AMADOR COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

PHONE: (209) 223-6380
FAX: (209) 257-5002
WEBSITE: www.amadorgov.org
E-MAIL: planning@amadorgov.org

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER • 810 COURT STREET • JACKSON, CA 95642-2132

APPLICATION REFERRAL

TO:

Amador Air District	AFPD
Building Department	ACTC
County Counsel	Amador Transit
Environmental Health Department	Amador Water Agency
Surveying Department	Cal Fire
Transportation and Public Works Department	Caltrans, District 10
Waste Management	CDFW, Region 2
Sheriff's Office	Amador LAFCO
Ione Band of Miwok Indians**	City of Plymouth
Buena Vista Band of Me-Wuk Indians**	Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians**
Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California**	
Jackson Valley Fire Protection District	

DATE: September 2, 2020

FROM: Chuck Beatty, Planning Director

PROJECT: Request for discretionary permits for the installation of infrastructure (streets, culverts, water lines, sewer lines, and wastewater treatment plant) to serve Lake Camanche Village Subdivision Unit 3B. The subdivision map was recorded in 1973, creating 281 parcels for single-family residential use on approximately 315 acres with publicly-dedicated roads and pedestrian/equestrian trails. In 2008, the County certified a Mitigated Negative Declaration for project amendments to add an emergency access road from Village Drive to North Camanche Parkway and to adjust the pedestrian/equestrian trail locations. To date, the parcels in Unit 3B have not been made available for sale.

Applicant: Old Golden Oaks, LLC (Ryan Voorhees, owner)
Supervisorial District: 2
Location: Immediately south of Lake Camanche Village Subdivision Unit 3A, at the termination of public maintenance for Village Drive and Goose Creek Road.

REVIEW: As part of the preliminary review process, this project is being referred to State, Tribal, and local agencies for their review and comment. The Amador County Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will review the project for completeness on Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. in The Board Chambers at the County Administration Building, 810 Court Street, Jackson, California. This meeting will also be conducted via teleconference, available by calling in any of the following numbers, or visiting the following link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2368339091

+1 669 900 6833 US; +1 346 248 7799 US; +1 301 715 8592 US;
+1 312 626 6799 US; +1 929 205 6099 US; +1 253 215 8782 US;

Meeting ID: 236 833 9091

Notification of further TAC meetings and agendas will be made via the TAC email distribution list (contact planning@amadorgov.org to be added to the list).

**In accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1, this notice constitutes formal notification to those tribes requesting project notification. This notification begins the 30-day time period in which California Native American tribes have to request consultation.

Amador County

Lake Camanche Village Unit 3B

Initial Study/Environmental Checklist

May 2020

Lake Camanche Village Unit 3B

Initial Study – Table of Contents

SECTION 1

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Lake Camanche Village Unit 3B Project Description
May 2020

Introduction. The Tentative Subdivision Map (TSM) for Lake Camanche Village Unit 3B was initially approved by Amador County in 1970, before the California Environmental Quality Act's (CEQA's) November 23, 1970 effective date. California Public Resources Code § 21169 provides that the TSM therefore complied with CEQA, and no further CEQA analysis is being conducted on that previously approved TSM. The final subdivision map for LCV3B was ultimately approved and recorded on March 28, 1973 creating 281 residential lots and the dedication and acceptance by the County of road and utility easements.

This Project Description points to project components still requiring discretionary approval, as specifically described below. In 2008, Amador County confirmed the applicability of section 21169 while approving minor changes to pedestrian/equestrian trails and approving off-site emergency access that was by 2008 a State law requirement. In so approving those changes, Amador County did no CEQA review of the previously approved TSM. Following that approval, the owner rough-graded the approved street alignments.

At recordation of the Final Subdivision Map, the public road rights-of-way were deeded to Amador County. The TPWD has determined that the remaining grading triggers discretionary review, which is accomplished in this Initial Study. Project components are:

1. The Proposed Project is the installation of infrastructure to serve an approved and recorded residential subdivision in Lake Camanche Village (LCV) Unit 3B. LCV Unit 3B is 281 lots on approximately 300 acres. An overall view of Unit 3B relative to neighboring properties is included as Figure 1.

2. The Proposed Project consists of the following components, as further described below:

- Unit 3B onsite **roads and infrastructure**, comprising paving of dedicated and rough-graded streets, and including the installation of street utilities (water, sewer, drainage, electrical and communication).
- Offsite **sewer force main** from 3B to a wastewater treatment plant site
- Construction of a **wastewater treatment plant, treated effluent storage ponds and spray disposal system**
- Construction of **emergency access road**

3. **Roads and Infrastructure**: The Project proposes road and underground utility construction on the following roads (see Figures 2 and 2A).

- Village Drive (within unit 3B only)
- Goose Creek Rd
- Buffalo Way
- Bow Dr
- Quill St
- Church Hill Rd

- Blue Jay Ct
- Sugar Loaf Ct
- Tuni Ct
- Bow Ct
- Tewa Ct

After 2008 County approvals, the above-listed roads were rough-graded and 15 of the 43 required drainage culverts were installed. Because State and federal regulations may require permits for work in drainages, the existing and proposed culverts have been cataloged and mapped on Figure 2A. That Figure overlays a 2007 map of potentially jurisdictional wetland and drainage features. Figure 2A shows 3 existing crossings that do not intercept any features shown on the 2007 map; 12 existing culverts within 2007 map features, but that will require repair or adjustment to meet Amador County standards; 22 proposed crossings that similarly would not intercept any 2007 map features; and 6 proposed crossings that would be constructed within 2007 map features. All of the culverts will be installed or modified as necessary to meet Amador County standards regarding required lengths, gradient, and stabilization at the inlet and outlet.

In addition to drainage culverts crossing roads from side to side, utility infrastructure will be installed lengthwise by trenching before paving. Infrastructure will include sewer, water, electrical, gas, and telecommunication cables. After utilities and culverts are installed, base rock will be applied and the roads will be paved. While no gutters or sidewalks are proposed, the road shoulders will be improved with drainage ditches and dikes as appropriate, per Amador County standards. The widths of paved roads and the area beyond the road where temporary work may occur is shown on Figure 2.

4. **Offsite sewer force main**: The Proposed Project would extend an offsite sewer force main from the boundary of Units 3B and 3A to the wastewater treatment plant site on lot 478 Village Drive, Unit 1 (see Figures 1 and 3). This force main is primarily for Unit 3B, but will be designed to accommodate existing homes along the right-of-way to the sewer plant site. This force main is sized only for unit 3B, and existing LCV homes or parcels that could access along the route proposed.

5. **Wastewater Treatment Plant:** A wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) will be constructed on lot 478, Unit 1, as it was originally approved in March of 1970 (see Figure 4). The WWTP is designed to accommodate Unit 3B wastewater flows, but it will incorporate extra capacity for existing LCV homes and parcels experiencing septic disposal issues. The site size is about 9 acres, of which 3 acres will be needed for the WWTP. Any excess capacity built at the WWTP beyond that needed for unit 3B is only for existing LCV homes and parcels – nothing outside of the existing LCV boundaries, or creation of any new lots.
The proposed treated effluent storage pond and spray fields will be immediately north of the WWTP on the Gansberg Ranch, (see Figure 1). The AWA completed an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration in December 2018 for this work, and has been attached as Appendix A.

6. Emergency Access Rd: An emergency access road off Church Hill Rd 3B parcel no. 667 will be constructed on a proposed +-4,900 ft (30' wide) access easement through EBMUD property between Unit 3B and Camanche Parkway North (see Figures 1 & 5). It will have 2-10' lanes and 3" of gravel, (designed per all 15.30 standards) for emergency access only (may be used for construction access), and will have break away gates on both ends.

7. Project Mitigation: In the interest of mitigating any potentially significant environmental effects, the applicant proposes mitigation measures as outlined in the project Initial Study, 2 of which will be measures due to potential wetland impacts and potential impacts to the California Tiger Salamander habitat.

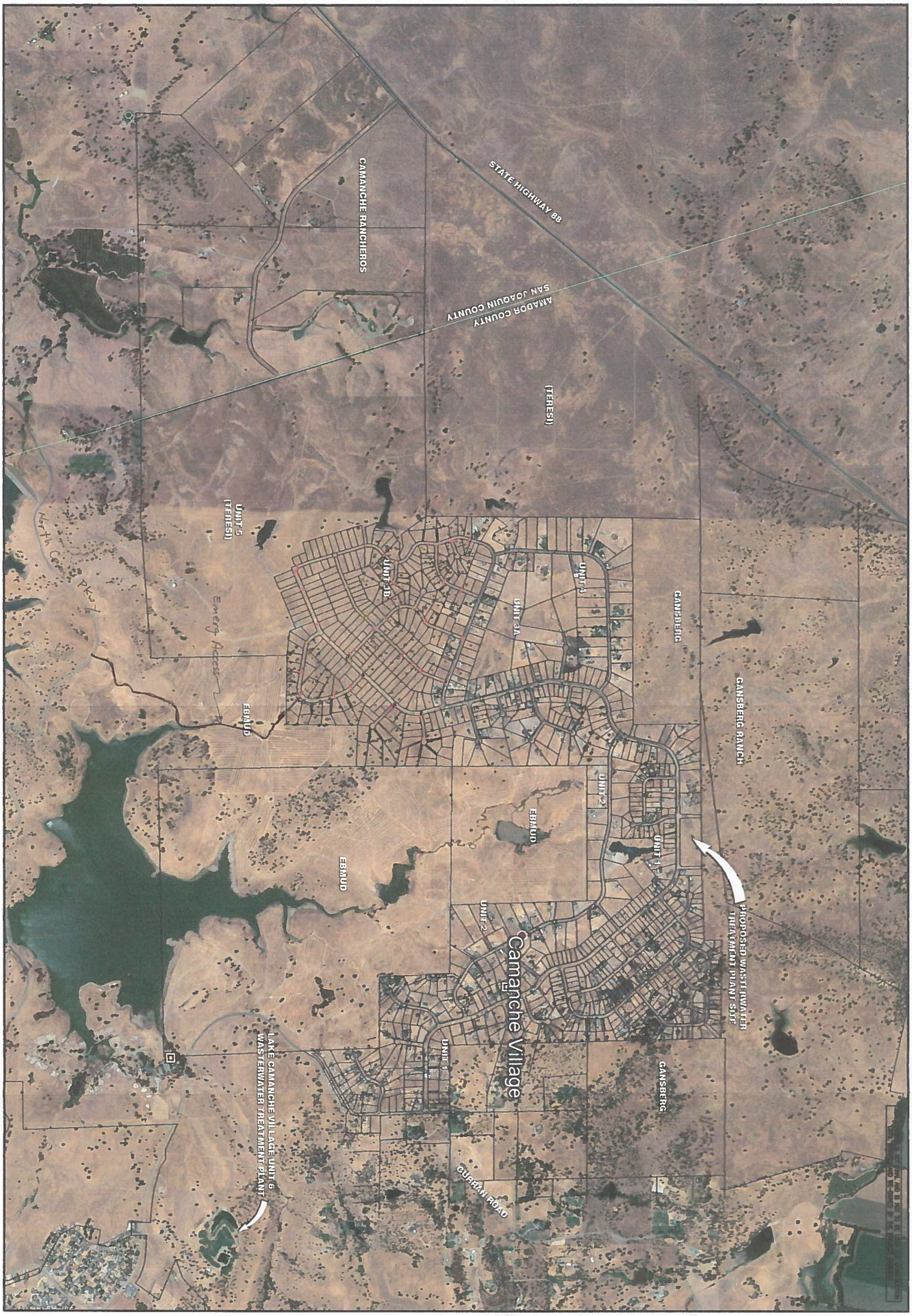


FIGURE 1
OVERALL PLAN

LAKE CAMANCHE VILLAGE

AMADOR COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

TOMA & ASSOCIATES INC.
ENGINEERING - SURVEYING - PLANNING
41 Summit Street, Jackson, CA 95642
(209) 223-0156

OWNER:
RAW HOMES

1 OF 6 SHEETS

THIS DRAWING IS NOT FINAL AND IS NOT TO BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION UNTIL STAMPED AND WE-SIGNED BY THE PROJECT ENGINEER

05-728 CRV ENTERPRISES
CAMANCHE - UNIT 3B
FLOWN 4-6-05
BY: AMERICAN AERIAL MAPPING, INC

NORTH
0 100 200 400
SCALE 1" = 200'

LEGEND

- PROPOSED WATER
- EXISTING WATER
- PROPOSED SEWER
- EXISTING CULVERT

REVISIONS	DATE

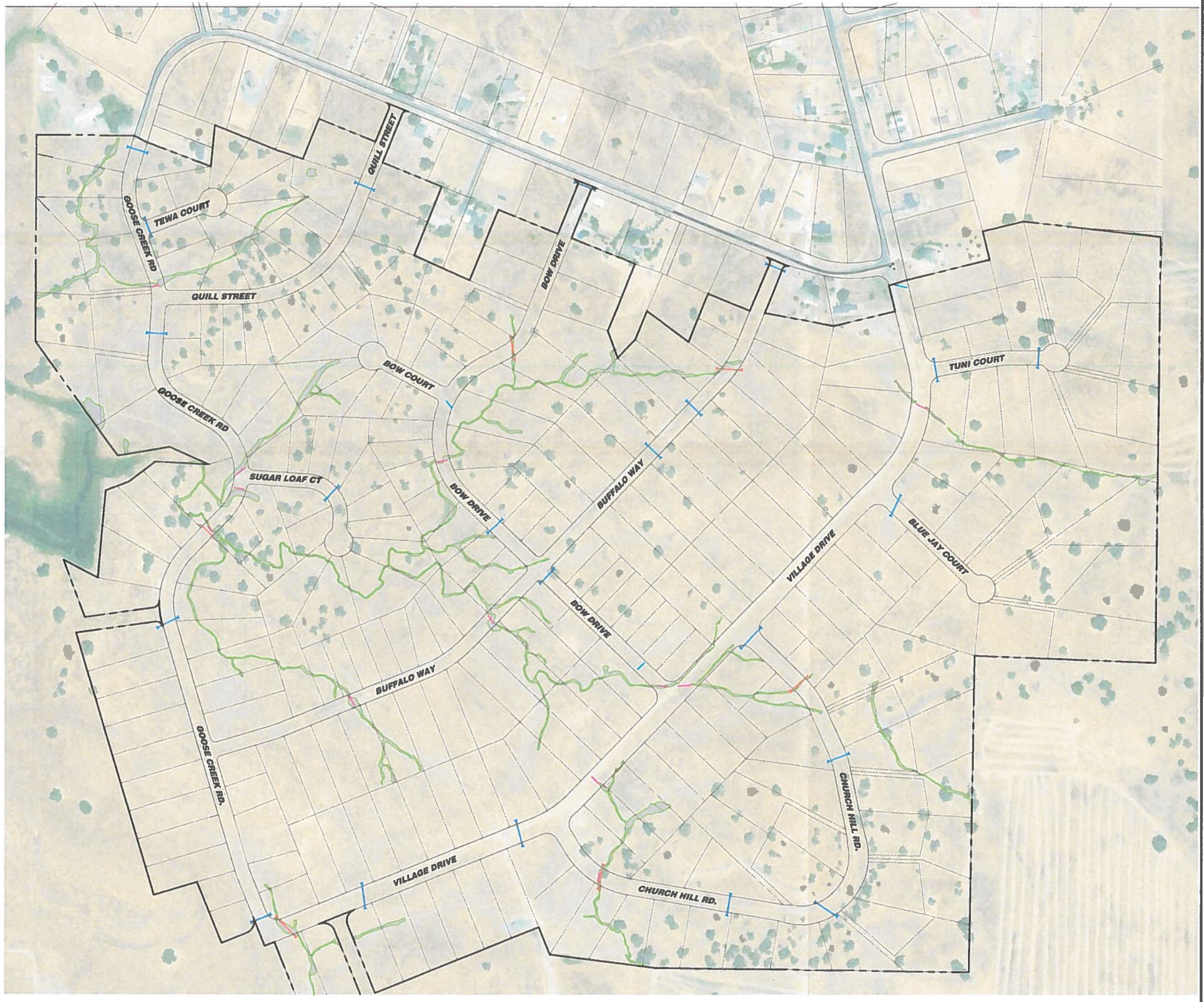
REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER REESE WORCHARD SMITH No. 38436 License 6/30/11 CIVIL STATE OF CALIFORNIA

TOMA & ASSOCIATES INC.
ENGINEERING - SURVEYING - PLANNING
41 Summit Street, Jackson, CA 95642
(209) 223-0156

FIGURE 2
PROPOSED WATER/SEWER - CULVERTS
LAKE CAMANCHE VILLAGE - UNIT 3
AMADOR COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

OWNER:
RYAN VOORHEES

DATE: 8-06-2020
SCALE: 1" = 200'
DRAWN BY: MJG
JOB NO. 1701-03
FIGURE
2



THIS DRAWING IS NOT FINAL AND IS NOT TO BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION UNTIL STAMPED AND WE-SIGNED BY THE PROJECT ENGINEER

CATAGORY	DESCRIPTION	SYMBOL	QTY
1	EXISTING CROSSING NON-JURISDICTIONAL WATER		3
2	PROPOSED CROSSING NON-JURISDICTIONAL WATER		22
3	EXISTING CULVERT CROSSING OVER POTENTIAL JURISDICTIONAL WATER (TO BE REPAIRED)		12
4	PROPOSED CULVERT CROSSING OVER POTENTIAL JURISDICTIONAL WATER		6
		TOTAL	43

CULVERT TABLE

ROAD	NUMBER OF CULVERTS
VILLAGE DRIVE	7
TUNI COURT	2
BLUE JAY COURT	1
CHURCH HILL ROAD	6
BOW DRIVE	8
BUFFALO WAY	6
GOOSE CREEK ROAD	9
TEWA COURT	1
QUILL STREET	1
SUGAR LOAD COURT	1
TOTAL	43

JURISDICTIONAL WATER

NORTH

0' 200' 400' 600'

SCALE: 1" = 200'

REVISIONS	BY

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER
JESSE BURCHARD SMITH
No. 35436
Expires: 9/30/21
CIVIL
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

TOMA & ASSOCIATES INC.
ENGINEERING - SURVEYING - PLANNING
41 Summit Street, Jackson, CA 95642
(209) 223-0156

FIGURE 2A
LAKE CAMANCHE VILLAGE UNIT 3B
EXISTING CULVERTS VS PROPOSED CULVERTS
AMADOR COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

DATE: DECEMBER 9, 2019
SCALE: 1" = 200'
DRAWN BY: M. GOTTSELIG
JOB NO. 1701-05
FIGURE 2A

THIS DRAWING IS NOT FINAL AND IS NOT TO BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION UNTIL STAMPED AND WE-SIGNED BY THE PROJECT ENGINEER

GANSBERG

GANSBERG

PROPOSED WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT SITE

EOP (E)

VILLAGE DRIVE

CHEYENNE CT.

COYOTE DRIVE

CHEYENNE DRIVE

VILLAGE DRIVE

SNOWBIRD DRIVE

NEWMAN HILL DRIVE

NEWMAN CT

UNIT 1

DUCK CREEK RD

EOP (E)

UNIT 4

GRAPEVINE GULCH ROAD

UNIT 2

PAPEO STREET

GRAPEVINE GULCH ROAD

VILLAGE DRIVE

NABO CT.

GOOSE CREEK CT.

FOX CT.

HOYA CT.

UNIT 3A

EBMUD

UNIT 2

LEGEND

PROPOSED SEWER

NORTH

0 100 200 400

SCALE 1" = 200'

PRELIMINARY
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER
JESSE BURCHARD SMITH
No. 33436
Expires 6/30/18
CIVIL
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

REVISIONS	DATE

TOMA & ASSOCIATES INC.

ENGINEERING - SURVEYING - PLANNING
41 Summit Street, Jackson, CA 95642
(209) 223-0156

FIGURE 3
SEWER LINE TO WASTEWATER FACILITY

LAKE CAMANCHE VILLAGE

AMADOR COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

OWNER:
RYAN VOORHEES

DATE: 8-3-2017
SCALE: 1" = 200'
DRAWN BY: MJG
JOB NO. 1701-03
SHEET
3

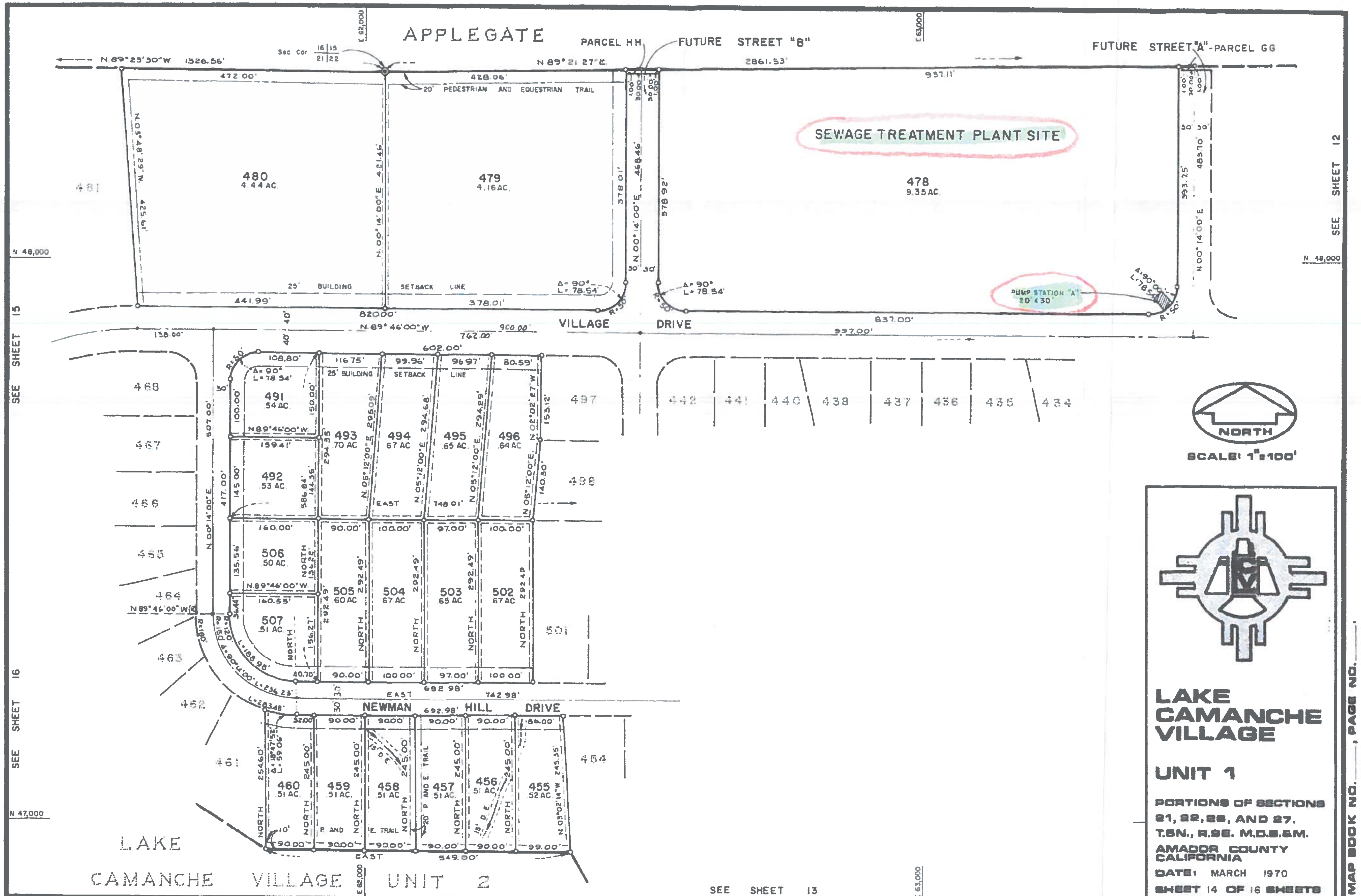
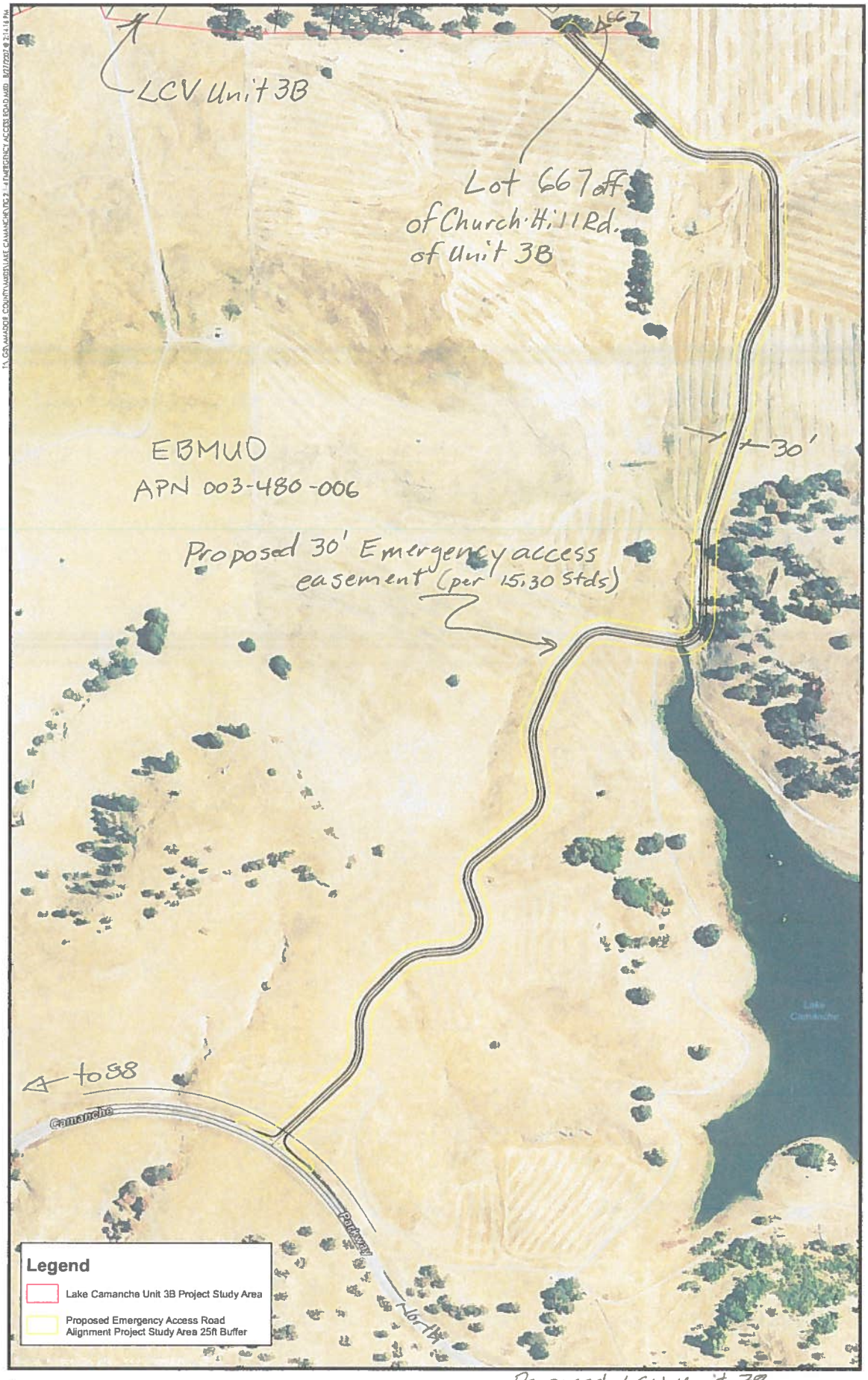

APPLEGATE
PARCEL HH
FUTURE STREET "B"
FUTURE STREET "A"-PARCEL GG
SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT SITE
PUMP STATION "A" 20 X 30
VILLAGE DRIVE
NEWMAN HILL DRIVE
LAKE CAMANCHE VILLAGE UNIT 2
SEE SHEET 15
SEE SHEET 16
SEE SHEET 13
SEE SHEET 12
NORTH
SCALE: 1"=100'
LAKE CAMANCHE VILLAGE
UNIT 1
PORTIONS OF SECTIONS 21, 22, 26, AND 27. T.5N., R.9E. M.D.B.&M.
AMADOR COUNTY CALIFORNIA
DATE: MARCH 1970
SHEET 14 OF 16 SHEETS
MAP BOOK NO.____, PAGE NO.____

Figure 4



Proposed LCV Unit 3B Emergency Access

Figure 5

SECTION 2

CEQA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

APPENDIX G

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

NOTE: The following is a sample form that may be tailored to satisfy individual agencies' needs and project circumstances. It may be used to meet the requirements for an initial study when the criteria set forth in CEQA Guidelines have been met. Substantial evidence of potential impacts that are not listed on this form must also be considered. The sample questions in this form are intended to encourage thoughtful assessment of impacts, and do not necessarily represent thresholds of significance.

1. Project title: Lake Camanche Village Unit 3B

2. Lead agency name and address:
Amador County, 810 Court St, Jackson, CA

3. Contact person and phone number: **Mike Israel, Community Development Director,209-223-6439**

4.- Project location: Amador County (See Project Description and Maps)

5. Project sponsor's name and address:
Ryan Voorhees, 801 Briarwood St, Weatherford, Texas

6. General plan designation: **Residential**

7. Zoning: R1A

8. Description of project: (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary.)
See Project Description

9. Surrounding land uses and setting: (Briefly describe the project's surroundings)
Residential/Ag

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required: (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.)

CVRWQCB, SWRCB, ACOE,CFW,AWA,ACEHD, ACBD, ACTPW

11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?

Yes-but this will need to be updated per attached

NOTE: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 21080.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code section 21082.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

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

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

DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

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

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

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

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

Signature	*Date*

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors, as well as general standards (e.g., the project would not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
4. "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.
5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
   a) Earlier Analyses Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
   b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
   c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
7. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
8. This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
9. The explanation of each issue should identify:
   a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
   b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS. Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☑	☐
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☑	☐
c) In nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☑	☐	☐
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☑	☐
II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☑	☐
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☑	☐
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☑
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☑
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☑
III. AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☑	☐	☐
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	☐	☑	☐	☐
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☑	☐	☐
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☑	☐	☐

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☑	☐	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☑	☐	☐
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☑	☐	☐
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☑	☐	☐
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☑	☐	☐
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☑	☐	☐
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	☐	☑	☐	☐
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	☐	☑	☐	☐
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	☐	☑	☐	☐
VI. ENERGY. Would the project:				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	☐	☐	☑	☐
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☐	☑
VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	☐	☐	☑	☐
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☑	☐
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☑	☐
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☑	☐
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☑	☐
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☑	☐	☐

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☑	☐
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☑	☐
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☑	☐
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☑	☐
VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☑	☐	☐
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☑	☐	☐
IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☑	☐	☐
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☑	☐	☐
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☑	☐
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code § 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☑
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☑
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☑	☐
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☑	☐	☐
X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	☐	☑	☐	☐
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☑	☐
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:	☐	☑	☐	☐

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
i) result in a substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	☐	☑	☐	☐
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	☐	☑	☐	☐
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	☐	☐	☑	☐
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☑	☐
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☐	☑
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☐	☑
XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☑	☐
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☑	☐	☐
XII. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be a value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☑
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☑
XIII. NOISE. Would the project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☑	☐	☐
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☑	☐
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☑	☐
XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☑	☐
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☑
XV. PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the project:				
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	☐	☐	☐	☑

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☑
Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☑
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☑
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☑
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☑	☐
XVI. RECREATION.				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☑
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☑	☐
XVII. TRANSPORTATION. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☑	☐	☐
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines § 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	☐	☐	☑	☐
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☑	☐	☐
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☑	☐	☐
XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES.				
a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code § 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:	☐	☑	☐	☐
i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	☐	☑	☐	☐
ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code § 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code § 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☐	☐	☑	☐
XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☑	☐

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	☐	☑	☐	☐
c) Result in a determination by the waste water treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☑	☐	☐
d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☑	☐
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☑	☐
XX. WILDFIRE. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☑	☐
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☐	☐	☑	☐
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	☐	☐	☑	☐
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☑	☐
XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.				
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☑	☐	☐
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	☐	☐	☑	☐
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☑	☐

SECTION 3

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

DISCUSSION AND MITIGATION, MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Lake Camanche Village Unit 3B
Environmental Checklist Discussion and
Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Program
May 2020

1) Aesthetics

a, b, and d - Less Than Significant

c - Less Than Significant with Mitigation

Discussion:

At proposed WWTP site, project design needs to incorporate proper siting and landscape screenings to minimize visual impact to neighbors. Design also needs to incorporate noise and odor control measures at within project design and equipment selection to the satisfaction of ACEHD, AWA and CVRWQCB.

Mitigation:

a) Design at proposed WWTP shall incorporate proper siting and landscape screenings to minimize visual impacts to neighbors. **AES-1**

b) Design and equipment selection at proposed WWTP shall incorporate noise and odor control measures. **AES-2**

Timing/Implementation- Prior to permit issuance and construction

Enforcement/Monitoring – Amador County EHD and Amador WA

2) Agriculture and Forestry Resources

a & b - Less Than Significant

c, d, and e – No Impact

Mitigation – none required

3) Air Quality

a – d: Less Than Significant with Mitigation Proposed

Discussion – See Air Quality sections in Appendices A & B

Mitigation:

a) During construction, Village Dr and adjacent streets shall be kept free of dust, dirt and mud. **AIR-1**

b) All vehicles leaving the work area shall be cleaned to prevent dirt and mud from reaching adjacent roads. **AIR-2**

c) Use dust palliatives or moisture control to reduce fugitive dust during construction. **AIR-3**
d) Cease earthwork operations during periods of rain or high winds. **AIR-4**
e) Obey state and local laws regarding transport and tarping of material to/from construction site. **AIR-5**

Timing/Implementation- During construction

Enforcement/Monitoring – Amador County TPWD

4) Biological Resources

a – f: Less Than Significant with Mitigation Proposed

Discussion: See Biological Sections in Appendices A & B; Need update of Appendix A Biological work for 3B and emergency access; update Appendix B Biological work for WWTP site

Mitigation:

a) Focused plant surveys per Appendix A, page 3.0-33, MM 3.4.1. **BIO-1**
b) Follow up to a) per Appendix A, page 3.0-33, MM 3.4.2. **BIO-2**
c) Special plant status protection per Appendix A, page 3.0-34, MM 3.4.3. **BIO-3**
d) Elderberry plant protection per Appendix A, page 3.0-35, MM 3.4.4. **BIO-4**
e) Vernal pool/seasonal wetlands – Owner will purchase mitigation credits for +- .5 acres impacted seasonal wetlands. **BIO-5**
f) California Tiger Salamander – Owner will purchase mitigation credits for +- 32 acres of potential CTS habitat. **BIO-6**
g) Western Spadefoot Toad – see f). **BIO-7**
h) If construction is scheduled to begin between February 1st and August 1st, owner shall conduct bird survey per Appendix A, page 3.0-40, MM 3.4.8. **BIO-8**
i) Oak woodlands per Appendix A, page 3.0-41, MM 3.4.9. **BIO-9**
j) Potential waters of the US – see f). **BIO-10**
k) Pre-construction environmental awareness training per Appendix B, page 225, MM Bio-1. **BIO-11**
l) Compliance with Safe Harbor Agreement between USFWS and EBMUD per Appendix B, page 227, MM Bio – 4. **BIO-12**
m) Update Appendix A Biological work for 3B and emergency access; update Appendix B Biological work for WWTP site. **BIO-13**

Timing/Implementation- Prior to permit issuance and construction, (prior to adoption of IS for **BIO-13**)

Enforcement/Monitoring – Amador County Planning

5) Cultural Resources

a – c; Less Than Significant with Mitigation Proposed

Discussion: See Cultural Resources Sections in Appendices A & B; both of these reports will need to be updated

Mitigation:

a) Construction worker cultural resources awareness training per Appendix B, page 230, MM CUL – 1. **CUL-1**
b) Unanticipated discovery of cultural resources per Appendix B, page 231, MM CUL – 2. **CUL-2**
c) Unanticipated discovery of human remains per Appendix B, page 232, MM CUL – 3. **CUL-3**
d) Unanticipated discovery of paleontological resources per Appendix B, page 233, MM CUL – 4. **CUL-4**
e) Paleontological resource construction monitoring per Appendix B, page 233, MM CUL – 5. **CUL-5**
f) Update both Appendix A and B Cultural/Tribal Resources Reports. **CUL-6**

Timing/Implementation- Prior to permit issuance and construction, (prior to adoption of IS for **CUL-6**)

Enforcement/Monitoring – Amador County Planning

6) Energy

a – Less than Significant Impact
b – No Impact

Mitigation: None Required

7) Geology and Soils

a,c-f: Less Than Significant with Mitigation Proposed

Discussion: See sections on Geology and Soils in Appendices A & B

Mitigation:

Erosion and Sediment Control measures per Appendix B, page 234, MM GEO – 1. **GEO-1**

Timing/Implementation- Prior to permit issuance and construction
Enforcement/Monitoring – Amador County Planning and TPWD

8) Greenhouse Gas Emissions

a & b – Less Than Significant with Mitigation

Discussion: See Greenhouse Gas Study of Appendix B, which will need updating for this project

Mitigation:

a) Dust control and construction emissions mitigation plan per Appendix B, page 225, AIR - 1. **GG-1**
b) Update Appendix A and B to include Greenhouse Gas Study, (Appendix B should only require confirmation off their conclusions).

