City of Mt. Shasta 305 N. Mt. Shasta Blvd.

Mt. Shasta, CA 96067

FROM:

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO:

- Office of Planning and Research PO Box 3044 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
- Siskiyou County Clerk 510 N. Main St. Yreka, CA 96097

Project Title: City of Mt. Shasta Water System Improvements

Project Location: The proposed Project is located within the City of Mt. Shasta City limits in Sections 15, 16, and 21 of Township 40 North, Range 4 West of the U.S. Geological Survey's City of Mt. Shasta quadrangle. As shown in **Figure 1**, project elements would be completed in four general areas of the City: Orem Street Area, Pine Street Area, Oak Street Area, and Sheldon Avenue Alley. All work would occur within public road rights-of-way (ROW) and/or public utility easements.

City: Mt. Shasta	County: Siskiyou

Project Description, Purpose, and Beneficiaries: The purpose of the proposed Project is to replace aging infrastructure, achieve adequate fire flows, and ensure a safe and reliable potable water supply for customers in the City's water service area.

Orem Street Area

An inoperable PRV station in the N. Washington Street right-of-way (ROW) would be removed. A new \pm 36-square-foot PRV station would be installed in a subsurface concrete vault adjacent to North B Street. The depth of the vault would be \pm 4.5 feet. The water main in North B Street would be extended to the vault using open-cut trenching and would connect to pressure-reducing valves and associated plumbing within the vault. Curb, gutter, and sidewalk will be installed between the road ROW and the PRV station.

About 7,000 feet of water main would be replaced/upsized in the public road ROWs of North A Street, North B Street, North C Street, N. Washington Drive, S. Washington Drive, Russell Street, Orem Street, McCloud Avenue, and Ackley Avenue. About 130 water services would be replaced. About 14 hydrants would be installed. Old steel water mains would be abandoned in place. All improvements would occur in previously disturbed areas within the public road ROW and/or public utility easements. The pipelines would be installed using open-cut trenching, with a maximum excavation depth of 4 feet; trench width would be a maximum of 3 feet.

Pine Street Area

A duplex PRV station on W. Lake Street, just east of Pine Street, would be abandoned in place. A \pm 36-squarefoot replacement PRV station would be installed in a subsurface concrete vault adjacent to the existing PRV station on City-owned property. The depth of the vault would be \pm 4 feet. The top of the vault would be \pm 6 inches above grade. The water main in W. Lake Street would be extended to the vault using open-cut trenching and would connect to pressure-reducing valves and associated plumbing within the vault. An additional PRV station would be installed in a subsurface concrete vault within the public road ROW on W. Alma Street, just south of the railroad. Although the new PRV station has not yet been designed, it is not expected to be larger than 53 square feet; the depth of the subsurface concrete vault would be \pm 4.5 feet. The top of the vault would be flush with the sidewalk. The water main in W. Alma Street would be extended to the vault using open-cut trenching and would connect to pressure-reducing valves and associated plumbing within the vault.

About 9,500 feet of water main would be replaced/upsized in the public road ROWs of N. Mt. Shasta Boulevard, Pine Street, Cedar Street, Spring Street, W. Alma Street, W. Jessie Street, W. Ivy Street, W. Field Street, and W. Lake Street. About 90 water services would be replaced. About 15 hydrants would be installed. Dead-end lines would be looped by installing short segments of new water main at two locations: the intersection of W. Lake Street and Morgan Way, and on W. Castle Street southwest of N. Mt. Shasta Boulevard. All work would occur in previously disturbed areas within the public road ROWs and/or public utility easements. The majority of the pipeline would be installed using open-cut trenching, with a maximum excavation depth of 4 feet; trench width would be a maximum of 3 feet. At locations where open-cut trenching is not feasible (e.g., at the railroad, culverts, and storm drains), the new pipe would be installed using a trenchless technique such as horizontal directional drilling (HDD) or bore and jack.

