasters, technological incidents, and national security emergencies (City of Trinidad, 2014).

The Humboldt County EOP identifies the emergency response and evacuation policies and procedures for hazards related to earthquake, tsunami, extreme weather, flooding/flash flooding, landslides, transportation accidents, hazardous materials, interface wildlife fire, energy shortage, offshore toxic spill, civic disturbance, terrorist activities, and national security. It also establishes a structure for Humboldt County Operation Area agencies to respond to large-scale emergencies requiring multiagency participation or activation of the Humboldt County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) (Humboldt County 2015). Hazard mitigation and risk assessment strategies for Humboldt County Operation Area are formalized in the Humboldt County Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP).

Temporary lane closures may be required during project construction. Signage, notifications, and timing for road closure, as applicable, would be established in accordance with City and County requirements. Emergency response vehicles would not be impeded during road closures.

The project would not impair implementation or physically interfere with the established City of Trinidad EOP, Humboldt County EOP, or Humboldt County HMP. Thus, emergency response or evacuation via existing roadways would not diminish compared to existing conditions. As the project would not impair implementation of an emergency response plan or evacuation plan, the potential impact related to construction would be less than significant.

- g) Finding: The project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to an urbanized area or where residences are intermixed with wildlands. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: The project site is located in an area of Moderate Fire Hazard Severity as determined by CAL FIRE (2024 and 2025). For the 9.9 square miles of the Trinidad Planning Area, there are two volunteer fire departments—one in Trinidad proper and the other in Westhaven. CAL FIRE is also stationed on Patricks Point Drive and they respond to emergencies like wildland and structure fires, floods, earthquakes, hazardous material spills, and medical aids. Mutual aid agreements exist between all of the stations, continuing the agreement from the 1980's that were generated from a fire in Trinidad State Park that threatened residences along Underwood Drive.

Construction involving heavy equipment, vehicles, power tools, and personnel smoking in and around the project site could cause the ignition of a wildfire. However, the project site is adjacent to the coast and a riparian corridor that moderate temperatures and increase humidity, so the possibility of a wildfire is low. Standard measures shall be taken, such as maintaining construction equipment in a fire safe condition, to minimize potential risks. Project operation will present similar risks as for the surrounding rural residential uses.

Cumulative Impact:

This project does not involve the handling of acutely hazardous materials, substances or waste or the emissions or disposal of hazardous substances and is not included on any list of hazardous materials sites. The hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials in the environment will not be significant. Because of its size and scope and somewhat isolated location, this project will not interfere with any emergency response or evacuation plan. The project is consistent with the type and scale of nearby development, therefore not currently be determined to be a cumulatively considerable addition.

Mitigation Measures:

Based on the above evaluation, no mitigation measures are required for the project to result in a less than significant impact.

*Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration: YIHA Trinidad Housing Development
North Westhaven Drive Trinidad, California*

10. 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?		X		
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g. the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?			X	
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;		X		
ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;			X	
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			X	
iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?			X	
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?			X	
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?			X	

Setting

The Trinidad Planning Area is 15.5 square miles (9,924 acres) in area and contains the watersheds of 13 coastal streams. The perennial coastal streams that flow through City boundaries are Mill Creek, McConnahas Mill Creek, and Parker Creek. Three primary threats to water quality have been identified through the City's past watershed planning efforts, which are: sediment, onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS), and stormwater (TRWMWG 2008). The most sensitive watershed in the Planning Area is Luffenholtz Creek as it is the City's sole source of drinking water. Luffenholtz Creek is located entirely outside

of City boundaries. The City has designated both Luffenholtz and Mill Creeks (the City's undeveloped secondary water supply) as "Critical Water Supply Areas," and the County has also designated Luffenholtz Creek as such in its general plan.

The kelp beds around Trinidad Head, which includes most of Trinidad Bay, are designated as a State Water Quality Protection Area (SWQPA) - Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) and the coastal areas around it a Critical Coastal Area. Trinidad's fishing/crabbing, tourism/recreation industries and drinking water supplies are susceptible to non-point source (NPS) pollution. The City must adhere to the strict water quality standards of the CA Ocean Plan due to the presence of the Trinidad Head SWQPA/ASBS. The CA Ocean Plan prohibits discharges into a SWQPA/ASBS. The water quality in streams and seeps within the City's Planning Area impact the ocean water quality as the streams and seeps empty into the ocean. Therefore, nearshore and offshore water quality issues are related.

Parker Creek runs through the northwest portion of the project property. Elevation of the property ranges from approximately 220 feet above mean sea level within the stream corridor to 240 feet in the development area. Topography varies from relatively flat within the development area, to very steep within the stream corridor.

FEMA did not determine flood hazard areas for Trinidad (Zone D) because its steep slopes render the risk of flooding generally nonexistent. FEMA and the City of Trinidad have an agreement that flood insurance is unnecessary in this area, and thus most of Trinidad was not included on the National Flood Insurance Maps. According to FEMA (2017) Flood Map No. 06023C0495G, the project is outside of any coastal flood hazard areas. The project parcels are not located in an area that would be subject to inundation from a mudflow. Due to the known seismic activity around the Pacific Rim, a tsunami or seiche could impact Trinidad. The tsunami runup elevation is approximately 40 feet above mean sea level depending on the local topography (DOC, 2025).

The parcel for the proposed project has a large, relatively low gradient perennial watercourse with two perennial tributaries which contain native riparian herbaceous vegetation as well as an approximately one quarter-acre area (9,670 ft²) perennial seep/slope wetland which originates on the southern slopes of the perennial watercourse in the northern portion of the study area. These slope wetlands have positive indicators of wetland soils, perennial hydrology, and native hydrophytic vegetation. This area is delineated as a three-parameter wetland that would fall under the jurisdiction of the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and be considered a wetland under the definitions of the Coastal Act, as well as the Local Coastal Plan for the Trinidad community. These features should be avoided and afforded a protective buffer during any planned development within the study area.

Analysis

- a) Finding: The project would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. *Less than significant impact with mitigation.*

Discussion: Parker Creek could potentially be affected by runoff from project construction activities. Construction of the project would require the use of gasoline and diesel-powered equipment; this could include trucks, excavators, graders, drillers, bulldozers, backhoes, compactors, and generators. Chemicals such as diesel, gasoline, lubricants, hydraulic fluid, transmission fluid, paints, solvents, glues, and other substances would be utilized during construction. An accidental release of any of these substances could degrade surface or ground water and cause adverse impacts, particularly if this were to occur in a location that drains towards the riparian area. Incorporation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-2 will ensure that such impacts would be less than significant. These measures include the implementation of BMPs to ensure pollutants don't enter the watercourse or groundwater and a 100-foot Aquatic Resource Setback.

The project is subject to the City's Grading Ordinance and Stormwater Ordinance. A grading permit will be required along with an erosion control plan that incorporates appropriate BMPs from the City's grading ordinance and the Humboldt Low Impact Development Stormwater Manual. Stormwater from the project will be directed into retention areas within the developed area away from the riparian corridor. Therefore, the proposed project will not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. With implementation of Mitigation BIO-1 and BIO-2 and the management of stormwater according to Trinidad Stormwater Control Ordinance and Humboldt Low Impact Development Stormwater Manual, the impacts to water quality would be less than significant after mitigation.

- b) Finding: The project would not substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: The project will use water from Trinidad's existing municipal water supply. The five residential structures represent a small increase in water usage that is within the planned build-out of the City. No new wells or water drafting are proposed. The project will increase the impervious surfaces due to the paved driveway, sidewalks and structures. However, the area surrounding the houses is flat and will be left as native soil and the LID Stormwater Control Plan proposes self-retaining areas. Therefore, ground water recharge will be similar to pre-project conditions. The riparian area buffers and use of best management practices will ensure that runoff directly to the wetlands and watercourses does not occur.