Timing/Implementation- Prior to permit issuance and construction

Enforcement/Monitoring – Amador County Planning and EHD

9) Hazards and Hazardous Materials

d & e – No Impact
c & f – Less Than Significant Impact
a,b & g – Less Than Significant with Mitigation

Discussion: See Hazardous Materials section in Appendices A & B

Mitigation:

a) Spill prevention and countermeasure plan per Appendix B, page 234, HAZ – 1. **HAZ-1**
b) Fire suppression and control per Appendix B, page 236, HAZ – 2. **HAZ-2**

Timing/Implementation- Prior to permit issuance and construction

Enforcement/Monitoring – Amador County Planning & EHD

10) Hydrology and Water Quality

d & e – No Impact
b – Less Than Significant Impact
a & c – Less Than Significant with Mitigation

Discussion: See Hydrology and Water Quality Sections in Appendices A & B

Mitigations:

a) See Appendix B, page 225, MM BIO – 1. **HYDRWQ-1**
b) See Appendix B, page 234, MM GEO -1. **HYDRWQ-2**
c) See Appendix B, page 234, MM HAZ -1. **HYDRWQ-3**

Timing/Implementation- Prior to permit issuance and construction

Enforcement/Monitoring – Amador County Planning & EHD

11) Land Use and Planning

a – Less Than Significant Impact

b – Less Than Significant with Mitigation

Discussion: See Aesthetics MM's and Appendices A & B

Mitigation:

a) See MM **AES-1, AES-2. LUP-1**

Timing/Implementation- Prior to permit issuance and construction

Enforcement/Monitoring – Amador County Planning & EHD

12) Mineral Resources

a & b – No Impact

Mitigation: None required

13) Noise

a – Less Than Significant with Mitigation

b & c – Less Than Significant Impact

Discussion: See Noise Sections in Appendices A & B

Mitigation:

a) See Appendix B, page 236, MM Noise 1. **NOISE-1**

Timing/Implementation- Prior to permit issuance and construction

Enforcement/Monitoring – Amador County Planning & EHD

14) Population and Housing

a – Less Than Significant Impact

b – No Impact

Mitigation – None Required

15) Public Services

a – Less Than Significant or No Impact

Mitigation – None Required

16) Recreation

a – No Impact

b – Less Than Significant Impact

Mitigation – None Required

17) Transportation

a, c & d – Less Than Significant with Mitigation

b – Less Than Significant

Discussion – See Transportation Sections in Appendices A & B

Mitigation:

a) See Appendix B, page 236, MM TRANS-1. **TRANS-1**
b) See Appendix B, page 237, MM TRANS-2. **TRANS-2**

Timing/Implementation- Prior to permit issuance and construction

Enforcement/Monitoring – Amador County Planning & TPWD

18) Tribal Cultural Resources

a & b – Less Than Significant with Mitigation

c – Less Than Significant Impact

Discussion – See Cultural Sections in Appendices A & B; need to update and include WWTP site

Mitigation:

a) See **CUL-1, CUL-2, CUL-3, CUL-6** above

Timing/Implementation- Prior to permit issuance and construction

Enforcement/Monitoring – Amador County Planning

19) Utilities and Service Systems

a,d & e – Less Than Significant Impact

b & c – Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation

Discussion: A letter of water availability has been requested from AWA

Mitigation:

a) Obtain letter from AWA stating they have the capacity to serve this project. **UTIL-1**

Timing/Implementation- Prior to permit issuance and construction

Enforcement/Monitoring – Amador County Planning & EHD

20) Wildfire

a – d; Less Than Significant Impact

Discussion: Not in "High Fire Hazard Zone", in "moderate" hazard zone

Mitigation: None required

21) Mandatory Findings of Significance

a – Less Than Significant with Mitigation

b & c – Less Than Significant Impact

a) See Appendix A, pages 3.0-77 & 78; also Appendix B, page 237

Appendix A

November 2007 **PMC** Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for Lake Camanche Village Unit 3B (Note: Not all of this report is included here, only referenced/pertinent sections. The full document is available from Amador County)

AMADOR COUNTY

LAKE CAMANCHE VILLAGE UNIT 3B

INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Prepared for

AMADOR COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT
810 COURT STREET
JACKSON, CA 95642

Prepared by

PMC®

2729 PROSPECT PARK DRIVE, SUITE 220
RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670

NOVEMBER 2007

APPENDICES

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION AND REGULATORY GUIDANCE

This document is an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed Lake Camanche Unit 3B Trails and Access Road ("Project" or "project"). An initial study is conducted by a lead agency to determine if a project may have a significant effect on the environment. In accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064, an environmental impact report (EIR) must be prepared if the initial study indicates that the proposed project under review may have a potentially significant impact on the environment. A negative declaration may be prepared instead, if the lead agency prepares a written statement describing the reasons why a proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment, and, therefore, why it does not require the preparation of an EIR (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15371). According to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15070, a negative declaration shall be prepared for a project subject to CEQA when either:

a) *The initial study shows there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment, or*

b) *The initial study identified potentially significant effects, but:*

   (1) *Revisions in the project plans or proposals made by or agreed to by the applicant before the proposed negative declaration is released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur, and*

   (2) *There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the proposed project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment.*

If revisions are adopted into the proposed project in accordance with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15070(b), a mitigated negative declaration is prepared.

1.2 LEAD AGENCY

The lead agency is the public agency with primary responsibility over a proposed project. Where two or more public agencies will be involved with a project, State CEQA Guidelines Section 15051 provides criteria for identifying the lead agency. In accordance with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15051(b) (1), "the lead agency will normally be the agency with general governmental powers, such as a city or county, rather than an agency with a single or limited purpose." Based on these criteria, Amador County (County) will serve as lead agency for the proposed project.

1.3 PURPOSE AND DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

The purpose of this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration is to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project.

This document is divided into the following sections:

1.0 Introduction - Provides an introduction and describes the purpose and organization of this document;

2.0 Project Description - Provides a detailed description of the proposed project;

3.0 Checklist - Describes the environmental setting for each of the environmental subject areas, evaluates a range of impacts classified as "no impact," "less than significant," "less than significant with mitigation incorporated," or "potentially significant" in response to the environmental checklist, and provides mitigation measures, where appropriate, to mitigate potentially significant impacts to a less than significant level;

4.0 Cumulative Impacts – Describes the project's potential to contribute to cumulative impacts in the region;

5.0 Determination - Provides the environmental determination for the project;

6.0 References - List of references used.

7.0 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Appendix A – Routine Wetland Delineation
Appendix B – California Tiger Salamander Habitat Assessment
Appendix C – Wet Season Survey for Brachiopods
Appendix D – Dry Season Sampling for Brachiopods

2.0 Project Description

2.1 PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed project is located in southwestern Amador County (see **Figure 2.0-1**). Specifically, the project site is located south of Highway 88, north of Lake Camanche, and one mile east of the Amador-San Joaquin County Border (see **Figure 2.0-2**). Goose Creek Road runs along the northern and western portions of the project site, and Village Drive bisects the project site running northeast to southwest. The proposed emergency access road would run primarily along an existing dirt road. The access road would run south from the southeast corner of the project site, and would intersect with Camanche Parkway North (see **Figure 2.0-4**).

The project is located in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountain range near the north shore of Lake Camanche and approximately 7 miles south of the City of Ione. The proposed trails, which are described later in this section, are located within the Camanche 3-B development, which lies within Sections 21 and 28 Township 5 North, Range 9 East on the USGS 7.5 minute Wallace and Ione topographical quadrangles. The proposed access road, which is described later in this section, is within Section 29 and in an unnumbered section to the east of Section 33, same township and range, also on the USGS 7.5 minute Wallace and Ione topographical quadrangles.

The project site (is privately owned and is adjacent to other privately held lands. Surrounding land uses include residential units to the north, and open space to the east, south and west. The open space consists of farming, cattle ranches and recreational fishing and boating. Lake Camanche is approximately one mile south of the southern development boundary and is directly south of the emergency access road.

2.2 PROJECT PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of the proposed project is to construct and operate a network of pedestrian/equestrian trails and the construction of a secondary emergency access road which will support a previously approved 281-unit residential subdivision.

2.3 PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS

The Lake Camanche Village Unit 3B subdivision (Camanche 3B) is a residential development comprising 281 homes on roughly 300 acres. A Tentative Subdivision Map was approved on January 8, 1970. Subsequently, roads were graded, dedicated and accepted by Amador County. The Final Subdivision Map was adopted in 1973. No further work has been performed on the project since the adoption of the Final Subdivision Map. CRV, the current owner of the project site seeks to begin construction of the 281-unit subdivision in conformity with the Approved Final Map. The subdivision, with two exceptions, is exempt from CEQA because it was approved before CEQA was enacted (See Pub Res. Code Section 21169.) The Project, for the purposes of this Initial Study, is therefore limited to two changes to the subdivision that were not part of the pre-CEQA approvals and require discretionary action. These changes consist of a secondary emergency access road and the abandonment and rededication of pedestrian/equestrian trails. Because the Tentative Subdivision Map was approved prior to the adoption of CEQA, this Initial Study cannot and does not address the potential environmental impacts of construction and operation of the subdivision. Rather, this analysis focuses exclusively on potential environmental impacts that may result from construction and operation of the proposed trails and emergency access road, which are described in greater detail below.

ABANDONMENT AND REDEDICATION OF PEDESTRIAN/EQUESTRIAN TRAILS

The trail network that was approved, recorded on the final map, and dedicated to Amador County was located within topography that is considered too steep for trail use. In the interest of reducing grading requirements and access, dedicated trails have been abandoned and other pedestrian easements, which are the subject of this Initial Study, are proposed to be added (see **Figure 2.0-3**). Proposed pedestrian easements would not be graded or otherwise improved and would be aligned within existing 15-foot wide utility easements. The trails themselves would be approximately 4 feet wide. Grass and rocks would be removed from the trails. Abandoned trail easements would remain in their current state. The addition of new trails and abandonment of previously approved trails would result in a net decrease in trail length from that which was approved for the Camanche 3-B development.

SECONDARY ACCESS ROAD

When the Camanche 3B Final Map was adopted, it anticipated surrounding residential development that would have provided required secondary access to the community. However, because neighboring projects were not completed, CRV must now provide its own secondary access, per the requirement of the Jackson Valley Fire Protection District. Furthermore, per Amador County Code Section 15.30.120, "roadway networks shall provide safe access for emergency wildland fire equipment and civilian evacuation concurrently and shall provide unobstructed traffic circulation during a wildfire emergency. The roadway network shall also provide all-weather, safe access for emergency personnel responding to medical aids, traffic accidents, and structure fires." CRV proposes to align the secondary access road to follow an existing unpaved road (see **Figure 2.0-4**). When complete, the approximately one mile long access road would connect Church Hill Road with Camanche Parkway North. Approximately 200 feet of relatively flat grazing land would be graded at the north and south ends of the access road to connect the existing road to Church Hill Road and Camanche Parkway North. The project requires widening the existing 10-foot dirt road to 18 feet, with the exception of a portion of the road that is known to flood. At that point, CRV will raise the level of the road approximately 3 feet, which would result in a narrower roadbed. Construction of the narrower, higher road segment would avoid encroachment into areas known to flood located on either side of the existing road. The access road would be gated at both ends and used only during emergency situations. The road surface would be comprised of three inches of base rock.

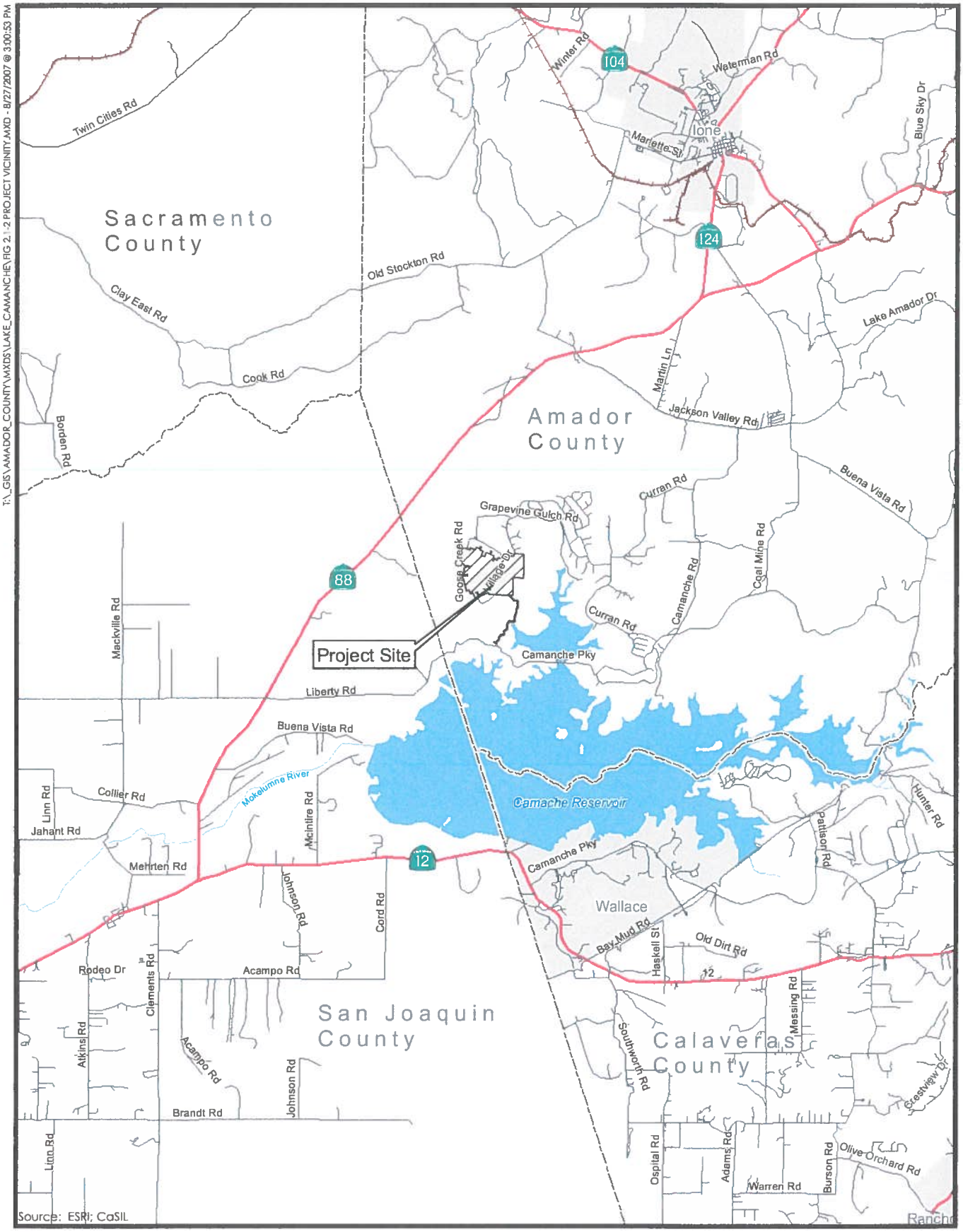


Figure 2.0-2
Project Vicinity

PMC

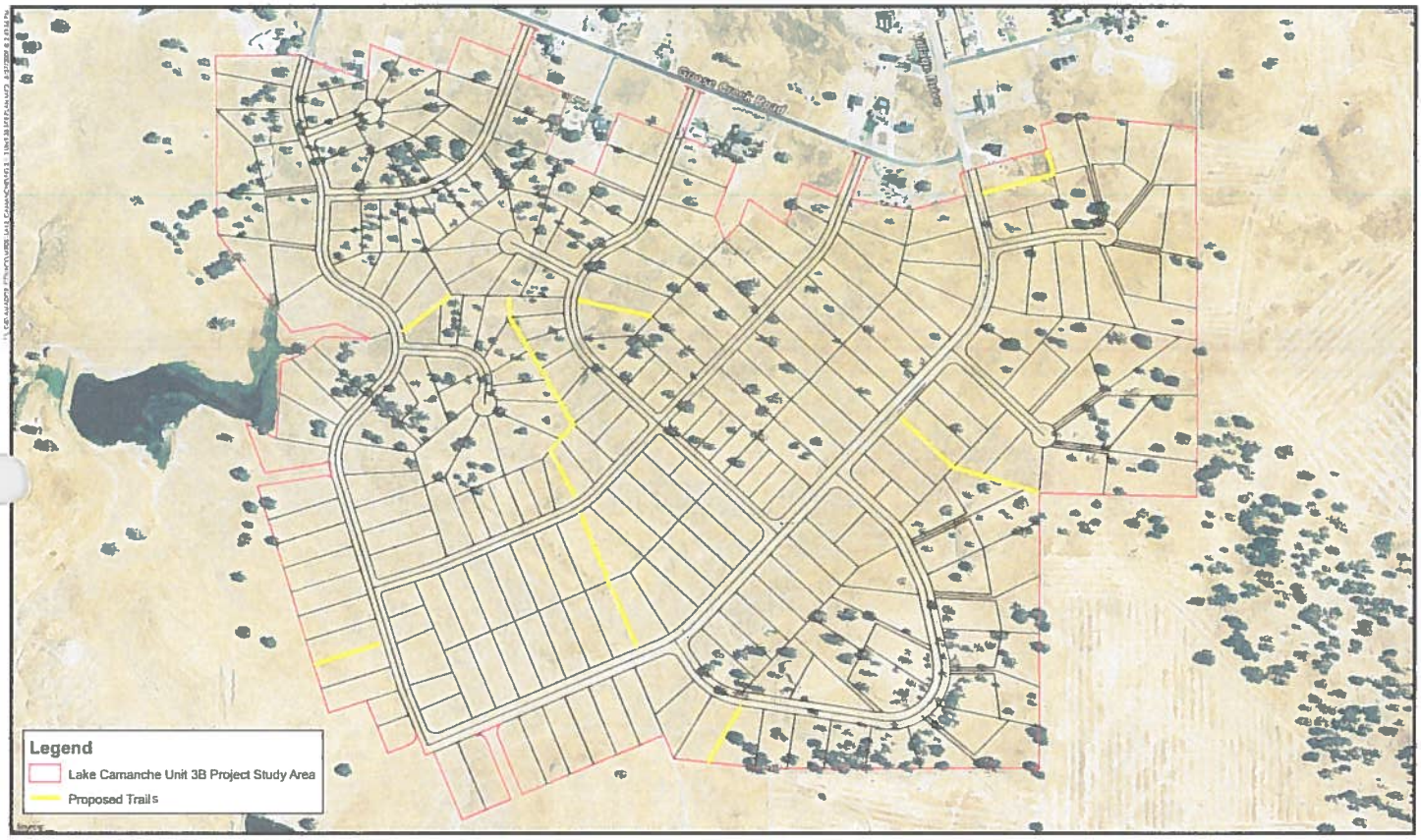


Figure 2.0-3
Site Plan for Lake Camanche Unit 3B Development
PMC

3.0 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides an evaluation of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project, including the CEQA Mandatory Findings of Significance. There are 16 specific environmental issues evaluated in this chapter. Cumulative impacts are evaluated in Chapter 4.0. The environmental issues evaluated in this chapter include:

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation/Traffic
- Utilities and Services Systems

For each issue area, one of four conclusions is made:

- ***No Impact:*** No project-related impact to the environment would occur with project development.
- ***Less than Significant Impact:*** The proposed project would not result in a substantial and adverse change in the environment. This impact level does not require mitigation measures.
- ***Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated:*** The proposed project would result in an environmental impact or effect that is potentially significant, but the incorporation of mitigation measure(s) would reduce the project-related impact to a less than significant level.
- ***Potentially Significant Impact:*** The proposed project would result in an environmental impact or effect that is potentially significant, and no mitigation can be identified that would reduce the impact to a less than significant level.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
3.1 AESTHETICS Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☒	☐

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project site is located in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The topography of both the site and the surrounding vicinity consists of rolling hills and valleys. Vegetation of the site and surrounding vicinity consists primarily of grasslands and mixed foothill woodlands. Surrounding land uses include residential units to the north, and open space to the east, south and west. Lake Camanche is approximately one mile south of the southern development boundary and is directly south of the proposed emergency access road.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

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

Less than Significant. Scenic vistas include natural features such as topography, water courses, rock outcrops, natural vegetation and man-made alterations to the landscape. As described above, the project site and surrounding vicinity is vegetated with oak trees and low-growing grasses and shrubs. The project site does not contain unique visual features that would distinguish this site from the surrounding forested area and is not located within a designated scenic vista. In addition, there are no distinct or distinguishing rock features. Construction of the proposed trails system and emergency access road would not require the removal of trees from the project site. Construction of the emergency access road and creation of the trails system are ground level improvements that would have no impact on scenic vistas. As a result, the project is anticipated to have a less than significant impact on a scenic vista.

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

Less than Significant. The nearest scenic highway is SR 49, over 10 miles east of the project site. The project site is not visible from SR 49; therefore, the project would not affect aesthetic resources within the proximity of a State scenic highway.

There are no identified historic buildings within or in the vicinity of the project site. The proposed project involves the construction and operation of a trails system within a development and emergency access road, and would not impact any nearby historic buildings or historic resources.

There are no identified distinctive rock outcroppings within the project site.

The project has been designed to minimize impacts to the surrounding landscape, slopes, and trees. Existing oak trees are not located within the proposed trail easements and emergency access road. This impact is less than significant.

c) *Would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?*

Less than Significant. The proposed trails system would run throughout a residential development. Any degradation the trails would have to the existing visual character of the site and its surroundings would not be visible due to the development surrounding it. The emergency access road would widen an existing dirt road by up to four feet and cover it with three inches of rock. The road would extend about 400 feet on each end to connect it to Church Hill Road on the North and Camanche Parkway North on the South (see **Figure 2.0-4**). Because a dirt road currently exists where the majority of the emergency access road is planned, and because the extensions to the road would connect to existing roadways, the emergency access road would not substantially degrade the visual quality of the existing site. While the visual character of the project site would change upon implementation of the project, this impact is considered less than significant and no mitigation is required.

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

Less than Significant. The proposed trails system and emergency access road are not designed to have lighting or other reflective surfaces that would create new sources of light or glare that would adversely affects daytime glare or nighttime lighting in the area. Therefore, this impact is considered less than significant.

CONCLUSION REGARDING AESTHETICS

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to aesthetics, light and glare.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
3.2 **AGRICULTURE RESOURCES** In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997), prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project site is located on privately owned land in Amador County. The project site and surrounding area has been used as grazing land. None of the lands within the project site are considered farmland or under Williamson Act contract.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

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

No Impact. No Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance exist within or adjacent to the project area. Implementation of the proposed project would not convert any Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance. There is no impact.

b) *Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?*

Less than Significant. The emergency access road would follow the route of an existing dirt road in land zoned for agricultural grazing use. The widening of this road would have only a marginal effect on agricultural use on site, and would not conflict with a Williamson Act Contract. The trails proposed for the project would be located within the approved Camanche 3B development, and thus are not in conflict with a Williamson Act Contract or land zoned for agricultural use. Therefore, the project would result in a less than significant impact on agricultural resources and Williamson Act Contracts.

c) *Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment, which due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?*

No Impact. Refer to discussion a) and b) above. The project would not result in conversion of farmland to a non-agricultural use.

CONCLUSION REGARDING AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

The project would result in less than significant impacts or no impacts to agricultural resources.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
3.3	**AIR QUALITY** Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b)	Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c)	Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d)	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e)	Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

CLIMATE AND METEOROLOGY

The project site is located in the western portion of the Mountain Counties Air Basin (Basin) of California, an approximately 11,000-square-mile area encompassing Plumas, Sierra, Nevada, Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, and Mariposa counties, in addition to the western slope of El Dorado County and the central portion of Placer County. The majority of the Basin is located in the northern Sierra Nevada with the western boundary of the basin extending into the Sacramento Valley. The project site lies within the jurisdiction of the Amador Air Pollution Control District (AAPCD).

The general climate of the Basin varies considerably with elevation and proximity to mountains. The terrain features of the Basin make it possible for various climates to exist within the general area. The pattern of mountains and hills is primarily responsible for the wide variations of rainfall, temperatures, and localized winds that occur throughout the region. Temperature variations have an important influence on basin wind flow, dispersion along mountain ridges, vertical mixing, and photochemistry. The Sierra Nevada receives large amounts of precipitation from storms moving over the continent from the Pacific Ocean. Precipitation in the Basin is highly variable, depending on elevation and location. Areas in the eastern portion of the Basin, with relatively high elevations, receive the most precipitation. Precipitation levels decline toward the western areas of the Basin. Climates vary from alpine in the high elevations of the eastern areas to more arid at the western edge of the Basin.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Various local, regional, state, and federal government agencies share the responsibility for air quality management in Amador County. At the local level, the AAPCD enforces local air quality rules and conducts local air quality planning. At the state level, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) sets emission standards for motor vehicles and oversees the actions of all air districts in the state in their efforts to control stationary sources emissions. Together, CARB and the air districts have the responsibility for attaining and maintaining the national and state ambient air quality standards. The air districts and CARB work jointly with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) to develop and implement the State Implementation Plan, or SIP, which is designed to achieve and maintain federal ambient air quality standards. The US EPA has authority under federal law to step in if state authorities do not meet their obligations in this regard.

Air Quality Standards

Ambient air quality is described in terms of compliance with state and national standards. Ambient air quality standards are the level of air pollutant concentration considered safe to protect the public health and welfare. These standards are designed to protect people most sensitive to respiratory distress, such as asthmatics, the elderly, very young children, people already weakened by other disease or illness, and persons engaged in strenuous work or exercise. National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) were originally established by the US EPA in 1971 for six air pollution constituents. The NAAQS have been periodically revised since 1971. States have the option to add other pollutants, to require more stringent compliance, or to include different exposure periods. California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) and NAAQS are listed in **Table 3.3-1**.

Criteria Pollutants

Criteria pollutants are those pollutants for which state or federal ambient air quality standards have been adopted. These pollutants and their health effects are described below. Applicable ambient air quality standards are summarized in **Table 3.3-1**.

Ozone

Ozone (O_3) is a colorless gas with a pungent odor that causes eye irritation and impairment of respiratory function. Ozone is a secondary pollutant, meaning that it is formed in the atmosphere as a result of the interaction of ultraviolet light, reactive organic gases, and nitrogen oxides (NO_x). ROG is composed of non-methane hydrocarbons. NO_x is made of different chemical combinations of nitrogen and oxygen, mainly nitrogen oxide (NO) and nitrogen dioxide (NO_2). Motor vehicles are the primary source of VOC and NO_x.

Carbon Monoxide

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas that causes a number of health problems including fatigue, headache, confusion, and dizziness. The incomplete combustion of petroleum fuels in on-road vehicles is a major cause of CO. CO is also produced during the winter from wood-burning stoves and fireplaces. CO tends to dissipate rapidly into the atmosphere; consequently, violations of the CO state and federal standard are generally limited to major intersections during peak hour traffic conditions where concentrations may result.

Nitrogen Dioxide

Nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), often used interchangeably with NO_x, is a reddish-brown gas that can cause an increase in the incidence of chronic bronchitis and lung irritation. Peak readings of NO_2 occur in areas that have a high concentration of combustion sources (e.g., motor vehicle engines, power plants, refineries, and other industrial operations) in the vicinity.

Particulate Matter

Particulate matter is made up of finely divided solids or liquids such as soot, dust, aerosols, fumes, and mists. About 90 percent by weight of particulate matter is larger than 10 microns, but approximately 90 percent of particulate matter by number is less than 5 microns in diameter. The aerosols formed in the atmosphere, primarily sulfate and nitrate, are usually smaller than 1 micron. Particulate matter consists of particles in the atmosphere resulting from many kinds of dust and fume-producing industrial and agricultural operations, from combustion, and from atmospheric photochemical reactions. Natural activities also put particulate matter into the atmosphere; wind-raised dust is one such source of particulate matter.

Health impacts from breathing particulate matter, which include lung irritation and damage, have resulted in revision of federal and state particulate standards to reflect particulate matter that is small enough to be inhaled. PM_{10} consists of atmospheric particulates measuring 10

TABLE 3.3-1
AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS

California [1]		National [2]	
Air Pollutant	**Concentration**	**Primary (>)**	**Secondary (>)**
Ozone	0.09 ppm, 1-hr avg	0.12 ppm, 1-hr avg 0.08 ppm, 8-hr avg[3]	0.12 ppm, 1-hr avg 0.08 ppm, 8-hr avg[3]
Carbon Monoxide	9.0 ppm, 8-hr avg 20 ppm, 1-hr avg	9 ppm, 8-hr avg 35 ppm, 1-hr avg	9 ppm, 8-hr avg 35 ppm, 1-hr avg
Nitrogen Dioxide	0.25 ppm, 1-hr avg	100 µg/m3 annual	100 µg/m3 annual
Sulfur Dioxide	0.04 ppm, 24-hr avg 0.25 ppm, 1-hr avg	0.03 ppm, annual avg 0.14 ppm, 24-hr avg	0.5 ppm, 3-hr avg
Respirable Particulate Matter (PM_{10})	20 µg/m3 annual arithmetic mean 50 µg/m3, 24-hr avg	50 µg/m3 annual arithmetic mean 150 µg/m3, 24-hr avg	50 µg/m3 annual arithmetic mean 150 µg/m3, 24-hr avg
Suspended Particulate Matter ($PM_{2.5}$)	12 µg/m3 annual arithmetic mean	15 µg/m3 annual arithmetic mean 65 µg/m3, 24-hr avg	15 µg/m3 annual arithmetic mean 65 µg/m3, 24-hr avg
Lead	1.5 µg/m3, 30-day avg	1.5 µg/m3 calendar quarter	1.5 µg/m3 calendar quarter
Sulfates	25 µg/m3, 24-hr avg	–	–
Hydrogen Sulfide	0.03 ppm, 1-hr avg	–	–
Vinyl Chloride	0.01 ppm, 24-hr avg	–	–

California [1]		National [2]	
Air Pollutant	Concentration	Primary (>)	Secondary (>)
Visibility Reducing Particles	In sufficient amount to produce an extinction coefficient of 0.23 per kilometer due to particles when the relative humidity is less than 70%.	–	–

[1] *California standards for ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide (1-hour), suspended particulate matter-PM10 visibility reducing particles, are values that are not to be exceeded. The sulfur dioxide (24-hour), sulfates, lead, hydrogen sulfide, and vinyl chloride standards are not to be equaled or exceeded.*

[2] *National standards, other than ozone and those based on annual averages or annual arithmetic means are not to be exceeded more than once a year. The ozone standard is attained when the expected number of days per calendar year with maximum hourly average concentrations above the standard is equal to or less than one.*

[3] *Based on newly established 8-hour EPA standard. The 0.12 ppm 1-hour standard will not be revoked in a given area until that area has achieved 3 consecutive years of air quality data meeting the 1-hour standard.*

ppm = parts per million by volume

µg/m3 = micrograms per cubic meter

Source: California Air Resources Board 2005

microns or less in diameter. In July 1997, EPA adopted a new federal ambient air quality standard for finer particulate matter, particulate matter of 2.5 microns or less in diameter ($PM_{2.5}$), to be used in conjunction with the federal PM_{10} standard.

Sulfur Dioxide and Lead

Sulfur dioxide (SO_2), used interchangeably with SO_x, is a colorless gas with a pungent, irritating odor. The major source of SO_2 emissions is fuel-burning equipment in which fuel oil and/or coal are consumed. SO_2 can cause a number of health problems including aggravation of chronic obstructive lung disease.

Lead is present in the atmosphere in particulate form. Sources include lead smelters and industrial operations. The health effects of lead poisoning include loss of appetite, weakness, apathy, and miscarriage; it can also cause lesions of the neuromuscular and circulatory system.

Toxic Air Contaminants

Toxic air contaminants (TACs) are pollutants that may result in an increase in mortality or serious illness or that may pose a present or potential hazard to human health. Health effects of TACs include cancer, birth defects, neurological damage, damage to the body's natural defense system, and diseases that lead to death. Since it is not practical to eliminate all TACs from our lives, these compounds are regulated through risk management programs. These programs are designed to ensure that the risk of adverse health effects from exposures to TACs is not significant. Toxic air contaminants and regulatory requirements applicable to the proposed project are summarized below:

Diesel-Exhaust Particulate Matter

The ARB identified particulate emissions from diesel-fueled engines (diesel-exhaust PM or DPM) as a TAC in August 1998. Diesel-exhaust PM is currently the ARB's primary TAC of concern for mobile sources, in part because, of all controlled TACs, diesel PM emissions are estimated to be responsible for approximately 70% of the total ambient TAC risk (ARB 2000). In 2000, the ARB

developed and approved the *Risk Reduction Plan to Reduce Particulate Matter Emissions from Diesel-Fueled Engines and Vehicles* and the *Risk Management Guidance for the Permitting of New Stationary Diesel-Fueled Engines*. The ARB is now implementing an aggressive plan to require cleaner diesel fuel and cleaner diesel engines and vehicles and is currently developing regulations designed to reduce diesel PM emissions from diesel-fueled engines and vehicles. The goal of each regulation is to make diesel engines as clean as possible by establishing state-of-the-art technology requirements or emission standards to reduce diesel PM emissions. These regulations require substantial reductions in diesel PM emissions beginning with the 2004 model year. Off-road vehicles will come under more stringent regulation beginning with the 2005 model year. Each of these sets of regulations will serve to significantly reduce diesel PM emissions and long-term human health risks attributable to diesel-fueled vehicles and equipment.

Attainment Status Designations

In accordance with federal and state law, the ARB is required to designate areas of the state as attainment, nonattainment, or unclassified for ambient air quality standards. An "Attainment" designation for an area signifies that pollutant concentrations did not violate the standard for that pollutant in that area. A "Nonattainment" designation indicates that a pollutant concentration violated the standard at least once, excluding those occasions when a violation was caused by an exceptional event, as defined in the criteria. An "Unclassified" designation signifies that data do not support either an attainment or nonattainment status. Nonattainment areas are divided into moderate, serious, and severe air pollution categories, with increasingly stringent control requirements mandated for each category. The attainment status designations for the Amador County portion of the Basin are summarized in **Table 3.3-2.**

TABLE 3.3-2
ATTAINMENT STATUS DESIGNATIONS AMADOR COUNTY

State Designation	Pollutant	Federal Designation
nonattainment	Ozone- 8 hour	nonattainment
unclassified	carbon monoxide	unclassified
unclassified	particulate matter (PM_{10})	unclassified
attainment	nitrogen dioxide	unclassified
attainment	sulfur dioxide	unclassified
attainment	sulfates	no federal standard
attainment	lead (Particulate)	no federal standard
unclassified	hydrogen sulfide	no federal standard
unclassified	visibility reducing particulates	no federal standard

Source: www.arrb.ca.gov 2007

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Amador Air District (AAD) recognizes the following qualitative thresholds of significance for air quality.

Qualitative thresholds include:

- Land use conflicts and exposure of sensitive receptors.
- Compliance with District rules and regulations.
- Potential to generate nuisance odors.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

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

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. The proposed project could result in a minor, temporary increase in ozone, PM_{10}, carbon monoxide, reactive organic compounds, or nitrogen oxides associated with short-term construction and long-term operation of the proposed project. *Significant increases in short-term or long-term project-generated* emissions may conflict with or obstruct implementation of air quality plans for the maintenance or attainment of ambient air quality standards. Short-term and long-term air quality impacts associated with the proposed project are discussed separately, as follows:

SHORT-TERM CONSTRUCTION

Rule 218- Fugitive Dust Emissions of the AAD Rule Books states that non-compliance with District standards consists of emissions that exceed 20% opacity or are otherwise considered a nuisance. Construction activities would include widening of the emergency access road, creating the connectors of the access road to the project site and Highway 88, and laying three inches of rock on the road, as well as construction of the trails system. At the time of the preparation of this initial study, detailed construction information (e.g., type of equipment, number of pieces of equipment, number of employees, etc.) was not available. However, construction of the emergency access road and trails system is expected to use only a small amount of equipment, as the amount of work being done for these roads is relatively minor. Therefore, to ensure compliance with AAD standards, basic construction mitigation must be implemented.

Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation measures shall be implemented:

MM 3.3.1a **Reduction of Fugitive Particulate Emissions (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$):** To reduce emissions of fugitive dust to a less than significant level:

- Exposed surfaces, graded areas, storage piles, and haul roads should be watered and kept moist at all times.
- Minimize the amount of disturbed area, the amount of material actively worked, and the amount of material stockpiled.
- Limit onsite construction vehicle speeds to 15 miles per hour.
- Sweep or wash paved streets adjacent to project construction sites at least once a day to remove accumulated dust.

- Maintain at least two feet of freeboard when transporting soil or other materials by truck.

Timing/Implementation: *Include as a note on all grading and improvement plans*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *Amador County Planning Department and the AAD.*

MM 3.3.1b **Reduction of Mobile-Source Emissions (ROG, NOx, PM10 and PM2.5):** The prime contractor shall submit to the AAD for approval an Off-road Construction Equipment Emission Reduction Plan prior to groundbreaking demonstrating that the heavy-duty (> 50 horsepower) off-road vehicles to be used in the construction project, including owned, leased, and subcontractor vehicles, will achieve a project wide fleet-average 20 percent NOx reduction and 40 percent particulate reduction compared to the most recent CARB fleet average at time of construction. Acceptable options for reducing emissions may include use of late model engines, low-emission diesel products, alternative fuels, engine retrofit technology, after-treatment products, and/or other options as they become available. The Plan shall include a comprehensive inventory of all off-road construction equipment, equal to or greater than 50 horsepower, that will be used an aggregate of 40 or more hours during any portion of the construction project.

- The inventory shall include the horsepower rating, engine production year, and projected hours of use or fuel throughput for each piece of equipment. The inventory shall be updated and submitted monthly throughout the duration of the project, except that an inventory shall not be required for any 30-day period in which no construction activity occurs. At least 48 hours prior to the use of subject heavy-duty off-road equipment, the project representative shall provide AAD with the anticipated construction timeline including start date, and name and phone number of the project manager and on-site foreman.

And:

- The project shall ensure that emissions from all off-road diesel powered equipment used on the project site do not exceed 40 percent opacity for more than three minutes in any one hour. Any equipment found to exceed 40 percent opacity shall be repaired immediately, and AAD shall be notified within 48 hours of identification of non-compliant equipment. A visual survey of all in-operation equipment shall be made at least weekly, and a monthly summary of the visual survey results shall be submitted throughout the duration of the project, except that the monthly summary shall not be required for any 30-day period in which no construction activity occurs. The monthly summary shall include the quantity and type of vehicles surveyed as well as the dates of each survey. The AAD and/or other officials may conduct periodic site inspections to determine compliance. Nothing in this section shall supersede either AAD or state rules or regulations.

Timing/Implementation: *Include as a note on all grading and improvement plans*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *Amador County Planning Department and AAD.*

Significance After Mitigation

With implementation of the above mitigation measures, which are considered feasible for the reduction of short-term construction-generated emissions, this impact would be considered **less than significant.**

LONG-TERM OPERATION

In the operational phase, the proposed project would consist of the operation of an emergency access road and a pedestrian/equestrian trail. Implementation of the proposed project would not result in a long-term increase in emissions that would exceed AAD-recommended significance thresholds of significance. The emergency access road would be gated and only used during emergency situations. Therefore, this road is not expected to generate a significant amount of traffic. Moreover, the road would be covered with three inches of rock, thereby suppressing the dust-related impacts of driving on a dirt road. The trails system is meant for pedestrian and equestrian use only. However, unauthorized motor vehicles may still have access to the trails system, causing dust and motor-vehicle related pollution.

Mitigation Measures

MM 3.3.2 Signs shall be installed at the trailhead informing motor vehicles that the trails on the project site are for pedestrians and equestrians only.

Timing/Implementation: *Upon completion of proposed trail improvements.*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *Amador County Planning Department*

Significance After Mitigation

Compliance with Mitigation Measure MM 3.3.2 and State and local regulatory requirements would be sufficient to ensure that long-term air quality impacts are reduced to a less-than-significant level.

b) *Would the project violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?*

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. See the discussion for a) above. Implementation of MM 3.3.1a &b and MM 3.3.2 would ensure a less than significant impact.

Mitigation Measures

Implement Mitigation Measure 3.3.1a & b.

Significance After Mitigation

Implementation of the above mitigation measures would be sufficient to ensure that any air quality violations associated with this project are reduced to a less-than-significant level.

c) *Would the project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?*

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. The primary criterion for determining whether a project has significant cumulative impacts is whether the project is consistent with an approved plan or mitigation program. This criterion is applicable to both the construction and operational phases of a project.

As noted in Impact a), implementation of the proposed project would not result in significant increases in operational emissions. However, significant increases in emissions of airborne particulate matter associated with short-term construction activities may occur. Because the project site is located in an area designated non-attainment for ozone, this impact is considered potentially significant.

Mitigation Measures

Implement Mitigation Measure 3.3.1a & b.

Significance After Mitigation

Implementation of the above mitigation measures would ensure that any cumulatively considerable increase of a criterion pollutant for which the region is in non-attainment is reduced to a less-than-significant level.

d) *Would the project result in significant construction-related air quality impacts?*

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. *See the discussion for a) above.*

Mitigation Measures

Implement Mitigation Measure 3.3.1a & b.

Significance After Mitigation

Implementation of the above mitigation measures would ensure that all potentially significant construction-related air impacts are reduced to a less-than-significant level.

e) *Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?*

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. "Sensitive receptors" to air quality issues are considered residences, schools, parks, hospitals, or other land uses where children or the elderly congregate, or where outdoor activity is the primary land use. Sensitive receptors located in the vicinity of the proposed project consist primarily of rural residential dwellings, the nearest of which is adjacent to one of the newly proposed trail easements.

Mitigation Measures

Implement Mitigation Measure 3.3.1a & b.

Significance After Mitigation

Implementation of the above mitigation measures would ensure that any exposed sensitive receptors of substantial pollutant concentrations caused by the construction of this project are reduced to a less-than-significant level.

f) *Would the project create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?*

Less than Significant The occurrence and severity of odor impacts depends on numerous factors, including: the nature, frequency, and intensity of the source; wind speed and direction; and the sensitivity of the receptors. While offensive odors rarely cause any physical harm, they still can be very unpleasant, leading to considerable distress among the public and often generating citizen complaints to local governments and regulatory agencies. Projects with the potential to frequently expose members of the public to objectionable odors would be deemed to have a significant impact.