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Oak Street Area

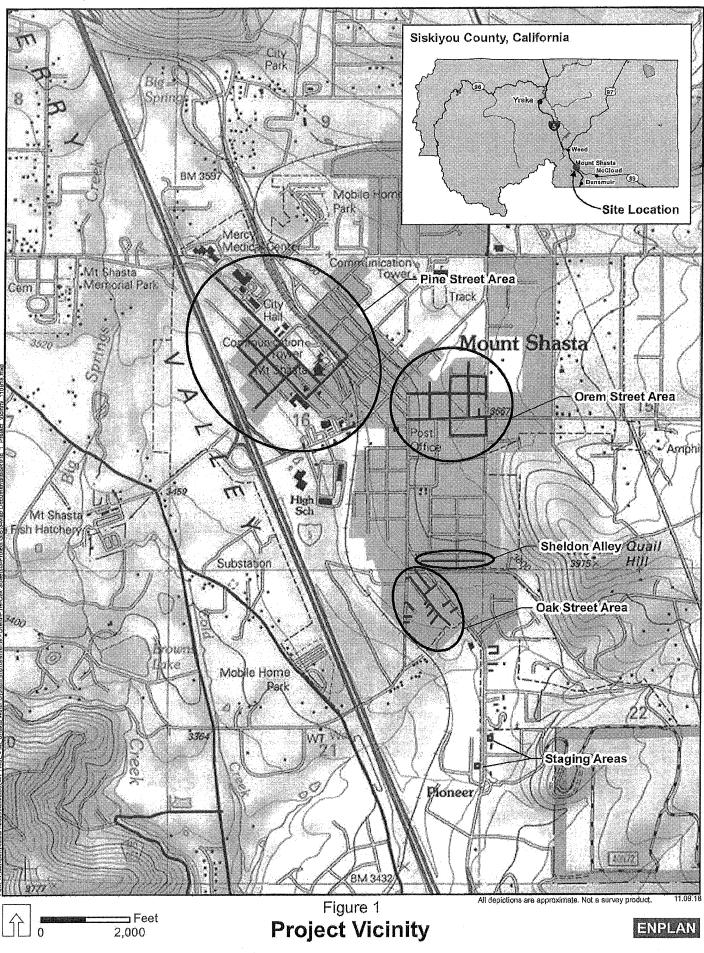
About 2,000 feet of water main would be replaced/upsized in the public road ROWs of Holly Street, S. Mt. Shasta Boulevard, Oak Street, Court Street, and in an alley southwest of S. Mt. Shasta Boulevard between Old McCloud Road and a point about 160 feet southeast of Holly Street. About 20 water services would be replaced; about 14 water services would be rerouted on private property; and about 3 hydrants would be installed. Old steel water mains would be abandoned in place. The pipelines in the Oak Street area would be installed using open-cut trenching, with a maximum excavation depth of 4 feet; trench width would be a maximum of 3 feet. One exception is a water service on S. Mount Shasta Boulevard that would be extended on private property. In order to avoid damage to an existing rock wall and mature trees along the road frontage, the line would be installed between the existing water service at the rear corner of the property and the sidewalk on S. Mount Shasta Boulevard using a trenchless method.

Sheldon Avenue Area

About 1,000 feet of water main would be replaced in a public utility easement (alleyway) between Sheldon Avenue and Old McCloud Road, east of S. Mt. Shasta Boulevard and west of S. Washington Drive. The alleyway consists of pavement and compacted gravel, and no trees or other vegetation would be removed to accommodate the proposed improvements. The pipeline in the Sheldon Avenue area would be installed using open-cut trenching, with a maximum excavation depth of 4 feet; trench width would be a maximum of 3 feet.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project:	City of Mt. Shasta	
Name of Agency Carrying out the Project:	City of Mt. Shasta	
Local Agency Contact Person:	Juliana Lucchesi, City Planner	
Exempt Status: Categorical Exemption:		
California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3 (CEQA Guidelines):		
Class 1, §15301 (Existing Facilities)		
Class 2, §15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction)		
Class 4, §15304 (Minor Alterations to Land)		
Reason Why Project Is Exempt:		
Class 1 includes the repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public structures, facilities, and mechanical equipment, involving negligible or no expansion of use; Class 2 includes replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity; and Class 4 includes minor trenching and backfilling on land with a slope of less than ten percent where the surface is restored.		
The Project is consistent with the categorical exemptions noted above because work would consist of repair, maintenance, and minor alterations to existing facilities; negligible expansion of capacity or use would occur; the majority of the pipelines would be placed in previously disturbed areas within the public road ROW and in public utility easements; and the ground surface would be restored following construction. As documented in Attachment A, the proposed Project would not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances; would not result in damage to scenic resources within a Scenic Highway; is not located on a hazardous waste site pursuant to §65962.5 of the Government Code; would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource; and would not result in cumulative impacts.		
Signature: Juliana Lucchesi City Planner	Date: 5/8/19	
Date Received for Filing at OPR:	Governor's Office of Planning & Research MAY 08 2019	
Attachments: Vicinity Map Attachment A: Documentation in	support of a Categorical Exemption	

