

**Subsequent Initial Study /
Mitigated Negative Declaration
for
Jenny Lind Elementary School
Wastewater Regionalization Project**

SCH # 2019029121

October 2023

**Calaveras Unified School District
P.O Box 788 - 3304 Highway12
San Andreas, CA 95249**

This page intentionally
left blank.

Table of Contents

1. Project Information	3
2. Introduction	5
3. Project Description	6
4. Initial Study Checklist and Supporting Documentation	17
5. Report Preparation	72
6. References	73

Figures

Figure 1. Project Location Map.....	7
Figure 2. Project Vicinity	13
Figure 3. Site Plan	14

Tables

Table 1. Calaveras County Assessor’s Parcel Numbers Involved in the Proposed Project	4
Table 2. Attainment Status for MCAB in Calaveras County	22
Table 3. Estimated Construction Emissions of Pollutants of Concern.....	24
Table 4. Natural Communities in the Project Area	27
Table 5. AASHTO and USCS Soil Classes for Project Area.....	49
Table 6. Placer APCD 2016 Approved GHG Emissions Significance Thresholds.....	51

Appendices

Appendix A: CUSD and CCWD Memorandum of Understanding	
Appendix B: Design Sheets	
Appendix C: Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan	
Appendix D: Biological Technical Report	

This page intentionally
left blank.

PREFACE

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is the state environmental law that requires project proponents to disclose the significant impacts to the environment from proposed development projects such as the proposed Jenny Lind Elementary School Wastewater Regionalization project (2023 JLES WRP or Project). The intent of CEQA is to foster good planning and to consider environmental issues during the planning process. The Calaveras Unified School District (hereinafter CUSD or District) is the Lead Agency under CEQA for the preparation of this Subsequent Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration. The CEQA Statutes (Public Resources Code 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”. The approval of the proposed 2023 JLES WRP is considered to be a discretionary public agency action, and therefore the Project is subject to compliance with CEQA.

The District previously completed a CEQA document assessing planned and constructed operations and facilities for the overall project. The *Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration* (2019 IS/MND) was completed in April 2019 (State Clearinghouse No. 2019029121). This certified CEQA document described the environmental consequences of the Wastewater Regionalization Project, and was intended to fully inform Responsible Agencies and the general public of the project, as well as the potential environmental consequences of approval and implementation.

Subsequent to the adoption of the 2019 IS/MND and the approval of the project, it became apparent to the CUSD that neither of the two intermediate lift station sites identified in preliminary engineering plans and evaluated in the 2019 IS/MND could be acquired. Thus, the District identified a third potential location at the southwest corner of Berkesey Lane and Silver Rapids Road. Additionally, during this time the District redesigned portions of the project to avoid potential adverse effects to aquatic resources by siting proposed pipelines within the paved section of existing roadways, and modifying construction methods at stream crossings to avoid damage to aquatic resources and existing culverts. Based on these changes to the project and other considerations, the District has determined that the 2019 IS/MND needs to be revised and circulated pursuant to Section 15162 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines¹. This Section of the Guidelines requires that a lead agency, such as the District, recirculate a Negative Declaration when the document must be substantially revised after a previous Negative Declaration has been adopted. Such is the case for the Negative Declaration assessing this project.

¹ California Code of Regulations; Title 14, Natural Resources; Division 6, Resources Agency; Chapter 3, Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, as amended.

15162. SUBSEQUENT EIRS AND NEGATIVE DECLARATIONS

- (b) If changes to a project or its circumstances occur or new information becomes available after adoption of a negative declaration, the lead agency shall prepare a subsequent EIR if required under subdivision (a). Otherwise the lead agency shall determine whether to prepare a subsequent negative declaration, an addendum, or no further documentation.
- (d) A subsequent EIR or subsequent negative declaration shall be given the same notice and public review as required under Section 15087 or Section 15072. A subsequent EIR or negative declaration shall state where the previous document is available and can be reviewed.

Modifications to the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration occur throughout the document; however, revisions to the Initial Study are found primarily in the following Chapters and Sections: 3.4. *Project Description*; 3.5, *Construction Contract*; 4.2.1, *Aesthetics*; 4.2.4, *Biological Resources*; 4.2.5, *Cultural Resources*; 4.2.6, *Tribal Cultural Resources*; 4.2.7, *Energy*; 4.2.11, *Hydrology and Water Quality*; 4.2.12, *Land Use*; 4.2.13, *Mineral Resources*; 4.2.14, *Noise*; and 4.2.20, *Wildfire*.

1. Project Information

1.1 Project Title

Jenny Lind Elementary School Wastewater Regionalization Project

1.2 Lead Agency Name and Address

Calaveras Unified School District
P.O Box 788 – 3304 Highway 12 San Andreas, CA 95249

1.3 Contact Person and Phone Number

Mark Campbell, Superintendent Calaveras Unified School District
(209) 754-2301
mcampbell@calaveras.k12.ca.us

1.4 Project Location

The Jenny Lind Elementary School (JLES) is located immediately east of State Route (SR) 26 south of the community of Valley Springs in western Calaveras County in the western foothills of the Sierra Nevada. The overall 2023 JLES WRP is on the Valley Springs USGS topographic quad (Sections 26, 34, 35 of T4N, R10E, and Sections 3 and 10 of T3N, R10E, Mt. Diablo Meridian) in the Upper Calaveras River Hydrologic Unit (hydrologic unit code 18040011).

1.5 Description of Project:

The CUSD is in the process of obtaining a State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Construction Grant to replace the wastewater system at the Jenny Lind Elementary School (JLES). In 2018 the District completed an Alternatives Analysis Report with funding from a SWRCB CWSRF Planning Grant. The Alternatives Analysis Report evaluated multiple treatment alternatives against the CUSD Project goals. The CUSD determined that the WRP Alternative is preferred and will be carried forward as the proposed Project. The Project will require work on the JLES site as well as off site.

Off-site improvements include installation of a pipeline from JLES to the existing Calaveras County Water District (CCWD) gravity sewer located at the west end of Vista Del Lago Drive West. The Project will also include replacement of \pm 870 linear foot of pipeline that bisects the La Contenta Plaza back parking area, traverses several residential lots and terminates on the La Contenta Golf Club property. A detailed project description is included in Section 3 of this Subsequent Initial Study.

1.6 General Plan designation:

Jenny Lind Elementary School: Future Single Family Residential – 5 Acre Minimum

1.7 Zoning

See Table 1 for Zoning designations and Assessor's Parcel Numbers.

Table 1 Calaveras County Assessor's Parcel Numbers Involved in the Proposed Project	
APN*	Zoning*
073-043-017 (JLES Campus)	Residential Agriculture 5 ac minimum (RA-5)
073-043-016 (JLES Campus)	Residential Agriculture 5 ac minimum (RA-5)
073-043-015 (JLES Campus)	Residential Agriculture 5 ac minimum (RA-5)
073-004-ROW (Driver Rd. ROW)	Right of Way
073-001-ROW (Driver Rd. ROW)	Right of Way
073-043-ROW (SR 26 ROW)	Right of Way
073-040-ROW (SR 26 and Baldwin Lane ROW)	Right of Way
073-041-ROW (Baldwin Lane and Berkesey Lane ROW)	Right of Way
073-039-ROW (Berkesey Lane ROW)	Right of Way
073-038-ROW (Berkesey Lane ROW)	Right of Way
073-037-ROW (Berkesey Lane ROW)	Right of Way
073-036-ROW (Berkesey Lane ROW)	Right of Way
073-034-ROW (Berkesey Lane ROW)	Right of Way
073-033-ROW (Berkesey Lane, Berkesey Drive ROW)	Right of Way
073-028-ROW (Berkesey Drive ROW)	Right of Way
073-027-ROW (Berkesey Drive ROW)	Right of Way
073-056-013 (unpaved Berkesey Drive and Vista Del Lago West ROW)	Right of Way
073-033-ROW (Intermediate Lift Station adjacent to Silver Rapids Road)	Right of Way
073-042-114 (Vista Del Lago Drive West road way)	General Commercial, Planned Development, Off-Street Parking Combining zone, (C2-PD-PX)
074-001-ROW (SR 26, and Vista Del Lago Drive ROW)	Right of Way
074-001-022 (La Contenta Plaza)	Local Commercial (C1)
073-042-090 (La Contenta Golf Course)	Recreation, Off-Street Parking Combining zone (REC-PX)
074-032-001 (residential parcel)	Multi-Family Residential, Planned Development (R3-PD)
074-032-002 (residential parcel)	Multi-Family Residential, Planned Development (R3-PD)
074-032-ROW (Goldenwest Court)	Right of Way
074-032-017 (residential parcel)	Multi-Family Residential, Planned Development (R3-PD)

Table 1 Calaveras County Assessor's Parcel Numbers Involved in the Proposed Project	
APN*	Zoning*
074-032-018 (residential parcel)	Multi-Family Residential, Planned Development (R3-PD)
<i>Source: Calaveras County Public Web Viewer</i> https://gisportal.co.calaveras.ca.us/arcgis/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=40a999f3b65a46f089367b7c095f171e	

1.8 Surrounding Land Uses and Setting

The Project is located in a rural residential area and is bounded by rural residential, grazing, and transportation uses.

1.9 Other Public Agencies Whose Approval May Be Required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):

The Project may require permits or approvals from the following:

- Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board — Construction General Permit (Water Quality Order 2009-0009-DWQ)
- Calaveras County Grading Permit, Encroachment Permit
- Calaveras County Air Quality Management District — Fugitive Dust Prevention and Control Plan Approval
- Caltrans Encroachment Permit – Improvements within Highway 26 Right of Way.
- State of CA Division of State Architect Plan Approval.

2. Introduction

The CUSD is in the process of obtaining a State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Construction Grant to replace the wastewater system at the Jenny Lind Elementary School (JLES). The JLES Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) was constructed in 1992 and is in need of replacement.

The CUSD is the local lead agency and prepared this Initial Study to consider the significance of potential project impacts pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as amended (Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et seq.). This Initial Study was prepared in accordance with State CEQA Guidelines (14 California Administrative Code, Section 14000 et seq.).

Based on the results of this Subsequent Initial Study, CUSD has determined that the 2023 JLES WRP would have less than significant impacts on the environment with the incorporation of mitigation measures. The CUSD may approve the 2023 JLES WRP upon the certification of a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND).

The remainder of this document is organized into the following sections:

- **Section 3, Project Description:** Provides a detailed description of the proposed Project.
- **Section 4, Initial Study Checklist and Supporting Documentation:** Provides CEQA Initial Study Resource impact checklists and supporting documentation. Identifies the thresholds of significance, evaluates potential impacts, and describes mitigation measures necessary to reduce impact significance.
- **Section 5, Initial Study Findings:** Provides a determination of the District’s CEQA findings.
- **Section 6, Supporting Information Sources:** Identifies the personnel responsible for the preparation of this document and provides a list of the references cited throughout the document.
- **Appendix C, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan:** Contains the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan prepared for the proposed project. The Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan includes a list of required mitigation measures and includes information regarding the District’s policies and procedures for implementation and monitoring of the mitigation measures.

3. Project Description

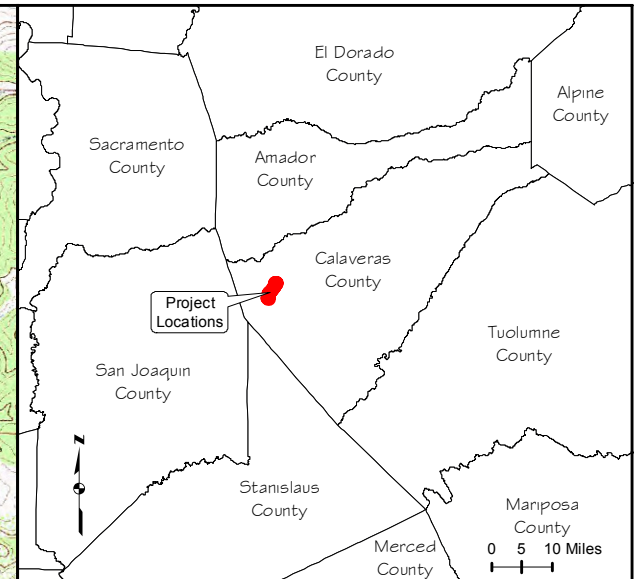
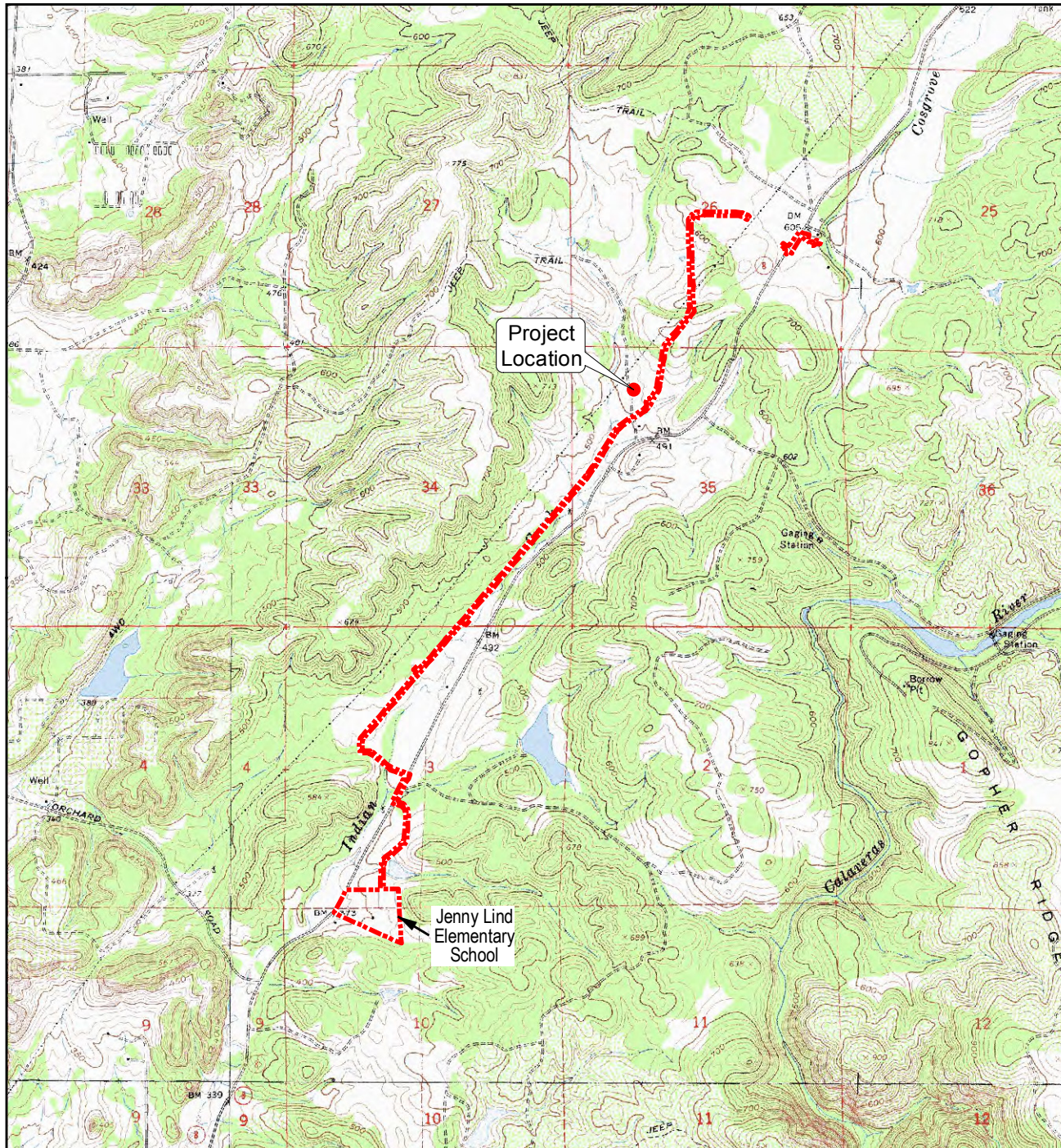
The Calaveras Unified School District is in the process of obtaining a State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Construction Grant to replace the wastewater system at the Jenny Lind Elementary School (JLES). The JLES Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) was constructed in 1992.

3.1 Location

The 2023 JLES WRP is located immediately east of State Route (SR) 26 south of the community of Valley Springs in western Calaveras County in the western foothills of the Sierra Nevada (see Figure 1).

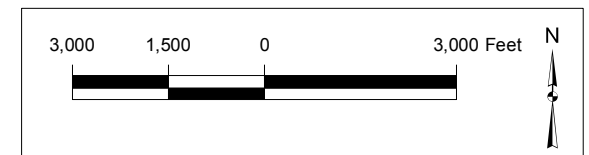
The project area includes the JLES campus, an approximately 3.37 mile long offsite pipeline alignment, and a 4,100 square foot Intermediate Lift Station site. The JLES campus includes Calaveras Unified School District owned assessor’s parcel numbers (APN) 073-043-017, 073-043-016, and 073-043-015 and is approximately 20 acres. The proposed force main pipeline alignment is approximately 3.37 miles (17,800 linear feet) long and traverse portions of Driver Road, State Route (SR) 26, Baldwin Lane, Berkesey Lane (also Berkesey Drive²), and terminates at the end of Vista Del Lago Dr. West. The Intermediate Lift Station would be sited on Silver Rapids Road to the west of Berkesey Lane.

² *Note: As per the County Public Web Viewer (mapper), and as verified by looking at street signs in Google Earth Street View both Berkesey Lane and Berkesey Drive are correct names. South of its intersection of Silver Rapids Road it is Berkesey Lane, north of the Silver Rapids Road it is Berkesey Drive.*



CUSD Wastewater Improvement Project
 Jenny Lind Elementary School
 Calaveras County, CA
 6 February 2019

 Project Location



SYCAMORE
 Environmental
 Consultants, Inc.

Valley Springs, CA (1962)
 CASIL California U5G5 Digital Raster Graphics (DRG),
 7.5 Minute (C) Series, Albers Nad83 Mosaics (MrSID)
 o_nw0101.sid # o_nw0201.sid

SOURCE: Sycamore Environmental Consultants, Inc. 2019; Planning Partners 2022

Figure 1 Regional Location

The 2023 JLES WRP will also include replacement of \pm 870 linear foot of pipeline that bisects the La Contenta Plaza back parking area, traverses several residential lots and terminates on the La Contenta Golf Club property. The 2023 JLES WRP is located in a rural residential area and is bounded by rural residential, grazing, and transportation uses. Table 1, above, lists the Assessor's Parcel Numbers for the parcels involved in the proposed Project.

The 2023 JLES WRP lies within the Valley Springs USGS topographic quad (Sections 26, 34, 35 of T4N, R10E, and Sections 3 and 10 of T3N, R10E, Mt. Diablo Meridian) in the Upper Calaveras River Hydrologic Unit (hydrologic unit code 18040011). The approximate centroid of the Project is located at 38.1340° north, - 120.8664° west (WGS84), and its UTM coordinates are (Zone 10S) 686,990.00 m East; 4,222,834.00 m North. The Project area is relatively flat and ranges in elevation from approximately 380 feet at the JLES ball fields to 630 feet above sea level near Vista Del Lago Dr. West.

3.2 Project Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of the Project is the regionalization of wastewater at JLES with the goals of improved compliance with water quality standards, improved safety, and simplified operation and maintenance.

3.3 History

The JLES currently provides public educational facilities for kindergarten through 6th grade. The school also provides facilities for pre-kindergarten and after school programs. CUSD projects future enrollment to be approximately 536 students with an equivalent full-time staff of 43. The existing JLES facilities include class rooms, a multi-purpose room with a warming kitchen, soccer field / baseball field, and asphalt hard courts. The proposed wastewater treatment and disposal improvements will address both current and future needs.