SHORT-TERM CONSTRUCTION

Short-term construction activities would involve the use of a variety of gasoline or diesel powered engines that emit exhaust fumes. However, construction-related emissions would occur intermittently throughout the workday, and the exhaust odors would dissipate rapidly within the immediate vicinity of the equipment. Given the short-term nature of the construction activities, short-term emissions of odors would be considered less than significant.

LONG-TERM OPERATION

Restricted access to the secondary access road will ensure infrequent vehicular use. Therefore, no significant objectionable odors would be created in the operational phase of the access road. Equestrian use of the trails system would result in odorous biological waste, which some persons may consider objectionable. However, equestrian waste consists primarily of organic material (alpha, grasses, etc.) that biodegrade very quickly and do not emit odors for more than a few hours after "discharge". Therefore, the presence of manure on the trail network is not anticipated to result in odor impacts beyond the immediate vicinity of the source, and any noticeable odors would dissipate quickly. Therefore, this impact is considered less than significant.

CONCLUSIONS REGARDING AIR QUALITY

Compliance with the regulatory requirements established by the AAD and the implementation of **MM 3.3.1a & b and MM 3.3.2** would reduce air quality impacts to a less than significant level.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands, as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal wetlands, etc.), through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption or other means?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

For the purpose of evaluating potential impacts upon biological resources from the proposed project (see Section 2.0 Project Description) the analysis area for this initial study includes the Lake Camanche Village Unit 3B site and the proposed emergency access road, which is an existing dirt/gravel road that will be improved. An additional 25-foot direct and indirect impacts area from the edge of the existing access road is also included in this analysis. This 25-foot area surrounding the access road was selected in order to evaluate direct and indirect impacts from construction/widening of the road, which will be up to 4 feet beyond the existing alignment,

and the staging of equipment and materials adjacent to the road during construction. Unless otherwise stated, this analysis area herein is referred to as the Project Study Area (PSA).

A number of studies have been previously conducted (as listed below), but only of the Lake Camanche Village Unit 3B site, which does not include the entire emergency access roadway. The information contained within the previously prepared reports is summarized in the following paragraphs and the complete reports can be found in the appendices of this document. Information included within these studies was developed through a combination of literature review, database queries, and field/site review. Previously prepared studies include the following reports:

- Preliminary Wetland Delineation prepared by Moore Biological Consultants in 2005;
- Wet and Dry Season Crustacean surveys conducted by ECORPS Consulting, Inc. and Helm Biological Consulting in 2005 and 2006; and
- California Tiger Salamander habitat assessment conducted by ECORPS Consulting, Inc. in 2006.

A PMC biologist reviewed the studies listed above. On August 1, 2007 reconnaissance-level site visit was conducted by a PMC biologist to determine if suitable habitat for special-status species occurs within the PSA.

The PSA is located just north of Camanche Reservoir in Amador County, California (see **Figure 2.0-2**). The PSA is located within an unnumbered section of Township 5 North, Range 9 East on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute *Ione* topographic quadrangle map (USGS 1978). The PSA consists of rolling foothill annual grasslands; some areas have been planted with grain crops such as common wheat (*Triticum aestivum*). Elevations at the PSA range between approximately 250 and 350 feet above mean sea level (MSL). The PSA is largely undeveloped; however, there are a few improvements such as wells and dirt/gravel roads, and portions of the PSA are grazed by livestock. The surrounding vicinity is comparable to the PSA, comprising mixed foothill woodlands and annual grasslands with a mix of rangeland, recreation, and rural residential uses. Private hunting club properties are found just east and south of the Lake Camanche Unit 3B site and along the proposed secondary access road. Land generally south of the PSA is protected watershed land owned by the East Bay Municipal Utility District.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

FEDERAL

Endangered Species Act

Provisions of the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA), as amended (16 USC 1531), protect federally listed threatened and endangered species and their habitats from unlawful take. "Take" under FESA includes activities such as "harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct." The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regulations define harm to include some types of "significant habitat modification or degradation." The United States Supreme Court ruled on June 29, 1995, that "harm" may include habitat modification "...where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding or sheltering." For projects with a federal nexus, Section 7 of FESA requires that federal agencies, in consultation with the USFWS or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries, use

their authorities to further the purpose of FESA and to ensure that their actions are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or result in destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. Section 10(a)(1)(B) allows non-federal entities to obtain permits for incidental taking of threatened or endangered species through consultation with USFWS or NOAA Fisheries.

Clean Water Act, Section 404

The objective of the Clean Water Act (CWA 1977, as amended) is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters. Discharge of fill material into waters of the U.S., including wetlands, is regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) under Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act (33 USC 1251-1376). ACOE regulations implementing Section 404 define waters of the U.S. to include intrastate waters, including lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, and natural ponds, the use, degradation or destruction of which could affect interstate or foreign commerce. Wetlands are defined for regulatory purposes as "areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions" (33 CFR 328.3; 40 CFR 230.3). The jurisdictional boundaries for other waters of the U.S. are identified based on the presence of an ordinary high water mark (OHWM) as defined in 33 CFR 328.3(e). The placement of structures in "navigable waters of the U.S." is also regulated by the ACOE under Section 10 of the federal Rivers and Harbors Act (33 USC 401 et seq.). Projects are permitted under either individual or general (e.g., nationwide) permits. Specific applicability of permit type is determined by the ACOE on a case-by-case basis.

In 1987 the ACOE published a manual that standardized the manner in which wetlands were to be delineated nationwide. To determine whether areas that appear to be wetlands are subject to ACOE jurisdiction (i.e., are "jurisdictional" wetlands), a wetlands delineation must be performed. Under normal circumstances, positive indicators from three parameters, (1) wetland hydrology, (2) hydrophytic vegetation, and (3) hydric soils must be present to classify a feature as a jurisdictional wetland. More recently, the ACOE developed the Arid West Regional Supplement (Supplement) (ACOE 2006) for identifying wetlands and distinguishing them from aquatic habitats and other nonwetlands. The Supplement presents wetland indicators, delineation guidance, and other information that is specific to the Arid West Region. For any wetland delineations submitted after June 5, 2007, the ACOE is requiring that the site be surveyed according to both the 1987 manual and the Supplement guidelines. In addition to verifying wetlands for potential jurisdiction, the ACOE is responsible for the issuance of permits for projects that propose filling of wetlands. Any permanent loss of a jurisdictional wetland as a result of project construction activities is considered a significant impact.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Migratory birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 (16 USC 703-711). The MBTA makes it unlawful to take, possess, buy, sell, purchase, or barter any migratory bird listed in 50 CFR Part 10, including feathers or other parts, nests, eggs, or products, except as allowed by implementing regulations (50 CFR 21). The vast majority of birds found in the PSA are protected under the MBTA.

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

The bald eagle and golden eagle are federally protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668c). It is illegal to take, possess, sell, purchase, barter, offer to sell

or purchase or barter, transport, export, or import at any time or in any manner a bald or golden eagle, alive or dead; or any part, nest or egg of these eagles unless authorized by the Secretary of the Interior. Violations are subject to fines and/or imprisonment for up to one year. Active nest sites are also protected from disturbance during the breeding season.

STATE

California Endangered Species Act

Under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) has the responsibility for maintaining a list of endangered and threatened species (California Fish and Game Code 2070). CDFG maintains a list of "candidate species" which are species that CDFG formally notices as being under review for addition to the list of endangered or threatened species. CDFG also maintains lists of "species of special concern" which serve as species "watch lists." Pursuant to the requirements of CESA, an agency reviewing a proposed project within its jurisdiction must determine whether any state-listed endangered or threatened species may be present in the project site and determine whether the proposed project will have a potentially significant impact on such species. In addition, CDFG encourages informal consultation on any proposed project that may impact a candidate species.

Project-related impacts to species on the CESA endangered or threatened list would be considered significant. State-listed species are fully protected under the mandates of CESA. "Take" of protected species incidental to otherwise lawful management activities may be authorized under *California Fish and Game Code Section 206.591*. Authorization from the CDFG would be in the form of an Incidental Take Permit.

California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Clean Water Act, Section 401 Water Quality Certification

Section 401 of the Clean Water Act requires any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct any activity that may result in a discharge of a pollutant into waters of the U. S. obtain a certification that the discharge will comply with the applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards. The appropriate Regional Water Quality Control Board (in California) regulates section 401 requirements.

California Department of Fish and Game

Streambed Alteration Agreement (Sections 1600-1607 of the California Fish and Game Code)

State and local public agencies are subject to Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code, which governs construction activities that will substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow or substantially change the bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake designated by the CDFG. Under Section 1602, a discretionary Stream Alteration Agreement permit from the CDFG (Region 2 for the proposed Project) must be issued by CDFG to the project developer prior to the initiation of construction activities within lands under CDFG jurisdiction. As a general rule, this requirement applies to any work undertaken within the 100-year floodplain of a stream or river containing fish or wildlife resources.

Native Plant Protection Act

The Native Plant Protection Act (*California Fish and Game Code Section. 1900-1913*) prohibits the taking, possessing, or sale within the state of any plants with a state designation of rare, threatened, or endangered (as defined by CDFG). An exception to this prohibition in the Act allows landowners, under specified circumstances, to take listed plant species, provided that the owners first notify CDFG and give that state agency at least 10 days to come and retrieve (and presumably replant) the plants before they are plowed under or otherwise destroyed (*Fish and Game Code, § 1913* exempts from "take" prohibition "the removal of endangered or rare native plants from a canal, lateral ditch, building site, or road, or other right of way"). Project impacts to these species are not considered significant unless the species are known to have a high potential to occur within the area of disturbance associated with construction of the proposed project.

Birds of Prey

Under *Section 3503.5 of the California Fish and Game Code* it is unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any birds in the orders of Falconiformes or Strigiformes (birds of prey) or to take, possess, or destroy the nest or eggs of any such bird except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto.

"Fully Protected" Species

California statutes also accord "fully protected" status to a number of specifically identified birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. These species cannot be "taken," even with an incidental take permit.

Section 3505 of the California Fish and Game Code makes it unlawful to "take" "any aigrette or egret, osprey, bird of paradise, goura, numidi, or any part of such a bird." Section 3511 protects from "take" the following "fully protected birds": (a) American peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*); (b) brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*); (c) California black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus*); (d) California clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris obsoletus*); (e) California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*); (f) California least tern (*Sterna albifrons browni*); (g) golden eagle; (h) greater sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis tabida*); (i) light-footed clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris levipes*); (j) southern bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus*); (k) trumpeter swan (*Cygnus buccinator*); (l) white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*); and (m) Yuma clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris yumanensis*).

California Fish and Game Code Section 4700 identifies the following "fully protected mammals" that cannot be "taken": (a) Morro Bay kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys heermanni morroensis*); (b) bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*), except Nelson bighorn sheep (subspecies *Ovis canadensis nelsoni*); (d) Guadalupe fur seal (*Arctocephalus townsendi*); (e) ring-tailed cat (genus *Bassariscus*); (f) Pacific right whale (*Eubalaena sieboldi*); (g) salt-marsh harvest mouse (*Reithrodontomys raviventris*); (h) southern sea otter (*Enhydra lutris nereis*); and (i) wolverine (*Gulo gulo*).

Fish and Game Code Section 5050 protects from "take" the following "fully protected reptiles and amphibians": (a) blunt-nosed leopard lizard (*Crotaphytus wislizenii silus*); (b) San Francisco garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia*); (c) Santa Cruz long-toed salamander (*Ambystoma macrodactylum croceum*); (d) limestone salamander (*Hydromantes brunus*); and (e) black toad (*Bufo boreas exsul*).

Fish and Game Code Section 5515 also identifies certain "fully protected fish" that cannot lawfully be "taken" even with an incidental take permit. The following species are protected in this fashion: (a) Colorado River squawfish (*Ptychocheilus lucius*); (b) thicktail chub (*Gila crassicauda*); (c) Mohave chub (*Gila mohavensis*); (d) Lost River sucker (*Catostomus luxatus*); (e) Modoc sucker (*Catostomus microps*); (f) shortnose sucker (*Chasmistes brevirostris*); (g) humpback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*); (h) Owens River pupfish (*Cyprinoden radiosus*); (i) unarmored threespine stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni*); and (j) rough sculpin (*Cottus asperrimus*).

BIOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES

The vegetation communities found within the PSA consist of California annual grassland and blue oak woodland (**Figure 3.4-1**). The annual grasslands consist of both native and non-native species. Dominant plant species observed within the annual grasslands include ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), soft chess (*Bromus hordeaceus*), ryegrass (*Lolium* spp.), red brome (*Bromus madritensis* ssp. rubens), Mediterranean barley (*Hordeum marinum* ssp. *gussoneanum*), foxtail barley (*Hordeum murinum*), rose clover (*Trifolium hirtum*), miner's lettuce (*Claytonia perfoliata*), clarkia (*Clarkia* spp.), dove-foot geranium (*Geranium molle*), vetch (*Vicia* spp.), filaree (*Erodium botrys*), and shortpod mustard (*Hirshfeldia incana*). The blue oak community is dominated by blue oaks (*Quercus douglasii*), but also includes interior live oak (*Quercus wislizenii*), and valley oak (*Quercus lobata*). The blue oak woodland community is primarily two-tiered consisting of a mature canopy and herbaceous ground cover, with little to no sub-canopy or understory. The herbaceous layer within the blue oak woodland community is similar to the composition of the annual grassland community.

The few shrubs observed within the PSA consist of buckeye (*Aesculus californica*) and one blue elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*). The one elderberry shrub is located adjacent to an existing dirt/gravel road near the south end of the proposed secondary access route. During the 2007 site visit conducted by PMC, this shrub appeared to be nearly dead; however, the shrub did have one live stem that measured over 1 inch in diameter. No exit holes were observed in the one live stem.

Aquatic habitats present within the PSA consist of wetland swales, vernal pools, seasonal wetlands, man-made ponds, and ephemeral to intermittent drainages. Wetland features within the Lake Camanche Village Unit 3B site were identified and mapped by Moore Biological Consultants in 2005 (**Appendix A**); they identified 21 seasonal wetlands (approximately 3.5 acres in total) including ten wetland swales (3.02 acres), two seeps (0.05 acre), three vernal pools (0.13 acre), and six seasonal wetlands (0.26 acre). These features have not been verified by the ACOE and may or may not be considered jurisdictional by the ACOE. Potential waters of the U.S. have not been mapped within the proposed emergency access road area.

SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES

Special-status species are plant and animal species that have been afforded special recognition by federal, state, or local resource agencies or organizations. Special-status species are of relatively limited distribution and may require specialized habitat conditions. Special-status species are defined as:

- Listed or proposed for listing under the state or Federal Endangered Species acts;
- Protected under other regulations (e.g. Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act);

- CDFG Species of Special Concern;
- Listed as species of concern by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) (List 1a, 1b, 2, 3 and 4); and/or
- Receive consideration during environmental review under CEQA.

The CDFG Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) (CDFG 2007) was reviewed to identify any special-status species that have been documented within the PSA and/or within the vicinity (5-mile radius from outer edge of the PSA boundary). In addition, the USFWS online species lists for the *Ione* 7.5-minute USGS quadrangle was reviewed for federally listed and/or candidate plant and wildlife species that could potentially be affected by the proposed action (USFWS 2007a). The CNPS inventory was also searched for rare or endangered plants that may occur within the PSA or vicinity (CNPS 2001).

The results of the above database searches are provided in **Table 3.4-1**. **Table 3.4-1** describes potentially occurring special-status species, their federal, state and CNPS list status, basic biology and habitat, a general assessment of whether the PSA contains suitable habitat for the species in question, and the rationale for that assessment. **Figure 3.4-2** illustrates the proximity of known locations of special-status species to the PSA.

SPECIAL-STATUS PLANTS

A search of the CNPS inventory, USFWS online species list, and the CNDDB has identified eight special-status plants as potentially occurring within the project vicinity (**Table 3.4-1**). Habitats for these target species include Ione chaparral, cismontane woodlands, valley and foothill grasslands, vernal pools, and seasonal wetlands. Foothill grasslands, small patches of blue oak woodlands, vernal pools, and seasonal wetlands have been identified within the PSA (**Figure 3.4-1**). According to the CNDDB, the nearest Ione chaparral habitat is located approximately four miles northeast of the PSA. Furthermore, according to the CNDDB, none of the special-status plant species occur within one mile of the PSA.

Half of the plants listed in **Table 3.4-1** are found on specific soils such as gabbroic, volcanic, and Ione series. These plants include Bisbee Peak rush-rose (*Helianthemum suffrutescens*), Ione buckwheat (*Eriogonum apricum* var. *apricum*), Ione Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos myrtifolia*), and Parry's horkelia (*Horkelia parryi*). According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture soil survey for the Amador Area, California (USDA 1993) (see Routine Wetland Delineation Report, **Appendix A**), the following soils are present on the Lake Camanche Unit 3B site:

- Pentz sandy loam, very shallow, 2-15% slopes;
- Pentz sandy loam, 2-16% slopes; and
- Inks loam and rock land, 3-45% slopes.

The soils mapped within the PSA are not representative of the soils where these four plant species would typically be found. However, the wetland features within the PSA may support special-status species including Boggs Lake hedge-hyssop (*Gratiola heterosepala*), Henderson's bent grass (*Agrostis hendersonii*), legenere (*Legenere limosa*), and pincushion navarretia (*Navarretia myersii* ssp. *myersii*).

INSERT FIGURE 3.4-1

INSERT FIGURE 3.4-2

SPECIAL-STATUS ANIMALS

Based on a search of the CNDDB and the USFWS online species list, and local knowledge of each species, 12 special-status wildlife species have been identified as potentially occurring within the PSA (**Table 3.4-1**). Based on field observations and literature review, the potential for occurrence has been evaluated for each species. According to the CNDDB, only one of the identified wildlife species, California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*), occurs within one mile of the PSA.

Raptors & Other Migratory Birds

Several raptor species, such as red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) and red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), forage and nest in a variety of habitats throughout Amador County. Raptor nests are protected under the MBTA and Section 3503.5 of the California Fish and Game Code, which makes it illegal to destroy any active raptor nest. Large trees in the PSA and in the vicinity may provide nesting habitat for raptor species and other migratory birds. In addition, foraging habitat for raptors and migratory birds occurs within the annual grasslands within the PSA. Consequently, raptors and other migratory birds have potential to occur within the PSA.

SENSITIVE HABITATS

Waters of the U.S., Including Wetlands

Sensitive habitats present in the PSA include wetland swales, vernal pools, seasonal wetlands, man-made ponds, and ephemeral to intermittent drainages. These potential waters of the U.S., identified and mapped by Moore Biological Consultants in 2005 (**Appendix A**), have not been verified by the ACOE and may or may not be considered jurisdictional. The wetland features within the PSA may potentially support special-status species including Boggs Lake hedge-hyssop (*Gratiola heterosepala*), Henderson's bent grass (*Agrostis hendersonii*), legenere (*Legenere limosa*), pincushion navarretia (*Navarretia myersii* ssp. *myersii*), California tiger salamander, and western spadefoot toad (*Scaphiopus hammondii*).

Oak Woodlands

Pursuant to Section 21083.4 of the State of California Public Resources Code, an oak is defined as "a native tree species in the genus Quercus, not designated as Group A or Group B commercial species pursuant to regulations adopted by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection pursuant to Section 4526, and that is five inches or more in diameter at breast height." The PSA has numerous trees that are five inches in diameter at breast height (dbh) or larger. Species composition includes primarily blue oak with minor components of interior live oak, valley oak, black oak (Quercus kelloggii), and grey pine (Pinus sabiniana). An Arborist Report has not been prepared for the PSA.

TABLE 3.4-1
SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES POTENTIALLY OCCURRING IN THE VICINITY OF THE PROJECT

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status FED/ST/ CNPS	General Habitat Description	Potential to Occur?	Rationale
Plants				
Bisbee Peak rush-rose *Helianthemum suffrutescens*	~/~/3	Perennial evergreen shrub. Chaparral (often serpentinite, gabbroic or lone soil). Blooming period: April – June. Elevation: 45 – 840 m.	No	Chaparral and typical supporting soils not observed or mapped onsite. While a focused plant survey of the entire PSA has not been conducted, it is highly unlikely this plant would be found as supporting habitat is not present. There are no known occurrences within 5 miles of the site.
Boggs Lake hedge-hyssop *Gratiola heterosepala*	~/CE/1B	Annual herb. Found in shallow waters or moist clay soils of vernal pools and lake margins. Blooming period: April - Aug Elevation: 10 – 2,375 m.	Yes	The vernal pools/seasonal wetlands onsite may provide suitable habitat for this species. There are six known occurrences within 5 miles of the PSA.
Henderson's bent grass *Agrostis hendersonii*	~/~/3	Annual herb. Valley and foothill grassland vernal pools and seasonal wetlands. Blooming period: April – May. Elevation: 70-305 m.	Yes	The vernal pools/seasonal wetlands onsite may provide suitable habitat for this species. There is one known occurrence within 5 miles of the PSA.
Ione buckwheat *Eriogonum apricum* var. *apricum*	FE/CE/1B	Perennial herb. Chaparral, within openings on Ione formation soils. Endemic to Amador County. Blooming period: July – Oct. Elevation: 60 – 145 m.	No	Ione formation soils and Ione chaparral not observed or mapped onsite. While a focused plant survey of the entire PSA has not been conducted, it is highly unlikely this plant would be found as supporting habitat is not present. There is one known occurrence approx. 5 miles from the PSA.
Ione manzanita *Arctostaphylos myrtifolia*	FT/~/1B	Evergreen shrub. Chaparral and cismontane woodland, within openings on Ione formation soils. Blooming period: Nov. – Feb. Elevation: 60 – 580 m.	No	Ione formation soils and Ione chaparral not observed or mapped onsite. While a focused plant survey of the entire PSA has not been conducted, it is highly unlikely this plant would be found as supporting Ione formation soils not mapped for the PSA. There are five known occurrences approx. 4-5 miles from the PSA.
Legenere *Legenere limosa*	~/~/1B	Annual herb. Found on moist or wet ground, associated with vernal pools, vernal marshes, lakes, ponds and sloughs. Blooming period: April - June Elevation: 1 – 880 m.	Yes	The vernal pools/seasonal wetlands onsite may provide suitable habitat for this species. There is one known occurrence within 5 miles of the PSA.

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status FED/ST/ CNPS	General Habitat Description	Potential to Occur?	Rationale
Parry's horkelia *Horkelia parryi*	~/~/1B	Perennial herb. Chaparral, Cismontane woodland/especially lone formation. Blooming period: April – Sept. Elevation: 80 - 1,035 m.	No	lone formation soils and lone chaparral not observed onsite. While a focused plant survey of the entire PSA has not been conducted, it is highly unlikely this plant would be found as supporting habitat is not present. There are three known occurrences approx. 5 miles from the PSA.
Pincushion navarretia *Navarretia myersii* ssp. *myersii*	~/~/1B	Annual herb. Vernal pools. Blooming period: April – May. Elevation: 20 – 330 m.	Yes	The vernal pools/seasonal wetlands onsite may provide suitable habitat for this species. There is one known occurrence within 5 miles of the PSA.
Invertebrates				
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle (VELB) *Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*	FT/~	Associated exclusively with elderberry shrubs (*Sambucus* spp.) in Central Valley and foothills during its entire life cycle; larvae bore into elderberry stems and feed upon the pith during their 2-year life cycle.	Yes	One elderberry shrub is located adjacent to the proposed access road alignment. This shrub is nearly dead, but did have one live stem ≥1 inch in diameter. No exit holes were observed. There is one known occurrence within 5 miles of the PSA, south of Lake Camanche.
Vernal pool fairy shrimp *Branchinecta lynchi*	FT/~	Vernal pools, swales, and ephemeral freshwater habitat.	Yes	Wet and dry season surveys conducted for all suitable habitats within the Lake Camanche Village Unit 3B site with negative results; however, potential habitat has not been identified or surveyed within the access road corridor. There are two occurrences within 5 miles of the PSA.
Vernal pool tadpole shrimp *Lepidurus packardi*	FE/~	Occurs in vernal pools and other seasonal freshwater habitats.	Yes	Wet and dry season surveys conducted for all suitable habitats within the Lake Camanche Village Unit 3B site with negative results; however, potential habitat has not been identified or surveyed within the access road corridor. There is one occurrence within 5 miles of the PSA.
Amphibians				
California red-legged frog *Rana aurora draytonii*	FT/CSC	Lowlands and foothill streams, pool, and marshes in or near permanent or late season sources of deep water with dense, shrubby, riparian, or emergent vegetation (e.g. ponds, perennial drainages, well-developed riparian) below 3,936 ft. in elevation. Breeds late December to early April.	No	The PSA does not contain suitable habitat and there are no known occurrences with 5 miles of the PSA.

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status FED/ST/ CNPS	General Habitat Description	Potential to Occur?	Rationale
California tiger salamander *Ambystoma californiense*	FT/CSC	Breeds in seasonal water bodies such as deep vernal pools or stock ponds. Requires small mammal burrows for summer refugia.	Yes	There are nine known occurrences of CTS within 5 miles of the PSA. According to the CTS assessment within the Lake Camanche Village Unit 3B site, this area contains very limited breeding habitat; however, the PSA could contain aestivation habitat and could act as a dispersal corridor. Furthermore, the western edge of the PSA is located within critical habitat for this species.
Western spadefoot toad *(Spea hammondii)*	~/CSC	Occurs primarily in grasslands in the vicinity of temporary pools , but occasional populations also occur in valley-foothill hardwood woodlands up to 4,500 ft.	Yes	The vernal pools/seasonal wetlands within the PSA may provide suitable habitat for this species. There is one known occurrence within 5 miles of the PSA, west of Lake Camanche.
Birds				
Swainson's hawk *Buteo swainsoni*	~/CT	Nests in isolated trees or riparian woodlands adjacent to suitable foraging habitat (agricultural fields, grasslands, etc.). Breeds March to August.	Yes	The PSA contains suitable breeding and foraging habitat. There is one known nesting occurrence within 5 miles of the PSA.
Tricolored blackbird *Agelaius tricolor*	~/CSC	Breeds in freshwater wetlands, with tall dense vegetation including tule, cattail, blackberry and rose. Forages in grasslands and croplands. Resident year-round. Breeds April to July.	No	Although there are two one known occurrences within 5 miles of the PSA, south of Lake Camanche, suitable habitat for this species is not present within the PSA.
Yellow-breasted chat *Icteria virens*	~/CSC	Nests in second-growth, dense riparian thickets and brush. An uncommon summer resident and migrant. Breeds May to August.	No	Although there is one known occurrence within 5 miles of the PSA, west of Lake Camanche, suitable habitat for this species is not present within the PSA.
Mammals				
Pallid bat *Antrozous pallidus*	~/CSC	Occurs in grassland, shrubland, woodland, and forests from sea level up through higher elevation mixed conifer forests. Species is most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting. Roosts are typically in caves, crevices, mines, and occasionally in hollow trees and buildings.	Yes	The CNDDB typically does not have records for bat species and it is not used as an indicator of presence in this case. There is suitable habitat within PSA.
Spotted bat *Euderma maculatum*	~/CSC	Habitats occupied include arid deserts, grasslands and mixed conifer forests. Prefers to roost in rock crevices. Occasionally found in caves and buildings. Cliffs provide optimal roosting habitat.	No	The CNDDB typically does not have records for bat species and it is not used as an indicator of presence in this case. There is no suitable habitat within PSA.

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status FED/ST/ CNPS	General Habitat Description	Potential to Occur?	Rationale
Townsend's big-eared bat *Corynorhinus townsendii*	-/CSC	Found in all but subalpine and alpine habitats throughout CA. Requires caves, mines, tunnels, buildings, or other human-made structures for roosting, which is the most important limiting resource.	No	The CNDDB typically does not have records for bat species and it is not used as an indicator of presence in this case. There is no suitable habitat within PSA.

CODE DESIGNATIONS

Federal	***State***	***CNPS***	***Other***
FE – Listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act	*CE – Listed as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act*	*1B – Rare or Endangered in California and Elsewhere*	*SLC – Species of Local or Regional Concern or conservation significance*
FT – Listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act	*CT – Listed as threatened under the California Endangered Species Act*	*1A – Plants presumed extinct in California*	*MBTA – Migratory Bird Treaty Act*
FC – Candidate for listing (threatened or endangered) under Endangered Species Act	*CSC – Species of Special Concern as identified by the CDFG*	*List 2 – Rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere.*	*ESU – Evolutionary Significant Unit is a distinctive population.*
D – Delisted in accordance with the Endangered Species Act	*CFP – Listed as fully protected under CCDFG code*	*List 3 – More information is needed about this plant.*	
	CR – Rare in California	*List 4 – Plants with a limited distribution*	

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria utilized to determine the project's impacts on biological resources were based on federal, state, and local requirements, regulations, and policies (including FESA, CESA, CEQA, and the California Fish and Game Code. An impact is considered significant if it would:

1) Substantially reduce the habitat of any fish or wildlife species;

2) Cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self sustaining levels;

3) Threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community;

4) Reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare or threatened species;

5) Cause a substantial adverse impact, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species not formally listed under ESA or CESA as "endangered," "threatened," or "rare" but identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special stats species in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by CDFG or USFWS;

6) Cause a substantial adverse impact on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the CDFG or USFWS;

7) Adversely impact federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) either individually or in combination with the known or probable impacts of other activities through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means;

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

9) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as tree preservation policy or ordinance; or

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

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

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

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. As indicated in **Table 3.4-1**, a total of nine special-status species have potential to occur within the PSA and vicinity and may be impacted as a result of implementation of the project. A brief account of each species is provided below along with a discussion of potential impacts.

PLANTS

Four special-status plant species have potential to occur within the PSA including Boggs Lake hedge-hyssop, Henderson's bent grass, legenere, and pincushion navarretia. Brief species accounts are provided below.

Boggs Lake Hedge Hyssop

Boggs Lake hedge-hyssop is state listed as endangered and is a CNPS List 1B plant. This species occurs in the margins of marshes and swamps, and vernal pools with clay soil conditions at elevations ranging from approximately 10 to 2,375 meters (33 to 7,792 feet) above MSL. This species is an annual herb that blooms from April through August. There are four known occurrences of Boggs Lake hedge-hyssop within five miles of the project site (CDFG 2007). The vernal pool habitat in the PSA is considered potential habitat for this species.

Henderson's Bent Grass

Henderson's bent grass, a CNPS List 3 plant, blooms April through May and occurs at elevations ranging from 70 to 305 meters (230 to 1,001 feet) above MSL. This species occurs around the margins of vernal pools and in thin soils in mesic grassland. There is one known occurrence of Henderson's bent grass located within five miles of the project site (CDFG 2007). The vernal pool habitat in the PSA is considered potential habitat for this species.

Legenere

Legenere is a CNPS List 1B species. This annual herb blooms from April through June and occurs at elevations ranging from approximately from 1 to 880 meters (3 to 2,800 feet) above MSL. Habitat for legenere consists of vernal pools, marshes, and seasonal wetlands. The CNDDB lists one record of this species within five miles of the project site (CDFG 2007). The vernal pool habitat in the PSA is considered potential habitat for this species.

Pincushion Navarretia

Pincushion navarretia is a CNPS List 1B species. This annual herb blooms April through May and occurs at elevations ranging from 20 to 330 meters (66 to 1,083 feet) above MSL. Pincushion navarretia is a strict vernal pool endemic and is typically occupies small and/or shallow vernal pools with "flashy" hydrology. The CNDDB lists one record of this species within five miles of the project site (CDFG 2007). The vernal pool habitat in the PSA is considered potential habitat for this species.

Potential for Impacts

The seasonal wetlands and vernal pools identified within the Lake Camanche Village Unit 3B site represent potential habitat for the aforementioned plant species. Suitable habitat for these plants species occurs both within vernal pools and seasonal wetlands identified in the wetland delineation report, but also in seasonal wetland features which may be present within the access road corridor. Construction activities proposed within the PSA could potentially result in adverse impacts to the aforementioned plant species; this is considered a potentially significant impact. The implementation of mitigation measures will reduce this effect to a less than significant level.

Mitigation Measures

MM 3.4.1 Focused surveys to determine the presence of the four special-status plant species with potential to occur at the project site listed in **Table 3.4-1** shall be conducted in accordance with CDFG approved guidelines for conducting field surveys. Specifically, the guidelines are outlined in: Guidelines for Assessing Effects of Proposed Developments on Rare Plants and Plant Communities, James R. Nelson, California Native Plant Society's INVENTORY of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California, February 1994, Special Publication No. 1, Fifth Edition. These guidelines require rare plant surveys to be: Conducted at the proper time of year when rare or endangered species are both "evident" and identifiable. Field surveys shall be scheduled to coincide with known flowering periods, and/or during periods of phonological development that are necessary to identify the plant species of concern.

Timing/Implementation: *Prior to construction activities.*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *Amador County Planning Department.*

MM 3.4.2 If any of the species are found on-site from the implementation of MM 3.4.1, and cannot be avoided, a transplanting program will be undertaken (if feasible) to move the plant to suitable alternative habitat location, or replacement credits may be purchased by the applicant at an approved mitigation bank.

Timing/Implementation: *Prior to construction activities.*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *Amador County Planning Department.*

MM 3.4.3 Special-status plant species that are identified adjacent to the project site, but not proposed to be disturbed by the project, shall be protected by barrier fencing to ensure that construction activities and material stockpiles do not impact any special-status plant species. These avoidance areas shall be identified on roadway and trail improvement plans.

Timing/Implementation: *Prior to construction activities.*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *Amador County Planning Department.*

With implementation of the above mitigation measures, impacts to special-status plants are considered **less than significant**.

INVERTEBRATES

Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle

The valley elderberry longhorn beetle (VELB) was federally listed as threatened on August 8, 1980 (FR 45:52803) (USFWS 1980). Critical habitat for the valley elderberry longhorn beetle was formally designated on August 8, 1980 (USFWS 1980). The valley elderberry longhorn beetle is a wood boring species that is dependent on elderberry (Sambucus spp.) shrubs for its life cycle. For this reason, elderberry shrubs are considered habitat for this species. During their life cycle the adults lay hundreds of eggs on the stems and leaves. Upon hatching, these larvae burrow into the soft woody stems where they feed on the pith and develop within the branches. After approximately one to two years, the larva chews a hole through to the exterior surface of the branch, and returns to a chamber within the stem to pupate. This occurs approximately during the flower stage of the shrub. Following the pupa stage, the adult beetle emerges from the hole it created as a larva. Frequently, the only evidence of the beetle's presence is exit holes on the shrub. The adult valley elderberry longhorn beetles feed on the flowers and possibly the leaves, and are generally seen from mid-March until June.

The valley elderberry longhorn beetle is endemic to California and is commonly found near riparian habitats in the Central Valley. However, its range does span the Sierra foothills, and may reach elevations of 3,000 feet above MSL. The beetle appears to only be locally common to the Central Valley, and is found in population clusters that are not evenly distributed across available elderberry shrubs.

Potential for Impacts

There is one CNDDB occurrence (CDFG 2007) of VELB within five miles of the PSA; however, this occurrence is approximately three miles south of the proposed access road, south of Lake Camanche. The PSA is not located within designated critical habitat for this species. The one elderberry shrub found within the PSA is located next to the proposed secondary access road alignment. This shrub is nearly dead, but did have one live stem greater than one inch in diameter. No exit holes were observed. According to the programmatic consultation (USFWS 1997) and conservation guidelines (USFWS 1999) for VELB, live stems equal to or greater than one inch in diameter at ground level represent potential habitat for this species. USFWS generally assumes complete avoidance (i.e., no adverse effects) when a 100-foot or wider buffer is

established and maintained around an elderberry plant which is considered suitable habitat for VELB.

While unlikely, there is potential for this one elderberry shrub to provide habitat to VELB. As such, construction activities proposed within the access road alignment in the vicinity of the shrub could potentially result in significant adverse impacts to VELB; this is considered a **potentially significant** impact. The implementation of mitigation measures will reduce this effect to a less than significant level.

Mitigation Measures

MM 3.4.4 The identified elderberry plant shall not be removed through the implementation of this project. Maintain a 100-foot buffer from the elderberry shrub to achieve complete avoidance. Should encroachment of the 100-foot buffer be necessary for construction of the proposed access road, consultation will be required with USFWS and CDFG. A Biological Opinion will be developed by the USFWS for this project. The protective measures outlined in the VELB conservation guidelines (USFWS 1999) must be implemented. These measures include the following:

- Where encroachment has been approved by USFWS, provide a minimum setback of at least 20 feet from the dripline of the elderberry shrub.
- Brief contractors on the need to avoid damaging the elderberry plants and the possible penalties for not complying with these requirements.
- Erect signs along the edge of avoidance areas with the following information: "This area is habitat of the valley elderberry longhorn beetle, a threatened species, and must not be disturbed. This species is protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Violators are subject to prosecution, fines, and imprisonment." The signs should be clearly readable from a distance of 20 feet, and must be maintained for the duration of construction.
- Instruct work crews about the status of the beetle and the need to protect its elderberry host plant.
- No mowing should occur within five (5) feet of elderberry plant stems. Mowing must be done in a manner that avoids damaging plants (e.g., stripping away bark through careless use of mowing/trimming equipment). Mowing of grasses/ground cover may occur from July through April to reduce fire hazard.
- Any additional avoidance and minimization measures set in the Biological Opinion by the USFWS for protecting VELB will be implemented.

Timing/Implementation: *Prior to any site disturbance.*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *Amador County Planning Department.*

Implementation of the above mitigation measures would reduce impacts to the valley elderberry longhorn beetle to a **less than significant** level.

Vernal Pool Crustaceans

Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp

The vernal pool fairy shrimp became federally listed as a threatened species on September 19, 1994 (USFWS 1994). On August 11, 2005, a final designation of critical habitat for 15 listed vernal pool species including vernal pool fairy shrimp was published in the Federal Register (USFWS 2006). The PSA is not located within critical habitat for this species.

Vernal pool fairy shrimp tend to occur in grass or mud-bottomed vernal pools with clear to tea-colored water, often on basalt flow depression pools on unplowed grasslands. This species is capable of living in vernal pools of relatively short inundation periods, pooling from six to seven weeks in winter and three weeks in the spring. Other factors contributing to the suitability of vernal pool fairy shrimp habitat include alkalinity, total dissolved solids and pH. This species has been found in pools ranging from one to greater than 10 hectares in size (Eriksen and Belk 1999).

Vernal Pool Tadpole Shrimp

The vernal pool tadpole shrimp became federally listed as a threatened species on September 19, 1994 (USFWS 1994). On August 11, 2005, a final designation of critical habitat for 15 listed vernal pool species including vernal pool tadpole shrimp was published in the Federal Register (USFWS 2006). The PSA is not located within critical habitat for this species.

Vernal pool tadpole shrimp occur in a wide variety of seasonal habitats including vernal pools, clay flats, alkaline pools, ephemeral stock tanks, road-side ditches and road ruts (Rogers 2001). Habitats where vernal pool tadpole shrimp have been observed range in size from small, clear, well-vegetated vernal pools to highly turbid, alkali, scour pools to large winter lakes (Rogers 2001). Occupied habitats range in size from vernal pools as small as two square meters to large vernal lakes up to 36 hectares; the potential pooling depth of occupied habitat ranges from 4 cm to 1.5 meters (Helm 1998). Tadpole shrimp cysts must dry out before they will hatch. Typically, the vernal pool tadpole shrimp is found in habitats that are deeper than 12 cm, that pond for 15 to 30 days and that do not experience wide daily temperature fluctuations. This species is found in seasonal wetlands and other winter/spring temporarily pooled areas of sufficient size (depth and area) and seasonality, pooling for a sufficient duration to maintain conducive water temperatures to allow the vernal pool tadpole shrimp to complete its life cycle (Rogers 2001).

