

10 COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

10.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains the comment letters received on the DEIR for Amador County’s Draft General Plan. A list of each commenter, associated agencies, and assigned letter designations are provided in Section 10.2. Verbal comments from the January 20th joint public meeting of the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission are also summarized in Section 10.2. A discussion of the master responses that are used in this FEIR is provided in Section 10.3. Section 10.4 presents each comment letter received on the DEIR and the responses thereto. Each comment contained in the comment letter is summarized at the beginning of each comment response in Section 10.5. References to the page numbers of edits to the Draft General Plan and/or DEIR are in reference to the page numbers found in the public review versions of the October 2014 Draft General Plan and DEIR that is posted to Amador County’s website (<http://www.amadorgov.org/departments/planning>).

10.2 LIST OF COMMENTERS ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Table 10-1 provides a list of all agencies and persons who submitted comments, the date of the comment letter, and the designation assigned to the comment letter.

Table 10-1 List of Commenters on the DEIR		
Commenting Entity Author	Date	Comment Letter ID
Public Meeting		
Joint Public Meeting of the Amador County Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission	December 2, 2014	Hearing1
Joint Public Meeting of the Amador County Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission	January 20, 2015	Hearing2
State Agencies		
Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Edith Hannigan, Board Consultant, SRA	December 30, 2015	Board of Forestry
Department of Transportation, District 10 John Gedney, Chief, Office of Rural Planning & Administration	January 30, 2015	Caltrans
California Department of Fish and Wildlife Amy Kennedy	November 14, 2014	CDFW
Governor’s Office of Planning and Research Scott Morgan, Director, State Clearinghouse	December 17, 2014	OPR1
Governor’s Office of Planning and Research Scott Morgan, Director, State Clearinghouse	February 2, 2015	OPR2
State Water Resources Control Board Gabriel Orion Edwards, SWRCB Environmental Review Unit	January 21, 2015	SWRCB
California Office of Historic Preservation Sean de Courcy, State Historian II	January 29, 2015	OHP
Regional and Local Agencies		
Amador Water Agency Rich Farrington, AWA Director	January 30, 2015	AWA
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Trevor Cleak, Environmental Scientist	December 10, 2014	CVRWQCB1
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Trevor Cleak, Environmental Scientist	January 9, 2015	CVRWQCB2

**Table 10-1
List of Commenters on the DEIR**

Commenting Entity Author	Date	Comment Letter ID
East Bay Municipal Utility District Bill E. Maggiore, Acting Manager of Water Distribution Planning	January 26, 2015	Buena Vista
City of Jackson Patrick Crew, Mayor	January 27, 2015	Jackson
Amador Local Agency Formation Commission Jim Vinciguerra, Vice-Chairman	January 15, 2015	LAFCO
Sacramento County Department of Transportation Kamal Atwal, P.E., T.E., Associate Transportation Engineer	January 29, 2015	Sac DOT
City of Sutter Creek James Swift, Mayor	January 20, 2015	Sutter Creek1
City of Sutter Creek James Swift, Mayor	January 20, 2015	Sutter Creek2
Tribes		
Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians Roselynn Lwenya, PhD, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer/Environmental Resources Director	January 20, 2015	Buena Vista
Private Organizations and Individuals		
Mark Bennett	December 2, 2014	Bennett1
Mark Bennett	January 20, 2015	Bennett2
Mark Bennett	January 29, 2015	Bennett3
Susan Bragstad	January 20, 2015	Bragstad
Rebecca Brown	January 20, 2015	Brown
Cecily Smith	January 20, 2015	C.Smith
Tim Smith	November 20, 2014	T.Smith
Anne and John Heissenbuttel	January 30, 2015	Heissenbuttel
Foothill Conservancy Susan Bragstad, Chair, Land Use Committee	July 1, 2014	Foothill1
Foothill Conservancy Thomas P. Infusino, Esq.	January 30, 2015	Foothill2
Terrell Watt Planning Consultants Terrell Watt, AICP	January 30, 2015	Watt
Sherry Curtis	January 29, 2015	Curtis
Tom Infusino	January 20, 2015	Infusino
Terry Nielson	November 19, 2014	Nielson1
Terry Nielson	December 2, 2014	Nielson2
Pristine Sun Troy Helming, CEO	December 18, 2014	Pristine Sun
Linda Raymond	January 15, 2015	Raymond
Gary Reinoehl	January 20, 2015	Reinoehl
Richard Schuman	January 20, 2015	Schuman
Sierra Pacific Industries Cedric Twilight	November 16, 2014	Sierra Pacific
Gwen Starrett	January 20, 2015	Starrett
Sue Wilson	January 30, 2015	Wilson

**Table 10-1
List of Commenters on the DEIR**

Commenting Entity Author	Date	Comment Letter ID
Amador County Business Council Jim Conklin	January 28, 2015	Business Council
First Mace Meadow Water Association, Inc. David R. Corner, Director	January 13, 2015	Mace Meadow

10.3 MASTER RESPONSES

10.3.1 MASTER RESPONSE 1: ADEQUACY OF IMPACT ANALYSIS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Several comments assert that the DEIR’s impact analysis is insufficiently detailed. Some comments request further quantification of impacts, and additional detail to support the validity of the impact conclusions. Other comments suggest that the DEIR should present project-specific impacts for certain projects or small areas, especially the Town Centers or Regional Service Center. Similarly, there are comments that assert the DEIR mitigation measures are too vague and/or improperly deferred, or suggest the DEIR should present additional, more detailed mitigation measures.

Purpose of Program EIR

The DEIR’s impact analyses and mitigation measures are at an appropriate level of detail for a General Plan Program EIR. A Program EIR is prepared for a series of actions that can be characterized as one project. An advantage of a Program EIR is that it allows the lead agency to consider broad policy alternatives and program-wide mitigation measures at an early time when the agency has greater flexibility to deal with basic problems or cumulative impacts. (CEQA Guidelines §15168(b)(4).)

The Program EIR can serve as a first-tier document for later CEQA review of individual projects included in the program. These project-specific CEQA reviews will focus on project-specific impacts and mitigation measures, and need not repeat the broad analyses contained in the Program EIR. As discussed by the California Supreme Court, “it is proper for a lead agency to use its discretion to focus a first-tier EIR on only the...program, leaving project-specific details to subsequent EIRs when specific projects are considered.” (*In re Bay Delta* (2008) 43 Cal. 4th 1143, 1174).

Level of Detail and Quantification of Impacts

An EIR should provide enough detail to allow decision makers and the public to understand a project’s environmental consequences. (See CEQA Guidelines §15151.) The DEIR does this. The degree of specificity in an EIR corresponds to the degree of specificity of the underlying activity being evaluated. (CEQA Guidelines §15146.) Also, the adequacy of an EIR is determined in terms of what is reasonably feasible, in light of factors such as the magnitude of the project at issue, the severity of its likely environmental impacts, and the geographic scope of the project. (CEQA Guidelines §§15151, 15204(a).)

CEQA Guidelines §15146(b) provides that an EIR prepared for the adoption of a local general plan should focus on the secondary environmental effects to be expected following adoption, but that the EIR need not be as detailed as one prepared for the specific construction projects that follow. Further, CEQA Guidelines §15152(c) states that when a lead agency is using the tiering process for a large scale planning approval such as a general plan, the development of detailed site-specific information may not be feasible and can be deferred to project-specific CEQA documents.

Some comments assert or imply that, to allow more detailed impact analyses, the project description should have been more detailed. However, the DEIR's project description is at an appropriate level of detail for a Countywide General Plan. Information included in the DEIR project description was sufficient to conduct the EIR's environmental impact analysis using accepted methodologies appropriate for the Program EIR's level of detail. An EIR project description should not supply extensive detail beyond that needed for evaluation of environmental impacts. (CEQA Guidelines §15124(a).)

Mitigation Measure Adequacy, Detail, and Deferral

Comments suggest that the EIR is required to adopt all feasible measures, and suggest specific mitigation measures that should be included. However, CEQA does not require analysis of every imaginable mitigation measure; rather EIR analysis is to focus on a reasonable range of mitigation measures that are feasible, practical, and effective. (See, e.g., *Napa Citizens for Honest Government v. Napa County Board of Supervisors* (2001) 91 Cal.App. 4th 32.) Comments suggest that the DEIR should include mitigation measures recommended by non-profit organizations or selected by other CEQA lead agencies, but these measures may not be feasible, effective, or appropriate for Amador County's General Plan Program EIR. Also, if the DEIR's mitigation measures reduce an impact to less-than-significant levels, there is no requirement that the DEIR consider additional mitigation measures to still further reduce the residual impact.

Some comments contend that the DEIR's mitigation measures are improperly deferred and lack specificity. This response addresses general critiques of the DEIR's approach to mitigation. Responses to comments questioning specific mitigation measures are presented in detailed responses to individual comment letters.

Since mitigation measures are an important component of an EIR, they are subject to the rules regarding level of detail in a Program EIR described above. The DEIR presents program-wide mitigation measures that largely will be implemented by the County and other agencies in subsequent project-specific design, CEQA documents, and approvals. As authorized by the CEQA Guidelines and case law, the DEIR's mitigation measures are less detailed than those that would be part of a project EIR, and the selection of detailed mitigation measures is often properly deferred to future project-specific CEQA reviews.

While the DEIR strives to provide as much detail as possible in the mitigation measures, some flexibility must be maintained to present mitigation approaches for impacts occurring over a large geographic scope and caused by a wide variety of land use activities. CEQA case law provides that a first-tier EIR may contain generalized mitigation criteria. (See, e.g., *Koster v. County of San Joaquin* (1996) 47 Cal.App.4th 29.)

While formulation of mitigation measures ordinarily should not be deferred, as long as the lead agency commits to mitigation, there are a number of exceptions to this rule that generally apply to the DEIR's mitigation measures.

- ▶ Mitigation measures may describe quantitative or qualitative performance standards to be met in the future, together with a menu of effective options that will be considered in the future to achieve the performance standards (See, e.g., CEQA Guidelines §15126.4(a)(1)(B), *California Native Plant Society v. City of Rancho Cordova* (2009) 172 Cal.App.4th 603.)
- ▶ Mitigation measures can rely on later field studies to tailor mitigation to on-the-ground conditions. (See, e.g., *Habitat and Watershed Caretakers v. City of Santa Cruz* (2013) 213 Cal. App. 4th 1277.)
- ▶ When projects are subject to future environmental permitting requirements, details of mitigation measures can be deferred to allow them to be consistent with regulatory agency requirements to be imposed later. (See, e.g., *Rialto Citizens for Responsible Growth v. City of Rialto* (2012) 208 Cal. App. 4th 899.)

10.3.2 MASTER RESPONSE 2: DISAGREEMENT REGARDING THE METHODOLOGIES OR CONCLUSIONS OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Several comments express disagreement with the DEIR's choice of impact significance thresholds or impact analysis methodologies. Some comments recommend that the DEIR use different technical methodologies for impact analysis. Comments also disagree with impact significance conclusions in the DEIR related to various resource topic areas such as air quality and climate change.

General Principles

The DEIR's impact analysis methodologies and impact conclusions are reasonable and supported by substantial evidence. The CEQA Guidelines (§15151) provide that evaluation of a proposed project's impacts need not be "exhaustive," and that the sufficiency of an EIR is to be reviewed in light of what is "reasonably feasible." An EIR must be adequate and complete, and represent a good faith effort at full disclosure, but perfection is not required. CEQA does not require a lead agency to undertake all research or studies recommended by commenters. (CEQA Guidelines §15204(a).)

Choice of Significance Thresholds

CEQA gives the lead agency the discretion to set its own significance criteria, which requires it to make a policy judgment about how to distinguish impacts which are adverse but significant from impacts which are adverse but not significant. (*Eureka Citizens for Responsible Gov't v. City of Eureka* (2007) 147 Cal.App.4th 357.) The standards of significance used in an EIR may rely upon policies or performance standards adopted by a lead agency such as Amador County. (*Mira Mar Mobile Community v. City of Oceanside* (2004) 119 Cal.App.4th 477; *Sierra Club v. County of Orange* (2008) 163 Cal. App. 4th 523.) Significance thresholds can be tailored to the project reviewed in an EIR. They can but need not be based on the significance questions in CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, or on thresholds suggested by DEIR commenters. (See *Save Cuyama Valley v. County of Santa Barbara* (2013) 213 Cal.App. 4th 1056.) Significance thresholds can appropriately be based on regulatory agency performance standards, which provide adequate levels of protection for the regulated environmental resources. (See *Oakland Heritage Alliance v. City of Oakland* (2011) 195 Cal. App. 4th 884.)

Disagreement Among Experts

A lead agency may accept the environmental conclusions reached by the experts that prepared the EIR even though others may disagree with the underlying data, analysis, or conclusions. (*Laurel Heights Improvement Ass'n v. Regents of Univ. of Cal.* (1988) 47 Cal.3d 376.) Discrepancies in results arising from different methods for assessing environmental issues do not undermine the validity of the EIR's analysis as long as a reasonable explanation supporting the EIR's analysis is provided. (*Planning & Conserv. League v. Castaic Lake Water Agency* (2009) 180 Cal.App.4th 210.)

Although disagreement among experts does not make an EIR inadequate, the EIR should summarize the main points of disagreement among experts. (CEQA Guidelines §15151.) The following individual responses to comments do summarize the main points of disagreement for specific resource topics, and explain why the DEIR's impact analyses and conclusions are supported by substantial evidence. In some cases, there is no substantial evidence offered by commenters to support that a different conclusion should be drawn. As such, no further response to disagreements presented in the comment letters is necessary. If substantial evidence is provided by the commenter to support the disagreement with the DEIR's analyses or conclusions, individual responses summarize the evidence and explain the rationale for the DEIR's approach.

10.4 COMMENTS ON THE DEIR AND RESPONSES

Comment letters and responses to comments are arranged in the following order:

- ▶ Public Meeting
- ▶ State Agencies
- ▶ Regional and Local Agencies
- ▶ Tribes
- ▶ Private Organizations and Individuals

Each letter has been given a shortened designation, and each comment within each letter has been given an identification number. Responses are numbered so that they correspond to the appropriate comment. Where appropriate, responses are cross-referenced between letters or with a master response.

**JOINT PLANNING COMMISSION AND BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING**

DATE: December 2, 2014
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
LOCATION: County Administration Center, 810 Court Street, Jackson, CA

The Joint Panel of the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors met at the County Administration Center, 810 Court Street, Jackson, California, on the above date pursuant to adjournment, and the following proceedings were had, to wit:

Present on the Roll Call:

Board Members:

Theodore F. Novelli, Chairman, District III
John Plasse District I
Richard M. Forster, District II
Louis D. Boitano, District IV
Brian Oneto, District V

Planning Commissioners:

Denise Tober, Chairman, District III
Ray Lindstrom, District I
Dave Wardall, District II
Andy Byrne, District IV
Ray Ryan, District V

Staff:

Greg Gillott, County Counsel
Chuck Iley, County Administrative Officer
Susan Grijalva, Planning Director
Heidi Jacobs, Acting Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

NOTE: These minutes remain in *Draft* form until approved by Minute Order at the next regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors. Any packets prepared by County Staff are hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference as though set forth in full. Any staff report, recommended findings, mitigation measures, conditions, or recommendations which are referred to by Board members in their decisions which are contained in the staff reports are part of these minutes by reference only. Any written material, petitions, packets, or comments received at the hearing also become a part of these minutes by reference.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Novelli led the Panel and audience in the Pledge.

B. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: It was moved by Supervisory Oneto, seconded by Commissioner Ryan and unanimously carried to approve the agenda.

C. Correspondence: Susan C. Grijalva, Planning Director, stated all correspondence will be accumulated and addressed in the Final Environmental Impact Report.

D. Public Matters not on the Agenda: None.

AGENDA ITEM - Public comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) prepared for the adoption and implementation of the County's proposed Draft General

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Plan which represents the County's policy for determining the appropriate physical development and character of Amador County, and establishes an overall future development capacity.

Susan C. Grijalva, Planning Director, summarized the staff report which is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes as though set forth in full.

Terry Nielson read from the letter he submitted, see attached.

Supervisor Boitano stated Mr. Nielson brought up some good points. Chairman Novelli thanked Mr. Nielson for addressing concerns he had not thought of. Commissioner Ryan agreed the items do need to be addressed.

Mark Bennett was concerned the suggestions made by Mr. Nielson would make it difficult to utilize solar power. Mr. Bennett read from the letter he submitted, see attached. He stated these are only partial comments and he will submit all his comments by the deadline.

Susan Bragstad stated she thought the Supervisors and Commissioners would discuss the documents at this meeting. Commissioner Boitano stated the purpose of this meeting and the January 20, 2015 meeting is to receive public comment.

In response to Chuck Iley, County Administrative Officer, Ms. Grijalva stated the next meeting will be on January 20, 2015 and comments will be taken until January 30, 2015. The consultant will then prepare responses to the comments and the Final EIR will be prepared and made available for review. The public hearing process on the Draft General Plan will then begin; the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding the adequacy of the Environmental Impact Report and the decision on the Draft General Plan. The Board of Supervisors will make a decision on certifying the Environmental Impact Report. Once that is done, final action on the General Plan project can be made.

ADJOURNMENT: At 9:30 a.m. Chairman Novelli adjourned the meeting.

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Hearing1-1	The comment provides a summary of the agenda items and actions taken during the public hearing. The comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required.
Hearing1-2	The comment references a comment letter submitted by Mr. Nielson. See response to comment letter Neilson2-1 through -9.
Hearing1-3	The comment references a comment letter submitted by Mr. Bennett. See response to comment letter Bennett1-1.
Hearing1-4	The comment summarizes the next steps for the Amador County General Plan and EIR. The comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required.

**JOINT PLANNING COMMISSION AND BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING**

DATE: January 20, 2015
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
LOCATION: County Administration Center, 810 Court Street, Jackson, CA

The Joint Panel of the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors met at the County Administration Center, 810 Court Street, Jackson, California, on the above date pursuant to adjournment, and the following proceedings were had, to wit:

Present on the Roll Call:

Board Members:

Brian Oneto, District V, Chairman
 John Plasse District I
 Richard M. Forster, District II
 Lynn Morgan, District III
 Louis D. Boitano, District IV

Planning Commissioners:

Ray Ryan, District V, Chairman
 Ray Lindstrom, District I
 Caryl Callsen, District III (arrived late)
 Andy Byrne, District IV

Staff:

Greg Gillott, County Counsel
 Chuck Iley, County Administrative Officer
 Susan Grijalva, Planning Director
 Heidi Jacobs, Acting Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Absent:

Planning Commissioner Dave Wardall, District II

NOTE: These minutes remain in *Draft* form until approved by Minute Order at the next regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors. Any packets prepared by County Staff are hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference as though set forth in full. Any staff report, recommended findings, mitigation measures, conditions, or recommendations which are referred to by Board members in their decisions which are contained in the staff reports are part of these minutes by reference only. Any written material, petitions, packets, or comments received at the hearing also become a part of these minutes by reference.

Board Chairman Oneto called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Agenda: It was moved by Supervisor Boitano, seconded by Commissioner Byrne and carried to approve the agenda.

Correspondence: Susan C. Grijalva, Planning Director, reviewed the list of correspondence received to date (date received and commenter). She stated she has heard the Cities of Sutter Creek and Jackson will be submitting comments prior to the deadline.

- 7/15/14 Foothill Conservancy
- 11/14/14 CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- 11/19/14 Terry Nielson
- 11/19/14 Tim Smith (did not include the attachment)
- 11/20/14 Tim Smith (reformatted version of the 11/19/14 email attachment)
- 11/24/14 Sierra Pacific Industries

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- 12/2/14 Joint Meeting Correspondence:
 - Terry Nielson
 - Mark Bennett
- 12/16/14 Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
- 12/18/14 Pristine Sun
- 12/19/14 State Clearinghouse
- 12/29/14 State Clearinghouse
- 1/14/15 Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
- 1/15/15 Linda Raymond
- 1/16/15 First Mace Meadow Water Association, Inc.
- 1/20/15 Richard Schuman
- 1/20/15 Amador LAFCO
- 1/20/15 Rebecca Brown

Public Matters not on the Agenda: None.

Item 1: Continued - Public comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) prepared for the adoption and implementation of the County's proposed Draft General Plan which represents the County's policy for determining the appropriate physical development and character of Amador County, and establishes an overall future development capacity. The environmental impact analysis in the DEIR is based on the change between existing conditions and those associated with likely development in accordance with the Draft General Plan by 2030. Please keep comments focused on the adequacy of the DEIR only at this time. (NOTE: If possible, a written copy of any oral comments made is requested to facilitate documentation for the record.)

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Susan C. Grijalva, Planning Director, summarized the staff report which is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes as though set forth in full.

Supervisor Morgan asked about the Housing Element timeframe. Ms. Grijalva stated the Housing Element is currently being updated. Chuck Iley, CAO, added the Housing Element is being prepared jointly with the cities.

Chairman Oneto opened the public comment.

Gale Fairbrother, Chamber of Commerce, asked when comments are due for the Housing Element. Ms. Grijalva stated the public hearings will be noticed sometime in the next couple months; the notices will list the dates of the comment period.

Gwen Starrett read from the letter she submitted, see attached.

Rebecca Brown read from the letter she submitted, see attached.

Gary Reinoehl read from the letter he submitted, see attached.

Tom Infusino, Foothill Conservancy, read from the letter he submitted, see attached.

Mark Bennett read from the letter he submitted, see attached.

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HEARING 2

Susan Bragstad submitted a letter, see attached, and read her comments from the Agriculture and Forestry Resources section.

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Chairman Oneto asked if any other members of the public wished to comment; seeing none he asked if members of the Joint Panel had comments.

Supervisor Plasse had one observation that jumped out because of a rather robust discussion the Joint Panel had on the topic of Urban Reserve during some of the original planning meetings probably five years ago now. It has to do with Alternative Two: The City and Community Centered Growth and it talks about how Alternative Two would introduce the Urban Reserve which is not present in the Draft General Plan. The Urban Reserve designation would be applied to the Spheres of Influence of Lone, Jackson, Plymouth and Sutter Creek. Basically, it is the reintroduction of a concept this Joint Panel discussed at length five years ago and rejected wholeheartedly, which is his recollection and he'd welcome the recollection of others present at the time. He wondered how there could be such a discussion, come to a conclusion and find it five years later reintroduced in the DEIR under an alternative. The phrase "This alternative assumes that development within unincorporated spheres of influence areas will be required as a condition of approval to be consistent with General Plans." The fact of the discussion we had is an owner of property in County area jurisdiction that is able to vote for their elected officials on the County level but not in the neighboring city to be governed by the General Plan and restrictions of that City even though their property is not within that City. That is the gist of the discussion we had.

Chairman Oneto stated he remembers the discussion pretty well. Supervisor Plasse laid out the discussion very well; the owners would not be properly represented by the County or the City and we did not want any part of that. Chairman Oneto asked if that would be something staff and the consultants would address.

Commissioner Caryl Callsen arrived at 6:37 p.m.

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Ms. Grijalva stated the Urban Reserve was identified as an alternative; there is also a reduced growth alternative which she did not recall being discussed. Alternatives to the project are provided which meet the criteria for a CEQA alternative; which are able to carry out the objective of the project and potentially reduce the impacts. It is required to come up with different types of scenarios and this is one of the alternatives, to encourage growth to go in the cities.

Supervisor Plasse stated the Draft General Plan already addresses that. It talks about encouraging, directing, or focusing growth around the established communities.

Ms. Grijalva stated this takes that concept a little further and directs growth to the Cities. It provides for more urban type of development rather than spreading it throughout the County while accommodating the same amount of growth.

Supervisor Plasse asked how many alternatives are required. Ms. Grijalva stated there is the project and a "no project" alternative is required by CEQA but there is no established number as a reasonable number of alternatives.

Supervisor Plasse asked if the consultant brought forward the alternatives. Ms. Grijalva stated staff and the consultant came up with the alternatives together that would meet the objectives of

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the plan.

Commissioner Byrne stated the idea of having those ideas as an option is when you encourage growth near the cities, which came from the GPAC process to keep the communities distinct, there have to be tools to make it work and this was one of the tools to make it work.

Supervisor Plasse replied but that wasn't the direction to staff.

Mr. Iley stated the motion regarding Urban Reserve can be read if the Panel would like. Supervisor Plasse asked for the motion to be read.

Ms. Jacobs, read the from the June 3, 2009 minutes: "**MOTION:** It was moved by Supervisor Forster, seconded by Commissioner Ryan, and carried to eliminate the Urban Reserve proposal from the project description that is to be analyzed in the EIR, but to include one alternative that includes the Urban Reserve for the purpose of studying what resulting impacts would occur if the UR was implemented. Motion passed on a vote of 9 to 1."

Supervisor Plasse stated that was a very complete motion.

Commissioner Ryan stated he was reviewing the minutes and stated the intent was to have Urban Reserve as an alternative and asked if the concern is that the Urban Reserve as an alternative would become part of the project description. Supervisor Plasse said yes, that is part of his concern; since it is proposed as an alternative, the Commissioners and the Supervisors should be aware we had that discussion and it is now in as an alternative and to take that into consideration. Chairman Oneto stated personally if it went from being an alternative to the selected choice, there'd have to be more discussion. Supervisor Forster stated it is hard to remember intent from way back then but do you have what the vote was; yes, the vote was 9-1. Supervisor Plasse stated he would like to hear the recording. Ms. Grijalva stated the minutes were pretty much verbatim.

Ms. Grijalva stated the Urban Reserve was presented as an alternative that could carry out the goals and objectives of the project and possibly have fewer environmental impacts. Through the analysis in the DEIR there are determinations made as to whether some of the alternatives have fewer or more impacts than the proposed project. In order for Urban Reserve to be put back into the project the Board of Supervisors would need to make that decision. This is not an attempt to put Urban Reserve back in the project description; it is presented as an alternative as directed.

Chairman Oneto referred to CM-8, Circulation and Mobility and the reference to the Tri-County Agreement MOU. Ms. Grijalva stated the MOU did expire three years ago and that information will be corrected.

Chairman Oneto asked about the adopted Building Codes and if there should be a reference to the ordinances adopted by the Board. Ms. Grijalva stated the reference to the adopted Building Codes is in the Safety regulations regarding earthquakes, snow loads, etc. and those have not been changed by other ordinances adopted by the County.

Chairman Oneto asked about the accuracy of the Level of Service figures. Ms. Grijalva stated the consultant will review the information to ensure they are correct.



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Chairman Oneto asked about the requirement for new structures to be above the 100 year flood plain and if it would be a hindrance to agriculture in areas like Jackson Valley and Lone Valley. Ms. Grijalva stated there are options for construction which would allow structures to be built in a flood plain; for example, there are provisions to either build above the flood plain or for water to pass through the structure.

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Chairman Oneto asked where the Home Rule Statement was placed. Ms. Grijalva stated it was included. Ms. Grijalva read the language found in the Governance Element beginning on page G-9 and noted it is not specifically listed as Home Rule.

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Chairman Oneto noticed additional members of the public had arrived and asked if anyone else would like to comment.

Katherine Evatt, Foothill Conservancy, stated one point she would like to make is that mitigation for a general plan needs to be in the plan itself and it shouldn't be outside the plan in some kind of separate mitigation plan and it shouldn't be in a separate implementation plan. It really needs to be clear goals, policies and programs that are in the plan; you have the opportunity to have a clear plan and that's how it ought to be done; as she understands it in talking to planners. So as you review the DEIR comments we hope you keep in mind the mitigations really need to be in the plan itself as part of the plan. If there are feasible mitigation measures in the form of goals, policies and programs that can substantially reduce the significance of an environmental impact you are required to adopt them even if they do not reduce the impact level to less than significant. You can't really wait and do that on a project level. She quoted from a letter sent to the City of Vacaville on that subject from the firm of Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger, LLP which is one of California's better land use firms, "If supported by substantial evidence, the lead agency may make findings of overriding considerations and approve the project in spite of its significant and unavoidable impacts. However, the lead agency cannot simply conclude that an impact is significant and unavoidable and move on. A conclusion of residual significance does not excuse the agency from (1) performing a thorough evaluation and description of the impact and its severity before and after mitigation, and (2) proposing all feasible mitigation to 'substantially lessen the significant environmental effect'."

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Ms. Evatt stated the DEIR relied on the Amador Water Agency's (AWA) Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) but it refers to the 2011 version of the plan but it was updated in 2014; she recommended the data be reviewed to match the current 2014 Plan. The important point is the UWMP shows in 2035 there will still be enough water to provide for another 30,000 or more Amador County residents. If AWA were to increase its efficiency and implement water recycling programs it would have more water available after that. If the growth occurs as projected in the general plan the water use from new growth in the unincorporated area would only be about 600 acre feet of water based on current water usage levels. That would be assuming all the new development is supplied by AWA which is unlikely; that is less than 10% of the water used in the AWS system now. That would be why, by and large, the consultants did not find the growth would cause significant and immitigable impacts on water. However they did find a significant finding related to the uncertainty of water supply in the Central Amador Water Project (CAWP) area and Camanche Village; part of that is based on outdated information on CAWP's water demand in the DEIR. The water demand has decreased since the recession began; she suggested staff and consultants talk with AWA about current water usage in the CAWP system. Still because the CAWP system is not using all the available water in the system right now which is why, in part, the AWA has not been very diligent in pursuing its new water right application that's been pending for 10 years for the CAWP system. There are

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ways additional water use in those areas could be mitigated. One: require all new homes in the CAWP and Camanche areas to be built and equipped and landscaped so that they use no more than 75 gallons of water per person per day; that is the amount AWA has agreed is reasonable in the MokeWise program and it would increase the efficiency of water use in those areas from 2-3 families per acre foot per year to nearly 5 families per acre foot per year. That is a substantial reduction; you can have a lot of growth on the same amount of water. Two: adopt a vintage home retrofit program for the CAWP service area to provide high efficiency washers and toilets to existing homes, which is in the works in Camanche. Three: implement a water neutral development policy for new commercial and industrial development in the unincorporated areas if it were in the CAWP or Camanche area. Four: ban the use of potable water for golf courses, sports fields and other high water uses in the CAWP or Camanche areas. Five: limit new development in the CAWP or Camanche areas to that which could be supplied by existing supplies until the water supply is really worked out whether it is the new water right for the CAWP area or various groundwater things and water transfers from EBMUD that are being worked on for Camanche Village. All of those are feasible mitigations that would reduce the impact.

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Ms. Evatt stated another water impact identified is the lack of water treatment capacity; again, she thought the information relied on is out of date and ignores the measures AWA has taken to create a funding structure for water treatment plant expansion. That can be mitigated by limiting development in the Amador Water Service system area until the water treatment capacity is expanded and through some of the other measures she mentioned. There is additional outdated information in the water section of the DEIR that will be addressed in her written comments she will be submitting.

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Finally, she stated opposing Wild and Scenic designation for all the rivers and streams might be a nice political statement but it's not mitigation under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); it conflicts with the express goals in the General Plan regarding protecting the area rivers and streams. She suggested the CEQA definition of mitigation be reviewed to make sure you are not putting something in as mitigation that is not by definition mitigation.

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Cecily Smith, Executive Director of the Foothill Conservancy, read from the letter she submitted, see attached.

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Rhonda Pope, Buena Vista Rancheria Chairwoman, addressed Cultural Resources Section 4.5.1 section 106 about public agencies and consulting parties; she would like tribal government to be clearly identified; especially the 3 recognized tribes within Amador County: Jackson Rancheria, lone Band of Miwok Indians, and Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians. There is a reference to SB18 which is very good; she encouraged the earliest time to consult with tribes is at the very beginning stages not after a plan has been developed and set forth. She stated it seemed local, state, and federal governments make that mistake especially when dealing with cultural resources. She reiterated her request to consult with the federally recognized tribes of Amador County.

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Chairman Oneto asked for any other comments.

Supervisor Plasse stated there have been comments referring to "feasible mitigation measures" and asked who would make the determination if it is feasible; when it becomes a point of litigation. Ms. Grijalva stated Supervisor Plasse answered his own question.

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Supervisor Plasse noticed in Mitigation Measure 4.1-4 there is a requirement which calls for the prohibition of a type of lighting which is required by current building codes for outdoor lighting. The Mitigation Measure should be consistent with the Current Building Code. Ms. Grijalva stated this is an example of why mitigation needs to be broad enough to keep up with current changes in codes; perhaps changing it to "use the best available technology" would be a better option.

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Chairman Oneto asked if concerns regarding wild and scenic should be addressed now or later. Ms. Grijalva stated it can be addressed at a later date.

Motion: It was moved by Supervisor Boitano, seconded by Supervisor Plasse and carried to close the public comment.

Supervisor Boitano asked for clarification of the next steps.

Ms. Grijalva stated the comment period will close at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 30, 2015. At that time the consultants will respond to the comments; there is no timeframe for how long that will take. When the responses are complete the Final EIR (FEIR) will be released for public review and distribution. At that time a public hearing will be scheduled for the Planning Commission to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors regarding the certification of the FEIR and the adoption of the draft General Plan. Then there will be a public hearing for the Board of Supervisors to take final action on the recommendations of the Planning Commission. Commissioner Byrne asked if the Planning Commission process and then to the Board would be two separate meetings. Ms. Grijalva replied yes, that is her understanding.

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Commissioner Ryan asked if the Housing Element and the General Plan will be cohesive and consistent with each other. Ms. Grijalva stated since the Housing Element will be adopted prior to the General Plan, action can be taken during the adoption of the General Plan to correct any inconsistencies.

ADJOURNMENT: At 7:25 p.m. Chairman Oneto adjourned the meeting.

- Hearing2-1 The comment provides an introduction to the public comments portion of the hearing and identifies speakers. The comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required.
- Hearing2-2 The comment provides a discussion about the inclusion of the Urban Reserve designation in DEIR Alternative Two. The comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required.
- Hearing2-3 The comment provides a discussion about correcting language in the Draft General Plan regarding the Tri-County Agreement Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). On November 16, 2011, ACTC voted to withdraw from participation in the Tri-County MOU. Text has been revised in the Capacity Needs discussion of the Circulation and Mobility Element of the Draft General Plan as shown below:
- ~~Amador County is currently committed to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which pools the county's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds with those of the Calaveras and Alpine Local Transportation Commissions for large projects. Following completion of the MOU, three projects are likely to be considered candidates for Amador County STIP funds: SR 88 Corridor Improvements in Pine Grove, SR 88 Corridor Improvements in Jackson, and the Lone Interim West Bypass.~~
- Hearing2-4 The comment states that the County's adopted building codes are in the Safety Regulations regarding earthquakes, snow loads, etc., which have not been changed by other ordinances adopted by the County. The comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required.
- Hearing2-5 The comment provides a discussion about reviewing the LOS figures in the DEIR to ensure they are correct. The source of the LOS data in DEIR Tables 4.14-4 and 4.14-5 is the traffic study performed by AECOM, attached to the DEIR as Appendix F. The traffic data is correct. The comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required.
- Hearing2-6 The comment provides a discussion about options that would allow structures to be built in the 100-year floodplain. The comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required.
- Hearing2-7 The commenter asked where the "Home Rule Statement" was placed in the Draft General Plan, to which it was explained that the Home Rule Statement is included in the Draft General Plan's Governance Element, although it is not noted specifically as a Home Rule. The comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required.
- Hearing2-8 The comment contends that mitigation for the Draft General Plan needs to be in the Draft General Plan itself, not a separate document. When the Board of Supervisors adopts CEQA findings for the Draft General Plan, the adopted mitigation measures would at that time be incorporated into the General Plan. (CEQA Guidelines Section 15091[a][1].) The comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required.