The existing JLES wastewater system includes a centrally located sewage lift station which delivers wastewater to the JLES wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) located at the southeast corner of the school site. The raw wastewater flows through screening devices followed by an equalization basin, primary, secondary, and final clarifiers (each with intermediate trickling filtration). After the final clarifier, the effluent is delivered to a clear well, dosed with alum and then discharged through sand filters before it is disinfected and then stored for treated effluent irrigation. Treated effluent is stored in an existing storage basin and is applied as irrigation during off school hours on the existing soccer field / baseball field and soccer field. The existing facilities provide for recirculation, flow equalization and returns along the treatment process. Skilled operation is required to keep the system in balance and operating at or near design conditions.

In the 2017 Annual Report prepared for the JLES WWTP the District's maintenance supervisor noted that while existing facilities continue to operate in accordance with Regional Water Quality Control Board Waste Discharge Orders, existing treatment equipment is antiquated and

significant operator time and effort is required to achieve permit compliance. Operational problems faced by CUSD at JLES include the following:

- JLES has failed or failing control equipment. Without a reliable control system process control can become inconsistent and labor intensive.
- The electrical service is aging and WWTP is subject to power surges / brownouts which upset the treatment processes and equipment. At a minimum, power monitoring and surge protection are needed; backup power should be considered, at least for critical control systems and alarming.
- There is significant inflow/ infiltration at the JLES facility that causes process control problems during wet weather events. These erratic flows exacerbate other issues at this facility.
- Biological treatment is provided by trickling filters and clarifiers at both plants. The trickling filters have dilapidated distributors that are losing their effectiveness to evenly distribute wastewater over the filter media. Safe access for Operators to inspect the media and the distributors is limited.
- The sludge removal process can be problematic and labor intensive and can cause carryover of solids to the tertiary system, hindering ability to maintain compliance.
- The tertiary filter systems are antiquated. The systems are manually operated and the backwash controls do not work effectively. There is no filter-to-waste function, making startup of the system more labor intensive and difficult to control. At JLES, the backwash controls are bypassed in order to prevent uncontrolled operation due to failing I/O devices.
- The chemical dosing facilities are controlled manually by the Operator. The Operator implements “work-arounds” to initiate startup of polymer pumps needed for treated effluent reclamation. The chemical storage facilities need proper containment and properly operating safety showers / eyewash facilities are needed.
- Site security and fencing needs upgrading. Since these plants are located at public schools, improved plant security should be considered.
- The effluent storage pond and disposal pumping system need rehabilitation to maintain useful life.

In 2018 the District completed an Alternatives Analysis Report with funding from a SWRCB CWSRF Planning Grant (KASL 2018a). The Alternatives Analysis Report evaluated multiple treatment alternatives against the CUSD Project goals. The CUSD determined that the WRP Alternative is preferred and will be carried forward as the Proposed Project. In July 2018, KASL Consulting Engineers prepared an “Updated Regionalization Plan” for JLES (KASL 2018b). A “Preliminary Design Report” was also prepared for the Project in January 2019 (KASL 2019).

On 13 December 2018, the CUSD and CCWD entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU details the role and responsibilities of the CUSD and CCWD for the payment of fees, planning, construction, and operation of the Project. A copy of the MOU is attached as Appendix A.

3.4 Project Description

The WRP Alternative is the CUSD preferred alternative. A copy of the 100% Plans are included in Appendix B. The 2023 JLES WRP will require work on the JLES site as well as off-site. Off-site improvements, including a pipeline and an intermediate lift station, will be constructed at several locations as described below. The project will require installation of a pipeline from the JLES to the existing CCWD gravity sewer main located at the west end of Vista Del Lago Drive West. The 2023 JLES WRP will also require replacement of approximately 870 linear feet of 6-inch diameter sanitary sewer pipe with 8-inch pipe located northeast of the intersection of SR 26 and Vista Del Lago Drive. See Figure 1.

According to the CCWD Engineer, CCWD has adequate capacity to serve JLES at the La Contenta WWTP. The capacity fees collected by CCWD from JLES will be used to help implement future improvements identified in the 2018 La Contenta Wastewater Master Plan. The CCWD is actively pursuing the purchase of additional treated effluent disposal land.

Proposed project activities would include:

- **Headworks:** The new lift station described below will include a concrete masonry (CMU) building consistent with CCWD standard lift station improvements. The building would be furnished with ventilation, fencing, lighting and other appurtenances as required by CCWD. It is anticipated that the wet well exhaust would be discharged through odor control equipment before final discharge on the west side of the new lift station building, away from the existing school buildings.
- **JLES on Campus Lift Station:** The existing lift station located in the south-central portion of the JLES campus would be replaced with a new lift station meeting CCWD Standards. The new lift station would be located at the south end of the existing JLES staff parking lot. CCWD will have paved access to the new lift station via an access easement without entering the main JLES campus area. The new JLES Lift Station will be owned and operated by CCWD. The lift station site will also be included in an easement issued to CCWD. Fencing will be installed around the new lift station (and headworks) for security and aesthetic purposes. The exterior and roof of the new JLES Lift Station building will be finished to match the exterior of the JLES buildings and roof. The existing lift station will be removed once the new JLES Lift Station is operational.

- **Reconstruct JLES on Campus Gravity Pipeline:** The relocation of the JLES campus lift station will require reconstruction of the existing JLES gravity sewer line. A new 6-inch diameter gravity pipeline will be installed and will extend approximately 600 ft from the existing JLES lift station (to be replaced) to the new JLES lift station. The new 6-inch diameter sewage collection pipe will be polyvinyl chloride (PVC), ASTM D-3034, SDR 35 gravity sewer installed at minimum slope of 0.005 ft/ft. The new gravity sewer will connect to existing or rehabilitated 4 to 6-inch JLES sewer laterals. After the rehabilitated sewer laterals are connected to the new sewage collection lines and the JLES Lift Station constructed, tested by the Contractor and accepted by CCWD, the existing JLES lift station will be removed from service and the existing lift station wet well will be backfilled.
- **Existing WWTP and Effluent Storage Basin:** With offsite transport of the JLES wastewater the existing WWTP and treated effluent storage basin would be removed from service. With the completion of the regionalization improvements, the existing WWTP would be demolished and demolition waste material removed from the Project area. The storage basin will be drained and then backfilled to finish grade. Existing JLES play fields would be irrigated with CCWD supplied domestic water. A separate irrigation meter would be installed to identify irrigation demands from other JLES water demands. Based on a memorandum of understanding between the School District and CCWD, the new on-site JLES lift station would be owned and operated by CCWD.
- **New Off-Site Force Main Pipeline:** The proposed four-inch diameter force main pipeline alignment is approximately 3.37 miles (17,800 linear feet) long and traverse portions of Driver Rd., SR 26, Baldwin Lane, Berkesey Lane and Berkesey Drive, and Silver Rapids Road to connect with the existing CCWD gravity sewer located at the west end of Vista Del Lago Drive West. There is an existing CCWD water main located along the west side of Berkesey Lane for a portion of the proposed JLES force main alignment and along the east side for a portion of the alignment. The proposed 2023 JLES WRP intends to place the new sewer force mains within both the paved sections and improved shoulders of existing roadways. The project force mains would be constructed within the paved sections of Driver Road, Berkesey Lane and Drive, and Silver Rapids Road, and within the existing improved or disturbed shoulders of State Route 26 and Baldwin Lane. The proposed force mains would be constructed on the opposite side of the roadways from the existing CCWD water mains. The trench for the pipeline will be approximately two feet wide and four to six feet deep. Depth will typically be four feet, but will be lower where the force main crosses under existing water pipes or streams and stormwater culverts. A minimum 10 feet of horizontal clearance will be maintained at crossings of new and existing water main pipelines. The new JLES force main would be placed a minimum of 12 inches below the existing CCWD water mains .

The proposed pipeline will pass under SR 26 and twenty-two stream and stormwater culverts. For SR 26, the pipeline would be advanced under the State right of way using horizontal directional drilling (HDD) or bore and case construction methods.

Construction of the new force main pipeline would require an encroachment permit from Caltrans for this work.

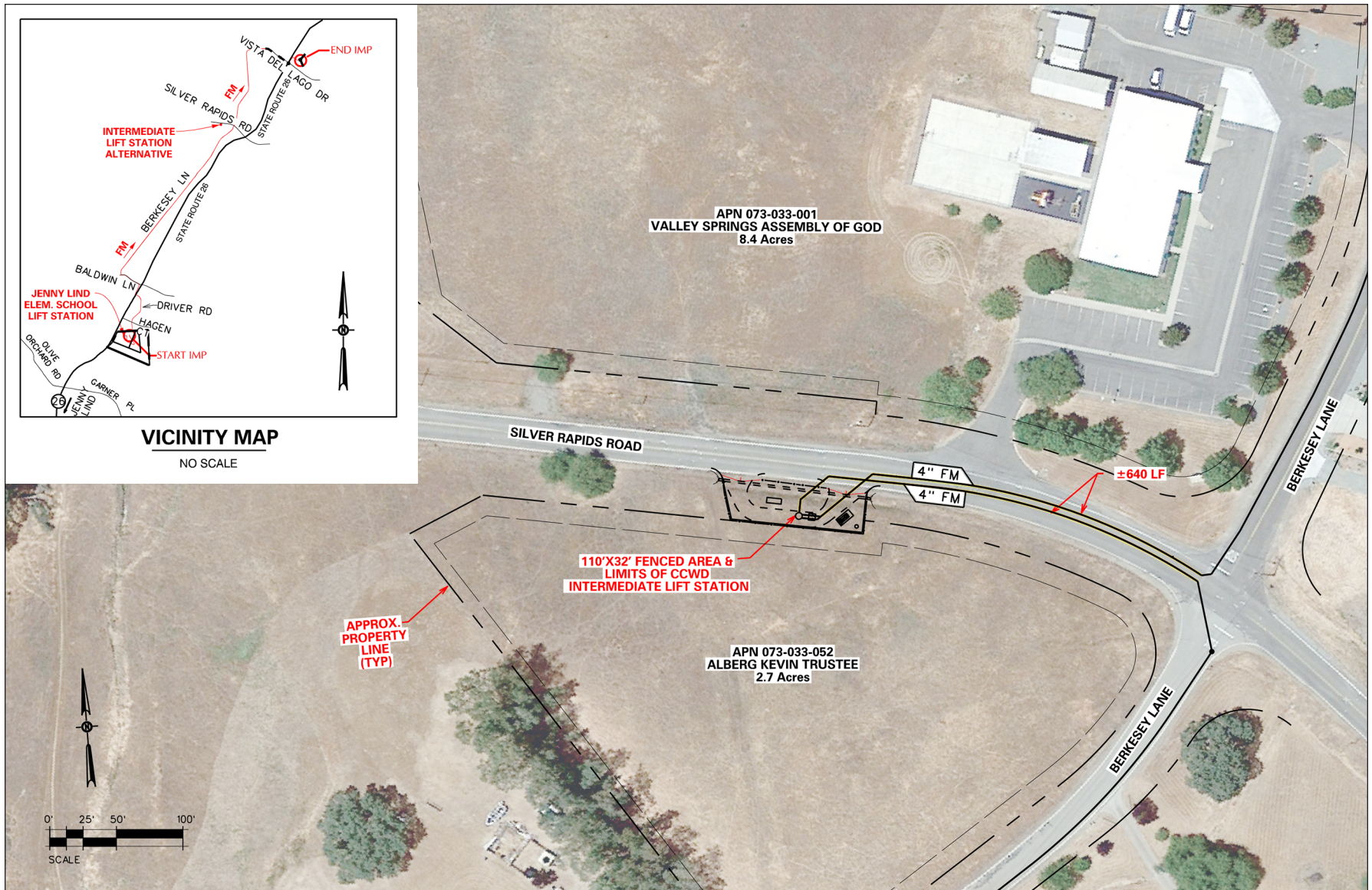
HDD is typically a surface-launched process where a small diameter pilot borehole is drilled along the design alignment and stabilized by filling the borehole with drilling mud (bentonite). The pilot borehole is enlarged by successive reaming passes, while keeping the borehole filled with drilling mud. When the borehole diameter is approximately 12 inches larger than the pipe or 1.5 times the outside diameter of the pipe, the pipe is pulled into the borehole, displacing most of the drilling mud. Because Caltrans requires a casing, the casing would be installed first, and the carrier pipe would be pulled through the casing.

The new force main pipeline would traverse several drainages, including Indian Creek. For existing culverts, conventional excavation procedures using equipment and hand tools will be used to complete the crossings. Existing culverts will be supported with temporary jacking until excavation is complete. The new force main will be backfilled under the culvert with cement slurry.

- **Intermediate Lift Station:** An intermediate lift station would be installed within the public right-of-way on the south side of Silver Rapids Road adjacent to Berkesey Lane. (See Figures 2 and 3.) Work on the lift station would include construction and operation within the public right-of-way on the south side of Silver Rapids Road, in an area of approximately 4,100 square feet. Two 4-inch force mains would connect the proposed lift station to the approved, but as yet unconstructed, transmission force main in Berkesey Lane. No private property would be obtained or affected to construct and operate the intermediate lift station.

A new 18 inch diameter storm drain culvert will replace the existing Silver Rapids Road drainage ditch located at the frontage of the Intermediate Lift Station site. The size and alignment of the proposed drainage culvert would conform with Calaveras County Public Works Standards.

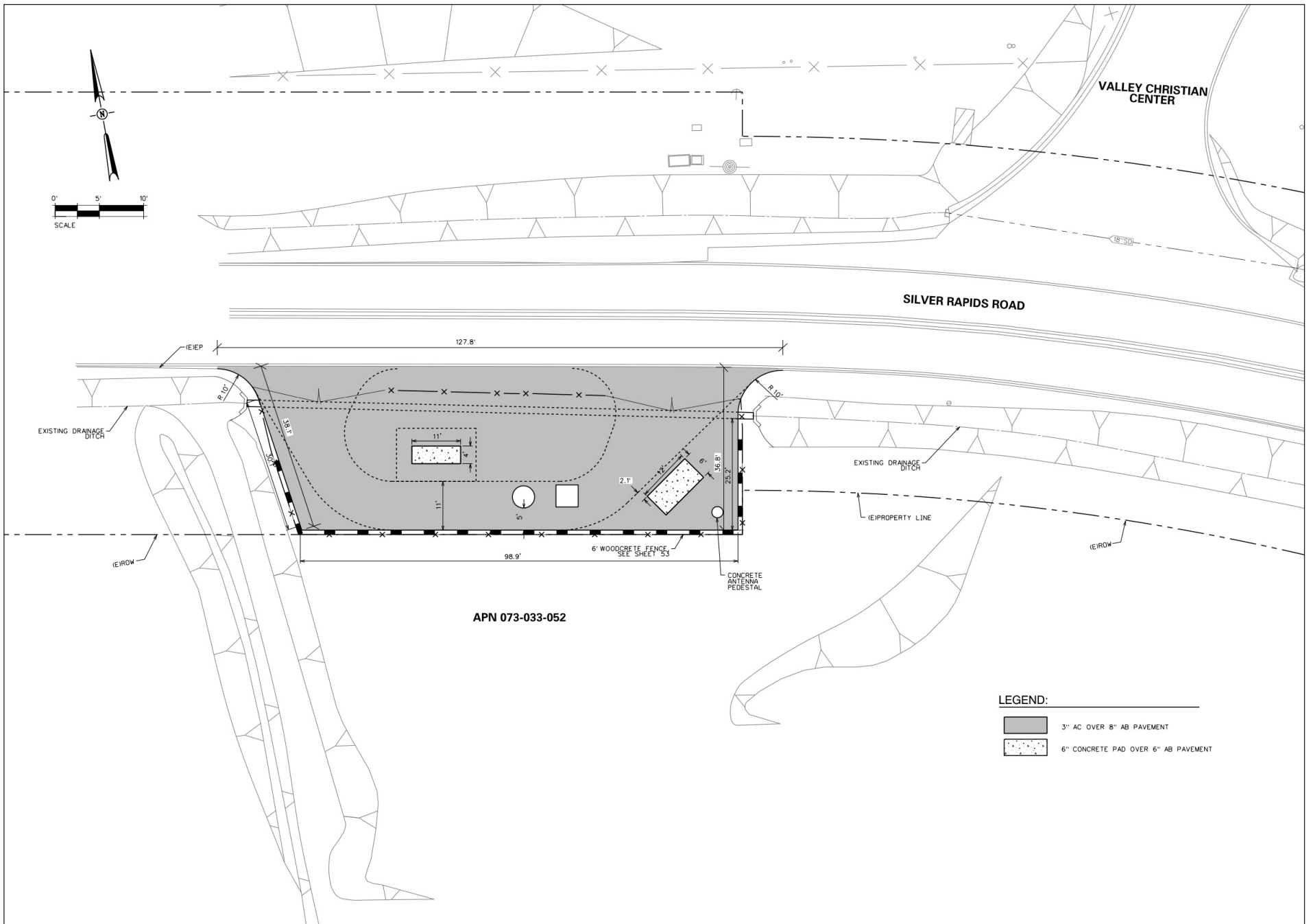
The new lift station would be subject to CCWD review and optimized for future sewer service to existing and proposed residences on the west side of SR 26. The new offsite sewer force main and the new offsite sewer lift station would be owned and operated by CCWD.



SOURCE: KASL Consulting Engineers 2023; Planning Partners 2023

JLES Wastewater Regionalization Project

Figure 2
Project Vicinity



SOURCE: KASL Consulting Engineers 2023; Planning Partners 2023

JLES Wastewater Regionalization Project
Figure 3
 Site Plan

- **Upsize Off-Site Pipeline Segment:** According to the District Engineer, CCWD has adequate capacity to serve JLES at the La Contenta WWTP (KASL 2019). According to CCWD engineering staff, there is adequate collection system capacity to serve JLES except for \pm 870 linear feet of existing 6-inch diameter sewer pipe located northwest of the intersection of SR 26 and Vista Del Lago Drive. CCWD has determined that this section of the existing La Contenta sewage collection system should be increased in size from 6-inch diameter to 8-inch diameter. The Project will replace this \pm 870 linear foot pipeline segment with PVC sewer pipe per CCWD Standards. To avoid potential impacts to a drainage feature that would occur with pipe replacement, the Project will abandon an approximately 165 linear ft segment of the existing pipeline that crosses a drainage. A new approximately 132 ft replacement pipeline would be installed immediately south of the abandoned segment. The 132 ft replacement segment would be installed in an upland location in a paved parking lot. The abandoned 165 linear ft segment of the existing pipeline will be capped with concrete at each end. The cover will be removed from each abandoned sanitary sewer manhole and filled with concrete per CCWD's direction. No excavation will be required for the abandonment of the 165 linear ft segment.

3.5 Construction Contract

CUSD would retain a construction contractor to construct the proposed improvements. The contractor would be responsible for compliance with all applicable rules, regulations, and ordinances associated with proposed Project activities and for implementing construction-related mitigation measures. CUSD would provide the construction contractor oversight and management and would be responsible for verifying the implementation of the mitigation measures. The contractor would construct the proposed Project in accordance with the Public Contract Code of the State of California, Project Plans, and any Special Provisions under development by CUSD. The following are a combination of standard and project-specific procedures/requirements applicable to Project construction:

- Contract special provisions will require compliance with Calaveras County Air Pollution Control District Rules 202, 205, and 207 to minimize fugitive dust emissions;
- Contract provisions will require notification of the District and compliance with California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and California Public Resources Code Sections 5097.5, 5097.9 et seq., regarding the discovery and disturbance of cultural materials or human remains should any be discovered during project construction;
- Contract provisions will require implementation of best management practices (BMP) consistent with the *Calaveras County Grading, Drainage, and Erosion Control Design Manual* (Calaveras County 2012a) and or Caltrans Stormwater Quality Handbooks to protect water quality and minimize the potential for siltation and downstream sedimentation.