Potential for Impacts

There are two CNDDB records of vernal pool fairy shrimp and one CNDDB record of vernal pool tadpole shrimp within five miles of the PSA (CDFG 2007). A wetland delineation and protocol-level surveys were conducted for the majority of the Project Study Area with the exception of the emergency access road corridor. Protocol wet and dry season surveys yielded a negative finding for crustaceans all the features sampled; however potential seasonal wetland features may be present within the access road corridor that may provide suitable habitat to support listed crustacean species. Construction activities proposed within the access road of the PSA could potentially result in adverse impacts to vernal pool crustaceans; this is considered a **potentially significant** impact. The implementation of mitigation measures will reduce this effect to a less than significant level.

Mitigation Measures

MM 3.4.5 The project applicant shall mitigate the impacts to vernal pools and other seasonal habitats that support vernal pool fairy shrimp and vernal pool tadpole shrimp in such a manner that there will be no net loss of habitat (acreage and function) for these species.

The applicant shall identify all vernal pool and seasonal wetland habitat within 250 feet of the construction activities of the project, or provide an alternative technical evaluation, in support of a less indirect impact distance, of the extent of indirectly affected vernal pool and seasonal wetland habitat that is acceptable to the County. The applicant shall preserve two "wetted" acres for each acre of indirectly affected habitat.

If a 404 Permit is obtained from ACOE, and if measures required as part of the 404 Permit equal or exceed the parameters of MM 3.4.5 above, then compliance with the permit will be considered to satisfy the MM 3.4.5 and no additional mitigation will be required.

Timing/Implementation: *Prior to any site disturbance.*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *Amador County Planning Department.*

Implementation of the above mitigation measures would reduce impacts to vernal pool crustaceans to a **less than significant** level.

AMPHIBIANS

California Tiger Salamander

The California tiger salamander (CTS) was federally listed as threatened on August 4, 2004 (USFWS 2004). Critical habitat was formally designated for the California tiger salamander, Central Valley population on August 23, 2005 (USFWS 2005). CTS is a large, terrestrial salamander that has well defined coastal grooves, yellow to cream colored spots against a black background covering its body. This species only occurs only in California near Petaluma, Sonoma County, east through the Central Valley to Yolo and Sacramento counties, south to Tulare County, and from the vicinity of San Francisco Bay south at least to Santa Barbara County. One isolated population is known to exist at Gray Lodge Wildlife Management Area, Butte County. CTS is a lowland species restricted to the grasslands and lowest foothill regions where long-lasting rain pools occur. This salamander occurs at elevations up to 3,200 feet. CTS migrate to inundated vernal pools to congregate and breed following warm winter and spring rains (February-November). At least ten weeks is required for the development from egg, to free-swimming larva, and to metamorphosed juvenile. During hot summer months, and as the pools dry out, CTS migrate at night in mass to small-mammal burrows to over-summer until conditions are favorable again. Juvenile CTS have been observed migrating from as much as one mile away from a breeding pool. CTS may not reproduce during years of low rainfall and require two years to become sexually mature. Loss of habitat, contaminant and pesticide exposure, rodent control, and hybridization with non-native tiger salamanders are currently threatening CTS populations throughout California (USFWS 2007b).

Potential for Impacts

There are nine known occurrences of CTS within five miles of the PSA; the nearest documented occurrence is located approximately one mile northwest of the PSA (CDFG 2007). This documented occurrence from 1990 (updated 1991) was of CTS larvae located within a vernal pool. Furthermore, the western edge of the PSA is located within designated critical habitat for CTS. The CTS habitat assessment conducted by ECORPS Consulting, Inc. in 2006, indicated that the likelihood for seasonal wetlands within the Lake Camanche Unit 3b site to support CTS was very low (**Appendix B**). The site could; however, represent potential aestivation/refugia habitat for CTS as they migrate from one or more offsite breeding locations.

According to the October 2003 *Interim Guidelines on Site Assessments and Field Surveys for Determining Presence or a Negative Finding of the California Tiger Salamander* (Guidelines) prepared jointly by the USFWS and CDFG, these agencies may assume presence or infer that a significant impact will occur if the proposed project site is 1) located within one kilometer (km) (0.6 mile) of a known population and 2) no barrier exists that would inhibit immigration to the subject site.

Habitat within the PSA has potential to support CTS and the nearest known CTS population is approximately 0.6 mile form the PSA, it is likely that the agencies will assume presence or infer that a significant impact would occur.

The proposed project does not include construction or operational activities that would impact any seasonal wetland, pond, or drainage feature within the PSA. However, implementation of the proposed project and operational activities has potential to impact critical habitat including aestivation/refugia habitat and potential take of individuals. As such, the proposed project could potentially result in adverse impacts to CTS; this is considered a **potentially significant** impact. The implementation of mitigation measures will reduce this effect to a less than significant level.

Mitigation Measures

MM 3.4.6 Focused surveys for California tiger salamander will be required to determine the presence/absence of this species in vernal pools and seasonal wetlands within the Project Study Area. Surveys need to be conducted according to USFWS guidelines. Surveys would concurrently establish the presence/absence of western spadefoot toads in these habitats. These surveys require two consecutive wet season surveys in which pit traps are arrayed around potential breeding pools. Pit traps must then be checked at the time of every storm event throughout the monitoring period.

The project applicant shall prepare a Biological Assessment consistent with the requirements of the USFWS Guidelines. The biological assessment shall address the potential effects of project implementation on federally-listed and state sensitive species and their habitat. The biological assessment shall be submitted to the USFWS for review. Prior to any site disturbing activities, the project applicant shall enter into consultation with the USFWS in order to receive a formal Biological Opinion from USFWS. If the project requires permit approval from the Army Corps of Engineers for impacts to wetlands or jurisdictional waters of the U.S., then Section 7 consultation (under the Endangered Species Act) shall be required. If no impacts to wetlands or jurisdictional waters of the U.S. would occur, and the project does not require

permit approval from the Army Corps of Engineers, then the project applicant shall prepare a Habitat Conservation Plan and enter into Section 10 consultation with the USFWS.

Prior to any site disturbing activities, the project applicant must receive, and comply with, all conditions of the Biological Opinion issued by the USFWS. The Biological Opinion will include measures for avoidance and preservation of federally-listed and state sensitive species and their habitat.

Timing/Implementation: *Prior to any site disturbance.*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *Amador County Planning Department and USFWS.*

Implementation of the above mitigation measure would reduce impacts to California tiger salamander to a **less than significant** level.

Western Spadefoot Toad

The western spadefoot toad is small toad native to California. Members of this group possess a small black wedge on the bottom surface of each hind foot, which is suspected to aid in digging. The western spadefoot toad has been observed throughout the Central Valley and on the coast from Point Conception, south to the Mexican border. This species has been seen from sea level up to 4,500 feet in the southern Sierra foothills. Western spadefoot toad individuals are most commonly found in grassland habitats with temporary pools of water, but they have also been found in open chaparral and valley-foothill pine-oak woodlands. This species spends most of the year underground, where members seek refuge from desiccating weather by constructing and residing in small burrows. These toads often breed in temporary pools and quiet streams between the months of January and May. Disappearing from eighty percent of its range, the Western spadefoot toad has suffered declines mostly due to habitat loss. Loss of temporary pools and mosquito abatement programs are also among the factors affecting this species.

Potential for Impacts

There are two known occurrences of the western spadefoot toad within five miles of the PSA (CDFG 2007). Suitable habitat for western spadefoot toad occurs within vernal pools and seasonal wetlands within the PSA. The proposed project does not include construction or operational activities that would impact any seasonal wetland, pond, or drainage feature within the PSA; however, implementation of the proposed project and operational activities has potential to impact habitat including aestivation/refugia habitat and potential take of individuals. As such, construction and operational activities proposed within the PSA could potentially result in adverse impacts to western spadefoot toad; this is considered a **potentially significant** impact. The implementation of mitigation measures will reduce this effect to a less than significant level.

MM 3.4.7 Implementation of mitigation outlined in MM 3.4.6 above will mitigate for impacts to the western spadefoot toad.

Timing/Implementation: *Prior to any site disturbance.*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *Amador County Planning Department.*

Implementation of the above mitigation measure would reduce impacts to western spadefoot toad to a **less than significant** level.

Raptors and Migratory Birds

Habitat within the PSA provides suitable nesting and foraging opportunities for many avian species, including raptors (including Swainson's hawks) and migratory birds. Raptors and raptor nests are considered to be a special resource by federal and state agencies and are protected under the MBTA and California Code of Regulations. All migratory birds are also protected under the MBTA. Several raptor and migratory bird species have the potential to occur within the PSA, including but not limited to Swainson's hawk, red-tailed hawk, red-shouldered hawk, white-tailed kite, loggerhead shrike, Lawrence's goldfinch, and oak titmouse.

Potential for Impacts

Habitat conditions within the PSA provide suitable foraging and nesting habitat for raptors and migratory birds. Construction activities associated with the proposed project may impact raptors and migratory birds if vegetation is removed while nesting raptors and/or migratory birds are present. Noise and other human activity may also result in nest abandonment if nesting raptors and/or migratory birds are present within 100 feet of a work site. Construction activities proposed within the PSA could potentially result in adverse impacts to raptors and/or migratory birds; this is considered a **potentially significant** impact. The implementation of mitigation measures will reduce this effect to a less than significant level.

Mitigation Measures

MM 3.4.8 If proposed construction activities are planned to occur during the nesting season for local avian species (typically March 1st through August 31st), the applicant shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct a focused survey for active nests of raptors and migratory birds within and in the vicinity of (no less than 250-feet outside project boundaries, where possible) the construction area no more than 30 days prior to ground disturbance or tree removal. If active nests are located during preconstruction surveys, USFWS and/or DFG shall be notified regarding the status of the nests. Furthermore, construction activities shall be restricted as necessary to avoid disturbance of the nest until it is abandoned or a biologist deems disturbance potential to be minimal (in consultation with USFWS and/or CDFG). Restrictions may include establishment of exclusion zones (no ingress of personnel or equipment at a minimum radius of 250-feet around the nest) or alteration of the construction schedule. No action is necessary if construction will occur during the non-breeding season (generally September 1st through February 28th).

Timing/Implementation: *Prior to any site disturbance.*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *Amador County Planning Department.*

Implementation of the above mitigation measure would reduce impacts to raptors and migratory birds to a **less than significant** level.

Bats

One special-status bat species, pallid bat, has potential to use the PSA for roosting and/or foraging activities. The pallid bat may roost in a number of areas including within tree hollows. There are no man-made structures within the PSA that would support roosting or hibernacula. As trees will not be removed as a result of the proposed project, potential roosting sites will not be adversely affected. As such, implementation of the proposed project would have a **less than significant** impact on the pallid bat, and no mitigation is required.

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

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.

Oak Woodlands

An Arborist Report has not been prepared for the PSA. The PSA contains numerous trees that are 5 inches diameter at breast height (dbh) or larger. Species composition includes primarily blue oak with minor components of interior live oak, valley oak, black oak, and grey pine. Most of these trees are scattered throughout the site. Since an arborist report has not been prepared, it is impossible to determine if all trees will be avoided during project construction. Implementation of the proposed project may have a **potentially significant** impact on the oak woodlands, and mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures

MM 3.4.9 Any construction activity shall avoid disturbance or removal of oak trees when possible. All oak trees to remain on site shall be protected during construction through the use of orange fencing established 10 feet from the crown drip line surrounding the tree. If protection proves infeasible and removal of the tree is required, prior to approval of a building permit, one of the following mitigation alternatives shall be implemented: conservation through the use of conservation easements; planting and maintaining an appropriate number of replacement trees for every tree that is removed (1 inch: 1 inch); or contribution of funds to the Oak Woodlands Conservation Fund for the purpose of purchasing oak woodlands conservation easements. These measures will ensure compliance with Public Resources Code Section 21083.4 – Oak Woodlands Conservation.

Timing/Implementation: *Prior to any site disturbance.*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *Amador County Planning Department.*

Implementation of the above mitigation measure would reduce impacts to oak woodlands to a **less than significant** level.

c) *Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands, as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal wetlands, etc.), through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption or other means?*

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.

Potential Waters of the U.S.

Wetland features within the Lake Camanche Village Unit 3B site were identified and mapped by Moore Biological Consultants in 2005 (**Appendix A**) and included ten wetland swales (3.02 acres), two seeps (0.05 acre), three vernal pools (0.13 acre), and six seasonal wetlands (0.26 acre). These features have not been verified by the ACOE and may or may not be considered jurisdictional by the ACOE. Potential waters of the U.S. have not been mapped within the proposed emergency access road area. If, based on a verified delineation, it is determined that fill of Waters of the U.S., including wetlands, would result from project implementation, authorization for such fill shall be secured from ACOE via the Section 404 permitting process prior to project implementation.

If a Section 404 permit were to be required from the ACOE, a Section 401 permit would be also required from the RWQCB. If it is determined by a qualified wetland biologist and through consultation with RWQCB that features that qualify as Waters of the State would be affected, the applicant would be required to obtain authorization from RWQCB to fill/disturb these features prior to project implementation.

Potential for disturbance and loss of jurisdictional waters and wetlands from implementation of the proposed project is considered potentially significant unless mitigation is incorporated.

Mitigation Measures

MM 3.4.10 A wetlands mitigation plan shall be developed by a qualified wetland biologist. The plan shall show how impacted acreage of Waters of the U.S., including wetlands and riparian habitat, shall be replaced or restored/enhanced on a "no-net-loss" basis for function and value in accordance with ACOE and CDFG regulations and the County of Amador policy. The mitigation plan shall quantify the total jurisdictional acreage lost or indirectly affected, describe creation/replacement ratios for acres filled, annual success criteria, potential mitigation sites, and monitoring and maintenance requirements. The plan shall ensure that no less than 1 acre of wetlands shall be created for each acre lost and no less than 1 acre of other Waters of the U.S. will be restored for each acre lost or degraded. The plan shall include monitoring to ensure functional success for at least three consecutive years during the monitoring period for the mitigation to be considered complete. The plan shall be prepared by a qualified wetland biologist pursuant to, and through consultation with, ACOE. Implementation of the plan would create or restore/enhance jurisdictional Waters of the U.S., including wetlands to compensate for the loss of jurisdictional Waters of the U.S., including wetlands and riparian habitat.

Timing/Implementation: *Prior to approval of improvement plans.*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *Amador County, ACOE, CDFG, and RWQCB.*

If a 404 Permit is obtained for the project, and if measures required by the agreement equal or exceed the parameters of **MM 3.4.10** above, then compliance with the agreement will be considered to satisfy the above **MM 3.4.10** and no additional mitigation will be required.

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

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. California tiger salamander are known to travel up to 1.2 kilometers from breeding ponds to aestivation habitat. Because the project site is within 0.6 km of a known breeding pond and the Project Study Area provides suitable aestivation habitat for the species, implementation of the proposed project is considered potentially significant unless mitigation is incorporated.

Mitigation Measures

Implementation of mitigation measures identified in **MM 3.4.6** above will satisfy mitigation requirements for migratory impacts.

e) *Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?*

No impact. The project does not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. As such, there is **no impact** and no mitigation measures are required.

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

No impact. There are no adopted Habitat Conservation Plans, Natural Community Conservation Plans or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plans for the project area. Therefore, **no impact** would occur as a result of project implementation and no mitigation measures are required.

CONCLUSION REGARDING BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Implementation of mitigation measures **MM 3.4.1** through **MM 3.4.10**, identified above would reduce project-related impacts to biological resources to less than significant levels.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in § 15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☒	☐

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

PREHISTORY

The earliest evidence of prehistoric occupation within the Sierra Nevada and foothills consist of several sites on the eastern flanks of the Sacramento Valley, indicating use of the area about 10,000 years ago. It was not until about 4,000 years ago that the Sierra Nevada became more intensively used, as evidenced by burials, associated funerary goods, and small and large village sites near drainages. Archaeological remains indicate reliance on the acorn as a dietary staple, and the more frequent use of mortars and pestles, large projectile points, and shell beads and ornaments. About A.D. 500, prehistoric subsistence included an intensive fishing industry, along with the hunting of game and the continued use of acorns. These patterns existed until the time of Euroamerican contact.

ETHNOGRAPHY

In prehistoric times, the region was inhabited by the Plains Miwok, one of five divisions of the Eastern Miwok. In the late prehistoric and early ethnographic periods, these people used the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada between the drainages of Calaveras Creek on the south and the Cosumnes River to the north. The basic social and economic group of the Plains Miwok was the family or household unit. The nuclear and/or extended family formed a corporate unit. These basic units were combined into distinct, named village or hamlet groups. During most the year, Miwok occupied permanent villages located below 2,500 feet in elevation, but also practiced seasonal transhumance, moving from one area or elevation to another to harvest plants, fish, and hunt game across contrasting ecological zones that are in relatively close proximity to each other.

HISTORY

The discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill in Coloma in 1848 was the catalyst that caused a dramatic alteration of both Native American and Euroamerican cultural patterns in California. Once news of the discovery spread, a flood of Euroamericans began to enter the region, and gravitated to

the area of the "Mother Lode". The population of California quickly swelled from an estimated 4,000 Euroamericans in 1848 to 500,000 in 1850 (Bancroft 1888). This large influx of immigrants had a devastating result on Native American cultures, and marks the beginning of a relatively rapid decline of both Native American populations and culture.

METHODOLOGY

PMC cultural resources staff conducted archaeological and historical investigations for the Lake Camanche Village in August 2007. The investigations were conducted to comply with CEQA. The archaeological and historical investigations included: a records search conducted at the North Central Information Center at California State University, Sacramento; a sacred lands search completed by the Native American Heritage Commission; Native American consultation; and a pedestrian surface survey of the project APE. Archaeological and historical investigations were adequate to identify typical prehistoric and historic resources that would likely be present in the project APE.

Results of the records search identified one prehistoric site within 0.5 miles of the project boundary and two cultural resources surveys adjacent to the project area (Far Western 2005; Slaymaker 1990). The records search did not identify any archaeological or historic resources within the project APE. Therefore, a pedestrian surface survey of the project APE was conducted by PMC in August 2007. No significant cultural resources were identified as a result. In addition, the sacred lands search conducted by the NAHC and subsequent Native American consultation did not result in identification of cultural resources.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a) *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in § 15064.5?*

No Impact. Archaeological and historical investigations for the project did not identify any historical resources. Therefore, the project would not impact any known historical resources.

b) *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?*

Less than Significant. As discussed above, there are no identified historical or archaeological resources, as defined in Section 15064.5, located within the project APE. Archaeological and historical investigations for the project did not identify any prehistoric sites, historic sites, historic buildings, or unique archaeological resources within the project APE. Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact on an archaeological resource. There is a possibility, however, of unanticipated and accidental archaeological discoveries during ground-disturbing project-related activities. Any unanticipated and accidental archaeological discoveries during project implementation have the potential to affect unique archaeological resources. Should a previously unidentified or unanticipated archaeological resource be discovered during project construction, the project would be subject to the provisions of the California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and California Public Resources Code Section 5097.94 et seq., which protect Native American burials, skeletal remains, and associated grave goods regardless of their antiquity, and provides for the sensitive treatment an disposition of those remains.

c) *Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature?*

Less than Significant. A search of the database at the University of California Museum of Paleontology did not identify any formally documented paleontological sites within the project APE. However, it is possible a previously unidentified paleontological resource could be discovered during project construction. Therefore, project construction plans would implement existing policies in CEQA for the protection of paleontological resources. These policies include stopping work in the vicinity of any paleontological resources and a determination of their significance made by a qualified paleontologist. Therefore, potential impacts to paleontological resources are considered less than significant.

d) *Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?*

Less than Significant. The proposed project would be subject to the provisions of the California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and California Public Resources Code Section 5097.94 et seq., regarding the discovery and disturbance of human remains. It is not anticipated that any human remains will be encountered during construction of the proposed project. The project would have minimal excavation. Therefore, potential impacts from the proposed project are considered less than significant.

CONCLUSION REGARDING CULTURAL RESOURCES

The project would not result in significant impacts to cultural resources.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

REGIONAL GEOLOGY

Amador County is located in the Sierra Nevada geomorphic province of California, which is east of the Great Valley province and west of the Range and Basin provinces. The Sierra Nevada province is characterized by steep-sided hills and narrow, rocky stream channels. This province consists of Pliocene and older deposits that have been uplifted as a result of plate tectonics, granitic intrusion, and volcanic activity. Subsequent glaciation and additional volcanic activity are factors that led to the east-west orientation of stream channels.

SEISMICITY

Seismicity is defined as the geographic and historical distribution of earthquakes, or more simply, earthquake activity. Seismic activity may result in geologic and seismic hazards including seismically induced fault displacement and rupture, ground shaking, liquefaction, lateral spreading, landslides and avalanches, and structural hazards. Based on historical seismic activity and fault and seismic hazards mapping, Amador County is considered to have relatively low potential for seismic activity, and is located beyond the highly active fault zones of the coastal areas of California. The County's fault systems and associated seismic hazards are described below.

FAULT SYSTEMS

There are no Alquist-Priolo fault zones located in Amador County (California Geologic Survey, 2007). The Amador County General Plan presents information about how the County is located within the Sierra Nevada block, an area of low historic seismicity. Although the County has felt ground shaking from earthquakes with epicenters located elsewhere, no major earthquakes have been recorded within the County. The closest known source of large earthquakes is the Sierra Frontal Fault System along the eastern margin of the Sierra Nevada, which includes the Carson Valley Fault. This fault is located within a few miles of the eastern border to the County and has been evaluated as being able to generate earthquakes that produce levels of damage up to VII on the Mercalli Scale (Petersen, 1999).

SOILS

According to the soil survey for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), soils on the project site consist of Inks loam and Rock land of 3 to 45 percent slopes (IrE), Pentz sandy loam of 2 to 16 percent slopes (PnC), and Pentz sandy loam, very shallow of 2 to 51 percent slopes (PoE). The Pentz series consists of well-drained soils that are predominantly shallow. Pentz soils are subject to erosion if they are cultivated or if they are left without a cover of vegetation. Depth of bedrock for IrE soils ranges from 16 to 30 inches. Soils are well drained, runoff is very rapid, and the erosion hazard is very severe. Depth of bedrock for PnC soils ranges from 2 to 24 inches. Soils are well drained, permeability is moderately rapid, runoff is slow to rapid, and the erosion hazard is slight to severe, depending on the slope. Depth of bedrock for PoE soils ranges from 4 to 12 inches. Soils are well drained, permeability is rapid, runoff is medium to very rapid, and the erosion hazard is moderate to very severe, depending on slope. Since these soils are well drained, they do not meet the requirements for a hydric soil.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a) *Would the project expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury or death, involving:*

   i) *Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault?*

   No Impact. There are no known faults crossing through the project site or in the vicinity of the project site. The site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo earthquake hazard zone. Amador County does not appear on the California Geological Survey's list of counties affecte4d by earthquake fault zones as delineated by the Division of Mines and Geology

Special Publication 42. Additionally, the project does not include the construction or occupation of any structures that may be impacted by a fault rupture. There is no impact.

ii) *Strong seismic ground shaking?*

Less than Significant. The project area is considered to be an area of low risk for seismic ground shaking. However, in California there is the risk that a seismic event could occur at anytime. There are no active or potentially active faults near the project area. Moreover, the project does not include the construction of structures. Therefore, there would be no impact to exposing people or structures to risk of loss, injury, or death associated with strong seismic ground shaking.

iii) *Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?*

Less than Significant. Liquefaction is most likely to occur in deposits of water-saturated alluvium or similar deposits of artificial fill. No areas of this type have been identified on the project site. Furthermore, the trails and access road that make up the project would be located on relatively flat terrain. Therefore, less than significant impacts from liquefaction are anticipated.

iv) *Landslides?*

Less than Significant. The terrain of the trails and access road of the project site is relatively flat. There is no potential for landslides in the area. Therefore, no impact related to landslides is expected.

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

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. All grading that would occur as part of project construction would be subject to Amador Air District's current Fugitive Dust Rule 218-Fugitive Dust Emissions (adopted May 16, 2000), and Amador County's Erosion Control Ordinance (Chapter 15.40 of the County Code) which would serve to minimize dust and the loss of topsoil from project construction. However, soils on the project site have been identified as being subject to erosion if they are left without a cover of vegetation. According to the NRCS Soil Survey, the erosion hazard for these soils is only considered severe if the soils are on steep slopes. The trails and access road would not be built on steep slopes. However, mitigation would still be required to avoid significant erosion.

Mitigation Measures

MM 3.6.1 Consistent with the Amador County Code Chapter 15.40 Erosion Control Ordinance, the applicant shall obtain a grading permit that includes Best Management Practices (BMPs) designed to reduce soil erosion such as utilizing appropriate drainage and vegetation measures to minimize the erosion of soils. The grading plan would also include a winterization plan if necessary, and a Stormwater Pollution and Prevention Plan if required by the California Regional Water Quality Control board. The Amador County Public Works and Planning Departments must approve of these measures prior to site disturbance.

Timing/Implementation: *Prior to site disturbance.*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *Amador County Public Works and Planning Departments.*

Significance After Mitigation

Implementation of mitigation measure MM 3.6.1 would reduce this soil erosion impact to less than significant.

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

Less than Significant. The project is not located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable. The project would not result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse. In addition, project construction would be subject to County standards associated with ground and slope stability. Therefore, less than significant impacts from the proposed project are anticipated.

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

Less than Significant. Expansive soils are soils that increase in volume when they absorb water and shrink when they dry out. When buildings are placed on expansive soils, foundations may rise during each wet season and fall during each dry season. This movement may result in cracking foundations, distortion of structures, and warping of doors and windows, which may result in structural hazards.

Expansive soils are directly related to areas with a high shrink-swell potential. Soil surveys typically rate shrink-swell potential in soils on a low, medium, and high basis. A search was done on the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Web Soil Survey site for the project area. Data from the digital soil survey indicated that the soils found on the project site have low shrink-swell rating (NRCS 2007). The project area is not identified as being in an area of expansive soils. This is a less than significant impact.

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

No Impact. The proposed project does not include the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. There is no impact.

CONCLUSION REGARDING GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Implementation of Mitigation Measure MM 3.6.1 would ensure that impacts to geology and soils are reduced to less than significant levels.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
3.7 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	Would the project:			
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code § 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan area or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or a public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	☐	☐	☒	☐

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

A material is considered hazardous if it appears on a list of hazardous materials prepared by a Federal, State, or local agency, or if it has characteristics defined as hazardous by such an agency. A hazardous material is defined in Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) as follows:

> *A substance or combination of substances which, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical or infectious characteristics, may either (1) cause, or significantly contribute to, an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible, or incapacitating reversible, illness; or (2) pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or environment when improperly treated, stored, transported or disposed of or otherwise managed.* (California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 66261.10)

Chemical and physical properties cause a substance to be considered hazardous. Such properties include toxicity, ignitability, corrosivity, and reactivity. CCR, Title 22, Sections 66261.20-66261.24 define the aforementioned properties. The release of hazardous materials into the environment could potentially contaminate soils, surface water, and groundwater supplies.

Under Government Code Section 65962.5, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) maintains a list of hazardous substance sites. This list, referred to as the "Cortese List", includes CALSITE hazardous material sites, sites with leaking underground storage tanks, and landfills with evidence of groundwater contamination.

Most hazardous materials regulation and enforcement in Amador County is overseen by the Amador County Environmental Health Department. However, large cases of hazardous materials contamination or violations are reported to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB) and the California State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). It is not at all uncommon for other agencies such as the Air Pollution Control District and both the Federal and State Occupational Safety and Health Administrations (OSHA) to become involved when issues related to hazardous materials arise.

A hazardous materials databases search was conducted by PMC staff on August 29, 2007 in order to identify potential environmental liabilities associated with the presence, use, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials that may have occurred on the subject property. The database search included regulatory agency lists of known or potential hazardous waste sites, landfills, hazardous waste generators, and disposal facilities in addition to sites under investigation. The search revealed no evidence of recognized environmental conditions or hazardous waste sites on the proposed park site or adjacent properties. Databases searched are as follows:

FEDERAL RECORD SOURCES

- NPL – National Priority List;
- CERCLIS – Comprehensive Environmental Response, compensation, and Liability Information System;
- CERCLIS-NFRAP – CERCLIS No Further Remedial Action Planned;
- RCRIS – Resource Conservation and Recovery Information System;
- ERNS – Emergency Response Notification System;
- BRS – Biennial Reporting System;
- ROD – Records of Decision;
- TRIS – Toxic Chemical Release Inventory System;

- SNAP – Superfund NPL Assessment Program Database;
- RCRA Info – Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Information;
- EPA's Envirofacts – Environmental Protection Agency Envirofacts Database.

STATE RECORD SOURCES

CAL-SITES – Contains potential or confirmed hazardous substance release properties;

- CORTESE – "Cortese" Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites List;
- SWF/LF (SWIS) – Solid Waste Information System;
- LUST – Leaking Underground Storage Tank Information System;
- CA UST – Active Underground Storage Tank Facilities.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

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

Less Than Significant. The project, which consists of the construction and operation of a trails system and an emergency access road, does not propose to include the transportation, use, or emission of hazardous materials during its operational phase.

Small amounts of hazardous materials would be used during constructions activities (i.e., equipment maintenance and fuel). Hazardous materials would primarily be used during construction of the project and would be used only in small amounts, consist with local, state and federal safety regulations. No other hazardous materials would be transported to or from the proposed project site. As a result, the risks associated with the transport of hazardous materials are considered less than significant.

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

Less Than Significant. See discussion a) above. This impact is less than significant.

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

Less Than Significant. The nearest school to the project site is Valley Springs Elementary, located over 10 miles to the southeast of the project site. As discussed under Impact a) above, construction and operation of the proposed project would not emit hazardous emissions or involve the handling of hazardous materials during operation. This impact is considered less than significant and no mitigation is required.

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

No Impact. PMC completed a hazardous material list database search on August 29, 2007. The search found no hazardous materials sites within the project area, and it is unlikely that the project would be affected by contamination from hazardous materials outside of the project boundary. The project site is not included on a list of hazardous materials sites. The closest hazardous site found is the MP Associates, Inc. site, located on Jackson Valley Road in Ione, approximately six miles east of the project site.

e) *For a project located within an airport land use plan area or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or a public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?*

No Impact. The proposed project does not fall within the land use plan of any airport. Furthermore, construction and operation of the proposed project would not place any structures within navigable airspace that may pose a threat to aircraft operations. There is no impact.

f) *For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?*

No Impact. There are no private airstrips within the vicinity of the project area. The nearest private airstrip is Camanche Skypark, located approximately 3.5 miles east of the project site. There is no impact.

g) *Would the project impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?*

No Impact. Construction and operation of the proposed trails and emergency access road would not affect the ability of local agencies to respond in case of emergency, or impact the implementation of any emergency response plan. Area roadways will not be significantly impacted by vehicles traveling to or from the project site. The emergency access road has been designed in compliance with Amador County Public Works Department roadway design requirements in order to ensure adequate emergency vehicle access to the site. Therefore, there is no impact.

h) *Would the project expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?*

Less Than Significant. The project site is located adjacent to mixed foothill woodlands and annual grasslands. While this land is not densely forested, there still exists a potential for wildfire. However, the proposed project does not include a residential component; therefore, no housing will be subject to wildland fires. In the event of a wildfire, fire crews would be provided access to the Lake Camanche Unit 3B site via the proposed secondary emergency access road as well as the primary access road at the northeast corner of the proposed subdivision.

CONCLUSION REGARDING HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Implementation of the proposed project would not result in significant impacts related to hazards or hazardous materials.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
3.8	**HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY**	Would the project:			
a)	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b)	Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e)	Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f)	Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g)	Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h)	Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☒	☐
i)	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of a failure of a levee or dam?	☐	☐	☒	☐
j)	Inundation by seiche, tsunami or mudflow?	☐	☐	☒	☐

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project would involve the construction and operation of a secondary emergency access road to a proposed residential subdivision and the abandonment and rededication of trails within this proposed subdivision site. A small portion of the emergency access road is adjacent to the northern portion of Lake Camanche.

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD DISCHARGE PERMITS

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB) issues permits for activities that could cause impacts to surface waters and groundwater in the vicinity of any project site during construction and operation activities. If construction activities associated with the proposed project would result in the disturbance of more than 1 acre, the project would be required to submit a Notice of Intent and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to the State Water Resources Control Board for coverage under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) State General Construction Permit.

CVRWQCB is responsible for establishing water quality standards and objectives that protect the beneficial uses of various waters. In the project area, the CVRWQCB is responsible for protecting surface and groundwater from both point and non-point sources of pollution.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a) *Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?*

Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.

CONSTRUCTION DRAINAGE AND WATER QUALITY IMPACTS

Construction activities associated with the proposed project could cause accelerated soil erosion and sedimentation or the release of other construction-related pollutants to area waterways. Vegetation removal and road widening activities associated with project construction may have the greatest potential for detrimental impacts to surface water quality associated with Lake Camanche, and the removal of vegetation from the project site during project construction could expose site soils to rainsplash, sheetflow and gullying erosion prior to successful revegetation. The cleared, exposed surfaces created during construction could result in sedimentation in downstream waters. Fuels, lubricants, and other toxic materials used during construction could also potentially enter surface waters. The Construction Stormwater General Permit adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board requires the project applicant and/or contractor to develop and implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). This plan must specify Best Management Practices (BMPs) that would prevent all construction pollutants from contacting stormwater, with the intent of keeping all products of erosion from moving off site into receiving waters. The permit also requires elimination or reduction of non-stormwater discharges to receiving waters and inspection of all BMPs.

Mitigation Measures

MM 3.8.1 In compliance with the requirements of the State General Construction Activity Storm Water Permit, the project applicant shall prepare a SWPPP that incorporates measures or comparable BMPs which describes the site, erosion and sediment controls, means of waste disposal, control of post-construction

sediment and erosion control measures and maintenance responsibilities, water quality monitoring and reporting during storm events (which will be responsibility of the project applicant), corrective actions for identified water quality problems and non-storm water management controls. These measures included in the SWPPP shall ensure compliance with applicable regional, state and federal water quality standards. The SWPPP shall also be submitted to the Amador County Public Works Department. The applicant shall require all construction contractors to retain a copy of the approved SWPPP on each construction site. Additionally, the SWPPP shall ensure that all storm water discharges are in compliance with all current requirements of the RWQCB.

Timing/Implementation: *The SWPPP shall be submitted concurrent with project improvement plans.*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *The Amador County Public Works Department*

Significance After Mitigation

Implementation of mitigation measure **MM 3.8.1** would reduce construction-related drainage impacts to less than significant levels.

OPERATIONAL DRAINAGE AND WATER QUALITY IMPACTS

Completion of the proposed secondary emergency access road would not result in the addition of any impervious surfaces on the project site. However, because the road would be used by vehicles, and is near a portion of Lake Camanche, operation of the road would increase the amount of urban runoff generated on site. Urban runoff would typically contain oils, grease, fuel, antifreeze, by products of combustion (such as lead, cadmium, nickel, and other metals) typically associated with automobiles. Precipitation during the early portion of the wet season displaces these pollutants into the storm water runoff resulting in high pollutant concentrations in the initial wet weather runoff. This initial runoff, containing peak pollutant levels, is referred to as the "first flush" of storm events. However, the access road would only be used during emergency situations. This limited use, coupled with the fact that the road would not be paved, but instead covered with three inches of rock, would ensure a less than significant operational impact on water quality standards.

Completion of the trails system would also not result in the addition of any impervious surfaces on the project site. Vehicles would not be allowed on the trails, and they would only be used for pedestrian and equestrian purposes. Therefore, water quality impacts associated with the operational phase of the trails would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

None required.

b) *Would the project substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?*

Less than Significant. The project does not include the use of groundwater wells for potable or irrigation water and no new wells would be constructed as part of the project. The secondary access emergency road would not be paved, but rather surfaced with three inches of permeable rock. The trails would not be paved and would remain permeable. Groundwater recharge is therefore not substantially affected by this project.

c) *Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner, which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?*

Less than Significant. The secondary emergency access road would follow the route of an existing road and will require up to four feet of widening on either side. No streams or rivers would be altered during the construction or operation of this road, leaving drainage patterns unchanged. Creation of the trails associated with the project would not be improved. The only work done to construct these trails would be the removal grass and rocks. Therefore, construction of the trails would create less than significant impacts in regards to the drainage patterns of the site.

d) *Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site?*

Less than Significant. Widening of the existing road that would become the secondary access road would not alter the drainage pattern of the project site. The road will also be surfaced with three inches of rock, making the road somewhat permeable. This would make surface runoff from the secondary access road negligible. The trails will not be improved, and therefore will not substantially alter site drainage patterns.

e) *Would the project create or contribute runoff water, which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?*

Less than Significant. The unpaved secondary access road associated with this project may create a small amount of runoff into Lake Camanche due to compaction. However, the project's compliance with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's (CVRWQCB) Stormwater Management Program Plan (SWMPP) would ensure that stormwater drainage system capacity would not be exceeded through the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs).

f) *Would the project otherwise substantially degrade water quality?*

Less than Significant. Refer to questions a) through e) above. This impact is less than significant.

g) *Would the project place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?*

No Impact. No housing structures are planned as part of this project. Therefore, there is no impact.

h) *Would the project place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?*

Less than Significant. Approximately 100 feet of the proposed secondary access road occurs within the 100-year flood zone as mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The road would occur at the extreme northern end of the flood zone. This 100-foot portion of the road would be elevated by approximately 3 feet, putting it above the flood line, and making this impact less than significant.

i) *Would the project expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of a failure of a levee or dam?*

Less than Significant. As noted in item (h) above, 100 feet of the access road occurs within the extreme northern edge of the 100-year flood plain. A 100-year flood event would consist of a gradual rise of the lake water level, resulting in the road becoming inundated and impassible. Because access to the road would be used only during emergency situations, it is unlikely a flood would pose a significant risk of loss, injury or death to people or structures. A failure of the Lake Camanche dam would not expose people or structures associated with the project to significant flooding, because the breach would cause water to recede from the project area. This is due to the fact that the dam is downslope and over two miles west of the project site. The projects impact regarding the failure of levees or dams is therefore less than significant.

j) *Would the project be subject to inundation by seiche, tsunami or mudflow?*

Less than Significant. The proposed trails easements nearest to Lake Camanche are located approximately 1/5 mile upslope from the lake. This distance precludes an impact to the trails by seiche, tsunami or mudflow. The secondary access road adjacent to the lake at one point (see **Figure 2.0-4**), thus resulting in the potential that the road could be damaged by seiche or tsunami. However, due to the rarity of these events and the fact that the road would be used during emergency situations, impacts caused by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow are considered less than significant.

CONCLUSION REGARDING HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Implementation of mitigation measure MM 3.8.1 would ensure that impacts to hydrology and water quality are reduced to less than significant levels.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
3.9	LAND USE AND PLANNING Would the project:				
a)	Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c)	Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The trails portion of the project site is designated SP- Special Planning Area, Eighteen Families Per Acre in the Amador County General Plan Land Use, Open Space, Conservation, and Scenic Highways Element. The emergency access road is designated A-G Agricultural- General, One Family per Forty Acres. Adjacent lands include SP to the north and west of the Unit 3B property, A-G to the east, and A-M Agricultural Marginal, One Family Per Forty Acres to the northwest. The land southeast of the road alignment is designated O-R Open-Recreation, and the land to the south is designated A-G.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a) *Would the project physically divide an established community?*

No Impact. The access road is located in undeveloped land and does not physically divide an established community. The trails system would occur on existing utility easements within the Camanche 3-B community. Therefore, there is no impact.

b) *Would the project conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?*

No Impact. The proposed project is consisted with the Amador County General Plan. Furthermore, it does not propose to change the current land use designations of the project site. The trails system would be part of a 300-acre subdivision designated SP, and the access road would run along an existing road. Therefore, there is no impact.

c) *Would the project conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?*

No Impact. No habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans are in place now or applicable to the project area. The project would have no impact with regard to these types of plans.