- c.i) Finding: The project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or through

the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off- site. *Less than significant impact with mitigation.*

Discussion: The project does not include alterations to the course of a stream or river. Mapped wetlands and watercourses will be protected by a 100-foot buffer. The project will increase the impervious surfaces by a total of 19,915.5 square feet due to the paved driveway, sidewalks and structures. The project shall follow Trinidad Stormwater Control Ordinance and Humboldt Low Impact Development Stormwater Manual, which requires onsite retention of runoff from a 2-year, 24-hour storm event. Thus, the potential for drainage patterns or stream bed alteration resulting from this project is mitigated through conformance with agency requirements as well as BMPs. Riparian vegetation will be retained in compliance with existing rules and regulations. These measures are included as Mitigation Measure BIO-1 and BIO-2.

c.ii) Finding: The project would not substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: The project will include a total of 19,915.5 square feet of impervious surfaces due to the paved driveway, sidewalks and structures. This will increase surface runoff in the area immediately surrounding the developed areas. The project is in a flat area with a slight depression gently sloping to the north toward the creek. The flat extends approximately 100 feet north of the structures before it gives way to steeper slopes within the riparian area. The flat unpaved area surrounding the houses and north of the houses and driveway is approximately 80,000 square feet or 80% of the area outside the Riparian Zone. This does not include the area outside the parcel in the right of ways for Hwy 101 and Westhaven Drive. There is ample area for runoff to be dispersed by vegetation and infiltrate into the ground prior to reaching steep slopes within the riparian area. The proposed project will not result in an increase in runoff resulting in flooding because all stormwater from the 2-year, 24-hour design storm will be retained onsite in accordance with the Trinidad Stormwater Control Ordinance and Humboldt Low Impact Development Stormwater Manual.

c.iii) Finding: The project would not create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: The proposed project will not result in a significant increase in runoff. The site is minimal in size. Only 20% of the parcel area will be covered by impermeable surfaces, leaving 80% of the area for infiltration of stormwater. The site is considered to be a regulated project, as such the applicant proposes to follow the Trinidad Stormwater Control Ordinance and Humboldt Low Impact Development Stormwater Manual.

The project will include a total of 19,915.5 square feet of impervious surfaces due to the paved driveway, sidewalks and structures. This will increase surface runoff in the area immediately surrounding the developed areas. The project is in a flat area with a slight depression gently sloping to the north toward the creek. The flat extends approximately 100 feet north of the structures before it gives way to steeper slopes within the riparian area. The flat unpaved area surrounding the houses and north of the houses and driveway is approximately 80,000 square feet or 80% of the area outside the riparian zone. This does not include the area outside the parcel in the right of ways for Hwy 101 and Westhaven Drive. There is ample area for runoff to be dispersed by vegetation and infiltrate into the ground prior to reaching steep slopes within the riparian area. The proposed project will not result in a significant increase in runoff, because all stormwater from the 2-year, 24-hour design storm will be retained onsite.

The project is subject to the City's Grading Ordinance and Stormwater Ordinance. A grading permit will be required along with an erosion control plan that incorporates appropriate BMPs from the City's Grading Ordinance and the Humboldt Low Impact Development Stormwater Manual. Therefore, the proposed project will not create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. With management of stormwater according to Trinidad Stormwater Control Ordinance and Humboldt Low Impact Development Stormwater Manual, the impacts to water quality would be less than significant after mitigation.

c.iv) Finding: The project would not impede or redirect flood flows. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: The project is not located within or near a flood zone and does not include alterations to the course of a stream or river. The proposed project will not result in a significant increase in runoff, because all stormwater from the 2-year, 24-hour design storm will be retained onsite. Additionally, riparian vegetation will be retained in compliance with existing rules and regulations. Therefore, the impacts on flood flows would be less than significant.

d) Finding: The project would not, in a flood hazard, tsunami, or seismic zone, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: The project area is not located in the FEMA 100-year flood zone (Humboldt County, 2024); thus, a flood hazard would not result from the project. No impact related to flood hazards would result.

The project area is not located near a larger isolated body of water that may be affected by a seiche. No impact from a seiche would result.

The project area is not located within a tsunami hazard zone (Humboldt County, 2024). No impact from a seiche or tsunami would result. No impact from a tsunami would occur.

The project is in an area subject to strong seismic shaking. However, with the required BMPs and setback from the watercourse and wetlands, there will be a less than significant impact from inundation and release of pollutants to any waterbodies.

- e) Finding: The project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: The relevant water quality control plan is the NCRWQCB's Basin Plan which establishes thresholds for key water resource protection objectives for both surface waters and groundwater. The project does not involve the use of groundwater resources and would not impact the quantity or quality of groundwater availability in the Big Lagoon Area Groundwater Basin. The project will adhere to all state and local standards including for pollution controls, stormwater runoff, and onsite wastewater treatment systems, including those contained with the NCRWQCB Basin Plan.

Cumulative Impact:

The project will not result in any polluted runoff. The proposed project will not result in an increase in runoff because it incorporates appropriate stormwater controls. The site shall follow City of Trinidad's standard stormwater ordinance and the Humboldt LID measures and BMPs to prevent polluted runoff. The exposure of people and structures to injury or death and risk or loss due flooding or inundation are not significant.

Mitigation Measures:

See BIO-1 Best Management Practices and BIO-2 100 ft Aquatic Resource Setback.

11. 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?				X
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?			X	
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?				X

Setting

The land use and planning setting of Trinidad, CA is characterized by a mix of residential, commercial, and open space land uses. The area around Trinidad is predominantly rural residential, with commercial timberland in the upper watersheds. The town has designated areas for residential and commercial development, as well as areas for conservation and open space. The land use and planning of the region can have significant impacts on the environment and public health, including impacts on natural resources, air and water quality, and public safety. The town has developed land use and planning policies and regulations aimed at promoting sustainable development, protecting natural resources, and ensuring public safety. These policies include the adoption of zoning regulations, building codes, and land use plans that guide development and protect sensitive resources. The town also engages in public outreach and education efforts to promote community involvement in land use and planning decisions.

Analysis

a. Finding: The project would not physically divide an established community. *No Impact.*

Discussion: The project is located in a sparsely developed rural-residential setting on the eastern edge of Trinidad City limits. No new access routes are proposed, and the addition of five residences will not result in physically dividing an established community in any way.

b. Finding: The project would not cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: The subject parcel is within the eastern City limits of Trinidad. The parcel where the new development is proposed is zoned as Special Environment and Planned Development. The development area is entirely within the area zoned as Planned Development, which allows a mix of commercial and residential uses, including multi-family developments. The project will require approval of a use permit, grading permit, design review, coastal development permit along with other approvals which will ensure that the development conforms to applicable laws and regulations. Given the zoning and permitting requirements, there would be no impact due to conflicting land use regulations.

- c. Finding: The project would not conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan. *No impact.*

Discussion: The subject parcel is not under the jurisdiction of any habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan.

Cumulative Impact:

The project will not physically divide an established community. The project will not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of any agency with jurisdiction over the project. The site will not cause a cumulatively considerable impact to the land use & planning in the surrounding area, and as proposed is consistent with surrounding land uses, and therefore not currently determined to be a cumulatively considerable impact

Mitigation Measures:

None proposed.