Notice of Exemption: City of Mt. Shasta Water System Improvements



ATTACHMENT A

Documentation for Categorical Exemption

Mt. Shasta Water System Improvement Project

As described in the Notice of Exemption (NOE), the proposed Project is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to §15301 (Class 1-Existing Facilities); §15302 (Class 2-Replacement or Reconstruction); and §15304 (Class 4-Minor Alterations to Land) of the CEQA Guidelines. CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 identifies exceptions that override a lead agency's ability to use a categorical exemption. These exceptions are listed below, followed by documentation of why each exception does not apply to the proposed Project.

1. Cumulative Impact. All exemptions are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time, is significant.

The Project involves improvements to the City's water system that are required in order to replace aging infrastructure, achieve adequate fire flows, and ensure a safe and reliable water supply for the community. Although the City is also completing sewer collection system improvements to replace existing sewerlines in some of the same areas as the water system improvements, impacts for both projects would be temporary and cease at completion of the Project. In addition, the Project represents a negligible increase in capacity. Therefore, the proposed Project's impacts would not be cumulatively considerable.

2. Significant Effect. A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

An "unusual circumstance" exists if the project's circumstances differ from the general circumstances of projects covered by the applicable exemption, and, if so, whether there is a reasonable possibility of a significant effect on the environment *due to* the unusual circumstances. As documented below, there are no unusual circumstances that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed Project.

Aesthetics:

The proposed Project consists of replacement/installation of water lines and subsurface PRV stations and does not include construction of any above-ground structures. Although the new PRV station vault on W. Lake Street would be ±6 inches above grade, this would not be a noticeable feature. Although a few shrubs may be pruned up or removed during installation of some of the water services, no trees would be removed. Temporary visual impacts during construction due to excavation and staging activities would cease at the completion of the improvements.

Agriculture and Forest Resources:

Improvements would occur in an urban area within the public road ROW and in public utility easements. There are no forest resources or properties in agricultural use in the project area. Therefore, Project implementation would not result in the loss of agricultural lands or forest resources.

Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions:

The proposed Project would result in the temporary generation of ROG, NOx, PM₁₀, and other regulated pollutants during construction. ROG and NOx emissions are associated with employee vehicle trips, delivery of materials, and construction equipment exhaust. PM₁₀ is generated during site preparation, excavation, road paving, and from exhaust associated with construction equipment. The Project does not include any components that would result in a long-term increase in emissions. There are no unusual circumstances associated with air quality or GHG emissions that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed Project.

Biological Resources:

Special-Status Plant Species:

Review of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service species list for the Project area identified three federally listed plant species, Gentner's fritillary, Hoover's spurge, and slender Orcutt grass as potentially

occurring in the Project vicinity. In addition, one candidate species, whitebark pine, was identified as potentially occurring in the Project vicinity. The Project area does not contain designated critical habitat for federally listed plant species.

A review of California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) records showed that six special-status plants have been broadly mapped as potentially occurring within the project area: broad-nerved hump moss, marsh skullcap, northern adder's tongue, Siskiyou clover, woodnymph, and woolly balsamroot. In addition, the following special-status plants have been reported within an approximate five-mile radius of the Project sites: Aleppo avens, Gasquet rose, Jepson's dodder, Klamath fawn Iily, Oregon fireweed, pallid bird's-beak, rattlesnake fern, seaside bittercress, Shasta chaenactis, subalpine aster, thread-leaved beardtongue, Waldo daisy, and Wilkin's harebell. Three non-status plant species, Baker's globe mallow, Pacific fuzzwort, and three-ranked hump moss, also have been reported within the search radius.

Botanical surveys were completed by an ENPLAN Biologist on October 7 and 25, 2018. Although the special-status plant species potentially occurring in the Project area would not have been evident at the time the fieldwork was conducted, determination of their potential presence could readily be made based on observed habitat characteristics. No special-status plant species were observed during the botanical field surveys, nor are any expected to be present.

Special-Status Wildlife Species

Review of the USFWS species list for the Project area identified the following federally listed animal species as potentially being affected by the proposed Project: gray wolf, northern spotted owl, yellowbilled cuckoo, California red-legged frog, Oregon spotted frog, Delta smelt, longfin smelt, valley elderberry longhorn beetle (VELB), conservancy fairy shrimp, vernal pool fairy shrimp, and vernal pool tadpole shrimp. The USFWS species list does not identify designated critical habitat in the study areas for any federally listed animal species.

CNDDB records showed that three special-status wildlife species have been broadly mapped as potentially occurring within the study area: Cascades frog, spotted bat, and Western yellow-billed cuckoo. In addition, ten special-status wildlife species have been reported within an approximately five-mile radius of the Project sites: peregrine falcon, bald eagle, bank swallow, black swift, Fisher (west coast Distinct Population Segment), foothill yellow-legged frog, northern goshawk, Sierra Nevada red fox, western mastiff bat, and yellow rail. The following non-status animals also have been mapped within the search radius: Franklin's bumble bee, great blue heron, long-eared myotis, natural bridge megomphix, North American porcupine, obscure bumble bee, osprey, Pacific marten, silver-haired bat, Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee, and western bumble bee.

To determine the presence/absence of special-status animal species, wildlife surveys of the Project area were completed by an ENPLAN Biologist on October 7 and 25, 2018. Although most of the special-status animal species potentially occurring in the Project area would not have been evident at the time the fieldwork was conducted, determination of their potential presence was readily determined on the basis of observed habitat characteristics. No special-status animal species were observed during the surveys or are expected to be present.

Nesting Migratory Birds

The USFWS identified the following Birds of Conservation Concern as potentially being affected by the proposed Project: bald eagle, California thrasher, Clark's grebe, golden eagle, great blue heron, olive-sided flycatcher, rufous hummingbird, and western screech-owl.

Construction activities are not expected to directly affect nesting migratory birds because nearly all work would be completed in surfaced roadways and no trees would be removed. Indirect effects such as nest abandonment by adults in response to loud noise levels, are likewise not expected given the urban character of the work area. Any birds that may nest adjacent to the work area would be accustomed to periodic loud noises and other human-induced disturbances.

<u>Energy</u>

The proposed Project does not include any components that would result in environmental impacts due to the wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources in the long-term. There are no unique circumstances related to energy use during construction of the proposed Project that would result in more significant impacts than other construction Projects in the area.

Geology and Soils:

According to the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, the nearest Alquist-Priolo Special Study Zone is the Cedar Mountain Fault Zone, approximately 24 miles to the east. The California Geological Survey identifies two potentially active unnamed faults northeast of the Project area. One is a north-south trending fault running through the top of Mount Shasta; the other is an east-west trending fault that runs from the top of Mount Shasta to a point north of Black Butte. However, this is not unique to the proposed Project.

Soils on the Project sites are mapped by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as Deetz gravelly loamy sand; Diyou loam, peat substratum; and Ponto-Near complex. These soil types are found throughout the Mt. Shasta area and are not unique to the Project sites.

Hydrology and Water Quality

Construction activities would result in the temporary disturbance of soil and would expose disturbed areas to potential storm events, which could generate accelerated runoff, localized erosion, and sedimentation. However, this is a temporary impact during construction activities, and no long-term impacts would occur. In addition, Best Management Practices (BMPs) for spill prevention and erosion/sediment control would be implemented to prevent indirect impacts to streams, watercourses, and aquatic habitats. There is nothing unique about this property that would result in significant impacts to water quality. In addition, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (Panel 06093C3025D), effective January 19, 2011, the proposed improvements are not located within a special flood hazard area.

Land Use and Planning:

The proposed Project would not conflict with the City's General Plan, applicable Municipal Code regulations, or the City's standard construction measures and does not include any components that would physically divide an established community.

Mineral Resources:

The California Geological Survey has not designated any Mineral Resource Zones in the Project sites. In addition, there are no properties in the Project area that are zoned for mining activities.