CONCLUSION REGARDING LAND USE

Implementation of the proposed project would not result in significant impacts to land use or conflict with any applicable land use or habitat conservation plans.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Amador County contains areas that are considered capable of producing a wide variety of mineral resources. The project site and its surrounding area is not identified on Amador County Planning Maps as an area containing mineral resources of local or regional importance. In addition, the nature of the project (i.e., road and trail construction) would not preclude any future extraction of minerals resources.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

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

No Impact. The proposed project would not use or extract any significant mineral or energy resources and would not restrict access to known mineral resource areas. The proposed project would not conflict with energy conservation plans, use non-renewable resources in a wasteful manner or result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource; therefore, there would be no impact created from the implementation of the proposed project.

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

No Impact. See response to a) above. The project would have no impact on mineral resources.

CONCLUSION REGARDING MINERAL RESOURCES

Implementation of the proposed project would not result in any significant impacts to mineral resources.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
3.11 NOISE Would the project result in:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance or of applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan area or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or a public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

COMMON NOISE DESCRIPTORS

Community noise levels are measured in terms of the A-weighted decibel (dBA). A-weighting is a frequency correction that correlates sound pressure levels with the frequency response of the human ear.

Additional units of measurement, such as L_{eq}, L_{max}, L_{min}, L_{dn}, and CNEL, have been developed to evaluate the long-term characteristics of sound. The equivalent noise level (Leq) is a single-number representation of the fluctuating sound level in decibels over a period of time. It is a sound-energy average of the fluctuating level. The Leq of a time-varying sound is equivalent or equal to the level of a constant unchanging sound. The Leq is frequently described in terms of the period of time for which noise measurements are taken (e.g., hourly L_{eq}). Maximum noise level (L_{max}) is the loudest noise level measured within a given period; whereas the L_{min} is the minimum measured noise level.

Many communities use 24-hour descriptors of noise levels, such as L_{dn} or CNEL, to evaluate noise impacts. These noise descriptors are typically time-weighted in that noise occurring during sensitive time periods is penalized. For example, the day-night average noise level (L_{dn}) is the 24-

hour average of the noise intensity, with a 10 dBA penalty added for nighttime noise (10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.) to account for the greater sensitivity to noise during this period. Similarly, the community noise equivalent level (CNEL) includes a 10 dBA penalty added for nighttime noise (10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.), but also includes an additional 5 dBA penalty for evening noise (7 p.m. to 10 p.m.). Typically, L_{dn} and CNEL are used interchangeably, because the difference between these noise scales is usually less than 1 dBA.

NOISE-SENSITIVE LAND USES

Noise-sensitive land uses are generally considered to include those uses where noise exposure could result in health-related risks to individuals, as well as places where quiet is an essential element of their intended purpose. Residential dwellings are of primary concern because of the potential for increased and prolonged exposure of individuals to both interior and exterior noise levels. Additional land uses such as parks, historic sites, cemeteries, and recreation areas are also considered sensitive to increases in exterior noise levels. Schools, churches, hotels, libraries, and other places where low interior noise levels are essential are also considered noise-sensitive land uses.

EXISTING NOISE ENVIRONMENT IN PROJECT VICINITY

The project area noise environment is subjectively considered fairly quiet, as it is defined primarily by roadway traffic. The land surrounding the project site is not heavily populated, and Highway 88 is at its closest about one mile west of the project site.

APPLICABLE NOISE CRITERIA

Amador County

The Noise Element of the Amador County General Plan (Amended 1988) provides goals, objectives, and policies designed to ensure that County residents are not subjected to noise beyond acceptable levels. The General Plan provides a policy restricting noise-sensitive land uses (e.g., residences, schools, hospitals) from being exposed to levels of 65 dB(A). (Pg. 30) Implementation measures regarding this policy include mitigation via distance buffers, equipment or activity noise attenuation, barriers to noise, operational restrictions, frequency modifications, and single event noise level restrictions. (Pg. 30)

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a) *Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?*

Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated. Exposure of persons to noise levels attributable to the proposed project may occur during both construction and operation of the proposed project. Noise-related impacts associated with short-term construction and long-term operations of the proposed project are discussed separately, as follows:

SHORT-TERM CONSTRUCTION NOISE

During the construction phase of the project, noise from construction activities would add to the noise environment in the immediate project vicinity. Construction activities would be temporary in nature and are anticipated to occur during normal daytime working hours.

Noise would also be generated during the construction phase by increased truck traffic on area roadways. A significant project-generated noise source would include truck traffic associated with transport of heavy materials and equipment to and from construction sites and the movement of heavy construction equipment on the project site. This noise increase would be of short duration, and would likely occur primarily during daytime hours. See **Table 3.11-1** below for typical levels of noise for construction equipment.

TABLE 3.11-1
CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT NOISE

Type of Equipment	Maximum Level, dB at 50 feet
Bulldozers	87
Heavy Trucks	88
Backhoe	85
Pneumatic Tools	85

Source: Environmental Noise Pollution, Patrick R. Cunniff, 1977.

Construction noise impacts are generally short-term in nature, and are not evaluated against the General Plan Noise Element criteria. The General Plan criteria are designed for evaluating long-term noise land use compatibility. Construction noise impacts are generally regulated through a local noise ordinance. Amador County does not have a noise ordinance; however, it suggests general mitigation measures as a way to ensure that noise-sensitive land uses are not exposed to significant construction-related noise. Therefore, the following standard mitigation measures shall be implemented to ensure that the surrounding residential uses will not be significantly affected by the proposed project:

Mitigation Measures

MM 3.11.1a Construction activities shall adhere to the requirements of Amador County with respect to distance buffers, equipment and activity noise attenuation, noise barriers, operational restrictions, frequency modifications, and single event noise level restrictions.

Timing/Implementation: *Include as a note on all grading and improvement plans*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *Amador County Planning Department.*

MM 3.11.1b Construction activities shall be restricted between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and between the hours of 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturdays. No construction activities should occur on Sundays and holidays.

Timing/Implementation: *Include as a note on all grading and improvement plans*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *Amador County Planning Department.*

The above mitigation measures would reduce the short-term impacts to a **less than significant** level.

LONG-TERM NOISE

Less than Significant. In the long term, noise levels associated with this project are expected to be well below County standards. The only noise created during operation of the emergency access road would be the sound of emergency vehicles accessing the project during emergencies. The trails system is assumed to be used only by pedestrians and equestrians, which would not cause a significant increase in noise levels to sensitive surrounding land uses. There is the potential for motorized vehicles to illegally access the trails and creating a noise hazard. However, Mitigation Measure MM 3.3.2, discussed in the Air Quality section would require the placement of signs at the trailhead prohibiting motorized vehicles from accessing the trails. This would ensure that long-term noise impacts are less than significant.

b) *Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?*

Less Than Significant. Ground vibration spreads through the ground and diminishes in strength with distance. The effects of ground vibration can vary from no perceptible effects at the lowest levels, low rumbling sounds and detectable vibrations at moderate levels, and slight damage to nearby structures at the highest levels. At the highest levels of vibration, damage to structures is primarily architectural (e.g., loosening and cracking of plaster or stucco coatings) and rarely result in structural damage. For most structures, a peak particle velocity (ppv) threshold of 0.5 inches per second (in/sec) is sufficient to avoid structure damage, with the exception of fragile historic structures or ruins. At the request of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency the Committee of Hearing, Bio-Acoustics, and Bio-Mechanics (CHABA) have developed guidelines for safe vibration limits for ruins and ancient and/or historic buildings. For fragile structures, the CHABA recommends a maximum limit of 0.25 inches per second ppv (U.S. Department of Transportation 1995). For the protection of fragile, historic, and residential structures, the California Department of Transportation recommends a more conservative threshold of 0.2 inches per second ppv. This same threshold would represent the level at which vibrations would be potentially annoying to people in buildings (Caltrans 1996).

Construction-induced vibration would be mainly related to movement of heavy construction equipment. No pile driving would be necessary for construction of the project. Therefore, there no architectural or structural damage is considered likely as a result of construction of the proposed project. Construction related vibrations are predicted to have a less than significant impact on the nearest residential receivers.

Long-term operational activities associated with the proposed project would not involve the use of any equipment or processes that would result in potentially significant levels of ground vibration. Increases in ground borne vibration levels attributable to the proposed project would be primarily associated with short-term construction-related activities.

c) *Substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?*

Less Than Significant. As noted in discussion of impact a), long-term operation of the proposed project is not anticipated to contribute substantially to existing traffic volumes on area roadways and, therefore, would not result in a substantial increase in ambient traffic noise levels along area roadways. This impact is less than significant.

d) *Substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?*

Less Than Significant. Refer to impact discussion a), above. This impact is less than significant.

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

No Impact. The project site is not located within two miles of a public airport. The nearest airport, Camanche Skypark, is a small private airstrip located approximately 3.5 miles east of the project site. The project site would not be subject to high levels of aircraft noise and would, therefore, not expose people at the project site to excessive noise levels. This impact would be less than significant. No mitigation is necessary.

f) *For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?*

No Impact. Refer to Impact e), above. This impact would be less than significant. No mitigation is necessary.

CONCLUSION REGARDING NOISE

The incorporation of the mitigation measures described above would ensure that noise impacts associated with construction and operation of the proposed project are less than significant.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed project consists of the construction and operation of a trails system for a residential subdivision and an emergency access road. The project site is surrounded by rural residential and open space parcels. The project site is located on undeveloped privately owned land. There are no residences proposed as part of the project.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a) *Would the project induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?*

No Impact. The project does not include any residential structures that could directly lead to population growth. There is no impact.

b) *Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?*

No Impact. No residences would be displaced or removed as a result of the proposed project, and the project would have no impact on existing housing.

c) *Would the project displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?*

No Impact. As discussed under Impact b) above, the project would not involve the removal or relocation of any housing, and would, therefore, not displace any people or necessitate the construction of any replacement housing.

CONCLUSION REGARDING POPULATION AND HOUSING

The project would result in no impacts to population and housing.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project is located within the Amador County and is served by County, State, and Federal services. The Jackson Valley Fire Protection District, located on Quiver Drive in Ione, is approximately 5 miles from the project site and provides fire protection for the area and may receive assistance from the California Department of Forestry (CDF) during severe fire events. The Amador County Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement protection to the unincorporated County.

The project is located within the Amador County Unified School District. Schools within this District include Ione Elementary, Ione Junior High, and Argonaut High, all located in Ione, approximately 12 miles northeast of the proposed project site.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

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

a) *Fire protection?*

No Impact. The construction and operation of a trails system would not affect adversely affect fire protection services. The creation of an emergency access road would improve fire services to the Lake Camanche Unit 3B subdivision.

b) *Police protection?*

No Impact. The proposed project would not increase human presence in an appreciable way nor include the development of a facility that would expand the need for law enforcement in the area; therefore there would be no need for additional governmental facilities to provide police protection.

c) *Schools?*

No Impact. Development of trails system and an emergency access road would not physically alter or result in an increased need for schools, parks, or other public facilities. There is no impact.

d) *Parks?*

No Impact. Refer to discussion c) above. There is no impact.

e) *Other public facilities?*

No Impact. Refer to discussion c) above. There is no impact.

CONCLUSION REGARDING PUBLIC SERVICES

Implementation of the proposed project would not result in significant impacts to public services.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
3.14 RECREATION				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Does the project include recreational facilities, or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project is located within the County of Amador, and proposes to develop a trails system and an emergency access road. The project itself would not directly or indirectly contribute to an increase in human population.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

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

No Impact. The creation of a trails system and an emergency access road would not result in an impact to recreation.

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

Less than Significant. The proposed project includes dedication of pedestrian trails, but does not require their construction. Dedication of these trails could result in persons walking or riding horses on the trails. This is considered a less than significant impact.

CONCLUSION REGARDING RECREATION

Implementation of the proposed project would not result in significant impacts to recreation.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
3.15	**TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC** Would the project:				
a)	Cause an increase in traffic that is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume-to-capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b)	Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c)	Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d)	Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e)	Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f)	Result in inadequate parking capacity?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g)	Conflict with adopted policies, plans or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Regional access to the project site is provided via Highway 88. Local access to the Lake Camanche Unit 3B subdivision and its associated trails system is provided by Village Drive. The emergency access road would be accessed via Camanche Parkway North and run north into the aforementioned subdivision. The following is a description of the roadway network in the vicinity of the project:

Highway 88 is a northeast-southwest two-lane highway facility serving El Dorado and Amador County in the project vicinity. Access to the project site is provided via its interchanges with East Liberty Road.

East Liberty Road is an east-west major two-lane road connection Highway 99 to Highway 88. It turns into Camanche Parkway south of the project site.

Camanche Parkway North is an east-west road lying south of the project site. The proposed emergency access road would connect Camanche Parkway North to the project site via Church Hill Road.

Village Drive is a two-lane road providing the only non-emergency entrance to the Lake Camanche Unit 3B Subdivision.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a) *Would the project cause an increase in traffic that is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume-to-capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?*

Less than Significant. Construction of the proposed emergency access road would require construction-related vehicles to travel to the project site. A small number of vehicles would be required to widen the emergency access road and put three inches of rock cover on it. Minimal vehicles would be needed to remove the grass and rocks to create the trails on the subdivision site. Once the road and trails are completed, operational vehicle trips created by the project would be minimal. The emergency access road would be gated at both ends, and used only during emergency situations. The trails system would not create a substantial amount of vehicle trips, as it would be for pedestrian and equestrian use only, and would primarily be used by residents of the Lake Camanche Unit 3B subdivision. This impact is therefore considered less than significant.

b) *Would the project exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?*

Less than Significant. Refer to Impact a), above. The project would not result in substantial increase in vehicles trips in the area, and the marginal addition of project-generated traffic would not exceed a County LOS standard. This impact is considered less than significant and no mitigation is required.

c) *Would the project result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?*

No Impact. The proposed project would not result in a change in air traffic patterns or increase traffic levels that would result in a substantial safety risk. The project does not propose any structures that would impede a height limitation in close proximity to an airport. Moreover, the project is not located near an airport. Therefore, no impacts on air traffic patterns would occur as a result of this project.

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

Less than Significant. The trails system for the proposed project is meant for pedestrian and equestrian use only. The emergency access road for the proposed project would be used during emergency situations only, and has been designed consistent with the standards of safety established by the Amador County Public Works Department and Amador County Code Chapter 15.30 requirements, which are based on the requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4290 and California Code of Regulations Title 14. The road does not include any hazardous curves or other design features. According to road plans, an additional surface width of 4 feet will be added to curves of 50-100 feet and an additional 2 feet of road would be added to curves of 100-200 feet. These design standards ensure that this impact would be less than significant.

e) *Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?*

Less than Significant. The project consists of a trails system within a proposed subdivision and a secondary emergency access road connecting the subdivision to major surrounding roads. This road would be constructed per the requirement from the Jackson Valley Fire Protection District. The district requires a minimum of two access roads for the proposed subdivision. Furthermore, the roads would be subject to Amador County Code Chapter 15.30 requirements, which are based on the requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4290 and California Code of Regulations Title 14. These roads would include the project's main entrance via Village Drive and the proposed emergency access road. The provision of these roads would ensure a less than significant impact.

f) *Would the project result in inadequate parking capacity?*

Less than Significant. The proposed trails system would not require additional parking, as they would be interspersed throughout a residential subdivision. The emergency access road would not cause a substantial increase in demand for additional parking, as it would be used only during emergency situations.

g) *Would the project conflict with adopted policies, plans or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?*

No Impact. Construction and operation of the proposed project would not conflict with any adopted policies, plans or programs supporting alternative transportation. The secondary access road is intended for emergency use only and is therefore unrelated to alternative transportation. The pedestrian/equestrian trails provide opportunities for non-motorized transportation throughout the Lake Camanche Unit 3B subdivision. There is no impact.

CONCLUSION REGARDING TRANSPORTATION

Impacts related to transportation and circulation are less than significant and no mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
3.16 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS Would the project:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand, in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Comply with federal, state and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Water and sewer services to the project site would be provided by the Amador County Water Agency (AWA). Additionally, the County provides maintenance of public facilities, including the project area roadways. The project area roadways would be required to be in a County Service Area No. 5 Zone of Benefit Assessment District for maintenance administered by the County.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a) *Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?*

No Impact. Implementation of the proposed project would not result in the need for wastewater facilities. There is no impact.

b) *Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?*

Less Than Significant. The proposed project would not include the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or the expansion of existing facilities. However, according to Amador County Public Works Agency staff, the AWA has expressed the desire to loop the Lake Camanche Village Water system to improve service by extending the existing water main serving Village Drive south to Camanche Parkway North, then east to Unit 6. The proposed project would provide a viable route for new water and/or sewer service mains. However, it would not directly or indirectly result in the expansion of such services. All new water and wastewater facilities would be subject to project-level CEQA review if and when such improvements are formally proposed.

c) *Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?*

No Impact. Implementation of the proposed project would not result in any stormwater generation. There is no impact.

d) *Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?*

No Impact. Implementation of the proposed project would not result in the need for water facilities. There is no impact.

e) *Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand, in addition to the provider's existing commitments?*

No Impact. See the discussion for a) above. There is no impact.

f) *Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?*

No Impact. Implementation of the proposed project would not result in the need for landfill facilities. There is no impact.

g) *Comply with federal, state and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?*

No Impact. Implementation of the proposed project would not result in the disposal of solid waste. There is no impact.

CONCLUSION REGARDING UTILITIES

Implementation of the proposed project would not result in significant impacts to utilities.

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

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a) *Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of rare or endangered plants or animals, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?*

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. As discussed in Section 3.4 of this Initial Study, the project has the potential to result in adverse impacts to natural and biological resources within the project vicinity. Potential impacts to sensitive natural habitat, special-status species (including raptors) and wetlands would be reduced to less than significant levels through implementation of mitigation measures identified in Section 3.4.

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

Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. The project would not involve development or changes in land use that would result in increased population growth, or any additional requirements for public services associated with population growth. The project would not contribute substantially to increased traffic in the area and the project

would not increase the wastewater treatment capacity of the County, which could lead indirectly to population growth. As discussed throughout this environmental document, the project would not contribute to a substantial decline in water quality, air quality, noise, agricultural resources, or cultural resources under cumulative conditions. Cumulatively considerable impacts associated with biological resources on the project site are mitigated to less than significant levels as discussed in greater detail in Section 4.0 of this document.

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

Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. As discussed in **Section 3.3- Air Quality** and **Section 3.11- Noise** of this Initial Study, the project has the potential to have significant air quality and noise-related impacts that may result in adverse effects on human beings. Implementation of Mitigation Measures **MM 3.3.1a**, **MM 3.3.1b**, **MM 3.3.2**, **MM 3.11.1a**, and **MM 3.11.1b** would reduce these impacts to a less than significant level. Section 3.7- Hazards and Hazardous Materials did not define any potentially significant effects on human beings. There are no other aspects of the proposed project that would result in substantial adverse impacts to human beings.

4.0 Cumulative Impacts

4.1 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

INTRODUCTION

This section addresses the project's potential to contribute to cumulative impacts in the region. State CEQA Guidelines Section 15355 defines cumulative impacts as "two or more individual effects that, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts."

CUMULATIVE SETTING

This analysis is based on planned growth assumptions under the 2005 Amador County General Plan Housing Element. The 2005 Housing Element was used as the basis for the setting considered in the cumulative impact assessment for the proposed project.

CUMULATIVE IMPACT ANALYSIS

Aesthetics

Implementation of the proposed project will not substantially alter the existing visual character of the project area. Implementation of the proposed access road and trails system would not result in an increase in severity of visual resource impacts. Thus, a **less than cumulatively considerable** impact to aesthetics is anticipated under cumulative conditions.

Air Quality

The proposed project has the potential to result in temporary impacts to air quality related to construction activities. Compliance with AAD Rule 218, MM 3.3.1a and MM3.3.1b would ensure that construction PM_{10} and mobile source emissions don't exceed the AAQS. Construction related air quality impacts would be short-term in nature, and compliance with the mitigation measures included in this document would ensure that these short-term impacts are less than significant. The project would not result in operational air quality impacts that would be cumulatively considerable. The project would result in a less than cumulatively considerable contribution to air quality impacts under cumulative conditions.

Biological Resources

As discussed in **Section 3.4- Biological Resources** of this document, the proposed project would impact several biological resources which are considered regionally significant including wetlands, vernal pools and associated sensitive plants and animals. The proposed project could result in degradation of wildlife habitat through implementation and operation of the project which, when combined with other habitat impacts occurring from development within the PSA and surrounding areas, could result in significant cumulative impacts. Implementation of project-specific biological resource mitigation measures identified in the **Section 3.4 Biological Resources** of this Initial Study, future development of the Lake Camanche Village Unit 3B site could have an unknown and unquantifiable impact on California tiger salamander as specific mitigation measures have not been developed for that project.

The proposed project, in combination with other projects in the region, may result in adverse impacts to:

- large trees that provide important habitat for a wide variety and high diversity of wildlife;
- special-status species such as the listed plant species, VELB, vernal pool fairy shrimp, vernal pool tadpole shrimp, California tiger salamanders, raptors and other migratory birds protected under the MBTA;
- habitat used by migratory birds and raptors; and
- jurisdictional features (wetlands and waters of the U. S.).

In addition to these direct impacts, the project would contribute to the statewide loss of oak woodland habitats, which are diminishing in the Sierra Nevada Foothills and support a number of special-status species. The cumulative loss of habitat and associated wildlife could result in declines in special-status species and other regulated biological resources. In addition, the proposed project would contribute to an increased human presence, which would result in indirect impacts to biological resources (e.g., fires, wildlife struck by horse or bike, increased nighttime lighting). This is considered **cumulatively considerable.**

Mitigation Measures

Implementation of the mitigation measures under Impacts 3.4.1 through 3.4.11 associated with the impacts described in Section 3.4 of this Initial Study will reduce the proposed project's on-site impacts to these resources to a less than significant level through either resource avoidance measures or resource replacement measures. Therefore, the project's cumulative contribution to impacts on these resources would be reduced to a **less than cumulatively considerable** level.

Cultural Resources

No cultural resources have been identified within the project site. However, there is a possibility, of unanticipated and accidental archaeological discoveries during ground-disturbing project-related activities. Should a previously unidentified or unanticipated archaeological resource be discovered during project construction, the project would be subject to the provisions of the California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and California Public Resources Code Section 5097.94 et seq., which protect Native American burials, skeletal remains, and associated grave goods regardless of their antiquity, and provides for the sensitive treatment an disposition of those remains. This proposed project would not result in cumulatively considerable impacts associated with the destruction of undiscovered cultural resources.

Geology and Soils

Project-related impacts on geology and soils would be site-specific and implementation of the proposed project would not contribute to seismic hazards or unstable or expansive soils impacts. Cumulative soil erosion impacts associated with proposed project would be mitigated to a less than significant level by implementation of BMP's, as required under mitigation measure MM 3.6.1. Therefore, the project would result in a less than cumulatively considerable contribution to geologic impacts under cumulative conditions.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

The proposed project is not expected to result in any site-specific public health or hazard impacts, and the project is expected to have no cumulatively considerable impact on hazard conditions.

Hydrology and Water Quality

The proposed project would negligibly contribute to increased storm water flows in the project area as well as surface water quality impacts. In compliance with the requirements of the State General Construction Activity Storm Water Permit, the project applicant shall prepare a SWPPP that incorporates measures or comparable BMPs which would mitigate the project's contribution to a less than significant level under cumulative conditions. The proposed project would not result in cumulatively considerable hydrology or water quality impacts.

Land Use and Planning

As described in this Initial Study, the proposed project consists of the construction and operation of a secondary emergency access road and a trails system. Land use impacts identified for this project are site-specific and would not contribute to cumulative impacts associated with land use that were identified in the County General Plan Land Use, Open Space, Conservation, and Scenic Highways Element of the Amador County General Plan. The proposed project would not have a cumulatively considerable impact on land use conditions in the region.

Mineral Resources

The proposed project is not expected to result in any site-specific significant impacts to mineral resources. Additionally, the project is expected to have no impact on mineral resources under cumulative conditions. This impact is less than cumulatively considerable.

Noise

The proposed project would not contribute to significant increases in traffic noise levels expected in the project area by year 2025. Potentially significant impacts regarding noise are all related to construction, which is short-term in nature. The noise analysis for the project indicates that future noise conditions will not exceed the levels established in the Amador County General Plan Noise Element. The project would result in a less than significant cumulatively considerable noise impacts under cumulative conditions.

Population and Housing

As described in this Initial Study, the proposed project consists of the construction and operation of a secondary emergency access road and a trails system. No housing is proposed as part of the project, and no housing will be removed or displaced as a result of the project. The proposed project will not contribute to population growth beyond what was identified in the Amador County General Plan and would have no cumulatively considerable impact to population and housing.

Public Services

The project is not expected to contribute to cumulative public service impacts. The project may result in impacts to fire and police protection during construction. However, these activities are temporary in nature. Implementation of the proposed access road and trails system not result in a cumulative increase in severity of public service impacts. Thus, no cumulatively considerable impact to public services is anticipated.

Recreation

The project is not expected to contribute to cumulative parks and recreation impacts associated with construction and operation of an access road and trails system. Implementation of the proposed project would not result in cumulatively considerable recreation impacts.

Transportation/Circulation

The proposed project is not anticipated to result in significant increases in traffic that would impact area roadways under cumulative conditions. The project's cumulative contribution to traffic on area roadways would not result in decreased LOS conditions. Thus, transportation and circulation impacts would be less than cumulatively considerable under cumulative conditions.

Utilities and Service Systems

The project is not expected to contribute to cumulative utilities and services impacts associated with construction and operation of an access road and trails system. Implementation of the proposed project would not result in cumulatively considerable utilities and services impacts.

5.0 DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☐ I find that although the proposed project is subject to CEQA, the project is exempt because the project will not have a significant effect on the environment (based on the attached Initial Study) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3).

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

■ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described in the attached report have been added to the Project. **A NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.

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

☐ I find that the proposed Project **MAY** have a significant effect(s) on the environment, but one or more of such significant effects: 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, all potentially significant effects: (a) have been analyzed and adequately addressed in an earlier EIR pursuant to applicable standards, or (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR, previous Mitigated Negative Declaration, or this Subsequent Mitigated Negative Declaration, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project.

Signature _____ Date: November 28, 2007

Printed name: Ben Ritchie on behalf of Amador County

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7.0 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

7.1 INTRODUCTION

This document is the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) for the Lake Camanche Village Unit 3B project. This MMRP has been prepared pursuant to Section 21081.6 of the California Public Resources Code, which requires public agencies to "adopt a reporting and monitoring program for the changes made to the project or conditions of project approval, adopted in order to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment." A MMRP is required for the proposed project because the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration has identified significant adverse impacts, and measures have been identified to mitigate those impacts.

The numbering of the individual mitigation measures follows the numbering sequence as found in the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration.

7.2 MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

The MMRP, as outlined in the following table, describes mitigation timing, monitoring responsibilities, and compliance verification responsibility for all mitigation measures identified in this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration.

The Amador County Planning Department will be the primary agency, but not the only agency responsible for implementing the mitigation measures. In some cases, the County Public Works Department or other public agencies will implement measures. In other cases, the construction contractor will be required to implement specific mitigation measures prior to and/or during construction. The County Planning Department will continue to monitor mitigation measures that are required to be implemented during the operation of the project.

The MMRP is presented in tabular form on the following pages as **Table 7.0-1**. The components of the MMRP are described briefly below:

- **Mitigation Measures:** The mitigation measures are taken from the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, in the same order that they appear in the document.
- **Mitigation Timing:** Identifies at which stage of the project mitigation must be completed.
- **Monitoring Responsibility:** Identifies the department within the County, or other public agency responsible for mitigation monitoring.
- **Verification:** Identifies that a mitigation measure has been adequately implemented or completed to the satisfaction of the appointed monitor or responsible County department.

TABLE 7.0-1
MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Proposed Mitigation	Summary of Measure	Monitoring Responsibility	Timing	Verification (Date and Initials)
Air Quality				
MM 3.3.1a	Reduction of Fugitive Particulate Emissions (PM10 and PM2.5): To reduce emissions of fugitive dust to a less than significant level: • Exposed surfaces, graded areas, storage piles, and haul roads should be watered and kept moist at all times. • Minimize the amount of disturbed area, the amount of material actively worked, and the amount of material stockpiled. • Limit onsite construction vehicle speeds to 15 miles per hour. • Sweep or wash paved streets adjacent to project construction sites at least once a day to remove accumulated dust. Maintain at least two feet of freeboard when transporting soil or other materials by truck.	Amador County Planning Department and the AAD	Include as a note on all grading and improvement plans	
MM 3.3.1b	Reduction of Mobile-Source Emissions (ROG, NOx, PM10 and PM2.5): The prime contractor shall submit to the AAD for approval an Off-road Construction Equipment Emission Reduction Plan prior to groundbreaking demonstrating that the heavy-duty (> 50 horsepower) off-road vehicles to be used in the construction project, including owned, leased, and subcontractor vehicles, will achieve a project wide fleet-average 20 percent NOx reduction and 40 percent particulate reduction compared to the most recent CARB fleet average at time of construction. Acceptable options for reducing emissions may include use of late model engines, low-emission diesel products, alternative fuels, engine retrofit technology, after-treatment products, and/or other options as they become available. The Plan shall include a comprehensive inventory of all off-road construction equipment, equal to or greater than 50 horsepower, that will be used an aggregate of 40 or more hours during any portion of the construction project. • The inventory shall include the horsepower rating, engine production year, and projected hours of use or fuel throughput for each piece of equipment. The inventory shall be updated and submitted monthly throughout the duration of the project, except that an inventory shall not be required for any 30-day period in which no construction activity occurs. At least 48 hours prior to the use of subject heavy-duty off-road equipment, the project	Amador County Planning Department and AAD	Include as a note on all grading and improvement plans	

Proposed Mitigation	Summary of Measure	Monitoring Responsibility	Timing	Verification (Date and Initials)
	representative shall provide AAD with the anticipated construction timeline including start date, and name and phone number of the project manager and on-site foreman. And: • The project shall ensure that emissions from all off-road diesel powered equipment used on the project site do not exceed 40 percent opacity for more than three minutes in any one hour. Any equipment found to exceed 40 percent opacity shall be repaired immediately, and AAD shall be notified within 48 hours of identification of non-compliant equipment. A visual survey of all in-operation equipment shall be made at least weekly, and a monthly summary of the visual survey results shall be submitted throughout the duration of the project, except that the monthly summary shall not be required for any 30-day period in which no construction activity occurs. The monthly summary shall include the quantity and type of vehicles surveyed as well as the dates of each survey. The AAD and/or other officials may conduct periodic site inspections to determine compliance. Nothing in this section shall supersede either AAD or state rules or regulations.			
MM 3.3.2	Signs shall be installed at the trailhead informing motor vehicles that the trails on the project site are for pedestrians and equestrians only.	Amador County Planning Department	Upon completion of proposed trail improvements.	
Biological Resources				
MM 3.4.1	Focused surveys to determine the presence of the four special-status plant species with potential to occur at the project site listed in Table 3.4-1 shall be conducted in accordance with CDFG approved guidelines for conducting field surveys. Specifically, the guidelines are outlined in: Guidelines for Assessing Effects of Proposed Developments on Rare Plants and Plant Communities, James R. Nelson, California Native Plant Society's INVENTORY of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California, February 1994, Special Publication No. 1, Fifth Edition. These guidelines require rare plant surveys to be: Conducted at the proper time of year when rare or endangered species are both "evident" and identifiable. Field surveys shall be scheduled to coincide with known flowering periods, and/or during periods of phonological development that are necessary to identify the plant species of concern.	Amador County Planning Department.	Prior to construction activities.	

Proposed Mitigation	Summary of Measure	Monitoring Responsibility	Timing	Verification (Date and Initials)
MM 3.4.2	If any of the species are found on-site from the implementation of MM 3.4.1, and cannot be avoided, a transplanting program will be undertaken (if feasible) to move the plant to suitable alternative habitat location, or replacement credits may be purchased by the applicant at an approved mitigation bank.	Amador County Planning Department.	Prior to construction activities.	
MM 3.4.3	Special-status plant species that are identified adjacent to the project site, but not proposed to be disturbed by the project, shall be protected by barrier fencing to ensure that construction activities and material stockpiles do not impact any special-status plant species. These avoidance areas shall be identified on roadway and trail improvement plans.	Amador County Planning Department.	Prior to construction activities.	
MM 3.4.4	The identified elderberry plant shall not be removed through the implementation of this project. Maintain a 100-foot buffer from the elderberry shrub to achieve complete avoidance. Should encroachment of the 100-foot buffer be necessary for construction of the proposed access road, consultation will be required with USFWS and CDFG. A Biological Opinion will be developed by the USFWS for this project. The protective measures outlined in the VELB conservation guidelines (USFWS 1999) must be implemented. These measures include the following: • Where encroachment has been approved by USFWS, provide a minimum setback of at least 20 feet from the dripline of the elderberry shrub. • Brief contractors on the need to avoid damaging the elderberry plants and the possible penalties for not complying with these requirements. • Erect signs along the edge of avoidance areas with the following information: "This area is habitat of the valley elderberry longhorn beetle, a threatened species, and must not be disturbed. This species is protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Violators are subject to prosecution, fines, and imprisonment." The signs should be clearly readable from a distance of 20 feet, and must be maintained for the duration of construction. • Instruct work crews about the status of the beetle and the need to protect its elderberry host plant. • No mowing should occur within five (5) feet of elderberry plant stems. Mowing must be done in a manner that avoids damaging plants (e.g., stripping away bark through careless use of mowing/trimming equipment). Mowing of grasses/ground cover may occur from July through April to reduce fire hazard.	Amador County Planning Department.	Prior to construction activities.	

Proposed Mitigation	Summary of Measure	Monitoring Responsibility	Timing	Verification (Date and Initials)
	• Any additional avoidance and minimization measures set in the Biological Opinion by the USFWS for protecting VELB will be implemented.			
MM 3.4.5	The project applicant shall mitigate the impacts to vernal pools and other seasonal habitats that support vernal pool fairy shrimp and vernal pool tadpole shrimp in such a manner that there will be no net loss of habitat (acreage and function) for these species. The applicant shall identify all vernal pool and seasonal wetland habitat within 250 feet of the construction activities of the project, or provide an alternative technical evaluation, in support of a less indirect impact distance, of the extent of indirectly affected vernal pool and seasonal wetland habitat that is acceptable to the County. The applicant shall preserve two "wetted" acres for each acre of indirectly affected habitat.	Amador County Planning Department.	Prior to construction activities.	
MM 3.4.6	Focused surveys for California tiger salamander will be required to determine the presence/absence of this species in vernal pools and seasonal wetlands within the Project Study Area. Surveys need to be conducted according to USFWS guidelines. Surveys would concurrently establish the presence/absence of western spadefoot toads in these habitats. These surveys require two consecutive wet season surveys in which pit traps are arrayed around potential breeding pools. Pit traps must then be checked at the time of every storm event throughout the monitoring period. The project applicant shall prepare a Biological Assessment consistent with the requirements of the USFWS Guidelines. The biological assessment shall address the potential effects of project implementation on federally-listed and state sensitive species and their habitat. The biological assessment shall be submitted to the USFWS for review. Prior to any site disturbing activities, the project applicant shall enter into consultation with the USFWS in order to receive a formal Biological Opinion from USFWS. If the project requires permit approval from the Army Corps of Engineers for impacts to wetlands or jurisdictional waters of the U.S., then Section 7 consultation (under the Endangered Species Act) shall be required. If no impacts to wetlands or jurisdictional waters of the U.S. would occur, and the project does not require permit approval from the Army Corps of Engineers, then the project applicant shall prepare a Habitat Conservation Plan and enter into Section 10 consultation with the USFWS. Prior to any site disturbing activities, the project applicant must receive, and comply with, all conditions of the Biological Opinion issued by the USFWS. The Biological Opinion will include measures for avoidance and preservation of federally-listed and state sensitive species and their habitat.	Amador County Planning Department and USFWS.	Prior to construction activities.	

Proposed Mitigation	Summary of Measure	Monitoring Responsibility	Timing	Verification (Date and Initials)
MM 3.4.8	If proposed construction activities are planned to occur during the nesting season for local avian species (typically March 1st through August 31st), the applicant shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct a focused survey for active nests of raptors and migratory birds within and in the vicinity of (no less than 250-feet outside project boundaries, where possible) the construction area no more than 30 days prior to ground disturbance or tree removal. If active nests are located during preconstruction surveys, USFWS and/or DFG shall be notified regarding the status of the nests. Furthermore, construction activities shall be restricted as necessary to avoid disturbance of the nest until it is abandoned or a biologist deems disturbance potential to be minimal (in consultation with USFWS and/or CDFG). Restrictions may include establishment of exclusion zones (no ingress of personnel or equipment at a minimum radius of 250-feet around the nest) or alteration of the construction schedule. No action is necessary if construction will occur during the non-breeding season (generally September 1st through February 28th).	Amador County Planning Department.	*Prior* to any site disturbance.	
MM 3.4.9	Any construction activity shall avoid disturbance or removal of oak trees when possible. All oak trees to remain on site shall be protected during construction through the use of orange fencing established 10 feet from the crown drip line surrounding the tree. If protection proves infeasible and removal of the tree is required, prior to approval of a building permit, one of the following mitigation alternatives shall be implemented: conservation through the use of conservation easements; planting and maintaining an appropriate number of replacement trees for every tree that is removed (1 inch: 1 inch); or contribution of funds to the Oak Woodlands Conservation Fund for the purpose of purchasing oak woodlands conservation easements. These measures will ensure compliance with Public Resources Code Section 21083.4 – Oak Woodlands Conservation.	Amador County Planning Department.	*Prior* to any site disturbance.	
MM 3.4.10	A wetlands mitigation plan shall be developed by a qualified wetland biologist. The plan shall show how impacted acreage of Waters of the U.S., including wetlands and riparian habitat, shall be replaced or restored/enhanced on a "no-net-loss" basis for function and value in accordance with ACOE and CDFG regulations and the County of Amador policy. The mitigation plan shall quantify the total jurisdictional acreage lost or indirectly affected, describe creation/replacement ratios for acres filled, annual success criteria, potential mitigation sites, and monitoring and maintenance requirements. The plan shall ensure that no less than 1 acre of wetlands shall be created for each acre lost and no loss than 1 acre of other Waters of the U.S. will be restored for each acre lost or degraded. The plan shall include monitoring to ensure functional success for	*Amador County, ACOE, CDFG, and RWQCB.*	*Prior to approval of improvement plans.*	

Proposed Mitigation	Summary of Measure	Monitoring Responsibility	Timing	Verification (Date and Initials)
	at least three consecutive years during the monitoring period for the mitigation to be considered complete. The plan shall be prepared by a qualified wetland biologist pursuant to, and through consultation with, ACOE. Implementation of the plan would create or restore/enhance jurisdictional Waters of the U.S., including wetlands to compensate for the loss of jurisdictional Waters of the U.S., including wetlands and riparian habitat.			
Geology and Soils				
MM 3.6.1	Consistent with the Amador County Code Chapter 15.40 Erosion Control Ordinance, the applicant shall obtain a grading permit that includes Best Management Practices (BMPs) designed to reduce soil erosion such as utilizing appropriate drainage and vegetation measures to minimize the erosion of soils. The grading plan would also include a winterization plan if necessary, and a Stormwater Pollution and Prevention Plan if required by the California Regional Water Quality Control board. The Amador County Public Works and Planning Departments must approve of these measures prior to site disturbance.	Amador County Public Works and Planning Departments.	Prior to site disturbance.	
Hydrology and Water Quality				
MM 3.8.1	In compliance with the requirements of the State General Construction Activity Storm Water Permit, the project applicant shall prepare a SWPPP that incorporates measures or comparable BMPs which describes the site, erosion and sediment controls, means of waste disposal, control of post-construction sediment and erosion control measures and maintenance responsibilities, water quality monitoring and reporting during storm events (which will be responsibility of the project applicant), corrective actions for identified water quality problems and non-storm water management controls. These measures included in the SWPPP shall ensure compliance with applicable regional, state and federal water quality standards. The SWPPP shall also be submitted to the Amador County Public Works Department. The applicant shall require all construction contractors to retain a copy of the approved SWPPP on each construction site. Additionally, the SWPPP shall ensure that all storm water discharges are in compliance with all current requirements of the RWQCB.	The Amador County Public Works Department	The SWPPP shall be submitted concurrent with project improvement plans.	
Noise				
MM 3.11.1a	Construction activities shall adhere to the requirements of Amador County with respect to distance buffers, equipment and activity noise attenuation, noise barriers, operational restrictions, frequency modifications, and single event noise level restrictions.	Amador County Planning Department.	Include as a note on all grading and improvement plans	

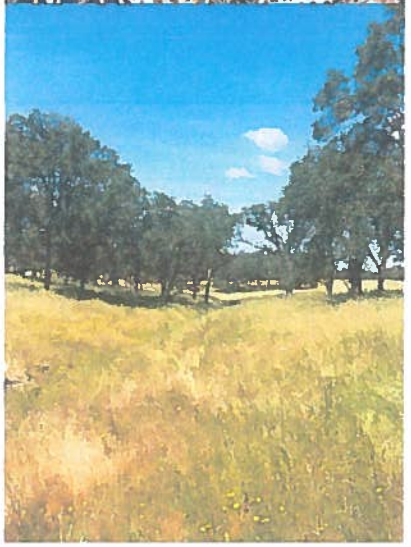
Proposed Mitigation	Summary of Measure	Monitoring Responsibility	Timing	Verification (Date and Initials)
MM 3.11.1b	Construction activities shall be restricted between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and between the hours of 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturdays. No construction activities should occur on Sundays and holidays.	Amador County Planning Department.	Include as a note on all grading and improvement plans	

Appendix B

September 2018 **Stantec** Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for Lake Camanche Village Unit 6 Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project (Note: Not all of this report is included here, only referenced/pertinent sections. The full document is available from Amador Water Agency website)

Lake Camanche Unit 6 Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project

Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration



September 20, 2018

Prepared for:
Amador Water Agency
12800 Ridge Road
Sutter Creek, CA 95685

Prepared by:
Stantec Consulting Services Inc.
11 Providence Mine Rd. Suite 202
Nevada City, CA 95959

Stantec

Lake Camanche Unit 6 Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project

Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

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Nevada City, CA 95959

September 20, 2018

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Environmental Factors Potentially Affected:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this Project, involving at least one impact that requires mitigation to reduce the impact from "Potentially Significant" to "Less than Significant" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

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

Determination:

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

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

☐ I find that the proposed Project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an environmental impact report is required.