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

Setting:

There are no mining operations within the City of Trinidad limits and no known mineral resources. The only nearby activities include hard rock quarries: one exists off Quarry Road (Mercer-Fraser Company); several others are located on Green Diamond Timber land to the east. These quarries provide an important source of jetty-quality rock. No mineral of state importance has been identified in or near the City’s planning area.

Analysis:

- a) Finding: The project will not 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.*

Discussion: No known mineral resources have been identified within the project site. Therefore, the proposed project will not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state.

- b) Finding: The project will not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan. *No impact.*

Discussion: No known mineral resources have been identified in the project area. Neither the City of Trinidad General Plan, nor the Humboldt County General Plan includes the project area or any other nearby location as being designated a locally important mineral resources or recovery site. Therefore, the proposed project will not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan.

Cumulative Impact:

The mineral resources available on-site are not unique to the area. The project site is not delineated as a locally important mineral resource recovery site.

Mitigation Measures:

None proposed.

13. NOISE. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Expose persons to or generate noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?			X	
b) Generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground- borne noise levels?			X	
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use air- port, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				X

Setting

The project site and surrounding area are primarily characterized by low density residential uses, open space, and recreational uses. Highway 101 is located directly to the west of the project site and Westhaven Drive to the east. Noise levels in the project area vary largely depending on the proximity to human activity, Highway 101, and commercial areas in Trinidad. Depending on the weather and proximity to the coast, wind and waves can also be significant noise generators. Noise sensitive receptors and noise sensitive uses in the project area include residences, lodging establishments, churches, and recreational trails.

Trinidad’s adopted Noise Element is from 1975, and the City does not have an adopted noise ordinance. The Land Use Noise Compatibility Matrix within Trinidad’s Draft Noise & Safety Element (2012), which is consistent with the County’s standards, specifies that the hourly Leq of 45 dB Leq indoors and 55 dB Leq outdoors are the maximum level below which there are no effects on public health and welfare for residences, lodging, commercial and nursing homes; however, higher outdoor levels are identified as “normally acceptable” (60 to 70 dB Ldn) and “normally unacceptable” (70-80 dB Ldn). For libraries, schools and churches the hourly Leq of 45 dB indoors and 55 dB Leq outdoors are the noise level performance standards for new projects affected by or including stationary sources.

Analysis

- a) **Finding:** The project would not generate a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies. *Less than significant impact with Mitigation Incorporated.*

Discussion: The project will meet the Land Use/Noise Compatibility Standards outlined in the Trinidad and Humboldt County General Plans. The project is located in a rural area with some adjacent transportation corridors. The nearby noise environment is already elevated due to the presence of Highway 101 adjacent to the project site. The nearest residence is located approximately 100 feet away from the development area. Although the construction phase of the project will result in temporary noise impacts, the intensity of operation of the project is expected to be low and to fall within a range consistent with adjacent land uses as well as the existing traffic that have existing at the site and in association with the Highway and Westhaven Drive in the past. Additionally, the project limits the amount of existing vegetation removal to occur in and around the project area which will assist in providing a natural buffer to operational activities.

Construction of the project would result in a temporary noise increase associated with the use of construction equipment for approximately 17 months (July 2025 to November 2026). As the project is linear in nature, the noise associated with construction activities would move along the alignment as work is conducted, resulting in intermittent increases during the construction phase that would shift as construction progresses. Within the City of Trinidad, per section 15.16.210 of the City's Grading Ordinance, construction would be limited to daytime work hours between 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. unless different hours are specified by the City Engineer. For activities along Westhaven Drive, construction would be limited to daytime work hours between 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday with occasional work on Saturdays. Furthermore, neither the Trinidad General Plan, nor the Humboldt County General Plan, have established construction-related noise standards. As the construction phase would be temporary and construction activities would be intermittent and limited to daytime hours, potential noise impacts generated during the construction phase would be less than significant.

Once the project is constructed, the project would not generate a significant amount of noise. Noise associated with the operation of the project would be consistent with residential development noise levels surrounding the area. Therefore, operation would not result in noise levels exceeding the City noise standards for residential units. A less than significant impact would result.

b) Finding: The project will not expose persons to or generate excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: The project does not involve construction methods that will generate significant vibrations. As previously stated, the intensity and duration of construction are not expected to be significant, and project operations will be consistent with the surrounding rural residential development, particularly considering that the noise levels in the vicinity are already elevated due to the proximity of Highway 101. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

- c) Finding: The project would not, for a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels. *No impact.*

Discussion: The project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or within an airport land use plan. The nearest airport is the California Redwood Coast - Humboldt County Airport located approximately six miles to the south.

Cumulative Impact:

Noise generated by the project would be similar to noise levels from surrounding rural residential uses and less than that generated by the adjacent Highway 101. Other than construction activities no new significant noise sources are proposed. The approval of this project will not result in a cumulatively considerable addition to the existing noise levels in the surrounding area.

Mitigation Measures:

None proposed.

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

Setting

The population and housing setting of Trinidad, CA is characterized by a small and dispersed population, with a mix of residential and commercial land uses. The town has experienced limited to negative growth in recent years, with a population of approximately 307 people (2020 Census) and approximately 230 housing units. The limited availability of housing units in the town can create challenges for residents, particularly those with low incomes or limited access to transportation.

Analysis

a) **Finding:** The project would not induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure). *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: The proposed project will not produce any significant growth inducing impacts. According to Trinidad’s General Plan (1978), around 100 dwelling units were projected to be developed in the between Mill Creek to McConnahas Mill Creek area. Growth inducing impacts are generally caused by projects that have a direct or indirect effect on economic growth, or the extension or expansion of utilities and public services. This project is a small-scale residential development, proposing only five new residential dwellings, consistent with planned density, and does not require any road extensions or infrastructure improvements. As such, it will not significantly affect the area's growth or require additional services.

b) **Finding:** The project would not displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. *No Impact.*

Discussion: The project will not displace any existing housing or people. There are no housing units or people currently located within the project area.

Cumulative Impact:

The proposed project will not produce any significant growth inducing impacts and will not displace substantial number of existing housing or people. Therefore, the project will not cause a cumulatively considerable impact or addition to the population and housing in the area surrounding the project site.

Mitigation Measures:

Based on the above evaluation, no mitigation measures are required for the project to result in a less than significant impact.

<p>15. PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:</p>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Fire protection?			X	
b) Police protection?			X	
c) Schools?			X	
d) Parks?			X	
e) Other public facilities?			X	

Setting

The public services setting of Trinidad, CA is characterized by a mix of local and regional services, including emergency services, utilities, and transportation infrastructure. The town has limited public services, with no wastewater treatment plant, a volunteer fire department, and limited public transit options. The City does provide potable water services and contracts with the Humboldt County Sheriff’s Department for police services. A small staff of employees and consultants provide civic services. The availability and quality of public services can have significant impacts on the environment and public health, particularly in emergency situations. The public services setting of Trinidad, CA is an important consideration in the CEQA process, as it can impact the ability of the town to manage and respond to environmental impacts and emergencies. The town also encourages the use of alternative modes of transportation, such as biking and walking, to reduce the impacts of transportation on the environment and public health.

Analysis

- a) Finding: The project will not result in adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for **fire protection**. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: The proposed project is located in the community of Trinidad and is accessed by way of Highway 101. Fire protection in Trinidad is provided by the Trinidad Volunteer Fire Department, Westhaven Volunteer Fire Department and CAL FIRE through a mutual aid agreement. The proposed project will be developed with appropriate residential fire

suppression systems (sprinklers). While the proposed project may require fire protection response in the case of an emergency, the project is not expected to significantly increase the demand for fire protection services. The proposed development of five new residential dwellings is consistent with surrounding development and planned densities. It will not significantly affect the provision of fire protection services or require any upgrades to facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives. As such, the proposed project does not require new or physically altered governmental facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for fire protection. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less than significant impact on this resource category.