- Hearing2-9 The comment contends that if there are feasible mitigation measures in the form of goals, policies, and programs that can substantially reduce the significance of an environmental impact, then the Board should adopt them. DEIR Sections 4.1 through 4.14 include feasible mitigation measures in the form of goals, policies, and programs to reduce the project’s environmental impacts. The comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required.
- Hearing2-10 The comment contends that mitigation measures cannot wait until the project-level review. See Master Response 1, “Adequacy of Impact Analysis and Mitigation Measures.” The comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required.
- Hearing2-11 The comment cites a letter to the City of Vacaville from the firm of Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger, LLP regarding the need to adequately evaluate and include mitigation measures that would reduce significant environmental effects, including those that are found to be significant and unavoidable. The County is aware of the CEQA statutes and guidelines that require implementation of feasible mitigation measures to reduce environmental impacts, and the DEIR complies with these requirements. The comment does not raise any specific topics or impacts where she believes that feasible mitigation was not implemented. See also response to comment Hearing2-9.
- Hearing2-12 and -13 The comments request updating the DEIR to rely on the more current (2014) version of the AWA’s UWMP. The NOP was published on July 28, 2009 and pursuant to the provision of Section 15125 of the CEQA Guidelines, an EIR must include a description of the physical environmental conditions as they exist at the time the NOP is published. The DEIR analysis relied upon the most current water supply information available at the time the NOP was published. Furthermore, the information contained in the updated UWMP would not change the water supply impact conclusions.
- Hearing2-14 and -15 The comments state that the information regarding water supply in the CAWP area and Camanche Village is based on outdated information, and state that the water usage in those areas has substantially decreased. Because the water supply analysis relies on demand and usage data that is higher than more recently available data, the DEIR contains a conservative analysis that does not require revision.
- Hearing2-16 The comment provides information about the CAWP system and AWA’s pending application for new water rights. See responses to comments Hearing2-12 and -13. The comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required.
- Hearing2-17 The comment suggests that new mitigation measures be included in the form of a requirement that all new homes in the CAWP and Camanche areas be built and equipped and landscaped so that they use no more than 75 gallons of water per person per day. DEIR Mitigation Measures 4.13-1a, 4.13-1b, 4.13-1c, and 4.13-1d (pages 4.13-33 through 4.13-35 of Section 4.13, “Public Services and Utilities”) contain feasible measures to reduce impacts related to water supply. See also responses to comments Foothill2-939 through -945.
- Hearing2-18 The comment suggests a new mitigation measure to adopt a vintage home retrofit program for the CAWP service area to provide high efficiency washers and toilets to existing homes. Mitigation Measure 4.13-1c (DEIR page 4.13-34) includes a provision for the County to consider financing options to assist applicants in providing necessary

infrastructure, including tax credits, deferred fee payment programs, reimbursement of costs for infrastructure improvements and amortization of infrastructure fees. This measure encompasses consideration of a program such as the one suggested by the comment. See also responses to comments Foothill2-939 through -945.

- Hearing2-19 The comment suggests a new mitigation measure to implement a “water neutral development policy” for new commercial and industrial development in the undeveloped areas of the County. See responses to comments Foothill2-939 through -945.
- Hearing2-20 The comment suggests a new mitigation measure to ban the use of potable water for golf courses, sports fields, and other “high water uses” in the CAWP or Camanche areas. DEIR Mitigation Measure 4.13-1b (page 4.13-33) requires development and implementation of reasonable best management practices for water conservation. These may include (but are not limited to) use of graywater, reclaimed, or recycled water for irrigation, water-conserving plumbing fixtures, and low-water landscapes. See also responses to comments Foothill2-939 through -945.
- Hearing2-21 The comment’s suggested new mitigation measures to limit new development in the CAWP or Camanche areas are based on personal opinion that the water supply for those areas needs to be “really worked out.” However, the availability of water to supply these areas is discussed throughout DEIR Section 4.13, “Public Services and Utilities;” Mitigation Measures 4.13-1a through -1d are proposed to reduce water supply impacts and would apply to the CAWP or Camanche areas. Furthermore, the legislative requirements related to preparation of a water supply assessment (SB 610) and a water supply verification prior to development project approval (SB 221) discussed on DEIR pages 4.13-1 and 4.13-2 would help assure sufficient water supply is available to serve new development. Therefore, there is no necessity for a Draft General Plan mitigation measure precluding development until water supplies for the CAWP or Camanche areas are “worked out.” See also responses to comments Foothill2-939 through -945.
- Hearing2-22 The comment states that the new mitigation measures suggested in comments Hearing2-17 through -21 are feasible and would reduce the level of water supply impacts. See responses to comments Hearing2-17 through -21 and responses to comments Foothill2-939 through -945.
- Hearing2-23 The comment states that reliance on an older version of the UWMP for water treatment capacity impacts ignores current measures being taken by AWA to create a funding structure for water treatment plant expansion. See responses to comments Hearing2-12 and -13 and AWA-1 through -34.
- Hearing2-24 The comment suggests mitigating water treatment impacts by limiting development in the Amador Water Service system until capacity is expanded, and through measures mentioned in Comments Hearing2-17 through -21. See response to comment Hearing2-21, which applies to the AWA service area in general.
- Hearing2-25 The comment contends there is other (beyond what was identified in earlier comments) outdated information in the water section of the DEIR. The commenter does not provide any information regarding specific facts or data that she believes are outdated, nor does the commenter explain how such information would change the significance conclusions contained in the DEIR.
- Hearing2-26 The comment states that the text included in DEIR Mitigation Measure 4.13-1b (which requires communication to all appropriate federal elected officials, federal agencies and

departments, that Federal Wild and Scenic, National Recreation Area, or similar designations of surface waters in or adjacent to the County would be incompatible with the long term water supply of Amador County), does not in fact result in reduction of any environmental impacts and conflicts with Draft General Plan goals to protect rivers and streams. In response to this comment, the text of Item 4 in Mitigation Measure 4.13-1b (DEIR page 4.13-34) referred to by the commenter, has been removed from the DEIR, and a text edit has been made to Program P-3: Future Water Supply on page P-7 of the Implementation Plan as shown in responses to comments Foothill2-929 through -935.

Hearing2-27

The comment states that C. Smith read excerpts from her letter, a copy of which is attached. The comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required. See responses to comments C. Smith-1 through -6.

Hearing2-28 and -29

The comment requests that DEIR Section 4.5, “Cultural Resources” clearly identify the three recognized tribal governments in the County that may be affected by General Plan implementation, and encourages consultation with tribes at the early stages of plan preparation. See responses to comments Buena Vista-1 and Foothill1-1 and -2.

Hearing2-30

The comment asks who would determine feasibility of mitigation measures, when it becomes a point of litigation. The comment notes that the commenter answered his own question. The comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required.

Hearing2-31

The comment states Supervisor Plasse noted that in Mitigation Measure 4.1-4, there is a requirement calling for the prohibition of a type of lighting that is required by current building codes for outdoor lighting, and that the mitigation measure should be consistent with the current building code. The comment further provides a response that this is an example of why mitigation needs to be broad enough to keep up with current changes in codes; it was suggested that the language be changed to “use the best available technology.” The third bullet point of DEIR Mitigation Measure 4.1-4 (page 4.1-8) has been revised as shown below:

- Require public lighting in commercial, industrial, and residential areas to be of a type(s) that are shielded and downward directed, utilizing light sources that are the best available technology for eliminating light bleed and reflectance into surrounding areas to the maximum extent possible. ~~Prohibit the use of harsh mercury vapor, low-pressure sodium, or fluorescent bulbs for public lighting in commercial, industrial and residential areas.~~

Hearing2-32

The comment consists of a discussion regarding the next steps in the Draft General Plan and EIR process. It was noted the public comment period will close at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 30, 2015. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m. The comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required.

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

P.O. Box 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
Website: www.bof.fire.ca.gov
(916) 653-8007



Amador County Planning Department
Attention: Susan Grijalva, Planning Director
810 Court Street
Jackson, CA 95642

RECEIVED
Amador County

JAN 30 2015

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

January 29, 2015

RE: Amador County General Plan Update DEIR; SCH#2009072089

Dear Ms. Grijalva:

The California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) would like to issue comment on the scope and contents of the County General Plan Update Draft Environmental Impact Report, specifically the Draft EIR *Hazards and Hazardous Materials* analysis. 1

In particular, the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection is concerned about plans to provide for adequate ingress and egress to developed land in high or very high fire hazard severity zones (H/VHFHSZ) as well as changes in land use designations that may support the location of high residential densities, essential public facilities, and special needs housing in VHFHSZ. The Draft Environmental Impact Report does not develop any mitigation programs that balance future development with the unique wildfire protection needs of the county. 2

Mitigation Measure 4.8-7a "Implement Program D-2: Fire Safe Development" is insufficient to protect proposed development in the county from the threat of wildfire. It is highly recommended by the Board that Amador County develop county-specific building and development requirements that go farther than the minimum standards that exist in state regulations such as 14 CCR 1270. These county-level requirements may include land use limitations, restricting the construction of one-way or dead end roads, and restrictions on the location of essential public facilities or special needs housing, such as senior housing, in very high fire hazard severity zones. The Board highly recommends, given the growth pressure faced by Amador County and the high or very high fire risk throughout the county, the county go beyond the minimum fire safe development and building standards required by the state in the Title 24 and Title 14. 3

The DEIR states "No additional feasible mitigation is available to reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level. This impact would remain **significant and unavoidable**" (page 4.8-23). Did Amador County or the DEIR preparer study the impacts of certain development restrictions or project requirements, such as the ones above, to wildfire risk faced by Amador residents and businesses? Was the effect of stricter standards than those in Title 24 and Title 14 and their impact on wildfire risk evaluated? Would stricter standards reduce the impact of wildfire risk on residents and business in Amador County to a less-than-significant level, or close to less-than-significant? 4 5

The Board's mission is to lead California in developing policies and programs that serve the public interest in environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable management of forest and rangelands, and a fire protection system that protects and serves the people of the state.

BOARD OF FORESTRY

The Board encourages Amador County to continue collaboration and cooperation with the Board and CAL FIRE Amador-El Dorado Unit through the Draft EIR and General Plan adoption process to address these concerns.

Sincerely,



Edith Hannigan
Board Consultant, SRA
edith.hannigan@bof.ca.gov
(916) 653-2928

CC: Unit Forester, Amador-El Dorado Unit
Chris Browder, Deputy Environmental Coordinator
Russ Kane, Land Use Planning Program
State Clearinghouse



5
cont.

Board of Forestry-1 The commenter's concerns regarding adequate ingress and egress within very high fire hazard areas is appreciated. DEIR Mitigation Measure 4.8-7a (pages 4.8-22 and 4.8-23 in Section 4.8, "Hazards and Hazardous Materials") requires that all new development applications be reviewed by the County to ensure, among other requirements, that fire protection equipment and personnel have adequate access.

Board of Forestry-2 The comment states that the Board is concerned about plans for changes in land use designations that may support the location of high residential densities, essential public facilities, and special needs housing in very high fire hazard severity zones. The Draft General Plan does not propose any significant changes in land use designations from what is allowed under the current/existing General Plan designations. In fact, the Draft General Plan reduces the density of potential development on approximately 2,500 acres located in the very high fire hazard severity zone (Amador Pines area) from the current 1 to 5 acres density to 5 to 20 acres. The Buckhorn and Pine Grove Town Centers are designed to include services and housing for uses and people needed to serve the existing and future populations of these existing communities and surrounding areas.

The development cited by the Commenter as those of concern (essential public facilities, high residential densities, or special needs housing, such as senior housing) would be evaluated through subsequent environmental review during any zone change or use permit process. Additionally, special needs housing is a use that is typically located close to necessary services such as medical offices/hospitals, public transit and other personal services which are not readily available or accessible in these Town Centers. These services are located in the Jackson, Martell, Sutter Creek areas and other incorporated cities which are not in high or very high fire hazard severity zones. While these Town Centers would experience increases in some uses, these also are the areas where water systems for fire suppression are available.

Additionally, text has been added to page S-3 of the Draft General Plan Safety Element as shown below:

A comparison of Figure S-2, "Fire Hazard Severity Zones" with Land Use Element Figure LU-1, "Land Use Diagram" identifies the location and distribution of land uses in relation to Very High, High, and Moderate Fire Hazard Severity Zones, and State responsibility areas. State responsibility areas cover the majority of Amador County excluding those areas identified in Figure S-2 as federal land (federal responsibility areas) and incorporated cities (local responsibility areas). The General Plan proposed land uses directs development outside of Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and State responsibility areas, and into Town Centers (TCs), Regional Service Centers (RSCs), and existing communities with essential public facilities (i.e. hospitals) and adequate infrastructure (i.e. public water systems, fire hydrants). Multiple-family residential and sensitive uses (e.g. care homes, schools, large day care facilities, etc.) are generally located in cities and in the Martell RSC which are not located in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and which have the necessary services and infrastructure these uses require. The General Plan also proposes decreasing the allowable density of development for areas located in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and State responsibility areas, including:

- Decreasing the density in the Amador Pines area (located above Buckhorn) from 1- to 5-acre density to 5- to 20-acre density.
- Decreasing the density in the Camanche North Shore Planning Special Planning Area from 18 dwelling units per acre to one unit per 1- to 5-acre density.
- Decreasing the density in areas near Willow Creek Road (west of Amador City) and Buena Vista (south of Ione) from 1- to 5-acre density to 40-acre density.
- Decreasing the density in areas near Fiddletown, in the Burke Ranch subdivision, and areas north of the City of Sutter Creek and Amador City from 1- to 5-acre density to 5- to 20-acre density.

The comment further states that the DEIR does not develop any mitigation programs that balance future development with the unique wildfire protection needs of the County. However, the County developed DEIR Mitigation Measure 4.8-7a, as well as applicable Draft General Plan policies, to provide such balancing.

In addition, text has been added to Mitigation Measure 4.8-7a on page 23 of DEIR Section 4.8 as shown below:

f. Where public water is available, the County will consult with water agencies on needs for additional water, water mains, fire hydrants, and related appurtenances needed to meet required fire flow criteria and for sufficient water capacity to serve peak demands of multiple fire engines to protect improvements from wildland fires.

g. A 100' setback for defensible space will be required, when possible, for high density multiple-family residential or sensitive uses (e.g., care homes, schools, large day care facilities, etc.) proposed to be located in high or very high fire hazard severity zones.

The Draft General Plan includes goals, policies, and programs to provide for the safety of future rural residential uses. For example, Policy S-2.1 (Safety Element, page S-14) requires new buildings to be constructed to provide fire-defensible spaces, separated from property lines and other buildings on the same or adjacent properties by adequate building setbacks clear of brush and fuel. It also requires new buildings in areas of moderate to high fire risk to be constructed using building materials and designs that increase fire resistance. Policy S-2.2 (Safety Element, page S-15), would guide new development to areas where adequate fire protection, roads, and water service are available to support fire response. Policies S-2.3, S-2.4, S-2.5, S-3.1, and S-3.2 would also help to protect County residents from fire hazards.

In addition, text has been added to page S-15 of the Draft General Plan as shown below:

The Implementation Plan sets forth implementation programs to carry out the above goals and policies. These include Programs P-6 (effective county services), P-12 (emergency response), D-1 (development proposal evaluation), D-2 (fire-safe development), D-10 (evacuation planning and routes), C-3 (transportation coordination), C-4 (interagency coordination), and F-3 (fire services funding).

Board of Forestry-3

The comment recommends that the DEIR fire safety mitigation measures be expanded beyond existing state standards. The measures suggested by the commenter (such as land use restrictions, further restricting the construction of one-way and dead end roads, and restrictions on the location of essential public facilities or special needs housing, such as senior housing) are considered infeasible because these development restrictions would not be consistent with many of the goals of the Draft General Plan, such as the following:

- Economic Development Objective: Pursue necessary resources, including water, to allow continued economic growth.
- Goal LU-1: Attain a diverse and integrated mix of residential, commercial, agricultural, industrial, recreations, public, and open space land uses;
- Goal LU-7: Ensure the provision of accessible health care services;
- Goal LU-10: Guide future residential and local commercial uses into established cities, unincorporated Regional Service and Town Centers, and existing community areas (e.g., Pioneer, Volcano, Camanche, Fiddletown, Red Corral);
- Goal H-1: Provide adequate sites to encourage provision of affordable housing.

Implementation of Program D-2: Fire-Safe Development would provide for additional fire protection measures to be incorporated into new discretionary developments in these fire hazard areas through the CEQA process. The comment does not provide any evidence of how Program D-2 is ineffective in protecting proposed development from the threat of wildfire. As set out in Program D-2, development applications in very high fire hazard severity zones will include specific fire protection plans, actions, and/or comply with Wildland Urban Interface codes for fire engineering features. Through the discretionary review process additional measures can be implemented on a case by case basis depending on the impacts of the specific use (see Program D-2 a., c., d., and e.). In response to the comment, however, a new program D-2g was added to page 20 of the Draft General Plan Implementation Plan, and to Mitigation Measure 4.8-7a on page 4.8-22 of the Draft EIR as shown below:

g. A 100' setback for defensible space will be required, when possible, for high density multiple-family residential or sensitive uses (e.g., care homes, schools, large day care facilities, etc.) proposed to be located in high or very high fire hazard severity zones.

See also response to comment Board of Forestry-2.

Board of Forestry-4

The comment points out that the conclusion for DEIR Impact 4.8-7 (wildland fire hazards) is significant and unavoidable, and asks whether the County considered development restrictions (such as those listed in comment Board of Forestry-3) and stricter standards than the state minimums (i.e., Title 24 and Title 14). The County did consider additional land use limitations in high or very high fire hazard severity zones, similar to those suggested by the commenter, as part of an alternative to the proposed project. DEIR Alternative 2 (City- and Community-Center Growth), described on pages 5-4 and 5-5 of DEIR Chapter 5, "Alternatives" would contain the following new Safety Element Policy: "Creation of new parcels less than 40 acres in size will be prohibited in high- or very high fire hazard severity zones unless adequate evacuation routes and full-time, professional fire and emergency medical response are available. A fair-share fee

will be assessed on all building permits issued in high- or very high- fire hazard severity zones to fund full-time professional fire and emergency response services, on either a local or countywide basis. This policy would decrease the risk of exposing new development and people to wildfire hazard.” The environmental impacts of this alternative were evaluated on DEIR pages 5-6 through 5-19. As discussed on page 5-12, wildland fire hazard impacts would be less under this alternative as compared to the Draft General Plan; however, these impacts would still be significant and unavoidable.

See also response to comment Board of Forestry-2 for additional text added to the General Plan Safety Element, and Board of Forestry-3 regarding additional development restrictions added to Mitigation Measure 4.8-7a.

Board of Forestry-5

The comment asks whether stricter standards would reduce wildfire risks to less-than-significant levels, or close to these levels. See response to comment Board of Forestry-4. Because the threshold of significance for wildfire fire risk is very low (exposing people and structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death), it is unlikely that stricter mitigation measures would reduce the impact to less-than- significant levels or close to these levels, unless all new development in wildfire hazard areas was prohibited.



Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DISTRICT 10
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10-AMA-VAR-VAR
Amador County
Draft General Plan and
DEIR
SCH # 2009072089

Susan Grijalva
Amador County Planning Department
810 Court Street
Jackson, CA 95642

Dear Ms. Grijalva:

The California Department of Transportation (Department) appreciates the opportunity to review the Draft Amador County General Plan (Plan) and Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). The General Plan represents the County's policy for determining the appropriate physical development and character of Amador County, and establishes an overall future development capacity. The Department's comments address both the Plan and the DEIR.

1

Level of Service Impacts of the Plan

The DEIR identifies significant and unavoidable (SU) impacts to the State Highway System (SHS) and local roads. Proposed mitigation includes project-level review and mitigation of discretionary projects, maintenance of regional and local traffic impact fee programs including associated capital improvement programs and assessment of traffic impact fees, and cooperation with the Department and the Amador County Transportation Commission to fund construction of improvements on the SHS with regional transportation funds.

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Because insufficient funding is available through traffic fees and regional transportation funds, new development in the County needs to provide transportation improvements to help mitigate the growth of the County. CEQA requires that the lead agency implement any feasible mitigation measures to reduce the severity of SU impacts of the Plan.

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Currently Amador County doesn't require discretionary review of projects when it finds the proposed use to be consistent with the existing land use designation and zoning of the parcel. Large projects with significant transportation impacts can be constructed with ministerial approvals on existing parcels with consistent zoning and land use designations which can lead to unmitigated significant impacts to the transportation system. Also, projects with similar traffic impacts may have widely different mitigation requirements depending on whether a map or other discretionary permit is required. Ministerial projects pay only traffic fees which the County has

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January 30, 2015
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acknowledged in the DEIR are not adequate to mitigate the projected growth of the County. Discretionary projects are required to identify and mitigate for potential project-specific impacts. Because ministerial projects don't mitigate project-specific impacts, those impacts are deferred to be addressed as last-in impacts for subsequent projects requiring discretionary permits.

↑ 8 cont.
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The Plan proposes the creation of new land use designations and zoning for the Regional Service Center in Martell and Town Centers in Pine Grove, Buckhorn, and River Pines (the Centers). The County hopes to encourage growth in the Centers and plans to implement form-based zoning for the Centers.

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The Plan considers the potential improvements to transportation from promoting more compact development within the Centers, but there is no analysis of the potential effects of instituting form-based zoning in the areas where it anticipates the greatest growth. If all uses are allowed on any parcel in the Centers, then any project on an existing parcel could be ministerial. If so, the percentage of development projects that pay traffic impact fees only would increase as would unmitigated project-specific transportation impacts.

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The Department recommends that the Plan and DEIR include a specific discussion of how form-based zoning will be implemented and how that implementation will affect transportation.

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One of the goals of the Economic Development Element is to promote a fair and consistent review process for development. Including a provision in the zoning code to require a Site Permit or similar discretionary entitlement for development in all commercial, industrial, multi-family residential, and form-based zones based on a measure of development size or intensity that closely correlates with transportation impacts would improve fairness for developers and would be a feasible measure to mitigate the SU level of service (LOS) impact identified in the DEIR. Upon implementation of anticipated SB 743 CEQA Guidelines changes, this change might also act to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and promote active transportation (AT).

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Complete Streets

The DEIR mentions the Complete Streets Act of 2008, but nothing in the Plan or DEIR works to significantly improve AT, transit, or goods movement or their integration into the SHS or local roads. The Plan itself does not mention Complete Streets. The 2009 Draft General Plan provided with the NOP includes language requiring new development to provide AT improvements, but it is struck out in the current Plan. The plan argues that concentrating development in the Centers would improve opportunities for walking and biking, but there are no provisions requiring new development in the Centers to provide appropriate facilities.

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In a rural context priorities must be set for accommodating transit and AT. A Complete Streets compliant General Plan can be expected to discuss what the County considers to be a Complete Street in various contexts—what kind of bike, pedestrian, and transit facilities are needed and feasible to provide for various types of roads and to outline goals and an approach to providing improvements including definite commitments to providing for priority improvements.

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The DEIR identifies less-than-significant (LTS) impacts to Non-motorized Transportation and

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Transit stating:

The Draft General Plan would not propose changes (such as large scale road improvements, utility corridor changes) that would impede current pedestrian, bicycle, or transit, and would increase the use of alternative transportation modes, including pedestrian, bicycle, transit, and neighborhood electric vehicle (NEV) trips and provide for additional non-motorized transportation and transit facilities. This impact would therefore be less than significant.

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In light of the legal requirement for the County to produce a Complete Streets General Plan, it is challenging to accept that the projected County growth that will have SU impacts on a mature vehicular circulation system including unacceptable LOS on 25 State highway segments and 12 local road segments will have LTS impacts on an active transportation network that the Plan identifies as "currently limited". It does not appear that the Plan complies with the Complete Streets Act or the OPR General Plan Guidelines. Goods movement as a component of the road and highway system is not addressed in the Plan or DEIR.

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The Department does not concur that the impacts of the Plan on non-motorized transportation and transit are LTS and recommends that mitigation measures be provided to reduce the impacts of increased vehicular traffic and congestion on a transportation system with limited AT facilities and increased AT demand.

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Implementation Program D-1(a)(6) states that it addresses impacts of new development on "traffic and transportation infrastructure and provisions of alternative transportation." The section goes on to address vehicular traffic impacts and improvements without any requirement for new development to provide AT improvements. The Department recommends that, consistent with a Complete Streets approach, the Implementation Program include provisions requiring project-specific analysis to assess the need for AT improvements and require implementation of project-specific AT mitigation.

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The Department recommends a mitigation measure and Implementation Program requiring review of traffic impact fee programs and their associated capital improvement programs to ensure that AT, goods movement, and transit facilities are represented to provide for the provision of Complete Streets.

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The track-changes format of the Plan shows that Implementation Program D-1(a)(15) started as a targeted implementation measure to require new development to contribute to AT and NEV facilities. After modification through strike-out changes, the program element reads, "Pedestrian and bicycle improvements. The County seeks to improve pedestrian, bicycle, and NEV access." On its face, this is now a goal with no policy or implementation to support the DEIR finding that the Plan would increase AT modes.

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In general, the Plan and Implementation Program are ineffective due to alterations to strike out AT provisions or to render them useless through changes to "advisory" language such as "promote" and "consider" in lieu of "shall" and "will". The Department recommends that the Plan and DEIR be thoroughly reviewed and revised to ensure that the impact analysis and

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January 30, 2015
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mitigation reflect a Complete Streets approach to circulation and mobility.

↑ 33 cont.

Policy CM-3.1 states, "Identify priorities for the expansion of bicycle and pedestrian transportation that respect the rights of private property owners." If the County wishes to hamstring potential AT improvements with ambiguous language about respecting private property rights, it should consider applying the same treatment to Policies, Goals, and Implementation Programs for vehicular transportation improvements and other infrastructure (utilities etc.) Approval of all proposed public projects must consider the purpose and need for the project as well as the impacts of the project. Consideration of the cost and impacts of right of way acquisition should be considered transparently for all projects without stated prejudice of that consideration in the General Plan. The Department recommends removal of references to private property rights for AT projects in Plan Policies and Implementation Programs.

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The DEIR states that the Amador County Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan allows local agencies within the County to compete for state BTA funds. Active Transportation funding is now available through the Active Transportation Program (ATP) which has replaced and expanded beyond the BTA program. The Department suggests that Amador County, the five cities, and the ACTC consider preparation of an Active Transportation Plan to ensure the County will be competitive for ATP grant funding.

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If you have any questions or would like to discuss these comments, please contact Carl Baker at (209) 948-7325 (e-mail: carl.baker@dot.ca.gov), or me at (209) 948-7112 (e-mail: john.gedney@dot.ca.gov)

Sincerely,

JOHN GEDNEY, Chief
Office of Rural Planning & Administration

c: Aaron Brusatori, Amador County Public Works Agency
Charles Field, Executive Director, Amador County Transportation Commission
State Clearinghouse

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Caltrans-1

The comment expresses appreciation for the opportunity to review the County's Draft General Plan and DEIR. The comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required.

Caltrans-2 through -15

The comments characterize the traffic impacts identified in the DEIR, the measures proposed in the DEIR to mitigate these impacts, and the County's responsibility in mitigating these impacts. The comments also describe the relationship between development approval processes and transportation impact mitigation measures, particularly with respect to the differences between projects under "ministerial" approval (subject to traffic impact fees) and those under "discretionary" approval (requiring project-specific mitigation). The comments reference statements in the DEIR that acknowledge that traffic impact fees would be insufficient to fully mitigate the projected growth in the County. The comment asserts that the form-based zoning proposed for specific areas in the Draft General Plan would allow ministerial approvals in lieu of discretionary approvals for development projects in these areas, reducing the share of projects subject to traffic impact fees, as well as increasing unmitigated project-specific transportation impacts. In conclusion, the comments request information as to how form-based zoning would be implemented and what resulting transportation impacts could be expected.

The comments regarding form-based zoning, projects requiring ministerial approvals as compared to projects requiring discretionary approvals, and the associated mitigation do not directly address the adequacy of the analysis and mitigation measures presented in the DEIR. As noted in the comment, the DEIR already identifies the Draft General Plan's impacts to the State highway network and local roadways as significant and unavoidable due to the potential for insufficient funding and a variety of other reasons, including uncertainty of implementation of improvements and lack of County jurisdiction over State highway facilities. However, the following response is provided to clarify the mechanisms that would be in place to mitigate the potential transportation impacts associated with the form-based zoning proposed in the Draft General Plan.

As described in Mitigation Measures 4.14-1a and 4.14-1b in DEIR Section 4.14, "Transportation," the County will require future projects, both ministerial and discretionary, that exceed threshold traffic volumes in the Traffic Impact Study Guidelines to conduct traffic studies to "identify any cumulative or project impacts." Projects will be required to mitigate their identified offsite impacts by constructing improvements and/or contributing fair share funding toward the identified improvements.

Traffic impact fee programs would serve as the primary source of local funding for improvements to local roads and for local contributions to improvements on State facilities. As indicated in Mitigation Measure 4.14-1b, the County would continue to use the established Capital Improvement Program (CIP) process to prioritize, fund, and build roadway improvements. Projects in the CIP are funded by a variety of federal, state, and local funding sources. Mitigation Measure 4.14-1c also specifies that the County would work with Caltrans and the Amador County Transportation Commission (ACTC) on potential improvements to the State highway network.

Per Mitigation Measure 4.14-1a, future development projects in areas proposed for form-based zoning would be subject to evaluation by the County for “consistency with the goals, policies, and implementation programs” of the Draft General Plan. Such projects would also be subject to the “fair share” provisions for transportation improvements described in Mitigation Measures 4.14-1a and 4.14-1b. In general, the proposed form-based zoning would shift away from zoning through segregation of uses towards zoning by built form, but would not allow unlimited development to take place in the respective areas. The overall intensity of development would still be limited by form-based code standards such as building height and bulk, setback, lot coverage, and street frontage.

Development projects in form-based zoning districts that exceed the zoning standards would be subject to discretionary review by the County to determine what, if any, additional transportation impacts could be generated (beyond those identified in the DEIR) and what additional mitigation measures might be necessary. Such projects would be subject to “fair share” provisions for transportation impact mitigations, and the County would retain discretion to deny approvals for projects that could be considered to conflict with the form-based code or with the goals, policies, and implementation programs of the Draft General Plan.

Additionally, text edits have been made to Mitigation Measures 4.14-1a and 4.14-1b on page 4.14-14 of the DEIR, as shown below:

Mitigation Measure 4.14-1a: Implement Program D-1a(6), Development Proposal Evaluation

- a. The County will review proposed projects for consistency with goals, policies, and implementation programs of this general plan.

Evaluation criteria for discretionary development proposals (Program D-1a(6) shall also apply to ministerial development proposals) include:

- Impact on traffic and transportation infrastructure and provision of alternative transportation. The County will continue to require developments to pay into the traffic mitigation fee program(s) to mitigate impacts to roadways.

The County will require future ministerial and discretionary projects that exceed threshold traffic volumes to conduct traffic studies (following Amador County Traffic Impact Study Guidelines ~~Transportation Commission guidance~~). The purpose of these traffic studies will be to identify and mitigate any cumulative or project impacts (roadways below the County’s standard of LOS C for rural roadways, and LOS D for roadways in urban and developing areas) beyond the limits of the mitigation fee program(s).

Projects will be required to mitigate their identified offsite impacts by constructing improvements and/or pay a “fair share” of those improvements that would be required to mitigate impacts outside the established mitigation fee program(s) (See Program F-4). [see Mitigation Measure 4.14-1b, below] The objective of this program is to substantially reduce or avoid traffic impacts, including cumulative impacts, of development which would occur to implement the General Plan.

Responsible Agencies/Departments: Planning Department, Transportation and Public Works Department

Time Frame: Ongoing

Mitigation Measure 4.14-1b: Implement Program F-4, Transportation Improvements

- a. Maintain the Regional and Local Traffic Impact Fee programs so that new transportation needs (including bicycle and pedestrian needs) generated by new development are paid for by the development on a proportional basis. Increased roadway capacity should be funded through developer fees to the extent legally possible.
- b. Use the County’s annual Capital Improvement Program (CIP) process to prioritize, fund, and build required roadway improvements, and to address phasing and construction of circulation infrastructure throughout the County. Coordinate CIP priorities with the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and planned improvements to Caltrans facilities.
- c. Use the established CIP process to implement the circulation system shown on the Circulation Diagram (Figure CM-1). The County will secure funding for roadway improvements, will design and build new roadways, and will complete roadway repairs and improvements. Future roadways must meet the County’s roadway classification design specifications and performance criteria.
- d. For those projects that require a traffic study per Mitigation Measure 4.14-1a, and which identify required roadway improvements that are not included in the current RTP or CIP at the time, a fair-share fee calculation shall be conducted to identify the applicable fair-share requirements for the identified improvement(s). The results of the fee calculation shall be paid and accounted for in a special account to fund the identified improvement(s), as applicable. The special account list for fair share funded improvement projects shall be posted or reported on a yearly basis to reflect total fair share contributions of the development projects to the identified traffic improvement(s). Develop a “fair share” program, to be used to apportion costs for improvements that are not included in the regional and local traffic impact fee program. Projects with impacts which require improvements outside those funded through the Amador County Traffic Mitigation Fee Nexus Plan, will be required to pay their “fair share” of these improvements.
- e. Review the Regional and Local Traffic Impact Fee program and the CIP process to ensure that bicycle and pedestrian improvements, goods movement, and transit facilities are represented to provide for the provision of Complete Streets.

Responsible Agencies/Departments: ~~Board of Supervisors,~~ Transportation and Public Works Department, Planning Department

Time Frame: Ongoing

Caltrans-16

The comment suggests discretionary entitlement as a means of ensuring that the potential transportation impacts of each development are fairly assessed and mitigated, and that this would help to reduce the significant and unavoidable LOS impacts (i.e., DEIR Impacts 4.14-1 and 4.14-2).

Traffic studies are required for projects which exceed specified traffic volumes. The traffic study will identify traffic volumes and necessary improvements. All developments

that create impacts on a road segment or intersection not identified in the traffic fee program are subject to fair share impact fees. Fair share is based on the number of project trips added to the identified section of road divided by the number of trips attributable to future development to the same section of road multiplied by the value of the identified road improvement. Regarding development in form-based zones, see response to comment Caltrans-2 through -15.

Caltrans-17

The comment suggests that the new mitigation for discretionary entitlement suggested in comment Caltrans-16 would help reduce vehicle miles travelled (VMT) and promote active transportation in light of anticipated changes to the CEQA Guidelines as a result of Senate Bill (SB) 743. This comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required. See also response to comment Foothill2-960.

Caltrans-18 through -33

The comments ask why the Draft General Plan lacks an Implementation Program or other adequate provisions for active transportation (pedestrian and bicycle), goods movement, and transit facilities. The comments also reference text relating to active transportation in the Draft General Plan that has been struck out or modified, and text in the DEIR that specifically mentions the Complete Streets Act of 2008. The comments suggest that the Draft General Plan is not compliant with the Complete Streets Act or the General Plan Guidelines published by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), and suggest guidelines for achieving compliance with the Complete Streets Act. The comments question the DEIR's conclusion that impacts to non-motorized transportation would be less-than-significant in light of impacts to the vehicular circulation system, existing accommodations for pedestrians and bicyclists, and an increased demand for active transportation identified in the DEIR. Finally, the comments suggest inclusion of a mitigation measure and implementation program requiring project-specific analysis of the need for pedestrian and bicycle improvements and implementation of project-specific mitigation, as well as review of traffic impact fees and capital improvement programs for compliance with Complete Streets goals.

As explained in the DEIR and in this response, substantial evidence supports the DEIR's conclusion that the Draft General Plan's impacts on non-motorized transportation and transit are less than significant. In response to the comment, a complete streets discussion has been added to the Draft General Plan on page CM-12 of the Circulation Element as shown below:

COMPLETE STREETS

Complete streets are those designed to support safe and comfortable access and travel for all users, whether in motor vehicles, on foot, on bicycle, or using public transit. The County will require complete streets in all new neighborhoods and will improve existing streets to be more complete in providing for bicycle and pedestrian movements, as funding is available.

State highways play an important role in the circulation system for Amador County. These arterials (State Routes 16, 26, 49, 88, 104, and 124) link cities and towns, but also serve as main streets as they intersect these communities. While it is important to maintain traffic flows of these state highways, it is also vital to ensure that a safe and comfortable environment is also provided for pedestrians and bicyclists.

The details of what comprises a "complete" street will depend on the development context. In new developments within or near unincorporated town centers, complete streets would typically include sidewalks and on-street bicycle routes. In other

unincorporated areas, complete streets could include separated bicycle/pedestrian paths or trails on or adjacent to roadway shoulders. The design of such paths depends on the roadway function and speed limit, but the goal would be to safely accommodate vehicles, pedestrians, and bicycles, and transit where feasible while respecting private property rights.

Improvements required for complete streets within unincorporated activity centers depend on the type of the street (see Figure CM-1 above). Pedestrian, bicycle, and public transit improvements should be focused in the mixed use areas and activity centers targeted for future growth, including Special Planning Areas (SPAs), Town Centers (TCs), and the Regional Service Center (RSC).

Policy CM-3.2 on page CM-13 of the Circulation Element of the Draft General Plan has been amended as shown below:

The County will seek funding for, and include pedestrian, and bicycle, and NEV facilities in Capital Improvements Planning, as feasible. Promote bicycle/NEV routes and pedestrian walkways. These ~~improvements~~ routes should connect residents to communities, activity centers, and adjacent developments, and offer an alternative to automobile transportation.