- The CUSD or its construction contractors will conduct early coordination with utility service providers, law enforcement and emergency service providers to ensure minimal disruption to service during construction;
- The Project would comply with Section 9.02.060, Chapter 9.02 (Noise Control) of the Calaveras County Code pertaining to construction noise.

3.6 Project Schedule

The Project is anticipated to take approximately 8-12 months and can be completed in one or two construction seasons. Construction of the new on-site lift station can be conducted in a relatively isolated section of the JLES campus that could be completed while school is in session.

Reconstruction of the onsite sewer mains and the “switchover” from the existing sewer lift station to the new lift station would be completed during summer break (mid-June through mid-August). Abandonment and removal of the existing WWTP will be confined to an isolated section of the campus and will be conducted after the new facilities are on line. While the majority of construction is expected to take place under favorable weather conditions, unforeseen weather delays are possible and would impact the project schedule.

4. Initial Study Checklist and Supporting Documentation

4.1 Environmental Checklist

This section of the Initial Study incorporates the Environmental Checklist contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. Each resource topic section provides a determination of potential impact and an explanation for the checklist impact questions. The following 21 environmental categories addressed in this section; those topics with potential impacts are identified with a checkmark.

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

Each of the above listed environmental categories was fully evaluated and one of the following four determinations was made for each checklist question:

- **“No Impact”** means that no impact to the environment would occur as a result of implementing the Project.
- **“Less than Significant Impact”** means that implementation of the Project would not result in a substantial and/or adverse change to the environment and no mitigation is required.
- **“Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation is Incorporated”** means that the incorporation of one or more mitigation measures would reduce the impact from potentially significant to less than significant.
- **“Potentially Significant Impact”** means that there is either substantial evidence that a project- related effect would be significant or, due to a lack of existing information, could have the potential to be significant.

4.2 Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures

4.2.1 Aesthetics

I. AESTHETICS Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?			X	
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				X
c) In non-urban areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from a publicly accessible vantage point.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?			X	
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?		X		

Environmental Setting

The Project is located immediately east of State Route (SR) 26 south of the community of Valley Springs in western Calaveras County in the western foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The Project area is relatively flat and ranges in elevation from approximately 380 ft at the JLES ball fields to 630 feet above sea level at the northern terminus of the proposed force main pipeline alignment at Vista Del Lago Dr. West. The Project is located in a rural residential area and is bounded by rural residential, grazing, commercial, recreation (golf course), and transportation uses.

The Calaveras County General Plan Open Space Element (2019) describes the County's goals and policies pertaining to conservation of areas of outstanding Scenic Value:

Goal LU-4: High quality, well-designed development that is compatible with surrounding uses and is integrated with the community and the physical environment in which it is located.

Policy LU 4.1: New development shall be designed to be compatible with the natural, scenic, and historic resources of Calaveras County.

Policy LU 4.3: Ensure new development is designed in a manner that is compatible with surrounding land uses through design and buffering, addressing potential impacts from noise, lighting, and traffic

Policy LU 4.10: Retain the rural nature of the county's communities and dark skies by controlling light pollution (glare, light trespass, and night sky glow.)

Residents and visitors identify Calaveras County's scenic resources as one of its most valued assets. Forests, rolling hills, ranches, agricultural land, historic landscapes, oak woodlands, rock

formations and other unique topographical features, river corridors, lakes, and streams are just a few of the County's exceptional scenic resources that contribute to the County's characteristic scenic beauty and unique sense of place. (Calaveras County General Plan 2019). The 1974 Valley Springs Community Area General Plan does not contain any information regarding aesthetics (Calaveras County 1974).

Potential Environmental Effects

- a) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** A scenic vista refers to the view of an area that is visually or aesthetically pleasing. Aesthetic components of a scenic vista include; 1) scenic quality, 2) sensitivity level, and 3) view access.

No scenic vistas have been identified in the Project area, based on a review of the Calaveras County General Plan (Calaveras County 2019). The 1974 Valley Springs Community Area General Plan does not identify any scenic vistas in the Project area (Calaveras County 1974).

Construction of the Project components on the JLES campus will result in similar views to the traveling public using SR 26 adjacent to the Project site. The JLES campus includes a variety of existing buildings of various sizes. The new headworks building to be located at the south end of the existing JLES staff parking lot will have a similar appearance to other nearby structures. The new force main once constructed will not be visible. A new intermediate lift station will be installed adjacent to the Berkesey Lane/Silver Rapids Road intersection. The new lift station will include electrical control panels and a stand-by generator, and will be surrounded with fencing for security purposes. The new lift station will be visible from Silver Rapids Road and Berkesey Lane. The Project is not anticipated to result in adverse effect to any scenic vista. The Proposed improvements are consistent with the existing land use and aesthetic of the area.

- b) ***No Impact.*** SR26 is not a state designated scenic highway. State Highway 49 is identified as 'Eligible State Scenic Highway-Not Yet Designated' (Caltrans 2018). The eastern portion of State Highway 4 in Calaveras County is designated as a 'Officially Designated State Scenic Highway'. The western portion of Highway 4 in Calaveras County is designated 'Eligible State Scenic Highway-Not Yet Designated'. Highway 49 is located approximately 10 miles east of the Project and Highway 4 is approximately 2 miles north of the Project site. Neither highway is visible from the Project area.
- c) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** See discussion of a) and b) above.
- d) ***Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.*** Additional permanent lighting may be needed at the new headworks building on the JLES campus as well as the new lift station adjacent to Silver Rapids Road and Berkesey Lane. New exterior lighting for the proposed project would be minimal in nature for the purpose of safety, security, and emergency lighting. Implementation of measure AESTHETICS-1 will reduce potential impacts to less than significant.

Measure AESTHETICS-1

- *All outdoor lighting will be hooded or screened to direct the source of light downward and focus onto the property from which it originates and will not negatively impact adjacent properties or directly reflect upon any adjacent residential property.*
- *Parking lot and other security lighting will be top and side shielded to prevent the light pattern from shining onto adjacent property or roadways, excluding lights used for illumination of public roads.*
- *External lights used to illuminate a sign or billboard or the side of a building or wall shall be shielded to prevent the light from shining off of the surface intended to be illuminated. Lights that shine onto a road in a manner, which causes excessive glare and may be considered to be a traffic hazard, will be prohibited.*

4.2.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY SERVICES	Potentially Significant Impact	Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?				X
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				X
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined in Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined in Public Resources Code section 51104(g))?				X
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				X
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				X

Environmental Setting

The Project area consists of an existing WWTP facility in a disturbed setting and existing paved roadways. The Project area is outside of the area mapped as part of the States Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (California Department of Conservation 2018b). No Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, occur in the project area. The California Department of Conservation, Calaveras County Williamson Act FY 2012/2013 map indicates that no lands under Williamson Act contract occur in or adjacent to the Project area.

Potential Environmental Effects

- a) ***No Impact.*** No Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or lands under Williamson Act contracts occur in the project area.
- b) ***No Impact.*** See response for item a).
- c) ***No Impact.*** The proposed Project is consistent with the existing zoning and does not include any rezoning activities.
- d) ***No Impact.*** The proposed Project will not result in a permanent loss of forest land or conversion of forest land as none occurs in the Project area.
- e) ***No Impact.*** The Project will not convert farmland or timberland as neither occurs in the Project footprint.

4.2.3 Air Quality

III. 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:

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

Environmental Setting

The project area is located in the Mountain Counties Air Basin (MCAB). The San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin and the Sacramento Valley Air Basin are located to the west, and the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin is located to the south. Climate in the MCAB relate to elevation and proximity to the Sierra Ridge. Precipitation is greater and temperatures are lower at higher elevations. Summer temperatures in the project area are in the mid- to upper nineties. Winter temperatures are in the upper thirties to lower forties.

The air quality of a region is determined by the air pollutant emissions (quantities and type of pollutants measured by weight) and by ambient air quality (the concentration of pollutants within a specified volume of air). Air pollutants are characterized as primary and secondary pollutants. Primary pollutants are those emitted directly into the air, for example carbon monoxide (CO), and can be traced to a single pollutant source. Secondary pollutants are those pollutants that form through chemical reactions in the atmosphere, for example reactive organic gasses (ROG) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x), combine to form ground level ozone, or smog.

Congress established much of the basic structure of the Clean Air Act in 1970, and made major revisions in 1977 and 1990. The Federal Clean Air Act established national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS). These standards are divided into primary and secondary standards. Primary standards are designed to protect public health and secondary standards are designed to protect other values. Because of the health-based criteria identified in setting the NAAQS, the air pollutants are termed “criteria” pollutants. California has adopted its own, more stringent, ambient air quality standards (CAAQS). Table 2 lists the MCAB attainment status for federal and state criteria pollutants.

Table 2 Attainment Status for MCAB in Calaveras County		
Pollutant	National Designation	State Designation
Ozone	Nonattainment (8 hr.)	Nonattainment
PM ₁₀	Unclassified	Nonattainment
PM _{2.5}	Unclassified/ Attainment	Unclassified
CO	Unclassified/ Attainment	Unclassified
NO ₂	Unclassified/ Attainment	Attainment
SO ₂	Unclassified	Attainment
Sulfates	NA	Attainment
Lead	Unclassified/ Attainment	Attainment
Hydrogen Sulfide	NA	Unclassified
Visibility Reducing Particles	NA	Unclassified

Calaveras County is currently in nonattainment status for the 8-hour ozone NAAQS. The County is in nonattainment status for and for the ozone and PM₁₀ CAAQS.

The Calaveras County Air Quality Management District (AQMD) administers the state and federal Clean Air Acts in accordance with state and federal guidelines. The AQMD regulates air quality through its district rules and permit authority. It also participates in planning review of discretionary project applications and provides recommendations. The following District rules apply to the Project:

- Rule 202 (Visible Emissions): Prohibits the discharge of air containments for a period or periods aggregating more than three (3) minutes in any one (1) hour which is as dark or darker in shade as that designated as No. 1 on the Ringlemann Chart or such opacity as to obscure an observer's view to a degree equal to or greater to shade No. 1 on the Ringlemann Chart.
- Rule 205 (Nuisance): Prohibits the discharge of air containments which cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance.
- Rule 207 (Particulate Matter): A person shall not release or discharge into the atmosphere from any source or single processing unit, exclusive of sources emitting combustion contaminants only, particulate matter emissions in excess of 0.1 grains per cubic foot of dry exhaust gas at standard conditions.

- Rule 210 (Specific Contaminants): Limits the amount of sulfur carbon dioxide released in the atmosphere.

Calaveras County AQMD considers a significant cumulative impact to occur if the Project requires a change in the existing land use designation (i.e., general plan) and would individually exceed the project-level thresholds of significance. Thresholds of significance for specific pollutants of concern are as follows (pers. comm., Calaveras County AQMD staff):

- ROG: 150 lbs/day
- NOx: 150 lbs/day
- PM10: 150 lbs/day

Potential Environmental Effects

- No Impact.*** A project is inconsistent with the applicable air quality plan if it would result in population and/or employment growth that exceeds growth estimated in the applicable air quality plan. The proposed 2023 JLES WRP does not include development of new housing or employment centers, and would not induce population or employment growth. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with or obstruct the implementation of any air quality plan.
- Less Than Significant Impact.*** Calaveras County is in nonattainment status for both federal and state ozone standards and the state PM10 CAAQS.

Project Construction: Project construction would result in temporary increases in ROG, NOx, and PM10 emissions from vehicle and equipment operation. Short-term increases in emissions from the use of heavy equipment that generate dust, exhaust, and tire-wear emissions and from paints and coatings would occur during the model generated 269 day (approximate 9 months of active construction) construction period. Construction emissions were estimated for the 2023 JLES WRP using CalEEMod v2016.3.2 as recommended in the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Financial Assistance, Environmental Package Construction application. All default values (e.g., construction phase duration, worker trips, off-road equipment list etc.) in CalEEMod were retained unless noted otherwise. None of the estimated emissions exceed the County’s significance thresholds (see Table 3).

Dust control requires the submittal of a Dust Control Plan to the Calaveras County AQMD for approval prior to surface disturbance larger than one acre, including clearing of vegetation. The 2023 JLES WRP may disturb greater than one acre and may require a Fugitive Dust Prevention and Control be prepared, submitted and approved by Calaveras County AQMD. The conditions would be included in the General Notes and/or the Grading Plan for the Project, under a descriptive heading such as “Dust Control.”

Table 3 Estimated Construction Emissions of Pollutants of Concern				
Pollutants of Concern	Modeled Emissions^{1, 2}		Calaveras Co. Significance Thresholds (lbs/day)	Threshold Exceeded?
	Winter	Summer		
ROG	11.40	11.39	150	NO
NO _x	23.23	23.19	150	NO
PM10	7.80	7.78	150	NO
¹ Units for all values are pounds per day.				
² Notes: Data entered to emissions model: Project Operational Year: 2020; Project Duration (model generated months): ± 8; Total Soil Imported/Exported (yd ³ /day): 100. PM10 estimates assume 50% control of fugitive dust from watering and associated dust control measures. Total PM10 emissions are the sum of <i>exhaust</i> and <i>fugitive dust</i> emissions.				

Project Operation: The wastewater treatment facility improvements would provide improved compliance with water quality standards, improved safety, and simplified operation and maintenance. The existing 1992 Waste Discharge Requirements (Order No. 92-075) states that the school will have a total of approximately 635 students and faculty. The 1992 WDR's also provide for a daily treatment and discharge of 0.025 million gallons per day (mgd) of treated wastewater to the existing ball fields. At JLES the projected future enrollment is approximately 579 students and faculty. This is approximately 56 less students and faculty then the 1992 WDR's anticipate.

Under the anticipated future conditions, the JLES facility is not expected to exceed its current maximum daily treatment and discharge of 0.025 mgd.

In general, the amount of criteria air pollutants emitted during operation of a wastewater facility is a function of wastewater throughput and composition. The proposed Project would not increase total wastewater throughput beyond the existing treatment and disposal capacity.

While not finalized, project design may include the installation of a stand-by diesel generator that would be used in emergency situations. Occasional short-term use of a stand-by generator does not represent a potentially significant source of air pollutant emissions.

The proposed 2023 JLES WRP would not increase permanent employment at the new wastewater facility. Once constructed the new headworks/ lift stations would be owned and operated by CCWD. Maintenance of the new headworks/ lift stations will require regular visits by CCWD staff. The number of maintenance visits required is expected to be less than or equal the existing headworks/ lift station. It is anticipated that the proposed 2023 JLES WRP would not substantially change current operational emissions, and operational impacts would be less than significant.

- c) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Sensitive individuals refer to those segments of the population most susceptible to poor air quality (i.e., children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing serious health problems affected by air quality). Sensitive land uses occur where sensitive individuals are most likely to spend time (e.g. schools and schoolyards, parks and

playgrounds, day care centers, nursing homes, hospitals, and residential communities). The JLES campus is a sensitive site and other sensitive uses including residential occur adjacent to the proposed force main alignment. Adjacent receptors have the potential to be exposed to PM10, PM2.5, CO, ROG, and NOx during construction. These impacts are considered less than significant due to the limited nature of the Project and the short-term construction period.

The Project is not located within an area known to contain naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) or an area “more likely to contain naturally occurring asbestos” (California Department of Conservation 2000).

- d) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Construction activities would involve the use of construction equipment and asphalt paving, which have distinctive odors. Odors from construction activities are considered less than significant because of the limited number of the public affected and the short-term nature of the emissions.

The proposed Project would not result in increased production of odors causing compounds. It is anticipated that the building exhaust at the new headwords building would be directed to an odor absorption bed located adjacent to the screening equipment. These impacts are considered less than significant.

4.2.4 Biological Resources

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?		X		
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?			X	
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?				X
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery site?			X	

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES				
	Potentially Significant Impact	Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				X
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				X

Environmental Setting

Potential impacts to biological and wetlands resources were evaluated in the Project's Biological Assessment Report (BA; Sycamore Environmental 2019a), Aquatic Resource Delineation Report (Sycamore Environmental 2019b), and Biological Surveys for the Alternative Intermediate Lift Station for the Jenny Lind Elementary School Wastewater Treatment Upgrade Project (Padre Associates 2023a).

The BA and 2023 Biological Surveys offer the following conclusions regarding biological resources:

- The Intermediate Lift Station site does not contain suitable habitat for the special status plants lone manzanita, Hoover's calycadenia, or Patterson's navarretia.
- The Intermediate Lift Station site does not provide suitable habitat for special status invertebrates: vernal pool fairy shrimp monarch butterfly, or valley elderberry longhorn beetle.
- The Intermediate Lift Station site does not provide suitable habitat for steelhead – Central Valley DPS, California tiger salamander – central California DPS, California red-legged frog, or western spadefoot.
- The Intermediate Lift Station site does not provide suitable habitat for prairie falcon, bald eagle or tricolored blackbird.
- Portions of the BSA provides dispersal habitat for State Species of Special Concern Western Pond Turtle (WPT), the state and federal threatened California Tiger Salamander (CTS), and the federal-threatened California red-legged frog (CRLF).
- The Project site and surrounding area provide potential nesting habitat for some birds listed under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and State Fish and Game Code.
- The Project site provides potential habitat for two California Native Plant Society ranked rare plants: Jepson's coyote thistle and Tuolumne button-celery. No special status plants were observed during the surveys conducted during the evident and identifiable period.

- The Project site is located in the Upper Calaveras River Hydrologic Unit (hydrologic unit code 18040011) which is designated as EFH for Chinook salmon (NMFS 2014). The proposed Project activities will not adversely affect designated EFH for Chinook salmon.
- The Project site does not provide habitat for any other federal-listed wildlife or plants species.

Natural communities present in the Project area are shown in Table 4 (Sycamore Environmental 2019a). Special-status natural communities evaluated in the Project BA are waters, wetlands, riparian communities, and any natural community ranked S1, S2, or S3 by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). The Valley oak woodland, seasonal wetlands, Indian Creek, intermittent channels, and ephemeral channels are special-status natural communities in the Project area.

Biological Community (Scientific Name [CDFW Code]¹)	Rarity Rank ²	Area (ac)
Developed/ Landscaped	--	43.96
Interior Live Oak Woodland (<i>Quercus wislizeni</i> - <i>Pinus Sabiana</i> /annual grass-herb [71.080.00])	G4S4	0.26
Valley Oak Woodland (<i>Quercus lobata</i> / herbaceous semi-riparian)	G3S3	0.08
Non-native Annual Grassland (<i>Avena barbata</i> , <i>fatua</i>) semi-natural herbaceous stands [44.150])	--	0.50
Indian Creek	--	0.17
Intermittent Channels	--	0.06
Ephemeral Channels	--	0.04
Seasonal Wetland	--	0.05
	Total	45.12

Construction Modifications

Subsequent to the certification of the 2019 IS/MND and the evolution of engineering design drawings, the 2023 JLES WRP has been revised to place the new sewer force mains within both the paved sections and improved shoulders of existing roadways. The project force mains primarily would be constructed within the paved sections of Driver Road, Berkesey Lane, and Silver Rapids Road, or within the existing improved or disturbed shoulders of State Route 26 and Baldwin Lane.

The proposed pipeline will pass under SR 26 and twenty-two stream and stormwater culverts. For SR 26, the pipeline would be advanced under the State right of way using horizontal directional drilling (HDD) or bore and case construction. The new force main pipeline would

traverse several drainages, including Indian Creek. For existing culverts (including those serving Indian Creek), conventional excavation procedures using equipment and hand tools will be used to complete the crossings. Existing culverts will be supported with temporary jacking until excavation is complete. The new force main will be backfilled under the culvert with cement slurry.