- b) Finding: The project will not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for **police protection**. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: The proposed project is located in the community of Trinidad and is accessed by way of Highway 101. Police services in the City of Trinidad are provided through the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department via contract. While the proposed project may require police response in the case of an emergency, the project is not expected to significantly increase the demand for police protection services. The proposed development of five new residential dwellings is consistent with surrounding development and planned densities. It will not significantly affect the provision of police services or require any upgrades to facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives. As such, the proposed project does not require new or physically altered governmental facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for police protection. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less than significant impact on this resource category

- c) Finding: The project will not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for **schools**. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: The proposed project is located within the Trinidad Union School District. There is one public K-8 school (Trinidad Elementary) located in Trinidad. The project will not result in a substantial increase in population and would have a limited impact on the provision of public education services. The proposed project is not expected to result in a significant increase in the number of school-age children within the school district. As such, the proposed project does not require new or physically altered governmental facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives

for schools. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less than significant impact on this resource category.

- d) Finding: The project will not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for **parks**. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: Since the project would not significantly increase the population in the City of Trinidad, the project would not significantly increase the demand for public parks. Trinidad has ample public land and recreational opportunities, particularly coastal public access, that provides for both residents and visitors. Therefore, impacts to local public parks from the project are considered less than significant.

- e) Finding: The project will not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for **other public facilities**. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: Since the project would not significantly increase the population in the City of Trinidad, the project would not significantly increase the demand for other public facilities including public health services and library services. Therefore, impacts to other public facilities from the project are considered less than significant.

Cumulative Impact:

The project consists of the construction of five single-family dwellings, consistent with land uses and planned densities in the surrounding area. Significant additional use of public facilities and services will not be required for the project as proposed. Therefore, the project will not cause a cumulatively considerable addition to the use of public facilities and services in the Trinidad area.

Mitigation Measures:

Based on the above evaluation, no mitigation measures are required for the project to result in a less than significant impact.

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

Setting

The recreation setting of Trinidad, CA is characterized by a diverse range of natural and recreational resources, including beaches, trails and parks. The town is surrounded by natural beauty and offers a variety of recreational opportunities, such as hiking, fishing, kayaking, and camping. Activities available to local residents and visitors include recreational and educational programs at the elementary school, fraternal organization activities, sport fishing, beachcombing, hiking, picnicking, sightseeing, and related activities. Coastal access is the primary attraction for visitors coming to Trinidad. Publicly owned recreation areas in the project area include the school and its playground areas, City Hall (which is used for social and fraternal functions), the adjacent tennis court, Saunder’s Park, Trinidad Head, Trinidad State Beach, and other public beaches. Most public access to the harbor and beaches is via Edwards Street.

The availability and quality of recreation opportunities can have significant impacts on the environment and public health, as well as the local economy. The recreation setting of Trinidad, CA is an important consideration in the CEQA process, as it can impact the ability of the town to manage and protect natural resources, while also promoting economic development and public access to recreation opportunities. Overall, the recreation setting of Trinidad, CA must be managed carefully to ensure that natural resources are protected while also providing economic benefits and public access to recreational opportunities.

Analysis

- a) Finding: The project would not 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. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: The proposed project includes five new residential units, resulting in a minimal increase in population within the City of Trinidad within levels planned for in land use documents. While future residents may utilize nearby recreational areas such as Trinidad

State Beach, Trinidad Head, Trinidad Harbor, Old Home Beach, trails, and other facilities, this is insignificant particularly when compared to the thousands of visitors Trinidad receives each year. In addition, the Trinidad General Plan projects a growth of 100 residential units in this area. Since the proposed project is well below this growth projection, it is not expected to significantly increase demand for an existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities. Therefore, the project would not result in substantial physical deterioration or accelerate the need for maintenance of recreational facilities.

b) Finding: The project would not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse effect on the environment. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: The project does not include recreational facilities and as discussed above, will not require the construction or expansion of any recreational facilities. Therefore, the project would require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities.

Cumulative Impact:

The project consists of the construction of five new residences, consistent with surrounding land uses and densities. The project will not increase the use of or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities.

Mitigation Measures:

Based on the above evaluation, no mitigation measures are required for the project to result in no impact.

17. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC. 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?			X	
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines § 15064.3, subdivision (b)?			X	
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?			X	
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?			X	

Setting

The project site is accessed from North Westhaven Drive, a County road, approximately 1,800 feet south of its intersection with Highway 101, a major state transportation corridor. The transportation setting within Trinidad is characterized by a limited transportation infrastructure, with the town primarily served by a few main roads and limited public transit options. The availability and quality of transportation infrastructure can have significant impacts on the environment and public health, particularly with regards to air quality and traffic congestion. The transportation setting of Trinidad, CA is an important consideration in the CEQA process, as it can impact the ability of the town to manage and mitigate environmental impacts associated with transportation, while also providing access to essential goods and services. To address these issues, the town works closely with regional agencies to develop and implement transportation plans and policies that promote sustainable transportation options, such as public transit, biking, and walking. These policies include the development of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, the implementation of public transit options, and the promotion of alternative modes of transportation.

Analysis

- a) Finding: The project would not conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: The project does not involve modifications to the City or the Humboldt County street network geometry. Construction would result in vehicle trips by construction workers and haul-truck trips for material off-haul and deliveries via Highway 101, and Westhaven Drive. Construction-related traffic would be temporary, would vary on a daily basis, and

would be distributed over the course of a workday and work week. Therefore, through compliance with local requirements, construction activities would not result in substantial adverse effects or conflicts with the local roadway system. The temporary construction impact on the circulation system would be less than significant.

According to Trinidad's General plan, around 100 dwelling units were projected to be developed in between Mill Creek to McConnahas Mill Creek area. The project only proposes five new residential units and would not conflict with any applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system. Therefore, a less than significant impact would result

b) Finding: The project would not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines §15064.3, subdivision (b). *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b) establishes the criteria for analyzing transportation impacts. This Section determines that, for land use projects, "Vehicle miles traveled exceeding an applicable threshold of significance may indicate a significant impact. [...] A lead agency has discretion to choose the most appropriate methodology to evaluate a project's vehicle miles traveled, including whether to express the change in absolute terms, per capita, per household or in any other measure. A lead agency may use models to estimate a project's vehicle miles traveled and may revise those estimates to reflect professional judgment based on substantial evidence. Any assumptions used to estimate vehicle miles traveled and any revisions to model outputs should be documented and explained in the environmental document prepared for the project." Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14 § 15064.3.

According to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA provides various screening criteria related to Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) that quickly identify when a project should be expected to cause a less than significant impact without conducting a detailed VMT study. Projects that generate fewer than 110 trips per day can be assumed to cause a less than significant transportation impact (OPR, 2018). The project proposes the construction of five new residential buildings and a new driveway. According to the ITE Trip Generation Manual, between 9 and 10 trips per day would be generated per dwelling for a total of 47 daily trips. The project would not involve the extension of roadways, the addition of new roads, or an increase in the number of travel lanes. Therefore, the impact would be less than significant.

c) Finding: The project would not 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.*

Discussion: The applicant will be required to obtain an encroachment permit for the driveway accessing North Westhaven Drive, which is in Humboldt County's jurisdiction. The driveway will be a category 4 road meeting the requirements of Humboldt County Code

Title III: Design standards for road categories for slow speeds and limited parcel access. Based on sight lines and distances, no hazards are anticipated as a result of the new driveway. No new hazards or incompatible uses will not be created because of the proposed project.

d) Finding: The project would not result in inadequate emergency access. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: The proposed drive aisle will be 20 feet wide, and an emergency vehicle turn-around will be provided within the development. Access has been designed to be consistent with City and Fire Safe Regulation design standards for emergency access and would adequately accommodate the onsite maneuvering of emergency vehicles for access.

Cumulative Impact:

Due to the limited scope of this project and its consistency with planned development in the area, there will be no impacts to the existing traffic load or capacity of the street system. No new hazards or incompatible uses will be created as a result of the proposed project. The new access driveway will meet all applicable standards. The project will not affect any other emergency access routes. Therefore, the project will not cause a cumulatively considerable addition or impact to traffic and transportation in the surrounding area.

Mitigation Measures:

Based on the above evaluation, no mitigation measures are required for the project to result in no impact.

18. TRIBAL 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 Tribal Cultural Resource 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).		X		
b) Cause a Substantial Adverse Change in the Significance of a Tribal Cultural Resource Determined by the Lead Agency to be Significant Pursuant to Criteria Set Forth in Subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1.		X		

Archaeological and other heritage resources can be damaged or destroyed through uncontrolled public disclosure. Archaeological site locations and culturally sensitive information is considered confidential and public access to such information is restricted by state and federal law, therefore, this information has been redacted for use in the MND. Professionally qualified individuals, as determined by the California Office of Historic Preservation, may contact the lead agency directly in order to inquire about its availability.

Information regarding the location, character or ownership of a historic resource is exempt from the Freedom of Information Act pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 470w-3; Section 304 of the National Historic Preservation Act, 36 CFR 800(6)(a)(5) and 36 CFR 800.11(c); Section 9(a) of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act; Executive Order 13007; Section 6254.10 and GC 6254(r) of the California State Government Code and the California Public Records Act (CPRA); and the 2005 California Senate Bill 922.

Setting:

The City of Trinidad lies within the traditional territory of the Yurok People who lived within the Trinidad area and the ancestral village of Tsurai. The surrounding areas, including all of the Trinidad townsite and Trinidad Head, as well as, the coastal margin to the north and south are part of an associated cultural landscape with immeasurable significance to the Yurok people, who are now part of the Trinidad Rancheria, Tsurai Ancestral Society, and Yurok Tribe. There are recorded archeological sites within the Trinidad area. Qualified professionals can refer to the February 2025 Cultural Resources Investigation Report by Archaeological Research and Supply Company for further details regarding archaeological sites.

The Ancestral village of Tsurai is situated within Yurok ancestral territory, as well as within the larger cultural landscape of the Yurok people. The surrounding landscape, particularly Trinidad Head, is central to Yurok creation stories and oral tradition. Yurok oral history identifies Tsurai and its surrounding landscape, as areas of profound significance to Yurok culture. The Yurok Tribe considers Tsurai Village and Trinidad Head to be sacred sites, as well as areas of archaeological and cultural significance. Under national guidelines for identifying historic properties/resources, both the village of Tsurai and Trinidad Head would be considered Traditional Cultural Properties for purposes of the National Register and as Tribal Cultural Resources for the purposes of CEQA.

Tsurai Village, Trinidad Head, the sea stacks, and other landscape features within the Trinidad viewshed are components of the Yurok cultural landscape embedded with deep cultural significance to Yurok people. This relationship and significance are well documented in both Yurok oral history and early ethnographic research. The Trinidad area continues to be of important cultural and spiritual significance to contemporary Yurok people.

- a) Finding: The project will not Cause a Substantial Adverse Change in the Significance of a Tribal Cultural Resource 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). *Less than significant impact with mitigation.*

Discussion: Although no tribal cultural resources were identified on the project site, because of the cultural significance and sensitivity of the entire Trinidad area, there is a risk of encountering Native American resources and/or impacting a Tribal Cultural Resource. However, the project is not near the old Gold Rush town center and is over 100 meters from any known Native American Resources.

Under Assembly Bill (AB) 52, notification letters were sent from the City to the Cher-Ae-Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria, the Yurok Tribe, and the Tsurai Ancestral Society on February 5, 2025. These letters provided notification to the tribes about the project and offered them an opportunity to enter into formal consultation with the City. No responses were received by the 30-day deadline of March 5, 2025. Project referrals were also sent to the same tribal groups on March 25, 2025, and no responses were received.

A Cultural Resources Investigation of the project parcel was completed by Archaeological Research and Supply Company in February 2025. Background research for this investigation included a records search and background literature review. The literature review for this project included an examination of historical maps, records and published documents. No Tribal Cultural Resources were identified on the project property and no historic, cultural, or archaeological resources were found during a field survey. However, due to the potential for encountering resources within the general Trinidad area, the monitoring plan outlined below will minimize impacts to unknown Tribal Cultural Resources. Impacts to cultural resources will be less than significant with the incorporation of Mitigation CUL-1.

- b) Finding: The project will not cause a Substantial Adverse Change in the Significance of a Tribal Cultural Resource Determined by the Lead Agency to be Significant Pursuant to Criteria Set Forth in Subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. *Less than significant impact with mitigation.*

Discussion: Multiple cultural resources have been recorded as a result of past studies in the Trinidad area; however none are within 100 meters of the project area. A Cultural Resources Investigation of the project parcel was completed by Archaeological Research and Supply Company in February 2025. There were no resources found on the project site as a result of this investigation. The Northwest Information Center has no records of cultural resources within the proposed project area. The entire project area is, however, within a general location of cultural significance associated with the larger use areas of Tsurai Village, and the historical townsite of Trinidad. It is expected that historic period and ancient Native American archaeological deposits are present in the area.

Under Assembly Bill (AB) 52, notification letters were sent from the City to the Cher-Ae-Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria, the Yurok Tribe, and the Tsurai Ancestral Society on February 5, 2025. These letters provided notification to the tribes about the project and offered them an opportunity to enter into formal consultation with the City. No responses were received by the 30-day deadline of March 5, 2025. Project referrals were also sent to the same Tribal groups on March 25, 2025, and no responses were received.

No Tribal Cultural Resources were identified within or adjacent to the project area, and therefore, the proposed project would not result in a significant impact to known Tribal Cultural Resource Determined by the Lead Agency to be Significant. However, buried resources could be present. Mitigation measure CUL-1 requiring a cultural monitor to be onsite during ground disturbing activities outlined below will minimize impacts to unknown Tribal Cultural Resources. Impacts to cultural resources will be less than significant with the incorporation of Mitigation **CUL-1**.

Mitigation Measures:

See **CUL-1**

19. 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 storm water drainage, electrical power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?			X	
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?			X	
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?			X	
d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?			X	
e) e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?			X	

Setting

Wastewater

The City of Trinidad does not have a centralized sewer system, and instead, relies entirely on individual on-site wastewater treatment systems (OWTS). There are no plans to build a centralized sewer system in Trinidad, so land uses are limited to those that are compatible with the use of an OWTS based on lot sizes. The City does have an OWTS Management Program that requires operating permits for all OWTS in the City, which are conditioned on periodic inspections and maintenance. New OWTS must meet all current requirements of the Humboldt County Division of Environmental Health (DEH).