Policy CM-3.7 (Policy CM-3.8 in Draft General Plan) was added to page CM-13 of the Circulation Element of the Draft General Plan has been amended as shown below:

The County will work cooperatively with Caltrans and local jurisdictions to identify priority alternative transportation improvements for bicycles, pedestrians, and transit users for state routes that intersect cities and towns and serve as mains streets for these communities.

Program F-4a on page 44 of the Draft Implementation Plan was amended as shown below:

- a. Maintain the Regional and Local Traffic Impact Fee program so that new transportation needs (including bicycle and pedestrian needs) generated by new development are paid for by the development on a proportional basis. Increased roadway capacity should be funded through developer fees to the extent legally possible.

Program F-4e was added to the Draft Implementation Plan on page 45 as shown below:

- e. Review the Regional and Local Traffic Impact Fee program and the CIP process to ensure that bicycle and pedestrian improvements, goods movement, and transit facilities are represented to provide for the provision of Complete Streets.

The commenter also states that the General Plan lacks implementation programs for transit. In fact, the Circulation Element includes the following policies related to transit:

Policy CM-3.4 (Policy CM-3.5 in Draft General Plan): Consider transportation needs in the context of new development proposals. Promote land use patterns which place residents near activity centers and essential services to reduce the need for frequent automobile travel.

Policy CM-3.5 (Policy CM-3.6 in Draft General Plan): Coordinate with Amador Transit and other agencies to improve the availability of public transit connecting residents to services.

Policy CM-3.6 (Policy CM-3.7 in Draft General Plan): Coordinate with Amador Transit to continue to provide public transportation from Amador County to regional job and activity centers located outside the county.

As noted in the response above, a new policy CM-3.7 has been added to the General Plan (Policy CM-3.8 in the Draft General Plan) that includes identifying priority transit improvements for state routes.

In addition, the Draft General Plan, Implementation Plan, contains the following measures related to transit:

Program C-4: Interagency Coordination

- a. County departments will maintain regular contact with other governmental agencies which provide services or functions in Amador County for the purpose of coordinating activities, and avoiding conflict and overlap. Agencies include (but are not limited to) the Cities, Amador Unified School District, the Amador Water Agency, the Amador County Transportation Commission, the Amador Fire Protection District, the Amador County Recreation Agency, the University of California Cooperative Extension, and the Amador Transit. Related County departments will consider meeting with these agencies on a biannual basis.

Program C-10: Transit Agency Coordination

- a. The County will work closely with transit service providers to provide transit opportunities that respond to the needs of County residents and visitors. Actions may include:
 1. Promoting express bus service to regional activity and job centers;
 2. Encouraging provision of attractive, well designed, and appropriate transit amenities; and/or
 3. Providing special transit services (such as direct shuttle or dial-a-ride services.

As noted in the response above, a new policy has been added to the Draft General Plan:

Program F-4: Transportation Improvements

- e. Review the Regional and Local Traffic Impact Fee program and the CIP process to ensure that bicycle and pedestrian improvements, goods movement, and transit facilities are represented to provide for the provision of Complete Streets.

Finally, the commenter states that the Draft General Plan lacks implementation measures related to goods movement. The Circulation Element recognizes that goods movement (both truck and train) is important to the County's future commercial and industrial growth. Page CM-11 of the Draft General Plan's Circulation Element, states that potential future freight rail connections represent an important resource for industrial land uses in the County, in particular for commercial/industrial centers such as Martell.

The Land Use Element of the Draft General Plan (Goal LU-11) commits the County to focusing services that cater to a regional market in Martell. Two policies further flesh out this Goal LU-11:

Policy LU-11.1: Develop guidelines to govern future land uses within the boundaries of the Martell RSC. These guidelines will include the desired mix of industrial, commercial, residential, public facility, and other uses.

Policy LU-11.2: Develop form-based code specifications for Martell. These specifications will be used to guide development decisions to support a mix of uses and alternative modes of transportation, especially bicycle and pedestrian transportation. Promote green building standards and low impact development (LID) practices, consistent with State and federal law.

As part of the implementation of these policies, the County recognizes the need for efficient goods movement by both truck and train.

Caltrans-34 to 37

The comments suggest that the references to “rights of private property owners” under Draft General Plan Policy CM-3.1 are ambiguous and potentially biased, and recommends removal of references to private property rights for Active Transportation projects in Draft General Plan policies and implementation programs. These comments do not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required. The language contained in Policy CM-3.1 was developed after careful consideration based on public comment.

Caltrans-38

The comment states that the Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) has been replaced with the Active Transportation Program (ATP), and that the County should work with other stakeholders to produce an Active Transportation Plan. The recommendation to prepare an Active Transportation Plan to be eligible for ATP grant funding is appreciated. The text of DEIR Section 4.14, “Transportation” in the “County Regulations and Policies” discussion on page 4.14-3 and in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation discussion on page CM-10 in the Circulation and Mobility Element of the Draft General Plan have been revised as shown below:

The plan currently serves as the County’s pedestrian and bicycle master plan, ~~and allows the County to be eligible to compete for state Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) funds.~~



Amador County General Plan SCH 2009072089

1 message

Kennedy, Amy@Wildlife <Amy.Kennedy@wildlife.ca.gov> Fri, Nov 14, 2014 at 12:43 PM
To: "planning@co.amador.ca.us" <planning@co.amador.ca.us>
Cc: "Cashdollar, Shaundra@Wildlife" <Shaundra.Cashdollar@wildlife.ca.gov>

Ms. Grijalva:

I have had a chance to review the Amador County General Plan, SCH # 2009072089. I had just a few corrections to the document I wanted to bring to your attention.

- Table 4.4-3 Does not show that the California Tiger Salamander (CTS) is a State listed threatened species, as well as being listed Federally.
- Table 4.4-3 Does not show the Mt. yellow legged from as a State listed endangered species.
- Exhibit 4.4-4 shows the Sierra Nevada yellow legged frog as occurred within the project limits, but it does not show up in Table 4.4-3. It is State listed as threatened as well.

Thank you and let me know if you have any questions.

Amy Kennedy
California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
1701 Nimbus Road
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
916-358-2842

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CDFW-1 The comment states that Table 4.4-3 does not show that the California tiger salamander (CTS) is a State-listed threatened species as well as being listed federally. Table 4.4-3 in the DEIS has been revised to indicate that CTS is state-listed as threatened, as shown below:

California tiger salamander <i>Ambystoma californiense</i>	T, X	ST	Vernal pools, seasonal wetlands, ponds and other aquatic habitats with a minimum 10-week inundation period and surrounding uplands, primarily grasslands; with underground refuges, especially ground-squirrel burrows; critical habitat is designated for this species in the County and it has been documented in vernal pools and stock ponds in the County.
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CDFW-2 The comment states that Table 4.4-3 does not show the Sierra yellow-legged frog as a State-listed endangered species. Table 4.4-3 in the DEIS has been revised to indicate that Sierra yellow-legged frog is State-listed as endangered, as shown below:

Mountain Sierra yellow-legged frog <i>Rana muscosa</i> sierrae	E SE	CSC	Utilizes ponds, lakes, and streams at moderate to high elevations.
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CDFW-3 The comment states that Exhibit 4.4-4 shows the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog as occurring within the project limits, but is not shown in Table 4.4-3 and is State-listed as threatened as well. Table 4.4-3 of the DEIR incorrectly identified this species as mountain yellow-legged frog (*Rana muscosa*) instead of Sierra yellow-legged frog (*Rana sierrae*). Sierra yellow-legged frog and mountain yellow-frog previously were recognized as one species (*Rana muscosa*). Table 4.4-3 has been revised to correctly identify the species occurring in Amador County as Sierra yellow-legged frog, as shown in response to comment CDFW-2.

OPR1



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE of PLANNING AND RESEARCH
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AND PLANNING UNIT



KEN ALEX
DIRECTOR

December 17, 2014

RECEIVED
Amador County

DEC 19 2014

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Susan Grijalva
Amador County
810 Court Street
Jackson, CA 95642

Subject: Amador County General Plan Update
SCH#: 2009072089

Dear Susan Grijalva:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named Draft EIR to selected state agencies for review. On the enclosed Document Details Report please note that the Clearinghouse has listed the state agencies that reviewed your document. The review period closed on December 15, 2014, and the comments from the responding agency (ies) is (are) enclosed. If this comment package is not in order, please notify the State Clearinghouse immediately. Please refer to the project's ten-digit State Clearinghouse number in future correspondence so that we may respond promptly.

Please note that Section 21104(c) of the California Public Resources Code states that:

"A responsible or other public agency shall only make substantive comments regarding those activities involved in a project which are within an area of expertise of the agency or which are required to be carried out or approved by the agency. Those comments shall be supported by specific documentation."

These comments are forwarded for use in preparing your final environmental document. Should you need more information or clarification of the enclosed comments, we recommend that you contact the commenting agency directly.

This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. Please contact the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Scott Morgan
Director, State Clearinghouse

Enclosures
cc: Resources Agency

1400 10th Street P.O. Box 3044 Sacramento, California 95812-3044
(916) 445-0613 FAX (916) 323-3018 www.opr.ca.gov



Document Details Report
State Clearinghouse Data Base

SCH# 2009072089
Project Title Amador County General Plan Update
Lead Agency Amador County

Type EIR Draft EIR
Description Comprehensive update of the County's General Plan.

Lead Agency Contact

Name Susan Grijalva
Agency Amador County
Phone 209-223-6380
Fax
email
Address 810 Court Street
City Jackson **State** CA **Zip** 95642

Project Location

County Amador
City
Region
Lat / Long
Cross Streets County wide
Parcel No.
Township **Range** **Section** **Base**

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cont.

Proximity to:

Highways Hwy 16, 026, 49, 88, 104, 124
Airports Westover Field; other private
Railways UPRR, Amador Central
Waterways Mokelumne, Cosumnes Rivers and others
Schools Multiple
Land Use Multiple designations and land uses.

Project Issues Agricultural Land; Air Quality; Archaeologic-Historic; Biological Resources; Drainage/Absorption; Economics/Jobs; Fiscal Impacts; Flood Plain/Flooding; Forest Land/Fire Hazard; Geologic/Seismic; Minerals; Noise; Population/Housing Balance; Public Services; Recreation/Parks; Schools/Universities; Septic System; Sewer Capacity; Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading; Solid Waste; Toxic/Hazardous; Traffic/Circulation; Vegetation; Water Quality; Water Supply; Wetland/Riparian; Growth Inducing; Landuse; Cumulative Effects; Aesthetic/Visual

Reviewing Agencies Resources Agency; Department of Conservation; Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 2; Cal Fire; Office of Historic Preservation; Department of Parks and Recreation; Office of Emergency Services, California; Caltrans, Division of Aeronautics; California Highway Patrol; Caltrans, District 10; Department of Housing and Community Development; Air Resources Board; Regional Water Quality Control Bd., Region 5 (Sacramento); Native American Heritage Commission; Public Utilities Commission

Date Received 10/31/2014 **Start of Review** 10/31/2014 **End of Review** 12/15/2014

OPR1-1

This comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required.



Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit



February 2, 2015

RECEIVED
Amador County

FEB - 6 2015

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Susan Grijalva
Amador County
810 Court Street
Jackson, CA 95642

Subject: Amador County General Plan Update
SCH#: 2009072089

Dear Susan Grijalva:

The enclosed comment (s) on your Draft EIR was (were) received by the State Clearinghouse after the end of the state review period, which closed on December 15, 2014. We are forwarding these comments to you because they provide information or raise issues that should be addressed in your final environmental document.

The California Environmental Quality Act does not require Lead Agencies to respond to late comments. However, we encourage you to incorporate these additional comments into your final environmental document and to consider them prior to taking final action on the proposed project.

Please contact the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions concerning the environmental review process. If you have a question regarding the above-named project, please refer to the ten-digit State Clearinghouse number (2009072089) when contacting this office.

Sincerely,

Scott Morgan
Director, State Clearinghouse

Enclosures
cc: Resources Agency

1

1400 TENTH STREET P.O. BOX 3044 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95812-3044
TEL (916) 445-0613 FAX (916) 323-3018 www.opr.ca.gov

OPR2-1

This comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required.



SWRCB

Planning Department <planning@amadorgov.org>

Amador County General Plan Comment Letter

Edwards, Gabriel@Waterboards <Gabriel.Edwards@waterboards.ca.gov>
To: "planning@amadorgov.org" <planning@amadorgov.org>

Wed, Jan 21, 2015 at 2:45 PM

Hello,

Please find a comment letter for the Amador County General Plan attached.

Thank you,

Gabriel Orion Edwards
State Water Resources Control Board
(916) 449-5990
Gabriel.Edwards@Waterboards.ca.gov

1

 **Amador County General Plan Comment Letter.pdf**
600K



SWRCB



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR



MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

State Water Resources Control Board

January 21, 2015

Amador County Planning Department
County Administration Center
810 Court St.
Jackson, CA, 95642-2132

RECEIVED
Amador County
JAN 21 2015
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

To Whom it may Concern:

RE: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT, AMADOR COUNTY DRAFT GENERAL PLAN

Amador County Planning Department:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the above document. As a responsible agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of projects requiring a Water Supply Permit, we appreciate the opportunity to comment.

The California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is responsible for issuing Water Supply Permits administered under the Division of Drinking Water. New or amended Water Supply Permits may need to be issued for individual projects approved under the Amador County Draft General Plan mentioned above. A project triggers a permit if it includes increased water supply, storage, treatment of drinking water, or consolidation of one or more public water systems. These future developments may be subject to separate environmental review.

For questions or information on the Water Supply Permit application process, please contact the SWRCB Stockton District office at (209) 948-7696.

Sincerely,

Gabriel Edwards
SWRCB Environmental Review Unit

1
cont.

FELICIA MARCUS, CHAIR | THOMAS HOWARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 | Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, Ca 95812-0100 | www.waterboards.ca.gov



SWRCB-1

The County understands that new or amended water supply permits may need to be issued for individual projects approved in the future under the Draft General Plan, and that such projects may require future CEQA review. This comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required.



OHP

Planning Department <planning@amadorgov.org>

OHP Comments - DEIR Amador County General Plan

1 message

deCourcy, Sean@Parks <Sean.deCourcy@parks.ca.gov>
To: "planning@amadorgov.org" <planning@amadorgov.org>

Thu, Jan 29, 2015 at 3:55 PM

Ms. Grijalva,

Please see the attached State Office of Historic Preservation comments regarding the Amador County General Plan DEIR. We have also sent a hard copy via U.S. mail.

Thank you,

Sean de Courcy
State Historian II
Local Government & Environmental Compliance Unit
California Office of Historic Preservation
(916) 445-7042
(916) 445-7053 fax
Sean.deCourcy@parks.ca.gov

1

 **OHP Comments DEIR Amador County General Plan.pdf**
197K



**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-7100
(916) 445-7000 Fax: (916) 445-7053
calshpo@parks.ca.gov
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov



January 30, 2015

RECEIVED
Amador County

JAN 29 2015

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Susan Grijalva
Planning Director
Amador County, Planning Department
810 Court Street
Jackson, CA 95642

Dear Ms. Grijalva,

RE: AMADOR COUNTY GENERAL PLAN DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

1
cont.

Thank you for including the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) in the environmental review process for the proposed update to the Amador County General Plan. Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act and the California Public Resources Code, the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the OHP have broad responsibility for the implementation of federal and state historic preservation programs in California. Our comments are offered with the intent of protecting historic and cultural resources, while allowing Amador County (Lead Agency) to meet its program needs. The following comments are based on the information included in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Amador County General Plan.

HISTORICAL RESOURCES

The Cultural Resources section of the DEIR acknowledges that implementation of the Amador County General Plan would cause a significant impact to historic resources. The DEIR proposed mitigation measure (4.5-1a) for historical resources will not reduce the environmental impact to a level that is less than significant. If the Lead Agency is trying to reduce a significant impact to a level that is less than significant, the mitigation measure must use the CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. The CEQA Guidelines, including the Secretary of the Interior Standards, are the professionally accepted means for reducing impacts to historical resources to a level that is less than significant.

2

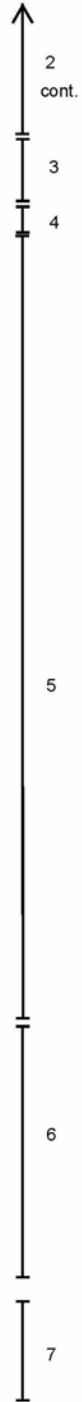
Susan Grijalva
January 29, 2015
Page 2 of 4

The DEIR Mitigation Measure 4.5-1a, which calls for implementation of Program D-6, does not comply with the CEQA Guidelines. The OHP respectfully disagrees that the mitigation described in the DEIR will reduce impacts to a level that is less than significant and encourages the Lead Agency to adopt a mitigation measure that reflects Section 15064.5(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines. DEIR Mitigation Measure 4.5-1a mimics verbatim the language from the General Plan "Implementation Plan" Program D-6; **which both state:**

- a. *The objective of this program is to substantially reduce or avoid impacts to cultural resources. The County will work with applicants to comply with state and federal laws that preserve and protect cultural resources, including historic resources and archeological sites.*
- b. *When evaluating discretionary projects, the County will use its review process to guide the applicant toward the retention of as many key character-giving features as possible in the protection, preservation, restoration, or renovation of cultural resources such as historic buildings, structures, objects, landscapes, or sites, where feasible. When possible, project applicants shall also strive to maintain or restore original proportions, dimensions, and elements of historic buildings or structures and preserve or restore features of historic objects, landscapes, or sites. Applicants may be required to use historic preservation techniques and standards to maintain the historical integrity of historic buildings or structures (including the Historic Building Code [Title 24, Part 8]) where mandated. Where restoration or renovation is undertaken to meet the proposed use of the owner, upgrades to plumbing, electrical, HVAC, and interior arrangements will be allowed. An expansion that meets building code guidelines will be permitted so long as the style of the expansion matches the original structure.*

The above Mitigation Measure 4.5-1a demonstrates lack of understanding of the CEQA Guidelines as the law pertains to historic resources. If the Lead Agency intends to reduce impacts to a less than significant level the following must be addressed in the Final EIR:

- 1. The "county process" needs to be defined in Mitigation Measure 4.5-1a. Please describe a process that will require applicants to reduce impacts to historical resources using the methods described in Section 15064.5(b)(1-2)(A-C) of the CEQA Guidelines, seek alternatives to the proposed project, or mitigate impacts through the use of alternatives.
- 2. Please define the term "character-giving features." Please reference *National Parks Service Preservation Brief 17*; also see *National Parks Service: National Register Bulletin 15*.



Susan Grijalva
January 29, 2015
Page 3 of 4

- 3. The Mitigation Measure 4.5-1a should require the use of the Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings; or use of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation; and the Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (1995). **This treatment is required if the Lead Agency intends to reduce the impacts to a less than significant level** (per Section 15064.5(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines).

8

Mitigation Measure 4.5-1 does not comply with the CEQA Guidelines for reducing impacts to historical resources; therefore, by definition there are still potentially significant impacts to historical resources caused by implementation of the Amador County General Plan. If the above issues are not addressed, the finding in the DEIR should be modified to accurately reflect the **potentially significant impacts to the historic built environment caused by implementation of the Amador County General Plan**. This will give the citizens of Amador County a chance to participate in the development of alternatives to the proposed plan and propose robust mitigation measures to protect the County's irreplaceable historic resources.

9

10

ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The DEIR for the Amador County General Plan update, Appendix D presents potential confidentiality issues regarding identified archeological sites within Amador County. Specifically, the map 4.5-1: *KNOWN CULTURAL RESOURCES* identifies "prehistoric resources" with red dots that can be linked to identifiable geographic landmarks within Amador County, including but not limited to reservoirs, creeks, roadways, and townships.

The DIER explains that the information on the map was ascertained from the *California North Central Information Center* (NCIC), which is part of the California Historical Resources Information Center system. In order to access the confidential information housed at these government repositories, the consultants (AECOM) hired by Amador County (Lead Agency) signed a confidentiality agreement. Publishing this information within the Amador County General Plan and/or the DEIR may be in violation of that agreement.

11

Recently there have been several high-profile instances in California where archeological resources have been allegedly removed from public lands, a federal crime. The ongoing drought has made the situation worse, because resources that are typically underwater are often left exposed for long periods of time. One recent case alleges that over 2000 artifacts were unlawfully removed from the Lake Oroville area.

The Archeological Resources Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 470hh, contains a clause pertaining to the confidentiality of the nature and location of archaeological resources. The OHP requests the Lead Agency consider redacting this information from the environmental document to protect the confidentiality of these resources.

OHP

Susan Grijalva
January 29, 2015
Page 4 of 4

If you have questions, please contact Sean de Courcy of the Local Government and Environmental Compliance Unit, at (916) 445-7042 or at Sean.deCourcy@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Carol Roland-Nawi, Ph.D.
State Historic Preservation Officer

11
cont.

- OHP-1 The comment provides a summary of the California Office of Historic Preservation’s (OHP) role as a responsible agency. This comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required.
- OHP-2 through -4 The comments state that Mitigation Measure 4.5-1a would not reduce Impact 4.5-1 to a less-than-significant level because it does not follow CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5, and request that the requirements of this section of the CEQA Guidelines be incorporated into the DEIR. Please note that this section of CEQA addresses whether impacts to historical resources are significant, not requirements for EIR mitigation measures. CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b) specifies guidelines for mitigation measures related to impacts on historical resources. The text of Mitigation Measures 4.5-1a and 4.5-1b has been revised in the FEIR to be consistent with Sections 15064.5 and 15126.4(b) of the CEQA Guidelines, as shown in responses to comments Foothill2-529 through -531 and Foothill2-559 through -561.
- DEIR Mitigation Measures 4.5-1a and 4.5-1b, which require implementation of Program D-6 related to Historic Preservation and Cultural Resources and require CEQA review and implementation of future site-specific mitigation for discretionary development projects, have been strengthened in response to DEIR comments. These mitigation measures comply with CEQA requirements. The DEIR post-mitigation significance conclusion has been modified to indicate that impacts remain potentially significant post-mitigation (see responses to comments Foothill2-556 and -557). See also Master Response 1, “Adequacy of Impact Analysis and Mitigation Measures.”
- OHP-5 The comment restates the text of DEIR Mitigation Measure 4.5-1a and states that this text indicates a lack of understanding of the CEQA Guidelines pertaining to historic resources. See responses to comments OHP-2 through -4.
- OHP-6 The comment suggests that Mitigation Measure 4.5-1a should describe a process that will require applicants to reduce impacts to historical resources using the methods described in Section 15064.5(b)(1-2)(A-C) of the CEQA Guidelines, seek alternatives to the proposed project, or mitigate impacts through the use of alternatives. The County process is defined in Mitigation Measure 4.5-1b as revised in responses to comments Foothill2-559 through -561. Again, please note that CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 addresses whether impacts to historical resources are significant, not requirements for EIR mitigation measures. CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b) specifies guidelines for mitigation measures related to impacts on historical resources.
- OHP-7 The comment requests a definition for the term “character-giving features.” This term is defined in Mitigation Measure 4.5-1a(b) as revised in responses to comments Foothill2-529 through -531.
- OHP-8 The comment states that Mitigation Measure 4.5-1a should require use of the Secretary of the Interior Standards, particularly if the lead agency intends to reduce the impact to a less-than-significant level. Use of the Secretary of the Interior Standards has been included in Mitigation Measure 4.5-1a as revised in responses to comments Foothill2-529 through -531. See also responses to comments OHP-2 through -4.

- OHP-9 The comment states that Mitigation Measure 4.5-1 [sic] does not comply with the CEQA Guidelines for reducing impacts to historical resources; therefore, by definition, there are still potentially significant impacts to historical resources caused by the implementation of the Draft General Plan. See responses to comments OHP-2 through -4.
- OHP-10 The comment states that if the issues outlined in the letter are not addressed, the DEIR should conclude that the impacts to the historic built environment would remain potentially significant, rather less-than-significant after implementation of mitigation. See responses to comments OHP-2 through -4.
- OHP-11 The comment states that Map 4.5-1 contained in Draft General Plan Appendix D, which included red dots showing general locations of known cultural resources within the County, may have violated a confidentiality agreement with NCIC and a confidentiality clause in the Archeological Resources Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 470hh. Recognizing OHP's concerns about confidentiality, Exhibit 4.5.1, "Known Cultural Resources" in Section 4.5 "Cultural Resources," and Figures CR-1 and CR-2 in Appendix D, "Cultural Resources" have been redacted from the DEIR. The following text has been deleted from the second paragraph under Section 4.5.2:

~~Exhibit 4.5-1 shows the general locations of all known cultural resources within Amador County, a combination of known prehistoric and historic resources identified in the NCIC record search.~~

and from Impact 4.5-1:

~~Amador County contains a variety of cultural resources, including resources that are recognized at the federal, state, and local level, as described above in the "Regulatory Setting" and "Environmental Setting" sections. Generally, sites have been identified in the course of archaeological survey efforts resulting from proposed development. As such, known cultural resources are primarily located near roadways, in developed areas, and near hydroelectric activity. Exhibit 4.5-1 illustrates the general location of known cultural and historic resources in Amador County, and Exhibit 4.5-2 illustrates cultural sensitivity areas in the County.~~

~~Implementation of the Draft General Plan would result in new development in the planning area, including buildings, structures, paved areas, roadways, utilities, and other improvements, with an emphasis on new or expanded mixed-used development in Town Center and Regional Service Center areas. Lot splits and development of individual residential uses would also be possible throughout the planning area. As illustrated in Exhibit 4.5-1 and described..."~~



Planning Department <planning@amadorgov.org>

Amador Water Agency Comments on DEIR

1 message

Rich Farrington <richfarrington@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: Rich Farrington <richfarrington@yahoo.com>
To: "planning@amadorgov.org" <planning@amadorgov.org>
Cc: Gene Mancebo <gmancebo@amadorwater.org>

Fri, Jan 30, 2015 at 6:03 PM

Please see the enclosed comments and requested changes in the DEIR.
Thank you.

Rich Farrington
AWA Director, District 3

 **Comments on Gen Pln DEIR.docx**
45K



Comments by Rich Farrington, AWA Director District 3, and Gene Mancebo, AWA General Manager
January 30, 2015

4.8 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Correct: Pg 19. 4.8-7:

Second line “treat” should be “**threat**” as in “very high fire threat level.”

1
cont.

Add new paragraph f on Pg 4.8-23: In the section Mitigation Measure 4.8-7a: Implement Program D-2: Fire-Safe Development:

f. Where public water is available, the County will consult with water agencies on needs for additional water, water mains, fire hydrants, and related appurtenances needed to meet required fire flow criteria and for sufficient water capacity to serve peak demands of multiple fire engines to protect improvements from wildland fires.

2

and Insert in:

Responsible Agencies/Departments: Planning, Building, Transportation and Public Works
Departments

Insert: Working With: Amador Fire Protection District; local fire districts, and CAL FIRE, and Amador Water Agency or other affected agencies.

4.13 Public Services and Utilities

Pg 4.13-5 top paragraph

Insert:

IRWMP’s implementation program. The implementation plan provides criteria for evaluating a project’s technical and economic feasibility; measures for evaluating the success of the plan implementation; structure for data collection and dissemination; alternatives for project funding; formats for regular plan updates; and strategies for continued stakeholder participation (RMC 2006: iv). The IRWMP was updated again in January, 2013 (RMC 2013).

3

Pg. 4.13-5 2nd parag. Under Amador Water Agency Urban Water Mangement Plan change to read:

In Amador County only 3% of the public domestic or treated water supply is from groundwater; 97% of the total supply is from the Mokelumne River. Two small service areas, Lake Camanche Area and La Mel Heights, use groundwater (AWA 2011:4-18). Due to the small volume of groundwater the AWA uses and the expected substantial decrease in groundwater use as Lake Camanche Village changes to surface water use. The AWA has not written a groundwater management plan (AWA 2011:4-18). accepted a groundwater supply study and Intergrated Regional Groundwater Management Plan for the Lake Camanche Water Improvement District in 2012 (Dunn 2012).

4

Pg. 4.13-5 Insert below

Amador County Regional Wastewater Management Plan

The *Amador County Regional Wastewater Management Plan* (ECO:LOGIC Engineering 2005) was developed to provide dischargers within the County guidance on what growth expectations should be taken into consideration for planning purposes and where this growth is most likely to occur. The Regional Plan provides guidance to dischargers within the County with the intent of avoiding the creation and unnecessary operation of "problem wastewater plants" that result in burdensome wastewater rates. The Regional Plan provides a roadmap to allow the various wastewater dischargers in the County to come together and respond to both current and future service demands, technology trends, and regulatory requirements in a unified, effective manner. The Regional Approach for Reuse Study was completed in 2013 (Aegis Engineering Management & Zw3, 2013).

5

4.13 Public Services and Utilities

Pg. 4.13-8:

Change date in 1st parag.: It is anticipated that the GSL will be completed ~~by October in~~ 2015.

6

Pg 4.13-10 under "*Water Supply Sources for AWA*"

Make the following changes in:

La Mel Heights

AWA operates ~~one two~~ groundwater well that provides water service to 57 connections in the La Mel Heights subdivision. The well pumps water from a groundwater aquifer that is not defined in the DWR's Bulletin 118. The wells ~~have has~~ a safe yield of 50 afy, ~~64 afy~~, or 31 gallons per minute (gpm), ~~or 40 gpm respectively~~ and groundwater is treated at the Improvement District 3 WTP (AWA 2011: 4-18, Burr Consulting 2008b: II-205). A second groundwater well ~~provides is available as~~ a back-up source of groundwater.

7

Lake Camanche Village (first parag.)

~~Delete: AWA provides groundwater to 733 homes and small commercial businesses in the Lake Camanche Village. The groundwater system currently consists of four operating wells that have a combined pumping capacity of 1,306 afy (809 gpm): Well 6 produces 161 afy (100 gpm), Well 9 produces 500 afy (310 gpm), Well 12 produces 145 afy (90 gpm), and Well 14 produces 500 afy (350 gpm). Groundwater is treated by the addition of chlorine at each well head located throughout the Lake Camanche Village Improvement District 7. (AWA 2011: 4-18 and 5-29.)~~

Insert: AWA provides groundwater to 733 homes and small commercial businesses in the Lake Camanche Village. The groundwater system currently consists of four operating wells that have a combined pumping capacity of 936 afy (580 gpm): Well 6 produces 242 afy (150 gpm), Well 9 produces 282 afy (175 gpm), Well 12 produces 170 afy (105 gpm), and Well 14 produces 242 afy (150 gpm). Groundwater quality and well operation has been challenging. The Agency is seeking a surface water supply to augment groundwater.

8

~~2nd paragraph. Delete: Well 14 has experienced groundwater quality issues and operates at a reduced pumping capacity. A plan has been developed to rehabilitate Well 14 but is pending approval of a rate increase to provide the revenue needed to implement the plan. (AWA 2011: 4-18 and 5-29, Burr Consulting 2008b: H-205.)~~

9

Pg 4.13-11
Change in the following and in Table 4.13-3 (footnote 1,):

Existing and Projected Water Supplies for AWA

Table 4.13-3 summarizes the current and projected surface water and groundwater supplies from 2010 to 2030. As described above, AWS diverts 15,000 afy of surface water from the Mokelumne River that is stored at Lake Tabeaud and CAWP diverts 1,150 afy of surface water from the Mokelumne River at the Tiger Creek Afterbay. AWA's projected CAWP surface water diversions shown in Table 4.13-3 assumes that AWA ~~will is in progress of securing~~ an additional 1,050 afy surface water rights for the CAWP system ~~by 2015~~ and ...

10

Pg. 4.13-12 Table 4.13-3 Foot Note change as follows:

Notes: afy = acre-feet per year, AWA = Amador Water Agency
CAWP surface water diversions assume that an additional 1,050 afy surface water right would be obtained and expand the surface water diversions to 2,200 afy ~~by 2015~~. AWA has submitted an application to SWRCB to obtain this additional water, but lacks capacity for additional customers in the CAWP system until these additional rights are secured.

11

Pg. 4.13-11

Future Water Supplies (add sentence as follows:)

AWA, CCWD, EBMUD, and San Joaquin County are investigating the feasibility of increasing storage at Lower Bear River Reservoir by raising Lower Bear River Dam to provide an additional firm water supply and improve dry year yield, thereby helping meet future water supply needs. Raising Lower Bear River Dam is being considered as part of the larger Mokelumne Inter-Regional Conjunctive Use Project (IRCUP). The IRCUP could use a combination of groundwater banking, exchanges and transfers among project partners to result in a sustainable improvement in water supply reliability. Raising Lower Bear River Dam would also increase power generation at existing downstream hydroelectric power plants and is currently being considered by PG&E independently of IRCUP. (AWA 2011: 4-24.) Most currently, raising Lower Bear River Reservoir is being considered in MokeWISE, the Mokelumne Watershed Interregional Sustainability Evaluation in progress.

12

On Pg. 4.13-12 make these changes about Climate Change [the existing text greatly understates the potential adverse impact on the County's water supply due to Climate Change. New information is available on Cal-Adapt as follows]:

The impact of climate change specifically for AWA water sources ~~can only be generalized, speculative. However,~~ According to California's climate change information portal, Cal-Adapt:

13

~~"On average, the projections show little change in total annual precipitation in California. Furthermore, among several~~

[Insert this statement from the Cal-Adapt website (<http://cal-adapt.org/precip/decadal/>)]

Securing an Adequate Water Supply
2011 April 12

Climate Change will increase pressure on California's water resources, which are already over-stretched by the demands of a growing economy and population. Decreasing snowmelt and spring stream flows coupled with increasing demand for water resulting from both a growing population and hotter climate could lead to increasing water shortages. By the end of the century, if temperatures rise to the medium warming range and precipitation decreases, late spring stream flow could decline by up to 30 percent. Agricultural areas could be hard hit, with California farmers losing as much as 25 percent of the water supply they need.

Northern California, including watersheds within, or partly within, Amador County, could experience more and larger wildfire because of the warming and drying trend. This would increase water demands to prevent wildfires from burning into developed areas (Our Changing Climate, 2012, Vulnerability & Adaptation to the Increasing Risks from Climate Change in California, A Summary Report on the 3rd Assessment from the California Climate Change Center). These trends will increase the need for increased storage of water to firm up current and future water needs.

~~Delete: slightly more or slightly less precipitation, on average, over the next several decades. However, precipitation levels could become increasingly variable from year to year, with a growing number of multiple drought years. Small changes in precipitation patterns could affect AWA's water storage and distribution facilities. Through 2030, more precipitation could be delivered as rain and less as snow, with increasing variability of snowpack and multiple low snowpack years, also affecting AWA's management of water storage facilities.~~



13
cont.

Pg 4.13-12 in *Existing and Projected Water Supplies for AWA* change 4th parag. to :

Groundwater production is not included in the projected groundwater supplies; instead, safe yields of the respective wells are utilized. AWA ~~does not expect to encounter~~ is concerned with recurring water quality issues with its Lake Camanche Village wells; however, AWA's demand projections assume only Wells 6, 9, and 12 are online, and that a surface water treatment facility is not operational. In addition, the safe yield from the Lake Camanche Village groundwater wells from 2015 to 2030 assumes a production loss 25% to account for any dry-year water reductions within the Cosumnes Subbasin. However, technical and financial issues remain to be resolved before water services (or wastewater services) in Camanche Village can be expanded (AWA 2009, Camanche Regional Water Supply Study, RMC 2012). The RMC study recommended a phased approach to providing surface water in the region. Phase I has been funded and is under construction.



14

Pg. 4.13-13 Second paragraph in *Water Distribution Facilities* Change AWA to AWS (Until AWS needs its full 15,000 afy of entitlement, ...). [This makes the statement consistent with Table 4.13-3]



15

Pg 4.13-13 Insert a new paragraph in *Water Distribution Facilities* Between 2nd and 3rd parag. from the top:

In the CAWP system there some zones of low pressure and low flow fire hydrants.



16

In these areas, sudden high water demands, such as fire hydrant use for firefighting, can cause a loss of pressure below the State required 20 pounds per square inch (psi) minimum and the inability to meet fire flow criteria (Bartholomew, 1995). Amador Water Agency is working to correct this problem.

16
cont.

Pg 4.13-13

Water Treatment

(2nd parag)

The Ione WTP is located in the City of Ione and serves the City of Ione, several facilities within the Ione city limits, and the Eagles Nest community. The Ione WTP has a capacity of 3.3 million gallons per day (mgd) and must use stored water to meet maximum day demands. Based on existing demands and commitments in the form of will-serve or conditional will-serve letters, all remaining capacity at the Ione WTP is either utilized or reserved. (City of Ione 2009a: 3.13-22.). An expansion plan of the Ione Water Treatment Plant is currently underway along with a plan to recycle filter backwash water.