Because all trenching and associated construction would occur within existing paved roadway travel lanes or disturbed roadway shoulders, the potential for adverse effects to biological resources would be reduced from that identified in the 2019 IS/MND. However, adverse impacts could occur as set forth below. The culvert crossing techniques to be used in constructing the force mains would substantially, but not fully, reduce the potential that adverse effects would occur to the beds and banks of waterways now adjacent but not within the project disturbance area. In reflection of this, Mitigation Measure BIO-4 as set forth below has been revised to no longer require obtaining of State and federal permits prior to the initiation of construction.

Potential Environmental Effects

a) *Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.*

Special-Status Plant Species: The 2023 JLES WRP Alternative Intermediate Lift Station project site, does not provide habitat for the special status plant species Ione manzanita (*Arctostaphylos myrtifolia*), Hoover's calycadenia (*Calycadenia hooveri*), or Patterson's navarretia (*Navarretia paradoxiclara*). The larger JLES WRP area provides habitat for two special-status plants ranked by the CNPS, Jepson's coyote thistle (*Eryngium jepsonii*) and Tuolumne button-celery (*Eryngium pinnatisectum*). Both species are perennial herbs with a large distinctive, persistent inflorescence that allows detection and identification after bloom. No species in the genus *Eryngium* were observed in the project area. No impact will occur and no mitigation is needed.

Special-Status Wildlife Species

Intermediate Lift Station Site

The 2023 JLES WRP Alternative Intermediate Lift Station site does not provide suitable habitat for the following wildlife species. For additional information, please consult Appendix D, available on request.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • Branchinecta lynchi
vernal pool fairy shrimp | • Danaus plexippus
monarch butterfly |
| • Desmocercus californicus
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle | • Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus pop. 11
steelhead - Central Valley DPS |
| • Ambystoma californiense pop. 1
California tiger salamander – central
California DPS | • Rana draytonii
California red-legged frog |

- *Spea hammondi*
western spadefoot
- *Falco mexicanus*
prairie falcon
- *Agelaius tricolor*
tricolored blackbird
- *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*
bald eagle

Remainder of Project Area

California tiger salamander (CTS; *Ambystoma californiense*): No CTS breeding habitat occurs in the Project area. The nearest potential breeding habitat is a detention pond located approximately 120 ft northeast of intersection of Hagen Court and Driver Road. The detention pond is hydrologically connected to intermittent channel 1 (IC-1) in the Project area. During the September 2018 survey the detention pond was full and contained hundreds of bull frogs which are known CTS predators.

Within the Project area, IC-1 provides only marginal dispersal habitat for CTS. CTS prefer dispersal through annual grasslands that lack dense hardwood vegetation. This is likely due to their reliance on California ground squirrel burrows for upland refugia which tend to occur in open annual grasslands as well. There were no ground squirrel burrows observed in the Project area near IC-1. Developed road and landscaped areas do not provide habitat for CTS.

Intermittent channel 1 (IC-2), Indian Creek and ephemeral channels within the Project area are unlikely to be CTS dispersal habitat. Potential CTS breeding habitat is located greater than 1,600 ft from these features. Barriers to CTS dispersal occur between potential breeding habitat and these water features including many residences and several roads. Similar barriers occur between potential CTS breeding habitat and the non-native annual grasslands within the Project area.

Additionally, no mammal burrows suitable for CTS were observed on non-native annual grasslands in the Project area.

The segment of Driver Road from JLES to its intersection with SR 26 was improved in 2014 as part of the Jenny Lind Elementary School Safe Routes to School Project. IC-1 and IC-2 are within the 2014 JLES Safe Routes to School Project footprint. The 2011-2012 CEQA Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Project evaluated CTS (Calaveras County 2011). The CEQA IS/MND provided measures to reduce potential impacts to less than significant.

The Jenny Lind Elementary School Safe Routes to School Project also obtained permits from CDFW and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers which included additional measures to protect CTS. The measures below have been adapted from the Jenny Lind Elementary School Safe Routes to School Project, CEQA IS/MND (SCH# 2011082043), Section 404 Permit (Regulatory No. SPK- 2012-00138), and CDFW Streambed Alteration Agreement

Notification (No. 1600-2012-0015- R2). As the federal lead agency, the Corps of Engineers determined the Project would have no effect to CTS or any other listed species.

Sycamore Environmental Consultants conducted preconstruction CTS surveys for the Jenny Lind Elementary School Safe Routes to School Project. No CTS were observed during the survey. The survey concluded that because of the lack of small animal burrows in uplands surrounding the detention pond and the lack of other water features, the Project provided only marginal habitat for CTS. Implementation of BIO-1 will reduce potential impact to less than significant.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1 (California tiger salamander)

- ***Seasonal Avoidance:*** Project activities will be scheduled to minimize adverse effects to CTS, CRLF, and their habitat. Disturbance to upland habitat adjacent to IC-1, IC-3 and the detention pond will be confined to the dry season, generally May through October 15. Grading and other disturbance in water features, if unavoidable, shall be conducted only when they are dry, typically between July 15 and October 15. Work within a water feature may begin prior to July 15 if the pool or wetland has been dry for a minimum of 30 days prior to initiating work. Work adjacent to IC-3, IC-1 and the detention pond would be limited to periods of low rainfall (less than 0.08 inches per 24-hour period and less than 40 percent chance of rain). Construction activities shall cease 24 hours prior to a 40 percent or greater forecast of rain from the National Weather Service (NWS). Construction may continue 24 hours after the rain ceases if no precipitation is in the 24-hour forecast. If work must continue when rain is forecast (greater than 40 percent chance of rain), a USFWS-approved biologist(s) shall survey the project site before construction begins each day rain is forecast. If rain exceeds 0.5 inches during a 24-hour period, work shall cease until NWS forecasts no further rain.
- ***Environmental Awareness Training:*** Prior to the start of construction, a USFWS approved biologist will conduct a training program for all construction personnel including contractors and subcontractors. The training will include, at a minimum, a description of the CTS, CRLF, and WPT and its habitat within the BSA; an explanation of the species status and protection under state and federal laws; the avoidance and minimization measures to be implemented to reduce take of this species; communication and work stoppage procedures in case a listed species is observed within the project area; and an explanation of the importance of the Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs). A fact sheet conveying this information will be prepared and distributed to all construction personnel. The applicant shall provide interpretation for non-English speaking workers. The same instruction shall be provided to any new workers before they are authorized to perform project work.
- ***Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs):*** Prior to the start of construction, ESAs defined as areas containing sensitive habitats adjacent to or within construction work areas for which physical disturbance is not allowed - will be clearly delineated using

high visibility orange fencing. The ESA fencing will remain in place throughout the duration of the proposed action, while construction activities are ongoing, and will be regularly inspected and fully maintained at all times.

- ***Avoidance of Entrapment:*** *To prevent inadvertent entrapment of animals during construction, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than 6 inches deep, in close proximity to IC-1 and IC-3, will be covered with plywood or similar materials at the close of each working day or provided with one or more escape ramps constructed of earth fill or wooden planks. The contractor shall inspect all holes and trenches at the beginning of each workday and before such holes or trenches are filled.*

California red-legged frog (CRLF; *Rana draytonii*): No CTS breeding habitat occurs in the Project area. The nearest potential breeding habitat is a detention pond located approximately 120 ft northeast of intersection of Hagen Court and Driver Road. The detention pond is hydrologically connected to intermittent channel 1 (IC-1) in the Project area. During the September 2018 survey the detention pond was full and contained hundreds of bull frogs which are known CTS predators.

The JLES campus and the 3.37-mile-long paved off-site force main alignment do not provide habitat for CRLF. A detention pond northeast of Driver Rd. and Hagen Ct. outside the BSA appears to contain some water year-round. The pond has a large population of bullfrogs that precludes the presence of CRLF.

IC-3 drains to Cosgrove Creek east of the BSA. Youngs Creek is tributary to Spring Valley Creek which empties to Cosgrove Creek. IC-3 is hydrologically connected to Youngs Creek. Multiple pond features occur between the IC-3 and Youngs Creek, a distance of approximately 4.6 miles.

Additional pond features occur within one mile of IC-3. IC-3 is a highly disturbed drainage. The La Contenta Golf Course abuts the north bank of IC-3. Golf course maintenance includes mowing up to the bank of IC-3. The area along the south bank of IC-3 in the BSA also appears subject to regular mowing. Emergent vegetation in IC-3 is also managed, during the January field work it was apparent that cattails in IC-3 were mowed the previous season. IC-3 also receives irrigation runoff from golf course and road off from SR26 and Vista Del Lago Drive. The highly disturbed nature of IC-3, its location some 4.6 miles from the only known record of CRLF in Calaveras County, and the number of dispersal barriers (roads, golf course, other developed areas) between the only known population of CRLF in the County significantly limit the possibility that CRLF are using IC-3.

The same reasons that limit the potential use of IC-3 by CRLF for breeding also limit the suitability of the uplands in the Project area from providing aestivation and dispersal habitat.

The Project has been designed to avoid impacts to IC-3. To avoid potential impacts to IC-3 resulting from pipe replacement, the Project will abandon an approximately 165 linear ft segment of the existing pipeline that crosses IC-3. A new approximately 132 ft replacement pipeline would be installed in a paved parking lot south of the abandoned segment. The abandoned 165 linear ft segment of the existing pipeline will be capped with concrete at each end. The cover will be removed from each abandoned sanitary sewer manhole and filled with concrete per CCWD's direction. These activities would not impact IC-3. No excavation will be required for the abandonment of the 165 linear ft segment. Implementation of mitigation measure BIO-1 will reduce potential impacts to less than significant.

Western Pond Turtle (WPT; *Emys marmorata*): WPT were not observed in the Project area during the general biological fieldwork. In the Project area, IC-3 and IC-1 near the detention pond provide potential habitat for WPT. Implementation of BIO-2 will reduce potential impacts to less than significant.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2 (Western Pond Turtle)

- *A qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey for WPT within 48 hours prior to the onset of vegetation removal or ground disturbance within 50 ft of IC-1 and IC-3 in the Project area.*
- *If WPT are found, construction activities with potential to harm the individual(s) will stop and a qualified biologist will be notified. Construction will resume when the biologist has either relocated the WPT out of the construction zone to nearby suitable habitat, or, after thorough inspection, determined that the WPT has moved away from the construction zone.*
- *Environmental awareness training will be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to the onset of project work for construction personnel to brief them on how to recognize WPT. Construction personnel will be informed that if a WPT is encountered in the work area, construction should stop and a qualified biologist be notified. Awareness training will be conducted for new personnel (if appropriate) as they are brought on the job during the construction period. Upon completion of training, employees will sign a form stating that they attended the training and understand all the conservation and protection measures.*

Nesting Birds Listed Under the MBTA or Regulated by CA Fish and Game Code: The Project area, including the Alternative Intermediate Lift Station Project site, provides potential nesting sites for birds listed under the MBTA and regulated by CA Fish and Game Code. Depending on the species, birds may nest on trees, shrubs, in or on the ground, and on artificial structures such as buildings, bridges, culverts, headwalls, poles, and signs. No nests were observed during the biological fieldwork. Implementation of BIO-3 will reduce potential impacts to less than significant.

Mitigation Measure BIO-3 (MBTA)

In California, bridge-nesting swallows typically arrive in mid-February, increase in numbers until late March, and remain until October. Nesting begins in April, peaks in June, and continues into August. Black phoebes, another bridge-nesting species, nest from March to August with peak activity in May. Measures should be taken to prevent establishment of nests on the bridges, culverts and headwalls prior to construction. Effective techniques to prevent nest establishment include using exclusion devices and removing and disposing of partially constructed and unoccupied nests of migratory or nongame birds on a regular basis to prevent their occupation. This can be done by:

- On a weekly or more frequent basis, remove all partially completed nests using either hand tools or high-pressure water; and/or*
- Hang netting from the bridge before nesting begins. If this technique is used, netting should be in place from late February until project construction begins.*

Birds of Prey and Birds Protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

- If construction begins outside the 15 February to 1 September breeding season, there will be no need to conduct a preconstruction survey for active nests.*
- If applicable, trees scheduled for removal should be removed during the non-breeding season from 2 September to 14 February.*
- If construction is scheduled to begin between 15 February and 1 September, a biologist shall conduct a survey for active bird of prey nests within 500 ft and active MTBA bird nests within 100 ft of the Project area from publicly accessible areas within one week prior to construction. The measures listed below shall be implemented based on the survey results.*

No Active Nests Found:

- If no active nest of a bird of prey, MBTA bird, or other CDFW protected bird is found, then no further avoidance and minimization measures are necessary.*

Active Nests Found:

- If an active nest of a bird of prey, MBTA bird, or other CDFW protected bird is discovered that may be adversely affected by construction activities or an injured or killed bird is found, immediately:*
 - 1. Stop all work within a 100-ft radius of the discovery*
 - 2. Notify the Engineer*
 - 3. Do not resume work within the specified radius of the discovery until authorized.*

- *The biologist shall establish a minimum 500-ft Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) around the nest if the nest is of a bird of prey, and a minimum 100-ft ESA around the nest if the nest is of an MBTA bird other than a bird of prey*

Bird Species Protection Areas

<i>Identification</i>	<i>Location</i>
<i>Bird of Prey</i>	<i>500 ft no-disturbance buffer</i>
<i>MBTA protected bird (not bird of prey)</i>	<i>100 ft no-disturbance buffer</i>

- *Activity in the ESA will be restricted as follows:*
 - 1. Do not enter the ESA unless authorized*
 - 2. If the ESA is breached, immediately:*
 - a. Secure the area and stop all operations within 60 ft of the ESA boundary*
 - b. Notify the Engineer*
 - 3. If the ESA is damaged, the District determines what efforts are necessary to remedy the damage and who performs the remedy.*
- *No construction activity will be allowed in the ESA until the biologist determines that the nest is no longer active, or unless monitoring determines that a smaller ESA will protect the active nest.*
- *The size of an ESA may be reduced if the biologist monitors the construction activities and determines that no disturbance to the active nest is occurring. Reduction of ESA size depends on the species of bird, the location of the nest relative to the project, project activities during the time the nest is active, and other project-specific factors.*
- *Between 15 February and 1 September, if additional trees or shrubs need to be trimmed and/or removed after construction has started, a survey will be conducted for active nests in the area to be affected. If an active nest is found, the above measures will be implemented.*
- *If an active nest is identified in or adjacent to the construction zone after construction has started, the above measures will be implemented to ensure construction is not causing disturbance to the nest.*

The Project is located in the Upper Calaveras River Hydrologic Unit (hydrologic unit code 18040011) which is designated as EFH for Chinook salmon (NMFS 2014). Installation of the force main will require several crossings of Indian Creek and other drainages.

Construction methods could include trenching, Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD), or

bore and case construction. The proposed project activities will not adversely affect designated EFH for Chinook salmon.

The Project site does not provide habitat for any other State- or federal-listed wildlife. There is no critical habitat in the Project area and the Project will not affect critical habitat.

- b) ***Less than Significant.*** Indian Creek, Valley Oak woodland, intermittent channels, seasonal wetlands, and ephemeral channels are special-status natural communities in the Project area and are listed in Table 4. Impacts to Indian Creek, intermittent channels, seasonal wetlands, and ephemeral channels are discussed under Item c below.

Valley Oak Woodland: Approximately 0.08 ac of Valley Oak Woodland occurs within the BSA in the eastern most segment of the proposed 870 ft pipeline upsize location. The replacement pipe may be installed via ‘pipe bursting’, a trenchless pipe replacement method. Pipe bursting is a method of replacing buried pipelines (such as sewer, water, or natural gas pipes) without the need for a traditional construction trench. "Launching and receiving pits" replace the trench needed by conventional pipe-laying. Use of this method will reduce impacts to the Valley Oak Woodland communities and will not require the removal of native trees. Temporary impacts would occur where the launching and receiving pits are located. No permanent impacts are anticipated.

Implementation of the BIO-4 measures below will further reduce potential impacts.

- c) ***Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.*** The Project, including the Intermediate Lift Station, will not impact wetlands or waters. The existing treatment pond at JLES is not under the jurisdiction of the Corps. Waste treatment systems, including treatment ponds or lagoons designed to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act (other than cooling ponds as defined in 40 CFR 423.11(m) which also meet the criteria of this definition) are not waters of the United States (Corps 2012).

Indian Creek: The Project will not result in temporary or permanent impacts to Indian Creek absent an accident during construction. Because all construction associated with the crossings of Indian Creek would take place underneath existing culverts within the travel lanes of existing roadways, no disturbance of Indian Creek would occur either on Baldwin Lane or Berkesey Lane, south of Gee Lane. Construction is not anticipated to impact Indian Creek where it parallels Berkesey Lane north of White Road, north of Faris Drive and north of Heinemann Lane.

There are no sensitive water features in the vicinity of the Intermediate Lift Station, so there would be no impact to Indian Creek with its construction.

Intermittent Channels (IC): There are three intermittent channels in the Project area totaling approximately 0.06 acre. The Project will not result in permanent impacts to intermittent channels. At its crossing on Driver Road, trenching for the pipeline may temporarily impact approximately 0.002 acre (70.5 square ft) of IC-1. At its crossing on SR-

26, bore and case construction for the pipeline may temporarily impact approximately 0.002 acre (106.5 square ft) of IC-2. The Project has been designed to avoid impacts to IC-3. Implementation of BIO-4 will reduce potential impacts to less than significant.

Ephemeral Channels (EC): There are five ephemeral channels in the Project area totaling approximately 0.04 acre. Trenching for the pipeline may temporarily impact 0.001 acre (43.5 square ft) of EC-1B, 0.001 acre (43.5 square ft) of EC-2, 0.001 acre (30 square ft) of EC-3, and 0.001 acre of (46.5 square ft) of EC-5. The Project does not anticipate impacts to EC-1A or EC-4. No permanent impacts to ephemeral channels are anticipated. Implementation of BIO-4 will reduce potential impacts to less than significant.

Seasonal Wetlands (SW): There are five seasonal wetlands in the Project area totaling 0.05 acre. The Project is not anticipated to result in temporary or permanent impacts to seasonal wetlands in the Project area. Implementation, as applicable, of the BIO-4 measures related to ESA fencing, refueling/staging, and implementation of BMPs to protect water quality will also protect the seasonal wetlands.

Implementation of BIO-4 would act to reduce the potential for significant adverse effects to project-wide drainages and other water features due to construction activities or accident.

Mitigation Measure BIO-4 (Water Features)

- *Prior to construction, environmentally sensitive area (ESA) fencing or equivalent will be placed along the limits of construction in the BSA to exclude construction activities from avoided habitat. Trucks and other vehicles will not be allowed to park beyond, nor shall equipment be stored beyond, the fencing. No vegetation trimming/mowing or ground-disturbing activities will be permitted beyond the fencing.*
- *During construction, water quality will be protected by implementation of BMPs to minimize the potential for siltation and downstream sedimentation of aquatic habitats. BMPs will be consistent with the 2012 Calaveras County Grading, Drainage, and Erosion Control Design Manual and Project Construction General Permit (2009-0009-DWQ, as amended by 2010-0014-DWQ and 2012-0006-DWQ) issued by the State Water Resources Control Board, the 2019 County Storm Water Quality Ordinance, Section 13.01 of the County Code, and/or the Caltrans Stormwater Quality Handbook.*
- *Construction activities within the bed and banks of Indian Creek, intermittent channels and ephemeral channels will be restricted to the period between 15 April and the first qualifying rain event on or after 15 October (more than one half inch of precipitation in a 24-hour period).*
- *Equipment will be refueled and serviced at designated construction staging areas. All construction material will be stored and contained in a designated area that is located away from all creek and channel areas to prevent transport of materials into adjacent waterways. Appropriate BMPs will be installed to collect any discharge, and adequate*

materials for spill cleanup will be kept on site. Construction vehicles and equipment will be maintained to prevent contamination of soil or water from external grease and oil or from leaking hydraulic fluid, fuel, oil, and grease.