Noise:

Construction activities would generate noise and would temporarily increase noise levels in the area. However, there is nothing unique to the Project that would result in more significant impacts than other construction Projects in the area. The Project does not include any components that would result in a permanent increase in noise levels.

Population and Housing:

The purpose of the Project is to replace aging infrastructure, improve fire flows, and ensure a safe and reliable water supply for the community. Because the Project would not significantly increase capacity in the City's water distribution system, the Project would not induce population growth in the area beyond that currently projected in the City's General Plan.

Public Services:

Because the Project does not include any components that would significantly increase capacity in the City's water distribution system, the Project would not induce population growth in the area beyond that currently projected in the City's General Plan. Therefore, the Project would not generate a demand for additional fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, or other public services.

Recreation:

There are no unique recreational facilities or resources in or adjacent to the Project sites. In addition, because the Project would not induce population growth, the Project would not indirectly impact recreational facilities or result in the need for additional recreational facilities.

Transportation/Traffic:

Because the Project would not induce population growth, the Project would not directly or indirectly result in a permanent increase in traffic. There would be short-term increases in traffic in the area associated with construction workers and equipment; however, existing regulations require safety measures to be employed to safeguard travel by the general public during construction.

Utilities and Service Systems:

Because the Project does not include components that would significantly increase capacity in the City's water distribution system, the Project would not induce population growth in the area beyond that currently projected in the City's General Plan. Therefore, utility and service systems in the area would not experience a permanent increase in demand for services over existing conditions.

Wildfire:

The majority of proposed improvements would occur in surfaced roadways in urbanized areas. There are no unique circumstances associated with the proposed Project that would result in more significant impacts than other construction Projects in the area.

3. Scenic Highways. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a State Scenic Highway.

According to the California Scenic Highway Mapping System, there are no officially designated State Scenic Highways in the Project area; therefore, there would be no impact.

4. Hazardous Waste Sites. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to §65962.5 of the Government Code.

The following databases were reviewed to locate "Cortese List" sites.

- List of Hazardous Waste and Substances sites from the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) EnviroStor database.
- SWRCB GeoTracker Database.
- List of solid waste disposal sites identified by SWRCB with waste constituents above hazardous
 waste levels outside the waste management unit.
- List of active Cease and Desist Orders and Clean-Up and Abatement Orders from the SWRCB.

The GeoTracker database identified two active clean-up sites in the Project area:

North Mt. Shasta Boulevard Kerosene Spill

This clean-up site is located on privately owned property adjacent to proposed improvements on North Mt. Shasta Boulevard. This case was opened on October 1, 2018, after City crews that were replacing a water meter on private property encountered red-dye diesel in the excavation. The SWRCB is in the process of working with the property owner to conduct preliminary site investigations to assess the soil and groundwater in the vicinity of the encountered release. Proposed improvements in this area would occur in the paved road ROW, and would not impact the clean-up site.

Private Residence on Cedar Street

This clean-up site is located on privately owned property adjacent to proposed improvements on Cedar Street. This case was opened after an above-ground storage tank leaked an unknown amount of heating oil

in May 2018. A site assessment work plan was prepared by Broadbent & Associates, Inc. and approved by the CVRWQCB on November 27, 2018. Broadbent is in the process of conducting site investigations to determine the severity and extent of contamination and to identify necessary remedial actions. Proposed improvements in this area would occur in the paved road ROW, and would not impact the clean-up site.

5. Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

A Cultural Resources Inventory and Evaluation Report (CRI) was completed for the proposed Project by ENPLAN. The study included a records search, Native American consultation, and field evaluation. The records search included review of records at the Northeast Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (NEIC/CHRIS), and a review of historic maps, the National Register of Historic Places, California Register of Historic Resources, California Historical Landmarks, California Inventory of Historic Resources, and California Points of Historic Interest, and the directory of properties in the Historic Property Data Files for Siskiyou County.

A records search was conducted at the Northeast Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (NEIC/CHRIS) on April 26, 2018, and covered a half-mile radius around the Project's Area of Potential Effects (APE). The APE includes all areas in which improvements would occur, and areas for staging and temporary construction access, as well as sufficient area for construction. The records search revealed that 23 archaeological surveys have been conducted within a half-mile radius of the APE, one of which encompassed portions of the APE at the railroad crossing on West Alma Street. There are 14 previously recorded archaeological sites within a half-mile radius of the APE. None of these sites are within the Project's APE. Archaeological fieldwork took place on July 18, 2017, and June 7, 2018, during which the APE was intensively surveyed to identify cultural resources that would be potentially affected by the proposed Project.

On May 23, 2018, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) conducted a search of the Sacred Lands File; the search did not reveal any known Native American sacred sites or cultural resources in the Project area. The NAHC also provided contact information for several Native American representatives and organizations, who were contacted with a request to provide comments on the proposed Project.

Kelli Hayward of the Wintu Tribe of Northern California responded via e-mail on June 6, 2018, and indicated that it would be best to contact the Winnemern Wintu and members of the Shasta Nation and Shasta Indian Nation. These Native American tribes were contacted during the initial round of correspondence.

Follow-up correspondence was conducted on August 13, 2018. A response was received from Kelli Hayward stating that she would like to be informed of any cultural resources found in the APE should members of the Shasta Nation and Shasta Indian Nation not reply. A response was received from Alex Watts-Tobin on August 14, 2018, stating that the Karuk Tribe does not have any concerns with the proposed Project. No other comments or concerns were submitted by any other Native American tribe.

The CRI concludes that the Project would have no effect on a historical or prehistoric cultural resource. Although no cultural resources were discovered during field investigations, based on the geomorphological and topographic characteristics of the project area, the results of the records and literature search, and the age of the soils mapped in the area, the Project area is considered to have a moderate-to-high potential for buried historic and prehistoric resources. However, due to the level of disturbance attributed to the previously installed water lines, the Project area is considered to have a moderate overall potential for buried intact historical and prehistoric cultural resources. The following standard construction measures would be included in construction contracts for the Project to address the inadvertent discovery of cultural resources and human remains:

 In the event of any inadvertent discovery of cultural resources (i.e., burnt animal bone, midden soils, projectile points or other humanly-modified lithics, historic artifacts, etc.), all work within 50 feet of the find shall be halted until a professional archaeologist can evaluate the significance of the find in accordance with PRC §21083.2(g) and §21084.1, and CEQA Guidelines §15064.5(a). If any find is determined to be significant by the archaeologist, the City shall meet with the archaeologist to determine the appropriate course of action. If necessary, a Treatment Plan prepared by an archeologist outlining recovery of the resource, analysis, and reporting of the find shall be prepared. The Treatment Plan shall be reviewed and approved by the City prior to resuming construction.

2. In the event that human remains are encountered during construction activities, the City shall comply with §15064.5 (e) (1) of the CEQA Guidelines and PRC §7050.5. All project-related ground disturbance within 100 feet of the find shall be halted until the County coroner has been notified. If the coroner determines that the remains are Native American, the coroner will notify the NAHC to identify the most likely descendants of the deceased Native Americans. Project-related ground disturbance in the vicinity of the find shall not resume until the process detailed in §15064.5 (e) has been completed.

DOCUMENTATION:

California Air Resources Control Board. 2019 Area Designations Maps—State and National. http://www.arb.ca.gov/desig/adm/adm.htm. Accessed March 2019.

California Department of Transportation. 2016. California State Scenic Highway Mapping System. Shasta County. <u>http://www.dot.ca.gov/hg/LandArch/16_livability/scenic_highways/index.htm</u>. Accessed March 2019.

California Environmental Protection Agency. 2019. Cortese List Data Resources. http://www.calepa.ca.gov/sitecleanup/corteselist/. Accessed March 2019.

California Natural Diversity Database. February 2019.

City of Mt, Shasta. 2007, City of Mt. Shasta General Plan. <u>https://mtshastaca.gov/planning/</u>. Accessed March 2019.

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Federal Emergency Management Agency. National Flood Hazard Map (Panel 06093C3025D, effective January 19, 2011). https://hazards-

fema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8b0adb51996444d4879338b5529aa9cd. Accessed March 2019.

State of California, Department of Conservation. California Geological Survey. 2019. SMARA Mineral Land Classification Maps. <u>http://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/informationwarehouse/index.html?map=mlc</u>. Accessed March 2019.

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- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. List of Threatened and Endangered Species. February 2019.
- U.S. Geological Survey. 2019. Interactive Fault Map. <u>http://earthquake.usgs.gov/hazards/qfaults/map/</u>. Accessed March 2019.