17

Pg 4.13-13 Starting on the last parag. On the page Change:

The Tanner WTP is located just east-south of the City of Sutter Creek and serves the remaining AWA system. As of April 2010, the Tanner WTP has a capacity of 5.7 mgd and AWA estimates the maximum daily usage would be 5.5 mgd. Based on the “will serve” commitments that AWA has already made, all of the existing capacity of the

18

(and at top of Pg 4.13-14, same section change)

Tanner Treatment Plant has been allocated. AWA plans to expand the plant to 8.0 mgd of treatment capacity as a regional plant in the future. There is currently no timeframe for expansion of the Tanner WTP. (Burr Consulting 2008b: II-204, Amador County 2010: H-47.). Currently AWA is reviewing options for incremental plant expansion at the Tanner Treatment Plant.

2nd parag same pg. change:

In the long term, expansion of the Tanner WTP is likely required to meet demands within the AWS. If a new Regional Tanner facility is constructed, the Ione WTPs would likely be decommissioned. In the short term, AWA may consider interim improvements to both the Tanner and Ione WTPs to provide additional capacity. These interim improvements would require funding by project applicants. (AWA 2009)

19

Last parag pg 4.13-13 add at the end:

EBMUD, AWA, and the Calaveras County Water District have discussed plans for a joint surface water treatment plant project that would supply surface water to the Lake Camanche area (AWA 2011: 4-19). Surface water rights to supply this project have not been identified (RMC 2006: 3-17). This is also described in the Camanche Area Regional Water Supply Project (RMC 2013).

Pg. 4.13-17 under Amador Water Agency
Wastewater Collection and Conveyance Change to:

AWA operates 33 miles of sewer pipes and 15 lift stations as part of its conveyance system. AWA operates wastewater collection at Martell (AWA Wastewater Improvement District [WWID] #12), Lake Camanche Village, Gayla Manor, Eagle’s Nest, Fairway Pines, Jackson Pines, Mace Meadows, Pine Grove, Surrey Junction, Tiger Creek Estates, Viewpoint Estates, and Wildwood Estates. AWA plans to expand regional wastewater reuse working with the cities and counties (Amador Regional Approach to Reuse, Aegis Engineering, 2013) construct a new WWTP to serve Martell and provide additional storage and disposal capacity to the Lake Camanche Village (Policy Consulting Associates 2014:243).

20

Pg. 4.13-18, first paragraph below Table change to:

AWA also provides wastewater operations, maintenance, and emergency services to other wastewater service providers, presently ~~the City of Plymouth and~~ River Pines PUD.

21

Pg. 4.13-18 Last paragraph:

Several of the AWA treatment facilities are at or beyond capacity. The Martell area needs additional capacity to support anticipated build-out demand. At Lake Camanche Village, there is a moratorium on additional wastewater service connections with property owners on a waiting list for additional capacity. ~~Delete: The Gayla Manor system's capacity is exceeded during peak rain events.~~

22

Pg. 4.13-18, Table 4.13-6 change Collection System Type as follows:

Pressurized: Eagles Nest, Pine Grove, View Point, Surrey Junction, Wildwood
Combination: Fairway, Gayla, Jackson Pines, Mace Mdws, Tiger Cr Estates.
Gravity: Lake Camanche, Martell

23

Pg 4.13-19 insert:

Recycled Water

As discussed above under "Water Supply, Conveyance, and Treatment Facilities," the AWA is evaluating a plan for regional water reuse, seeking to maximize water recycling by developing a regional recycled water supply in the Amador City, Jackson, Martell, and Sutter Creek area in lieu of raw and potable water. The development of this project is seen as the first step in implementing a regional approach to water recycling. This plan and subsequent detailed studies are intended to optimize the use of recycled water (Aegis Engineering Management and Zw3 2013).

24

Pg 4.13-32 Next to last Paragraph Insert:

AWA's planned water supplies, as detailed in the UWMP (summarized in Table 4.13-5 above), would be adequate to meet 2030 water demands within its service area, including water demands for new development identified in this Draft General Plan. However, the availability of some of these future supplies, specifically additional surface water rights for CAWP and additional groundwater supply for Camanche Village, is uncertain. The Camanche Area Regional Water Supply Study (RMC 2013) provides a phased approach to providing surface water to the region. Phase I has been funded and is under construction.

25

Pg 4.13-35 [NOTE: AWA General Manager Mancebo wants to discuss the following statement:]
Significance after Mitigation

Implementation of mitigation measures 4.13-1a, 4.13-1b, 4.13-1c, and 4.13-1d would reduce this impact by requiring any development that would occur under the Draft General Plan to demonstrate available water supply, from a public system if available or from a private water well meeting the County's existing requirements, along with efforts to fund and efficiently provide future capacity. However,

26

because of uncertainties associated with the potential availability of future surface water and groundwater supplies in some locations, this impact would remain significant and unavoidable. No other feasible mitigation measures are available to reduce this impact to less than significant levels.

↑
26
cont.

Pg 4.13-36 (first parag change/insert)

Expansion of the Tanner WTP would be required to provide treated water to new residential and commercial development. AWA plans to expand the plant to 8.0 mgd of treatment capacity in the future and any improvements at the treatment plant would require additional analysis under CEQA by AWA to identify and document specific impacts and any required mitigation measures. The Ione Water Treatment Plant is planned to be expanded with incremental capacity and is currently under design. The long term plan for the Ione WTP will be replacement by the is-scheduled-to-be-replaced-by the Tanner WTP after its expansion.

27

PG 4.13-36

Significance after Mitigation 35 [AWA General Manager Mancebo wants to discuss the following statement:]

Implementation of mitigation measures 4.13-1a, 4.13-1b, 4.13-1c, and 4.13-1d would reduce this impact by requiring any development that would occur under the Draft General Plan to demonstrate available water supply facilities, along with efforts to fund and efficiently provide future facility capacities. However, because of uncertainties associated with the potential future conveyance and treatment capacity in certain locations, and because project-specific mitigation of the impacts of specific water supply facilities cannot be guaranteed, this impact would remain **significant and unavoidable**. No other feasible mitigation measures are available to reduce this impact to less than significant levels.

28

Pg 4.13-38

Significance after Mitigation[AWA General Manager Mancebo wants to discuss the following statement:]

Implementation of mitigation measures 4.13-1a, 4.13-1b, and 4.13-1c would reduce this impact by requiring any development that would occur under the Draft General Plan to demonstrate available wastewater conveyance and treatment capacity, and working to fund and efficiently provide future capacity. However, because of uncertainties associated with the potential future conveyance and treatment capacity, and because project-specific mitigation of new or expanded wastewater facilities cannot be guaranteed, this impact would remain **significant and unavoidable**. No other feasible mitigation measures are available to reduce this impact to less than significant levels.

29

4.13.3 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Analysis Methodology Section

Insert on Pg. 4.13-31 as documents pertaining to the planning area:

Master Plan and Connection Fee Study for Amador County Water Agency, Improvement District 1 (Engineering Alliance and Bartholomew Engineering, Inc. (1991, Rev'd 1995).

Freeway Complex Fire Disaster Response & Water System Assessment (Yorba Linda Water District 2009)

Our Changing Climate 2012 (Summary from 3rd Assessment from the California Climate Change Center)

30

Insert on Pg. 4.13-33 under:

Mitigation Measure 4.13-1a: Implement Program D-1a (4-5), Development Proposal Evaluation

Evaluation criteria for discretionary development proposals include:

4. Availability of public water and wastewater, and ability to connect to existing water and wastewater systems. The objective of this program is to avoid impacts related to lack of reliable water supply, including sufficient water for fire hydrant flow criteria, or wastewater service. If feasible, new units will be required to connect to nearby existing water or wastewater systems. Project applicants must demonstrate the availability of water supply, water treatment capacity and wastewater treatment.

Responsible Agencies/Departments: Planning, Transportation and Public Works, and Environmental Health Departments

Working With: Amador Fire Protection District and water and wastewater agencies.

31

Pg. 4.13-33 Mitigation Measure 4.13-1b: Implement Program P-3, Future Water Supply

Insert in 1st sentence:

- a. The County will provide input to water suppliers in their efforts to plan for coordinated response to future water demand, and future water supply emergencies, including needed capacity during wildfires, and droughts.

32

Pg. 4.13-34 Mitigation Measure 4.1-1c: Implement Program F-1, Infrastructure Improvements

a. In order to assure that adequate infrastructure is in place to support existing and planned development, the County will consult with water and wastewater providers to support development of new treatment facilities or conveyance systems to minimize:

- 1.
- 2.

ADD 3. The risk of loss of life or property due to inadequate water infrastructure serving fire hydrants, -

33



Planning Department <planning@amadorgov.org>

Fw: AWA Comment References for on DEIR

1 message

Rich Farrington <richfarrington@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: Rich Farrington <richfarrington@yahoo.com>
To: "planning@amadorgov.org" <planning@amadorgov.org>

Sat, Jan 31, 2015 at 10:25 AM

Enclosed and linked below are references for AWA's submitted comments.

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/2012publications/CEC-500-2012-007/CEC-500-2012-007.pdf>

<http://amadorwater.org/PDFdocs/Reports/Amador%20Regional%20Approach%20to%20Reuse%20Study%20WITH%20Appendix.pdf>

<http://amadorwater.org/PDFdocs/Lake%20Camanche%20GW%20Supply%20Study%20June%202012%20Draft.pdf>

<http://www.mokewise.org/>

https://www.ylwd.com/images/pdfs/Freeway_Complex_Fire_Report.pdf

<http://bondaccountability.resources.ca.gov/Project.aspx?ProjectPK=11299&PropositionPK=4>

Rich

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Rich Farrington <richfarrington@yahoo.com>
To: "planning@amadorgov.org" <planning@amadorgov.org>
Cc: Gene Mancebo <gmancebo@amadorwater.org>
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2015 6:03 PM
Subject: Amador Water Agency Comments on DEIR

Please see the enclosed comments and requested changes in the DEIR.
Thank you.

Rich Farrington
AWA Director, District 3

CAWP master plan Bartholomew 03-95.pdf
1482K

34



**MASTER PLAN
AND
CONNECTION FEE STUDY
FOR
AMADOR COUNTY WATER AGENCY
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1**

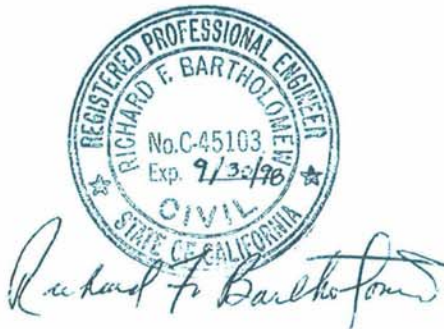
Prepared by:

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34
cont.



Date:	May 10, 1991
Revised Date:	July 1, 1993
Revised Date:	December 7, 1994
Revised Date:	March 1, 1995
Revised Date:	March 25, 1995

ID #1 MASTER PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Amador Water Agency owns and operates the Improvement District No. 1 (ID #1) Water System (formerly the Pioneer System). Treated water is obtained from the Central Amador Water Project (CAWP) which is also owned and operated by the Water Agency. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the system, prepare a master plan, and propose equitable fees to provide an optimum level of service.

The existing system includes four (4) storage tanks and over 130,000 lineal feet of distribution piping. About 37% of the piping is 3" or less in diameter and over 50% is 4" or less. One of the storage tanks (Tank A) has a portion of its volume rented to CAWP. This commingling of storage may not be a good practice since there appears to be no control in place to prevent CAWP from using ID #1 storage capacity. Through discussions with staff, and later confirmed by computer modeling, it is obvious that areas of the system experience low pressure during high water usage periods. The system is not currently able to meet current fire flow criteria (1,000 GPM residential, 2,500 GPM commercial) in most areas.

Future growth of the system was determined by a combination of information from the County's Planning Department and the Water Agency's staff. As of August 31, 1990, ID #1 had 752 active services, 77 inactive but entitled. Buildout condition assumes that all lots and parcels within the study area will be served by ID #1 without lot splitting to maximum density. Ultimate development assumes that all lots and parcels within the study area have been split to maximum allowable densities and are all taking water service from ID #1. Buildout of the system will result in a total of 1,161 services, and 2,766 services at ultimate development.

The system was modeled using a computerized network analysis program. The system was reviewed under existing, buildout, and ultimate development conditions. The model applied average day, peak day, peak hour, and fire flow conditions. The ID #1 System was divided into four different zones:

Main	Areas served directly by Tanks A, B, and C.
1-D	Areas served by Tank D.
1-26	Areas served directly off the CAWP Main (Riverview and Motherlode Acres).
1-PNEU	Areas served by the pneumatic pressure system (Oxbow Pump Station) located at the Tank A/B site.

The computer model confirmed the system cannot maintain a 20 PSI residual in all areas during high flow periods and cannot meet the fire flow criteria in most areas. The worst areas include Carson Drive, Buckhorn Ridge Road, and Sylvan Road.

Increased pipe sizes and other improvements were applied to the model until acceptable pressures were obtained for both maximum month average day and fire flow conditions. This became the basis for recommended improvements which are summarized below in Table 3-8.

34
cont.

The cost of these improvements were prorated between existing and future customers. The results are shown on Table 3-8 below.

TABLE 3-8

Percent Allocation Assumptions	Existing Customers	Future Customers		
Fire Protection	70%	30%		
Improvements for Existing Deficiencies	80%	20%		
Other Improvements	30%	70%		

	Fire <u>Improvements</u>	Improvements for Existing <u>Deficiencies</u>	Other <u>Improvements</u>	<u>Total</u>
Existing	\$380,548	\$144,297	\$200,981	\$725,826
Future	\$163,092	\$36,075	\$468,951	\$668,124
Total	\$543,640	\$180,372	\$669,938	\$1,393,950

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cont.

The proposed rates were determined assuming debt services from 20 year, 7.5% revenue bonds and are listed below. These rates exclude the other improvements category since those improvements will be financed beyond the 20 year bond and planning horizon.

Fire protection fee = \$5.40/meter/month

Lot split fee = \$1,000

Annexation fee = \$2,250

Water rate increase = \$0.63/100 CF

In addition to these proposed fee increases, the Water Agency may wish to consider annual increases tied to either a C.P.I. or ENRCCI to keep pace with inflation, a buy-in component for capacity available in existing facilities, and a processing fee. The Water Agency should also review replacement reserve contributions and needs. These items were not within the Scope of Work, but will help to provide a comprehensive program.

**MASTER PLAN
AND
CONNECTION FEE STUDY
FOR
AMADOR COUNTY WATER AGENCY
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1**

Prepared by:

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Richard F. Bartholomew

Date: May 10, 1991
Revised Date: July 1, 1993
Revised Date: December 7, 1994
Revised Date: March 1, 1995
Revised Date: March 25, 1995

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cont.



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cont.

ABBREVIATIONS

ACWA	=	Amador County Water Agency
ADF	=	average daily flow
AWWA	=	American Water Works Association
B	=	buildout (includes lot splits & existing meters)
CAWP	=	central Amador water project
CF	=	cubic feet
CLCSCP	=	cement lined and coated steel cylinder pipe
DF	=	demand factor
E	=	existing water system
EDU	=	equivalent dwelling unit (2.5 people/EDU)
G	=	gallons
GPD	=	gallons per day
GPM	=	gallons per minute
ID	=	Improvement District
LF	=	linear foot
MDF	=	maximum average daily flow
MG	=	million gallons
MGD	=	million gallons per day
PDF	=	peak daily flow (maximum daily flow)
PH	=	potential of hydrogen ion
PHF	=	peak hour flow
PNEU	=	pneumatic
PSI	=	pounds per square inch
PVC	=	polyvinyl chloride pipe
SF	=	square feet
U	=	ultimate system

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cont.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Study Purpose

The objective of this study is to evaluate the service capabilities of the existing water system to prepare a Master Plan for Improvement District No. 1 of ACWA. Additionally, this study will provide recommendations for new equitable fees that would provide the optimum level of service in the New Master Plan.

The Amador County Water Agency operates the water system for Improvement District No. 1 that serves the Pioneer-Buckhorn area. The Central Amador Water Project (CAWP) provides water from the Tiger Creek afterbay pumping station located on the Mokelumne River. The CAWP provides treated water to Tanks A and B. The supply facilities are described in the Central Amador Water Project study prepared by Leedshill-Herkenhoff Engineers, Inc., dated March 1990, and is not a part of this study.

This study has two main objectives. The first objective is to evaluate the service capabilities of the existing Improvement District No. 1 water system that will provide the necessary information to prepare a Master Water System Plan that adequately meets the projected water and fire projection demands. This will be accomplished by using a computer model that evaluates and predicts flows and residual pressures under maximum daily demand and several fire flow conditions. The results of the models have been used to prepare a master plan for the service area that will meet the maximum daily flow and fire protection conditions. These system projections have been analyzed under two service conditions: (1) a total build-out of the existing distribution system without lot splits; and (2) ultimate conditions with all parcels within the service area assumed to be split to the allowable level approved by the current zoning code for Amador County.

The second objective of this report is to prepare a recommendation for new equitable fees for future service connections to provide the capital for the system improvement costs. The fees are based upon the required improvement capital cost estimate as presented in the Master Water System Plan. The fees to be developed are as follows:

- (A) Lot Split Fees for residential, commercial and industrial lot improvement that are currently within the existing water distribution system of Improvement District No. 1.
- (B) Annexation Lot Fees for new subdivision developments outside the Improvement District No. 1 area that do not have existing distribution system pipelines.

Master plan system infrastructure improvements have also been prioritized per the agreement. Our recommendation is as follows:

- (1) To provide adequate storage and delivery for fire protection to the system to Highway 88 at Buckhorn Ridge Road;

AWA

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- (2) To provide infrastructure for fire protection to the Buckhorn Ridge area and increase pressure in the Carson Drive area;
- (3) To provide fire protection service along Highway 88 from Cedar Heights Road to Robin Road.



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cont.

2 EXISTING WATER SYSTEM

2.1 Description

The existing water system service areas of Improvement District No. 1 that are currently being served by Reservoirs A and B (at an elevation of 3565), Reservoir C (at an elevation of 3202), and Reservoir D (at an elevation of 3057). The reservoirs are located in the Pioneer and Buckhorn area. Reservoirs C and D are filled from Reservoirs A and B. However, they do provide additional storage to the total system and could be included if needed. As part of the master plan, this study has assumed that a 650,000 gallon new reservoir will be constructed adjacent to Reservoir A and B site. Because of elevation differentials, the service area is served by four (4) separate pressure zones. These have been identified on Plate 1. These are:

- Main Served by gravity flow from Reservoirs A, B, and C, includes the Carson Drive area.
- 1-D Served by gravity flow from Reservoir D.
- 1-26 Served by the CAWP system, includes the Riverview and Motherlode Acres area.
- 1-PNEU Served by the pneumatic pressure system at Reservoirs A and B.

These pressure zones are shown in detail on Plate 1. 1-PNEU is shown on Plate 2.

2.2 Services

For this study, the existing service for the data base period, September 1, 1989 through August 31, 1990, is shown on Table 2-1. This data base period was used for evaluating the existing system data.

The water metering records for the data base period indicate there was 752 active metered services with recorded flow and 77 inactive services on record that did not have any recorded flow. A summary of this review by type of service is as follows:

	<u>ACTIVE</u>	<u>INACTIVE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Residential	697	72	769
Commercial	53	5	58
Industrial	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>
Total Services	752	77	829

2.3 Flows

The records for the 12 month data base period were reviewed, tabulated, and shown on Table 2-1. During the 12 month data period, 8,772,200 CF (66,401,456 gallons) of water was used by the 752 metered customers.

Table 2-2 has been prepared to show the average daily flow, average maximum daily flow peak flows, and peak hour demands based upon the data base records.

The average annual daily flow per meter is 243 GPD or 0.17 GPM. The average maximum or daily flow per meter was 464 GPD or 0.25 GPM. The peak hourly flow per meter is 0.76 GPM. The factors used to determine the above flow rates were determined from the existing water system records as follows:

- a. The maximum average daily flows determined from the months (July and August) with the most usage. See Table 2.1.
- b. The peak daily flow was calculated by reviewing the Tiger Creek Pumping Plant records to determine the ratio of the maximum day water pumped to the average maximum daily water pumped. During the peak use months (July and August), the peak day use was 1,153,000 gallons. The average maximum month, average day use was 854,420 gallons. Using these rates, the ratio of maximum peak day to maximum average day use was determined to be 1.35.
- c. Peak hour flows (PHF) were determined by using a peak factor of 4.5 (provided by ACWA) to the average daily flow (ADF).

2.4 Future Projections

2.4.1 Discussion

The water system study area was evaluated for future growth under three different conditions: (1) existing system; (2) buildout system; and (3) ultimate development. A new reservoir is proposed to be constructed at the Reservoirs A and B site. This reservoir is planned to have a capacity of 0.65 MG for the ID #1 as determined through computer modeling and storage computations for ultimate development.

An estimate of the services required for the future projections is shown on Table 2-4 and Table 2-5.

2.4.2 Entitled Parcels

An entitled parcel is any existing property that is charged an annual assessment. An entitled parcel has been annexed into ID #1, but may or may not be an existing customer (water user).

2.4.3 Unentitled Parcels

An unentitled parcel is any existing property that is not charged an annual assessment and is currently within ID #1 service area.

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cont.

An unentitled parcel is any existing property that is not charged an annual assessment and is currently within ID #1 service area.

2.4.4 Lot Splits

A lot split is an entitled parcel that is split to create new parcels. The newly created parcels are unentitled and subject to fees.

2.4.5 Existing System Conditions (Entitled Lots with Service)

The existing system condition was analyzed from the data base for the current system using the assumption that there will be no expansions or additional customers. The existing ID #1 service area has been divided into four sub-systems based upon the supply source and pressure zone as shown on Table 2-6. (See Plate 1 for reservoir and area locations.)

2.4.6 Lot Splits Condition

This condition assumes that the existing meter lots or entitled lots in the District that are not currently taking service would be split to the allowable zoning density. No additional entitled lot customers are included.

2.4.7 Buildout Conditions (Includes Entitled Lots with Lot Splits with Service as of 1990)

The buildout condition assumed that all lots and parcels within the study area are served by ID #1 and have one meter per lot without further lot splits. Additionally the inactive meters were included in this condition as if they were operating under current flow conditions. New service lot flow has also been included in this condition. The new service lot flow rates have been assumed to be at 0.225 GPM per meter (for the ADF) to meet the demands of homes that will be found in the newer developments.

2.4.8 Ultimate Conditions

The ultimate condition assumed that the lots and parcels within the study area have been split into the maximum number of lots allowed by the Amador County Planning Department current General Plan. Table 2-3 shows the lots split criteria used for this condition. The additional lot flows have been projected using the same criteria as stated above for the buildout condition.

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cont.

3 WATER SYSTEM COMPUTER MODELING

3.1 Description

Water system pressure and flows were estimated and modeled using the different system conditions outlined in Section 2. The computer modeling program used is "MICRO HARDY CROSS" developed by CECOMP, 17127 Bircher Street, Granada Hills, CA 91344, (818) 363-0436.

The CeComp Micro Hardy Cross computer modeling program uses the Hardy Cross method to perform an analysis of the flow and pressure distribution in a looped water system. The Hardy Cross method determines the equilibrium pressure loss (using the Hazen Williams formula for head loss) around a service loop at a given flow condition by adjusting the flows caused by demand. A schematic pipeline diagram was prepared for each water system condition model. Geometric and operational data such as pipe diameters, length of pipe, demand in GPM at pipe intersections (nodes) and relative "C" coefficient for friction loss was included in each schematic (see Plate 3). To establish the proper "C" factor for friction loss a series of field tests were conducted by the ACWA. The field test consisted of opening a fire hydrant and measuring the flow rate and pressure. The residual pressure was simultaneously measured at several locations in the system nearby. This procedure was repeated at three different locations throughout the distribution system. The flow rates and system pressures obtained in the field test were then used in the computer model to generate a "C" factor value that most closely corresponded to existing system pressures. A "C" factor of 120 provided the closest computer model value to the measured existing system pressures and was used for all computer models. For the new pipe systems, a "C" factor of 140 was used.

3.2 Water System Criteria & Assumptions

Each computer modeled system used the following flow and pressure criteria, as developed from the ACWA records and presented in Section 2. These criteria are as follows:

3.2.1 Flows

<u>Type of Service</u>	<u>Flow in GPM/meter</u>			
	<u>ADF</u>	<u>MDF</u>	<u>PDF</u>	<u>PHF</u>
Existing EDU-residential (3/4" meter)	0.17	0.25	0.34	0.76
Future EDM-residential (3/4" meter)	0.22	0.37	0.50	1.01
Commercial (1 EDU/5000 SF)	0.44	0.74	1.00	2.00
Industrial (undefined case by case)	0.40	0.74	1.00	2.00

<u>Fire Protection</u>	<u>Flow</u>	<u>Duration</u>
Residential area	1000 GPM	2 hours
Commercial area	2500 GPM	2 hours

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cont.

3.2.2 Pressure

	<u>Minimum (PSI)</u> <u>(during fire flow)</u>	<u>Normal System (PSI)</u>
Pressure	20	40 to 80

Pressure reduction valves set to match given pressures given by AWCA. Reservoirs assumed 1/2 full for hydraulic head.

3.2.3 Assumptions

- Friction loss factor, Manning equation
 C = 120 for existing system pipe
 C = 140 for new system pipe
- Financing plan interest rate = 7.5%
- Financing plan term = 20 years
- The fire protection system cost share used for the fire protection system is based upon the required fire protection storage, pipeline size and fire hydrants compared to residential demand only system costs. This percentage is estimated to be 39%. See Table 3-6 for summation of fire protection cost.
- Commercial area flows were evaluated based upon 1 EDU/5000 SF of area.

3.3 Water System Computer Model Conditions

Computer models were prepared for the following conditions as defined in Section 2.4.

- a. Existing system (1 main, 1 D, 126, 1 PNEU)
- b. Buildout system (1 main, 1 D, 126, 1 PNEU)
- c. Ultimate system (1 main, 1 D, 126, 1 PNEU)
- d. Master plan system (new 0.65 MG Reservoir)
- e. Carson drive system (Pneumatic pump systems FEED 3)

For each of the systems, a flow model was developed for the various flow conditions. Table 3-1, "Summary of Computer Models" has been prepared to summarize the results of the computer models.

Copies of the computer model analysis are given in the "Computer Model Appendix."

3.3.1 Assumptions

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cont.

- (1) For budget purposes, pipe costs include valves and fittings.
- (2) Fire hydrant assembly includes fire hydrant, valve, and pipe from mains. Fire hydrant spacing is assumed at 500 feet apart.
- (3) PVC pipe is AWWA C900, Class 150.
- (4) Cost estimate for pipe is based upon \$3/dia. inch/LF for Class 150 pipe and \$4/dia. inch/LF for Class 200 pipe.
- (5) Fire hydrant assembly is estimated at \$2,000 each.

3.4 Discussion of Models

3.4.1 Existing System

Distribution Pipelines

A layout of the existing system is shown on Plate 1. The distribution system of the service area has been divided into four separate sub-system zones due to the severe elevation differentials of the service area. Table 2-6 shows the separate sub-system areas ground elevations and hydraulic grade elevations for service pressures. The pipeline distribution system is composed largely of small diameter pipeline, 1.5" diameter to 6" in size. A breakdown of the system that gives the relative sizes of lines by length and diameter size and the percentage of the total pipe for each diameter (see Table 3-2). A review of this table shows that the system is composed of the following pipe sizes:

<u>Pipe size</u>	<u>Percentage of System</u>
8"	3.7%
6"	45%
4"	14.1%
3"	27.9%
2" and less	9%



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cont.

Storage Reservoirs

The system is served by four (4) reservoirs:

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Capacity (gallons)</u>	<u>Base Elevation</u>
A	500,000	3,565
B	210,000	3,565
C	100,000	3,202
D	<u>126,000</u>	3,057
Total	936,000	

Five model run discussion operating conditions of the existing system were modeled: average daily flow; peak hourly flow; buildout; ultimate; and fire flow. Plate 2 shows the existing system layout with computer model node and pipe numbers used for the flow models.

The average daily flow is 103 GPM, and the minimum pressure condition is 28.1 PSI. For average daily flow in most areas, this low pressure was found to be adequate. The areas where the low pressure condition was less than 28.1 PSI during the average daily flow were at node 224 (tanks A and B) and at node 458 (tank C).

The computer modeling indicated that at a peak hour condition of 464 GPM, the existing system is not adequate to maintain pressure over 20 PSI. The lowest pressure in the main system (2.9 PSI) during peak hour conditions was node 211. This node is located at a high point in Buckhorn Ridge Road East of Pioneer Woods Road. The cause of the low pressure at node 211 is due to the existing small diameter pipe system which cannot meet the flow demands required under peak hour conditions.

Under existing flow conditions at average daily flow, the lowest pressure noted was 33.9 PSI at node 438 (near Meadow Crest and Carson Drive). The pressure at this point under peak hour flow at buildout was 16.9 PSI. Under fire flow conditions, the system model was all negative pressures. With the addition of a booster pump station, a 700 GPM fire flow is possible at node 451 (Bonanza Road and Woodfern Drive). The pressure at node 438 was 30 PSI under this condition. Therefore, it is recommended that a booster pump station for domestic and fire flow be constructed near Carson Drive and Woodfern Drive to serve the Carson area.

For the fire flow conditions modeled, the existing system can not meet the minimum fire protection flow that might be required. This is caused by the inability of the small diameter water mains to produce the required flow (see computer models, 1 main, EF1, EF2, EF3, and EF4).

The model runs for the buildout and ultimate conditions showed a relative inability of the system to meet the demands that would be required. The computer model generated negative pressure

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cont.

conditions throughout the system.

3.4.2 Definition of Computer Systems

The ID #1 water distribution was broken into different systems depending upon the service pressure zones. These are as follows:

- MAIN: Pressure zone served by gravity flow from Reservoirs A, B and C (through PRV station).
- 1-D: Pressure zone served by gravity flow from Reservoir D.
- I-26: River View area, Williams Road.
- CAR: Carson Drive area, served by Reservoirs A and B, on future pneumatic tank booster pump system.
- 1-PNEU: Pneumatic pressure system at Reservoirs A and B.

3.4.3 Master Plan Ultimate Water System

3.4.3.1 General

The master plan for the ultimate water system was designed to meet the demands posed by each condition. This was accomplished by reviewing the models prepared for the existing system in the previous section. The master plan meets the ultimate demand fire flow conditions of 2500 GPM created in the commercial areas along Highway 88. Additionally, the master plan design will allow a 1000 GPM fire flow in any residential area. The master plan components are shown on Table 3-3. Figure 1 shows the hydraulic profile for the master plan system.

3.4.3.2 Reservoir

The master plan system design included the design of a reservoir. A new reservoir at the site of Reservoirs A and B will help correct the problems of the existing systems inability to meet current peak hour and fire protection demands. The reservoir design includes the storage requirements necessary for ID #1 and for fire protection supply. The new design will allow Reservoirs A and B to be either removed from the ID #1 system or used for other storage needs. Should this be decided, the capacity of the removed reservoir will have to be added to the recommendation given below.

The new reservoir will be located adjacent to the existing Reservoirs A and B with a base elevation of 3565. The site acquired for the new reservoir is only large enough for one reservoir, not two smaller ones. It can be filled from the CAWP pumping station under the same pressure head conditions that exist at Reservoirs A and B. The reservoirs at Sites C and

D are filled from Reservoirs A and B. Based upon the computer models, the storage requirements were estimated as follows.

<u>Computer Model</u>	<u>Gallons</u>
Existing	348,928
Buildout	538,704
Ultimate	1,283,424

Based upon the storage requirement summary, it is recommended that the reservoir for ultimate development as follows:

A.	ID #1 average maximum daily demand (2766 users x 464 GPD)	=	1,283,424 gallons
B.	Fire protection supply (2500 GPM x 2 hours x 60 minutes)	=	300,000 gallons
C.	Less existing reservoir capacity	=	<u>(936,000 gallons)</u>
TOTAL		=	647,424 gallons

USE: 650,000 gallons

3.4.3.3 Transmission Pipeline and Infrastructures

Part of the master plan system design includes designing transmission pipelines and infrastructure system that will meet the flow demands created to meet the conditions posed. The ultimate system design that included the necessary fire protection flow was estimated to be 2500 GPM for commercial areas and 1000 GPM for residential areas from the new reservoir. The ultimate system design requires improvements as given on Table 3-3, the new 12" and 8" dia. pipelines are connected to the existing 6" distribution main. Connections to the existing system are planned throughout the transmission pipeline (shown on Plate 3), in or about the area of Oxbow Road, Pioneer Wood Drive, Cedar Heights Road, State Highway 88 and Pioneer Creek Road, Robin Road, Ravin Road, Carson Drive area and Buckhorn Ridge Road.

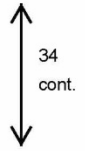
In reviewing the computer models of the existing system, it was apparent that the small sized mains could not provide adequate service pressure for the peak hour demand for the existing, buildout, and ultimate system condition as well as a 1000 GPM fire protection flow. To eliminate these inadequacies, several infrastructure pipelines are proposed. These are shown on Plate 3, Table 3-3 and Table 3-4.



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cont.

3.4.4 Capital Costs

The capital costs for the master plan improvements are estimated to be \$1,393,950. A detailed breakdown of the master plan costs is given on Table 3-4.



4 PROPOSED FEE SCHEDULE

4.1 General

The master plan improvement cost for the new reservoir, transmission lines, and infrastructures (except the Williams Road area) is \$1,393,950. To prepare the fee schedule, it has been assumed that the capital improvements will be financed by using a bonding program or similar financing plan. For purposes of preparing the fee schedules, it has been assumed that the financing plan will have a 7.5% interest rate and a term of 20 years. The total financing cost for principal and interest is estimated to be per year.

The new lot split fees have been calculated for areas within the existing distribution system. The new annexation lot fees have been calculated based upon areas within the service area and will require new service lines. The cost of the new service lines is not included in the lot fees and will be provided by the developer at no additional cost to ACWA.

4.2 Alternative Fee Schedule

Several alternatives have been presented to allocate the costs for the improvements as equitably as possible. These alternatives are water revenue bond, proportional costing and relative cost methods. Table 4-1 summarizes these costs for each category of meter, existing meters, new lot splits, and development lots. For each of the funding alternatives it has been assumed that revenue bond financing will be used to fund the capital improvements. Each alternative has been calculated using an interest rate of 7.5% over a term of 20 years. The calculations are given in the Appendix for reference.

4.2.1 Financing Alternatives

4.2.1.1 Revenue Bond Alternative

Fire Protection Improvement Fee

In this proposal, the costs associated with providing an adequate fire protection system for the entire service area as planned could be funded by a water revenue bond. To determine the fire protection fee for the system, a ratio of the costs of the fire flow required pipe size, hydrants reservoir capacity and booster pump station was estimated to be \$543,640. See Table 3-6. The fire protection improvement debt retirement is estimated to be \$53,719 annually. This represents approximately 39% of the debt retirement annual payment. The water revenue bond would be financed with an average rate increase of \$5.40 per month per meter (EDU) initially and would be paid by all users. The water revenue bond issue estimate was based upon a 7.5% interest rate over a term of 20 years.

The remaining cost of the improvements is \$850,310. This amount would be financed on a separate bond issue paid by new lot split fees and annexation lot fees in addition to the average

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cont.

rate increase. See Table 4-1.

Lot Split Fee

The proposed fee for lot splits to assist in the system improvements are based upon the estimated lot split generated parcels annually. This represents approximately 4% of the debt retirement annual payment. The proposed lot split fee is \$1,000/EDU.

Annexation Fee

The proposed development fee is based upon 10 lots per year over 20 years to retire the system improvements. The development fee has been calculated to provide the majority of the debt retirement. The proposed development fee is \$2,250/EDU. This represents approximately 17% of the debt retirement annual payment.

Water Rate Increase

To complete the annual debt retirement, it is estimated that a water rate increase of \$0.63/100 CF will be needed. This represents approximately 40% of the debt retirement annual repayment. A similar fee schedule has been prepared for the *PRIORITY ONE* items as follows. See Table 4-1 for the calculations.

Fire protection fee = \$5.40/month/meter
Lot split fee = \$1,000/lot
Annexation lot fee = \$2,250/lot
Water rate increase = \$0.63/100 CF

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cont.



AWA

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TABLES

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cont.