- d) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Construction of the Project could temporarily disrupt movement of native wildlife species that occur in or adjacent to the Project area. Daytime construction activities will result in minimal disruption of nocturnal wildlife movement. Although construction disturbance may temporarily hinder wildlife movements within the Project area, the impact is less than significant due to its short-term nature.
- e) **No Impact.** The Calaveras County General Plan (Calaveras County 2019) Conservation and Open Space Elements contain the following goals, policies, and implementation programs applicable to biological resources:

Goal COS-3: A diversity of native plant, fish, and wildlife species and their habitats.

Policy COS 3.2: Avoid impacts to habitats that support special status species to the extent practicable. Where impacts cannot be avoided, mitigate impacts in accordance with resource agency (CDFW and/or USFWS) protocols/policies for the species

Policy COS 3.3: Require new development to identify and mitigate impacts to wildlife habitat and wetlands, riparian habitats and other aquatic resources consistent with state and federal regulations.

Policy COS 3.4: Identify and protect corridors important to wildlife movement and dispersal.

Policy COS 3.5: Encourage preservation of oak woodlands in accordance with state law.

Policy COS 3.9: Preserve and enhance healthy woodlands consistent with state law, reasonable development and fire safety considerations.

Implementation Measure COS-4B, Mitigation Options for Biological Resources: Adopt written guidelines establishing mitigation measures acceptable to Calaveras County for mitigating impacts to sensitive biological resources. Applicants may apply these mitigation options or hire a qualified professional biologist to identify alternative mitigation.

Implementation Measure COS-4H, Impacts to Biological Resources: For development that is subject to a discretionary entitlement and subject to environmental review under the CEQA, require project applicants to enlist the services of a qualified biologist and to minimize, avoid and/or mitigate significant impacts to the following special-status species or as otherwise required by State or Federal law:

- Threatened and endangered plant and animal species listed by the Federal
- Endangered Species Act (FESA).

- Rare, threatened and endangered plant and animal species listed by the California
- Endangered Species Act (CESA).
- Other special-status species including, but not limited to:
 - ✓ Federal candidate species for listing under the FESA;
 - ✓ State candidate species for listing under the CESA;
 - California Fully Protected Species (protected pursuant to Fish and Game Code);
 - ✓ California Species of Special Concern (protected pursuant to CEQA Guideline §15382);
 - ✓ Plant species listed by the California Native Plant Society as Ranks 1A, 1B, 2A and 2B (protected pursuant to CEQA Guideline §15382);
 - ✓ Nesting birds (protected pursuant to California Fish and Game Codes §§3503, 3503.5, 3511, and 3513 which prohibit the “take, possession, or destruction of birds, their nests or eggs.”);
 - ✓ Birds of prey. All raptors (that is, hawks, eagles, owls) their nests, eggs, and young are protected under California Fish and Game Code (§3503.5);
 - ✓ Birds protected pursuant to the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act;
 - ✓ Bald eagles and golden eagles as protected pursuant to the federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d) and California Fish and Game Code (Section 3503.5).

Mitigation for impacts to special status species and/or their habitats may be accomplished by purchasing species compensation credits from an agency-approved conservation bank with CDFW and/or USFWS approval. For mitigation that includes avoidance on project sites or offsite mitigation preserves established to compensate for a project’s effects on CESA/FESA listed species, a qualified biologist shall be required to develop a long-term maintenance and management plan, and a Property Analysis Record (PAR) or PAR-Like Endowment Spreadsheet Analyses for any onsite species avoidance area.

Implementation Measure COS-4I, Biological Impact Evaluation: Development that is subject to a discretionary entitlement and subject to CEQA review shall be required to evaluate potential impacts to sensitive communities using the methodologies identified below and shall require mitigation for potentially significant and significant impacts.

- Enlist the services of a qualified biologist or botanist to survey the property in question for sensitive plant communities including riparian woodland and Ione chaparral;

- If any sensitive plant community is identified on the proposed property, the qualified biologist or botanist shall map the dripline (canopy) and/or extent of the rare plant community using global positioning system (GPS) technology;
- The dripline/canopy and/or sensitive plant communities that are to be preserved shall be shown on all site development plans, grading plans, and/or engineering drawings so that all contractors are aware that this community is sensitive and as such, impacts must be minimized by project plans to the extent feasible. Riparian drip line impacts require additional scrutiny and may require additional permitting from the CDFW pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code.
- Mitigation for project impacts on the sensitive habitat may include onsite planting mitigation compensation, or offsite mitigation through preservation via recordation of a conservation easement that facilitates the perpetual protection of similar habitat types as those that are impacted, consistent with COS-3.6, as necessary to reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level.

Implementation Measure COS-4L, Streams and Wetlands: For any discretionary permit that will be required for a property that has been identified on any resource map as supporting waters (creeks, rivers, streams, tributaries) and/or wetlands (for example, ponds, marshes, vernal pools), or that constitutes an open space or natural lands conversion, the County will require the land owner/project applicant to contract with a qualified wetlands scientist or biologist to evaluate if the project could result in the fill or hydrologic disruption of waters of the U.S./State (which includes wetlands) onsite or offsite. If a preliminary evaluation determines that a proposed project could adversely affect waters of the U.S./State, then a qualified wetlands scientist or biologist should delineate the extent of regulated waters in accordance with the federal and state policies. The project shall comply with the applicable requirements of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, appropriate Regional Water Quality Control Board permitting requirements, Streambed Alteration Agreement requirements of California Fish and Game Code Section 1602, and other State and Federal laws.

Mitigation measures required by these resource agencies shall be conditions of project approval enforceable by Calaveras County.

Implementation Measure COS-4M, Upland Habitat: For development subject to a discretionary entitlement and environmental review under CEQA, work with applicants to preserve or enhance upland habitat for wildlife species to the extent feasible on parcels containing suitable habitat (e.g. areas used for foraging, breeding, dispersal, etc.). Habitat preservation and enhancement shall be encouraged throughout the County in a way that promotes regional connectivity of open space habitats. The County shall work with applicants to design development

to be compatible with wildlife movement. Mitigation measures may include installing wildlife friendly fencing or lighting to minimize interference with wildlife movement. If open spaces are to be preserved within developed areas, they shall have connectivity to/with other dedicated or undevelopable open space lands to the extent feasible.

Implementation Measure COS-4N, Riparian Corridors: Adopt an ordinance or resolution conserving riparian corridors. In the interim, for development that is subject to a discretionary entitlement and environmental review under CEQA, buffer areas shall be established along rivers, streams, and intervening lakes and ponds, based on the recommendation of a qualified biologist to avoid any barrier to wildlife movement along the water corridor. The County shall adopt the feasible recommendations of the biologist.

Implementation Measure COS-4P, Bat Roosting: For development subject to a discretionary entitlement and environmental review under CEQA, a pre-project survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist to determine if special status bat species are using the site. Should special status bat species be found present on-site, feasible mitigation, such as installing exclusionary devices at the instruction of a qualified biologist and/or construction of replacement roost structures, including bat houses, other structures, or crevices incorporated into bridge design, shall be required prior to the removal of potential bat roosting sites. Replacement roost structures shall be monitored to document bat use.

Calaveras County does not have a specific tree ordinance. Calaveras County does have an Oak Woodland Mitigation Ordinance (Calaveras County 2023). Interior live oak woodland and Valley Oak wood and occur in the Project area. Since the pipeline would be constructed primarily within existing paved roadways or their disturbed shoulders, the proposed Project does not anticipate the need for tree removal, including native oaks. The Project does not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.

- f) **No Impact.** The Project is not located in an area covered by a habitat or natural community conservation plan.

4.2.5 Cultural Resources

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES	Would the project:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5?		X		
b)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?		X		
c)	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?				X

Environmental Setting

Natural Investigations Company, Inc. (Natural Investigations) conducted a cultural resources assessment of Project area (Natural Investigations 2019). A cultural resources literature search was conducted on 20 September 2018 by the Central California Information Center (CCIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System at California State University, Stanislaus. The records maintained by the CCIC indicate no cultural resources have been previously recorded within the approximate 43-acre project area.

The evaluation of cultural resources was updated and expanded in a Supplemental Phase I Archaeological Study (Padre Associates 2023a) to evaluate the new location of the Intermediate Lift Station. In addition to obtaining a new records search from the CCIC (November 29, 2022) and an updated sacred lands file search, the updated evaluation included outreach to Native Americans and field research.

The Project site is separated into two distinct areas: the JLES campus and the off-site infrastructure. The JLE campus is entirely developed and contains parking lots, permanent buildings, portable buildings, recreation fields, play areas, and the existing water treatment facility and pond. The offsite pipeline is a 50-ft. wide corridor in which will be installed the new sewer force main line within the paved sections and disturbed shoulders of existing road rights-of-way. The Project will also include replacement of \pm 870 linear foot of pipeline that bisects the La Contenta Plaza back parking area, traverses several residential lots and terminates on the La Contenta Golf Club property. The offsite project area encompasses portions of Driver Road, SR26, Baldwin Lane, Berkesey Lane, Berkesey Drive, La Contenta Plaza, and Goldenwest Court. The JLES campus is surrounded on all sides by rural developed property. The force main alignment is generally bound by rural developed and undeveloped residential property and roughly parallels SR26. The \pm 870 linear feet of pipeline segment to be upsized is generally bound by residential, commercial and recreational uses. An intensive-level pedestrian survey within the project area was conducted by Natural Investigations on 4 October 2018 and 24 January 2019. No resources were identified during the survey.

Padre Staff Archaeologists conducted the supplemental Phase I archaeological survey on July 17, 2023. The Project site was examined with parallel transects spaced at 10-meter intervals where not constrained by existing structures, steep terrain, or dense vegetation. The survey areas were documented with color digital photographs. No cultural resources were observed during the survey.

The proposed Project, including the relocated Intermediate Lift Station, will have no effect on known historic properties or on historical resources. No documented prehistoric or historic-era archaeological sites, ethnographic sites, or historic-era built environment resources are present within the Project area. Construction monitoring of ground-disturbing activity is not recommended within the Project area. The probability that intact prehistoric, ethnohistoric, or historic-era archaeological sites remain within the highly disturbed Project areas, both on-site and offsite, is considered to be low.

Potential Environmental Effects

- a) ***Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.*** An intensive-level pedestrian survey within the project area was conducted by Natural Investigations on 4 October 2018. A second similar survey of the Intermediate Lift Station site was conducted by Padre Associates on July 17, 2023. No resources were identified during either survey. The proposed Project elements will have No Effect on known historic properties or historical resources. No documented prehistoric or historic-era archaeological sites, ethnographic sites, or historic-era built environment resources are present within the Project area. However, there is the possibility that unknown cultural or historic resources could be encountered during construction. Implementation of Mitigation Measure CUL-1 would reduce this potential impact to below a level of significance, and no additional mitigation would be necessary.

Mitigation Measure CUL-1 (Unknown Historic or Cultural Resources)

- *In the event that archaeological resources are exposed during construction, all earth disturbing work within the vicinity of the find must be temporarily suspended or redirected until a professional archaeologist has been retained to evaluate the nature and significance of the find.*
 - *If human remains are unearthed, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. If the remains are determined to be of Native American descent, the coroner has 24 hours to notify the NAHC.*
- b) ***Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.*** See response to ‘item a)’ above.
- c) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The Project Cultural Resources Inventory and Effects Assessment Report (Natural Investigations 2019) documents that no known cemeteries or burials occur within the project study area. Should human remains be discovered during the excavation portion of the Project, the project description includes contract provisions that will require notification of CUSD and compliance with California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and California Public Resources Code Section 5097.9 et seq.

4.2.6 Tribal Cultural Resources

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

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

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historic Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or				X
b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.				X

Environmental Setting

Tribal Communications in 2018

Natural Investigations Company, Inc. (Natural Investigations) contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), requesting a search of their Sacred Lands File for traditional cultural resources within or near the Project. The 10 July 2018 reply from the NAHC states that the search failed to indicate the presence of Native American sacred lands in the immediate vicinity.

By letter dated 4 October 2018, Natural Investigations contacted each of the three Native American Tribes (4 individuals) provided by the NAHC, requesting any information regarding sacred lands or other heritage sites that might be impacted by the proposed Project. If no response was received, follow-up phone calls were made on 19 October 2018. Below is a summary of the Native American coordination efforts:

- Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk Indians, Charles Wilson, Chairperson: Mr. Wilson was unavailable on 19 October 2018, a voice message was left. No response.
- Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk Indians, Debra Grimes, Cultural Resource Specialist: By email dated 9 October 2018, Ms. Grimes requested a site visit. A return email was sent suggesting dates. Ms. Grimes was unavailable on 19 October 2018, a voice message was left. No response.
- Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, Darrel Cruz, THPO: Mr. Cruz was unavailable on 19 October 2018, a voice message was left. No response.
- Ione Band of Miwok Indians, Sara Dutschke Setchwaelo, Chairperson: Ms. Setchwaelo was unavailable on 19 October 2018, a voice message was left. No response.

Intermediate Lift Station Site - 2023

The NAHC was contacted to search their Sacred Lands File for traditional cultural resources within or near the Project. The December 10, 2022 reply from the NAHC stated that the search failed to indicate the presence of Native American sacred lands in the immediate vicinity of the Intermediate Lift Station site.

By letter dated June 29, 2023, Environmental Planning Partners, Inc. contacted each of the five Native American Tribes provided by the NAHC on December 10, 2022. The letter requested any information regarding sacred lands or other heritage sites that might be impacted by the proposed Project. Follow-up phone calls were made July 26 and 27, 2023. Below is a summary of the Native American coordination efforts:

- Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk Indians, Gloria Grimes, Chairperson: Letters sent to PO Box and to residential address in West Point. Ms. Grimes was unavailable to respond to a telephone call on July 26, 2023; a voice message was left. No response.
- Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians, Lloyd Mathiesen, Chairperson: Follow-up phone call on July 26, 2023 with Joanna Portillo-Hsu, Environmental and Planning Manager, and Cynthia Reyes, Cultural Manager for the tribe. The original letter and supporting documentation were emailed at their request on July 26, 2023. No further communication.
- Ione Band of Miwok Indians, Sara Dutschke, Chairperson: Follow-up phone call resulted in a request for an emailed copy of the original letter and supporting documentation. The email was sent on July 27, 2023. No further communication.
- Nashville Enterprise Miwok-Maidu-Nishinam Tribe, Cosme Valdez, Chairperson: Mr. Valdez was unavailable to respond to a telephone call on July 26, 2023; a voice message was left. No response.
- Tule River Indian Tribe, Neil Peyron, Chairperson: Follow-up phone call on July 26, 2023 with Kerri Vera, Environmental Protection Agency Director. The original letter and supporting documentation were emailed at her request on July 27, 2023. Email reply indicated that the tribe had no specific information regarding cultural resources within or near the project area.

Potential Environmental Effects

- a) ***No Impact (applies to items a and b).*** Natural Investigations (2018) and Padre Associates (2023) contacted each of the Native American Tribes provided by the NAHC, requesting any information regarding sacred lands or other heritage sites that might be impacted by the proposed Project. If no response was received, follow-up phone calls were made.

As set forth above, most attempts to contact the Native American tribes with the potential to provide information yielded no response. In the case where communication with the Tribe was established, no tribal resources were identified within or near the Project area by the tribe.

4.2.7 Energy

XI. ENERGY	Would the project:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a)	Result in potentially significant environmental impacts due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?			X	
b)	Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?			X	

Less Than Significant Impact (applies to items a and b). Development of the proposed pipeline and lift stations would entail energy consumption that includes both direct and indirect expenditures of energy. Indirect energy would be consumed by the use of construction materials for the project (e.g., energy resource exploration, power generation, mining and refining of raw materials into construction materials used, including placement). Direct energy impacts would result from the total fuel consumed in vehicle propulsion (e.g., construction vehicles, heavy equipment, and other vehicles using the facility). No unusual materials, or those in short supply, are required in the construction of the project. Although energy during the construction phase would be consumed, it would not be consumed in a wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary manner.

The proposed project's energy use during operations would include the relatively small amount of energy required by the lift stations to transport wastewater flows. The existing onsite JLES Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) would be decommissioned, and energy use at this facility would no longer occur. Operations at the regional WWTP are an existing use.

Thus, because of the energy saved by the decommissioning of the JLES WWTP, the net effects of constructing and operating the Jenny Lind Elementary School WRP project would be negligible. Potential effects would be less than significant, and no mitigation would be necessary.

4.2.8 Geology and Soils

XII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS	Would the project:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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?			X	
ii)	Strong seismic ground shaking?			X	
iii)	Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				X
iv)	Landslides?			X	

XII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS	Would the project:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
b)	Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			X	
c)	Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?				X
d)	Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?			X	
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?			X	
f)	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?			X	

Environmental Setting

Calaveras County is located in the Sierra Nevada geomorphic province of California, east of the Great Valley province and west of the Basin and Range provinces. The Sierra Nevada geomorphic province is a tilted fault block almost 400 miles long. Steep-sided hills and narrow rocky stream channels characterize the Sierra Nevada province. This province consists of Pliocene and older deposits that have been uplifted as a result of plate tectonics, granitic intrusion, and volcanic activity. Subsequent glaciations and additional volcanic activity are factors that led to the east-west orientation of stream channels. The Sierra Nevada geomorphic province overlies metamorphic bedrock that contains gold-bearing veins in the northwest trending Mother Lode. The Mother Lode region in the Sierra Nevada extends from El Dorado County in the north through Calaveras County, terminating in Mariposa County to the south (Calaveras County 2012b).

Seismicity is defined as the geographic and historical distribution of 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.

The California Department of Conservation's 2010 Fault Activity Map of California indicates the closest potentially active faults are the Ione Fault, Waters Peak Fault, Bear Mountains Fault Zone (Youngs Creek Fault), and the Melones Fault Zone (Poorman Gulch Fault). The distance from the Project area to these faults ranges from 2-9 miles. The faults all occur north and east of the Project area. These fault zones pass through the western portion of Calaveras County and are identified near Valley Springs, Mokelumne Hill, south of Melones near Jamestown, and south of Copperopolis (Calaveras County 2012b).

No mapped Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones occur in Calaveras County. Surface fault rupture is associated with being located on or within close proximity of an active fault. Because

the County is not within, and does not cross, an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone, the risk of surface fault rupture within the County is considered low (Calaveras County 2012b).

Calaveras County is not located in a seismic hazard zone (Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone) and is not considered to be at risk from landslides as a result of active faulting. Portions of the County with slopes 20 percent or greater have an increased potential for non-seismic related landslides associated with high rainfall or snowmelt (Calaveras County 2012b). The Project area does not contain slopes 20 percent or greater.

The locations of ultramafic rocks have been mapped by the Division of Mines and Geology in an effort to generally identify areas likely to contain Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA). Ultramafic rock occurs within the western portion of Calaveras County and generally trends north to southwest following the Bear Mountain and Melones Fault Zones. Specifically, areas identified as potentially containing NOA include the following: from Pardee Reservoir extending southwest through the Valley Springs area to just southeast of New Hogan Reservoir; north of Copperopolis extending southeast through New Melones Reservoir; and in the Mountain Ranch area (Calaveras County 2012b).

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***a-i) Less Than Significant Impact.*** Calaveras County does not occur in or adjacent to an Alquist- Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. Surface fault rupture is associated with being located on or within close proximity of an active fault. Because the County is not within, and does not cross, an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone, the risk of surface fault rupture within the County is considered low (Calaveras County 2012b). Therefore, the Project, including the Intermediate Lift Station, will not rupture a fault mapped on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map.

a-ii) Less Than Significant Impact. Earthquake shaking hazards are calculated by projecting earthquake rates based on earthquake history and fault slip rates, the same data used for calculating earthquake probabilities (California Department of Conservation 2018a). Calculations of earthquake shaking hazard for California are part of a cooperative project between USGS and California Geologic Survey (CGS), and are part of the National Seismic Hazard Maps. CGS Map Sheet 48 (revised 2016) shows potential seismic shaking based on National Seismic Hazard Map calculations plus amplification of seismic shaking due to the near surface soils. Calaveras County is located in a region distant from known, active faults and will experience lower levels of shaking less frequently. Thus, the Project is not in a seismic hazard zone. In most earthquakes, only weaker, masonry buildings would be damaged. However, very infrequent earthquakes could still cause strong shaking here.

a-iii) No Impact. No portion of Calaveras County occurs in a Seismic Hazard Zone (i.e., regulatory zones that encompass areas prone to liquefaction and earthquake-induced landslides) based on the Seismic Hazards Mapping Program administered by the CGS.