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

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

Signature — Date: 9/25/2018

Gene Mancebo
Printed Name

Amador Water Agency
On Behalf of

1.0 PROJECT INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW

This document was prepared by Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec) on behalf of the Amador Water Agency (Agency). The proposed Lake Camanche Unit 6 Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project (Project) would include general improvements to the existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) facility and a modest increase in the current treatment system capacity, including increasing the existing effluent storage capacity, and the effluent disposal area. These improvements are directed toward addressing existing deficiencies which prevent the WWTP from providing wastewater service to the existing and previously approved parcels in the Lake Camanche Unit 6 development and meeting requirements imposed by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), which resulted in a moratorium on new connections. The service area includes 72 undeveloped lots which have been affected by this moratorium for over a decade.

1.2 PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed Project area is located in western Amador County (County), approximately 5.75 miles southwest of the City of Ione, California (Figure 1.2-1 Project Vicinity and Figure 1.2-2 Project Location). The area is surrounded by a developed, primarily residential community, agricultural areas, and recreational lands, including the Lake Camanche Reservoir (Lake Camanche), which is located approximately one mile away to the south/southwest/west. The Project area is located in the Sierra Nevada foothills with a natural habitat generally characterized by valley grasslands and foothill woodlands. The climate can be described as "Mediterranean", with cool winter rainy seasons, and hot dry summers. The elevation of the Project area ranges from approximately 250 to 450 feet above mean sea level (amsl).

1.3 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Agency was formed in 1959 for the purpose of providing water and wastewater services to the residents of the County. The Agency serves approximately 25,000 customers and is the primary water and wastewater provider within the County. In addition to residents and businesses in unincorporated areas, the Agency sells water to the cities of Ione, Jackson, Plymouth, Sutter Creek, Amador City, as well as several special districts, and has four general service areas: the Amador Water System, the Central Amador Water Project, La Mel Heights, and Lake Camanche Village (Village).

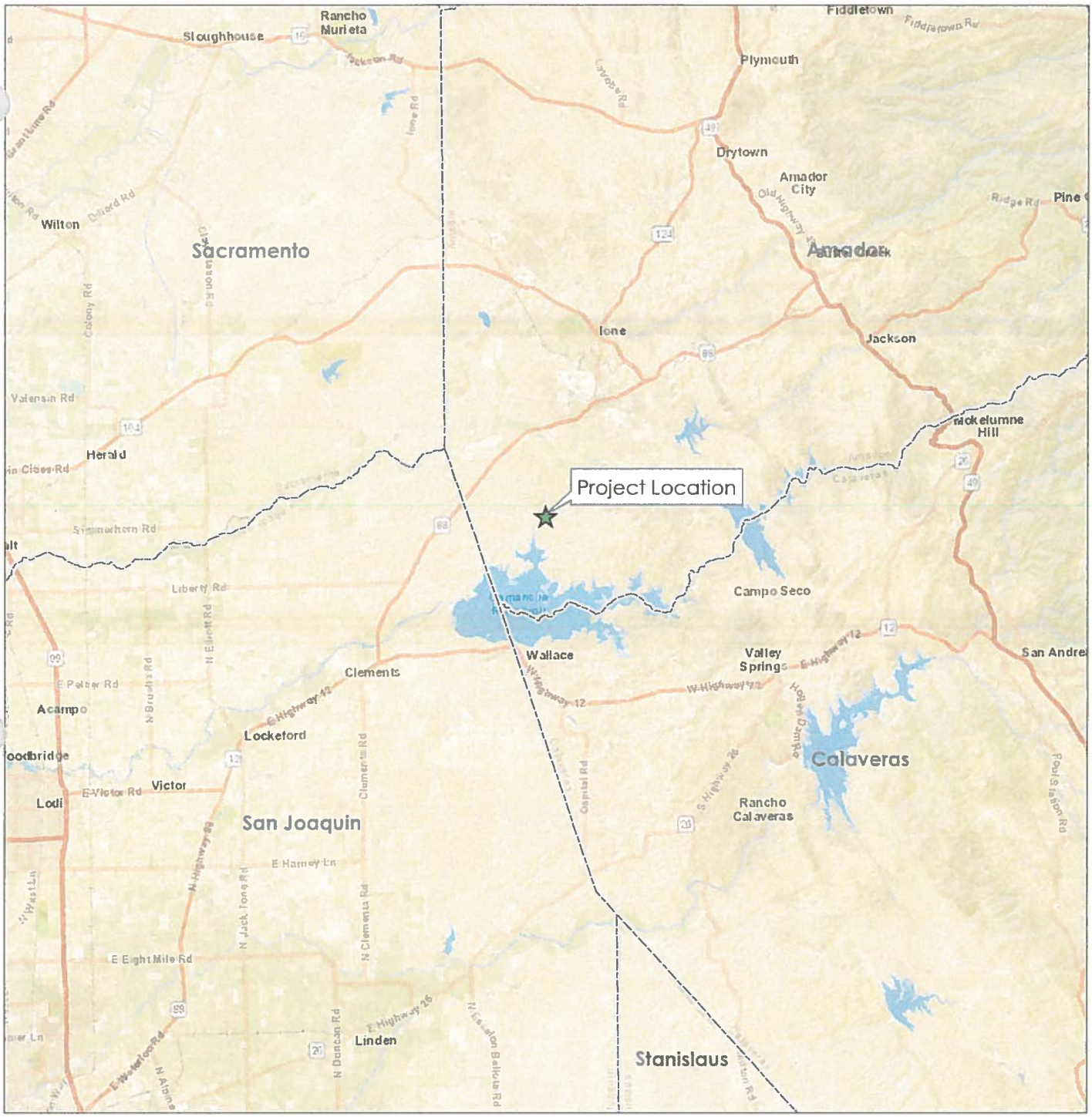
The Agency also owns and operates several wastewater systems that serve unincorporated communities in the County, including the Village development. The Village development was approved by the County in the early 1970s and consists of seven (7) separate units on the north shore of Lake Camanche. This approval was granted prior to development of modern regulations governing wastewater treatment and disposal.

The County owned and operated the Village water system and the Unit 6 wastewater system until 2000, when the County contracted with the Agency to operate both systems. In 2003, the County turned both systems over to the Agency. The development was initially approved to use both on-site systems and centralized facilities for wastewater treatment and disposal. Since then, the centralized facilities and some on-site systems have failed, and there have been documented wastewater spills that reached Lake Camanche, an East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) raw potable water storage facility. All runoff from the area where the WWTP is located drains to Lake Camanche, and thus, any form of sewage spill in the area is of serious concern. In addition, impacts to water quality from subsurface drainage from the existing site have also been identified as a concern.

Currently, there are approximately 765 single family dwelling equivalents (SFDEs) in the total throughout the Village development, which is considered an economically disadvantaged community, including Units 1, 2, 3A, 3B, 4, 5, 6, and 7 (Figure 1.2-2). According to the Amador County General Plan (General Plan), there could be a total of as many as 2,200 SFDEs at build-out of the development. Units 1, 2, 3A, and 4 are currently about 50 percent developed with a total of roughly 350 SFDEs. Units 2 and 4 have the largest lots and were intended to be served by individual wells and on-site wastewater systems. Units 1 and 3A were also planned for on-site wastewater systems. Units 3B, 5, and 7 are still undeveloped, and will need a public water supply system and a conventional centralized wastewater system if they are to be developed. There are currently 345 SFDEs located in Unit 6 with 72 remaining vacant residential lots.

Unit 6 is currently served by a conventional centralized wastewater system, which includes a conventional collection system with four lift stations that convey wastewater to the WWTP. The WWTP (Figure 1.2-2) is regulated under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Order No. 5-01-033 adopted by the Central Valley RWQCB on January 26, 2001, which specifies that the WWTP is permitted to provide "secondary treatment with disinfection, followed by effluent disposal to a spray field". Specifically, this use is defined under Title 22, §60301.225, of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), which governs the state's environmental health regulations regarding recycled water:

> *"'Disinfected secondary-23 recycled water' is recycled water that has been oxidized and disinfected so that the median concentration of total coliform bacteria in the disinfected effluent does not exceed a most probable number (MPN) of 23 per 100 milliliters utilizing the bacteriological results of the last seven days for which analyses have been completed, and the number of total coliform bacteria does not exceed an MPN of 240 per 100 milliliters in more than one sample in any 30-day period."*



Legend

County Boundary

Figure No.
1.2-1

Title
Project Vicinity

Client/Project
Amador Water Agency
Lake Camanche Unit 6 Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project

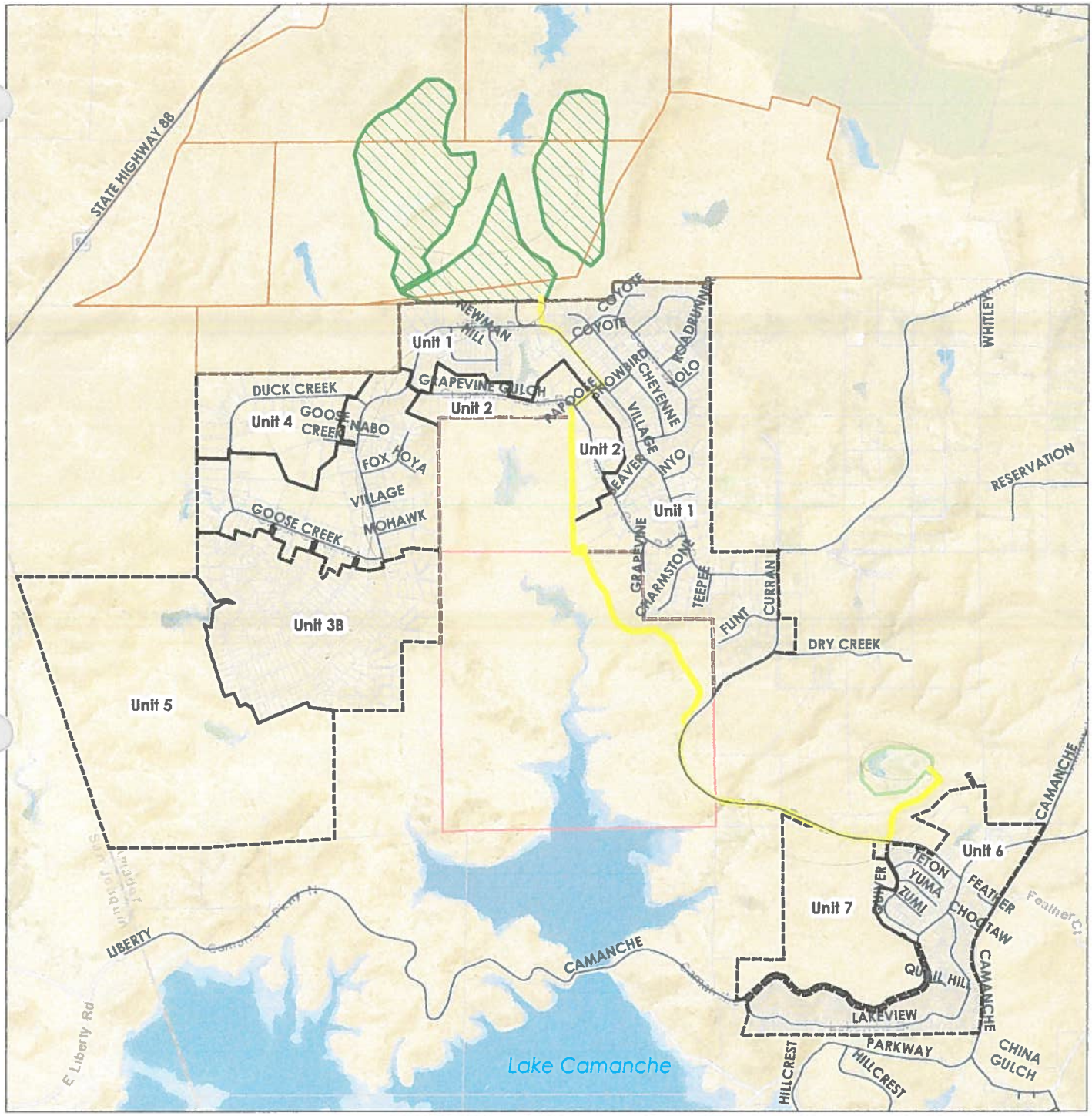
Project Location
Amador County California

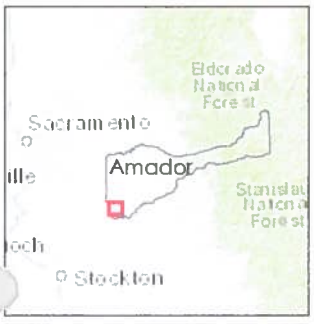
0 1.5 3 6 Miles

1:300,000 (at original document size of 8.5x11)

Stantec

Notes
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane California II FIPS 0402 Feet
2. Data Sources Include: Stantec 2018





Notes
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane California II FIPS 0402 Feet
2. Data Sources Include: Stantec 2018

Legend

Road

Project Components

- Proposed Force Main
- Existing WWTP
- County Parcel Boundaries
- Gansberg Ranch Property
- EBMUD Safe Harbor Agreement Parcels
- Potential Spray Field/Storage Areas
- Development Units

Figure No.
1.2-2

Title
Project Location

Client/Project
Amador Water Agency
Lake Camanche Unit 6 Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project

Project Location
Amador County California

0 1,000 2,000 4,000 Feet

1:33,848 (at original document size of 8.5x11)

Stantec

1.4 CEQA PROCESS

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is the State of California's (State) environmental law that requires project proponents to disclose the significant impacts to the environment from proposed development projects. The intent of CEQA is to foster good planning and to inform agencies and the public about environmental issues during the planning process. Amador Water Agency is the Lead Agency as well as the project proponent under CEQA for the preparation of this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND).

The CEQA Guidelines (Section 21067) define the Lead Agency as "the public agency which has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project which may have a significant effect upon the environment". Section 15063(a) of the CEQA Guidelines states: "Following preliminary review, the Lead Agency shall conduct an Initial Study to determine if the project may have a significant effect on the environment." Section 15070(a) states: "A public agency shall prepare or have prepared a proposed negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration for a project subject to CEQA when: the initial study shows that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project may have a significant effect on the environment" (CNRA 2016).

Under CEQA guidelines, a significant effect on the environment is defined as a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the Project including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance (Guidelines Section 15382) (CNRA 2016). Based on the Chapter 3.0 analysis presented in this document and the field surveys conducted in support of that analysis, the proposed Project has the potential to result in significant impacts on certain resources, but these potentially significant impacts would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with the implementation of mitigation identified in Chapter 3.0 of this IS/MND. The mitigation measures presented in this IS/MND will form the basis of the Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), which is included in Chapter 6.0.

As the Project proponent, the Agency is responsible for implementing and monitoring all project components and providing documentation of compliance for the Lead Agency's files. The public, the County, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and other local and State resource agencies will be given the opportunity to review and comment on this document during the 30-day public review period. Comments received during the 30-day review period will be considered by the Agency prior to considering the adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration, and Project approval.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

The existing WWTP facilities are currently operating under a RWQCB Cease and Desist Order (CDO) No. R5-2003-0126 due to a number of identified deficiencies, including inadequate effluent storage and disposal capacity. The CDO reflects the potential water quality impacts caused by spills of effluent from the on-site storage reservoir. Some of the violations which led to the CDO are inherent to the nature of the Unit 6 facilities. For example, the existing effluent storage volume and spray irrigation disposal area are insufficient to fully contain wet weather flows during periods of heavy precipitation (i.e., 100-year annual rainfall conditions).

In an effort to prevent exacerbation of the deficiencies identified in the CDO, the Agency placed a moratorium on new wastewater connections to the Unit 6 sewer system shortly after taking over the system in 2003. This directly impacted those landowners who had purchased a subdivided residential lot in Unit 6 with the understanding that they would receive wastewater service. The moratorium remains in place to this day. While the Agency has made a number of improvements in an attempt to reduce the potential for further violations, the RWQCB still considers the identified deficiencies in effluent storage volume and disposal area as issues needing to be addressed.

Therefore, the Agency is proposing the Project to implement long-term improvements to the Unit 6 system, and to comply with the CDO.

The proposed Project includes an upgrade to the existing WWTP to address the identified deficiencies, such that it can successfully serve the existing parcel owners in Unit 6 with adequate capacity for treatment and disposal and expand the wastewater system to meet the estimated total demand of the 72 vacant lots within Unit 6 at build-out. As such, the proposed Project is meant to serve the existing population in Unit 6 who are currently being served, as well as the remaining parcels that the Agency is committed to serving once the moratorium is lifted.

Specifically, the proposed Project would include the following elements:

1. General improvements to the existing WWTP infrastructure and facilities;
2. Improvement and expansion of the treatment system capacity to meet an average dry-weather flow (ADWF) capacity of approximately 64,000 gallons per day (gpd);
3. Expansion of the effluent storage capacity to a total of approximately 82 acre-feet per year (AFY);
4. Expansion of the effluent disposal/reclamation area to approximately 27 acres; and
5. All necessary improvements to the collection and disposal pipeline system to support the above treatment, storage and disposal/reclamation upgrades.

2.1.1 General Improvements

The proposed Project would result in a limited amount of general improvements to the existing WWTP infrastructure and facilities, including a new effluent pump station for the proposed effluent transmission force main. Use of the current evaporative disposal equipment at the existing Unit 6 WWTP facility would be terminated if new facilities constructed on the Gansberg Ranch property can put to beneficial use the water that is currently being disposed of.

2.1.2 Expanded Treatment Capacity

The existing Unit 6 WWTP has been permitted for disinfected secondary-23 recycled water, as defined in the CCR, Title 22 §60301.220, which governs the State's environmental health regulations regarding recycled water. This means that recycled water produced by the WWTP has been oxidized and disinfected so that the median concentration of total coliform bacteria in the disinfected effluent does not exceed a MPN of 23 per 100 milliliters, and the number of total coliform bacteria does not exceed a MPN of 240 per 100 milliliters in more than one sample in any 30-day period. This use is appropriate for spray field effluent disposal, including for irrigation use at the Gansberg Ranch property.

Administrative Civil Liability Order No. 5-2006-004 states:

> *"Self-monitoring reports submitted for the period from April 2002 to June 2005 indicate that monthly average flows range from approximately 41,000 to 90,000 gpd. The* Waste Discharge Requirement *(WDRs) do not contain a flow limitation as the WWTP did not contain an accurate flow meter at the time the updated WDRs were adopted in 2001.*
>
> *The wastewater treatment portion of the WWTP was originally designed for complete build out of the Lake Camanche service area with a design flow capacity of approximately 281,000 gpd. However, the spray field and storage pond were not sized for full build out. As part of the September 2000 Report of Waste Discharge, the Discharger submitted a water balance that indicated that the storage pond does not have enough capacity to contain current flows, including seasonal precipitation using a 100-year return period. The water balance did not include capacity calculations for increased flows due to growth.*

The proposed Project is not designed to serve the entire Village service area, but rather meet the needs of the existing and previously approved parcels in the Unit 6 development. The existing treatment facilities require additional storage and disposal area to meet the identified capacity requirements for Unit 6 as summarized below in Table 2.1-1.

Table 2.1-1. Summary of Unit 6 Facility Needs (accommodating 100-Year Design Flow Event).

Unit 6 Users (1 EDU = 200 gpd)	ADWF (gpd)	Existing Effluent Storage (af)	Total Effluent Storage Needed (af)	Incremental Effluent Storage Needed, (af)	Existing Disposal Area (acres)	Total Disposal Area Needed (acres)	Incremental Disposal Area Needed (acres)
Unit 6 (Current users)	49,000	20	63	**44**	12	20	**8**
Unit 6 ("Vacant Lots")	15,000	0	19	**19**	0	7	**7**
Total: "Existing" Unit 6	**64,000**	**20**	**82**	**63**	**12**	**27**	**15**

2.1.3 Expanded Storage Capacity

The existing WWTP has a current storage capacity of 19.5 acre-feet (af), and the WDRs require a minimum freeboard of two feet at all times. It has been determined that in order to accommodate the flows experienced under 100-year storm recurrence interval annual rainfall conditions, as well as the addition of one SFDE on each of the 72 vacant parcels within the Unit 6 development, the Agency will need to increase the available effluent storage volume to a total of approximately 81.5 af (roughly 26.5 million gallons). There is not sufficient land available at the existing WWTP site to allow for the expansion of the on-site storage reservoir to meet this need, without further reducing the already deficient spray disposal area. As a result, the Agency is proposing an alternative site to meet the storage requirements. The proposed location for the additional storage is the southern property boundary of the Gansberg Ranch property (Figure 1.2-2).

2.1.4 Expanded Disposal Capacity

The proposed Project would replace the existing 12-acre spray field disposal system at the existing Unit 6 WWTP with a reuse program that would provide the equivalent of expanding the spray fields to approximately 26.5 acres. Upon completion of the proposed Project, disposal will be discontinued at the existing WWTP site. This would be accomplished though the development of a reclaimed water irrigation system for lawful use on the Gansberg Ranch property. Such a system would be owned and operated by the property owner under its own responsibility, using an irrigation system and equipment provided by the property owner.

In order to confirm that the disposal capacity is met, the Gansberg Ranch property owner would be required to agree to accept a specified minimum amount of treated effluent on a seasonal schedule to complement its irrigation needs under a wide range of climatic conditions. The Gansberg Ranch property contains more than 1,500 acres that would benefit from supplemental irrigation, and the property owner has expressed a desire to accept more reclaimed water than the system will generate.

2.1.5 Proposed Pipeline Alignment

The proposed force main is planned to run from the existing WWTP along primarily existing roadways and easements with the majority of construction occurring on previously disturbed land, including a potential new effluent pump station along the proposed force main (Figure 1.2-2). The proposed force main would leave the existing WWTP at the current entrance, follow the extension of Quiver Drive south to Curran Road, where it would continue to the west and then north on Curran Road until it reaches an unnamed roadway at the east side of the EBMUD property. The alignment would then follow an unnamed roadway onto the EBMUD property in a general north-northwest direction to reach the southwest corner of the Village Unit 1. The alignment follows the EBMUD property eastern boundary north to reach Grapevine Gulch Road. Finally, the proposed alignment would then follow an easement to the northeast to reach Village Drive and turn to the northwest to reach the southern boundary of the Gansberg Ranch property where the new storage and disposal areas are proposed to be constructed.

2.2 CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES AND ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

Implementation of the proposed Project will follow the timeline required to secure funding and to complete the CEQA and permitting process. An estimate of the construction timeline, subject to change, is presented in Table 2.2-1. Several of the construction activities can occur simultaneously. For example, the construction on the Gansberg Ranch property may take place concurrent with the pipeline installation. The total duration of construction activity is estimated at approximately one year with the possibly of extending to two years if wet conditions cause construction delays.

Hours of construction would be during the daytime hours of 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Construction may reduce traffic to a single lane. This allows for emergency vehicle ingress and egress, but it can cause minimal delays for residents. Any road closures would not take place during peak hours. Construction could last approximately 730 days and is tentatively planned to be completed by year 2022. Currently the proposed Project is budgeted over two years. If unforeseen circumstances push the proposed Project timeline back, construction should occur within five years of approval of the CEQA document. If the proposed Project cannot be completed within five years, the Agency will prepare a supplemental or addendum to the Project's IS/MND.

Proper erosion and sediment control Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be in place during construction and post-construction, as per the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for the proposed Project, until disturbed areas are reestablished. Refer to Section 3.6 Geology and Soils, and Section 3.8 Hydrology and Water Quality, for additional details on the BMPs and SWPPP.

Table 2.2-1. Lake Camanche Unit 6 Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project Preliminary Construction Schedule [a]

Task	Completion Date
Existing WWTP Improvements Construction	2022 (18 months)
Gansberg Ranch Property Irrigation and Storage Facilities Construction	2022 (18 months)
Effluent Pipeline Installation	2022 (18 months)
Start-up, Testing, Operations	2022

(a) The schedule presented recognizes the facilities included in the proposed Project may be constructed in phases with the effluent conveyance, storage, and irrigation components being highest priority for the Agency. The primary driver for this phasing is availability of design and construction funds.

The construction activities for the proposed Project are listed below in Table 2.2-2. The proposed activities include: site preparation, grading, trenching (excavation and fill), pipe installation, concrete placement, mechanical equipment installation, building construction, paving, and site restoration. Typical construction equipment, such as an excavator, backhoe, and dump truck will be utilized for these activities. Scrapers may be used to build the treatment and storage basins. Access to the proposed Project area and staging areas will occur at the existing WWTP, along Quiver Road, Curran Road, Papeo Street, Village Drive, an existing dirt road within the EBMUD property, and the Gansberg Ranch property.

The Agency's chosen contractor will procure the use of staging area properties if needed. Construction could start as early as 2019 if planning factors are concluded with the majority of construction occurring in 2019/2020. All construction should be complete within approximately 365 days; however, earthwork (proposed storage basins) are particularly dependent on weather, so wet conditions could extend the construction duration to as much as 730 days. The dates of construction in Table 2.2-2 are target dates; however, the actual construction dates are contingent upon multiple factors and are expected to occur within the next five years.

Table 2.2-2. Project Overview and Schedule for the Proposed Lake Camanche Unit 6 Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project

Project Component	Specific Activities	Location	Area of impact	Estimated Schedule
Site Preparation	• Site preparation within County right-of-way, public utility, District land and private land • Staging of equipment in designated staging areas	• Existing WWTP • In public rights-of-way (roads) • EBMUD property • Gansberg Ranch property	The Project area is a total of approximately 100 acres. This includes an approximate 3.5-mile x 20-foot pipeline (~70 total acres) along existing paved and dirt roads. Staging areas are approximately five acres total in size along the proposed pipeline alignment.	2019/2020

Project Component	Specific Activities	Location	Area of impact	Estimated Schedule
Existing WWTP Improvements and Construction: Installation of pump station	• New pumps and generator	Existing WWTP site	Existing WWTP site (approximately 20 acres).	2021/2022
Gansberg Ranch Property Construction: Proposed New Storage and Disposal Areas	• Yard piping • Storage basins • Spray field sprinklers and run-off containment	Gansberg Ranch property	Approximately 40 acres including spray disposal areas.	2019/2020
Proposed Pipeline Construction: Installation of an Approximate 3.5-Mile Pipeline	• Install one six-inch diameter pipeline between existing WWTP to Gansberg Ranch property • Road restoration	• Quiver Road • Curran Road • EBMUD property • Papeo Street • Village Drive • Gansberg Ranch property	Primarily existing traffic lanes and roadway shoulders (approximately one acre).	2019/2020
Decommissioning of Certain Existing WWTP Facilities	• Remove sludge • Dewater basins • Demolish existing buildings and remove equipment • Improve drainage to avoid any retention	Existing WWTP site	Existing WWTP site.	2021/2022
Site Restoration (a)	• Re-paving specifications for roadways/ driveways • Re-vegetation will be consistent with pre-construction landscaping status (replaced as former). If pre-construction landscaping was non-existent, post restoration will include soil erosion control	• Existing WWTP • In public rights-of-way (roads) • EBMUD property • Gansberg Ranch property	• Existing WWTP • In public rights-of-way (roads) • EBMUD property • Gansberg Ranch property	2021/2022

(a) Restoration of the site will occur in phases across the Project footprint. If the Project is phased, areas disturbed with the initial phase/phases of the Project would be restored upon completion of that phase of construction. There would not be a delay in restoration dependent upon subsequent phases.

2.3 OPERATION

The proposed Project will provide additional effluent storage and disposal/reclamation capacity improvements to the Unit 6 system and are intended to help the Agency comply with the CDO. Specifically, it will successfully serve the existing parcel owners in Unit 6 with adequate capacity for treatment and disposal and expand the wastewater system to meet the estimated total demand of one (1) SFDE on each of the 72 vacant lots within Unit 6.

The upgraded WWTP is expected to be operated with the same number of staff, using similar methods as the existing plant operations. The chemicals on site will be similar to those on the existing WWTP and will be managed accordingly. Improvements in disposal/reclamation and storage capacity will allow the Agency to reduce the maintenance and operations costs associated with operating several mechanical effluent disposal (mister and spritz) units which demand staff attention and significant energy. In this way the Agency expects to maintain the upgraded facilities without the need for additional operations staff. Chemicals used (primarily sodium hypochlorite for disinfection) may increase slightly in volume, but not in character, thus requiring no special operational considerations for storage, handling and use. If new facilities are required for these chemicals, they will be designed and constructed in accordance with current code requirements in effect at the time. New operations include a possible new effluent pump station and the utilization of the new storage and effluent spray area at the Gansberg Ranch property. The Agency expects savings in energy and labor costs associated with elimination of the mechanical disposal units will offset the need for additional staff to operate and maintain the upgraded facilities.

2.4 PERMITS AND OTHER AGENCY APPROVALS

The proposed Project will also require compliance with federal and state permitting regulations due to the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) participation as a funding source through the State Revolving Fund (SRF). Due to the federal funding, the proposed Project will also trigger the need for a demonstration of compliance with:

- **CDFW Section 1600 et seq. Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement** – triggered by any crossing or undercrossing of waters of the United States (U.S.) (WOTUS) including small drainages with a defined bed and bank;
- **Clean Water Act Section 404 Nationwide Permit 12** – triggered by federal funding and potential impacts of less than half an acre to WOTUS;
- **Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification** – triggered by federal funding and potential to impact surface water quality of adjacent drainages during construction;
- **Clean Water Act Section 402 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System** – trigged by federal funding and potential impacts to surface water;

- **Amador County – Grading Permit** – triggered by stipulations defined in Chapter 15.40 Section 15.40.090 of the County Code;
- **Amador County – Encroachment Permit** – triggered by work within County roadways, per County Ordinance No. 1656;
- **National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 Compliance** – triggered by federal funding and potential to affect historic properties or inadvertently affect buried historic or pre-historic resources;
- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Section 7 Compliance** – triggered by federal funding and the potential to affect federally-listed species and/or their habitat; and
- **EBMUD (in conjunction with USFWS) Safe Harbor Agreement (SHA)** – trigged by the proposed Project footprint entering the existing SHA boundary.
- **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)** – triggered by a portion of the proposed Project footprint within the EBMUD FERC Boundary.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSESSMENT

To determine whether an impact is significant, a "baseline" set of environmental conditions is required against which agencies can assess the significance of Project impacts. The physical environmental setting existing at the time of preparation of this document constitutes the baseline physical conditions by which the lead agency determines if the Project would cause a significant impact.

The following sections summarize (1) the environmental setting, including a description of baseline conditions, (2) impacts, and (3) proposed mitigation measures associated with impacts resulting from the proposed Project. Additional topics such as the methodology and/or regulatory setting were also included where applicable. In all cases the proposed Project activities described in the Project Description were analyzed for potential impacts. In each section, all proposed Project activities are referred to either explicitly by name, or implicitly as "the Project" or "the proposed Project."

3.1 Aesthetics

3.1.1 Regulatory Setting

3.1.1.1 Federal

3.1.1.1.1 National Scenic Byways Program

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in partnership with the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has designated a portion of State Route (SR) 88 as a National Forest Scenic Byway. This SR is part of the Carson Pass Scenic Byway which stretches from Sacramento to Carson Valley in Nevada (USFS ND). The goals of the National Forest Scenic Byways Program are to: support and enhance rural community economic development; showcase outstanding national forest and grassland scenery; increase public understanding of national forests and the importance of sustaining healthy, productive ecosystems; ensure that people remain socially connected to public lands; and contribute to the Nation's overall scenic byways effort (USFS 2017).

3.1.1.2 State

3.1.1.2.1 California Scenic Highway Program

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) administers State scenic route designations within the County. State scenic route designations include (Caltrans 2011):

- SR 88 (Dew Drop Ranger Station, east of Buckhorn, to the Nevada state line);

- SR 88 (throughout the remainder of the County, Eligible State Scenic Highway- Not Officially Designated);
- Highway 49 throughout the entire County (Eligible State Scenic Highway- Not Officially Designated).

3.1.1.3 Local

3.1.1.3.1 Amador County General Plan

The following goals and policies from the Circulation and Mobility Element related to aesthetics, light, and glare are relevant to the proposed Project (Amador County 2016a). Those goals and policies that directly pertain to the proposed Project are discussed in the impact analysis below.

Goal CM-4: Maintain and enhance the visual quality and scenic views along designated scenic corridors.

> **Policy CM-4.1:** Maintain visual and quality and scenic views along designated scenic corridors through project review and adoption of a scenic highway ordinance.

3.1.2 Environmental Setting

The proposed Project area is located in an unincorporated area of Alameda County east of SR 88 and west of Highway 49. The Eligible State Scenic Highway portion of SR 88 is the closest highway to the proposed Project (Caltrans 2011). Additionally, Camanche Road which is located immediately east of the Project area is considered a major collector and Camanche Parkway North, which is located immediately south of the Project area is considered a minor collector by the General Plan (Amador County 2016a). SR 88, Camanche Road, and Camanche Parkway North are the major access roads to the Project area and to the residences within Village.

The aesthetic character of the western region of the County surrounding the proposed Project area consists of low-lying hills and grasslands mixed with varied oak woodlands, open space, agricultural and rangelands, and residential units. Lake Camanche is also considered a prominent visual resource in this area of the County and is located approximately one mile southwest of the Village Unit 6 existing WWTP.

Photos 3.1-1 through 3.1-4 below illustrate the common viewsheds within the Project area.

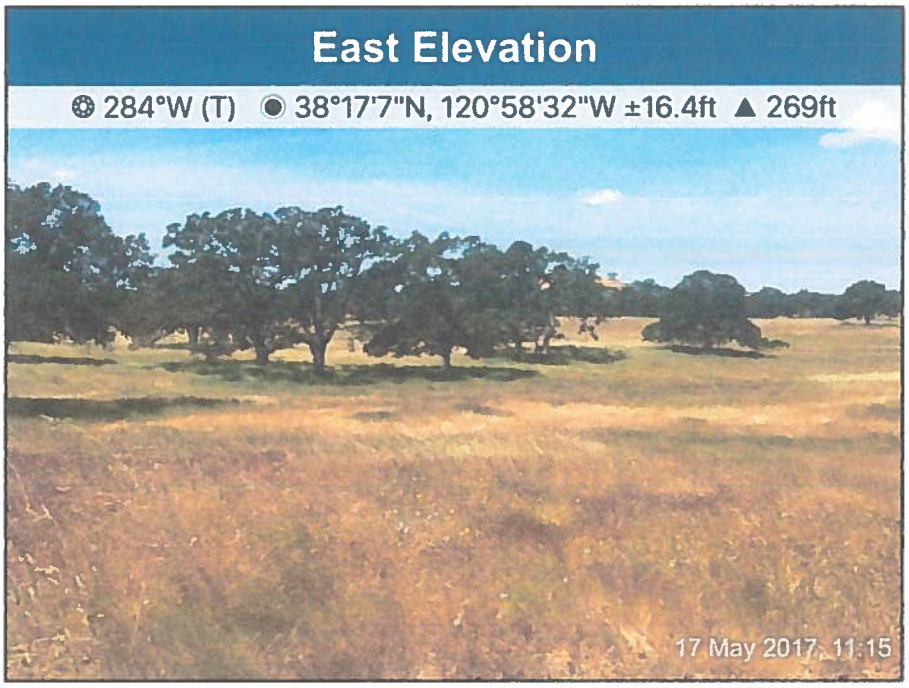


Photo 3.1-1 View facing west near proposed effluent storage and disposal area (Gansberg Ranch property).

Photo 3.1-2 View facing southeast along the proposed Pipeline Alignment (EBMUD property).

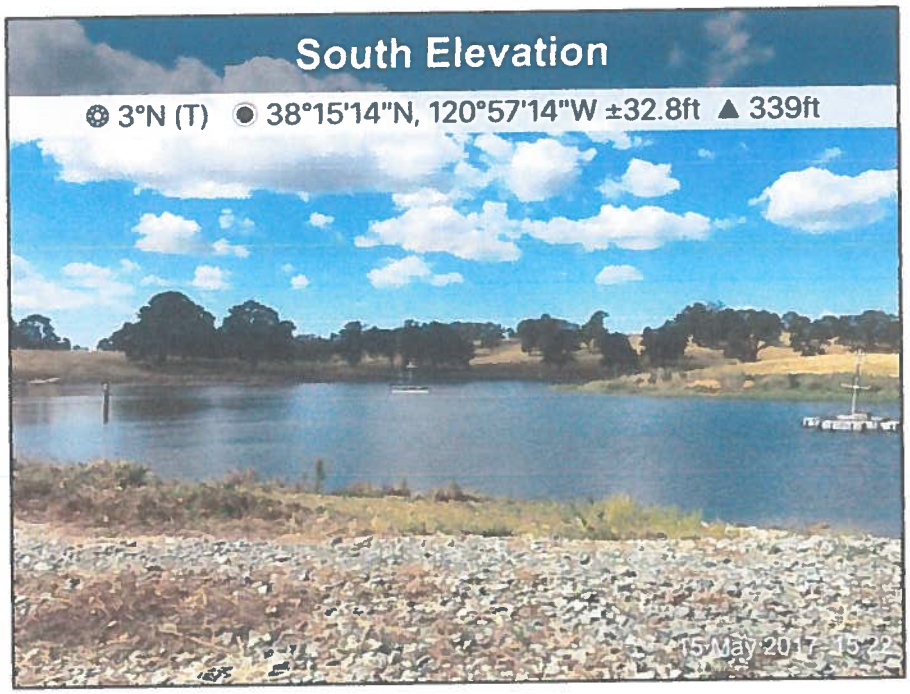


Photo 3.1-3 View of the existing Unit 6 WWTP.