TABLE 2-1
EXISTING SYSTEM DATA
September 1, 1989 - August 31, 1990

	Recorded	Month		Daily Avg.	
	<u>100 CF</u>	<u>100 CF</u>	<u>1000 G</u>	<u>100 CF</u>	<u>1000 GPD</u>
September 1989	13,582	6,680	4,997	223	
October		6,902	5,163	223	166.6
November 1989	11,623	5,716	4,276	191	
December		5,906	4,418	191	142.5
January 1990	10,740	5,643	4,221	182	
February		5,097	3,813	182	136.1
March 1990	13,793	7,010	5,243	226	
April		6,783	5,074	226	169.1
May 1990	16,461	8,365	6,257	270	
June		8,096	6,055	270	201.8
July 1990	22,573	11,287	8,442	364	
August		11,286	8,442	364	272.3
TOTAL	88,772				

Totals (100 CF)	=	88,772
(Gallons)	=	66,401,456
Active Meters	=	752
Inactive Meters	=	77
Total Meters	=	829

WATER USE DATA - MASTER PLAN

- * Average Daily Flow = 243.21 (GPD/meter) or 181,922 GPD/total
- * Average Daily Flow = 0.168 GPM/meter
- * Maximum Month Average Daily Flow = 0.2515 GPM/meter
- * Based upon 752 meters

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cont.

TABLE 2-2
WATER DEMAND RATESAverage Daily Flow = 181,922 or 126 GPM
Average Daily Flow per meter = 243 or 0.168 GPM

		Demand Rate Perimeter		
		<u>GPD</u>	<u>GPM</u>	<u>DF to ADF</u>
Average Daily Flow	=	243	0.17	1.0
Average Maximum Day	=	475	0.25	1.49
Peak Day	=	634	0.34	2.02
Peak Hour	=	-	0.76	4.50

FIRE PROTECTION FLOW RATES

<u>AREA</u>	<u>GPM</u>	<u>DURATION (hours)</u>
Residential	1000	2
Commercial	2500	2

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cont.

TABLE 2-3
GENERAL PLAN LAND USE DENSITY
(Source - General Plan - Amador County - Table 1)

<u>Land Use Classification</u>	<u>EDU/acre</u>
R-S Residential - Suburban	1
R-L Residential - Low Density	7
R-M Residential - Medium Density	18
UA Urban Planning Area	18
LS Local Service Center	18
SP Special Planning Area	18
SP-1 Special Planning-Interim	18
I Industrial	1/parcel*
C Commercial	1/5000 SF

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cont.

Notes for use of this table:

- (1) EDU means one equivalent dwelling unit.
- (2) Dwelling unit means one family unit of 2.5 persons.
- * (3) Industrial parcel has undefined area. Water usage will be determined based upon the nature and type of industry on a case by case basis.
- (4) Commercial areas were evaluated based upon 1 EDU/5000 SF of area.

TABLE 2-4
FUTURE SERVICE PROJECTIONS BY SYSTEM SUB-AREA
 Number of Services
 as of August 31, 1990

COMPUTER MODEL CODE	(E)					(B)		(U)
SUB-AREA	ACTIVE EXISTING	INACTIVE EXISTING	TOTAL EXISTING	ADD FOR LOT SPLITS	TOTAL WITH BUILDOUT OF SYSTEM	ADD FOR ULTIMATE SYSTEM	TOTAL ULTIMATE SYSTEM	
1 MAIN	607	62	669	121	790	1340	2130	
1 D	108	11	119	38	157	99	256	
1 26	17	2	19	170	189	164	353	
1 PNEU	20	2	22	3	25	2	27	
TOTAL	752	77	829	332	1161	1605	2766	

NOTE: 1 Service = 1 Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) = 1 Single Family Unit. Commercial and Industrial have been factored into the EDU count based upon notes on Table 2-3.

TABLE 2-5
 SUMMARY OF FUTURE PROJECTIONS

Projection	Existing (E)			Buildout (B)			Ultimate (U)		
	No./EDU	ADF	BMD	ADF	EDU	BMD	ADF	EDU	BMD
SYSTEM									
COMPUTER CODE		E	BMD	B		BMD	U		UMD
SUB-SYSTEM									
1 D NO.1 UNITS		GPM	GPM	GPM		GPM			GPM
1 MAIN	607	103	464	144	790	650	446	2130	2006
1 D	108	18	83	29	157	132	52	256	232
1 26	17	3	13	42	189	187	78	353	353
1 PNEU	20	3	15	5	25	20	5	27	22
TOTAL	752	127	575	220	1161	989	581	2766	2615

NOTES:
 EDU = Equivalent family unit (2.5 people)
 ADF = Average daily flow (GPM) at 0.17 GPM/EDU
 B = Projected lot splits at 0.225 GPM/EDU
 BMD = Projected lot splits at 0.25 GPM/EDU
 U = Same as B
 UMD = Same as BMD

TABLE 2-6
EXISTING SUB-SYSTEMS AND PRESSURE ZONES

SUB-SYSTEM	RESERVOIR	GROUND ELEVATION	HYDRAULIC GRADE ELEVATION	SERVICE PRESSURE RANGE PSI - ADF
1 MAIN	A & B	3565	3583	11.7 - 145
1 D	D	3057	3110	22.9 - 150
1 26	Connection to CAWP System	2978	3128	17.3 - 93.5
1 PNEU	Pneumatic System	3465	3604	33.3 - 86

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cont.

TABLE 3-1
SUMMARY OF COMPUTER MODELS

MODEL NAME	FLOW CONDITION	PROJECTED FLOW (GPM)	PRESSURE (PSI)	
			MIN.	MAX.
1 Main E	existing ADF	103	11.7	145
1 Main EPH	existing PHF	464	2.9	137.6
1 Main B	buildout ADF	144	11.7	144
1 Main BPH	buildout PHF	650	-38*	128
1 Main U	ultimate ADF	446	2.6	135
1 Main U PHF	ultimate PHF	2006**	(out of scope)	
1 Main EF1	existing PHF + F1	1964**	(out of scope)	
1 Main EF2	existing PHF + F2	1464**	(out of scope)	
1 Main EF3	existing PHF + F3	2964**	(out of scope)	
1 Main EF4	existing PHF + F4	1464**	(out of scope)	

1 DE	existing ADF	18		
1D EPH	existing PHF	83	22.9	150
1D B	buildout ADF	29		
1D BPH	buildout PHF	132	22.9	158
1D U	ultimate ADF	52	22.9	160
1D UPH	ultimate PHF	232	22.9	152

126 E	existing ADF	3	17.3	93.5
126 EPH	existing PHF	13	17.3	93.5
126 B	buildout ADF	42	17.3	93.5
126 BPH	buildout PHF	187	16.6	92
126 U	ultimate	78	17.2	93
126 UPH	ultimate PHF	353	14.9	89

1 PNEU E	existing	3	33.3	86
1 PNEU PHF	existing PHF	15	33.3	86
1 PNEU B	buildout ADF	5	33.3	86
1 PNEU BPH	buildout PHF	20	33.2	86

MC PHF	master plan PHF	2881	28.0	177
MC F1	master plan PHF + F1	5381	28.1	167
MC F2	master plan PHF + F2	5381	28.1	173
MC F3	master plan PHF + F3	5381	21	167

NOTES:

* = Negative pressure on system.

** = Out of system capacity-used for flow summary only.

F.H. Locations

- (1) Buckhorn Ridge Road & Hwy. 88 - Node 203
- (2) Pioneer Creek Road & Pioneer Trail - Node 429
- (3) Hinton Road & Hwy. 88 - Node 421
- (4) Meadow Crest Drive & Happie Louie Court - Node 439

Flows given in the computer models differ slightly from projected flows given on Table 2-5. Due to averaging of meter flow records. The difference is assumed to be negligible and computer values are accurate for planning estimates.

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cont.

TABLE 3-2
 ID #1 EXISTING SYSTEM
 Approximate Pipe Inventory Used for Computer Modeling

<u>Sub-System</u>	<u>8" dia.</u>	<u>6" dia.</u>	<u>4" dia.</u>	<u>3" dia.</u>	<u>2"/less dia.</u>
1 Main		33,520	18,450	36,450	6,250
1 D		22,000			
1 26	4,800	3,550			500
1 PNEU					4,900
TOTAL	4,800	59,070	18,450	36,450	11,650
Percentage of Total	3.7	45.3	14.1	27.9	9.0

TOTAL PIPE LENGTH = 130,420 FEET

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cont.

TABLE 3-3
 RECOMMENDED SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS FOR ID #1

DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	L.F. or Ea.
12" dia. pipe	Oxbow Road from Reservoirs to Hwy.88	2580 L.F.
8" dia. pipe	Buckhorn Ridge Road from Oxbow Road to PRV station near Cedar Heights Road	4370 L.F.
8" dia. PRV sta.	At Ex. PRV station in parallel	1 Ea.
8" dia. pipe	Buckhorn and Ridge Road from PRV station to Pioneer Creek Road	3400 L.F.
8" dia.	Cedar Heights Road from Buckhorn Ridge Road to Hwy 88 - PRV station	2050 L.F.
8" dia. PRV sta.	At Ex. PRV station in parallel	1 Ea.
8" dia. pipe	Hwy 88 from Cedar Heights Road to Robin Road	12,751 L.F.
8" dia. pipe	Robin Road from Hwy 88 to Ravin Road	1150 L.F.
Carson Drive	Carson Drive Pressure Booster Station (60 GPM @ 60 PSI domestic flow) (1000 GPM @ 20 PSI - fire protection flow)	1 Ea.

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cont.

TABLE 3-4
MASTER PLAN COMPONENTS AND COST ESTIMATE SUMMARY
 1990 Dollars - ENR - CCI - (12/24/90) = 4,769.34
 (Estimated Cost includes 10% Contingency)
 Revised 03/24/95

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>ESTIMATE COST</u>
1. New Reservoir (A&B Site)	0.65 MG	\$ 325,000
2. Infra-Structure System		
a. 12" dia. PVC, pipe	2580	92,880
b. 8" dia. PVC, pipe	23,720	519,280
c. PRV Sta-6" @ \$10,000/ea.	2	20,000
d. Fire Hydrant Assembly	54	108,000
e. Carson Drive Pump Station	1	<u>50,000</u>
SUBTOTAL		\$1,115,160
Engineering and Administration (10%)		111,516
Contingency (15%)		<u>167,274</u>
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST - I.D. Main System		\$1,393,950

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cont.



TABLE 3-5
INFRASTRUCTURE COST ESTIMATE
1990 Dollars - ENR - CCI - (12/24/90) = 4,769.34
(Estimated Cost includes 10% Contingency)

Carson Drive

100 HP pump station with pressure tank @ \$500/HP	\$ 50,000
2250 LF 8" PVC pipe @ \$24/LF	54,000
3 fire hydrant assemblies @ \$2,000/ea.	6,000
Engineering & administration (10%)	<u>11,000</u>
Estimated total	\$121,000



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cont.

TABLE 3-6
FIRE PROTECTION FACILITIES COST ESTIMATE
 1990 Dollars - ENR - CCI - (12/24/90) = 4,769.34
 (Estimated Cost includes 10% Contingency)

■	Storage capacity 120,000 gallons	\$60,000
	(proportional amount to new reservoir)	
■	Pipeline size differential	
	8" dia. vs. 6" dia.	
	\$519,280 - \$357,260	\$161,020
	12" dia. vs. 8" dia.	
	\$92,880 - \$42,260	\$50,620
■	F.H.	\$108,000
■	Carson Pump Station	\$50,000
■	Engineering, Administrative and Contingency (25%)	<u>\$105,000</u>
	TOTAL	\$534,640

(\$543,640 / \$1,393,450) x (100) = 39%

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cont.

TABLE 3-7
 IMPROVEMENTS FOR ID #1

Description	Location	QUANTITY	Priority
Reservoir/at Reservoir Site A & B		0.65 MG	1
12" dia. pipe	Oxbow Rd. from Reservoirs to Hwy.88 with 5 FH's	2580 L.F.	1
8" dia. pipe	Buckhorn Ridge Rd. from Oxbow Rd. to PRV station near Cedar Heights Rd. with 9 FH's	4370 L.F.	2
8" dia. PRV sta.	At Ex. PRV station in parallel	1 Ea.	2
8" dia. pipe	Buckhorn Ridge Rd. from PRV station to Pioneer Creek Rd. with 7 FH's	3400 L.F.	2
8" dia.	Cedar Heights Rd. from Buckhorn Ridge Rd. to Hwy 88 - PRV station with 5 FH's	2050 L.F.	3
8" dia. PRV sta.	At Ex. PRV station in parallel	1 Ea.	3
8" dia. pipe	Hwy 88 from Cedar Heights Rd. to Robin Rd. with 27 FH's	12,751 L.F.	3
8" dia. pipe	Robin Rd. from Hwy 88 to Ravin Rd. with 3 FH's	1150 L.F.	3
Carson Drive	Carson Dr. Pressure Booster Station (60 GPM @ 60 PSI domestic flow) (1000 GPM @ 20 PSI - fire protection flow)	1 Ea.	2

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 cont.

SUMMARY BY PRIORITY	
PRIORITY	ESTIMATED COST (including Engineering, Administrative & Contingency)
1	\$534,850
2	\$307,606
3	\$551,494

TABLE 4-1
REVENUE BOND DATA AND PROPOSED FEE SCHEDULE

Improvement Costs		\$1,393,950						
Annual Interest Fee		7.5%						
Term (Years)		20						
Annual Debt Retirement		\$136,736						
Annual Fire Protection Component (39%)		\$ 53,719						
Annual Water System Improvement Component (61%)		<u>118,936</u>						
Total		\$194,978						
WATER RATE CALCULATIONS								
PROPOSED FEE SCHEDULE								
Improvement Costs	TOTAL	\$1,393,950	PRIORITY 1	\$534,850	PRIORITY 2	\$307,606	PRIORITY 3	\$551,494
Annual Interest Rate		0.075		0.075		0.075		0.075
Term (years)		20		20		20		20
Annual Debt Retirement		\$136,736		\$52,465		\$30,174		\$54,097
TOTAL PROJECT FINANCING								
PROPOSED FEE SCHEDULE								
Fire protection (ea. metered customer, 829)	MONTHLY	per meter	ANNUALLY	per meter	% OF DEBT	TOTAL ANNUAL	Revenue	\$53,719
Lot split additions, assumed 5/year		\$5.40		\$64.80		39.00		\$5,000
Annexation lot fee, assumed 10/year				\$1,000/lot		3.66		\$5,000
Water rate increase (88,772-100 CF/year)				\$2,250/lot		16.44		\$22,500
TOTAL REVENUE				\$0.63/100 CF		40.00		\$55,926
PRIORITY 1 PROJECT FINANCING								
PROPOSED FEE SCHEDULE								
Fire protection (ea. metered customer, 829)	MONTHLY	per meter	ANNUALLY	per meter	% OF DEBT	TOTAL ANNUAL	Revenue	\$19,896
Lot split additions, assumed 5/year		\$2.00		\$24		39.00		\$5,000
Annexation lot fee, assumed 10/year				\$1,000/lot		9.48		\$5,000
Water rate increase (88,772-100 CF/year)				\$2,250/lot		42.68		\$22,500
TOTAL REVENUE				\$0.06/100 CF		8.84		\$5,326
						100		\$52,722

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FIGURES



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cont.

AWA-1 The comment requests a spelling correction in Section 4.8, “Hazards and Hazardous Materials,” Impact 4.8-7. The text of the impact summary on DEIR page 4.8-22 has been revised as shown below:

Implementation of the Draft General Plan would result in development of areas considered to have a moderate, high, or very high fire ~~reat~~threat level.

AWA-2 The comment requests that a new paragraph (f) be added to DEIR Mitigation Measure 4.8-7a regarding County consultation with water agencies on needs for additional water supply, mains, and hydrants. The additional language suggested by the commenter is already included as part of Mitigation Measure 4.13-1b in Section 4.13, “Public Services and Utilities.” However, text has been added to Mitigation Measure 4.8-7a on page 23 of DEIR Section 4.8 as shown below:

f. Where public water is available, the County will consult with water agencies on needs for additional water, water mains, fire hydrants, and related appurtenances needed to meet required fire flow criteria and for sufficient water capacity to serve peak demands of multiple fire engines to protect improvements from wildland fires.

AWA-3 The comment requests that additional language be inserted in Section 4.13, “Public Services and Utilities” under the discussion of the Mokelumne, Amador and Calaveras Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). The suggested text has been added to the end of the first paragraph at the top of DEIR page 4.13-5, as shown below:

The IRWMP was updated again in January 2013 (Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority 2013).

AWA-4 The comment requests a text revision under the discussion of the Amador Urban Water Agency Management Plan discussion in Section 4.13, “Public Services and Utilities.” The text of the third paragraph on DEIR page 4.13-5 has been revised as shown below:

†The AWA has not written a groundwater management plan (AWA 2011:4-18) accepted a groundwater supply study and Integrated Regional Groundwater Management Plan for the Lake Camanche Water Improvement District in 2012 (Dunn 2012).

AWA-5 The comment requests that text be inserted under the heading “Amador County Regional Wastewater Management Plan” in Section 4.13, “Public Services and Utilities” regarding a reuse study. The text of the fourth paragraph on DEIR page 4.13-5 has been revised as shown below:

The Regional Approach for Reuse Study was completed in 2013 (Aegis Engineering Management & Zw3 2013).

AWA-6 The comment requests a text change in Section 4.13, “Public Services and Utilities,” under the heading “Amador Water Agency Service Area” regarding the potential date for completion of the proposed gravity supply line (GSL). The County understands that the

GSL was completed in 2015. Therefore, the text of the first bullet point on DEIR page 4.13-9 has been revised as shown below:

The GSL was completed in 2015.

AWA-7

The comment requests various minor changes to the text in the discussion of groundwater for La Mel Heights, under the heading “Water Supply Sources for Amador Water Agency” in Section 4.13, “Public Services and Utilities.” The text of the last paragraph on DEIR page 4.13-10 has been revised as shown below:

AWA operates ~~two~~ groundwater wells that provide water service to 57 60 connections in the La Mel Heights subdivision. The wells pump water from a groundwater aquifer that is not defined in the DWR’s Bulletin 118. The wells ~~have~~ ~~has~~ a safe yields of 50 afy, and 64 afy, or 31 gallons per minute (gpm), ~~and 40 gpm, respectively~~ and groundwater is treated at the Improvement District 3 WTP (AWA 2011: 4-18, Burr Consulting 2008b: II-205). ~~A second groundwater well is available as a back-up source of groundwater. These wells, while each having sufficient capacity to provide water service to the 60 connections, are operated on an alternating basis which provides redundancy and back up.~~

AWA-8

The comment requests various text revisions in Section 4.13, “Public Services and Utilities” regarding groundwater supplies for Lake Camanche Village, under the heading “Water Supply Sources for Amador Water Agency.” The text of the first paragraph under the heading “Lake Camanche Village” on DEIR page 4.13-10 has been revised as shown below:

AWA provides groundwater to 733 homes and small commercial businesses in the Lake Camanche Village. The groundwater system currently consists of four operating wells that have a combined pumping capacity of ~~1,306 afy (809 gpm): Well 6 produces 161 afy (100 gpm), Well 9 produces 500 afy (310 gpm), Well 12 produces 145 afy (90 gpm), and Well 14 produces 500 afy (350 gpm).~~ Groundwater is treated by the addition of chlorine at each well head located throughout the Lake Camanche Village Improvement District 7. (AWA 2011: 4-18 and 5-29.) ~~936 afy (580 gpm): Well 6 produces 242 afy (150 gpm), Well 9 produces 282 afy (175 gpm), Well 12 produces 170 afy (105 gpm), and Well 14 produces 242 afy (150 gpm).~~ Groundwater quality and well operation has been challenging. AWA is seeking a surface water supply to augment groundwater.

AWA-9

The comment requests that the text of the second paragraph in the Lake Camanche Village discussion regarding groundwater supplies in Section 4.13, “Public Services and Utilities” be deleted. The text of the second paragraph under the heading “Lake Camanche Village” on DEIR page 4.13-10 has been removed as shown below:

~~Well 14 has experienced groundwater quality issues and operates at a reduced pumping capacity. A plan has been developed to rehabilitate Well 14 but is pending approval of a rate increase to provide the revenue needed to implement the plan. (AWA 2011: 4-18 and 5-29, Burr Consulting 2008b: II-205.)~~

AWA-10

The comment requests a text change to clarify the discussion under the heading “Existing and Projected Water Supplies for AWA” in Section 4.13, “Public Services and Utilities.” The text of the last paragraph on DEIR page 4.13-11 has been revised as shown below:

AWA is in the process of securing an additional 1,050 afy of surface water rights for the CAWP system. AWA's projected CAWP surface water diversions shown in Table 4.13-3 assume that AWA will ~~secure~~ obtain the an additional 1,050 afy surface water rights for the CAWP system ~~by 2015~~ and the total surface water diversions for CAWP would then increase from 1,150 afy to 2,200 afy (AWA 2011: 4-23).

AWA-11 The comment requests a minor edit to footnote 1 in Table 4.13-3 (Section 4.13, "Public Services and Utilities"). The text of footnote 1 in Table 4.13-3, DEIR page 4.13-12, has been revised as shown below:

¹CAWP surface water diversions assume that an additional 1,050 afy surface water right would be obtained and expand the surface water diversions to 2,200 afy ~~by 2015~~. AWA has submitted an application to SWRCB to obtain this additional water, but lacks capacity for additional customers in the CAWP system until these additional rights are secured.

AWA-12 The comment requests a text addition under the heading "Amador Water Agency Future Water Supplies" in Section 4.13, "Public Services and Utilities" regarding the MokeWISE project. The text of the sixth paragraph on DEIR page 4.13-11 has been revised as shown below:

Raising Lower Bear River Dam is being considered as part of the larger Mokelumne Inter-Regional Conjunctive Use Project (IRCUP). The IRCUP could use a combination of groundwater banking, exchanges and transfers among project partners to result in a sustainable improvement in water supply reliability. Raising Lower Bear River Dam would also increase power generation at existing downstream hydroelectric power plants and is currently being considered by PG&E independently of IRCUP. (AWA 2011: 4-24.) Most currently, raising the Lower Bear River Reservoir is being considered in MokeWISE, the Mokelumne Watershed Interregional Sustainability Evaluation Program, which is in progress (Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority undated).

AWA-13 The comment requests that the discussion of climate change related to AWA's water supplies, under the heading "Existing and Projected Water Supplies for AWA" (DEIR page 4.13-12) be changed based on the commenter's opinion that the potential adverse impact on the County's water supply due to climate change has been understated. The text regarding climate change on DEIR page 4.13-12 does not constitute an impact analysis; rather, the text was provided for informational purposes in the Environmental Setting of Section 4.13, "Public Services and Utilities." The science of climate change entails research that is constantly evolving. Some scientific studies indicate that precipitation may increase, while other studies indicate that precipitation may decrease. The DEIR correctly states (on page 4.13-12) that according to California's climate change information portal, Cal-Adapt:

Furthermore, among several models, precipitation projections do not show a consistent trend during the next century.

Depending on how and when climate change actually occurs, there may in fact be an increased demand on water supplies and an increased fire hazard from drier fuels. However, as the DEIR states, it is simply not possible to predict with accuracy the changes that will occur in the future from climate change. Furthermore, the text changes

requested by the commenter would not affect the impact analyses or conclusions in the DEIR. Therefore, the requested text changes have not been made.

AWA-14

The comment requests several minor changes to text under the heading “Existing and Projected Water Supplies for AWA” in Section 4.13, “Public Services and Utilities” regarding phasing of surface water supplies. The text of the fifth paragraph on DEIR page 4.13-12 has been revised as shown below:

Groundwater production is not included in the projected groundwater supplies; instead, safe yields of the respective wells are utilized. ~~AWA does not expect to encounter~~ AWA is concerned with recurring water quality issues with its Lake Camanche Village wells; however, AWA’s demand projections assume only Wells 6, 9, and 12 are online, and that a surface water treatment facility is not operational. In addition, the safe yield from the Lake Camanche Village groundwater wells from 2015 to 2030 assumes a production loss of 25% to account for any dry-year water reductions within the Cosumnes Subbasin. However, technical and financial issues remain to be resolved before water services (or wastewater services) in Camanche Village can be expanded (AWA 2009 and 2012). The 2012 study recommended a phased approach to providing surface water in the region. Phase I has been funded and is under construction.

AWA-15

The comment requests a text change from “AWA” to “AWS” under the heading “Amador Water Agency Water Distribution Facilities” in Section 4.13, “Public Services and Utilities.” The text of the fourth paragraph under the heading “Water Distribution Facilities” on DEIR page 4.13-13 has been revised as shown below:

Until ~~AWAS~~ needs its full 15,000 afy of entitlement, the conserved water will be available to EBMUD and PG&E for additional hydropower generation and as additional inflow to Pardee Reservoir (Burr Consulting, 2008b: II-205 and II-206).

AWA-16

The comment requests that an additional paragraph be added under the heading “Amador Water Agency, Water Distribution Facilities” in Section 4.13, “Public Services and Utilities” regarding areas of low pressure and low flow fire hydrants. The following text has been added below the second paragraph under the heading “Water Distribution Facilities” on DEIR page 4.13-13:

In the CAWP system, there are some zones of low pressure and low flow fire hydrants. In these areas, sudden high water demands, such as fire hydrant use for firefighting, can cause a loss of pressure below the state-required minimum of 20 pounds per square inch (psi) and the inability to meet fire flow criteria (Bartholomew 1995). Amador Water Agency is working to correct this problem.

AWA-17

The comment requests that an additional sentence be added to the discussion regarding the Ione water treatment plant under the heading “Amador Water Agency, Water Treatment” in Section 4.13 (“Public Services and Utilities”) regarding an expansion of the existing water treatment plant. The following change has been made in the second to the last paragraph on DEIR page 4.13-13:

The Ione WTP is located in the City of Ione and serves the City of Ione, several facilities within the Ione city limits, and the Eagles Nest community. The Ione WTP has a capacity of 3.3 million gallons per day (mgd) and must use stored water to meet maximum day demands. Based on existing demands and

commitments in the form of will-serve or conditional will-serve letters, all remaining capacity at the Ione WTP is either utilized or reserved. (City of Ione 2009a: 3.13-22.) An expansion plan of the Ione Water Treatment Plant is currently underway along with a plan to recycle filter backwash water.

AWA-18 and -19

These comments request minor changes to the description of the Tanner water treatment plant under the heading “Amador Water Agency, Water Treatment” in Section 4.13, “Public Services and Utilities” regarding potential expansion of the Tanner Water Treatment Plant. The text on DEIR pages 4.13-13 and 4.13-14 have been revised as shown below:

The Tanner WTP is located just east of the City of Sutter Creek and serves the remaining AWA system. As of April 2010, the Tanner WTP has a capacity of 5.7 mgd and AWA estimates the maximum daily usage would be 5.5 mgd. Based on the “will serve” commitments that AWA has already made, all of the existing capacity of the Tanner Treatment Plant has been allocated. AWA plans to expand the plant to 8.0 mgd of treatment capacity as a regional plant in the future. There is currently no timeframe for expansion of the Tanner WTP. (Burr Consulting 2008b: II-204, Amador County 2010: H-47.) Currently AWA is reviewing options for incremental plant expansion at the Tanner Water Treatment Plant.

In the long term, expansion of the Tanner WTP is likely required to meet demands within the AWS. If a new Regional Tanner facility is constructed, the Ione WTPs would likely be decommissioned. In the short term, AWA may consider interim improvements to both the Tanner and Ione WTPs to provide additional capacity. These interim improvements would require funding by project applicants. (AWA 2009)

The Buckhorn WTP is located in Buckhorn and serves the CAWP system. The treatment plant has a capacity of 3.4 mgd (Policy Consulting Associates 2014:237). AWA has not conducted an analysis of treatment capacity at the Buckhorn WTP. At the time that additional water treatment capacity is required, applicants will be required to fund these improvements (AWA 2009).

EBMUD, AWA, and the Calaveras County Water District have discussed plans for a joint surface water treatment plant project that would supply surface water to the Lake Camanche area (AWA 2011: 4-19). Surface water rights to supply this project have not been identified (RMC 2006: 3-17). This is also described in the Camanche Area Regional Water Supply Project (Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority 2013).

AWA-20

The comment requests that text be added under the heading “Amador Water Agency, Wastewater Collection and Conveyance” in Section 4.13, “Public Services and Utilities” regarding expansion of regional wastewater reuse. The text of the fifth paragraph on DEIR page 4.13-17 has been revised as shown below:

AWA operates 33 miles of sewer pipes and 15 lift stations as part of its conveyance system. AWA operates wastewater collection at Martell (AWA Wastewater Improvement District [WWID] #12), Lake Camanche Village, Gayla Manor, Eagle’s Nest, Fairway Pines, Jackson Pines, Mace Meadows, Pine Grove, Surrey Junction, Tiger Creek Estates, Viewpoint Estates, and Wildwood Estates. AWA plans to expand regional wastewater reuse working with the cities and counties (Aegis Engineering 2013) ~~construct a new WWTP to serve Martell and~~

provide additional storage and disposal capacity to the Lake Camanche Village (Policy Consulting Associates 2014:243).

AWA-21 The comment requests that text be deleted under the heading “Amador Water Agency, Wastewater Treatment” in Section 4.13, “Public Services and Utilities” regarding provision of services to the City of Plymouth. The text of the first full paragraph on DEIR page 4.13-18 has been revised as shown below:

AWA also provides wastewater operations, maintenance, and emergency services to other wastewater service providers, presently ~~the City of Plymouth and River Pines PUD.~~

AWA-22 The comment requests that text be deleted under the heading “Amador Water Agency, Wastewater Treatment” in Section 4.13, “Public Services and Utilities” regarding wastewater treatment for Gayla Manor. The County understands that AWA expanded the leachfields for the Gayla Manor system and therefore that wastewater treatment system no longer has capacity issues. The text of the last paragraph on DEIR page 4.13-18 has been revised as shown below:

Several of the AWA treatment facilities are at or beyond capacity. The Martell area needs additional capacity to support anticipated build-out demand. At Lake Camanche Village, there is a moratorium on additional wastewater service connections with property owners on a waiting list for additional capacity. ~~The Gayla Manor system’s capacity is exceeded during peak rain events.~~

AWA-23 The comment requests text changes in Table 4.13-6 under the heading “Amador Water Agency Wastewater Treatment” in Section 4.13, “Public Services and Utilities” regarding the type of collection systems. The text of Table 4.13-6 on DEIR page 4.13-18 has been revised as shown below:

Wastewater System	Collection System ¹	Collection Piping (feet)	Treatment Type	Treatment Volume (afy)	Disposal Method
Eagles Nest	Gravity <u>Pressurized</u>	6,423	CLS	3.84	Subsurface
Fairway Pines ²	Gravity <u>Combination</u>	22,984	CLS	6.22	Subsurface
Gayla Manor	Gravity <u>Combination</u>	7,725	Secondary	11.72	Subsurface and Spray
Jackson Pines	Gravity <u>Combination</u>	16,331	CLS	10.31	Subsurface
Lake Camanche	Gravity	40,755	Secondary	58.28	Spray
Mace Meadows ²	Gravity <u>Combination</u>	22,984	CLS	12.54	Subsurface
Martell ³	Gravity	81,276	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pine Grove	Pressurized	18,264	CLS	12.25	Subsurface
Surrey Junction	Gravity <u>Pressurized</u>	3,049	CLS	1.07	Subsurface
Tiger Creek Estates	Gravity <u>Combination</u>	2,778	CLS	0.25	Subsurface
Viewpoint Estates	Gravity <u>Pressurized</u>	1,834	CLS	0.37	Subsurface
Wildwood Estates	Gravity <u>Pressurized</u>	5,802	CLS	4.24	Subsurface

Notes: afy = acre feet per year; AWA = Amador Water Agency; CLS = community leachfield system; Secondary = secondary level treatment for land disposal; Subsurface = disposal of effluent to leachfield trenches, Spray = disposal of effluent to above ground spray fields.

¹ Gravity collection system is defined as traditional gravity collection mains, laterals, manholes and lift stations. Pressurized collection system is defined as pressurized collection mains and laterals without any lift stations.

² Mace Meadows and Fairway Pines community leachfield systems share a common collection system.

³ Disposal of wastewater collected in the Martell area is provided by the Sutter Creek WWTP.

Source: AWA 2011:Table 4-4

AWA-24 The comment requests that a citation be added under the heading “Amador Water Agency, Recycled Water” in Section 4.13, “Public Services and Utilities.” The text of the first paragraph on DEIR page 4.13-19 has been revised as shown below:

As discussed above under “Water Supply, Conveyance, and Treatment Facilities,” the AWA is evaluating a plan for regional water reuse, seeking to maximize water recycling by developing a regional recycled water supply in the Amador City, Jackson, Martell, and Sutter Creek area in lieu of raw and potable water. The development of this project is seen as the first step in implementing a regional approach to water recycling. This plan and subsequent detailed studies are intended to optimize the use of recycled water (Aegis Engineering Management and Zw3 2013).

AWA-25 The comment requests that text be inserted under Impact 4.13-1 in Section 4.13, “Public Services and Utilities” regarding a phased approach to surface water supplies. The text of the fifth paragraph of Impact 4.13-1 on DEIR page 4.13-32 has been revised as shown below:

AWA’s planned water supplies, as detailed in the UWMP (summarized in Table 4.13-5 above), would be adequate to meet 2030 water demands within its service area, including water demands for new development identified in this Draft General Plan. However, the availability of some of these future supplies, specifically additional surface water rights for CAWP and additional groundwater supply for Camanche Village, is uncertain. The Camanche Area Regional Water Supply Study (Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority 2013) provides a phased approach to providing surface water to the region. Phase I has been funded and is under construction.

AWA-26 The comment requests that the County engage in a discussion with the AWA General Manager regarding the significance after mitigation of Impact 4.13-1. This comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required.

AWA-27 The comment requests that an additional sentence be added under Impact 4.13-2 in Section 4.13, “Public Services and Utilities” regarding potential expansion of the Ione Water Treatment Plant. The text of the first paragraph on DEIR page 4.13-36 has been revised as shown:

Expansion of the Tanner WTP would be required to provide treated water to new residential and commercial development. AWA plans to expand the plant to 8.0 mgd of treatment capacity in the future and any improvements at the treatment plant would require additional analysis under CEQA by AWA to identify and document specific impacts and any required mitigation measures. The Ione Water Treatment Plant is planned to be expanded with incremental capacity and

is currently under design. In the long term, ~~the~~ Ione WTP is scheduled to be replaced by the Tanner WTP after its expansion.

- AWA-28 The comment requests that the County engage in a discussion with the AWA General Manager regarding the significance after mitigation of Impact 4.13-2. This comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required.
- AWA-29 The comment requests that the County engage in a discussion with the AWA General Manager regarding the significance after mitigation of Impact 4.13-3. This comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required.
- AWA-30 The comment requests that additional documents consulted for review be listed in the “Analysis Methodology” section of Section 4.13, “Public Services and Utilities.” The documents listed in the Analysis Methodology subsections of the DEIR are not intended to be an exhaustive list of every document that was reviewed during preparation of the DEIR. Furthermore, two of the three document additions requested by the commenter were not used to prepare the Public Services and Utilities section. New references that have been cited in these responses to comments are listed in Chapter 8, “References” of this FEIR.
- AWA-31 The comment requests that the text of Mitigation Measure 4.13-1a (4) be changed to include a statement regarding sufficient water for fire hydrant flow. The text of paragraph 4 on DEIR page 4.13-33 has been revised as shown below:

Mitigation Measure 4.13-1a: Implement Program D-1a(4-5), Development Proposal Evaluation

- a. The County will review proposed projects for consistency with goals, policies, and implementation programs of this general plan.

Evaluation criteria for discretionary development proposals include:

4. Availability of public water and wastewater, and ability to connect to existing water and wastewater systems. The objective of this program is to avoid impacts related to lack of reliable water supply, including sufficient water for fire hydrant flow criteria, or wastewater service. If feasible, new units will be required to connect to nearby existing water or wastewater systems. Project applicants must demonstrate the availability of water supply, water treatment capacity and wastewater treatment.

Responsible Agencies/Departments: Planning, Transportation and Public Works, and Environmental Health Departments

Working With: Amador Fire Protection District and water and wastewater agencies.

Time Frame: Ongoing

- AWA-32 The comment requests that the text of Mitigation Measure 4.13-1b(a) be changed to include water supply for firefighting. The text of the first paragraph of Mitigation Measure 4.13-1b(a) on DEIR page 4.13-33 has been revised as shown below:

Mitigation Measure 4.13-1b: Implement Program P-3, Future Water Supply

- a. The County will provide input to water suppliers in their efforts to plan for coordinated response to future water demand, and future water supply emergencies, including needed capacity during wildfires, and droughts. These efforts would include integrated regional water management plans (addressing surface and groundwater resource, wastewater, stormwater treatment and use, development of reclaimed water, and flooding). These plans should include information on areas with water service capacity. The objective of this planning effort is to assure sufficient reliable water supplies are available to serve new projects, as well as existing and planned development. This planning effort will include:

The text of the first paragraph of Mitigation Measure 4.9-4b on DEIR page 4.9-27 has also been revised as shown below:

Mitigation Measure 4.9-4b: Implement Program P-3 a1-3 and b, Future Water Supply

- a. The County will provide input to water providers in their efforts to plan for coordinated response to future water demand, and future water supply emergencies, including needed capacity during wildfires, and droughts. These efforts would include integrated regional water management plans (addressing surface and groundwater resource, wastewater, stormwater treatment and use, development of reclaimed water, and flooding). These plans should include information on areas with water service capacity. The objective of this planning effort is to assure sufficient reliable water supplies are available to serve new projects, as well as existing and planned development. This planning effort will include:

AWA-33

The comment requests that an additional bullet point be added to DEIR Mitigation Measure 4.13-1c(a) regarding infrastructure necessary to serve fire hydrants. The text of DEIR Impact 4.13-1c(a) on DEIR page 4.13-34 has been revised as shown below:

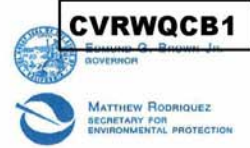
Mitigation Measure 4.13-1c: Implement Program F-1, Infrastructure Improvements

- a. In order to assure that adequate infrastructure is in place to support existing and planned development, the County will consult with water and wastewater providers to support development of new treatment facilities or conveyance systems to minimize:
 1. Disposal by leach field in areas of marginal soils or site conditions which may lead to degrading groundwater quality.
 2. Potential threats to water resources or the public from wastewater treatment system failures.
 3. The risk of loss of life or property due to inadequate water infrastructure serving fire hydrants.

AWA-34

The comment includes a list of links to references and includes reference documents for AWA's submitted comments. New references that are cited in text revisions to the DEIR will be included in the administrative record or, if available on the Internet, a link to the appropriate website will be provided. Existing references previously cited in the DEIR are already part of the administrative record. The comment does not identify any specific

issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required.



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

10 December 2014

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Amador County

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PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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Susan Grijalva
County of Amador
810 Court Street
Jackson, CA 95642

COMMENTS TO REQUEST FOR REVIEW FOR THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT, AMADOR COUNTY GENERAL PLAN UPDATE PROJECT, SCH# 2009072089, AMADOR COUNTY

Pursuant to the State Clearinghouse's 31 October 2014 request, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has reviewed the *Request for Review for the Draft Environment Impact Report* for the Amador County General Plan Update Project, located in Amador County.

Our agency is delegated with the responsibility of protecting the quality of surface and groundwaters of the state; therefore our comments will address concerns surrounding those issues.

Construction Storm Water General Permit

Dischargers whose project disturb one or more acres of soil or where projects disturb less than one acre but are part of a larger common plan of development that in total disturbs one or more acres, are required to obtain coverage under the General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activities (Construction General Permit), Construction General Permit Order No. 2009-009-DWQ. Construction activity subject to this permit includes clearing, grading, grubbing, disturbances to the ground, such as stockpiling, or excavation, but does not include regular maintenance activities performed to restore the original line, grade, or capacity of the facility. The Construction General Permit requires the development and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

For more information on the Construction General Permit, visit the State Water Resources Control Board website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/constpermits.shtml.



KARL E. LONGLEY ScD, P.E., CHAIR | PAMELA C. CREEDON P.E., BCEE, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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Phase I and II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permits¹

The Phase I and II MS4 permits require the Permittees reduce pollutants and runoff flows from new development and redevelopment using Best Management Practices (BMPs) to the maximum extent practicable (MEP). MS4 Permittees have their own development standards, also known as Low Impact Development (LID)/post-construction standards that include a hydromodification component. The MS4 permits also require specific design concepts for LID/post-construction BMPs in the early stages of a project during the entitlement and CEQA process and the development plan review process.

For more information on which Phase I MS4 Permit this project applies to, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/storm_water/municipal_permits/.

For more information on the Phase II MS4 permit and who it applies to, visit the State Water Resources Control Board at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/phase_ii_municipal.shtml

Industrial Storm Water General Permit

Storm water discharges associated with industrial sites must comply with the regulations contained in the Industrial Storm Water General Permit Order No. 97-03-DWQ.

For more information on the Industrial Storm Water General Permit, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/storm_water/industrial_general_permits/index.shtml.

Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit

If the project will involve the discharge of dredged or fill material in navigable waters or wetlands, a permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act may be needed from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE). If a Section 404 permit is required by the USACOE, the Central Valley Water Board will review the permit application to ensure that discharge will not violate water quality standards. If the project requires surface water drainage realignment, the applicant is advised to contact the Department of Fish and Game for information on Streambed Alteration Permit requirements.

If you have any questions regarding the Clean Water Act Section 404 permits, please contact the Regulatory Division of the Sacramento District of USACOE at (916) 557-5250.

¹ Municipal Permits = The Phase I Municipal Separate Storm Water System (MS4) Permit covers medium sized Municipalities (serving between 100,000 and 250,000 people) and large sized municipalities (serving over 250,000 people). The Phase II MS4 provides coverage for small municipalities, including non-traditional Small MS4s, which include military bases, public campuses, prisons and hospitals.

1
cont.

Clean Water Act Section 401 Permit – Water Quality Certification

If an USACOE permit (e.g., Non-Reporting Nationwide Permit, Nationwide Permit, Letter of Permission, Individual Permit, Regional General Permit, Programmatic General Permit), or any other federal permit (e.g., Section 9 from the United States Coast Guard), is required for this project due to the disturbance of waters of the United States (such as streams and wetlands), then a Water Quality Certification must be obtained from the Central Valley Water Board prior to initiation of project activities. There are no waivers for 401 Water Quality Certifications.

Waste Discharge Requirements

If USACOE determines that only non-jurisdictional waters of the State (i.e., “non-federal” waters of the State) are present in the proposed project area, the proposed project will require a Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) permit to be issued by Central Valley Water Board. Under the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, discharges to all waters of the State, including all wetlands and other waters of the State including, but not limited to, isolated wetlands, are subject to State regulation.

For more information on the Water Quality Certification and WDR processes, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/help/business_help/permit2.shtml.

Regulatory Compliance for Commercially Irrigated Agriculture

If the property will be used for commercial irrigated agricultural, the discharger will be required to obtain regulatory coverage under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

There are two options to comply:

1. **Obtain Coverage Under a Coalition Group.** Join the local Coalition Group that supports land owners with the implementation of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. The Coalition Group conducts water quality monitoring and reporting to the Central Valley Water Board on behalf of its growers. The Coalition Groups charge an annual membership fee, which varies by Coalition Group. To find the Coalition Group in your area, visit the Central Valley Water Board’s website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/app_approval/index.shtml; or contact water board staff at (916) 464-4611 or via email at IrrLands@waterboards.ca.gov.
2. **Obtain Coverage Under the General Waste Discharge Requirements for Individual Growers, General Order R5-2013-0100.** Dischargers not participating in a third-party group (Coalition) are regulated individually. Depending on the specific site conditions, growers may be required to monitor runoff from their property, install monitoring wells, and submit a notice of intent, farm plan, and other action plans regarding their actions to comply with their General Order. Yearly costs would include State administrative fees (for example, annual fees for farm sizes from 10-100 acres are currently \$1,084 + \$6.70/Acre); the cost to prepare annual monitoring reports; and water quality monitoring costs. To enroll as an Individual Discharger under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory

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cont.

Program, call the Central Valley Water Board phone line at (916) 464-4611 or e-mail board staff at IrrLands@waterboards.ca.gov.

Low or Limited Threat General NPDES Permit

If the proposed project includes construction dewatering and it is necessary to discharge the groundwater to waters of the United States, the proposed project will require coverage under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Dewatering discharges are typically considered a low or limited threat to water quality and may be covered under the General Order for *Dewatering and Other Low Threat Discharges to Surface Waters* (Low Threat General Order) or the General Order for *Limited Threat Discharges of Treated/Untreated Groundwater from Cleanup Sites, Wastewater from Superchlorination Projects, and Other Limited Threat Wastewaters to Surface Water* (Limited Threat General Order). A complete application must be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board to obtain coverage under these General NPDES permits.

For more information regarding the Low Threat General Order and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2013-0074.pdf

For more information regarding the Limited Threat General Order and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2013-0073.pdf

If you have questions regarding these comments, please contact me at (916) 464-4684 or tcleak@waterboards.ca.gov.



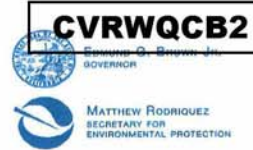
Trevor Cleak
Environmental Scientist

cc: State Clearinghouse unit, Governor's Office of Planning and Research, Sacramento

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CVRWQCB-1

The comment summarizes various CVRWQCB permit requirements. The County is familiar with these permit requirements and understands that future site-specific project compliance is required.



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

9 January 2015

RECEIVED Amador County JAN 14 2015

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Amador County Community Development Agency
Planning Department
810 Court Street
Jackson, CA 95642

CERTIFIED MAIL
7014 2120 0001 3978 3699

COMMENTS TO REQUEST FOR REVIEW FOR THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT, AMADOR COUNTY DRAFT GENERAL PLAN PROJECT, AMADOR COUNTY

Pursuant to the Amador County Community Development Agency's 21 November 2014 request, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has reviewed the Request for Review for the Draft Environment Impact Report for the Amador County Draft General Plan Project, located in Amador County.

Our agency is delegated with the responsibility of protecting the quality of surface and groundwaters of the state; therefore our comments will address concerns surrounding those issues.

Construction Storm Water General Permit

Dischargers whose project disturb one or more acres of soil or where projects disturb less than one acre but are part of a larger common plan of development that in total disturbs one or more acres, are required to obtain coverage under the General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activities (Construction General Permit), Construction General Permit Order No. 2009-009-DWQ. Construction activity subject to this permit includes clearing, grading, grubbing, disturbances to the ground, such as stockpiling, or excavation, but does not include regular maintenance activities performed to restore the original line, grade, or capacity of the facility. The Construction General Permit requires the development and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

For more information on the Construction General Permit, visit the State Water Resources Control Board website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/constpermits.shtml.



KARL E. LONGLEY ScD, P.E., CHAIR | PAMELA C. CREEDON P.E., BCEE, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

11020 Sun Center Drive #200, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 | www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley



Phase I and II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permits¹

The Phase I and II MS4 permits require the Permittees reduce pollutants and runoff flows from new development and redevelopment using Best Management Practices (BMPs) to the maximum extent practicable (MEP). MS4 Permittees have their own development standards, also known as Low Impact Development (LID)/post-construction standards that include a hydromodification component. The MS4 permits also require specific design concepts for LID/post-construction BMPs in the early stages of a project during the entitlement and CEQA process and the development plan review process.

For more information on which Phase I MS4 Permit this project applies to, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/storm_water/municipal_permits/.

For more information on the Phase II MS4 permit and who it applies to, visit the State Water Resources Control Board at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/phase_ii_municipal.shtml

Industrial Storm Water General Permit

Storm water discharges associated with industrial sites must comply with the regulations contained in the Industrial Storm Water General Permit Order No. 97-03-DWQ.

For more information on the Industrial Storm Water General Permit, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/storm_water/industrial_general_permits/index.shtml.

Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit

If the project will involve the discharge of dredged or fill material in navigable waters or wetlands, a permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act may be needed from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE). If a Section 404 permit is required by the USACOE, the Central Valley Water Board will review the permit application to ensure that discharge will not violate water quality standards. If the project requires surface water drainage realignment, the applicant is advised to contact the Department of Fish and Game for information on Streambed Alteration Permit requirements.

If you have any questions regarding the Clean Water Act Section 404 permits, please contact the Regulatory Division of the Sacramento District of USACOE at (916) 557-5250.



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¹ Municipal Permits = The Phase I Municipal Separate Storm Water System (MS4) Permit covers medium sized Municipalities (serving between 100,000 and 250,000 people) and large sized municipalities (serving over 250,000 people). The Phase II MS4 provides coverage for small municipalities, including non-traditional Small MS4s, which include military bases, public campuses, prisons and hospitals.

Clean Water Act Section 401 Permit – Water Quality Certification

If an USACOE permit (e.g., Non-Reporting Nationwide Permit, Nationwide Permit, Letter of Permission, Individual Permit, Regional General Permit, Programmatic General Permit), or any other federal permit (e.g., Section 9 from the United States Coast Guard), is required for this project due to the disturbance of waters of the United States (such as streams and wetlands), then a Water Quality Certification must be obtained from the Central Valley Water Board prior to initiation of project activities. There are no waivers for 401 Water Quality Certifications.

Waste Discharge Requirements

If USACOE determines that only non-jurisdictional waters of the State (i.e., "non-federal" waters of the State) are present in the proposed project area, the proposed project will require a Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) permit to be issued by Central Valley Water Board. Under the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, discharges to all waters of the State, including all wetlands and other waters of the State including, but not limited to, isolated wetlands, are subject to State regulation.

For more information on the Water Quality Certification and WDR processes, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/help/business_help/permit2.shtml.

Regulatory Compliance for Commercially Irrigated Agriculture

If the property will be used for commercial irrigated agricultural, the discharger will be required to obtain regulatory coverage under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

There are two options to comply:

1. **Obtain Coverage Under a Coalition Group.** Join the local Coalition Group that supports land owners with the implementation of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. The Coalition Group conducts water quality monitoring and reporting to the Central Valley Water Board on behalf of its growers. The Coalition Groups charge an annual membership fee, which varies by Coalition Group. To find the Coalition Group in your area, visit the Central Valley Water Board's website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/app_approval/index.shtml; or contact water board staff at (916) 464-4611 or via email at IrrLands@waterboards.ca.gov.
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Program, call the Central Valley Water Board phone line at (916) 464-4611 or e-mail board staff at IrrLands@waterboards.ca.gov.

Low or Limited Threat General NPDES Permit

If the proposed project includes construction dewatering and it is necessary to discharge the groundwater to waters of the United States, the proposed project will require coverage under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Dewatering discharges are typically considered a low or limited threat to water quality and may be covered under the General Order for *Dewatering and Other Low Threat Discharges to Surface Waters* (Low Threat General Order) or the General Order for *Limited Threat Discharges of Treated/Untreated Groundwater from Cleanup Sites, Wastewater from Superchlorination Projects, and Other Limited Threat Wastewaters to Surface Water* (Limited Threat General Order). A complete application must be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board to obtain coverage under these General NPDES permits.

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http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2013-0074.pdf

For more information regarding the Limited Threat General Order and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2013-0073.pdf

If you have questions regarding these comments, please contact me at (916) 464-4684 or tcleak@waterboards.ca.gov.



Trevor Cleak
Environmental Scientist

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cont.

Letter
CVRWQCB2
Response

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Trevor Cleak, Environmental Scientist
January 9, 2015

CVRWQCB-2

Comment letter CVRWQCB-1 was resubmitted. See response CVRWQCB-1.



RECEIVED
Amador County

JAN 29 2015

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

January 26, 2015

Susan Grijalva, Planning Director
Amador County Planning Department
810 Court Street
Jackson, CA 95642

Re: Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the
Amador County General Plan Update

Dear Ms. Grijalva:

East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Amador County General Plan Update. EBMUD commented on the Notice of Preparation of a Draft EIR for the project on August 27, 2009; EBMUD's original comments for Land Use Designations (see enclosure) still apply.



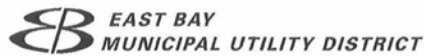
If you have any questions concerning this response, please contact David J. Rehnstrom, Senior Civil Engineer, Water Service Planning, at (510) 287-1365.

Sincerely,

Bill E. Maggiore
Acting Manager of Water Distribution Planning

BEM:TRM:dks
sb15_002.docx

Enclosure



August 27, 2009

Susan Grijalva, Planning Director
Amador County Planning Department
810 Court Street
Jackson, CA 95642

Re: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for
the Amador County General Plan Update

Dear Ms. Grijalva:

East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Notice of Preparation of a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Amador County General Plan General Plan Update. EBMUD has the following comments.

GENERAL

As part of EBMUD's Water Supply Management Program (WSMP) 2040, EBMUD identified the following two potential water supply projects that are located within Amador County in the preferred portfolio of EBMUD's WSMP 2040: 1) expansion of Pardee Reservoir; and 2) raising of the Lower Bear Reservoir. If these two projects advance from the current program level to project specific stage, EBMUD may partner with local agencies (such as Amador Water Agency) to develop these projects and to share the additional water yield generated by these projects. EBMUD suggests that if the County's General Plan Update includes a review of Amador County water supply related matters and/or if the accompanying EIR considers how lands surrounding said projects could develop within the General Plan's planning horizon, that consideration be given to the above mentioned potential EBMUD projects. For additional information on EBMUD's WSMP 2040, please contact Thomas B. Francis, Senior Civil Engineer, Water Supply Improvements at (510) 287-1303.

The Draft EIR for the General Plan Update should include discussions on the following:

- Impact of increased water need by the newly proposed residential, commercial, and industrial developments that would have on the available supply through Amador Water Agency's current surface water rights.



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Susan Grijalva, Planning Director
August 27, 2009
Page 2

- Impacts to water quality in neighboring water bodies (such as Pardee Reservoir and Camanche Reservoir) resulting from soil erosion and runoff generated by agricultural and development practices.

LAND USE DESIGNATIONS

Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ) is noted in the Notice of Preparation with two different density designations: 0.1 dwellings per acre on page 10 and a maximum 0.025 dwellings per acre in the table on page 9. Ensure that density designations are consistent on both pages.

EBMUD suggests the County incorporate into its General Plan Update the Mokelumne Watershed Land Use Categories figure taken from EBMUD's 2008 Mokelumne Watershed Master Plan (Enclosure 1), which includes land use designations within EBMUD's property boundaries. Upon request, EBMUD could provide GIS files for mapping these designations.

In addition, EBMUD has the following comments on the County's Existing General Plan Land Use Classifications (Enclosure 2) and Exhibit 2, Draft Land Use diagrams (Enclosure 3). Please refer to the enclosed revised diagrams with EBMUD's comments (in pink color texts).

- The Camanche Hills Hunting Preserve includes approximately 1,600 acres of land dedicated to recreational hunting and target shooting sports. This area should be designated as "Open Recreation" on Exhibit 2.
- There is an area at the eastern end of Camanche Reservoir that had an "Open-Recreation" designation (in white color) on the 2007 Land Use Map. This area was mistakenly changed to blue (water) designation on Exhibit 2. This terrestrial portion of the Camanche watershed is not part of Camanche Reservoir and therefore should be designated as "Agricultural General" (in green color).
- Within the area designated as "Open Recreation" at the Camanche North Shore Recreation Area, two mobile home parks currently exist (see enclosed Figure 1 for locations of these mobile home parks). It should be noted that these mobile home parks exceed the proposed density threshold for Open Recreation zoning.
- On Exhibit 2, it is difficult to distinguish the brown shaded area north of Middle Bar on the Mokelumne (above text for Golden Vale SPA and below Jackson) as Mineral Resource Zone or General Forest. EBMUD suggests using different colors or more contrasting shading to better help distinguish the two land use types.

Susan Grijalva, Planning Director
August 27, 2009
Page 3

If you have any questions concerning this response, please contact David J. Rehnstrom,
Senior Civil Engineer, Water Service Planning at (510) 287-1365.

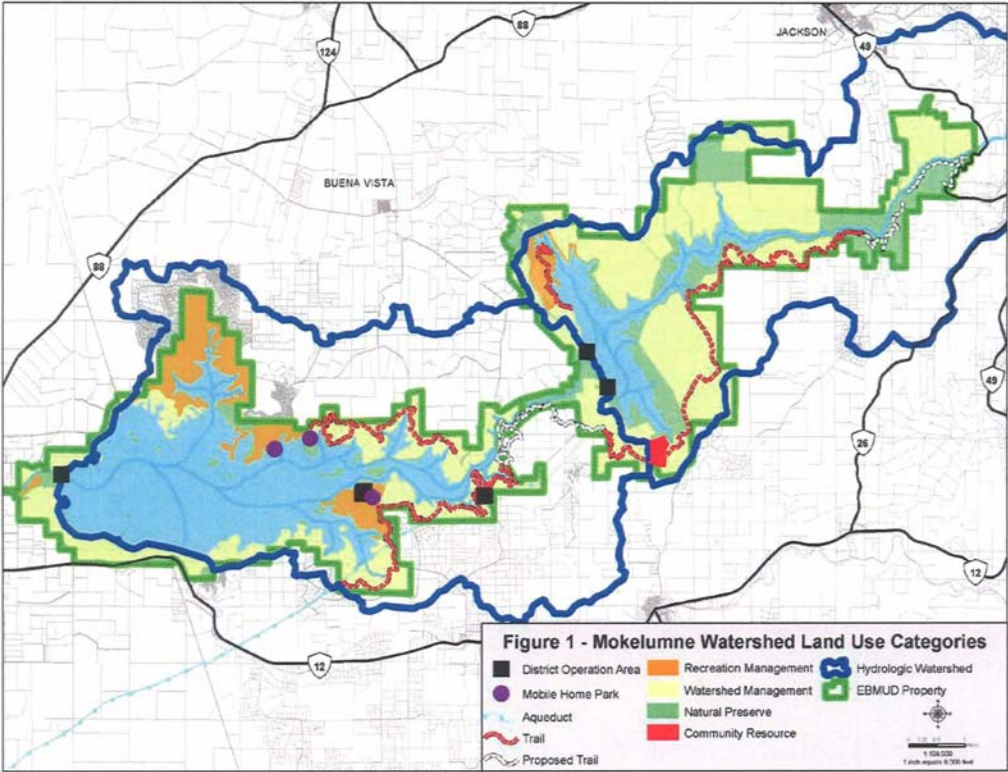
Sincerely,



William R. Kirkpatrick
Manager of Water Distribution Planning

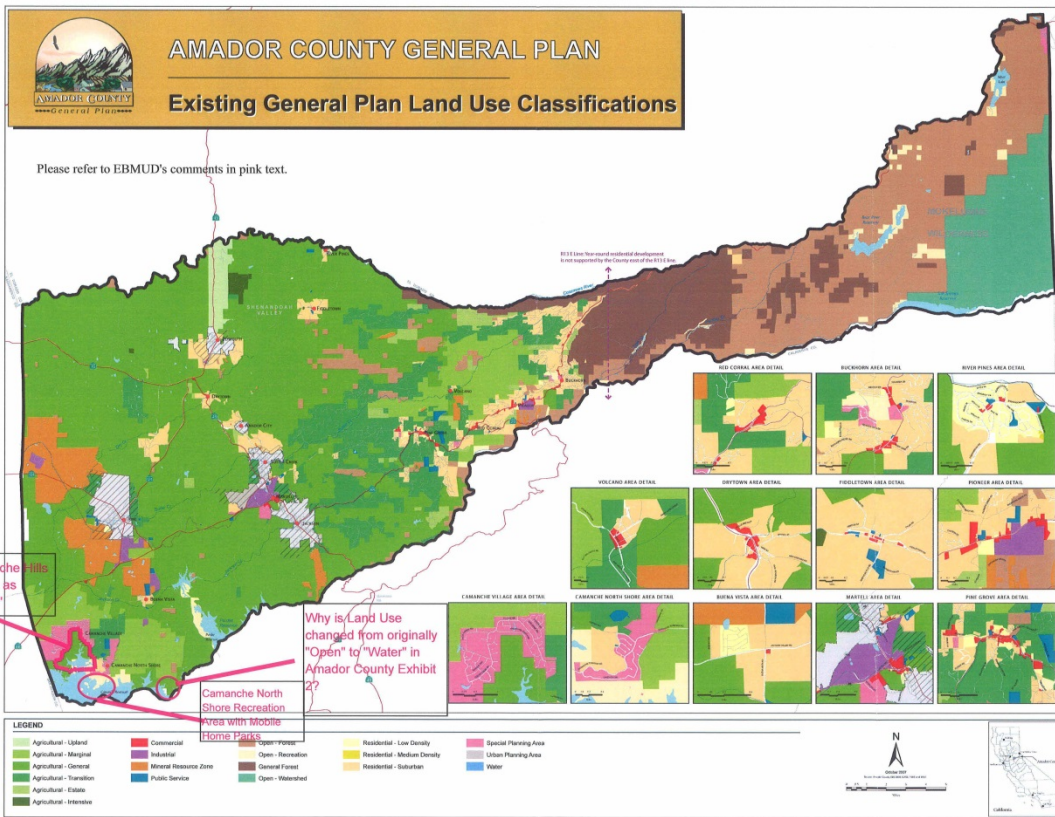
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- Enclosures:
1. EBMUD's Mokelumne Watershed Land Use Categories
 2. Amador County General Plan - Existing General Plan Land Use Classifications (with EBMUD's comments in pink color text)
 3. Amador County General Plan - Exhibit 2, Draft Land Use Diagram (with EBMUD's comments in pink color texts)

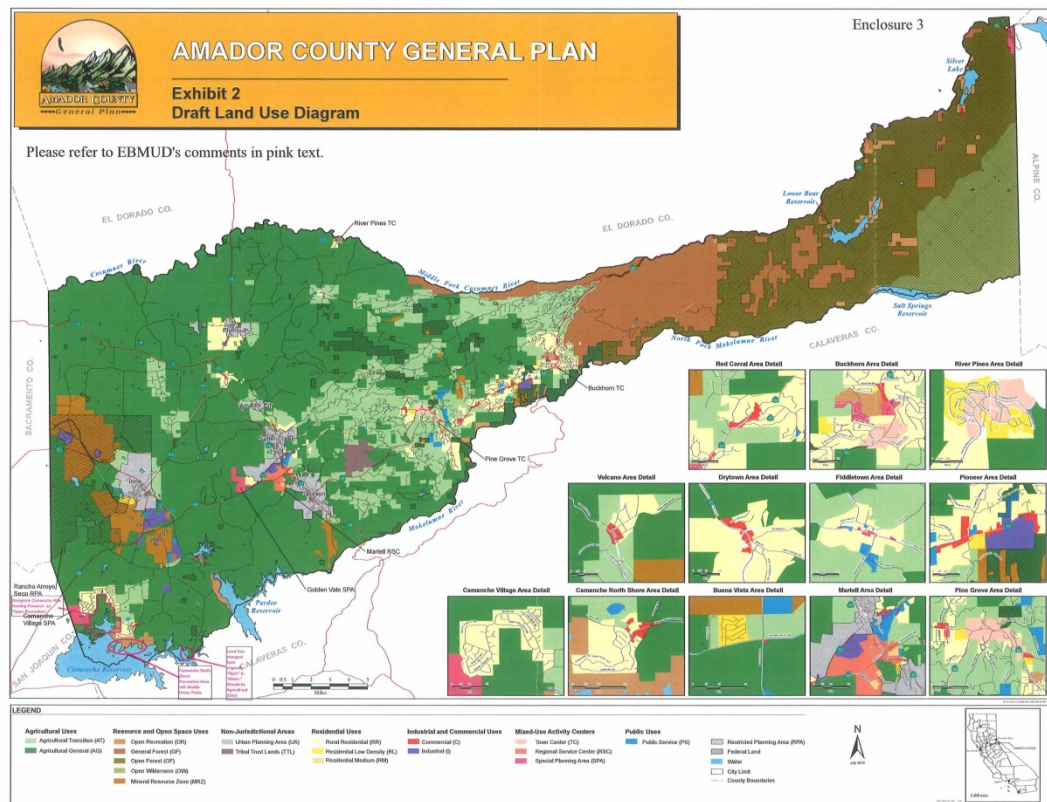


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Enclosure 1



EBMUD
Enclosure 2
cont.
11



EBMUD
Enclosure 3
cont.
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- EBMUD-1 The commenter suggests that the DEIR should include a discussion of two potential future projects: expansion of Pardee Reservoir and raising of Lower Bear Reservoir. The commenter has re-attached the comments that were submitted by EBMUD in response to the NOP (in 2009). The water supply projects referenced by the commenter are discussed on DEIR page 4.13-11 (in Section 4.13, “Public Services and Utilities”).
- EBMUD-2 The comment states that the DEIR should include discussions regarding the impact of increased water needs from development proposed in the Draft General Plan on AWA’s supply from surface water rights. The impact analysis suggested by the commenter is contained in DEIR Section 4.13, “Public Services and Utilities,” in Impact 4.13-1.
- EBMUD-3 The comment states that the DEIR should include a discussion of impacts to water quality in neighboring waterbodies such as Pardee and Camanche reservoirs from soil erosion and runoff generated by agricultural and development practices. Impacts from soil erosion and runoff are discussed in DEIR Section 4.6, “Geology, Soils, Minerals, and Paleontological Resources” in Impact 4.6-4 (pages 4.6-22 and 4.6-23), as well as Section 4.9, “Hydrology and Water Quality” in Impacts 4.9-1, 4.9-2, and 4.9-3 (pages 4.9-20 through 4.9-26).
- EBMUD-4 The commenter contends that the NOP contained two different land use densities for the Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ) (0.1 dwellings per acre vs. 0.025 dwellings per acre), and the comment requests that this discrepancy be corrected. The inadvertent discrepancy in the NOP is noted. Table 3-1 in DEIR Chapter 3, “Project Description” (page 3-9) correctly states that the proposed MRZ density is 0.025 dwellings per acre. Therefore, no changes to the DEIR are required.
- EBMUD-5 The commenter suggests that the Draft General Plan should include the Mokelumne Watershed Land Use Categories map from EBMUD’s 2008 Mokelumne Watershed Master Plan. The Draft General Plan land use designations for the County are consistent with the EBMUD Master Plan designations. Any future changes to the County’s General Plan would provide EBMUD with the opportunity to comment during the public hearing process. This comment does not identify any specific issue related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required.
- EBMUD-6 The comment states that EBMUD has provided comments related to the County’s existing General Plan land use classifications, and encloses diagrams with EBMUD comments overlaid in colored text. See responses to comments EBMUD-7 through -10.
- EBMUD-7 The commenter contends that the Camanche Hills Hunting Preserve should be designated as “Open Recreation” on the EIR Draft Land Use map because it contains approximately 1,600 acres of land dedicated to recreational hunting and target shooting. The Camanche Hills Hunting Preserve property is currently designated A-G, Agricultural-General. No change in designation is proposed. The A-G designation does not preclude the continued use of the property for recreational hunting and target shooting.
- EBMUD-8 The commenter states that an area on Figure LU-1, “Land Use Diagram” incorrectly labels an area at the eastern end of Camanche Reservoir as “water” and it should be designated as “Agricultural General.” In response to this comment, Draft General Plan Figure LU-1 and DEIR Exhibit 3-2, “Land Use Diagram”, have been revised.

- EBMUD-9 The commenter notes that two mobile home parks are located within the Camanche North Shore Recreational Area that exceed the proposed density threshold for the “Open Recreational” zoning. The mobile home parks at Camanche North Shore Recreation Area are existing, permitted uses; no further response is necessary.
- EBMUD-10 The commenter contends that the colors used to distinguish the “Mineral Resource Zone” and the “General Forest” on the Draft Land Use diagrams need more contrast in shading. Draft General Plan Figure LU-1 and DEIR Exhibit 3-2, “Land Use Diagram” have been edited to provide more contrast between the colors representing “Mineral Resource Zone” and “General Forest.” The color representing “Mineral Resource Zone” has been changed to a different shade of brown.
- EBMUD-11 The comment letter’s three enclosures are noted. No further response is necessary.



JACKSON

"Preserving Our Past, Enriching Our Present, Building Our Future"

33 Broadway, Jackson, California 95642-2301 • voice (209) 223-1646 • fax (209) 223-3141
E-mail: cinfo@ci.jackson.ca.us • Web site: <http://ci.jackson.ca.us>

January 27, 2015

Board of Supervisors
County of Amador
810 Court Street
Jackson, CA 95642

RECEIVED
Amador County

JAN 27 2015

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

RE: Draft General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report Comments

Honorable Board of Supervisors,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft Amador County General Plan and associated Draft Environmental Impact Report. The update of the County General Plan represents a significant undertaking and the City of Jackson appreciates the County's efforts to consider the needs of all of our citizens.

The City of Jackson, however, has serious concerns regarding impacts associated with the Draft General Plan's designation of a Regional Service Center located in Martell and the related potential impacts which are not addressed in the associated Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR).

Development of the Martell area as a Regional Service Center will undoubtedly require utilities and services provided by the City of Jackson and Sutter Creek. The City of Jackson currently provides water to areas south of the existing railroad tracks and provides first responders for fire and other emergency services. The provision of these services is at a significant cost to the City of Jackson, for which minimal reimbursement is received. Furthermore, the City of Jackson will likely experience an additional exodus of businesses to the Regional Service Center as the RSC continues to develop. This exodus, which the City of Jackson has experienced in the past (e.g. Prospect Motors, Safeway), will have serious negative economic impacts on the City which have not been adequately addressed in the DEIR. The City strongly encourages the County to evaluate these impacts and to provide mitigation measures as appropriate.

Additionally, development of the Martell area as a Regional Service Center will result in significant traffic impacts to adjacent cities as through traffic destined for the RSC passes through city streets and roads. The DEIR must adequately address and mitigate, as appropriate, the traffic impacts associated with consumers traveling through the cities on their way to and from the Martell RSC.

The DEIR must thoroughly evaluate these potential impacts and the Draft Amador County General plan should include policies and implementation measures to mitigate the significant impacts. Now is the time to create and implement policies that take the "bottom line" out of



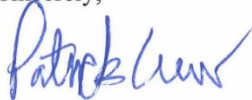
Mayor: Patrick Crew • Vice Mayor: Keith Sweet • Councilmembers: Connie Gonsalves • Wayne Garibaldi • Marilyn Lewis
City Manager: Michael Daly • City Attorney: Joshua Nelson

JACKSON

planning. Martell may well be an appropriate location for a Regional Service Center, but not to the financial detriment of the surrounding cities. ~~H~~The City of Jackson formally requests that the County of Amador include policies in the Amador County General Plan which acknowledge the RSC's impacts on neighboring cities and which incorporate and implement revenue sharing measures to fully mitigate the identified impacts to the cities.

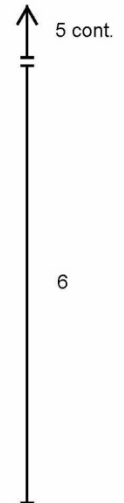
Thank you for your cooperation regarding this significant issue.

Sincerely,



Patrick Crew,
Mayor

Cc: Susan Peters, City Planner



- Jackson-1 and -2 The commenter expresses concerns regarding impacts associated with the EIR’s designation of a regional service system located in Martell. The commenter further contends the City of Jackson would experience substantial costs associated with the development of such a facility and would be required to provide utilities and services. Economic impacts not tied to physical environmental impacts do not need to be evaluated under CEQA. Section 15131(a) of the CEQA Guidelines states that economic or social effects of a project shall not be treated as significant effects on the environment.
- Jackson-3 The commenter provides a personal opinion that the development of a Regional Service Center in Martell would result in undesired economic impacts to the City of Jackson because businesses might relocate from Jackson to the new Martell RSC. Section 15131(a) of the CEQA Guidelines states that economic or social effects of a project shall not be treated as significant effects on the environment. Therefore, the economic impact analysis requested by the commenter is not required. Furthermore, the purpose of the General Plan is to guide future growth and development in the County. Observations of past business location decisions are not evidence that future adverse economic impacts to Jackson would occur due to the Martell RSC.
- Jackson-4 The commenter states that the EIR does not adequately discuss traffic impacts associated with the proposed Martell RSC on adjacent cities. Traffic impacts related to the Martell area have been appropriately discussed and evaluated throughout DEIR Section 4.14, “Transportation,” and all feasible mitigation measures for significant traffic impacts have been provided. The comment does not point out any specific deficiencies in the DEIR’s transportation impact analysis.
- Jackson-5 The commenter suggests the EIR should include policies and mitigation measures to minimize impacts from the proposed Martell RSC. See responses to comments Jackson-1 through Jackson-4. The commenter does not suggest any specific potentially feasible mitigation measures that were omitted from the DEIR.
- Jackson-6 The commenter requests that the Draft General Plan include policies that acknowledge the effects of the proposed Martell RSC on neighboring cities and include policies that incorporate revenue sharing measures between cities. The Draft General Plan and DEIR Sections 4.1 through 4.14 incorporate goals, policies, programs, and feasible mitigation measures that identify and evaluate the environmental impacts of development in the Martell area at a level of detail appropriate for a general plan, and appropriate measures to reduce financial impacts on Jackson and other service providers have been incorporated as mitigation. See also Master Response 1, “Adequacy of Impact Analysis and Mitigation Measures.”

AMADOR LAFCO



LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 22-1292 ♦ SACRAMENTO, CA 95822
810 COURT STREET ♦ JACKSON, CA 95642-95334 ♦ (209) 418-9377

January 15, 2015

Susan Grijalva, Planning Director
Amador County Planning Department
810 Court Street
Jackson, CA 95642

RECEIVED
Amador County
JAN 20 2015
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

RE: General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report Comments

Dear Ms: Grijalva:

Thank you for providing Amador LAFCO with an opportunity to comment on the Amador County General Plan and General Plan Draft EIR. In addition to comments, we offer suggestions that may be useful to Amador County to enhance and improve each of the two documents.

These comments and suggestions follow the sequence of each document as written, and are in the order of the sections and chapters of the draft documents, with section or page references where possible. Wording proposed to be an addition appears in these comments as italics. Please contact the Executive Officer if any references are unclear, or if further clarification is needed.

LAFCO recognizes the magnitude of this project and commends Amador County for completing this first comprehensive and integrated General Plan. We note that in some sections, the content of LAFCO's Municipal Services Review provided essential information for the General Plan and DEIR, particularly where service providers were described or analyzed.

DRAFT GENERAL PLAN COMMENTS

Introduction

At page I-11, "Local Agency Formation Commission Guidelines", please delete the word "Guidelines". Unlike other codes, such as CEQA, LAFCO is not governed by "guidelines". OPR Guidelines for Incorporations and Municipal Services Reviews are advisory only and do not refer to boundary actions noted in the text. As noted elsewhere in the General Plan and DEIR, the statutes of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act (CKH) provide for LAFCO authorities and controls, along with Amador LAFCO's locally adopted policies.

Please add to the first bullet as follows "*Encourage orderly development including the provision of housing for persons and families of all incomes*" (CKH§56001).

Change the second bullet to read "*Efficiently extend government services*". This is more consistent with the statute. The current draft wording refers to a CKH reference about urban population

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densities and is inappropriate for this context .

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At page I-12, in the sentence below the bullet, please delete “County” from the name of LAFCO. The correct name is “*Amador Local Agency Formation Commission*”. The correct name is used elsewhere in the documents.

| 4

Please modify the statement at page I-12 as follows:

“ Amador LAFCO implements the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act and other statutes in its review of future city and district boundary changes, changes of local government organization, and adoption of spheres of influence.” This statement more accurately reflects LAFCO’s statutory authority.

| 5

General Comment: If possible, search both documents for the incorrect name reference, i.e. “Amador County LAFCO”. Both names are used variably throughout. It would be desirable to be consistent with the same name of LAFCO in all usages.

| 6

Economic Development E-27

General Comment: The county agricultural goals and policies will be very helpful to LAFCO as it further refines its own agricultural policies for spheres of influence and changes of boundary and organization.

| 7

Conservation C-6

Please amend the underlined statement at the top of the page to correctly list and identify all retail water suppliers as follows:

- City of Plymouth and Jackson*
- Drytown County Water District*
- River Pines Public Utilities District*
- Kirkwood Meadows Public Utilities District*
- Amador Regional Sanitation Authority (ARSA)*
- Fiddletown Community Service District*
- Mace Meadows Water Association*
- Jackson Valley Irrigation District*
- Pine Grove Community Service District*
- Rabb Park Community Service District*
- Volcano Community Service District*
- East Bay Municipal Services District*

| 8

An excerpt from LAFCO’s 2014 Municipal Services Review showing an inventory of agencies providing retail water and their services is attached, and may be a useful reference.

Governance

Page G-5: Under “Cities” third paragraph, please modify the wording for accuracy as follows:

“The Amador Local Agency Commission (LAFCO) approves spheres of influence, which may be outside cities. The sphere of influence is a planning document that defines a city’s (or a district’s) probable future boundary and service area”.

| 9
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This wording will more accurately align the draft wording with the definition in state law, and will reflect that not all city spheres in Amador County contain land outside city boundaries. Amador City’s boundaries include some lands that are not within its sphere of influence.

↑ 9
cont.

Page G-7, at paragraph 4: Please modify the wording of “Local Utility Districts” to delete the word “utility” and state as follows:

“Local Special Purpose Districts: a variety of local districts are responsible for providing services such as water and/or sewer to specific areas. An example is the Pine Grove Community Services District which provides retail water supply and park to Pine Grove.”

10

Page G-7 at paragraph 5: Please substitute the following definition of LAFCO.

Amador Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO): LAFCO is an independent regulatory commission created by the legislature to control the boundaries of cities and most special districts. LAFCO is not a part of County government.

11

This definition is as published by Senate Local Government Committee in “It’s Time to Draw the Line; A Citizen’s Guide to LAFCO”.

Glossary: Please also modify the definition of LAFCO in the Glossary G-9, with this wording.

Amador Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO): LAFCO is an independent regulatory commission created by the legislature and is responsible for the planning, oversight and control of the boundaries and spheres of influence of cities and most special districts in Amador County. Amador LAFCO implements the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act, other statutes and its own locally adopted policies in the exercise of its jurisdiction. LAFCO is not a part of County government.

12

DRAFT ENVIRONMENT IMPACT REPORT COMMENTS

Section 1.7: LAFCO is a Responsible Agency

This section notes that no Responsible Agencies have been identified for this DEIR. Please include LAFCO as a responsible agency for this CEQA document. There are several scenarios in which LAFCO would potentially need to rely on the County’s CEQA documentation for the General Plan, as described below.

13

In some cases, adoption of policies by LAFCO may be subject to CEQA. LAFCO is very likely to adopt and refine its agricultural policies once the County adopts the General Plan. It is foreseeable that LAFCO policies could support or complement the County’s agriculture programs and goals as evaluated in the DEIR. Should the nature of proposed LAFCO policies trigger a need for environmental review, the County’s GPDEIR could be adequate to support the LAFCO action to adopt such policies.

Secondly, it is highly likely that district annexations for services within or adjacent to the Town

↓

Center areas will be required. Current service provider boundaries are irregular in some cases and are not consistent with their actual service areas. Annexation of parcels within or adjacent to such districts would be required so as to provide needed services for development. Some development might not otherwise need to undergo environmental analysis, but annexation is subject to CEQA. It is likely that the General Plan environmental review documents and determinations would support such annexations.

↑
13
cont.

LAFCO should be identified as a responsible agency under CEQA for its future actions (i.e. boundary changes) needed to carry out the General Plan.

Section 2.4.2 Alternative 2 City and Community Centered Growth; page 2-3

The last sentence of the first paragraph describes the Amador City sphere of influence inaccurately, and should be updated. Amador City’s sphere is no longer coterminous with its boundaries. The Amador City Sphere includes some property outside the city boundary, primarily portions of parcels that are partly within the city boundary. In addition, property under Williamson Act within the city boundary is excluded from the sphere. The UR designation, if adopted by the County, would apply to Amador City’s sphere on the same basis as other cities.

14

Section 4.2.3 Mitigation Measures; page 4.2-16

At mitigation measure 4.2-1a (b), please add clarifying language as follows:

- b. The county will also work with cities and LAFCO to promote the protection of farmland, including identifying alternatives to expansion of spheres of influence *for development supporting services* into areas of Farmland

15

Section 4.10.1

Please correct the name of Amador Local Formation Commission, in both the title and text of the description.

In addition, please make this section consistent with the definition and description of LAFCO as suggested above and in the General Plan itself. LAFCO suggests this shorter text (below) as a substitute for the three descriptive paragraphs about LAFCO as described in the regulatory setting for land use and planning in the DEIR:

16

LAFCO is an independent regulatory commission created by the legislature and is responsible for the planning, oversight and control of the boundaries and spheres of influence of cities and most special districts in Amador County. Amador LAFCO implements the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act, other statutes and its own locally adopted policies in the exercise of its jurisdiction.

17

Page 4.10-6, at “Amador LAFCO”

Please include the following addition to the last sentence: “This would ensure that projects *requiring a change in city or district boundary or a change of organization and* implementing the Draft General Plan, would be consistent with LAFCO policies.”

18

Section 4.13 Public Services and Utilities

General Comment: The information disclosed in the DEIR is consistent with research compiled in LAFCO’s Municipal Services Review (MSR). As of May 2014, the 2008 MSR has been updated. New information and changes found by LAFCO between 2008 and 2014 do not appear to substantially alter the potential for significant impacts as identified and disclosed in the DEIR.

19

Section 4.15 Theoretical Buildout

At page 4.15-1, bullets: Please add “wastewater treatment constraints, including limitations on treatment plant capacity, permit constraints, disposal facilities, collection systems and infrastructure, and parcel size minimums where no public wastewater treatment is available.” The limitations of wastewater treatment are discussed throughout the DEIR and are certainly as significant as water supply constraints, which are listed in the text of this section.

20

Section 5 Alternatives Analysis

General Comment: Accommodating growth in a Regional Service Center, Town Centers and cities where needed services are available, or can be more easily provided, is consistent with the statutory framework contained in the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act and with locally adopted LAFCO policy.

21

General Comment Re: Alternative 2 and UR Designation

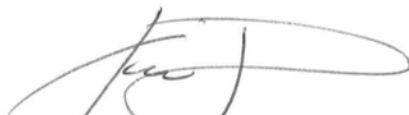
As a result of commission discussion, LAFCO has concern for concentrating growth in the unincorporated area adjacent to cities where services will be provided by those cities without annexation and without revenues to support those services. Of particular concern is that the UR designation will exacerbate this problem, and that there may be an assumption that revenue generating land uses will be in the county, with non-revenue generating uses such as residential, being more appropriate for cities. Additionally, public safety services in areas outside city boundaries would be provided by cities under cooperative agreements without revenues to support cost of services. If the UR designation could result in such financial and service impacts to cities, these impacts should be disclosed and discussed.

22

Again, thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the General Plan and the Draft EIR. Please do not hesitate to contact Roseanne Chamberlain, LAFCO Executive Officer, if you have any questions regarding these comments.

23

Sincerely,


Jim Vinciguerra, Vice-Chairman

Attachment: Excerpt from 2014 MSR - Water Service Providers

WATER SERVICE

This section reviews the water services provided by local government agencies in Amador County. *Water Service* section addresses current and future service needs, infrastructure needs, service adequacy, and financing. Government structure options are identified for agencies under LAFCO jurisdiction.

Provider Overview

In total, there are 14 agencies under LAFCO jurisdiction, as well as two non-LAFCO agencies, currently providing or empowered to provide water for domestic or irrigation purposes in Amador County. While Jackson Valley Irrigation District provides untreated water primarily for irrigation purposes, the District also provides potable water through a concessionaire at the Lake Amador Recreation Area. In addition, three of the domestic water providers (Amador Water Agency, City of Jackson and Kirkwood Meadows PUD) also provide water for irrigation and landscaping purposes. Willow Springs Water District (WSWD) was formed to provide water for irrigation purposes; however, due to a lack of water supply to support these services, the District has been inactive for many years.

Figure 3-10: Water Service Providers

Agency	Retail Services						
	Potable	Irrigation	Recycled	Treatment	Distribution	Wholesale	Maintenance
Amador Regional Sanitation Authority (ARSA)		✓	✓				
Amador Water Agency (AWA)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
City of Ione		✓	✓				
City of Jackson	✓	✓			✓		✓
City of Plymouth	✓			✓	✓		
Drytown County Water District (DCWD)	✓				✓		✓
East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) ¹	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Fiddletown Community Services District (FCSD)	✓			✓	✓		✓
Jackson Valley Irrigation District (JVID)	✓	✓			✓		✓
Kirkwood Meadows Public Utility District (KMPUD) ¹	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Mace Meadows Water Association ¹	✓				✓		✓
Pine Grove Community Services District (PGCSD)	✓				✓		✓
Rabb Park Community Services District (RBCSD)	✓				✓		✓
River Pines Public Utility District (RPPUD)	✓			✓	✓		✓
Volcano Community Services District (VCSD)	✓			✓	✓		
Willow Springs Water District (WSWD)		✓					

Notes:
(1) Agencies not under Amador LAFCO jurisdiction.

LAFCO-1 The comment requests that the word "Guidelines" be removed from the phrase "Local Agency Formation Commission Guidelines" on Draft General Plan page I-11 because unlike other codes, such as CEQA, LAFCO is not governed by "guidelines." The comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required. However, the change requested by the commenter has been made on page I-11 of the Draft General Plan as shown below:

~~Local Agency Formation Commission Guidelines~~

LAFCO-2 The comment requests that the first bullet point under the heading "Local Agency Formation Commission Guidelines" on Draft General Plan page I-11 be revised to state, "Encourage orderly development including the provision of housing for persons and families of all incomes" based on the provisions of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act (CKH) Section 56001. The comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required. However, the change requested by the commenter has been made on page I-11 of the Draft General Plan as shown below:

- Encourage orderly development including the provisions of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act (CKH) Section 56001;

LAFCO-3 The comment requests that the second bullet point under the heading "Local Agency Formation Commission Guidelines" on Draft General Plan page I-11 be revised to state, "efficiently extend government services" because the commenter believes this language is more consistent with the statute. The comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required. However, the change requested by the commenter has been made on page I-11 of the Draft General Plan as shown below:

- ~~Ensure that populations receive efficient and high quality~~ Efficiently extend government services; and

LAFCO-4 The comment requests that the word "County" be removed from the name of LAFCO on Draft General Plan page I-12, stating that the correct name is "Amador Local Agency Formation Commission." The comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required. However, the change requested by the commenter has been made on page I-12 of the Draft General Plan. See response LAFCO-5.

LAFCO-5 The comment requests changes to the language after the bullet points on Draft General Plan page I-12 related to LAFCO functions because the commenter believes that the suggested text more accurately reflects LAFCO's statutory authority. The comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required. However, the change requested by the commenter has been made on page I-12 of the Draft General Plan as shown below:

~~The Amador County LAFCO must adhere to adopted guidelines pursuant to the Act in its review of future City and special district annexations and boundary changes.~~ Amador LAFCO implements the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act and

other statutes in its review of future city and district boundary changes, changes of local government organization, and adoption of spheres of influence.

LAFCO-6 The comment requests that the word "County" be globally removed from the name of LAFCO throughout the Draft General Plan. The comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required. However, the change requested by the commenter to the Draft General Plan has been made.

LAFCO-7 The comment notes that agricultural goals and policies contained in the Draft General Plan Economic Development Element will be helpful to LAFCO as it further refines its own agricultural policies for spheres of influence and changes of boundary and organization. The comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required.

LAFCO-8 The comment requests that page C-6 of the Draft Conservation Element be revised to list all of the retail water suppliers in the County (listed in the comment). The comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required. However, the change requested by the commenter has been made on page C-6 of the Draft General Plan as shown below:

Other retail water purveyors in the County include: ~~the cities of Plymouth and Jackson, the community of Drytown, and the River Pines and Kirkwood Meadows Public Utility Districts.~~

- City of Plymouth
- City of Jackson
- Drytown County Water District
- River Pines Public Utilities District
- Kirkwood Meadows Public Utilities District
- Amador Regional Sanitation Authority (ARSA)
- Fiddletown Community Services District
- First Mace Meadow Water Association, Inc.
- Jackson Valley Irrigation District
- Pine Grove Community Services District
- Rabb Park Community Services District
- Volcano Community Services District
- East Bay Municipal Services District

LAFCO-9 The comment requests that the sentence relating to LAFCO approval of sphere of influence changes, in the second paragraph under the heading "Cities" in the Draft General Plan Governance Element, be revised in order to reflect the fact that not all city spheres in the County contain land outside city boundaries. The comment does not

identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required. However, the change requested by the commenter has been made on page G-5 of the Draft General Plan as shown below:

The Amador Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) approves spheres of influence, which may be (SOIs) outside cities. The sphere of influence is a planning document that defines a city's (or a district's) probable future boundary and service area.

LAFCO-10

The comment requests a change to the text on Draft General Plan Governance Element on page G-7 related to the definition of local special purpose districts. The comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required. However, the change requested by the commenter has been made on page G-7 of the Draft General Plan as shown below:

Local Utility Special Purpose Districts: A variety of local utility districts are responsible for providing services such as water and/or sewer service to specific areas. An example is the Pine Grove Community Services District, which provides retail water supply and parks to Pine Grove.

LAFCO-11

The comment requests a change to the text on Draft General Plan Governance Element on page G-7 related to the definition of LAFCO. The comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required. However, the change requested by the commenter has been made on page G-7 of the Draft General Plan as shown below:

Amador Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO): LAFCO is an independent regulatory commission created by the legislature to control the boundaries of cities and most special districts. LAFCO is not a part of County government. a state-required independent county commission that is not part of county government. LAFCO is responsible for creating orderly boundaries, managing annexations, approving city incorporations, updating spheres of influence every five years, and reviewing how municipal services are provided throughout the county.

LAFCO-12

The comment requests a change to the definition of LAFCO in the Glossary to the Draft General Plan, page Glossary-9. The comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required. However, the change requested by the commenter has been made on page Glossary-9 of the Draft General Plan as shown below:

~~**LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission):** A board governed by the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 comprised of elected officials that regulates jurisdictional boundary changes and encourages orderly and efficient provision of services, such as water, sewer, fire protection.~~ **Amador Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO):** LAFCO is an independent regulatory commission created by the legislature and is responsible for the planning, oversight and control of the boundaries and spheres of influence of cities and most special districts in Amador County. Amador LAFCO implements the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act, other statutes and its locally adopted policies in the exercise of its jurisdiction. LAFCO is not part of County government.

LAFCO-13 The comment requests that LAFCO be identified as a CEQA responsible agency in the DEIR. Amador LAFCO is described in detail in DEIR Section 4.10, “Land Use.” In response to the comment LAFCO will be identified as a responsible agency. Section 1.7, “Agencies Expected to Use this EIR” has been revised on page 1-11 of the DEIR as shown below:

Responsible agencies under CEQA are defined as agencies which propose to carry out or approve a project for which the lead agency has prepared an EIR (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15381.) The Amador Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) has been identified as a responsible agency for this Draft General Plan EIR. LAFCO may rely on this DEIR when adopting policies that are subject to CEQA, and if annexations for services within or adjacent to the Town Centers are required. No responsible agencies have been identified for this Draft General Plan EIR.

LAFCO-14 The comment requests DEIR text changes under the heading “2.4.2 Alternative 2 – City- and Community-Center Growth,” to more accurately reflect Amador County’s sphere of influence boundary. The text of the next to last sentence in the fifth paragraph on DEIR page 2-3 has been revised as shown below:

At this time, Amador City’s SOI is mostly coterminous with its city limits.

LAFCO-15 The comment requests a change to the language of DEIR Mitigation Measure 4.2-1a(b). The additional language suggested by the comment for Mitigation Measure 4.2-1a(b) would limit and change the meaning and intent of the mitigation measure such that it would apply to fewer land use situations and be less effective. Therefore, the suggested change is not appropriate.

LAFCO-16 and 17 The comments request that the name of the Amador Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) be corrected to remove the word “County” in Section 4.10.1 of the DEIR, and request shortening the definition and description of LAFCO. The longer explanation of LAFCO’s purposes and responsibilities is appropriate in order to provide a more detailed explanation to the reader. However, the text in DEIR Section 4.10.1, page 4.10-3, has been corrected as shown below:

Amador ~~County~~-Local Agency Formation Commission

The Amador ~~County~~-Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) is responsible for the oversight and approval of annexations, land detachments, and establishment of cities, special districts, and spheres of influence within Amador County. The provisions of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 set forth procedures for LAFCOs throughout the state to review annexation applications. The Act was adopted to:

- ▶ encourage orderly development;
- ▶ ensure that populations receive efficient and high quality governmental services; and
- ▶ guide development away from open space and prime agricultural lands, unless such action promotes planned, orderly, and efficient development.

Amador ~~County~~-LAFCO must adhere to adopted guidelines pursuant to State law in its review of future annexations or changes in local governance. Responsibilities of the Amador ~~County~~-LAFCO include annexations and

detachments of land to cities or special districts, the formation and dissolution of governmental agencies including cities and districts and the establishment of spheres of influence which identify the probable future boundaries of governmental agencies.

- LAFCO-18 The comment requests an addition to the text in DEIR Section 4.10, “Land Use” regarding LAFCO changes to city or district boundaries. The text change requested by the commenter to the last sentence under the heading “Amador LAFCO” on DEIR page 4.10-6 has been made as shown below:
- Amador LAFCO**
- Amador LAFCO coordinates logical changes in boundaries; conducts special studies to reorganize, simplify, and streamline governmental structures; and prepares spheres of influences for each city and special district within the County (Amador LAFCO 2012). LAFCO review and approval would be required for any annexations of land to the cities, or for changes in special district service areas during buildout of the Draft General Plan. This would ensure that projects requiring a change in city or district boundary or a change of organization and implementing the Draft General Plan would be consistent with LAFCO policies.
- LAFCO-19 The County agrees with the comment that information disclosed in the DEIR Section 4.13, “Public Services and Utilities” is consistent with research compiled in LAFCO's 2008 Municipal Services Review (MSR), and that new information and changes in the 2014 MSR would not alter the potential for significant impacts as identified and disclosed in the DEIR.
- LAFCO-20 The comment requests that additional language be added to DEIR Section 4.15, “Theoretical Buildout,” contending that the limitations of wastewater treatment are as significant as water supply constraints. Wastewater treatment would not be a significant factor that would inhibit theoretical buildout, particularly given that septic systems could be developed on individual parcels. Therefore, the additional language requested by the comment is not required.
- LAFCO-21 With regard to DEIR Chapter 5, “Alternatives,” the comment states that accommodating growth where needed services are available or can be more easily provided, is consistent with the statutory framework contained in the CKH and with locally adopted LAFCO policy. The comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required.
- LAFCO-22 and 23 The comments state that LAFCO has concern for concentrating growth in the unincorporated area adjacent to cities where services will be provided by those cities without annexation and without revenues to support those services as would occur under DEIR Alternative 2, “City- and Community-Centered Growth.” The comment further states that the Urban Reserve (UR) land use designation may exacerbate this problem, and that there may be an assumption that revenue generating land uses would be in the County, with non-revenue generating uses such as residential, being more appropriate for cities. The comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the environmental analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required.



Comments on Amador County GPU DEIR

2 messages

Atwal. Kamal <atwalk@saccounty.net>

Thu, Jan 29, 2015 at 4:27 PM

To: "planning@amadorgov.org" <planning@amadorgov.org>

Cc: "Blank. Dean" <blankd@saccounty.net>, "Darrow. Matthew" <DarrowM@saccounty.net>, "Robinson. Juliette" <robinsonj@saccounty.net>, "Shoeman. Dan" <shoemand@saccounty.net>, "Penrose. Michael" <penrosem@saccounty.net>

Please find attached comments on the subject project's DEIR for your use.

Sincerely,

KAMAL ATWAL, P.E., T.E.

ASSOCIATE TRANSPORTATION ENGINEER

SACRAMENTO COUNTY • DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

827 7TH ST, SUITE 304 • SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

DIRECT: (916) 875-2844

1

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Comments on Amador County General Plan DEIR.pdf
41K

Penrose. Michael <penrosem@saccounty.net>

Thu, Jan 29, 2015 at 9:19 PM

To: "Atwal. Kamal" <atwalk@saccounty.net>, "planning@amadorgov.org" <planning@amadorgov.org>

Cc: "Blank. Dean" <blankd@saccounty.net>, "Darrow. Matthew" <DarrowM@saccounty.net>, "Robinson. Juliette" <robinsonj@saccounty.net>, "Shoeman. Dan" <shoemand@saccounty.net>

Looks fine to me.

Thanks

Michael Penrose

Director
SacDOT

Municipal Services Agency

916.874.8655 (office)

916.874.7831 (fax)

www.sacdot.com

Sacramento County

www.saccounty.net

SAC DOT



1
cont.

From: Atwal. Kamal
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2015 4:28 PM
To: planning@amadorgov.org
Cc: Blank. Dean; Darrow. Matthew; Robinson. Juliette; Shoeman. Dan; Penrose. Michael
Subject: Comments on Amador County GPU DEIR

[Quoted text hidden]
[Quoted text hidden]

Department of Transportation
Michael J. Penrose, Director



RECEIVED
Amador County

JAN 29 2015

SAC DOT

Divisions
Administration
Maintenance & Operations
Engineering & Design

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

County of Sacramento

January 29, 2015

Amador County Community Development Agency-Planning Department
County Administration Center
810 Court Street
Jackson, CA 95642
Email: planning@amadorgov.org

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (DEIR) FOR THE AMADOR COUNTY GENERAL PLAN UPDATE.

The Sacramento County Department of Transportation has received the Notice of Availability for the above referenced DEIR. We have the following comment(s) to offer:

1. **General.** The DEIR states, "*Circulation Policy CM-1.2: Work with Caltrans and regional and local transportation agencies to address regional issues and opportunities related to growth, transportation financing and infrastructure, and other planning issues.*" In keeping with the nature of this policy, we would ask that Amador County enter into a cross jurisdictional agreement with Sacramento County to collect and pay fair share transportation impact fees for transportation impacts on Sacramento County roadways due to the anticipated growth in Amador County. We would urge Amador County to add conditions of approval on future development projects in Amador County that add traffic to our roadway system to pay their fair share for widening and maintaining the roadway facilities in Sacramento County. The main roadways that connect Amador County to Sacramento County are Jackson Road (SR-16), Lone Road and Twin Cities Road.

If you have any questions please call me at (916) 875-2844.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Kamal Atwal in blue ink.

Kamal Atwal, P.E.
Associate Transportation Engineer
Department of Transportation

KA/mp

Cc: Matt Darrow, DOT
Dean Blank, DOT
Juliette Robinson, Department of Community Development

827 7th Street, Suite 304 • Sacramento, California 95814 • phone (916) 874-6291 • fax (916) 874-7831 • www.saccounty.net

1
cont.

Sac Dot-1

The comment suggests that based on a statement purportedly contained in the DEIR, Amador County should enter into a cross jurisdictional agreement with Sacramento County to collect and pay fair share transportation impact fees for transportation impacts on Sacramento County roadways due to the anticipated growth in Amador County. It is unclear to which section or chapter of the DEIR the comment refers. DEIR Section 4.14, "Transportation" does not contain the statement referenced by the commenter. Policy CM-1.2 "Work with Caltrans and regional and local transportation agencies to address regional issues and opportunities related to growth, transportation financing and infrastructure, and other planning issues" is contained in the Circulation Element of the Draft General Plan on page CM-11. The suggestion by the commenter regarding a cross-jurisdictional agreement with Sacramento County is one of the options the County could consider to implement this policy.



January 20, 2015

Board of Supervisors
County of Amador
810 Court Street
Jackson, CA 95642

RECEIVED
Amador County

FEB - 6 2015

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Re: City of Sutter Creek Comments on the Draft Amador County General Plan

Honorable Board of Supervisors

The Sutter Creek City Council appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Amador County General Plan. The Amador County General Plan includes goals, policies, and implementation measures that are compatible and supportive of Sutter Creek's General Plan and are supported by the Sutter Creek City Council. 1

During adoption of the General Plan, it is understood that the County has the ability to adopt all or portions of Alternatives 2 or 3 as presented in the Draft General Plan EIR. The Sutter Creek City Council does not support the adoption of the Urban Reserve land use designation presented in Alternative 2 or the County development cap presented in Alternative 3. 2 3

The City Council acknowledges that the County's Draft General Plan establishes one Regional Service Center (RSC) in the County, located in Martell. As the only RSC in the County, commercial, industrial, and public uses are centralized in Martell that results in the need for utilities and services, some of which are provided by the City of Sutter Creek. The uses in the Martell RSC generate traffic that adds to traffic on streets within the City of Sutter Creek. In recognition of the potential for the City to incur costs associated with impacts on the City's circulation system, public services and utilities that may not be reimbursed to the City, the City Council recommends the addition of the following land use and economic element policies and implementation measures to address the impacts on the City of Sutter Creek resulting from land uses within the Martell RSC: 4 5 6 7

LAND USE ELEMENT

Policy LU-6.2. Participate in revenue sharing with city and non-county entities that provide unfunded services and utilities to communities and developments within the County. 8

Policy LU-6.3. Assure annexation tax agreements reflect appropriate cost and revenue sharing between the County, cities and other service providers associated with land annexations. 9

18 Main St., Sutter Creek, CA 95685 • Telephone: (209)267-5647 • Fax: (209)267-0639 • TTY: 711
The City of Sutter Creek is an equal opportunity service provider and employer

SUTTER CREEK1

ECONOMIC ELEMENT

Policy E-1.7. When commercial centers are adjacent to or in close proximity of a city, the city's SOI should include the commercial center to assure coordination of public services, utilities, circulation impacts and sharing of revenues and costs.

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IMPLEMENTATION PRORAM

Implementation Program C-2: Economic Coordination

c. The County shall evaluate the implementation of enterprise zones within County commercial centers to be developed in collaboration with adjacent cities.

1. Identify locations for enterprise zones and focus on implementing enterprise zones.

Responsible Agencies/Departments: County Board of Supervisors and Cities

Time Frame: Within 5 years after adoption of the General Plan

11

Implementation Program C-4: Interagency Coordination

a-1. When development occurs in the County or cities that requires services provided by an entity outside the County's or a city's jurisdiction, establish a committee of County and city representatives to establish appropriate cost sharing between the affected service providers.

a-2. In coordination with affected service providers, implement a formula and funding mechanism for sharing costs and revenues associated with the provision of utilities, public services, and transportation/circulation.

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The City appreciates the opportunity to provide our recommendations and look forward to working with the County in the implementation of your General Plan.

James Swift
Mayor, City of Sutter Creek

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- Sutter Creek1-1 The comment expresses appreciation for the opportunity to comment on the DEIR. The comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required.
- Sutter Creek1-2 and 3 The comments state an understating that the County has the ability to adopt DEIR Alternatives 2 or 3 and notes that the Sutter Creek City Council does not support adoption of the Urban Reserve land use designation presented in Alternative 2 or the County development cap presented in Alternative 3. The comments do not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required.
- Sutter Creek1-4 and 5 The comments state that the Draft General Plan would establishes the Martell RSC, which would require the need for utilities and services, some of which would have to be provided by the City of Sutter Creek. The County appreciates the comment’s concern; however, it is not the County’s intent to cause the City of Sutter Creek to be responsible for providing services to Martell, which would be developed as a separate growth area within the County. See also responses to comments Jackson-1 and -2.
- Sutter Creek1-6 The comment contends that the Martell RSC has the potential to generate costs for the City of Sutter Creek associated with traffic impacts, public services, and utilities. The County understands that traffic generated by development in Martell would add to traffic on the surrounding roadway network. DEIR Section 4.14, “Transportation” contains a complete analysis of traffic impacts resulting from implementation of the Draft General Plan, along with feasible mitigation measures to reduce significant traffic impacts. Regarding economic impacts, Section 15131(a) of the CEQA Guidelines states that economic or social effects of a project shall not be treated as significant effects on the environment.
- Sutter Creek1-7 through -12 The comments recommend the addition of financial and economic policies and implementation measures to the Draft General Plan and Implementation Program C-2 to address potential financial impacts on the City of Sutter Creek. The comments do not identify any specific environmental issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR; no further response is required. Regarding economic impacts, Section 15131(a) of the CEQA Guidelines states that economic or social effects of a project shall not be treated as significant effects on the environment.



January 20, 2015

RECEIVED
Amador County

FEB - 6 2015

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Board of Supervisors
County of Amador
810 Court Street
Jackson, CA 95642

Re: City of Sutter Creek Comments on the Draft Amador County General Plan Draft EIR

Honorable Board of Supervisors

The Sutter Creek City Council appreciates the opportunity to review and provide comment on the Draft Amador County General Plan DEIR. The City Council finds that the proposed Draft General Plan is thoroughly evaluated in the Draft EIR, but finds that Alternatives 2 and 3 have the potential to have environmental impacts within and adjacent to cities located in Amador County. Because Alternatives 2 and 3 have the potential to have environmental impacts not fully described in the DEIR, the Sutter Creek City Council recommends the following:

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- The DEIR alternatives evaluation should be expanded to identify the extent of the impacts on the cities, as well as the County, particularly in relation to traffic, growth, services and utilities.
- The Urban Reserve land use designation proposed under Alternative 2 should be mapped and the definition expanded in order to fully evaluate its environmental impacts.
- For each alternative, the EIR should identify the mitigation measures recommended to reduce the alternatives' significant environmental impacts.

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Page 2-4, last sentence in the first paragraph, modify the text as follows:

"This policy would reduce impacts on resulting from the construction of public services infrastructure required for urban development."

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Discussion - Alternative 2 reduces impacts on public services in the County, and would be associated with reduced impacts in relation to physically extending services; however, the impact from demands and impacts on services would increase for cities and service providers.

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Page 2-5 first full paragraph, modify the text as follows:

"This alternative would reduce all-impacts within Amador County related to additional development, land coverage, demand for additional public services and utilities, and water supply, but would result in new impacts on the affected cities within the County."

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SUTTER CREEK2

Discussion - While impacts would be reduced for Amador County, the impacts would remain for the affected cities within the County. This alternative relocates impacts, but does not necessarily reduce them.

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Page 5-4: 5.3.2 Alternative 2

Per the second paragraph in this section and Table 5-2, the density in Urban Reserve (UR) would be 7 units per acre, equivalent to 74 new residential units in Sutter Creek by 2030. This density is similar to a designation of R-2 or greater. It should be noted that the existing designation in the Sutter Creek SOI includes Agricultural General, Agricultural Transition, and Rural Residential, which have development densities of one unit per 40-, 5-, or 1-acre, respectively. The Alternative 2 description indicates compliance with city general plans, but does not define or map which portions of the SOIs would be redesignated as UR. Alternative 2 should be modified to:

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Clearly define the Urban Reserve designation, indicate the location of the UR designation on the Land Use Diagram, and include a policy that requires city participation in identifying the uses and lands designated for annexation.

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A policy should be added to Alternative 2 stating that annexation tax agreements should reflect appropriate cost and revenue sharing between the County, cities and other service providers associated with land annexations.

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Page 5-4, second to last paragraph, last sentence, modify the text as follows:

“This policy would reduce impacts ~~on~~ resulting from the construction of public services infrastructure required for urban development.”

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Discussion - Alternative 2 reduces impacts on public services in the County by locating development within a city’s SOI, and it reduces impacts in relation to physically extending service facilities; however, the demand impact and impact on service capacity and operating systems would increase for cities and service providers. Alternative 2 should disclose that impacts within the cities and service areas will increase equivalent to the impacts identified in the Project and that impacts are shifted from the County to the cities/urban areas.

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Page 5-6, second paragraph, modify the text as follows:

“This alternative would reduce all impacts related to additional development, land coverage, demand for additional public services and utilities, and water supply within the unincorporated County.”

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Discussion - Alternative 3 indicates the County would cap annual growth at 50 units. Alternative 3 may increase growth of units exceeding the cap within the cities resulting in an increase in the need for services, utilities and land coverage.

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The City appreciates the sentence following the recommended modified text which clarifies that there would be an increase in public service, utility, and water demand may occur in the cities to the extent they experience additional development, as well as increase the urban visual environment, and increase noise and traffic in the cities.

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Section 5.4 – Impacts of the Alternatives:

The Alternative discussions do not address increased impacts on cities under Alternatives 2 and 3, as they focus on fewer or similar impacts within the unincorporated County. Relocating development into the cities reduces impacts for the County, but does not necessarily reduce the overall presence of the impacts as they are just relocated to another area. Section 5.4 should address and disclose impacts on the cities anticipated by shifting development patterns.

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Section 5.4 – Impacts of the Alternatives:

Mitigation measures are not identified for impacts found to be significant for the alternatives. If the County selects one of the alternatives or portions of the alternatives to be incorporated in the adopted General Plan, it is necessary to include mitigation measures that reduce or avoid significant impacts. Section 5.4 should identify recommended mitigation measures for Alternatives 2 and 3.

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Page 5-7, Agriculture, Alternative 2:

The existing land use designation in the Sutter Creek SOI includes Agricultural General, Agricultural Transition, and Rural Residential, but the description of Alternative 2 does not indicate the quantity of each of the areas that would be redesignated as UR. If areas are redesignated to UR the existing agricultural lands would be converted and subsequently developed, this needs to be disclosed. While it is appropriate to locate new development near existing urban centers, this does not necessarily result in an actual decrease in agricultural conversion. The analysis shows a reduced impact, but greater consideration should be provided for the agricultural land converted to UR and subsequently developed.

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Page 5-8, Air Quality, Alternative 3, modify the text as follows:

“Alternative 3 would include a smaller number of new residential units and other development in the County than the Draft General Plan, but would result in an overall equivalent number of new units and development when considering development would shift to the cities, and would result in ~~fewer~~ similar and still significant construction emissions of criteria air pollutants.”

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Discussion - While some impacts may decrease by placing new development within urban areas, often the impacts persist and merely change location. For example, statements made on page 5-8 indicate fewer construction emissions of criteria pollutants would occur as a result of Alternative 3; however, the same amount of construction emissions may occur as the development may not actually decrease, but merely move from the County to the cities.

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Page 5-9, Cultural Resources:

If development is concentrated in the urban areas due to growth limits in the County, and if cultural resources tend to be concentrated within the cities, as stated in the analysis for Alternative 2, then the analysis for Alternative 3 should consider that additional residential units in the cities may have a similar or greater impact on cultural resources. The text on Page 5-9 should identify impacts to cultural resources for Alternative 3 in a similar manner to Alternative 2.

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Page 5-10, Geology:

The discussion for Alternative 3 indicates fewer residential units would be built in the 20-year planning period and therefore a smaller increase in exposure to geological hazards would occur; however the analysis does not disclose or consider that the additional units would be developed within cities, which may or may not be associated with geologic hazards. Since the actual number of new units would, in reality, stay the same and merely shift to the cities, the impact would be similar. The analysis needs to be revised to reflect this.

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Page 5-12, Hazards:

The discussion for Alternative 3 indicates fewer residential units would be built in the 20-year planning period and therefore a smaller increase in exposure to hazards would occur; however the analysis does not disclose or consider that additional units may be developed within cities, which would have a similar potential for hazards, other than fire hazard. Since the actual number of new units would, in reality, stay the same and merely shift to the cities, the impact would also be similar. The analysis needs to be revised to reflect this.

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Page 5-13, Hydrology and Water Quality:

The analysis for Alternative 2 indicates that residential development in the AG, AT, and RR areas would be reduced, but provides no indication of the quantity of such areas that would be redesignated as UR, which would concentrate and increase growth potential. Land coverage would likely be similar as well, just shifted. This should be disclosed. Likewise, the analysis for Alternative 3 relies on the idea that fewer units would be developed for this alternative, so less impact would occur. Less development would occur in the County, but may increase in the cities, which merely shifts the location of the impact. Impacts that may occur as a result in increased development in the cities should be disclosed.

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Page 5-13, Land Use:

The analysis for Alternative 2 would be improved if a map identifying the UR areas and if a complete definition of the UR designation was disclosed in the DEIR. While it is unlikely Alternative 2 would divide a community, it is not clear if it would or would not occur in accordance with city general plans.

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Page 5-14, Noise:

It is unclear why the noise impact is reduced under Alternative 3 if development would be concentrated within the cities. The impact on cities would be similar to Alternative 2, which the DEIR indicates has a greater impact. This is contradictory to the statement made on page 2-5 that Alternative 3 would likely result in an increase in noise in the cities. The analysis is correct that Alternative 3 would reduce noise in the County, but it should take into account the overall noise impact on cities. Page 5-14 should be revised to provide a consistent analysis between alternatives.

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Page 5-15, Population and Housing:

The discussion of population growth impacts should address impacts of annexation and urban growth and how the additional units impact city growth projections. The text indicates that additional units would be placed within the SOI under Alternative 2, but

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does not disclose how this affects each city. The text indicates less development in AG, AT, and RR areas, but does not indicate how much of these areas would be designated as UR and subsequently developed. Page 5-15 should be revised to provide a consistent analysis between alternatives, identify the impacts to each of the cities, and identify how the UR designation will be implemented. ↑ 55
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The discussion for Alternative 3 should provide an estimate of growth that would be anticipated in the cities as a result of the growth cap. Would this Alternative affect the County’s RHNA allocation? 58
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Page 5-16, Public Services and Utilities:

The analysis for Alternative 3 in regard to public services, utilities and transportation indicates less development would occur and therefore less impacts within the County; however, the statements made in Chapter 2 and 5 in describing Alternative 3 indicate there would be increased impacts to cities in regard to providing services, utilities, and transportation. The analysis needs to identify where impacts are determined to be similar to or less than the proposed General Plan. 60
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Page 5-16, Transportation and Table 5-3:

Table 5-3 and the transportation impact discussion do not provide transportation analysis for areas in the County of increased development concentration within the cities, just the reduction of development in the County. Page 5-16, Alternative 3, should be revised to disclose impacts on cities; summarize the impacts in comparison to the General Plan; and identify transportation impacts within the County from the increased population within the cities. 62
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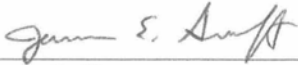
Page 5-20, Table 5-4:

Revise the table to reflect how impacts in the cities affect comparison of the alternatives to the Draft General Plan. 66

Page 5-20, 5.6 – Environmentally Superior Alternative:

Reconsider the impacts in the cities to determine the environmentally superior alternative. The findings may be the same, but impacts to the cities should be considered when making this determination. 67

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft EIR and for considering and responding to the City Council’s submitted comments.



 James Swift
 Mayor, City of Sutter Creek

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Sutter Creek2-1 through 67 The comments state that Alternatives 2 and 3 have not been evaluated in the DEIR in sufficient detail, specifically with regards to environmental impacts that would occur to local cities such as Sutter Creek. The comments request that the analysis of Alternatives 2 and 3 be expanded to more thoroughly evaluate the potential environmental impacts to cities where additional development might occur, in all of the topic areas.

As stated on DEIR page 5-4, Alternative 2, “City- and Community-Centered Growth”, would provide for future residential, commercial, and industrial growth focused within the Martell RSC, the Town Centers, and city spheres of influence (SOIs). It is estimated that under Alternative 2, residential growth of approximately 375 dwelling units could occur in city SOIs by 2030. However, Alternative 2 represents a small percentage of the overall growth projected in the cities’ general plans and described in chapters 5-8 of the Amador LAFCO 2014 Municipal Services Review. As stated on page 5-4 of the DEIR, Alternative 2 assumes that development within unincorporated SOI areas will be required, as a condition of approval, to be consistent with city general plans.

Alternative 3, “Restricted Growth” (DEIR page 5-5), would restrict residential permits for new construction to 50 permits per year. As stated on page 5-6, Alternative 3 would result in a total of 750 new units countywide through 2030, rather than the 1,685 new units which would occur under the Draft General Plan. As stated on DEIR page 5-6, Alternative 3 could result in a larger portion of Amador County’s growth occurring within the boundaries of the cities; however this also represents small percentage of the overall growth projected in the cities’ general plans by 2030.

Statements noting that certain environmental impacts may be redirected to cities are already contained in the analysis of various individual topic areas in DEIR Chapter 5, “Alternatives.” However, the impacts to cities may not necessarily be worse (as suggested by the commenter); rather, the DEIR notes that in some cases, effects could be reduced because of centralization of development and because of additional policies and programs that would be included in a revised version of the Draft General Plan that are not included in the current Draft General Plan (discussed on DEIR page 5-5).

Section 15126.6(d) of the CEQA Guidelines states, “If an alternative would cause one or more significant effects in addition to those that would be caused by the project as proposed, the significant effects of the alternative shall be discussed, but in less detail than the significant effects of the project as proposed.” [Emphasis added] (see County of Inyo v. City of Los Angeles [1981] 124 Cal.App.3d 1). DEIR Chapter 2, “Executive Summary” and Chapter 5, “Alternatives” includes sufficient information about each alternative to allow meaningful evaluation, analysis, and comparison with the proposed project. Therefore, no additional analysis related to the alternatives is required.

The comments also state that for each alternative, the EIR should identify the mitigation measures recommended to reduce the alternative’s significant environmental impacts. However, since alternatives and mitigation measures represent different ways to reduce a proposed project’s significant impacts, CEQA does not require that mitigation measures be developed for each alternative.

The comments also request two changes to the description of Alternatives 2 and 3 contained in DEIR Chapter 2, “Executive Summary” (pages 2-4 and 2-5) to state that (1) Alternative 2 would only reduce the construction-related impacts from public services, but would not reduce the demand, and (2) Alternative 3 would result in new impacts on affected cities within the County. As stated on DEIR page 2-5:

To the extent that additional housing, service, and employment development would occur within cities, this alternative [Alternative 3] could increase public service, utilities, and potable water demand within cities; increase the extent of change in the visual environment related to more intense urban development; expose more sensitive receptors to urban noise; and increase traffic on city roadways.

Therefore, the text change suggested by the commenter related to Alternative 3 is not required. The text of the last sentence in the first paragraph on DEIR page 2-4, regarding Alternative 2, has been revised as shown below:

This policy would reduce construction-related impacts on public services required for urban development.



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BUENA VISTA

JAN 30 2015

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

January 30, 2015

Susan Grijalva, Planning Director
Amador County Planning Department
810 Court Street
Jackson, CA 95642
planning@amadorgov.org

RE: Comments on the DEIR FOR Amador County General Plan

Dear Ms. Grijalva:

Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians (Tribe) appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the draft Environmental Impact Report ('DEIR') for the Amador County General Plan Update ('General Plan'). Buena Vista Rancheria has attached a table bearing comments and observations to be considered while preparing the Final EIR for the General Plan. These comments reflect the areas of concern to the Tribe with respect to cultural resource protection and natural resource issues. In addition, some comments of a general nature are offered.

The record of consultation documented on pages 1-8 and 1-9 of the Introduction section (cut and paste below) does not demonstrate a good faith effort to involve tribes in the planning process. There was heavy reliance on letters and there was no efforts made or follow up on responses and interests by tribes, especially the Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians. The DEIR, in part, states that:

California Senate Bill (SB) 18 requires that local governments consult with California Native American tribes for the purpose of preserving or mitigating impacts to Cultural Places prior to adoption of any general plan. The County has provided the opportunity for SB 18 consultation to the Native American Heritage Center's list of contacts.

On September 27, 2005, the County sent letters to the Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians, the Ione Band of Miwuk Indians, and the Jackson Band of Mi-Wuk Indians offering consultation pursuant to SB 18. The County received a response from the Ione Band and scheduled a consultation meeting for December 05, 2005. However, no Ione Band representatives attended the scheduled meeting.

On April 04, 2006, the County sent letters, signed by the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, to the Buena Vista Rancheria of Mewuk Indians, the Ione Band of Miwuk Indians, the Jackson Band of Mi-Wuk Indians, and the Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk Indians offering pre-consultation. On April 26, 2006, Amador County planning staff and the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors met with Rhonda Morningstar Pope and John Tang of the Buena Vista Rancheria for a pre-consultation meeting. During the meeting, an SB 18 Consultation Protocol was developed, however, there was no discussion specific to the General Plan Update.

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BUENA VISTA

On December 01, 2006 the County sent letters, signed by Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, to the same distribution as the April 04, 2006 pre-consultation letters offering another consultation opportunity. The County received no response to these letters.

On November 06, 2007, the County received a letter from Billie Blue Elliston with the Ione Band of Miwuk Indians Heritage Cultural Committee. The letter indicates the project (i.e., the General Plan Update) is within the ancestral territory and the tribe would like to be kept informed of the project. There was no request for consultation.

On February 06, 2008, the County received an email from Debra Grimes, Tribal Cultural Resources Specialist for the Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk Indians. The letter requested she be kept informed of the General Plan Update as well as any other projects.

On July 01, 2008, the County sent letters, signed by the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, offering consultation for a 3rd time. No response was received as a result of these letters.

As a result of the consultation offers, meetings, and discussions, none of the Native American contacts requested changes to the Draft General Plan to preserve or mitigate impacts to cultural places.

Enclosed find the table bearing comments and observations submitted by Buena Vista Rancheria to be considered while preparing the Final EIR for the General Plan.

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cont.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this draft DEIR. We would appreciate if you incorporate these comments in the Final EIR alongside others. If you have any questions, please contact me by phone at (916) 491-0011 or by email at roselynn@buenavistatribe.com.

Sincerely,



Roselynn Lwenya, Ph.D
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer/Environmental Resources Director
Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians

Enclosures: Table of comments from Roselynn Lwenya Ph.D, Environmental Resources Director and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians.

JAN 30 2015

COMMENTS BY ROSELYNN LWENYA, P.HD
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES DIRECTOR/TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER
BUENA VISTA RANCHERIA OF ME-WUK INDIANS

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Table 2-2 Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Impacts	Mitigation Measures Proposed by Amador County	Comments by Buena Vista Rancheria
<p>Aesthetics</p> <p>4.1-4: Increase in Light and Glare and Skyglow Effects.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 4.1-4 Condition Projects to Minimize Light and Reflectance</p> <p>a. To avoid or substantially reduce impacts associated with light and glare to less-than-significant levels, the County will require that new projects be conditioned to incorporate measures to reduce light and reflectance to the maximum extent practicable</p>	<p>What monitoring strategy will be put in place to insure that this mitigation measure is implemented?</p>
<p>Transport</p> <p>4.14-1: Increase in traffic levels on state highways resulting in unacceptable LOS.</p> <p>Development and land use changes consistent with the Draft General Plan could result in increased traffic levels on state highways within the County that would operate below the Caltrans LOS thresholds. This impact would be significant.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 4.14-1a: Implement Program D-1a(6), Development Proposal Evaluation</p> <p>a. The County will review proposed projects for consistency with goals, policies, and implementation programs of this general plan.</p>	<p>What measures will be put in place to insure that this mitigation is implemented?</p>
<p>Public Utilities</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Final EIR should determine if there is sufficient water in 2030 if the

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<p>4.13-1: Increased Demand for Water Supplies.</p>		<p>land zones are completely built out. If there is not, then there needs to be a range of alternatives, including costs, for how the County will get water, including policies for development of water.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Final EIR should analyze new infrastructure needs and the cost for such things as water, wastewater, storm water runoff and treatment. 	<p>↑ 4 cont.</p>
<p>Air Quality 4.3-1: Construction-Related Emissions.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 4.3-1a: Implement Measures to Control Particulate Matter Emissions Generated by Construction Activities</p> <p>Mitigation Measure 4.3-1b: Reduce Exhaust Emissions from Construction Equipment</p> <p>4.3-6: Exposure of Sensitive Receptors to Odors. Mitigation Measure 4.3-6: Implement Measures to Control Exposure of Sensitive Receptors to Odorous Emissions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will they insure that these mitigation measures are implemented? Need for developing a monitoring plan for the agencies that do not adhere to the requirements stipulated in the permit. The Final EIR should analyze the air quality impacts of each alternative as well as Greenhouse Gas (GHG) potential. 	<p>5 6</p>
<p>Noise 4.11-1: Result in a Substantial Temporary or Periodic Increase in Ambient Noise Levels.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 4.11-1a: Implement Draft General Plan Program D-11(m), Noise Standards All construction equipment shall be properly maintained per manufacturers' specifications and fitted with the best available noise</p>	<p>The Final EIR should fully analyze the noise impacts that result from traffic improvements, especially expansion of major roads and highways and the increased traffic in these areas.</p>	<p>7 ↓</p>

	<p>suppression devices (e.g., mufflers, silencers, wraps); all impact tools will be shrouded or shielded; and all intake and exhaust ports on power equipment will be muffled or shielded.</p> <p>Mitigation Measure 4.11-1b: Construction Noise Abatement The County will require the use of noise control techniques during construction activities to avoid effects on nearby sensitive receptors. In addition to properly maintained construction equipment, these techniques may include temporary construction sound barriers adjacent to construction noise sources or receptors when all other feasible methods fail to reduce construction noise to acceptable levels.</p>	
<p>Geology, Soils, Mineral Resources, and Paleontological Resources Buildout of the Draft General Plan could result in construction of new residential dwellings or non-residential uses in areas near existing or potential future mineral resource development, potentially affecting the availability of mineral resources. This impact would be significant</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 4.6-8a: Implement P Program P-9, Mineral Resource Management In order to ensure extraction and processing of mineral resources and aggregate deposits may continue, the County will regulate land uses in Mineral Resource Zone 2 areas to ensure compatibility between mineral extraction, and surrounding existing and planned uses.</p> <p>Mitigation Measure 4.6-8b: Implement Program D-1a(13), Development Project Evaluation The County will review proposed projects for consistency with goals, policies, and</p>	<p>The Final EIR should analyze the impacts of development on areas where there was subsurface mining that may have destabilized the soils. The Final EIR should also include a map where subsurface mining poses a potential danger</p>

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	implementation programs of this general plan.		9 cont.
<p>Hydrology and water quality</p> <p>4.9-4: Interference with Groundwater Recharge or Substantial Depletion of Groundwater Supplies. Implementation of the Draft General Plan would result in new development in the planning area, including buildings, structures, paved areas, roadways, utilities, and other improvements. This new development would result in additional impervious surfaces and could reduce groundwater recharge and the yield of hydrologically connected wells. This impact would be significant.</p>	<p>Zoning Code and Development Regulations. Mitigation Measure 4.9-4a: Implement Program F-2a, Future Water Supplies and Funding</p>	<p>The County should consider aligning its policies with the EPA’s new rule on drinking Water (Level 1 and 2 System Assessments and correction actions).</p> <p>The County should consider aligning its Ground Water Management Plan with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Strategic Plan. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has developed a Strategic Plan for its Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Program. DWR’s SGM Program will implement the new and expanded responsibilities identified in the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Some of these expanded responsibilities include: (1) developing regulations to revise groundwater basin boundaries; (2) adopting regulations for evaluating and implementing Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) and coordination agreements; (3) identifying basins subject to critical conditions of overdraft; (4) identifying water available for groundwater replenishment; and (5) publishing best management practices for the sustainable management of groundwater.</p>	10 11
Cultural Resources			12

<p>4.5-2: Destruction of or Damage to As-Yet-Unknown Cultural Resources</p>	<p>Implement Mitigation Measures 4.5-1a and 4.5-1b.</p>		↑
<p>4.5-2: Destruction of or Damage to As-Yet-Unknown Cultural Resources.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 4.5-2: Impose Standard Conditions on Development</p>		
<p>Implementation of the Draft General Plan would result in construction and development activities that would include grading, excavation or other ground-disturbing activities. These activities could disturb or damage as-yet undiscovered archaeological resources or human remains. This impact would be potentially significant.</p>	<p>The County will continue to impose the following conditions on projects which include ground disturbing activity. Applicants will be required to do the following: ► During ground-disturbing activity, if paleontological, historic or pre-historic resources such as chipped or ground stone, fossil bearing rock, large quantities of shell, historic debris, building foundations, or human bone are inadvertently discovered, the operator/permittee shall immediately cease all such activities within 100 feet of the find and notify the Amador County Technical Advisory Committee. A qualified archaeologist shall be contracted by the operator/permittee to assess the significance of the find and prepare an evaluation, avoidance or mitigation plan, as appropriate, which shall be implemented before resuming ground disturbing activities.</p>	<p>The EIR does not provide for Indian participation, but focus is put on archaeologists. The recommendation is that the Final EIR should make mention of how Cultural Resource Monitoring Plans and Protocols will be developed jointly with the Native American Tribes in the County to be used in the event that cultural resources are discovered.</p>	12 cont.
<p>Biological Resources</p>		<p>The Final EIR should provide an analysis of specific alternatives which reduce impacts to fish, wildlife, water quality and vegetative resources.</p>	13
<p>Hazards and Hazardous materials</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 4.8-2a: Implement Program P-12, Emergency</p>	<p>Need to develop an Integrated Emergency and Disaster Management Plan</p>	14

<p>4.8-2: Interference with an Adopted Emergency-Response Plan.</p>	<p>Response</p> <p>4.8-3: Potential Exposure of People and the Environment to Significant Physical and/or Chemical Hazards Related to Abandoned or Unused Mines</p>	<p>Develop plan for community Outreach and Education on hazards and hazardous materials</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>Land use plans</p>		<p>The Final DEIR should contain an evaluation of the proposed projects consistency with the applicable land use plans, such as General Plans, Specific Plans, Watershed Master Plans, Habitat Conservation Plans, etc.} {Control spread of invasive exotic plants and animals.} {Promote use of native plants in landscaping.} {Policy Remove invasive exotic plants. Policy Encourage the use of integrated.}</p> <p>If a change in land use is considered there is need to carry out an analysis to determine impacts on :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water needs Air quality Schools Road improvements Who pays for the road improvements? Climate change Waste water needs Solid waste needs <p>“Increase public awareness of waste reduction, recycling and composting and carry out a waste characterization study to determine what waste types are being</p>	<p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p>

		produced and how much ends up in the landfill and incorporate outcomes in the integrated resource management plan.	↑ 21 cont.
<p>Green house gas emissions 4.7-1: Generation of GHG Emissions</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 4.7-1a: Develop and Implement a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan The County will develop and implement a GHG reduction plan. The GHG reduction plan will have three primary objectives: to reduce total greenhouse gas emissions in the county to 1990 levels by 2020 pursuant to the AB 32 GHG reduction targets, to the extent feasible to meet the 2030 efficiency metric of 3.09 MT CO₂e per service population, and to create adaptation strategies to address the impacts of climate change on the county.</p>	Need to develop Drought Adaptation Plan	22

Buena Vista-1

The commenter states that the record of information contained on DEIR pages 1-8 and 1-9 (Chapter 1, "Introduction") does not demonstrate a good faith effort on the part of the County for consultation with Native American Tribes because there were no efforts made or follow up on responses and interests by the tribes, especially the Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians. This comment does not identify any specific issues related to the adequacy of the analysis provided in the DEIR. The County's tribal consultation efforts were consistent with those recommended in the Office of Planning and Research Tribal Consultation Guidelines (see https://www.opr.ca.gov/s_localandtribalintergovernmentalconsultation.php). As described on DEIR pages 1-8 and 1-9, the County undertook the following consultation efforts with Native American Tribes:

- On September 27, 2005, the County sent letters to the Buena Vista Rancheria of Mewuk Indians, the Ione Band of Miwuk Indians, and the Jackson Band of Mi-Wuk Indians offering consultation pursuant to SB 18. The County received a response from the Ione Band and scheduled a consultation meeting for December 5, 2005. However, no Ione Band representatives attended the scheduled meeting.
- On April 4, 2006, the County sent letters, signed by the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, to the Buena Vista Rancheria of Mewuk Indians, the Ione Band of Miwuk Indians, the Jackson Band of Mi-Wuk Indians, and the Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk Indians offering pre-consultation.
- On April 26, 2006, Amador County planning staff and the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors met with Rhonda Morningstar Pope and John Tang of the Buena Vista Rancheria for a pre-consultation meeting. During the meeting, an SB 18 Consultation Protocol was developed, however, there was no discussion specific to the General Plan Update.
- On December 1, 2006 the County sent letters, signed by Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, to the same distribution as the April 4, 2006 pre-consultation letters offering another consultation opportunity. The County received no response to these letters.
- On November 6, 2007, the County received a letter from Billie Blue Elliston with the Ione Band of Miwuk Indians Heritage Cultural Committee. The letter indicates the project (i.e., the General Plan Update) is within the ancestral territory and the tribe would like to be kept informed of the project. There was no request for consultation.
- On February 6, 2008, the County received an email from Debra Grimes, Tribal Cultural Resources Specialist for the Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk Indians. The letter requested she be kept informed of the General Plan Update as well as any other projects.
- On July 1, 2008, the County sent letters, signed by the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, offering consultation for a 3rd time. No response was received as a result of these letters.

Pursuant to Senate Bill (SB) 18, once contacted by the local government, the tribes have up to 90 days to respond and request consultation regarding the preservation and treatment of known cultural place(s) if any have been identified by the tribe. As demonstrated above, the County attempted to conduct consultation with Native American Tribes on three different occasions spanning a period of several years. Therefore, a good faith effort has been made to conduct the consultation required by SB 18. None of the Native American contacts requested changes to the Draft General Plan to preserve or mitigate impacts to cultural places, nor was there any input provided related to the scope of the environmental impact analysis, mitigation measures, or alternatives. Per Government Code Section 65352 (a)(11), the County will refer the proposed action to those tribes on the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) contact list that have traditional lands located within the county’s jurisdiction at least 45 days prior to the adoption of the general plan update.

- Buena Vista-2 and -3 The commenter asks what monitoring strategy will be put in place to ensure that Mitigation Measures 4.1-4 and 4.14-1a (listed in DEIR Table 2-2) will be implemented. CEQA provides that when an agency approves a project for which mitigation is required, that agency must adopt a Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program (MMRP) that ensures mitigation measures will be implemented (State CEQA Guidelines, CCR Section 15097). An MMRP will be prepared by the County to describe the monitoring programs for Mitigation Measures 4.1-4 and 4.14-1a.
- Buena Vista-4 The comment requests that the FEIR include an analysis to determine whether or not sufficient water is available to serve the full buildout proposed under the Draft General Plan planning horizon. The comment further suggests that if sufficient water is not available, additional alternatives for water supply should be included. The water supply analysis requested by the commenter is contained in DEIR Section 4.13, “Public Services and Utilities,” Impact 4.13-1.
- The comment also states that the FEIR should analyze new infrastructure needs and the cost for water, wastewater, stormwater runoff, and treatment. The analyses suggested by the commenter, related to the infrastructure needs for water, wastewater, stormwater runoff, and stormwater treatment, are contained in DEIR Section 4.9, “Hydrology and Water Quality” and Section 4.13, “Public Services and Utilities” (Impacts 4.13-1, 4.13-2 and 4.13-3).
- Buena Vista-5 The comment asks how compliance with air quality mitigation measures will be monitored, and states that a monitoring plan should be developed. See responses to comments Buena Vista-2 and -3.
- Buena Vista-6 The comment states that the FEIR should analyze the air quality and GHG impacts of each alternative. The analyses of air quality and GHG impacts from the proposed project requested by the commenter are contained in DEIR Section 4.3, “Air Quality” and Section 4.7, “Greenhouse Gas Emissions.” The analysis of air quality and GHG impacts for each of the alternatives requested by the commenter is contained in DEIR Chapter 5, “Alternatives.”
- Buena Vista-7 The comment states that the FEIR should analyze the noise impacts associated with traffic improvements, especially from the expansion of major roads and highway. The analysis requested by the commenter related to noise impacts from traffic—particularly the additional traffic that would be generated in areas where roadway expansion is projected—is contained in DEIR Section 4.11, “Noise,” Impacts 4.11-2 and 4.11-3.

Buena Vista-8 and -9 The comments request that the FEIR analyze the impacts of development on areas that have destabilized soils due to surface mining, and include a map where subsurface mining poses a potential danger. Land subsidence and unstable soils associated with past mining activity are discussed in DEIR Section 4.6, “Geology, Soils, Minerals, and Paleontological Resources,” in the environmental setting and Impact 4.6-5. Hazards related to abandoned mines, including subsidence hazards, are also discussed in Section 4.8, “Hazards and Hazardous Materials,” Impact 4.8-3. Regarding the DEIR’s appropriate level of detail for this impact analysis, see also Master Response 1, “Adequacy of Impact Analysis and Mitigation Measures.”

Buena Vista-10 The commenter states that the County should consider aligning its policies with the “EPA’s new rule on drinking water (Level 1 and 2 System Assessments) and correction actions.” It is not possible for the County to determine exactly what the commenter is referring to. If the commenter is referring the Federal Revised Total Coliform Rule, which has not yet been adopted, the revised rule would require certain types of investigations when a public water system has bacteriological contamination. Drinking water quality is regulated by numerous state and federal laws (including the Federal Revised Total Coliform Rule, if adopted), which are enforced primarily by the State and Regional Water Quality Control Boards and the EPA; Mitigation Measure 4.9-4a would be implemented in a manner consistent with the latest applicable state and federal regulations.

Drinking water standards are part of the required content in each water agency’s urban water management plan. As discussed on DEIR page 4.13-5 (Section 4.13, “Public Services and Utilities”), the *Amador Water Agency Urban Water Management Plan* (UWMP) (AWA 2011) was prepared in 2010 by AWA and adopted by the AWA Board of Directors on August 25, 2011. The UWMP was prepared in accordance with the Urban Water Management Act as defined by the California Water Code, Division 6, Part 2.6, and Sections 10610 through 10657. The plan addresses water supply and demand issues, water supply reliability, water conservation, water shortage contingencies, and recycled-water usage within the AWA service area and incorporates the requirement under SBx7-7 to reduce per capita water demands.

Buena Vista-11 The comment requests the County to consider aligning its groundwater management plan with DWR’s Strategic Plan for Sustainable Groundwater Management. See responses to comments Foothill2-636 through -640.

Buena Vista-12 The commenter states that the DEIR mitigation measures for unknown cultural resources do not provide for Native American participation, but instead put the focus on archaeologists. The commenter also suggests that the DEIR should describe how cultural resource monitoring plans and protocols would be developed jointly with Native American Tribes, to be used in the event that cultural resources are discovered. DEIR Mitigation Measure 4.5-2 outlines the protocols that would be used by the County to mitigate impacts on cultural resources. The following text has been added to Mitigation Measure 4.5-2 to address the commenter’s concern:

- When a discretionary project will involve subsurface impacts in highly sensitive areas, a qualified archaeologist will monitor ground-disturbing activities, and will have the authority to halt construction until the resource can be evaluated and mitigated if necessary. Native American monitors will be invited to attend. In addition, future CEQA projects will require AB52 consultation with tribes including the development of mitigation measures.

- Buena Vista-13 The commenter states that the FEIR should provide an analysis of alternatives that reduce impacts to fish, wildlife, water quality, and vegetative resources. Alternative 3 (Restricted Growth) would reduce environmental impacts on fish, wildlife, water quality, and vegetative resources as analyzed in DEIR Chapter 5, “Alternatives.”
- Buena Vista-14 The commenter suggests that an “Emergency and Disaster Management Plan” should be developed. The plan suggested by the commenter has already been developed by the County and is described on DEIR pages 4.8-5 and 4.8-6 in Section 4.8, “Hazards and Hazardous Materials” (i.e., a Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and an Emergency Operations Plan). As required by Mitigation Measure 4.8-2a, these plans would be periodically updated over time as the Draft General Plan is implemented.
- Buena Vista-15 The comment states that a plan for community outreach and education regarding hazardous materials should be developed. The comment does not suggest how developing a plan for community outreach and education on hazards and hazardous materials would reduce DEIR Impacts 4.8-2 and 4.8-3 to less-than-significant levels. The DEIR already presents feasible mitigation measures for Impacts 4.8-2 and 4.8-3 that would reduce these impacts to less-than-significant levels, and the County is not required to consider alternative mitigation measures.
- Buena Vista-16 The commenter states that the FEIR should contain an analysis of the proposed project’s consistency with various land use plans such as general plans and Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs). The proposed project is a General Plan update. The DEIR analyzed consistency with applicable land use plans, as required by CEQA, throughout the appropriate resource-specific topic areas contained in Sections 4.1 through 4.14. For example, regarding consistency with HCPs, DEIR Impact 4.10-2 (page 4.4-34) notes there are no HCPs in or near Amador County that could be affected by Draft General Plan implementation. The comment does not suggest any significant environmental impacts that the DEIR’s plan consistency analyses failed to account for. Regarding the DEIR’s appropriate level of detail for plan consistency analyses, see Master Response 1, “Adequacy of Impact Analysis and Mitigation Measures.”
- Buena Vista-17 The commenter states that the FEIR should evaluate the project’s consistency with adopted land use plans intended to control the spread of invasive plants and animals. As suggested by the commenter, invasive plant species are addressed in DEIR Impacts 4.4-2 and 4.4-4 (pages 4.4-37 and 4.4-38, and 4.4-40 through 4.4-42). In addition, Draft General Plan Policy OS-3.6 (Open Space Element, page OS-9) states “Encourage the use of appropriate native species for reclamation and revegetation components of development projects. Restrict the introduction of invasive exotic species.”
- The commenter does not provide any details related to animal species that she believes should have been evaluated in the DEIR. Animal species identified as invasive by CDFW and known to occur in Amador County consist of brown-headed cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) and American bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeianus*). These two species are widespread throughout much of California and have been present in Amador County for nearly 100 years. The brown-headed cowbird is a nest parasite and has helped cause the decline or extirpation of several California native passerine (order Passeriformes) bird species. American bullfrog has been implicated in population declines of many native animal species, including frogs, turtles, and snakes, by either outcompeting or preying upon them (California Herps 2016). New uses proposed under the Draft General Plan would not be likely to introduce new invasive animal species into the County or increase the current populations of brown-headed cowbird or American bullfrog.

Buena Vista-18	<p>The commenter states that the FEIR should evaluate the project’s consistency with adopted land use plans intended to promote the use of native plants in landscaping. The action suggested by the commenter (i.e., promote use of native plants in landscaping) is contained in Draft General Plan Policy OS-3.6 (Open Space Element, page OS-9), which states, “Encourage the use of appropriate native species for reclamation and revegetation components of development projects. Restrict the introduction of invasive exotic species.”</p>
Buena Vista-19	<p>The commenter suggests that the Draft General Plan should contain a policy requiring removal of invasive exotic plants, however such a program would be economically infeasible. Also, removal of existing invasive exotic plants would not mitigate an impact of the Draft General Plan, but rather would attempt to correct an existing (baseline) environmental problem.</p> <p>The comment also contains an incomplete statement, which reads: “Policy Encourage the use of integrated.” Because it is not possible to determine what the commenter is referring to in this partial sentence, the County is unable to respond.</p>
Buena Vista-20	<p>The comment states that if the Draft General Plan contemplates a change in land use, then analyses should be conducted to determine the potential impacts on water, air quality, schools, road improvements and associated funding, climate change, wastewater, and solid waste. The analyses suggested by the commenter are contained in DEIR Sections 4.1 through 4.14.</p>
Buena Vista-21	<p>The commenter suggests there is a need to increase public awareness of waste reduction, recycling, and composting and that a waste characterization study should be implemented to determine what types of wastes are being produced and how much waste ends up the landfill, and to incorporate outcomes in an integrated resource management plan.</p> <p>The Amador County Integrated Solid Waste Management Agency was created to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • decrease the amount of solid waste going into disposal facilities by establishing source reduction, recycling, and composting programs; and • develop goals, policies, and procedures which are consistent with the guidelines and regulations of the California Integrated Waste Management Board. <p>Regional Agency Members consist of one elected official from each incorporated city and two County Supervisors.</p> <p>Local Task Force Members are volunteers that represent the solid waste industry, environmental organizations, the general public, special districts, and affected governmental agencies. The Task Force was created to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure a coordinated and cost-effective regional recycling system. • Identify solid waste management issues of countywide or regional concern. • Determine the need for solid waste collection and transfer stations, processing facilities, and market strategies that can serve more than one local jurisdiction within a region.

- Facilitate the development of multijurisdictional arrangements for the marketing of recyclable materials.
- Facilitate resolution of conflicts and inconsistencies between or among city and county source reduction and recycling elements.
- Develop goals, policies and procedures which are consistent with guidelines and regulations adopted by the state board.
- Guide the development of the siting element and countywide integrated waste management plan (CIWMP).

The County already has a number of programs in place related to waste reduction and recycling, which are described on the Department of Waste Management and Recycling's website, available at <http://www.co.amador.ca.us/departments/waste-management-recycling/online-resources>.

Furthermore, as discussed on DEIR page 4.13-23 (Section 4.13, "Public Services and Utilities"), the California Integrated Waste Management Act (also commonly known as AB 939), requires local agencies to implement source reduction, recycling, and composting in order to divert 50 percent of solid waste from landfill facilities. For 2012, the target solid waste generation rate for Amador County was 7.7 pounds per day (ppd) per resident, and the actual measured generation rate was 4.1 ppd per resident. Therefore, as of 2012, Amador County was meeting its diversion rate goals.

To achieve compliance with AB 939, ACES Waste Services (which provides solid waste disposal in the county) has implemented residential and curbside recycling, home and business food waste composting, and business and special events recycling. Amador County Code Chapter 7.27 requires all covered building and demolition projects to divert at least 50 percent of debris generated from the landfill. This code section fulfills the mandate in the CalGreen building code.

Therefore, appropriate programs are in place to educate the public regarding recycling and the need to reduce materials deposited in landfills.

Buena Vista-22

The commenter states that the County should develop a "drought adaptation plan." The commenter does not provide any details as to information that should be provided or actions that should be included in a "drought adaption plan." However, local agencies are required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) to prepare and adopt groundwater management plans that are tailored to the resources and needs of their communities, such that sustainable management would provide a buffer against drought and climate change, and ensure reliable water supplies regardless of weather patterns. Amador County is not required to take action to designate a groundwater sustainability agency until 2017, and groundwater sustainability plans are not required until 2020 at the earliest. Preparation of the groundwater management plan required by the SGMA would address commenter's request for a "drought adaption plan." See also responses to comments Foothill2-636 through -640.