Stormwater

Stormwater originating in the central portion of the City of Trinidad watershed is routed through a series of roadside ditches, drain inlets, and culverts to the stormwater outfall in the Harbor. Some areas, such as the project site, have no curbs or drain inlets, so drainage is

generally towards the bluff areas or towards stream corridors. The City has recently upgraded the stormwater system to comply with the Phase II Small MS4 General Permit requirements as well as the Construction General Permit requirements and ASBS discharge prohibitions of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The intent is to appropriately infiltrate all the stormwater and eliminate the discharge into Trinidad Bay. The City has a Stormwater Management Ordinance that requires stormwater from the 2-year, 24-hour design storm to be infiltrated or retained onsite.

Water Service

The City of Trinidad operates a municipal water supply system that services the occupied parcels within the City and a number of properties outside the City limits. Potable water for the City system is currently supplied from Luffenholtz Creek located two miles south of the City. The water system includes an infiltration gallery, water treatment plant and several storage tanks. The City also has some limited unused water rights on Mill Creek.

Solid Waste

Trinidad currently contracts with Humboldt Sanitation and Recycling for curbside garbage pickup and recycling for residents and businesses within the City. Most refuse is transferred to a municipal transfer station and then hauled out of state where it is disposed in, for example, the Dry Creek landfill in Oregon. There is no local landfill since the Cummings Road landfill reached capacity.

Gas

There are no natural gas lines serving the City of Trinidad. Gas is provided via individual propane tanks.

Other Utilities

Electricity adjacent to the site is provided by PG&E. Cellular, cable, phone, and internet/broadband services are provided in the City by private companies.

Analysis

- a) Finding: The project would not require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: Water, electric and telecommunication services exist adjacent to the site and the project will connect to these existing services. Wastewater disposal will occur via an OWTS designed for the project based on site conditions in accordance with Humboldt County DEH permitting requirements. Stormwater will also be infiltrated onsite in accordance with Trinidad's Stormwater Management Ordinance and the Humboldt County LID Manual. Gas is provided by individual propane tanks onsite. The impacts of construction of these

onsite utilities are analyzed throughout this document as part of the project. No significant impacts were identified.

- b) Finding: The project would 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.*

Discussion: The project will connect to the City of Trinidad's water system. There is an existing water line on Westhaven Drive, and neighboring properties are connected to it. The City evaluated several components of its water system in 2019, including an assessment of future demand relative to the capacity of the water system (SHN, 2019). The report found that the City's water system and supply had ample capacity to serve build-out of the City even in dry years. The proposed project is less than the development density expected at build-out for the property based on existing land use and zoning designations. The City also has a Water Shortage Contingency Plan adopted in 2021 to ensure water supply and use are managed appropriately in times of drought or other shortages.

- c) Finding: The project would not result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has inadequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: The project will be served by an onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS) meeting all applicable requirements. In July 2018, 2020, Pacific Watershed Associates, from Arcata CA, provided an On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems Feasibility Report for the existing site. Five (5) subsurface exploration test pits were excavated by backhoe to depths ranging from 7 to 8 feet below ground surface. The soil data from the PWA report was used by TVCE (2025a) to design a septic system consisting of a 6,000-gallon tank, a pressure-distribution leachfield and reserve area to serve the five proposed residences. TVCE found that the site is suitable for an OWTS meeting DEH requirements. The applicant will be required to obtain an OWTS construction permit from DEH and the OWTS will also be subject to the City's OWTS Management Program that requires all systems to be periodically inspected and maintained. Therefore, the project will not result in inadequate wastewater capacity.

- d) Finding: The project would not generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: The solid waste provider in the area is Humboldt Sanitation and Humboldt Waste Management Authority (HWMA). The project would generate construction waste that would be hauled by the construction contractor to an approved disposal site. Waste would include construction materials remnants, replaced materials, and worker-generated trash and debris. This would be a less than significant impact on landfill capacity with the

adherence to federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Operation of the project will generate operational waste consistent with five single-family dwellings. Individual trash service is provided by Humboldt Sanitation in the Trinidad area. Solid waste produced in the County is trucked to State licensed landfills located in Anderson, California and Medford, Oregon in compliance with local, State, and federal regulations pertaining to solid waste disposal. These facilities have sufficient capacity to serve the project's solid waste disposal needs; therefore, a less than significant impact is anticipated.

- e) Finding: The project would comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: Solid waste disposal related to the project will follow all applicable federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations. The site will not create any solid waste that is not handled by and disposed of by an appropriate licensed operator. Also see discussion under d) above.

Cumulative Impact:

These proposed facilities are not expected to result in significant environmental effects, as the project incorporates all specified mitigation measures throughout this document. Consequently, the project is not anticipated to contribute cumulatively significant impacts to the use or construction of utilities and service systems.

Mitigation Measures:

Based on the above evaluation, no mitigation measures are required for the project to result in no impact.

*Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration: YIHA Trinidad Housing Development
North Westhaven Drive Trinidad, California*

20. WILDFIRE If location near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high 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?			X	
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?			X	
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infra-structure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?			X	
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability or drainage changes?			X	

Setting

Much of Humboldt County, is prone to wildfire events due to extensive forested areas and the presence of dry vegetation as well as the susceptibility to winds. The region experiences a Mediterranean climate characterized by hot, dry summers, contributing to a moderate potential for wildfires. Although, the fire hazard is moderated in Trinidad due to its proximity to the coast, which lowers the temperature and increases humidity, and fog is a common occurrence, there have been wildfires in the Trinidad area in the past. The project site is in an area designated by CAL FIRE as being in a moderate Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ). Surrounding areas are all also designated with a moderate FHSZ rating.

Analysis

a-d) **Finding:** The project would not substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan; would not, 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; would not 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; and would not expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream

flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes. *Less than significant impact.*

Discussion: The community of Trinidad does have an adopted emergency response plan and emergency evacuation plan. However, the proposed project is not of a nature to physically interfere with emergency response nor emergency evacuation. Furthermore, the project site's proximity to Highway 101 provides access and response to the site in an emergency situation. As such, the proposed drive aisle onsite has been designed consistent with City and Fire Safe Regulation design standards for emergency access and would adequately accommodate the onsite maneuvering of emergency vehicles. Therefore, the proposed project would not substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The proposed project is consistent with the surrounding land uses and existing zoning and would not introduce incompatible uses that would exacerbate wildfire risks. The project would not, 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.

Mitigation Measures:

Based on the above evaluation, no mitigation measures are required for the project to result in a less-than-significant impact on wildfire.

21. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE. Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) 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?		X		
b) Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)		X		
c) Have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?		X		

Setting:

The project information provided for each of the topics above has been reviewed for all actions associated with it; during both temporary construction and long-term operation. Based on the project description and its location, the project would not result in any significant impacts with the incorporated operating restrictions, mitigation measures, as well as those standards and requirements of other regulating resource agencies.

Analysis

a) Finding: The project will not 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.*

Discussion: This document comprehensively assessed all environmental impacts, encompassing effects on habitat for fish and wildlife species, fish and wildlife populations, plant and animal communities, rare and endangered plants and animal species, and

historical and prehistorical resources. In cases where impacts were identified as potentially significant, effective mitigation measures have been implemented to reduce these impacts to levels below significance. Additionally, the project's design and adherence to existing laws and regulations are structured to minimize impacts, ensuring they remain less than significant. Consequently, the proposed project, in its designed state with integrated mitigation measures and compliance with regulatory requirements, is not anticipated to substantially degrade the quality of the environment. The impacts are expected to be less than significant, with mitigation effectively incorporated. All Mitigation Measures discussed in this document shall apply.

- b) Finding: The project will not 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). (CEQA Guidelines §§ 15064(h)(1), 15355.) *Less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated.*

Discussion: This mitigated negative declaration documents the project's design features and clear, specific mitigation measures that eliminate the project's potential, project-specific impacts on the environment or mitigates its potential impacts to a less-than-significant level. A "lead agency may determine in an initial study that a project's contribution to a significant cumulative impact would be rendered less than cumulatively considerable and thus is not significant" (CEQA Guidelines, § 15064(h)(2)). All Mitigation Measures discussed in this document shall apply.

- c) Finding: The project will not have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. *Less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated.*

Discussion: Throughout this document, we have thoroughly discussed the potential environmental effects of the proposed project that could adversely impact human beings, whether directly or indirectly. In cases where the project carries the potential for direct or indirect adverse effects on human well-being, mitigation measures have been implemented to reduce these impacts to a level below significance. Through the mandatory application of these mitigation measures outlined in this document, both the construction and operation of the proposed project are not expected to involve any activities that would lead to environmental effects causing substantial adverse impacts on human beings, either directly or indirectly. Consequently, the impacts would be deemed Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.

Mitigation Measures:

All Mitigation Measures discussed in this document shall apply.

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

The Department found that the project could result in potentially significant adverse impacts unless mitigation measures are required. A list of mitigation that addresses and mitigates potentially significant adverse impacts to a level of non-significance follows.

Air Quality	
<p>AQ-1-Fugitive Dust Control.</p> <p>During short-term construction activities the following dust control measures shall be implemented by the contractor to reduce nuisance dust generation; the measures shall be included as notes on the final construction plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment and activity must not emit dust that is visible crossing the property lines. • All exposed surfaces (e.g., parking areas, staging areas, soil piles, active graded areas, excavations, and unpaved access roads) shall be watered two times per day in areas of active construction. • All haul trucks transporting soil, sand, or other loose material off-site shall be covered. • All vehicle speeds on unpaved roads shall be limited to 15 mph, unless the unpaved road surface has been treated for dust suppression with water, rock, wood chip mulch, or other dust prevention measures. • Idling times shall be minimized either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the maximum idling time to five minutes. Clear signage shall be provided for construction workers at all access points. • All construction equipment shall be maintained and properly tuned in accordance with the manufacturer’s specifications. • Post a publicly visible sign with the telephone number and person to contact at the Lead Agency regarding dust complaints. This person shall respond and take corrective action within 48 hours. NCUAQMD’s phone number shall also be visible to ensure compliance with applicable regulations. 	
<i>Timing for Implementation/Compliance:</i>	During construction.
<i>Person/Agency Responsible for Monitoring:</i>	Contractor and City Engineer.
<i>Monitoring Frequency:</i>	Plans reviewed prior to construction and during period site visits.
<i>Evidence of Compliance:</i>	Notes on construction plans; site inspections.

Biological Resources

BIO-1 Best Management Practices:

During the development and construction of this project BMPs shall be used to prevent sediment, fuels or contaminants from entering the surrounding terrestrial and aquatic environments/habitats. Complete lists of BMPs for project specific actions can be found at California State Water Resources Control Board BMP Databases and Humboldt County: Title III – Land Use and Development - Division 3 - Building Regulations (Ch. 7 § 337-13)7. The implementation of specific BMPs will be dependent on the project construction methods and timing and shall be explicitly described in the construction plan to be approved by the City of Trinidad.

Essential BMPs for this project shall encompass the installation of erosion control measures such as silt fences, berms, and waddles. Additionally, construction equipment fueling and maintenance activities will be centralized at a designated location on the project site, or off-site if feasible, situated at least 200 feet away from any wetland or other aquatic habitat. This designated area shall be clear of vegetation, level, and equipped with fuel mats to contain potential spills. Construction activities shall be limited to daylight hours. A thorough inspection of equipment for hydraulic fluid, oil, or fuel leaks will be conducted every morning and periodically throughout the day during construction. If any leaks are identified, they must be promptly repaired before any further work is carried out to prevent the release of pollutants into nearby watercourses.

Timing for Implementation/Compliance:

During construction.

Person/Agency Responsible for Monitoring:

Contractor and City Engineer.

Monitoring Frequency:

Plans reviewed prior to construction and during period site visits.

Evidence of Compliance:

Notes on construction plans; site inspections.

BIO-2 100 ft Aquatic Resource Setback:

To protect the wetland features and other aquatic habitats in the Study Area, it is essential to maintain the 100-foot Aquatic Resource Setback shown in Figure 2 herein and as detailed in the Biological Resources Assessment (Naiad, 2025). This buffer has been strategically delineated around identified habitats to safeguard ESHA. Maintaining this setback throughout all phases of project planning and implementation is critical to preserving the aquatic resources, as well as the plants and animals that depend on them.

Additionally, to prevent project-related activities or equipment from encroaching on the setback, an exclusion fence shall be installed along the 100-foot line from the top of

<p>the bank prior to construction. This will ensure that no equipment or activities enter the ESHA or disturb the aquatic habitats.</p>	
<i>Timing for Implementation/Compliance:</i>	Prior to and during construction.
<i>Person/Agency Responsible for Monitoring:</i>	Contractor, City Planner and City Engineer.
<i>Monitoring Frequency:</i>	Plans reviewed prior to construction and during period site visits.
<i>Evidence of Compliance:</i>	Documented on construction plans; site inspections.
<p>BIO-3 Preconstruction Visual Encounter Surveys for Amphibians: Given the presence of perennial water in the Study Area and the potential for special status amphibian species to inhabit adjacent upland areas, preconstruction visual encounter surveys for amphibians shall be conducted within three days before any construction begins. These surveys are designed to identify and document amphibian species that may be affected by the proposed project.</p> <p>Qualified biologists or herpetologists, experienced in amphibian identification and habitat assessment, shall carry out these site-specific surveys in accordance with established protocols. The surveys should involve a systematic search using techniques such as visual observations, dip netting, and trapping, while also documenting overall habitat conditions—including vegetation cover, water quality, and other critical features. If special-status amphibian species are detected, consultation with CDFW staff will be initiated to develop and implement appropriate mitigation measures.</p> <p>In addition, to ensure that no amphibians enter the construction area during project activities, an exclusion fence shall be installed along the 100-foot buffer from the top of the bank shown in Figure 2 herein and as detailed in the Biological Resources Assessment (Naiad, 2025). This fence must be constructed from durable, noncorrosive materials, stand at least 4 feet tall, and feature mesh openings no larger than 1/4 inch. The fence's base will extend at least 6 inches into the ground or incorporate an L-shaped barrier to prevent burrowing. Regular inspections and maintenance are critical to ensure the fence remains intact and effective throughout the construction period.</p>	
<i>Timing for Implementation/Compliance:</i>	Prior to construction.
<i>Person/Agency Responsible for Monitoring:</i>	Contractor and City Planner
<i>Monitoring Frequency:</i>	Once, prior to construction.
<i>Evidence of Compliance:</i>	Notes on plans; report on findings from qualified biologist.

BIO-4 Preconstruction Nesting Bird Surveys: Prior to any ground disturbance or vegetation clearing, preconstruction nesting bird surveys must be conducted to confirm the absence of bird species within the proposed project area and its potential impact zone within the Study Area. A qualified biologist shall undertake these surveys within approximately 500 feet of the project area, no sooner than 7 days prior to construction commencement and prior to any vegetation removal. These surveys should be conducted during the breeding season, typically spanning from February 1 to August 31, to identify active nests and nesting behavior, thereby enabling the avoidance or mitigation of impacts to nesting birds during construction.

Experienced biologists proficient in identifying and documenting nesting bird behavior utilize various survey techniques, including visual and auditory surveys as well as nest searches. These methods are designed to minimize disturbances to nesting birds, ensuring no loud noises or excessive light disrupt their nesting activities.

If active nests are discovered during the survey, temporary exclusion zones must be established to protect them from construction activities. The size of these exclusion zones will be determined based on the specific species, the type of activities occurring nearby, and the location of the nest. These zones should be clearly marked and remain in place until the birds have fledged and vacated the nest. Biologists should continuously monitor active nests during construction to ensure that activities do not adversely affect them. They should also work closely with the construction team to adjust activities as needed to minimize impacts on nesting birds.

<u>Timing for Implementation/Compliance:</u>	Prior to construction.
<u>Person/Agency Responsible for Monitoring:</u>	Contractor and City Planner
<u>Monitoring Frequency:</u>	Once, prior to construction.
<u>Evidence of Compliance:</u>	Notes on plans; report on findings from qualified biologist.

BIO 5- Preconstruction Surveys for Special-Status Mammal Species:

Preconstruction surveys for all special-status mammal species with the potential to occur within the Study Area will be conducted prior to any grading or habitat alteration that could be suitable for denning/nesting. These surveys aim to identify and document the presence of these species within or in proximity to the proposed project area. These surveys must be carried out by qualified biologists with expertise in identifying these special-status mammal species and their specific habitat requirements. The surveys shall be tailored to the site and adhere to established protocols and methodologies. During the surveys, biologists will systematically search the project area for signs of these special-status mammal species, including burrows, tracks, and other indicators of

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<p>activity. If any of these special-status mammal species or signs of their presence are discovered within or near the project area, CDFW staff shall be notified immediately, and appropriate mitigation measures will be developed and put into practice to mitigate potential impacts. These measures may involve project design adjustments to avoid disturbing their habitats or implementing protection.</p>	
<u>Timing for Implementation/Compliance:</u>	Prior to construction.
<u>Person/Agency Responsible for Monitoring:</u>	Contractor and City Planner
<u>Monitoring Frequency:</u>	Once, prior to construction.
<u>Evidence of Compliance:</u>	Notes on plans; report on findings from qualified biologist.
<p>BIO 6- Treatment of Invasive English Ivy: Manual removal of English ivy will occur to prevent its further spread and establishment. Manual removal entails physically pulling or cutting the ivy vines at their base and is particularly effective for small infestations that require precision to avoid harming surrounding vegetation. However, manual removal can be labor-intensive, especially in larger areas. Diligent efforts are essential to ensure the complete removal of the plant, including its roots, to prevent regrowth. This method aligns with environmentally friendly practices, minimizing chemical use, making it suitable for projects with ecological concerns. Regular monitoring and maintenance are typically required to prevent ivy resurgence, emphasizing the importance of ongoing vigilance throughout the removal process.</p> <p>All climbing English ivy within the project area shall be cut 6 feet above the ground so that it cannot re-root into the substrate. Vines shall be collected and taken to a green-waste facility. Young plants and runners on the ground shall be hand-pulled when the soil is moist, to ensure all roots are removed. Repeated treatments of removal over multiple years are required for successful management.</p>	
<u>Timing for Implementation/Compliance:</u>	At the time of CDP/DR permit application.
<u>Person/Agency Responsible for Monitoring:</u>	City Planner, and City Engineer.
<u>Monitoring Frequency:</u>	Plans reviewed once during project review and once after construction.
<u>Evidence of Compliance:</u>	Issuance of CDP/DR and site inspections.

Cultural Resources

CUL-1 Cultural Monitoring and Inadvertent Discovery Protocols:

To ensure that the proposed project does not cause adverse impacts to historic and prehistoric archaeological resources, the applicant and its construction contractors shall be responsible for implementing the following mitigation measures:

Monitoring of ground disturbing activities by a qualified cultural monitor or tribal cultural resource specialist from either Trinidad Rancheria, Yurok Tribe, or Tsurai Ancestral Society, and/or a qualified archaeologist shall be required for this project during ground disturbing activities. The Monitors must be kept informed by the contractor and understand the ground disturbance schedule. Field notes shall be kept by the Cultural Resource Monitor and a brief letter report of the monitoring effort filed with the North Coastal Information Center. The Monitors need only be present during ground disturbing activities.

The qualified archaeologist and tribal cultural resource monitors shall have the authority to stop all work if archaeological materials are discovered. If buried archaeological resources are discovered during project implementation, all work shall be halted within 100 feet of the find and tribal representatives, city officials and qualified archaeologists shall be contacted immediately by the monitoring tribal cultural resource professional and qualified archaeologist to evaluate the find.

If human remains are discovered during project implementation, all work shall be halted, and the permitting agency shall be contacted immediately. The City shall contact the County Coroner immediately and the coroner will evaluate the find to determine the subsequent course of action. Inadvertent discovery procedures included below.

If suspected archaeological resources are encountered during the project:

1. The Cultural Resource Monitors, archaeological or tribal, shall have the authority to stop work within 100' of the find.
2. Call the City project representative, a professional archaeologist and representatives from the Trinidad Rancheria, Big Lagoon Rancheria, Resighini Rancheria, Tsurai Ancestral Society and the Yurok Tribe.
3. The Tribes, professional archaeologist and City officials will coordinate to provide an assessment of the find and determine the significance and recommend next steps.

If human remains are encountered:

1. All work shall stop and per CA Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5:
2. Call the Humboldt County Coroner: (707) 445-7242.
3. The Coroner will determine if the remains are of precontact/historic Native American origin. If the remains are Native American, then;
4. The Humboldt County Coroner will contact the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours.

5. The NAHC is responsible under CA PRC 5097.98. (a) for identifying the most likely descendent (MLD) immediately and providing contact information. Within 48 hours the MLD may contact the landowner, and with landowner permission inspect the location, making subsequent recommendations regarding the most appropriate disposition of their descendent.	
<u>Timing for Implementation/Compliance:</u>	During ground disturbing activities.
<u>Person/Agency Responsible for Monitoring:</u>	Contractor and City Planner
<u>Monitoring Frequency:</u>	Prior to construction, during ground-disturbing activities
<u>Evidence of Compliance:</u>	Note on plans; report on findings from cultural monitor.

Geology and Soils	
GEO-1-Paleontological Resources.	
<p>If a paleontological discovery is made during construction, the contractor shall immediately cease all work activities in the vicinity (approximately 100 feet) of the discovery and shall immediately contact the County. A qualified paleontologist shall be retained to observe all subsequent grading and excavation activities. The paleontologist shall establish procedures for resource surveillance and establish, in cooperation with the project developer, procedures for temporarily halting or redirecting work to permit sampling, identification, and evaluation of fossils. If major resources are discovered that require temporarily halting or redirection of work, the paleontologist shall report such findings to the City. The paleontologist shall determine appropriate actions, in cooperation with the applicant and City that ensure proper explorations and/or salvage. Excavated finds shall first be offered to a state-designated repository such as the museum of Paleontology, University of California, Berkeley, or California Academy of Sciences. Otherwise, the finds shall be offered to the City for purposes of public education and interpretive displays. The paleontologist shall submit a follow up report to the County that shall include the period of inspection, an analysis of the fossils found, and the present repository of fossils.</p>	
<u>Timing for Implementation/Compliance:</u>	Prior to and during construction
<u>Person/Agency Responsible for Monitoring:</u>	Contractor and City Planner
<u>Monitoring Frequency:</u>	Prior to and during construction
<u>Evidence of Compliance:</u>	Note on plans

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