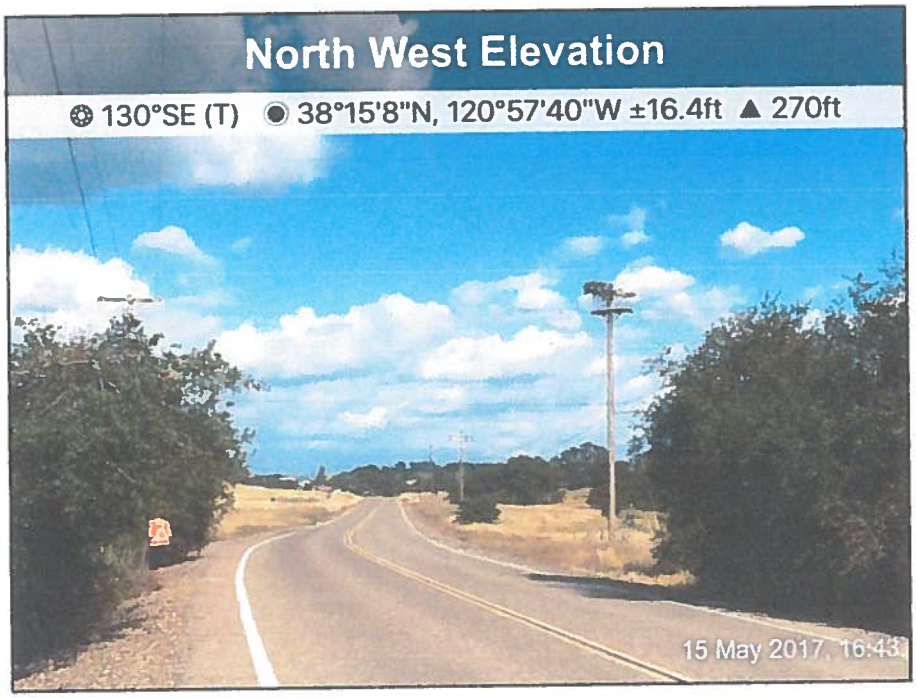


Photo 3.1-4 View facing southeast along Village Dr. along the proposed Pipeline Alignment.

3.1.3 Impact Analysis

I. AESTHETICS Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☒	☐

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

Finding: Less than Significant

Based on review of the General Plan, scenic views within the County include open areas of low-lying hills which are covered in annual grasslands, oak woodlands, and crop-and rangeland (Amador County 2016a). Photos 3.1-1 and 3.1-2 are representative photos that depict the open grasslands and oak woodlands that occur within the proposed Project area, which include proposed activities such as the construction of the effluent storage, disposal, and proposed pipeline. The grasslands and oak woodlands areas are located on private property and contain scenic views. However, the proposed activities within these areas consist of inground facilities and will not obstruct scenic views, nor is majority of the proposed Project area visible from public roadways and/or private residences.

In addition, the proposed Project would not substantially affect the vista regarding the proposed improvements to the existing Unit 6 WWTP because all improvements will occur within the existing footprint and new facilities and/or improvements will not substantially change the existing conditions at the site (Photo 3.1-3).

Despite the scenic nature of this area of the County, the proposed pipeline alignment that is within existing public roadway (Photo 3.1-4), would not obscure scenic views because the proposed pipeline alignment once constructed, would be underground and would not be seen in view. Therefore, the proposed Project would have a less than significant impact on the scenic vistas in the area.

3.1.3 Impact Analysis

I. AESTHETICS Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☒	☐

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

Finding: Less than Significant

Based on review of the General Plan, scenic views within the County include open areas of low-lying hills which are covered in annual grasslands, oak woodlands, and crop-and rangeland (Amador County 2016a). Photos 3.1-1 and 3.1-2 are representative photos that depict the open grasslands and oak woodlands that occur within the proposed Project area, which include proposed activities such as the construction of the effluent storage, disposal, and proposed pipeline. The grasslands and oak woodlands areas are located on private property and contain scenic views. However, the proposed activities within these areas consist of inground facilities and will not obstruct scenic views, nor is majority of the proposed Project area visible from public roadways and/or private residences.

In addition, the proposed Project would not substantially affect the vista regarding the proposed improvements to the existing Unit 6 WWTP because all improvements will occur within the existing footprint and new facilities and/or improvements will not substantially change the existing conditions at the site (Photo 3.1-3).

Despite the scenic nature of this area of the County, the proposed pipeline alignment that is within existing public roadway (Photo 3.1-4), would not obscure scenic views because the proposed pipeline alignment once constructed, would be underground and would not be seen in view. Therefore, the proposed Project would have a less than significant impact on the scenic vistas in the area.

The majority of the proposed Project area is zoned as Special Use District (X District) and Exclusive Agriculture District (AG District) with smaller portions zoned as Single Family Residential District (R1 District) and Two-Acre Residential District (R2A District) where the proposed pipeline alignment goes through Village (Amador County 2018a). Additionally, the proposed Project would go through a number of individual parcels, the existing Unit 6 WWTP, and the Gansberg Ranch property (Amador County 2018a).

The AG District is applied to all lands that are considered agriculture preserves and are subject to the provisions in the Williamson Act. Public utilities and public services, structures, and buildings are considered a compatible use in AG District zoned lands and would not require a use permit if they are a secondary operation to the agricultural operations and fall in conjuncture with the agricultural operations.

3.2.3 Impact Analysis

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

3.3.3 Impact Analysis

III. AIR QUALITY and GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or Projected air quality violation?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is non-attainment under an applicable Federal or State ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☒	☐

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

Finding: Less than Significant

The County is designated nonattainment for state health-based air quality standards for ozone. The County is designated as attainment/unclassified or unclassified for all other federal and state standards health-based air quality standards.

To assess the proposed Project's potential to obstruct implementation of an air quality plan, localized criteria pollutant emissions were analyzed, as these are the pollutants with established ambient air quality standards. Potential localized impacts would include exceedances of State standards for PM. PM emissions, primarily PM_{10}, are of concern during construction because of potential fugitive dust emissions during earth-disturbing activities.

During construction of the proposed Project, various types of equipment and vehicles would temporarily operate on the proposed Project site. Fugitive dust and construction exhaust

Swainson's hawks typically feed in agricultural lands or non-native grasslands where rodent and reptile populations may abound (CDFW 2017h). Foraging habitat for Swainson's hawk exists in the agricultural fields in the western part of County and within the proposed Project area. The closest known occurrence of Swainson's hawks is from 2002 to 2003 of two active nests approximately two miles southeast of the proposed Project area, along Lake Camanche and the Mokelumne River (CDFW 2018). Swainson's hawks were not observed during the biological field surveys conducted in May 2017.

Nesting raptors and other migratory bird species- Federal MBTA, State CESA

The areas adjacent to and within the proposed Project sites possess potential suitable nesting habitat for bird species protected under the MBTA (USFWS 2018d). This includes, but is not limited to, cavity-nesting species such as the acorn woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*) and the oak titmouse (*Baeolophus inornatus*); tree-nesting species such as the western scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma californica*); and ground nesting species such as the western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*). Raptors that may potentially nest in or directly adjacent to the proposed Project sites may include red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) or Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*). Therefore, a moderate potential exists for nesting raptors and other migratory bird species to occur within or adjacent to the proposed Project sites. The reconnaissance-level biological survey was conducted within the nesting season (typically February 15 through August 31). However, no nesting raptors or other migratory birds were observed during the surveys conducted May 2017.

3.4.3 Impact Analysis

This section discusses potential impacts associated with biological resources within the proposed Project area.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES Would the Project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation**	**Less than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or regulated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☒	☐	☐
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan?	☐	☒	☐	☐

a) Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or regulated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

Finding: Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation

Special status plant and wildlife species that have the potential to occur within the proposed Project area detailed above specifically summarizing species habitat and biological attributes. The Regulatory Setting section further defines associated local or regional plans, policies, regulations, and/or rules that protect the potentially occurring species. Based on the assessment of potential impacts to sensitive flora and fauna, and with the implementation of MM BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-3, BIO-4, BIO-5, BIO-7, BIO-8, and BIO-9 potential impacts by the construction and operation of the proposed Project on species protected in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS would be reduced to a less than significant level. The following analysis discusses the proposed Project's potential to have a substantial adverse effect on these identified special status species within the proposed Project area.

Special Status Plant Species

As discussed previously, there is a moderate to high potential for special status plant species big-scale balsam root (*Balsamorhiza macrolepis*), dwarf downingia (*Downingia pusilla*), Hendersen's bentgrass (*Agrostis hendersonii*), hoary navarretia (*Navarretia eriocephalia*), Hoover's

Tertiary Camanche Lake fossil plant localities east of the Project area from the older Eocene Ione Formation. Fossil plants from the area have been described by Axelrod (1980). The paleontological potential of the Valley Springs Formation is considered high, given the fossil localities recorded from this unit and the depositional environments that it represents.

3.5.2 Impact Analysis

V. CULTURAL and TRIBAL RESOURCES Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as identified in Section 15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size, or object with cultural value to the California Native American tribe and that is listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1 (k).	☐	☒	☐	☐
f) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size, or object with cultural value to the California Native American tribe and that is a resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☐	☒	☐	☐

3.6.3 Impact Analysis

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

a) Would the Project expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

Finding: Less than Significant

3.7.3 Impact Analysis

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) For a Project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the Project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the Project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) For a Project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the Project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the Project area?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	☐	☒	☐	☐

channels crossing the dirt roadway with the Hunt Club property, Grapevine Gulch, the primary water source for intermittent channels and roadside drainages crossing Curran Road, and the WWTP ponds and one unnamed channel running along the northern boundary of the existing WWTP.

The proposed disposal areas and the Gansberg Ranch property are dominated by grassland habitat and vegetative species. However, because area soils are believed to be relatively poor and/or shallow, evapotranspiration for on-site vegetation and soil conditions are expected to reflect reduced rainy season values under high rainfall conditions.

3.8.3 Impact Analysis

IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a, f) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there should be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	☐	☒	☐	☐

IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	☒
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	☐	☐	☒	☐
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	☐	☐	☐	☒

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

Finding: Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation

There is potential for pollutants to enter the Mokelumne Watershed, primarily Lake Camanche, during proposed Project construction. Additionally, activities related to the construction of the proposed Project would create the potential for soil erosion and possibly increase sedimentation, both onsite and downstream of the proposed Project area. Construction activities also increase the potential for accidental release of pollutants that could affect not only surface waters, but the beneficial uses associated with them. Such pollutants include oil and gas from machinery, chemicals associated with construction, and waste material. Many construction-related pollutants have the potential to degrade water quality by increasing constituent levels in surface waters and could lead to an exceedance of water quality standards. Proposed construction activities could violate these standards if mitigation measures are not implemented and could cause harm to surrounding habitats and their associated plant and animal life. Construction will require special consideration to prevent significant impacts to the surface waters. This specifically includes measures to block pollutants from entering any drainages, ditches, and other water features and to prevent soil erosion that would result from construction activities.

Grading and the removal of vegetation during proposed Project construction could expose site soils to rain, surface water runoff sheetflows, and potential erosion prior to successful revegetation or completion of improvements. The potential for erosion hazards within the proposed Project area is moderate given the steepness of the existing ground terrain. Rainfall

The majority of the Project area is zoned as X District and AG District with smaller portions zoned as R1 District and R2A District where the proposed pipeline alignment goes through Camanche Village (Amador County 2018b). Additionally, the proposed Project would go through a number of individual parcels with various Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs). The APN for the Unit 6 WWTP is 003420097000 and the Gansberg Ranch property APNs are 005220004000 and 005250010000 (Amador County 2018a).

The AG District is applied to all lands that are considered agriculture preserves and are subject to the provisions in the Williamson Act. Public utilities and public services, structures, and buildings are considered a compatible use in AG District zoned lands and would not require a use permit if they are a secondary operation to the agricultural operations and fall in conjuncture with the agricultural operations. The Unit 6 WWTP is zoned as an X District which does not have any special provisions regarding wastewater treatment or the associated facilities. The new treatment facility would also be located in an area zoned as an X District which would not have any restricted uses regarding public utilities or associated infrastructure. The Hunt Club is also zoned as an X District and operated under the terms of a "Safe Harbor" agreement which requires any construction activities on the property to comply with the terms of the agreement. Additionally, under the County code, wastewater facilities are considered a compatible use for any parcel zoned as R1 District or R2A District and don't require a use permit (Amador County 2018b).

3.9.3 Impact Analysis

X. LAND USE AND PLANNING Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the Project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural communities' conservation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐

3.10.3 Impact Analysis

XI. MINERAL RESOURCES Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource classified MRZ-2 by the State Geologist that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

a) Would the Project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource classified MRZ-2 by the State Geologist that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State?

Finding: No Impact

The proposed Project are does not fall within an area classified as MRZ-2 according to the General Plan (Amador County 2016a). The area to the east of the proposed Project area is classified as both MRZ-2a and 2b, however the proposed Project does not fall within these zones (Amador County 2016a). Therefore, the proposed Project would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource classified MRZ-2 and therefore, no impact would occur.

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

Finding: No Impact

The proposed Project would not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. According to the General Plan (Amador County 2016a) and the County Zoning Ordinance, the proposed Project area is not located within or near an area of known important mineral resources (Amador County 2016a). Therefore, no impact would occur.

3.10.4 Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

A second consideration under this section is ground vibration. Typically, developed areas are continuously affected by vibrations but these are not normally noticeable to humans. Offsite sources that may produce perceptible vibrations are usually caused by construction equipment, traffic on rough roads, while smooth roads rarely produce perceptible ground borne noise or vibration. While traffic noise and vibration impacts related to WWTP in the long term are minimal, there are impacts to be addressed during the construction of any facilities due to excavation and other construction activities along roads, streets, and adjacent to neighborhoods.

The proposed Project involves the modification of the existing WWTP, construction of a pump station, construction of either an approximate 3.5-mile force main, construction of new storage facilities on the Gansberg Ranch property, as well as the construction of an irrigation distribution system on the Gansberg Ranch property. Noise impacts from the proposed Project can be categorized as those resulting from construction and those from operational activities. Construction would have a short-term effect, while operational noise would continue throughout the lifetime of the proposed Project.

All new treatment upgrades for the proposed Project will occur on the existing WWTP site on Quiver Drive, approximately 500 feet from the nearest residence. The proposed pipeline alignment would follow Quiver Drive to Curran Road, and then follow an existing improved dirt road through land owned by EBMUD to its northern boundary. From the northern boundary of the EBMUD property, the alignment will remain within existing easements along Grapevine Gulch Road and through the residential areas of Village Units 1 and 2 to the Gansberg Ranch southern property boundary where it reaches the approximate location of the proposed effluent storage reservoir area.

Effluent storage will be constructed near the southern boundary of the Gansberg Ranch property as well as an irrigation distribution system for delivery of the recycled water to the proposed reclamation areas on the property. In conjunction with the new pipeline, a new pump station will be constructed.

3.11.3 Impact Analysis

XII. NOISE Would the Project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐

XII. NOISE Would the Project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the Project vicinity above levels existing without the Project?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the Project vicinity above levels existing without the Project?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e) For a Project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport of public use airport, would the Project expose people residing or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) For a Project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the Project expose people residing or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐

a) Would the Project result in exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

Finding: Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation

Construction

The construction of the proposed Project would entail the use of construction-related equipment (i.e., excavators, backhoes, dump trucks, scrapers, compactors, hydraulic breakers, etc.). Temporary or periodic increases in ambient noise levels would result from operation of machinery and equipment used in the construction process. The maximum noise levels of typical construction equipment is shown below in Table 3.11-4. Residences are located as near as 50 feet to the proposed Project area. Construction is expected to last approximately 18 months. Noise from construction typically attenuates at a rate of six dB per doubling of distance. Additional attenuation varying from one to four dB per doubling of distance also occurs where the ground is acoustically absorptive, depending on topography and ground cover (Caltrans 2013a). Assuming a nominal worst-case construction noise-level for several pieces of equipment operating simultaneously, construction noise can be expected to be as high as the following levels at 50 feet from the construction activity (FHWA 2006):

3.12.2 Environmental Setting

The proposed Project is located in the County (total population of approximately 38,091) approximately six miles southwest of the city of Ione (population 7,918) and 11 miles southwest of the City of Jackson (population 4,651). The proposed Project would primarily be located within the residential community of Camanche Village which currently has a population of approximately 847 (USCB 2010). This region of the County mostly consists of agriculture lands with a few residential areas as well as recreational uses within the Lake Camanche.

3.12.3 Impact Analysis

XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING: Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Displace substantial numbers of people necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

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

Finding: Less than Significant

The proposed Project would involve the improvement and expansion of existing wastewater treatment infrastructure which could indirectly induce population growth to the Village area. However, these improvements to the existing wastewater treatment system would be in response to the inadequate storage and treatment capacity required in order to meet the requirements of the Unit 6 facility as well as the planned housing developments of the Village area. Approximately 765 SFDEs have been built in the Village area and a total of approximately 2,200 SFDEs are planned to be constructed in the area according to the General Plan. Thus, the remaining wastewater treatment facilities (Unit 1, 2, 3A, 3B, 4, 5, and 7) are also being further developed and planned for development in order to meet the needs of this planned housing development. The Unit 6 WWTP improvements would provide a total approximate capacity of approximately 64,000 gpd which would be sufficient capacity to serve the Unit 6 development

3.13.2.5 Wastewater

The Agency also provides the sanitary-sewer conveyance and disposal services for Project area. The Agency currently operates ten separate wastewater treatment facilities within the County, including the Unit 6 WWTP in the proposed Project area (Amador County 2016b).

3.13.2.6 Solid Waste

Solid waste disposal for the County is provided exclusively by a private company called ACES Waste Services (ACES). All solid waste that is collected by ACES is brought to the Western Amador Recycling Facility (WARF) in Ione, California which has a permitted capacity to accept 333 tons per day of solid waste (CalRecycle 2008). This landfill is located approximately 4.5 miles northeast of the proposed Project area.

3.13.3 Impact Analysis

XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES and UTILITIES Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board.	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☒	☐

XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES and UTILITIES Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the Project that it has adequate capacity to serve the Project's Projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the Project's solid waste disposal needs?	☐	☐	☒	☐
h) Comply with Federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

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

Finding: No Impact

Fire protection and police services are not related to the proposed Project and there would be no increased demand for fire or police protection from the proposed Project. The construction activities would be temporary and would not affect the existing fire or police protection needs in the region. Additionally, the proposed Project would not impact schools because there are no schools or bus routes near the proposed Project area. As discussed in the environmental setting of this section, the nearest school to the proposed Project area is approximately six miles to the north of the Project area.

Furthermore, the Project area is currently agricultural and development lands and are not recreational areas therefore there would be no impact related to parks from the proposed Project. Project activities do not include residential development, and therefore, would not result in the need for or impacts to other public facilities. Thus, no impact from the proposed Project related to fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, or any other governmental facilities would occur.

Goal OS-1: Ensure provision of park and recreational facilities serving residents and visitors.

Policy OS-1.2: Support efforts by Amador County Recreation Agency (ACRA) to provide a range of recreational facilities and programming to serve all county residents, including facilities and programs geared toward youth and seniors.

3.14.1.3.2 Amador County Recreation Agency Master Plan

Park land definitions and design guidelines for each park type are included in the County Recreation Agency Master Plan. Relevant park types to the Project are Local Natural Open Space and Community Parks. There are no goals and policies within the Master Plan that are relevant to the proposed Project.

3.14.2 Environmental Setting

The proposed Project is proposed to pass through the Hunt Club which is a recreation resource which is owned by EBMUD. The preserve provides hunting opportunities and facilities for hunting education and classes. The proposed pipeline would follow an existing improved dirt road through the EBMUD property along the eastern edge of the preserve. Nearby Lake Camanche offers opportunities for water recreation and camping. North of the Hunt Club is a 17-acre park site containing a small pond in the center called Papoose Pond (ACRA 2006). The park site is approximately 0.16 miles from the proposed pipeline.

3.14.3 Impact Analysis

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

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

Finding: No Impact

within two miles of a public airport. The nearest public airport to the proposed Project site is the Westover Field Amador County Airport, located approximately 12 miles northeast of the proposed Project area in Jackson, CA. The airport currently averages about 34 flights per day and 130 small general aircraft are based at the airport (Amador County 2016a, FAA 2018).

The County's primary private airstrip is the Eagle's Nest Airport, located approximately 9 miles north of the northernmost extent of the Project. The airport has 23 aircraft based on the field and currently averages about three flights per day, although the use permit allows an average of 13 flights per day (Amador County 2016, FAA 2018).

The proposed Project is located within the vicinity of two additional private airstrips. Howard Airport is located approximately one mile east of the existing WWTP site on Camanche Parkway North and one single-engine aircraft based on the field. Camanche Skypark is located approximately 1.5 miles northeast of the existing WWTP site on Coal Mine Road and two single-engine aircrafts based on the field (Amador County 2016a, FAA 2018).

Transit and Rail Services

Amador Transit, managed by the ACTC, is the sole public transit in the County (Amador County 2016a). The proposed Project area is not within any of Amador Transit's routes as shown on their system map (Amador Transit 2018).

The rail services near the proposed Project area includes a freight rail line between the Central Valley and Ione, located approximately 3.75 miles north of the northernmost extent of the proposed Project area. There are no passenger rail services within the County (Amador County 2016a).

3.15.3 Impact Analysis

XVI.TRANSPORTATION and TRAFFIC Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?	☐	☒	☐	☐

XVI. TRANSPORTATION and TRAFFIC Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the County congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that result in substantial safety risks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Substantially increase hazards to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☒	☐	☐
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

a) ***Would the Project conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?***

Finding: Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation

Construction

Construction of the proposed Project would result in a temporary increase in truck trips on the local streets in order to deliver materials and construction equipment to the existing WWTP site and the proposed force main, effluent reservoir, and irrigation distribution system. Therefore, traffic will be temporarily impacted due to construction activities associated with the proposed Project. Increased traffic to the site is expected to occur over a period of approximately 18 months during peak hours (approximately 7:00 am to 6:00 pm), but once construction is complete, it will return to current levels. Local roads are generally narrow, and access may be temporarily restricted during construction times as trucks are using the roads. Standard traffic control measures will be implemented by the contractor to maintain safe flow of traffic in the area.

Timing: The Agency's contractor shall document road conditions pre-construction to provide a basis for restoration. Post-construction, the Agency's contractor will restore roads to existing conditions.

Monitoring and Reporting Program: The Agency shall monitor implementation of the mitigation measure before and after construction is complete.

Standards for Success: Restoration of roads to pre-construction conditions.

3.16 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

3.16.1 Impact Analysis

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

3.16.1.1 Biological and Cultural Impacts (a)

a) Does the Project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

Stantec

Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Impact Analysis Methodology and Assumptions

Unit 6 Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project

February 27, 2018

Prepared for:

Amador Water Agency

Prepared by:

Stantec Consulting Services Inc.

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1.0 MODEL PARAMETER AND ASSUMPTIONS

1.1 MODEL SELECTION

Air pollutant emissions can be estimated by using emission factors and a level of activity. Emission factors are the emission rate of a pollutant given the activity over time, for example, grams of NO_x per horsepower-hour. The California Air Resources Board (ARB) has published emission factors for on-road mobile vehicles/trucks in the EMFAC mobile source emissions model and emission factors for off-road equipment and vehicles in the OFFROAD emissions model. An air emissions model (or calculator) combines the emission factors and the various levels of activity and outputs the emissions for the various pieces of equipment.

The California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) is a statewide land use emissions computer model designed to provide a uniform platform for government agencies, land use planners, and environmental professionals to quantify potential criteria pollutant and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with both construction and operations from a variety of land use projects. The model quantifies direct emissions from construction and operation activities (including vehicle use), as well as indirect emissions, such as GHG emissions from energy use, solid waste disposal, vegetation planting and/or removal, and water use. Further, the model identifies mitigation measures to reduce criteria pollutant and GHG emissions along with calculating the benefits achieved from measures chosen by the user.

The model was developed for the California Air Pollution Officers Association (CAPCOA) in collaboration with the California Air Districts. Default data (e.g., emission factors, trip lengths, meteorology, source inventory, etc.) have been provided by the various California Air Districts to account for local requirements and conditions.

Construction emissions, emissions from soil disturbance, and emissions from vehicle travel on paved and unpaved roads were estimated using CalEEMod version 2016.3.1.

1.2 SCHEDULE

The project was estimated to start construction by the second quarter of 2019 and may occur over a two-year construction period, although construction activities would not be active during the entire duration. In order to provide a conservative estimate for daily emissions, it was assumed that the storage expansion would be constructed simultaneously with the pipeline and that it would occur in 2019. Construction emissions decrease in later years as regulations requiring cleaner equipment continue to take effect. Table 1 provides the estimated construction work days.

Table 1 Construction Work Days

Activity	# of Work Days
Storage Construction	121
Pipeline	106
Paving	20

1.3 GROUND DISTURBANCE

The area of ground disturbance would be limited to the area necessary for the storage basin (13 acres) plus access roads (2 acres), the pipeline construction (1.15 acres), and necessary appurtenances. The total area of disturbance was estimated at 16.15 acres, however to provide for a conservative estimate up to 17 acres was assumed to be disturbed.

1.4 CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT

Construction emissions can vary substantially from day to day, depending on the level of activity, the specific type of operation, and prevailing weather conditions. Construction emissions result from on-site and off-site activities. On-site emissions principally consist of exhaust emissions from the activity levels of heavy-duty construction equipment, motor vehicle operation, and fugitive dust (mainly PM_{10}) from disturbed soil. Off-site emissions are caused by motor vehicle exhaust from delivery vehicles, worker traffic, and road dust (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$).

The off-road construction equipment list is shown in Table 2. The activity for construction equipment is based on the horsepower and load factors of the equipment. In general, the horsepower is the power of an engine—the greater the horsepower, the greater the power. The load factor is the average power of a given piece of equipment while in operation compared with its maximum rated horsepower. A load factor of 1.0 indicates that a piece of equipment continually operates at its maximum operating capacity.

Table 2 Off-Road Construction Equipment

Activity	Type of Equipment	Quantity of Equipment	Horsepower	Load Factor	Hours of Operation per Day
Storage Basin	Dumpers/Tenders	1	16	0.38	8
	Excavators	1	247	0.4	8
	Graders	1	97	0.37	8
	Off-highway Trucks	1	402	0.38	8
Pipeline	Excavators	1	158	0.38	8
	Graders	1	187	0.41	8
	Off-Highway Trucks	1	402	0.38	8

	Other Construction Equipment	1	172	0.38	8
	Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes	3	97	0.37	8
Paving	Pavers	1	130	0.42	8
	Paving Equipment	1	132	0.36	8
	Plate Compactors	1	8	0.43	8
	Rollers	1	80	0.38	8

A maximum of 33 construction workers per day is assumed for the duration of construction. Soil excavated to construct the storage basin will be balanced onsite, however to provide a conservative estimate it was assumed that up to 10 percent of the total soil excavated may need to be hauled off for a total of 24,200 cubic yards. It was assumed that 9,600 cubic yards of asphalt/concrete would be required to repave the roadway where the pipeline would be located. A summary of the on-road construction-related trips is provided in Table 3 below.

Table 3 On-Road Construction Vehicles

Number of Vehicle Trips	Activity	Type of Equipment	Category of Vehicle	Trip Length (miles)
33 per day	Employee commute	Passenger Vehicles	Light-duty Gas	16.8
1,710 total	Material Delivery/Soil Export	Heavy-duty Trucks	Heavy-duty diesel trucks	20
Note: CalEEMod default trips lengths were used for employee commute and material/equipment delivery.				

1.5 THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Amador Air District does not have a recommended threshold of significance for determining a project's significance, however the Air District's Rule 419 has established 100 tons per year of a nonattainment pollutant or precursor as the allowable emissions for stationary sources subject to an Authority to Construct permit. This is similar to the adjacent Calaveras County Air Pollution Control District's threshold for stationary sources. Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD), which is also adjacent to the Amador Air District has established detailed significance thresholds for construction and operation. SMAQMD has established 85 pounds per day of NO_X and 80 pounds per day (14.6 tons per year) of PM_{10}, and 82 pounds per day (15 tons per year) of $PM_{2.5}$ as its construction emissions thresholds. The El Dorado County Air Pollution Control District has established 82 pounds per day of ROG and NO_X as its thresholds of significance for ozone precursors. Placer County Air Pollution Control District has established 82 pounds per day of ROG, NO_X, and PM_{10} as its thresholds of significance for construction emissions.

Both Placer County APCD and SMAQMD have established 1,100 $MTCO_2e$ as their De Minimis level of greenhouse gas emissions. Projects that emit less than 1,00 $MTCO_2e$ would be presumed to have a less than significant impact.

Based on the above information, the following thresholds have been determined to be applicable for this specific project:

- ROG – 82 pound per day
- NO_X – 82 pounds per day
- PM_{10} – 80 pounds per day (14.6 tons per year)
- $PM_{2.5}$ – 82 pounds per day (15 tons per year)
- Greenhouse Gases – 1,100 $MTCO_2e$

2.0 RESULTS

The estimated criteria pollutant and greenhouse gas emissions are shown in Table 4 (annual), Table 5 (Daily – Summer) and Table 6 (Daily – Winter).

Table 4 Estimated Annual Emissions (Tons)

Category	ROG	NOX	Fugitive PM10	Exhaust PM10	Total PM10	Fugitive PM2.5	Exhaust PM2.5	Total PM2.5	CO2e (Metric Tons)
2019	0.29	2.18	1.14	0.13	1.27	0.61	0.12	0.73	436.14
Threshold of Signficance	N/A	N/A	-	-	14.6	-	-	15	1,100
Significant Impact?	N/A	N/A	-	-	No	-	-	No	No

Table 5 Estimated Daily Emissions - Summer (Pounds)

Category	ROG	NOX	Fugitive PM10	Exhaust PM10	Total PM10	Fugitive PM2.5	Exhaust PM2.5	Total PM2.5	CO2e (Metric Tons)
2019	5.18	52.77	18.92	2.25	21.17	10.13	2.07	12.21	8,364.13
Threshold of Significance	N/A	82	-	-	80	-	-	82	N/A
Significant Impact?	N/A		-	-	No	-	-	No	No

Results
February 9, 2018

Table 6 Estimated Daily Emissions - Winter (Pounds)

Category	ROG	NOX	Fugitive PM10	Exhaust PM10	Total PM10	Fugitive PM2.5	Exhaust PM2.5	Total PM2.5	CO2e (Metric Tons)
2019	5.18	37.75	18.92	2.25	21.17	10.13	2.07	12.21	8,297.58
SMAQMD Threshold	N/A	85	-	-	80	-	-	82	N/A
Significant Impact?	N/A		-	-	No	-	-	No	No

Lake Camanche Unit 6 Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Stantec

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Nevada City, CA 95959

6.1 INTRODUCTION

Section 21081 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a Lead Agency to adopt a Mitigation Monitoring or Reporting Program whenever it approves a project for which measures have been required to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment. The purpose of the monitoring or reporting program is to ensure compliance with the mitigation measures during project implementation. The Initial Study Mitigated Negative Declaration concluded that the implementation of the Project could result in potentially significant effects on the environment and mitigation measures were incorporated into the proposed Project or are required as a condition of project approval. This Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program addresses those measures in terms of how and when they will be implemented. This document does not discuss those subjects for which the Initial Study concluded that the impacts from implementation of the project would be less than significant.

6.2 PROCEDURES FOR MONITORING AND REPORTING

As the Project proponent, the Amador Water Agency (Agency) will be responsible for mitigation measure implementation oversight and compliance documentation. Under the oversight of Agency staff, mitigation actions required prior to and during construction will be performed by the Agency's consultants, construction contractors, and/or Agency Staff.

Monitoring and reporting procedures will conform to the following steps prior to and during project construction and operations:

Step 1 Action: This step will be executed by the Agency, if designated a consultant and/or contractor. All actions taken as part of this MMRP will be documented by the Agency and reported as described in Steps 2 and 3 below. The designee responsible for implementation of mitigation measures will:

- Review mitigation status reports and any other information generated during construction;
- Ensure that the mitigation measures in the MMRP are undertaken, either by Agency Staff, contractors, or Consultants; and

Step 2 Monitoring: This step will be executed by the Monitor. The Monitor will be designated by the Agency and may be a consultant to the Agency. The Monitor will investigate noncompliance allegations and identify how the Agency staff, or its designees should correct implementation of the measure. If a measure is under control of the contractor, the monitor will inform the contractor of the monitor's determination and request improved implementation.

The Monitor will have the following responsibilities:

- Be knowledgeable in the mitigation that is to be monitored; and

- Verify implementation of mitigation by:
    - Verifying in the field that required implementation has been properly executed during and after construction; and
    - Contacting the contractor and requesting that the situation be remedied if mitigation is not being implemented or executed properly.

Step 3 Reporting: This step will be executed by the monitor. The monitor will have the following responsibilities:

- Recommendations may include updating the frequency of monitoring, changing the type of monitoring, and suggesting better ways to implement mitigation:
    - Assist the Agency in reviewing contractor's implementation of mitigation requirements, detailing corrective action and time of completion to resolve any issues that are raised; and
    - Keep all completed reports on file at the Agency office to keep in their project files.

6.3 CEQA MITIGATION MEASURES

Table 6.3-1 below describes the mitigation measures included in the proposed Project. For each mitigation measure the required action, responsible party, implementation timing, and reporting requirements are described.

Table 6.3-1 Summary of Lake Camanche Unit 6 Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measure	Responsible Party	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting Program	Standards for Success
Air Quality				
Mitigation Measure AIR-1: Dust Control and Construction Emissions Mitigation Plan The following conditions would be included in the General Notes and/or Grading Plan for the proposed Project, under the descriptive heading "Dust and Equipment Exhaust Control" and would be implemented during construction activities: • Visible emissions from stationary diesel-powered equipment are not allowed to exceed 20 percent opacity for more than three minutes in any one-hour, as regulated under District Rule 202, Visible Emissions. • All material excavated, stockpiled, or graded would be sufficiently watered, treated, or covered to prevent fugitive dust from leaving the property boundaries and causing a public nuisance or a violation of an ambient air standard. Watering should occur at least twice daily, with complete site coverage. • All areas with vehicle traffic would be watered or have dust palliative applied as necessary for regular stabilization of dust emissions. • All on-site vehicle traffic would be limited to a speed of 15 miles per hour within the project site. • All land clearing, grading, earth moving, or excavation activities on a project would be suspended as necessary to prevent excessive windblown dust when winds are expected to exceed 20 miles per hour. • All inactive portions of the development site would be covered, revegetated, or watered until a suitable cover is established. Alternatively, the applicant may apply County-approved non-toxic soil stabilizers (according to manufacturer's specifications) to all inactive construction areas (previously graded areas which remain inactive for 96 hours) in accordance with the local grading ordinance. • All material transported off-site would be securely covered to prevent public nuisance, and there must be a minimum of two feet of freeboard in the bed of the transport vehicle. • Paved roads adjacent to the Project would be swept at the end of each day or more frequently if necessary, to remove excessive or visibly raised accumulations of dirt and/or mud that may have resulted from activities in the Project area. • Ground cover on the site would be re-established through revegetation and watering in accordance with the local grading ordinance. • A publicly visible sign would be posted with the telephone number and person to contact at the Agency regarding dust complaints. This person would respond and take corrective action within 48 hours of a complaint or issue notification. The Amador Air District phone number would also be visible to ensure compliance with applicable regulations. • All unnecessary vehicle idling would be restricted to five minutes. • Encourage construction worker commuters to carpool or employ other means to reduce trip generation.	The Agency shall require that the contractor prepare and implement a Construction Emissions and Dust Control Plan. The Agency shall be responsible for ensuring that all adequate dust control measures are implemented in a timely manner during all phases of Project development and construction by the contractor.	An Emissions and Dust Control Plan incorporated with the Project SWPPP shall be prepared and approved by the Agency prior to construction and implemented during all phases of grading and activities that have the potential to generate dust.	During construction, regular inspections shall be performed by an Agency representative and reports shall be kept on file by the Agency.	Visible emissions and dust are kept to the lowest practicable level during construction periods. The goal is to minimize dust and emissions during construction and to the extent feasible, complaints from the public.
Biological Resources				
Mitigation Measure BIO-1: Pre-Construction Environmental Awareness Training Prior to construction, a qualified biologist shall conduct one Environmental Awareness Training for construction personnel. The Environmental Awareness Training shall be given to construction personnel to brief them on how to recognize special status plant species, wildlife species, and sensitive habitats that could occur in the proposed Project area (i.e., special status plant identification, amphibian identification and habitat, wetland habitats, riparian habitats, relevant BMPs, mitigation, and regulations). In addition, Environmental Awareness Training reference	The Agency shall ensure that a qualified biologist conducts one pre-construction Environmental Awareness Training session.	Prior to the initiation of construction.	The training shall be conducted by a qualified biologist, the environmental training reference pamphlets shall be kept on the construction site, and a sign-in sheet for all personnel in attendance shall be included in the MMRP final Report.	Construction personnel are trained in the key characteristics for identifying and avoiding impacts to special status species and sensitive habitats.

Mitigation Measure	Responsible Party	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting Program	Standards for Success
pamphlets shall be provided to keep onsite for use by the Agency or an environmentally-trained foreman for training new proposed Project personnel in the absence of the biologist. If special status species are encountered in the proposed Project work area, construction shall cease, and the Agency and qualified biologist shall be notified for guidance before any construction activities are resumed. Depending on the listing of the observed species and its persistence in the area, the Agency shall notify the USFWS and/or CDFW for guidance.				
Mitigation Measure BIO-2: Avoid and Minimize Impacts to Endangered, Threatened, Rare and/or Special Status Plant Species **A.** To avoid and/or minimize impacts to endangered, threatened, rare, and/or special status plant species within the proposed Project site, a qualified biologist or botanist shall conduct a pre-construction survey. The reconnaissance-level floristic field survey shall be timed to cover the appropriate bloom period for the special status plant species that have a moderate to high potential to occur in the proposed Project area. Specifically, for the proposed Project, the bloom period survey is recommended to be conducted during the mid-bloom period (e.g., May). If special status plants are determined to have no presence within the proposed Project site, then no further mitigation is required. **B.** If special status plants are determined present within the proposed Project site during pre-construction field surveys, Project activities shall be reduced and minimized to avoid impact by: • Mapping the population and placing flagging and/or exclusion fencing to protect special status plants within the proposed Project site during construction. Specifically, the area in which the hoary navarretia was detected during reconnaissance level biological surveys conducted in May 2017 shall be reassessed. Install environmentally sensitive fencing and appropriate signage at an appropriate buffer distance, starting from the edge of the special status plant and/ or plant population. Signage should indicate the area is environmentally sensitive and not to be disturbed. If any federal or State listed threatened or endangered plant species are detected in the proposed Project area that may be impacted, a 25-foot area surrounding the species shall be established. Within such exclusion zones, no construction work shall be conducted until consultation with CDFW or USFS personnel has been made and their recommendation for protection is incorporated, as needed; and • Adjust Project activities away from special status plants to the extent feasible. The proposed Project disturbance area will be confined to the existing right-of-way and previously disturbed areas; therefore, minimizing any potential impact to special status plant species if observed during pre-construction surveys; and • Supervision, guidance, and verification of the implementation of these measures shall be achieved by the Agency or a qualified biological monitor. If construction actions are determined to occur within exclusion zones, the Agency shall incorporate a maintenance and monitoring program. This program shall reference the guidelines set forth by CNPS in their Policy on Mitigation Guidelines Regarding Impacts to Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants (CNPS 1998). Additional reporting requirements would be further defined after development of restoration and reclamation plan for rare plants, and as defined by the appropriate agency. **C.** If special status plants are determined present in the proposed Project site during pre-construction field surveys and direct/ unavoidable impacts to special status plant species shall result from Project activities, then consultation with appropriate agencies (i.e., CDFW and/or USFWS) will be required to develop acceptable mitigation (e.g., agency recommended mitigation may include translocation of individual plants, rectification of impact by seed collecting and stockpiling for replanting/replacement, mitigation fees, and/or permitting).	The Agency shall ensure that a qualified biologist or botanists conducts a pre-construction reconnaissance-level floristic field survey.	One mid-bloom period survey shall to be conducted (e.g., May) for the identified special status plant species. Monitoring and reporting, if appropriate, shall be completed during and after construction.	The survey and monitoring of special status plants, if identified, shall be conducted by a qualified botanist or biologist, and a brief Memo shall be documented and kept on file with the Agency. The memo shall include a summary of survey results, affected populations or relocated populations, mitigation, and monitoring, as needed.	No "take"/ net loss of any endangered, threatened, rare, and/or special status plant species.