Consequently, Calaveras County and the Project site, including the Intermediate Lift Station, are not considered to be at risk from liquefaction hazards.

a-iv) Less Than Significant Impact. No portion of Calaveras County occurs in a Seismic Hazard Zone (i.e., regulatory zones that encompass areas prone to liquefaction and earthquake-induced landslides) based on the Seismic Hazards Mapping Program administered by the CGS. Consequently, Calaveras County and the Project site, including the Intermediate Lift Station, are not considered to be at risk from earthquake-induced landslides. Portions of the County with slopes 20 percent or greater have an increased potential for non-seismic related landslides associated with high rainfall or snowmelt (Calaveras County 2012b). The Project area does not contain slopes 20 percent or greater.

- b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Construction of the proposed project could introduce sediments and other contaminants typically associated with construction into stormwater runoff. The SWRCB is responsible for implementing the Clean Water Act and has issued a statewide General Permit (Water Quality Order 2009-0009-DWQ) for construction activities. In the Project area, the Construction General Permit is implemented and enforced by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB). Projects resulting in disturbance of one acre or more are required to obtain coverage under the Construction General Permit. The proposed Project will require coverage under the SWRCB Construction General Permit.

In accordance with the requirements of the Construction General Permit, prior to construction of the proposed project, a risk assessment must be prepared and submitted to the CVRWQCB to determine the Project's risk level and associated water quality control requirements. These requirements will, at a minimum, include the preparation and implementation of a SWPPP identifying specific best management practices (BMP) to be implemented and maintained on the site in order to comply with the applicable effluent standards.

Compliance with the various requirements of the SWRCB statewide general permit for construction that water quality impacts during the construction phase of the proposed project would be minimized. Measure BIO-5 requires implementation of BMPs consistent with the Caltrans Stormwater Quality Handbooks to protect water quality and minimize the potential for siltation and downstream sedimentation. Construction activities will include implementation of stormwater runoff BMPs. Application of these requirements and measures would prevent substantial erosion or topsoil loss. Areas temporarily disturbed will be revegetated and reseeded with native grasses and other native herbaceous annual and perennial species. No seed of nonnative species will be used unless certified to be sterile.

- c) **No Impact.** No fault traces, landslides, or other geologic hazards are mapped crossing or directly adjacent to the project sites, including the Intermediate Lift Station. Soils on site are generally not susceptible to landslide or lateral spreading, and are not likely susceptible to subsidence or liquefaction. No impacts are anticipated from unstable soil.

- d) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Expansive soils that may swell enough to cause problems with paved surfaces are generally clays falling into the AASHTO A-6 or A-7 groups, or classified as CH, MH, or OH by the Unified Soil Classification System (USCS), and with a Plasticity Index greater than about 25 as determined by ASTM D4318. Chapter 610 of the Caltrans Highway Design Manual (2012) defines an expansive subgrade to include soils with a Plasticity Index greater than 12 (Caltrans 2012).

AASHTO group classification is a system that classifies soils specifically for geotechnical engineering purposes that are related to highway and airfield construction. It is based on particle- size distribution and Atterberg limits, such as liquid limit and plasticity index.

AASHTO and USCS classification for the soils in the Project area are listed in Table 5 (NRCS 2018). The NRCS Web Soil Survey indicates the maximum plasticity index of soils in the Project area is 26 (NRCS 2018). Soils in the Project area have a moderate to high expansion potential.

Table 5 AASHTO and USCS Soil Classes for Project Area		
Soil Units In Project Area	Classification	
	AASHTO	USCS
Archerdale-Hicksville association – 0 to 2% slopes	A-7-6	CH-Inorganic clays of high plasticity, fat clays.
Amador sandy loam – 2 to 15% slopes	A-4	SC-Clayey sands, sand-clay mixtures.
Miltonhills-Amador complex – 15 to 45% slopes	A-4	CL-Inorganic clays of low to medium plasticity, gravelly clays, sandy clays, silty clays, lean clays.
Ultic Haploxeralfs-Typic Palexerults-Aquultic haploxeralfs complex - 1 to 12 percent slopes	A-4	SC-SM-Clayey sands, sand-clay mixtures. Silty sands, sand-silt mixtures.
Pardee-Amador complex – 15 to 40% slopes	A-4	SM-Silty sands, sand-silt mixtures.
Urban land-Amador complex – 2 to 15% slopes	No rating	No rating

The Project, including the Intermediate Lift Station, is being designed in accordance with Calaveras County Code Title 15 Buildings and Construction; Chapter 15.04 Uniform Codes. Because the Project is being designed in accordance with the Title 15 Buildings and Construction; Chapter 15.04 Uniform Codes and will consider and address expansive soils, impacts are considered less than significant.

- e) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The new headworks will consist of new primary solids screening and compaction equipment would be installed or, alternatively, septic tank facilities could be installed instead of solids screening and compaction equipment. The Project, including the Intermediate Lift Station, is being designed in accordance with Calaveras County Code Title 15 Buildings and Construction; Chapter 15.04 Uniform Codes. Because the Project is being designed in accordance with the Title 15 Buildings and

Construction; Chapter 15.04 Uniform Codes and will consider and address negative soil properties, impacts are considered less than significant.

- f) ***Less Than Significant Impact:*** The Project, including the Intermediate Lift Station, does not occur in an area containing unique geologic features. The Project would not likely impact paleontological features. There is the possibility of accidental paleontological discoveries during construction-related ground-disturbing activities. This is a less-than-significant impact because the Project would implement County policies and state law to protect paleontological resources. These policies include stopping all work in the vicinity of the discovered resources and requiring that a professional paleontologist complete a determination of their significance prior to resuming any work in the area of the discovery.

4.2.9 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

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

Environmental Setting

CUSD and Calaveras County have not yet adopted CEQA significance thresholds for GHG emissions. For the purposes of this CEQA analysis, CUSD is using the Placer APCD thresholds as described below.

On October 13, 2016, the Placer County Air Pollution Control District (Placer APCD) Board of Directors adopted the Review of Land Use Projects under CEQA Policy (Policy). The Policy establishes the thresholds of significance for criteria pollutants as well as greenhouse gases and the review principles which serve as guidelines for the Placer APCD staff when the Placer APCD acts as a commenting agency to review and comment on the environmental documents prepared by the lead agencies. In developing the thresholds, the Placer APCD took into account health-based air quality standards and the strategies to attain air quality standards, historical CEQA project review data in Placer County, statewide regulations to achieve emission reduction targets for GHG, and the special geographic and land use features in Placer County.

The Placer APCD approach to developing significance thresholds for GHG emissions is to identify the emissions level for which a project would be expected to substantially contribute a mass amount of emissions and would conflict with existing statewide GHG emission reduction goal adopted by California legislation. The Placer APCD has developed a 3-step process for determining significance which includes 1) a bright-line threshold, 2) a De Minimis level, and 3) an efficiency matrix for projects that fall between the Bright-line and the De Minimis level. The Placer APCD District proposed using the bright-line threshold of 10,000 MT CO₂e/yr for

determining the level of significance for the land use construction phase of a Project. The State of California set the goal to reduce GHG emissions without limiting population and economic growth. The Placer APCD concept is to look for a reasonable threshold which would capture larger-scale projects with significant GHG emission contributions which should implement mitigation. Placer APCD GHG Emissions Significance Thresholds are listed in Table 6.

Table 6 Placer APCD 2016 Approved GHG Emissions Significance Thresholds			
Greenhouse Gas Thresholds			
Bright line threshold 10,000 Metric Tons (MT) CO ₂ e/yr			
Efficiency Matrix			
Residential		Non-Residential	
Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
(MT CO ₂ e/capita)		(MT/CO ₂ e/1,000 sf)	
4.5	5.5	26.5	27.3
De Minimis Level 1,110 (MT) CO ₂ e/yr			

Potential Environmental Effects

- a) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Construction of the proposed Project, including the Intermediate Lift Station, would generate short-term emissions of greenhouse gases. CalEEMod v2016.3.2 was utilized to estimate CO₂e from the construction of the proposed Project.

Project construction is estimated to produce a total of approximately 360.31 metric tons (MT) of CO₂e during the approximately 9 month (269 day) construction period. CO₂e associated with construction are temporary. The County has not yet quantified thresholds for construction activities. However, the construction emissions would be well below the Placer APCD De minimis level of 1,110 (MT) CO₂e/yr thresholds.

As discussed in the Air Quality section, it is anticipated that the proposed Project would not change current operational emissions. Project operation is estimated to produce a total of approximately 703 metric tons (MT) of CO₂e per year. The operational emissions would be well below the Placer APCD De minimis level of 1,110 (MT) CO₂e/yr. Project impacts are considered less than significant.

- b) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Calaveras Air Quality Management District's has not yet adopted a qualified plan, policy, or regulation to reduce GHG emissions. Therefore, the most applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions is Assembly Bill (AB) 32, which codified the State's future GHG emissions reduction targets.

In 2006, the Legislature passed the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 [Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32)], which created a comprehensive, multi-year program to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in California. AB 32 required the California Air Resources

Board (ARB) to develop a Scoping Plan that describes the approach California will take to reduce GHGs to achieve the goal of reducing emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. The Scoping Plan was first approved by the ARB in 2008 and must be updated every five years. The First Update to the Climate Change Scoping Plan was approved by the Board on May 22, 2014. In 2016, the Legislature passed SB 32, which codifies a 2030 GHG emissions reduction target of 40 percent below 1990 levels. With SB 32, the Legislature passed companion legislation AB 197, which provides additional direction for developing the Scoping Plan. ARB is moving forward with a second update to the Scoping Plan to reflect the 2030 target set by Executive Order B-30-15 and codified by SB 32.

The 2006 California Global Warming Solutions Act establishes regulatory, reporting, and market mechanisms to achieve quantifiable reductions in GHG emissions and establishes a cap on statewide GHG emissions. CARB's Scoping Plan includes measures to achieve the GHG reductions in California required by the California Global Warming Solutions Act. Measures included in the Scoping Plan would indirectly address GHG emission levels associated with construction activities, including the phasing-in of cleaner technology for diesel engine fleets (including construction equipment) and the development of a low-carbon fuel standard. Policies formulated under the mandate of the California Global Warming Solutions Act that are applicable to construction-related activity, either directly or indirectly, are assumed to be implemented statewide and would affect the proposed Project, including the Intermediate Lift Station, if those are policies are implemented before construction begins. The proposed Project's construction emissions would comply with any mandate or standards set forth by the Scoping Plan. Therefore, it is assumed that project construction would not conflict with the Scoping Plan.

As discussed in the Air Quality section, it is anticipated that the proposed Project would not change current operational emissions. The Project's construction related GHG emissions are well below the Placer APCD de minimis level of 1,110 (MT) CO₂e/yr. Implementation of the proposed Project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

4.2.10 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	Would the project:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?			X	
b)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?			X	

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	Would the project:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
c)	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				X
d)	Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				X
e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?				X
f)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				X
g)	Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?			X	

Environmental Setting

A hazardous material is defined by the California EPA, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), as a material that poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or the environment if released because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics (26 California Code of Regulations (CCR) 25501).

According to Title 22 of the CCR (22 CCR) Section 66261.20, the term “hazardous substance” refers to both hazardous materials and hazardous wastes; both are classified according to four properties: toxicity, ignitability, corrosiveness, and reactivity.

A hazardous material is defined by 22 CCR Section 66261.10 as a substance or combination of substances that may cause or significantly contribute to an increase in serious, irreversible, or incapacitating illness or may pose a substantial presence or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, or disposed of, or otherwise managed.

While public health and safety is potentially at risk whenever hazardous materials are or will be used, the risk is determined by the probability of exposure and to the inherent toxicity of a material. Factors that can influence health effects when human beings are exposed to hazardous materials include the dose the person is exposed to, the frequency of exposure, the duration of exposure, the exposure pathway (route by which a chemical enters a person’s body), and the individual’s unique biological susceptibility.

Hazardous wastes are hazardous substances that no longer have practical use, such as materials that have been discarded, discharged, spilled, or contaminated or are being stored until they can

be disposed of properly (22 CCR Section 66261.10). Soil that is excavated from a site containing hazardous materials is a hazardous waste if it exceeds specific 22 CCR criteria.

A regulatory agency database review for locations included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 (The Cortese list') was conducted as part of the Project scoping process. No listed hazardous materials or waste sites were reported within or near the project site. There are no known historical uses of the project site that would indicate the potential for a previously undiscovered hazard, such as buried fuel tanks or contamination from industrial operations.

Hazardous materials transport within California is subject to various federal, state, and local regulations. The California Highway Patrol (CHP) designates through routes to be used for the transportation of hazardous materials. Transportation of hazardous materials is generally restricted to these routes.

Hazardous materials transport within the project area is subject to various federal, state, and local regulations.

The following provisions pertaining to the transportation of hazardous-related materials are included in the California Vehicle Code:

- CHP designates the routes in California which are to be used for the transportation of explosives. (Section 31616)
- The California Vehicle Code applies when the explosives are transported as a delivery service for hire, or in quantities in excess of 1,000 pounds. The transportation of explosives in quantities of 1,000 pounds or less, or other than on a public highway, is subject to the California Health and Safety Code. (Section 31601(a))
- It is illegal to transport explosives or inhalation hazards on any public highway not designated for that purpose, unless the use of the highway is required to permit delivery of, or the loading of, such materials. (Section 31602(b) and Section 32104(a))
- When transporting explosives through or into a city for which a route has not been designated by the CHP, drivers must follow routes as may be prescribed or established by local authorities. (Section 31614(a))
- Inhalation hazards and poison gases are subject to additional safeguards. These materials are highly toxic, spread rapidly, and require rapid and widespread evacuation if there is loss of containment or a fire. The CHP designates through routes to be used for the transportation of inhalation hazards. It may also designate separate through routes for the transportation of inhalation hazards composed of any chemical rocket propellant (Section 32100 and Section 32102(b))

Potential Environmental Effects

- a) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Small amounts of hazardous materials would be used during construction and operation activities (i.e., equipment maintenance, fuel, and solvents). Implementation of the proposed Project would continue the use, transport, and disposal of potentially hazardous materials on and in the vicinity of the project site, similar to existing conditions. The Project, including the Intermediate Lift Station, is required to comply with federal, state, and local regulations regarding the storage, handling, transportation, disposal, and cleanup of hazardous materials. Use of hazardous materials in accordance with applicable standards ensures that any exposure of the public to hazard materials would have a less-than-significant impact.
- b) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The proposed Project, including the Intermediate Lift Station, could potentially result in increased storage and use of hazardous materials beyond current operations and consequently increase the risk of accidental release of hazardous materials. The California Accidental Release Prevention program, administered as part of the Unified Program by the Calaveras County Environmental Health Department, seeks to prevent accidental releases of regulated substances that potentially pose the greatest risk of immediate harm to the public and the environment. The program requires that any owner or operator of a stationary source with more than the threshold quantity of a regulated substance be evaluated to determine the potential for accidental releases. The list of substances regulated by the California Accidental Release Prevention program is located in Title 19, Article 8, Section 2770.5 of the California Code of Regulations. As discussed in item a) above, the use, disposal, and transportation of all hazardous materials associated with the proposed Project would require compliance with federal, state, and local regulations regarding hazardous materials. Management of hazardous materials in accordance with applicable standards ensures that any exposure of the public to hazard materials would have a less-than-significant impact.
- c) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Part of the proposed Project occurs on the campus of the Jenny Lind Elementary School. Per 14 CCR § 15186 (School Facilities) CEQA establishes a special requirement for certain school projects, as well as certain projects near schools, to ensure that potential health impacts resulting from exposure to hazardous materials, wastes, and substances will be carefully examined and disclosed during the CEQA process, and that the lead agency will consult with other agencies in this regard. Per 14 CCR § 15186(b) prior to certifying or adopting a CEQA documents negative declaration for a project located within one-fourth mile of a school involving the construction or alteration of a facility that might reasonably be anticipated to emit hazardous air emissions, or that would handle an extremely hazardous substance or a mixture containing extremely hazardous substances in a quantity equal to or greater than the state threshold quantity specified in subdivision (j) of Section 25532 of the Health and Safety Code, that may impose a health or safety hazard to persons who would attend or would be employed at the school, the lead agency must do both of the following:

- Consult with the affected school district or districts regarding the potential impact of the Project on the school; and
- Notify the affected school district or districts of the Project, in writing, not less than 30 days prior to approval or certification of the negative declaration or EIR.

Given that the CUSD is carrying out the proposed project, the requirements of 14 CCR § 15186 are not applicable. As noted above, the Project would involve the short- term handling of hazardous materials during construction. Handling and storage of hazardous materials during construction would comply with all applicable local, state, and federal standards.

- d) **No Impact.** No listed hazardous materials or waste sites occur within or near the project site, including the Intermediate Lift Station.
- e) **No Impact.** The Project, including the Intermediate Lift Station, is not located within two miles of a public airport or public use airport and no private air strips occur in close proximity to the Project.
- f) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Project construction activities, including those for the Intermediate Lift Station, would be coordinated with local law enforcement and emergency services providers.
- g) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The completed Project will not expose people or structures to a new or increased significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires. Project construction activities would be coordinated with local law enforcement and emergency services providers as needed. For additional information see Section 4.2.20, *Wildfire*, below.

4.2.11 Hydrology and Water Quality

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY	Potentially Significant Impact	Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?			X	
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?			X	
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
(i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;			X	
(ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;			X	
(iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or			X	

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY				
	Potentially Significant Impact	Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
(iv) impede or redirect flood flows?			X	
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?				X
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?			X	

Environmental Setting

The Project, including the Intermediate Lift Station, is located in the in the Upper Stanislaus Hydrologic Unit (hydrologic unit code 18040010) of the San Joaquin River Basin. Section 13240 of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act requires each Regional Board to formulate and adopt water quality control plans, or basin plans, for all areas within the Region. The Porter-Cologne Act also requires each Regional Board to establish water quality objectives to ensure the reasonable protection of beneficial uses and a program of implementation for achieving water quality objectives within the basin plans. In California, the beneficial uses and water quality objectives are the State’s water quality standards. The Project is subject to the Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins.

The existing beneficial uses of the Calaveras River from the New Hogan Reservoir to the Delta are municipal and domestic supply, agricultural supply for irrigation and stock watering, contact, canoeing and rafting, non-contact recreation, warm and cold freshwater habitat, warm and cold-water migration, warm and cold-water spawning, and wildlife habitat (California Regional Water Quality Control Board 2018). Potential surface water beneficial uses include industrial process and service supply. The beneficial uses of underlying groundwater are domestic, industrial, and agricultural supply.

The existing JLES wastewater system includes a centrally located sewage lift station which delivers wastewater to the JLES wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) located at the southeast corner of the school site. The raw wastewater flows through screening devices followed by an equalization basin, primary, secondary, and final clarifiers (each with intermediate trickling filtration). After the final clarifier, the effluent is delivered to a clear well, dosed with alum and then discharged through sand filters before it is disinfected and then stored for treated effluent irrigation. Treated effluent is stored in an existing storage basin and is applied as irrigation during off school hours on the existing soccer field / baseball field and soccer field. These activities are carried out under California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, Order No. 92-075, Waste Discharge Requirements for Calaveras Unified School District, Jenny Lind Elementary School.

The proposed Project would regionalize (share physical infrastructure) wastewater disposal at JLES by delivering its screened/ pretreated wastewater to the existing CCWD La Contenta community wastewater collection system and wastewater treatment plant. The regionalization alternative recommended for JLES will not require a Waste Discharge Order.

Potential Environmental Effects

- a) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Construction of the proposed project, including the Intermediate Lift Station, could introduce sediments and other contaminants typically associated with construction into stormwater runoff. Stormwater flowing over the Project features during construction could carry various pollutants downstream such as sediment, nutrients, bacteria and viruses, oil and grease, heavy metals, organics, pesticides, and miscellaneous waste. These pollutants could originate from soil disturbances, construction equipment, building materials, and workers. Erosion potential and water quality impacts are always present during construction and occur when protective vegetative cover is removed and soils are disturbed. In the case of the proposed Project, it is primarily grading and the cut and fill associated with facility improvements.

The SWRCB is responsible for implementing the Clean Water Act and has issued a statewide General Permit (Water Quality Order 2009-0009-DWQ) for construction activities. In the Project area, the Construction General Permit is implemented and enforced by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB). Projects resulting in disturbance of one acre or more are required to obtain coverage under the Construction General Permit. The proposed Project will require coverage under the SWRCB Construction General Permit.

In accordance with the requirements of the Construction General Permit, prior to construction of the proposed project, a risk assessment must be prepared and submitted to the CVRWQCB to determine the Project's risk level and associated water quality control requirements. These requirements will, at a minimum, include the preparation and implementation of a SWPPP identifying specific best management practices (BMP) to be implemented and maintained on the site in order to comply with the applicable effluent standards.

The Construction General Permit requires construction sites are inspected before and after storm events and every 24 hours during extended storm events. Inspections identify any BMP maintenance requirements and determine the effectiveness of the BMPs.

Compliance with the various requirements of the SWRCB statewide general permit for construction that water quality impacts during the construction phase of the proposed project would be minimized. The proposed Project would regionalize (share physical infrastructure) wastewater disposal at JLES by delivering its screened/ pretreated wastewater to the existing CCWD La Contenta community wastewater collection system and wastewater treatment plant. The regionalization alternative recommended for JLES will not require a Waste Discharge Order.

The purpose of the Project is the replacement of the existing wastewater system at JLES with the goals of improved compliance with water quality standards, improved safety, and simplified operation and maintenance. Other than the potential minor drainage changes and

minor additional sources of runoff when compared with pre-project conditions the Project does not include activities that would substantially degrade water quality.

- b) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The Project, including the Intermediate Lift Station, would not involve any withdrawals from an aquifer or groundwater table and would not interfere with groundwater recharge.
- c) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The grading of the Project site, including the Intermediate Lift Station, and installation of the proposed improvements may result in minor changes in site drainage. The proposed Project does not include activities that will change the course of any stream or river. The statewide General Permit (Water Quality Order 2009-0009-DWQ) for construction activities will require preparation and implementation of a SWPPP identifying specific best management practices (BMP) to be implemented and maintained through the Project to limit potential erosion.

The Project could provide minor additional sources of runoff when compared with pre-project conditions. Minor increase of impervious surface area would result primarily from construction of the new headworks building on the JLES campus and the lift station building to be located along Berkesey Lane. The Project will not contribute to a substantial increase in water runoff from the site.

- d) ***No Impact.*** The Project, including the Intermediate Lift Station, occurs on FEMA/FIRM panels 06009C0375F and 06009C0362F for unincorporated Calaveras County. The effective date for both panels is 15 May 2017. The FEMA/FIRM panel 06009C0375F designate the Project area as Zone X (areas determined to be outside the 0.2% annual chance floodplain). The Project is not in an area subject to seiche or tsunami.
- e) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The project would be required to comply with local, state, and federal standards and regulations regarding water quality. The project would not use groundwater or result in the construction of a groundwater well. The project site is not identified as a recharge area, and all stormwater generated at the site would be compliant with adopted rules and regulations that would maintain groundwater quality.

For these reasons, the project would not conflict with any plans or regulations to maintain water quality or manage ground water resources. This would be a less-than-significant impact, and no mitigation would be necessary.

4.2.12 Land Use and Planning

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING	Would the project:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a)	Physically divide an established community?				X
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?				X

Potential Environmental Effects

- a) **No Impact.** The Project, including the Intermediate Lift Station, proposes the improvements to the wastewater treatment and disposal system for the JLES. Proposed facilities outside of the JLES include the construction of a pipeline from the JLES to the CCWD La Contenta WWTP and an Intermediate Lift Station. The pipeline would be constructed within the paved travel lanes and disturbed shoulders of existing roadways. Construction of the Intermediate Lift Station would be sited within the public right-of-way on the south side of Silver Rapids Road adjacent to Berkesey Lane. Therefore, because the project would be constructed in existing roadways or their rights-of-way, implementation of the Project would not physically divide an established community.
- b) **No Impact.** The Project does not occur in an area covered by a habitat or natural community conservation plan.

4.2.13 Mineral Resources

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

Environmental Setting

As set forth in the Calaveras County 2019 General Plan, Resource Production Element, Calaveras County has a long history of mining with a rich array of mineral resources due to its location within the Sierra Nevada foothills and the Mother Lode Belt. Though mining activity has slowed in recent years, much of the early development in the County revolved around extracting mineral resources such as gold and copper among other minerals. Minerals commonly extracted in more modern times include clay, sand, and gravel. Mineral extraction from mine tailings also is common.

In Calaveras County, mining activities occur on both public (U.S. Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service) and private lands. Per the State Mining and Geology Board, as of 2013,

there are no lands designated in Calaveras County as mineral areas of regional or statewide significance.

The 2019 General Plan designates areas within the County known to contain mineral resources as Resource Production lands and Working Lands. Both land use designations allow for mineral resource extraction land uses and allow for relatively limited building intensity (one dwelling unit per legal lot). The land use designations are intended to maintain the viability of mineral resource production in the County and prevent intrusion of non-compatible land uses. In addition, the Land Use Element of the General Plan provides for a Mineral Resource Overlay, which implements the State's mineral land conservation regulations.

The 1974 Valley Springs Community Area General Plan does not contain any information regarding mineral resources (Calaveras County 1974).

The Calaveras County General Plan Resource Production Element (2019) describes the County's goals and policies pertaining to mineral resources:

Policy RP 1.1: Limit the intrusion and encroachment of incompatible uses that may affect Resource Production Lands. (IM RP-1A, RP-1B, RP-1C, RP-1D and RP-1E)

Policy RP 4.1: Acknowledge the importance of mineral resources as finite and unique natural resources, and that the responsible protection and development of these resources is vital to the economic well-being of the state, the County, and the needs of society.

Policy RP 4.2: Balance the interests of the County's mining industry and County residents and minimize conflicts between existing and planned land uses.

Implementation Measure RP-1C, Public Facilities on Resource Production Lands: Before authorizing or approving construction of a public facility on or adjoining land designated Resource Production a determination shall be made by the approving authority that:

1. Resource Production lands are conserved and protected, while meeting the need for adequate public facilities; and
2. Other potential sites outside of Resource Production lands were considered by the agency or permitting authority and whether such sites were considered acceptable or not feasible as a public facility; and
3. The effect of the proposed public facility upon adjoining Resource Production lands was considered, as was whether the proposed site would be incompatible with resource production operations on adjoining Resource Production lands.

Potential Environmental Effects

- a) **No Impact.** The Project, including the Intermediate Lift Station, occurs primarily on the JLES campus and within existing roadway and public rights-of-way. The Project would not impact the availability of mineral resources that are locally important or of value to the state.
- b) **No Impact.** See response to item a).

4.2.14 Noise

XIII. NOISE		Potentially Significant Impact	Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?			X	
b)	Generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels?			X	
c)	For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan, or where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				X

Environmental Setting

The 2019 Calaveras County General Plan Noise Element establishes policies and standards for noise exposures at noise sensitive land uses. The Noise Element defines noise sensitive uses as ‘Land uses on which noise may have a significant impact include residences, schools, conservation areas, and hospitals or other care facilities. The relevant GP goal and policies are listed below.

Goal N1: Noise levels consistent with the County’s rural atmosphere and that maintain compatibility between differing land uses, and protect the health and well-being of residents, visitors and businesses.

Policy N 1.3: Determine that a potentially significant adverse noise-related impact exists when a non- transportation related project (excluding temporary initial construction noise) has the potential to increase the overall ambient noise levels at the receiving land use by 3 dB or more when the ambient noise levels exceed the standards in Table Noise-2.

Policy N 1.14: Limit the use of heavy-duty vibration-generating construction equipment, such as vibratory rollers, within close proximity of existing buildings, particularly buildings of weak structural integrity and/or historical significance to ensure that groundborne vibration shall not exceed 0.2 in/sec PPV at the nearest sensitive receptor. For construction projects where vibration-intensive activities are

anticipated, a designated person shall be responsible for registering and investigating claims of excessive vibration. The contact information of such person shall be clearly posted on the construction site.

Table N-2 Noise Exposure Levels for Sensitive Land Uses adjacent to Existing Transportation Noise Sources (other than Aviation-Related Noise Sources)^a			
Noise Sensitive Land Use	Outdoor Activity Areas^b	Interior Spaces^c	
	L_{dn}/CNEL, dB	L_{dn}/CNEL, dB	L_{eq}, dB^d
Residential ^e	60 ^f	45	--
Transient Lodging ^g	65 ^h	45	--
Hospitals, Nursing Homes	60 ^f	45	--
Theaters, Auditoriums, Music Halls	--	--	45
Churches, Meeting Halls	60 ^f	--	40
Office Buildings	--	--	45
Schools, Libraries, Museums	--	--	45
Playgrounds, Neighborhood Parks	70	--	--
<p>a This table applies to noise exposure levels resulting from a transportation noise source other than an aircraft. Aircraft related noise exposure is governed by the ALUCP. For existing receiving land uses, consideration shall be given to the noise exposures from new transportation noise sources during the design and approval of the new transportation project. In the case of existing transportation noise sources, projects or consideration of land use changes involving noise-sensitive land uses shall address the noise exposure environment and use these standards as thresholds. Evaluations of existing transportation noise sources shall include an analysis of projected future noise levels based on future estimated traffic levels for the transportation noise source.</p> <p>b An outdoor activity area is a location outside of the immediate structure where formal or informal activities are likely to happen. For example, anywhere on a residential property could be an outdoor activity area, while the outdoor activity area for a school could be a playground or sporting fields, and for a hospital could be an exterior patio or exercise area. Where the location of an outdoor activity area is unknown, the exterior noise level standard shall be applied at the property line of the receiving land use. Where it is not practical to mitigate exterior noise levels at patio or balconies of apartment complexes or similar land uses, a common area such as a pool or recreation area may be designated as the outdoor activity area.</p> <p>c In a high noise environment, special construction techniques may be necessary to reduce the interior noise level to the standard.</p> <p>d As determined for a typical worst-case hour during periods of use.</p> <p>e The County can impose noise level standards which are up to 5 dB less than those specified in this table where existing ambient noise levels are substantially lower than the thresholds established in this table. These noise level standards do not apply to residential units established in conjunction with industrial or commercial uses (e.g., caretaker dwellings).</p> <p>f Where it is not feasible to reduce noise in outdoor activity areas to 60 dB L_{dn}/CNEL or less using a practical application of the best-available noise reduction measures, an exterior noise level of up to 65 dB L_{dn}/CNEL may be allowed provided that available exterior noise level reduction measures have been implemented and interior noise levels are in compliance with this table.</p> <p>g Transient lodging includes overnight accommodations usually intended for occupancy by visitors or other short-term paying customers (e.g., hotels, motels or homeless shelters). Transient lodging, for the purpose of this application, excludes bed and breakfast establishments located in rural areas, campgrounds or at guest ranches. In the case of hotel/motel facilities or other transient lodging, where outdoor activity areas such as pool areas are not be included in the project design, only the interior noise level criterion will apply.</p> <p>h Where it is not feasible to reduce noise in outdoor activity areas to 65 dB L_{dn}/CNEL or less using a practical application of the best-available noise reduction measures, an exterior noise level of up to 70 dB L_{dn}/CNEL may be allowed provided that available exterior noise level reduction measures have been implemented and interior noise levels are in compliance with this table.</p>			

Chapter 9.02 (Noise Control), Sections 9.02.030 and 9.02.060, of the Calaveras County Code exempts several activities from the requirements of the Noise Control Chapter. Relevant Project related exemptions to the Noise Control chapter are listed below:

9.02.030 Sound level limitations.

- A. No person shall cause, allow, or permit the operation of any sound source on property or any public space or public right-of-way in such a manner as to create a sound level that exceeds the levels listed in Table 1. If all provisions of Subsection 9.02.060D. are complied with, this section shall not apply to construction equipment used in connection with construction operations.

Table 1 EXTERIOR NOISE LEVEL STANDARDS

Land Use Type*	Sound Level (A-Weighted) Decibels	
	7:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m.**	10:00 p.m.—7:00 a.m.
Residential	60	50
Commercial	70	60
Industrial (Industry)	75	65

*As defined in Title 17 of the Calaveras County Code.

**Subsection 9.02.050E provides an extension to midnight on Friday and Saturday for the events listed in the provision.

Each of the sound level standards specified in Table 1 shall be reduced by five dBA for pure tone noises. However, in no case shall the exterior noise level standard be lower than the ambient sound level plus five dBA.

9.02.060 Exemptions.

The following are exempt from this chapter:

- A. Sound from any activity on a school campus during normal operating hours or in conjunction with a school event.
- D. Sound from construction activity, provided that all construction in or adjacent to residential areas shall be limited to the daytime hours between seven a.m. and six p.m., unless otherwise subject to conditions in a valid discretionary land use permit that addresses construction noise associated with the project.

Potential Environmental Effects

- a) **(Construction Noise) Less Than Significant Impact.** Construction activities could increase noise levels temporarily in the vicinity of the Project, including the Intermediate Lift Station. Actual noise levels would depend on the type of construction equipment involved, distance to the source of the noise, time of day, and similar factors. These increases would be temporary. Given that the Project contractor would adhere to applicable County construction-related noise standards, this impact would be considered to be less than significant.

(Operational Related Noise) Less Than Significant Impact. The post-project noise levels in the Project vicinity will be substantially unchanged from the pre-project condition. Noise associated with operation of the new headworks/ lift station, and the Intermediate Lift Station will be minimized by placing these new facilities in a concrete masonry unit (CMU) building consistent with CCWD standards.

- b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Project construction includes activities, such as operation of large pieces of equipment (e.g., heavy trucks) which may result in the periodic, temporary generation of ground-borne vibration. The Project, including the Intermediate Lift Station, does not introduce new sources of ground-borne vibration. Given the nature of any potential ground-borne vibration and given that any impacts would be temporary and periodic, potential impacts are less than significant.
- c) **No Impact.** The Project is not located within an airport land use plan area or within two miles of a public or public use airport. The Calaveras County Airport is located approximately 12 miles east of the Project area.

4.2.15 Population and Housing

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING Would the project:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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)?			X	
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?			X	
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?			X	

Potential Environmental Effects

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The new lift stations would be subject to CCWD review and optimized for future sewer service to existing and proposed residences on the west side of SR 26 consistent with the 2019 Calaveras County General Plan land use plans and policies. Because future land uses in the Project vicinity would be developed in compliance with the General Plan, the regionalization of JLES's wastewater will not induce substantial population growth.
- b) **No Impact.** The Project, including the Intermediate Lift Station, would be constructed at the site of JLES, area roadways, or public rights-of-way, implementation of the project would not include any activities that would result in the displacement of housing or people.
- c) **No Impact.** See response to item b).

4.2.16 Public Services

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
Would the project:				
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?				X
Police protection?				X
Schools?				X
Parks?				X
Other public facilities?				X

Environmental Setting

The purpose of the Project is the replacement of the existing wastewater system at JLES with the goals of improved compliance with water quality standards, improved safety, and simplified operation and maintenance. Implementation of the project would not impact any other public services.

Potential Environmental Effects

- a) **No Impact.** According to the District Engineer, CCWD has adequate capacity to serve JLES at the La Contenta WWTP. According to CCWD engineering staff, there is adequate collection system capacity to serve JLES except for ± 870 linear feet of existing 6-inch diameter sewer pipe located northwest of the intersection of SR 26 and Vista Del Lago Drive. CCWD has determined that this section of the existing La Contenta sewage collection system should be increased in size from 6- inch diameter to 8-inch diameter. The Project will replace this ± 870 linear foot pipeline segment with PVC sewer pipe per CCWD Standards.

Temporary lane closures may be needed during installation of the force main on Driver Rd., SR 26, Baldwin Lane, Berkesey Lane, and Berkesey Dr. Project construction activities would be coordinated with local law enforcement and emergency services providers. No other new or physically altered governmental facilities would be needed.

4.2.17 Recreation

XVI. RECREATION	Potentially Significant Impact	Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	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?				X
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?				X

Environmental Setting

The existing soccer field / baseball field, and asphalt hard courts at JLES and the La Contenta Golf Course are the only recreation facilities within or adjacent to the proposed project.

Potential Environmental Effects

- a) **No Impact.** The Project would not increase the use of existing parks in the area and does not include the construction of any recreational facilities.
- b) **No Impact.** The Project does not include the construction of any recreational facilities and would not require the expansion of existing recreational facilities.

4.2.18 Transportation/Traffic

XVII. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC	Potentially Significant Impact	Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?				X
b) Conflict with or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?				X
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				X
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?				X

Environmental Setting

Project staging and construction would occur on the JLES campus. The Project includes work along Driver Rd., SR 26, Baldwin Lane, Berkesey Lane, Berkesey Dr., Vista Del Lago Drive, Goldenwest Court, and the back parking lot of the La Contenta Plaza. Access to driveways along the force main alignment will be maintained throughout Project construction.

Potential Environmental Effects

- a) ***No Impact.*** The Project does not include activities that would conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation. The 2021-2041 *Calaveras County Regional Transportation Plan (CCRTP)* does not show any existing or proposed bicycle facilities in the Project area (Calaveras Council of Governments 2021).
- b) ***No Impact.*** No aspect of the proposed project, including the Intermediate Lift Station, would increase vehicle trips or increase vehicle miles traveled. The Project would not substantially change the amount of traffic on Driver Rd., SR 26, Baldwin Lane, Berkesey Lane, Berkesey Dr., Silver Rapids Road, Goldenwest Ct., or Vista Del Lago Dr. because it is not a new development or growth inducing project. A temporary minor increase in traffic during Project construction could occur as the result of worker trips to the site, materials delivery, and spoils hauling. Project construction activities would be coordinated with local law enforcement and emergency services providers.
- c) ***No Impact.*** The Project does not include features that introduce or exacerbate any transportation of traffic hazards due to a design feature.
- d) ***No Impact.*** Temporary lane closures may be needed during installation of the force main on Driver Rd., SR 26, Baldwin Lane, Berkesey Lane, Berkesey Dr., Vista Del Lago Dr. and Goldenwest Ct. Access to driveways along the force main alignment will be maintained throughout Project construction. Project construction activities would be coordinated with local law enforcement and emergency services providers.

4.2.19 Utilities/ Service Systems

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS Would the project:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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?		X		
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?			X	
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?			X	
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?				X
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				X

Environmental Setting

According to the District Engineer, CCWD has adequate treatment capacity to serve JLES at the La Contenta WWTP (KASL 2019). The capacity fees collected by CCWD from JLES will be used to help implement future improvements identified in the 2018 La Contenta Wastewater Master Plan. The current La Contenta Wastewater System Master Plan (Kennedy / Jenks Consultants, January 2018) was adopted by the CCWD Board in 2018.

According to CCWD engineering staff, there is adequate collection system capacity to serve JLES except for \pm 870 lineal feet of existing 6-inch diameter sewer located, east of SR 26 and north of Vista Del Lago Drive (KASL 2019). CCWD has determined that this section of the existing La Contenta sewage collection system should be increased in size from 6-inch diameter to 8-inch diameter. The proposed Project will replace the \pm 870 lineal of existing 6-inch diameter pipeline east of SR 26 and north of Vista Del Lago Drive with 8-inch diameter pipe as recommended by CCWD. The replacement pipeline will be PVC sewer pipe per CCWD Standards.

Potential Environmental Effects

- a) ***Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.*** The proposed Project consists of the demolition of an existing WWTP at the Jenny Lind Elementary School, and the construction of new wastewater facilities at the school, a new pipeline to permit the School's wastewater to be treated at the existing La Contenta WWTP, and an intermediate lift station to assist in wastewater flows. The environmental effects of constructing and operating Project facilities are evaluated in this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration. The assessment set forth in this Initial Study identified potentially significant impacts to Aesthetics, Biological Resources, and Cultural Resources, and determined that these effects could be reduced to a less-than-significant level with the imposition of Mitigation Measures Aesthetics-1, BIO-1 through BIO-4, and CUL-1.
- b) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The Project would not require the use of additional water supplies during construction or operation. The proposed Project does not require or result in the construction of other new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities.
- c) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** According to the District Engineer, CCWD has adequate treatment capacity to serve JLES at the La Contenta WWTP (KASL 2019).
- d) ***No Impact.*** Solid waste generated by the Project would be limited to construction debris. Solid waste disposal would occur in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations. Disposal would occur at permitted landfills. Therefore, the Project would not generate the need for new solid waste facilities.
- e) ***No Impact.*** The Project would conform to all applicable state and federal solid waste regulations.

4.2.20 Wildfire

XX.	WILDFIRE	Potentially Significant Impact	Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	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 evaluation plan?			X	
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?			X	
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?			X	
d)	Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?			X	

According to California Fire and Resource Management Program Fire Hazard Severity Zone map for Calaveras County and the County's Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (Calaveras County 2021), the proposed Project area is within a State Responsibility Area, with a fire risk designation of High. Thus, the threat of wildfire hazard in that area is determined to be high. (CAL FIRE 2023)

Questions a) through (d): Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project site is situated in an area with rural residential uses. It is located in a State Responsibility Area, on land that is classified as a high fire hazard severity zone. No aspect of the proposed project would substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan such as the Emergency Operations Plan or the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Although the project site is located adjacent within an area designated as high, the majority of project facilities would be below ground. Although the Project includes wastewater facilities on the JLES site, the proposed facilities would replace existing facilities on the campus. The only other above ground project component would be the Intermediate Lift Station electrical control panels and stand-by generator enclosure. The JLES Lift Station facilities would be enclosed within a fire-safe structure that would reduce the potential for impairment by fire. For these reasons, no significant impact would occur and no mitigation would be required.

4.2.21 Mandatory Findings of Significance

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF

SIGNIFICANCE (To be filled out by Lead Agency if required)

*Potentially
Significant
Impact*

*Significant
Unless
Mitigation
Incorporated*

*Less Than
Significant
Impact*

No Impact

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

X

X

X

- a) ***Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.*** As discussed above, the project has the potential to adversely impact aesthetics (lighting), biological resources (California tiger salamander, Western pond turtle, nesting birds, water features), undiscovered cultural and historic resources, With the implementation of mitigation measures identified in this Initial Study (see below), all potential impacts would be reduced to a less-than-significant level. No significant or potentially significant impacts would remain.
- b) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** The Project is consistent with the General Plan and would not result in individually limited but collectively significant impacts. Therefore, the Project would not cause any additional environmental effects or significantly contribute to a cumulative impact.
- c) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** The Project would not result in substantial direct or indirect adverse effects from noise, either during project construction or operation, nor would it result in impacts to air quality, water quality or utilities and public services. Therefore the Project would not cause substantial adverse effects on human beings.

5. Report Preparation

5.1 Report Preparation

Calaveras Unified School District, CEQA Lead Agency

Mark Campbell	Superintendent
---------------	----------------

Weber, Ghio & Associates Civil Engineering Consultant

Matt Ospital, PE	President
------------------	-----------

Sycamore Environmental Consultants, Inc.

Jeffery Little	Project Manager, Vice President
Adam Forbes	Planner
Aramis Respass	CAD/GIS Analyst

Natural Investigations Company, Inc.

Cindy Arrington, M.S., RPA	Principal
----------------------------	-----------

Environmental Planning Partners, Inc.

Robert Klousner, Jr.	President, Project Manager
Raadha Jacobstein	Professional Planner
Dale Nutley	Graphic Design
Mary Wilson	Planner

6. References

- Calaveras County, 2021. Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. June 2021.
- Calaveras County. Calaveras County General Plan, 2019. Adopted by Board of Supervisors on November 12, 2019. Resolution 20191112r151.
- Calaveras County Public Works, 2012a. Design Manual: Grading, Drainage, and Erosion Control for Unincorporated Calaveras County. December 2012.
- Calaveras County, 2012b. Preliminary Draft General Plan Environmental Impact Report. Prepared by: Raney Planning & Management and Calaveras County Planning Department Staff. December 2012.
- Calaveras County, 2011. Department of Public Works. Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration Jenny Lind Safe Routes to Schools Project. San Andreas, CA. Prepared by Michael Brandman Associates. Sacramento, CA. 17 August 2011.
- Calaveras County, 2007. Voluntary Oak Woodland Management Guidelines. January 2007.
- Calaveras County, 1999. Rancho Calaveras Special Plan. 10 May 1999.
- Calaveras County, 1974. Valley Springs Community Area General Plan, Calaveras County, CA. Calaveras County. 9 December 1996 (last updated). General plan, Volumes I-VII. 7 November 1974.
- Calaveras County Council of Governments, 2015. Regional Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Safe Routes to Schools Plan. June 2015.
- Calaveras Unified School District, 2019. Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for Jenny Line Elementary School Wastewater Regionalization Project. SCH #2019029121. April 2019.
- California Department of Conservation. August 2000. A general location guide for ultramafic rocks in California – Areas more likely to contain naturally occurring asbestos. Division of Mines and Geology, open-file report 2000-19.
ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dmg/pubs/ofr/ofr_2000-019.pdf
- California Department of Conservation, 2018a. California Geologic Survey. Regional Geologic Hazards and Mapping Program, Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Assessment web page. Accessed December 2018 at <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/Pages/PSHA/shaking-assessment.aspx>
- California Department of Conservation, 2018b. Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. Accessed December 2018 at https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/county_info.aspx
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Fire and Resource Assessment Program. Calaveras County State Responsibility Area, Fire Hazard Severity Zones. June 15, 2023

- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), 2018. Accessed December 2018. California Scenic Highway Mapping System, Calaveras County. Accessed December 2018 at http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/16_livability/scenic_highways/index.htm.
- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), 2012. Highway Design Manual, Calaveras County.
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Statutes. 1970. Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq. California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region. Approved May 2018.
- California Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR). 19 June 2008. Technical advisory: CEQA and climate change: Addressing climate change through California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Review. Sacramento, CA. <http://www.opr.ca.gov/ceqa/pdfs/june08-ceqa.pdf>.
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, 2018. Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan), Fifth Edition, Revised May 2018 (with approved amendments).
- Federal Facilities Environmental Stewardship and Compliance Assistance Center (Fed Center), 2018. General Conformity Rule description and info. Accessed December 2018 at https://www.fedcenter.gov/_kd/go.cfm?destination=Page&pge_id=3578&printable=1
- KASL Consulting Engineers, Inc., 2023. Alternatives analysis report Calaveras Unified School District wastewater plant upgrades at Jenny Lind Elementary School and Toyon Middle School, CWSRF PROJECT NO. C-06-8378-110.
- KASL Consulting Engineers, Inc., 2019. Preliminary design report for Calaveras Unified School District system upgrades at Jenny Lind Elementary School and Toyon Middle School. CWSRF PROJECT NO. C-06- 8378-110. January 2019.
- KASL Consulting Engineers, Inc., 2018a. Alternatives analysis report Calaveras Unified School District wastewater plant upgrades at Jenny Lind Elementary School and Toyon Middle School, CWSRF PROJECT NO. C-06-8378-110. June 2018.
- KASL Consulting Engineers, Inc., 2018b. Updated Regionalization Plan. 23 July 2018.
- Kennedy/Jenks Consultants. January 2018. La Contenta Wastewater System Master Plan. Prepared for: Calaveras County Water District.
- Natural Investigations Company. 4 February 2019. Cultural resources inventory and effects assessment for the Calaveras Unified School District Jenny Lind Elementary School project Calaveras County, CA.
- Padre Associates, Inc., 2023a. Biological Surveys for the Alternative Intermediate Lift Station for the Jenny Lind Elementary School Wastewater Treatment Upgrade Project, Calaveras County. July 28, 2023.

- Padre Associates, Inc., 2023b. Supplemental Phase I Archaeological Study, 2023 Update to the CUSD Wastewater Regionalization Project – Alternative Intermediate Lift Station Location, Calaveras County, California. July 19, 2023.
- Sycamore Environmental Consultants, Inc., 2019a. Biological Assessment for the Jenny Lind Elementary School Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Upgrade Project, Calaveras Unified School District, Calaveras County, CA. February 2019.
- Sycamore Environmental Consultants, Inc., 2019b. Aquatic Resource Delineation Report for the Jenny Lind Elementary School Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Upgrade Project, Calaveras Unified School District, Calaveras County, CA. February 2019.
- Sycamore Environmental Consultants, Inc., 2019c. Cultural Resources Inventory and Effect Assessment for the Calaveras Unified School District Jenny Lind Elementary School Project. February 4, 2019.
- Sycamore Environmental Consultants, Inc., 2019d. Final Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration for Jenny Lind Elementary School Wastewater Regionalization Project. April 2019.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), 2012. Title 33 - Navigation and navigable waters. CFR 328.3 – Definitions of Waters of the United States. Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army, Department of Defense. 1 July 2012.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2019. Sole Source Aquifers for Drinking Water. Accessed January 2019 at <https://www.epa.gov/dwssa>.
- U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), 2014. Fisheries off west coast states; west coast salmon fisheries; amendment 18 to the salmon fishery management plan; final rule. Federal Register 79(243): 75449- 75454; 50 CFR Part 660. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. 18 December 2014.
- U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), 2018. Web soil survey for Calaveras County. National Soil Survey Center, Lincoln, NE. Accessed December 2018 at <https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>.

Mitigation Measures

Measure AESTHETICS-1

- *All outdoor lighting will be hooded or screened to direct the source of light downward and focus onto the property from which it originates and will not negatively impact adjacent properties or directly reflect upon any adjacent residential property.*
- *Parking lot and other security lighting will be top and side shielded to prevent the light pattern from shining onto adjacent property or roadways, excluding lights used for illumination of public roads.*
- *External lights used to illuminate a sign or billboard or the side of a building or wall shall be shielded to prevent the light from shining off of the surface intended to be illuminated. Lights that shine onto a road in a manner, which causes excessive glare and may be considered to be a traffic hazard, will be prohibited.*

Mitigation Measure BIO-1 (California tiger salamander)

- ***Seasonal Avoidance:*** *Project activities will be scheduled to minimize adverse effects to CTS, CRLF, and their habitat. Disturbance to upland habitat adjacent to IC-1, IC-3 and the detention pond will be confined to the dry season, generally May through October 15. Grading and other disturbance in water features, if unavoidable, shall be conducted only when they are dry, typically between July 15 and October 15. Work within a water feature may begin prior to July 15 if the pool or wetland has been dry for a minimum of 30 days prior to initiating work. Work adjacent to IC-3, IC-1 and the detention pond would be limited to periods of low rainfall (less than 0.08 inches per 24-hour period and less than 40 percent chance of rain). Construction activities shall cease 24 hours prior to a 40 percent or greater forecast of rain from the National Weather Service (NWS). Construction may continue 24 hours after the rain ceases if no precipitation is in the 24-hour forecast. If work must continue when rain is forecast (greater than 40 percent chance of rain), a USFWS-approved biologist(s) shall survey the project site before construction begins each day rain is forecast. If rain exceeds 0.5 inches during a 24-hour period, work shall cease until NWS forecasts no further rain.*
- ***Environmental Awareness Training:*** *Prior to the start of construction, a USFWS approved biologist will conduct a training program for all construction personnel including contractors and subcontractors. The training will include, at a minimum, a description of the CTS, CRLF, and WPT and its habitat within the BSA; an explanation of the species status and protection under state and federal laws; the avoidance and minimization measures to be implemented to reduce take of this species; communication and work stoppage procedures in case a listed species is observed within the project area; and an explanation of the importance of the Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs). A fact sheet conveying this information will*

be prepared and distributed to all construction personnel. The applicant shall provide interpretation for non-English speaking workers. The same instruction shall be provided to any new workers before they are authorized to perform project work.

- ***Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs):*** *Prior to the start of construction, ESAs defined as areas containing sensitive habitats adjacent to or within construction work areas for which physical disturbance is not allowed - will be clearly delineated using high visibility orange fencing. The ESA fencing will remain in place throughout the duration of the proposed action, while construction activities are ongoing, and will be regularly inspected and fully maintained at all times.*
- ***Avoidance of Entrapment:*** *To prevent inadvertent entrapment of animals during construction, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than 6 inches deep, in close proximity to IC-1 and IC-3, will be covered with plywood or similar materials at the close of each working day or provided with one or more escape ramps constructed of earth fill or wooden planks. The contractor shall inspect all holes and trenches at the beginning of each workday and before such holes or trenches are filled.*

Mitigation Measure BIO-2 (Western Pond Turtle)

- *A qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey for WPT within 48 hours prior to the onset of vegetation removal or ground disturbance within 50 ft of IC-1 and IC-3 in the Project area.*
- *If WPT are found, construction activities with potential to harm the individual(s) will stop and a qualified biologist will be notified. Construction will resume when the biologist has either relocated the WPT out of the construction zone to nearby suitable habitat, or, after thorough inspection, determined that the WPT has moved away from the construction zone.*
- *Environmental awareness training will be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to the onset of project work for construction personnel to brief them on how to recognize WPT. Construction personnel will be informed that if a WPT is encountered in the work area, construction should stop and a qualified biologist be notified. Awareness training will be conducted for new personnel (if appropriate) as they are brought on the job during the construction period. Upon completion of training, employees will sign a form stating that they attended the training and understand all the conservation and protection measures.*

Mitigation Measure BIO-3 (MBTA)

In California, bridge-nesting swallows typically arrive in mid-February, increase in numbers until late March, and remain until October. Nesting begins in April, peaks in June, and continues into August. Black phoebes, another bridge-nesting species, nest from March to August with peak activity in May. Measures should be taken to prevent establishment of nests on the bridges, culverts and headwalls prior to construction.

Effective techniques to prevent nest establishment include using exclusion devices and removing and disposing of partially constructed and unoccupied nests of migratory or nongame birds on a regular basis to prevent their occupation. This can be done by:

- On a weekly or more frequent basis, remove all partially completed nests using either hand tools or high-pressure water; and/or*
- Hang netting from the bridge before nesting begins. If this technique is used, netting should be in place from late February until project construction begins.*

Birds of Prey and Birds Protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

- If construction begins outside the 15 February to 1 September breeding season, there will be no need to conduct a preconstruction survey for active nests.*
- If applicable, trees scheduled for removal should be removed during the non-breeding season from 2 September to 14 February.*
- If construction is scheduled to begin between 15 February and 1 September, a biologist shall conduct a survey for active bird of prey nests within 500 ft and active MTBA bird nests within 100 ft of the Project area from publicly accessible areas within one week prior to construction. The measures listed below shall be implemented based on the survey results.*

No Active Nests Found:

- If no active nest of a bird of prey, MBTA bird, or other CDFW protected bird is found, then no further avoidance and minimization measures are necessary.*

Active Nests Found:

- If an active nest of a bird of prey, MBTA bird, or other CDFW protected bird is discovered that may be adversely affected by construction activities or an injured or killed bird is found, immediately:*
 - 1. Stop all work within a 100-ft radius of the discovery*
 - 2. Notify the Engineer*
 - 3. Do not resume work within the specified radius of the discovery until authorized.*
- The biologist shall establish a minimum 500-ft Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) around the nest if the nest is of a bird of prey, and a minimum 100-ft ESA around the nest if the nest is of an MBTA bird other than a bird of prey.*

Bird Species Protection Areas

<i>Identification</i>	<i>Location</i>
<i>Bird of Prey</i>	<i>500 ft no-disturbance buffer</i>
<i>MBTA protected bird (not bird of prey)</i>	<i>100 ft no-disturbance buffer</i>

- *Activity in the ESA will be restricted as follows:*
 1. *Do not enter the ESA unless authorized*
 2. *If the ESA is breached, immediately:*
 - a. *Secure the area and stop all operations within 60 ft of the ESA boundary*
 - b. *Notify the Engineer*
 3. *If the ESA is damaged, the District determines what efforts are necessary to remedy the damage and who performs the remedy.*
- *No construction activity will be allowed in the ESA until the biologist determines that the nest is no longer active, or unless monitoring determines that a smaller ESA will protect the active nest.*
- *The size of an ESA may be reduced if the biologist monitors the construction activities and determines that no disturbance to the active nest is occurring. Reduction of ESA size depends on the species of bird, the location of the nest relative to the project, project activities during the time the nest is active, and other project-specific factors.*
- *Between 15 February and 1 September, if additional trees or shrubs need to be trimmed and/or removed after construction has started, a survey will be conducted for active nests in the area to be affected. If an active nest is found, the above measures will be implemented.*
- *If an active nest is identified in or adjacent to the construction zone after construction has started, the above measures will be implemented to ensure construction is not causing disturbance to the nest.*

Mitigation Measure BIO-4 (Water Features)

- *Prior to construction, environmentally sensitive area (ESA) fencing or equivalent will be placed along the limits of construction in the BSA to exclude construction activities from avoided habitat. Trucks and other vehicles will not be allowed to park beyond, nor shall equipment be stored beyond, the fencing. No vegetation trimming/mowing or ground-disturbing activities will be permitted beyond the fencing.*

- *During construction, water quality will be protected by implementation of BMPs to minimize the potential for siltation and downstream sedimentation of aquatic habitats. BMPs will be consistent with the 2012 Calaveras County Grading, Drainage, and Erosion Control Design Manual and Project Construction General Permit (2009-0009-DWQ, as amended by 2010-0014-DWQ and 2012-0006-DWQ) issued by the State Water Resources Control Board, the 2019 County Storm Water Quality Ordinance, Section 13.01 of the County Code, and/or the Caltrans Stormwater Quality Handbook.*
- *Construction activities within the bed and banks of Indian Creek, intermittent channels and ephemeral channels will be restricted to the period between 15 April and the first qualifying rain event on or after 15 October (more than one half inch of precipitation in a 24-hour period).*
- *Equipment will be refueled and serviced at designated construction staging areas. All construction material will be stored and contained in a designated area that is located away from all creek and channel areas to prevent transport of materials into adjacent waterways. Appropriate BMPs will be installed to collect any discharge, and adequate materials for spill cleanup will be kept on site. Construction vehicles and equipment will be maintained to prevent contamination of soil or water from external grease and oil or from leaking hydraulic fluid, fuel, oil, and grease.*

Mitigation Measure CUL-1 (Unknown Historic or Cultural Resources)

- *In the event that archaeological resources are exposed during construction, all earth disturbing work within the vicinity of the find must be temporarily suspended or redirected until a professional archaeologist has been retained to evaluate the nature and significance of the find.*
- *If human remains are unearthed, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. If the remains are determined to be of Native American descent, the coroner has 24 hours to notify the NAHC.*