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Mitigation Measure BIO-3: Elderberry Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measure for Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle If suitable host plants (elderberry [*Sambucus* spp.] with stems greater than one inch) for the valley elderberry longhorn beetle are within the proposed Project area or within 165 feet (50 meters) feet of the proposed Project area, the following avoidance and minimization measures shall be implemented, as recommended by the USFWS (USFWS 2017d). **A.** Areas that shall be avoided, including areas where activities that may damage or kill an elderberry shrub (e.g., trenching, paving, etc.) shall be delineated with exclusionary fencing. These areas may need an avoidance area of at least six meters (20 feet) from the drip-line, depending on the type of activity. These areas to be avoided during construction activities will be fenced and/or flagged as close to construction limits as feasible. **B.** A qualified biologist will provide an environmental awareness training for all construction personnel on the identification of VELB, its host plant and habitat, status of the VELB, the need to avoid damaging the elderberry shrubs, and the possible penalties for non- compliance. **C.** As much as feasible, all Project activities that could occur within 50 meters (165 feet) of an elderberry shrub, will be conducted outside of the flight season of the VELB (March - July).	The Agency shall ensure that the above avoidance and minimization measures (i.e., exclusionary fencing and worker environmental awareness training) are implemented.	Prior to the initiation of construction.	The training shall be conducted by a qualified biologist, the environmental training reference pamphlets shall be kept on the construction site, and a sign-in sheet for all personnel in attendance shall be included in the MMRP final Report.	Construction personnel are trained in the key characteristics for identifying and avoiding impacts to VELB and its habitat, and no impacts to VELB and/or its habitat will occur.
Mitigation Measure BIO-4: Compliance with Safe Harbor Agreement Between USFWS and EBMUD Within the Proposed Project Area The property owned by EBMUD that is included within the proposed Project area is enrolled within a SHA between the USFWS and EBMUD. Specifically, the purpose of this SHA is to 1) promote the enhancement and management of habitat for California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, and valley elderberry longhorn beetle on EBMUD watershed lands in San Joaquin, Amador, and Calaveras counties; and 2) to provide certain regulatory assurances to EBMUD (USFWS ND). Currently, EBMUD and USFWS are the only two parties within the agreement. The Agency proposed Project activities within the SHA boundary must be included under the covered activities as defined within the SHA. If proposed Project activities on EBMUD property are not included within the existing SHA, a modification in the form of an amendment to the covered activities and participating parties shall be made to the existing agreement. If required, the amendment shall be achieved through (EBMUD) submitting an application for amendment in the form of written notice to the other party (USFWS). A written concurrence from the other party (USFWS) is then required for the amendment to become effective. As stated in the SHA, the notice shall include a statement of the proposed modification, its purpose, and its expected results. The parties shall respond to proposed modifications within 60 days of receipt of such notice, and proposed modifications shall become effective upon the other parties' written concurrence.	The Agency shall comply with all conditions of the SHA agreement between USFWS and EBMUD, including amended conditions should they be required by USFWS.	Prior to construction, all proposed Project activities to take place within the SHA boundary must be covered within the covered activities as defined within the SHA.	A summary of the proposed Project activities that occur within the SHA boundary shall be written and submitted to EBMUD and USFWS 30 days following the completion of the proposed Project. This summary is intended to show compliance with the SHA.	Proposed Project activities within the SHA boundary are in compliance with the SHA, and no impacts to California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, and valley elderberry longhorn beetle occur.
Mitigation Measure BIO-5: Avoid and Minimize Impacts to the California Tiger Salamander, Western Pond Turtle, and Western Spadefoot During Construction **A.** If construction activities (i.e. grading, trenching, ground disturbance, etc.), that have the potential to impact the habitat of California tiger salamander, western pond turtle, or western spadefoot, occur within the project area, The Agency shall ensure that exclusion fencing shall be installed when working within 100 feet of a perennial stream and within 300 feet of potential breeding ponds. **B.** If initial ground disturbing activities should take place during the dry season, generally from April 15 to the first qualifying rain event (i.e., frontal precipitation event of more than 0.25 inch within 24 hours), on or after October 15. During this season frogs, turtles, and salamanders are typically located closest to breeding ponds, none of which are crossed by the proposed Project. **C.** If initial ground disturbing activities take place outside of the dry season, a qualified biological monitor shall be on site to monitor for CTS, western pond turtle, and/or western spadefoot in the area during all initial ground disturbing activities.	The Agency shall ensure that a CDFW and/or USFWS-approved biologist will delineate areas that require avoidance and where exclusion fencing shall be installed as well as monitor any qualifying construction activities, when necessary.	Prior to and during construction.	The above and minimization measures shall be implemented by a CDFW and/or USFWS-approved biologist and a brief Memo will be developed to document the measures implemented, which will be kept on file with the Agency.	No direct or indirect impacts to CTS, western pond turtle, and/or western spadefoot.

Mitigation Measure	Responsible Party	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting Program	Standards for Success
• If CTS, western pond turtle, and/or western spadefoot are documented anytime during proposed Project construction, Project activities will cease in the immediate vicinity until the CTS, western pond turtle, and/or western spadefoot moves to a new location (out of harm's way) without interference. • Staging areas, including fueling and maintenance areas, shall be kept at least 100 feet away from perennial streams and 300 feet from potential breeding ponds. The Agency shall prepare a Spill Prevention and Clean-Up Plan; and • The proposed Project shall administer appropriate BMPs to protect water quality and control erosion.				
Mitigation Measure BIO-6: Development and Implementation of a Mitigation Plan for the California Tiger Salamander To mitigate for impacts to potential suitable CTS habitat, the Agency shall develop and implement a Mitigation and Monitoring Plan in coordination with the USFWS and CDFW for the proposed Project. The purpose of the Mitigation and Monitoring Plan is to mitigate for potential impacts to CTS and includes an outline of management activities at the existing WWTP as well as the construction specifications and maintenance of proposed ponds on the Gansberg Ranch property. For example, existing and newly constructed ponds may be maintained and/or constructed for the benefit of CTS to facilitate long-term protection of the species and their habitat. In addition, the Mitigation Plan will outline a monitoring and reporting protocol to implement following the completion of Project construction.	The Agency, in coordination with USFWS and CDFW, shall develop and implement a Mitigation and Monitoring Plan for CTS.	The Mitigation and Monitoring Plan will be developed prior to the initiation of construction and will be implemented during and following construction.	The Mitigation and Monitoring Plan shall include a monitoring and reporting protocol, which will include documentation to demonstrate compliance with the Plan. Such monitoring documents shall be kept on file with the Agency.	All measures within the Mitigation and Monitoring Plan are implemented and the ponds are created and/or maintained for the benefit of CTS.
Mitigation Measure BIO-7: Avoid and Minimize Disturbance and Impacts to Nesting Raptors and Other Migratory Birds The Agency will implement one of the following measures, depending on the specific construction timeframe, to avoid disturbing nesting raptors and other migratory birds: 1. If construction activities are scheduled to occur during the nesting season (i.e., approximately February 15 through August 31), a qualified wildlife biologist shall conduct a pre-construction nesting survey within the proposed Project area and within an approximate 100-foot buffer of the proposed Project area. If no active nests are detected, then no additional mitigation is required. 2. If surveys indicate that raptor or other migratory bird nests are found in any areas that would be directly affected by construction activities, a no-disturbance buffer shall be established around the site to avoid disturbance or destruction of the nest site until after the breeding season, or after a wildlife biologist determines that the young have fledged (i.e., typically late June to mid-July). The extent of these buffers shall be determined by a qualified biologist in consultation with the appropriate regulating agency (e.g., CDFW and/or USFWS) and shall depend on the special status wildlife species present, the level of noise or construction disturbance, line of sight between the nest and the disturbance, ambient levels of noise, topographical or artificial barriers, and other disturbances. 3. If construction activities begin outside the breeding season (i.e., approximately September 1 through February 14), then construction may proceed until it is determined that an active migratory bird nest would be subject to abandonment because of construction activities. Optimally, all necessary vegetation removal shall be conducted before the breeding season so that nesting birds would not be present in the construction area during construction activities. If any bird nests are in the proposed Project area under pre-existing construction conditions, then it is assumed that they are habituated (or will habituate) to the construction activities. Under this scenario, the pre-construction survey described previously should still be conducted on or after February 15 to identify any active nests in the vicinity. A qualified biologist should monitor active sites periodically until after the breeding season or after the young have fledged (typically late June to mid-July). If active nests are identified on or immediately adjacent to the proposed Project area, then all non-essential construction activities (e.g., equipment storage, meetings, etc.) should be avoided in the immediate vicinity of the nest site, but the remainder of construction activities may proceed.	The Agency shall ensure that a qualified biologist will complete nesting raptor and other migratory bird surveys.	One nesting survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within one week of initiating the proposed Project, should the proposed Project occur between February 15 and August 31.	The survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist and a brief Memo shall be documented and kept on file with Agency.	No raptor and/or other migratory bird nests shall be disturbed due to the proposed Project.

Mitigation Measure	Responsible Party	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting Program	Standards for Success
Mitigation Measure BIO-8: Avoid and Minimize Disturbance and Impacts to Riparian Habitat and/or Sensitive Natural Communities and Habitat This MM is to protect riparian habitat, sensitive natural communities, and/or any other critical habitat. In relation to the proposed Project this MM pertains to California tiger salamander, western pond turtle, and western spadefoot and their associated upland and aquatic habitat; riparian habitat adjacent to proposed Project water features (e.g., Jackson Creek, Rabbit Creek, Grapevine Gulch, etc.), and wetlands (e.g., stock ponds); and all other sensitive natural communities. To avoid and minimize disturbance and impacts to these habitats and sensitive natural communities the following shall be implemented: • If riparian habitat, sensitive natural communities, and/or any other critical habitat are present within the proposed Project area, then they shall be identified and flagged by a qualified biologist prior to construction activities. Specifically, when working within 100 feet of a water feature (e.g., stream, creek, wetland, pond, etc.). • All ground and vegetation disturbance shall be minimized during proposed Project implementation. Activities shall be confined to the defined proposed Project work areas, including access routes and staging areas. Active work shall not occur in areas designated as exclusionary by the qualified biologist. • If riparian habitat, sensitive natural communities, and/or any other critical habitat are present within the proposed Project area, then there shall be a proposed Project manager or representative on-site at all times during active work in these areas; including but not limited to within the floodplain, adjacent to and/or within water features (e.g., streams, creeks, ponds, etc.), and/or in sensitive biological communities. All on-site personnel shall be instructed on the importance of avoiding and minimizing disturbance in these areas if present within the proposed Project area. • If proposed Project work needs to occur within the buffered exclusion area and/or within an environmentally sensitive area, then the proposed Project qualified biologist and the appropriate agencies shall coordinate to define potential work constraints and specifications prior to the initiation of any proposed Project work activities, as needed.	A qualified biologist or the Agency shall conduct sensitive area/habitat delineation of environmentally sensitive areas and flag where the proposed Project contractor will install exclusion fencing.	Prior to construction, exclusion fencing, and buffer distances, shall be established, including staging or ground-disturbing activities within the proposed Project area, including staging and access areas.	The Agency shall flag and monitor exclusion areas within the proposed Project area.	Disturbance to CTS, western pond turtle, and western spade foot and their associated upland and aquatic habitat; riparian habitat, water features/wetlands, and all other sensitive natural communities shall be minimized and avoided to extent feasible.
Mitigation Measure BIO-9: Avoid and Minimize Disturbance to Wetlands The Agency plans to avoid and minimize potential impacts to wetlands and jurisdictional WOTUS to the extent feasible. If wetland avoidance is not feasible, the Agency shall apply for a CWA Section 404 Nationwide Permit (NWP) through the USACE, and CWA Section 401 WQC through the RWQCB for the permanent and/or temporary impacts (e.g., dredge or fill) of the wetlands and jurisdictional WOTUS. Temporary impacts to wetlands and WOTUS shall be addressed with onsite restoration for impacts from proposed Project activities.	The Agency is responsible for applying for all permits and approvals needed for temporary and/or permanent impacts to any wetlands or WOTUS within the proposed Project area	Permits shall be obtained prior to construction.	The Agency shall ensure that all permits be obtained prior to construction and the appropriate fees paid to comply with the USACE current compensatory mitigation schedule, as needed. The Agency shall comply with Project permit stipulations. The Agency may prepare a brief letter report on the compliance with this mitigation measure for the USACE and the Agency's files.	No net loss of wetlands from the proposed Project.

Mitigation Measure	Responsible Party	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting Program	Standards for Success
Mitigation Measure BIO-10: Avoid and Minimize Impacts to Oak Trees and Oak Woodlands The County adopts oak and oak woodland State regulations to protect and minimize impacts to individual oaks, heritage oaks (i.e., old growth), and oak woodlands. Heritage oaks include all old growth oak species (*Quercus* spp.) that measure 24 inches DBH or greater. To minimize impacts to oaks and oak woodlands in the proposed Project area, the following mitigation is required: • The proposed Project design will be done to avoid and minimize impacts to the number of oaks, heritage oaks, and oak woodlands areas to the maximum extent feasible. The location of all oak trees to be retained shall be shown on all site plans (e.g., site grading, drainage, and utility plans, etc.). • Following completion of project plans, a tree survey report shall be conducted by the Agency or a qualified arborist prior to removal of any trees within the Proposed Project alignment. In accordance with the California Oak Woodlands Conservation Act (California Public Resources Code Section 21083.4), the arborist survey shall identify all oak trees of five inches or more in diameter at breast height (DBH), with the exception of black oak (Quercus kelloggii). • If oak trees, as identified in the California Oak Woodlands Conservation Act, are proposed for removal within the Proposed Project alignment, the Agency's contractor shall mitigate for the loss of native oak trees by contributing funds to the Oak Woodlands Conservation Fund of the Agency's choice to purchase oak woodland conservation easements. • For existing oak trees within the proposed Project construction corridor, prune branches under the supervision of qualified arborist or the Agency. • Prior to ground disturbing activities, place a four-foot-tall fence (i.e., brightly colored orange biodegradable fencing) at least two feet outside of the drip line of mature trees (five inches DBH, or ten inches for aggregate multi-trunk trees); that are to be saved in the Project area and which are located within 50 feet of any grading, in-road construction, underground utilities, or other development activity.	The Agency.	Prior to and during construction.	For trees to be retained during proposed Project activities, a qualified biologist or the Agency shall monitor on-site disturbance minimization procedures if work is occurring within the tree dripline/ protection zone. For all trees removed during proposed Project activities, a qualified arborist or the Agency shall assess tree individuals and prepare a tree survey report. Surveys shall be completed prior to construction commencement and/or tree removal.	To avoid or minimize impacts to protected trees, specifically oaks, heritage oaks, and oak woodlands.
Cultural and Tribal Resources				
Mitigation Measure CUL-1: Construction Worker Cultural Resources Awareness Training A. Cultural Resources On-Call Monitoring Due to the higher potential for cultural resources within the Project area, there is a high sensitivity for subsurface cultural resources deposits within the Project area, the Agency shall retain an on-call qualified archaeologist (who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for Archaeology) to conduct a pre-construction construction worker awareness training. The qualified archaeologist shall also be available on-call throughout construction to consult on any inadvertent cultural or Tribal cultural resources found during construction. The qualified archaeologist shall prepare a monitoring report documenting the pre-construction worker awareness training as well as any on-call services. This report shall include a brief summary of the pre-construction cultural resource awareness training, a description of any inadvertent discoveries and monitoring (if needed), and measures taken to avoid resources. The Agency shall keep all monitoring reports on file and submit final monitoring reports to the NCIC. B. Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resource Awareness Training The Agency shall ensure that the qualified archaeologist shall conduct the pre-construction cultural resource awareness training. The training shall be for all construction personnel involved in any ground disturbing construction activity for the entire duration of the Project. Construction personnel shall be informed of the possibility of encountering subsurface prehistoric or historical cultural resources and/or human remains within the Project area and the protocol to be followed if a cultural or Tribal cultural resource or human remains are encountered as detailed in MM CUL-2 and CUL-3. Sensitive cultural resources the construction personnel should be made aware of include:	The Agency, representatives, and contractor.	An on-call qualified archaeologist shall be obtained prior to construction. Pre-construction cultural resource awareness training shall take place prior to construction and on-going during construction prior to new staff beginning work on the site.	A monitoring report shall be completed by the qualified archaeologist for any on-call services completed. This report shall include a brief summary of the pre-construction cultural resource awareness training, any on-call evaluation or consultation on inadvertent finds, and monitoring. The Agency shall keep all monitoring reports on file and submit final monitoring reports to the NCIC.	The prevention of any unknown or known cultural resources from being disturbed/destroyed by Project construction without proper documentation and recordation.

Mitigation Measure	Responsible Party	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting Program	Standards for Success
Archaeological and/or Tribal Materials – may include, but are not limited to, flaked stone tools (projectile point, biface, scraper, etc.) and debitage (flakes) made of chert, obsidian, etc., groundstone milling tools and fragments (mortar, pestle, handstone, millingstone, etc.), faunal bones, fire-affected rock, dark middens, house pit depressions and human interments. Tribal Cultural Resources – A site feature, place, cultural landscape, sacred place, or object, which is of cultural value to a tribe – and is either: on or eligible for the CRHR or a local historic register, – or the CEQA lead agency, at its discretion, chooses to treat the resource as a tribal cultural resource – See: PRC 21074 (a)(1)(A)-(B). Historic-era Resources – may include, but are not limited to, small cemeteries or burial plots, bones, cut (square) nails, containers or miscellaneous hardware, glass fragments, cans with soldered seams or tops, ceramic or stoneware objects or fragments, milled or split lumber, earthworks, feature or structure remains and trash dumps. Paleontological Resources – are any remains, trace, or imprint of a plant or animal that has been preserved in the Earth's crust since some past geologic time and may include fossil materials such as bones, leaf impressions and other carbonized remains and shells of invertebrates such as snails and clams.				
Mitigation Measure CUL-2: Unanticipated Discovery of Cultural or Tribal Cultural Resources In the event of discovery of cultural or Tribal cultural resources during construction activities the following steps outlining the proper handling, evaluation, and treatment of cultural or Tribal cultural resources shall be undertaken to ensure protection of potentially significant historically, archaeologically, or Tribally significant resources. **Proper Handling:** If subsurface cultural or Tribal cultural resources are inadvertently uncovered during Project ground disturbing activities, the Agency's contractor shall adhere to the following procedures and methods: • Immediately stop all work; • Immediately contact the Agency Project Manager or representative; • Do not harass, damage, touch, or remove any cultural or tribal cultural resources materials once resource is identified; • Leave all spoils in their current location unless directed by Agency representatives; • Record the location and keep notes of all calls and events providing them to the Agency representative daily, or as requested; • Secure the discovery location with flagging, plywood, or other appropriate material around the exposed site or a person watching the site as directed by the Agency representative, until cleared by the Agency representative and qualified archaeologist; • Treat the find as confidential. Do not publicly disclose the location. Only authorized personnel, or individuals with the permission of the Agency representative (or the land owner) shall be allowed on the site; • Upon approval of Agency, work may resume within no less than 150 feet of the discovery; and • Upon clearance of Agency, work may resume in the location where cultural resources were discovered after evaluation and clearance by the Agency qualified archaeologist. Upon notification by the contractor, the Agency shall adhere to the following procedures and methods: • Record the location and keep notes of all calls and events; • Consult with the on-call qualified archeologist who shall facilitate evaluation and treatment procedures; • Maintain communications with the archaeologist, documenting and recording evaluation, protection, treatment, and avoidance steps taken;	The Agency, representatives, and contractor.	During all ground-disturbing activities.	If any find is determined to be significant, representatives of the Agency shall document consultation with the qualified archaeologist (and Tribal representative if a Tribal cultural resource) and determination of recommended protection and/or avoidance measures or other appropriate mitigation. The Agency shall prepare a memorandum incorporating notes and records from the contractor and qualified archaeologist to document steps taken to comply with the avoidance measures or other appropriate mitigation. The memorandum shall be saved as a file copy by the Agency and submitted to the NCIC.	The evaluation and recording of any newly identified cultural or Tribal cultural resources and treatment by avoidance, protection, or documentation of any discovered resources that qualify as historically, archaeological, or Tribally significant.

Mitigation Measure	Responsible Party	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting Program	Standards for Success
• Relocate work no less than 150 feet from the discovery or as otherwise directed by the archaeologist; and • Treat the find as confidential. Do not publicly disclose the location. Only authorized personnel, or individuals with the permission of the Agency (or the land owner) shall be allowed on the archaeological site. Upon notification by the Agency, the retained qualified archaeologist shall adhere to professional standards regarding the evaluation and treatment of the discovered cultural or Tribal cultural resources and shall implement the following avoidance, evaluation, and/or treatment procedures and methods: • Examine the site to confirm that no additional cultural or Tribal cultural resources are in the disturbed area where the resource was found; • Recommend the appropriate discovery securing measures such as flagging, plywood, other material, or monitor around the exposed site until the evaluation is complete; • Coordinate with Agency to determine if design modifications are feasible to avoid the resource. If the resource can be avoided appropriate security measures such as flagging or other exclusion fencing shall be placed around the resource until construction activities within 250 feet of the resource are complete; and • If the resource cannot be avoided, the Lead Agency will have a qualified archaeologist complete an evaluation of eligibility to the CRHR. • If evaluation results in the determination that a resource is historically, archaeologically, or Tribally significant, mitigation as recommended by the archaeologist/Tribal representative and agreed upon by the Agency would be implemented and the resource would be recorded for documentation in accordance with Agency, Tribal, and industry standards. If the resource is not found significant, construction may resume.				
Mitigation Measure CUL-3: Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains Section 7050 of the California Health and Safety Code states that it is a misdemeanor to knowingly disturb a human burial site. If human remains are encountered (or are suspected) during any project-related activity, the Agency, Agency's representatives, and Agency's contractor shall complete the following steps: • Immediately stop all work; • Immediately contact the Agency Project Manager or representative; • Contact a qualified archaeologist (someone who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for Archaeology) who shall then notify the County Coroner immediately pursuant to PRC Section 7050.5. The County Coroner may assess the human remains. If the human remains are of Native American origin, the Coroner must notify the NAHC within 24 hours of such identification. The NAHC shall identify the most likely descendant (MLD); • Once given the permission by the Agency (and the land owner), the MLD shall be allowed onsite. The MLD shall complete their inspection and make their recommendation to the Agency for means of treating or disposing of, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and any associated grave goods as provided in PRC Section 5097.98. MLD recommendations must be made within 48 hours of the NAHC notification to the MLD; • Relocate work under direction of the Agency within no less than 150 feet of the discovery or as otherwise directed by the Agency qualified archaeologist; • Consult with the onsite qualified archaeological monitor to confirm that no additional human remains are in the area; • No additional work shall take place within the immediate vicinity of the find until the Agency's qualified archaeologist gives approval to resume work in that area;	The Agency, representatives, and contractor.	During all-ground disturbing activities.	The find shall be immediately reported to the County Coroner. The recording and evaluation of any newly identified human remains shall be conducted by qualified professional archaeologist in conjunction with the County Coroner and a report detailing the recording, location, evaluation, and treatment of human remains, shall be kept on file at the Agency and submitted to the NCIC.	The proper recording, evaluation, and treatment of any newly identified human remains.

Mitigation Measure	Responsible Party	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting Program	Standards for Success
• Once work resumes in a location where human remains have been discovered and cleared, the onsite monitor shall observe further ground-disturbing construction activities closely for evidence of additional human remains; • Do not touch, damage, remove any human remains, associated materials, or associated spoils; • Record the location of the discovered remains and keep notes of all calls, site visits and events; and • Treat the find as confidential and do not publicly disclose the location. The Agency shall provide security to the area as needed. Only authorized personnel, or individuals with the permission of the Agency (and the land owner) shall be allowed onsite.				
Mitigation Measure CUL-4: Unanticipated Discovery of Paleontological Resources If any paleontological resources (i.e., fossils) are found during Project construction, construction shall be halted immediately in the subject area and the Agency shall be immediately notified. A qualified paleontologist (meeting the qualifications of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology guidelines) shall be retained to evaluate the find. If any find is determined to be significant, representatives of the Agency and a qualified paleontologist would meet to determine the avoidance measures, such as surface collection or excavation. All significant paleontological resources recovered shall be subject to scientific analysis, professional museum curation, and a report prepared by the qualified paleontologist according to current professional standards such as the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology guidelines on assessment and mitigation of adverse impacts to paleontological resources (SVP 2010).	The Agency, representatives, and contractor.	During all ground-disturbing activities.	If any find is determined to be significant, representatives of the Agency and a qualified paleontologist would meet to determine the appropriate avoidance measures or other appropriate mitigation. All significant paleontological resources recovered shall be subject to scientific analysis, professional museum curation, and a report prepared by the qualified paleontologist according to SVP (2010) standards. A report shall be kept on file by the Agency.	The proper recording, evaluation, and treatment of any newly identified paleontological resource.
Mitigation Measure CUL-5: Paleontological Resources Construction Monitoring The Agency shall retain a qualified paleontologist to review the final project footprint and determine which components should be monitored during construction. The monitoring program could include new pipelines, storage reservoirs, and auxiliary treatment facilities where excavation greater than 0.5 meters deep will occur into ground that has not previously been deeply disturbed. The qualified paleontologist will be onsite during select ground disturbance activities. The paleontologist will inspect the excavation walls and the spoils for paleontological resources. If any paleontological resources (i.e., fossils) are found during Project construction, construction shall be temporarily halted in the subject area while the paleontologist evaluates the fossils. If any find is determined to be significant, representatives of the Agency and the paleontologist would meet to determine appropriate mitigation, such as salvage of exposed material or excavation. All significant paleontological resources recovered shall be subject to scientific analysis, professional museum curation, and a report prepared by the qualified paleontologist according to current professional standards such as the SVP's guidelines on assessment and mitigation of adverse impacts to paleontological resources (SVP 2010).	The Agency, representatives, contractor, and qualified paleontologist.	During all ground-disturbing activities greater than 0.5 m deep in ground that has not previously been deeply disturbed.	The qualified paleontologist will be onsite during select ground disturbance activities. The paleontologist will inspect the excavation walls and the spoil for paleontological resources. All significant paleontological resources recovered shall be subject to scientific analysis, professional museum curation, and a report prepared by the qualified paleontologist according to SVP (2010) standards. A report shall be kept on file by the Agency.	The proper recording, evaluation, and treatment of any newly identified paleontological resource according to SVP (2010) standards.

Mitigation Measure	Responsible Party	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting Program	Standards for Success
Geology and Soils				
Mitigation Measure GEO-1: Sedimentation and Erosion Control Measures The construction contractor shall be required to comply with a site-specific Erosion Control and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to reduce the risk of substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil in accordance with requirements of the latest amendment of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Construction Permit Order 2009-0009-DWQ. The Construction General Permit requires the development of a SWPPP by a certified Qualified SWPPP Developer. The Erosion Control and SWPPP shall identify appropriate BMPs to prevent erosion or soil loss from the proposed Project site. These measures shall include the implementation of construction staging in a manner that minimizes the amount of area disturbed at any one time; secondary containment for storage of fuel and oil; and the management of stockpiles and disturbed areas by means of earth berms, diversion ditches, straw wattles, straw bales, silt fences, gravel filters, mulching, revegetation, and temporary covers as appropriate. The SWPPP shall also meet post-construction performance standards to ensure the post construction site is stabilized appropriately.	The Agency shall ensure the SWPPP is prepared by a Qualified SWPPP Developer and implemented consistent with all applicable requirements.	The SWPPP shall be prepared prior to construction and implemented during the duration of construction, and the site should be stabilized post-construction.	The Agency shall monitor implementation of this mitigation measure and a copy of the SWPPP shall remain on file at the Project site as well as the Agency offices.	Minimize on- and off-site erosion and prevent introduction of significant amounts of sediment into any stream or drainage.
Hazards and Hazardous Materials				
Mitigation Measure HAZ-1: Develop or use current Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan The Agency's contractor shall develop and implement a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan (SPCCP) within the Project SWPPP in accordance with Federal and State requirements to minimize the potential for, and effects from, spills of hazardous, toxic, or petroleum substances during construction activities for all contractors. The SPCCP shall include the following measures: • Storage of hazardous materials, chemicals, fuels, and oils shall not take place within 100 feet of Camanche Reservoirs or its tributaries and liquid hazardous materials shall be covered and stored within secondary containment where containment is 110 percent of liquid material volume; • Materials shall be stored in appropriate containers and contents labeled; • Material volume shall be restricted to the volume that can be addressed by available spill kits and supplies. • Used containers shall be disposed of at an appropriate landfill or other legal disposal or recycling facility; • Bulk storage tanks shall have secondary containment systems. Secondary containment shall be at least 110 percent of storage tank capacity or more if the area is uncovered to account for storm events; • Spill cleanup shall occur immediately, and notification shall be given to the Agency, CDFW, USFWS, RWQCB, or the USACE, as appropriate; • Workers shall be trained to properly handle hazardous materials, cleanup spills, and report spills. Construction workers shall be trained to identify indicators of contaminated soils such as soil discoloration, odors, differences in soil properties, and buried debris. Construction workers shall be trained to be aware of proper handling techniques and appropriate responses and actions to be taken if hazardous materials are accidentally released, with special emphasis on those hazardous materials with the greatest potential to occur at the Project area; • Soils contaminated with fuels or chemicals shall be disposed of in a suitable location to prevent discharge to surface waters and in accordance with the rules and regulations of the U.S. DOT, the USEPA, the RWQCB, and other agencies including but not limited to California Environmental Protection Agency;	The Agency's Contractor shall develop and implement a SPCCP to minimize the potential for, and effects from, spills of hazardous, toxic, or petroleum substances during construction activities for all contractors.	The SPCCP shall be implemented prior to and during all phases of construction.	Evaluation and monitoring of SPCCP shall be conducted by the Agency.	Minimize the potential for, and effects from, spills of hazardous, toxic, or petroleum substances during construction activities in accordance with the requirements of this measure as well as State and federal laws.

Mitigation Measure	Responsible Party	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting Program	Standards for Success
• Excess or unused quantities of hazardous materials shall be removed upon Project completion. Although hazardous waste generation is not anticipated, any such wastes produced during construction shall be properly containerized, labeled, and transported to an approved hazardous waste disposal facility; and • All nonhazardous waste materials including construction refuse, garbage, and sanitary waste, shall be disposed of by removal from the work area to an approved disposal facility. All nonhazardous waste containers shall be covered when not in use and/or at the end of each shift or before a rain or other precipitation (snow) event. • Vehicles shall be monitored for fluid leaks and shall be maintained regularly to reduce the chance of leakage. • Vehicles refueling shall only occur on flat level ground where there is little chance of a spilled substance reaching a stream or waterway over an impermeable surface. A spill kit shall be available as appropriate for the activity. • Refueling and vehicle maintenance shall be performed at least 100 feet from receiving waters. • All fueling materials shall be properly labele. • Oil, antifreeze, solvents, and other materials related to equipment maintenance shall be disposed of or recycled appropriately offsite. If these materials have to be stored before disposal/recycling, they shall be stored in covered areas in containers with 110 percent capacity with berms and lined with impermeable material to contain any spills. The impermeable material should be maintained free of holes, etc. that would permit leaks to contact the ground surface or otherwise leave the containment area. The Agency shall review and approve the SPCCP before onset of construction activities. The Agency shall routinely inspect the construction area to verify that the measures specified in the SPCCP are properly implemented and maintained. The Agency shall notify its contractors immediately if there is a noncompliance issue and shall require compliance. The Federal reportable spill quantity for petroleum products, as defined in the USEPA's CFR (40 CFR 110) is any oil spill that (1) violates applicable water quality standards, (2) causes a film or sheen upon or discoloration of the water surface or adjoining shoreline, or (3) causes a sludge or emulsion to be deposited beneath the surface of the water or adjoining shorelines. If a spill is reportable, the Agency's contractor shall take action to contact the appropriate safety and clean-up crews and ensure the SPCCP is followed. A written description of reportable releases must be submitted to the RWQCB by the contractor. The submittal must include a description of the release, including the type of material and an estimate of the amount spilled, the date of the release, an explanation of why the spill occurred, and a description of the steps taken to prevent and control future releases. The releases would be documented on a spill report form. In the unlikely event of a reportable spill, the following parties shall be notified: 1. Call 911: • For spills that involve injury requiring medical treatment; • For spills that involve fire or hazards; • For spills that are potentially life threatening; and • For spills that occur after work hours. 2. Call the County Department of Environmental Health at: (530)993-6716 • For chemical spill situations which do not require 911 assistance; • For spills that cannot be cleaned up by personnel on site. 3. Call Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board at: (530) 542-5400 • Immediately for a major spill; • Within 24 hours of a minor spill.				

Mitigation Measure	Responsible Party	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting Program	Standards for Success
Mitigation Measure HAZ-2: Fire Suppression and Control The Agency's contractor shall ensure fire control measures are in place to reduce the risk of fires during the proposed Project. The fire prevention and control measures shall include requirements for onsite extinguishers; roles and responsibilities of the Agency and the contractor including what to do in the event of a fire; and fire suppression equipment and critical fire prevention and suppression items.	The Agency's contractor shall ensure fire control measures including but not limited to fire suppression and management measures are in place and on site and readily accessible during construction in the event of a fire.	Control measures shall be implemented during all phases of construction.	Evaluation of the fire suppression and control measures shall be conducted by the Agency. The Agency inspector or other Agency personnel shall verify that fire suppression and control equipment/items are available on site during construction.	Preparedness for and minimization of the start and spread of wildfire during construction activities for all contractors.
Hydrology and Water Quality				
Mitigation Measure BIO-1: Avoid and Minimize Disturbance to Wetlands See Biological Resources				
Mitigation Measure GEO-1: Sediment and Erosion Control Measures See Geology and Soils				
Mitigation Measure HAZ-1: Develop or Use Current Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan See Hazards and Hazardous Materials				
Noise				
Mitigation Measure NOISE-1: Noise Reduction Measures The Agency shall incorporate the following BMPs to minimize noise impacts during construction activities: • Construction shall be limited to outside the County's noise-sensitive hours and occur between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. • All construction equipment shall be equipped with sound-control devices no less effective than those provided on the original equipment. Equipment shall have a muffled exhaust. • Appropriate additional noise-reducing measures shall be implemented, including but not limited to: o Changing the location of stationary construction equipment when practical; o Shutting off idling equipment; and o Notifying residences within 50-100 feet 48 hours in advance of starting construction in an area not previously affected by recent construction activities. If construction activities are required outside of the daytime working hours described above, the Agency shall notify residents 48 hours in advance. If after-hour construction is required due to an emergency, the Agency will notify nearby residents immediately.	The Agency's contractor shall adhere to the construction schedule and noise mitigation measures.	During all phases of construction.	The Agency shall document all after hour work that generates noise louder than background.	Minimize noise complaints.
Transportation and Traffic				
Mitigation Measure TRANS-1: Traffic Management Plan, Public Notification, and Emergency Access Prior to construction, the Agency's contractor shall develop, submit, receive approval from the County, and comply with a traffic control plan. Elements of the plan will likely include, but are not necessarily limited to the following measures: • Minimum Interference with Traffic: All work or use shall be planned and executed in a manner that will cause least reasonable interference with the safe and convenient travel of the general public at the place where the work or use is authorized; and at no time shall a public highway be closed during peak hours, or the use thereof denied the general public, without the written permission of the road commissioner. Limit lane closures to the greatest extent possible. Lanes would be made accessible by covering trenches with steel plates outside of allowed working hours or when work is not in progress. To the maximum extent feasible, maintain access to private driveways located within construction zones.	The Agency's contractor shall prepare the traffic control plan. The Agency's contractor shall be responsible for restoring the road to pre-construction conditions. This mitigation measure will be referenced in the proposed Project specifications bid for the proposed Project.	Prior to and during all phases of construction.	The Agency shall monitor all road closures.	Safe, efficient travel in the Project vicinity with minimal traffic delays, emergency access, and minimal to no public complaints.

Mitigation Measure	Responsible Party	Timing	Monitoring and Reporting Program	Standards for Success
• Warning Signs, Lights, and Safety: Provide, erect and/or maintain such lights, barriers, warning signs, patrols, watchmen and other safeguards as are necessary to protect the traveling public. Install traffic control devices as specified in Caltrans' Manual of Traffic Controls for Construction and Maintenance Work Zones where needed to maintain safe driving conditions. • Clean Up Right-of-Way: During construction, the paved roadway surfaces shall be kept free of dirt or gravel as much as practical. Any potential hazard, such as mud or gravel will be removed immediately. Upon completion of the work, all materials shall be removed, and the right-of-way left in as presentable a condition as before the work started. Restoration and Repair: Upon completion of the work, guidelines for the repair or restoration of the right-of-way will be followed as provided by the County Code, or as directed by the road commissioner.				
Mitigation Measure TRANS-2: Restore Road to Pre-Existing Conditions Roads that are damaged by construction will be restored to pre-construction conditions by the Agency's contractor. This may include repaving, graveling and/or grading disturbed areas. The Agency's contractor shall document road conditions pre-construction to provide a basis for restoration.	The Agency's contractor shall document road conditions pre-construction to provide a basis for restoration. This mitigation measure will be referenced in the specifications bid for the proposed Project.	The Agency's contractor shall document road conditions pre-construction to provide a basis for restoration. Post-construction, the Agency's contractor will restore roads to existing conditions.	The Agency shall monitor implementation of the mitigation measure before and after construction is complete.	Restoration of roads to pre-construction conditions.
Mandatory Findings of Significance				
Mitigation Measure BIO-1: Avoid and Minimize Disturbance to Wetlands **Mitigation Measure BIO-2: Avoid and Minimize Impacts to Endangered, Threatened, Rare and/or Special Status Plant Species** **Mitigation Measure BIO-3: Elderberry Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measure for Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle** **Mitigation Measure BIO-4: Compliance with Safe Harbor Agreement Between USFWS and EBMUD Within the Proposed Project Area** **Mitigation Measure BIO-5: Avoid and Minimize Impacts to the California Tiger Salamander, Western Pond Turtle, and Western Spadefoot During Construction** **Mitigation Measure BIO-6: Development and Implementation of a Mitigation Plan for the California Tiger Salamander** **Mitigation Measure BIO-8: Avoid and Minimize Disturbance and Impacts to Riparian Habitat and/or Sensitive Natural Communities and Habitat** See Biological Resources				
Mitigation Measure CUL-1: Construction Worker Cultural Resources Awareness Training **Mitigation Measure CUL-2: Unanticipated Discovery of Cultural or Tribal Cultural Resources** **Mitigation Measure CUL-3: Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains** **Mitigation Measure CUL-4: Unanticipated Discovery of Paleontological Resources** **Mitigation Measure CUL-5: Paleontological Resources Construction Monitoring** See Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources				