# DRAFT <br> INITIAL STUDY/ NEGATIVE DECLARATION 

## Calaveras Big Trees State Park Cabin Expansion and Campsite <br> Relocation Project

September 2019


State of California
California State Parks
Central Valley District

## NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project: Cabin Expansion \& Campsite Relocation Project
Lead Agency: California State Parks
Availability of documents: The Initial Study for this Negative Declaration is available for review at:

- Central Valley District

Headquarters
California State Parks
22708 Broadway Street
Columbia, CA 95310

- Calaveras Big Trees State Park

1170 State Highway 4
Arnold, CA 95223

- Calaveras County LibraryArnold Branch 1065 Blagen Rd Arnold, CA 95223
- California State Parks

Northern Service Center One Capitol Mall, Suite 410 Sacramento, CA 95814

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

DPR proposes to construct an expansion to an existing complex of four cabins and a recreation building, near the Group Campground. The scope of this project includes the provision of eleven (11) new cabins along with a camp host (RV) site along with utilities and other infrastructure to support the expansion.

A copy of the Initial Study is attached. Questions or comments regarding this Initial Study/Negative Declaration may be addressed to:

Brad Michalk, Environmental Coordinator<br>California State Parks | Facilities \& Development<br>One Capital Mall Suite 410 | Sacramento, CA 95814<br>916.445.8783 - office<br>Brad.Michalk@parks.ca.gov

Pursuant to Section 21082.1 of the California Environmental Quality Act, the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR or California State Parks) has independently reviewed and analyzed the Initial Study and Draft Negative Declaration for the proposed project and finds that these documents reflect the independent judgment of DPR. DPR, as lead agency, also confirms that the project requirements detailed in these documents are feasible and will be implemented as stated in the Negative Declaration.

Jess Cooper

## Jess Cooper

District Superintendent


Brad Michalk
Environmental Coordinator
Envirnental Cordintor

09/06/2019
Date

09/06/2019
Date

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## CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION AND REGULATORY GUIDANCE

The Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND) has been prepared by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed Cabin Expansion and Campsite Relocation Project at Calaveras Big Trees State Park, Calaveras County, California. This document has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code §21000 et seq., and the State CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations (CCR) §15000 et seq.

An Initial Study is conducted by a lead agency to determine if a project may have a significant effect on the environment [CEQA Guidelines §15063(a)]. If there is substantial evidence that a project may have a significant effect on the environment, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must be prepared, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15064(a). However, if the lead agency determines that there is no substantial evidence that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, the lead agency may prepare a Negative Declaration [CEQA Guidelines §15064(f-3)]. The lead agency prepares a written statement describing the reasons a proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, why an EIR need not be prepared. This IS/ND conforms to the content requirements under CEQA Guidelines §15071.

### 1.2 Lead Agency

The lead agency is the public agency with primary approval authority over the proposed project. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15051(b)(1), "the lead agency will normally be an agency with general governmental powers, such as a city or county, rather than an agency with a single or limited purpose." The lead agency for the proposed project is DPR. The contact person for the lead agency regarding specific project information is:

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Steve Sucheski, EIT
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916.445.8879 - office
Steve.Sucheski@parks.ca.gov
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You should submit questions or comments regarding this Initial Study/Negative Declaration to:

Brad Michalk, Environmental Coordinator Supervisor<br>California State Parks | Facilities \& Development<br>One Capital Mall Suite 410 | Sacramento, CA 95814<br>916.445.8783 - office<br>Brad.Michalk@parks.ca.gov

Submissions must be in writing and postmarked or received by fax or email no later than October 18, 2019. The originals of any faxed document must be received by regular mail within ten working days following the deadline for comments, along with proof of successful fax transmission. Email or fax submissions must include full name and address. All comments will be included in the final environmental document for this project and become part of the public record.

### 1.3 Purpose and Document Organization

The purpose of this document is to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed Cabin Expansion \& Campsite Relocation Project at Calaveras Big Trees State Park. No mitigation measures were necessary to eliminate potentially significant impacts or reduce them to a less-than-significant level.

DPR has organized the document as follows:

- Chapter 1 - Introduction.

This chapter provides an introduction to the project and describes the purpose and organization of this document.

- Chapter 2 - Project Description.

This chapter describes the reasons for the project, scope of the project, and project objectives.

- Chapter 3 - Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures. This chapter identifies the significance of potential environmental impacts, explains the environmental setting for each environmental issue, and evaluates the potential impacts identified in the CEQA Environmental (Initial Study) Checklist. No mitigation measures were determined to be necessary to reduce potentially significant impacts to a less than significant level.
- Chapter 4 - Mandatory Findings of Significance.

This chapter identifies and summarizes the overall significance of any potential impacts to natural and cultural resources, cumulative impacts, and impact to humans, as identified in the Initial Study.

- Chapter 5 - References.

This chapter identifies the references and sources used in the preparation of this IS/ND.

- Chapter 6 - Report Preparation

This chapter provides a list of those involved in the preparation of this document.

### 1.4 SUMMARY OF Findings

Chapter 3 of this document contains the Environmental (Initial Study) Checklist that

identifies the potential environmental impacts (by environmental issue) and a brief discussion of each impact resulting from implementation of the proposed project.

Based on the IS and supporting environmental analysis provided in this document, the proposed Cabin Expansion and Campsite Relocation Project would result in less than significant impacts for the following issues: aesthetics, agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and service systems and wildfire.

In accordance with $\S 15064(f)(3)$ of the CEQA Guidelines, the lead agency may prepare a negative declaration if it determines there is no substantial evidence that a project may have a significant effect on the environment. Based on the available project information and the environmental analysis presented in this document, there is no substantial evidence that, with the incorporation of project requirements, the proposed project would have a significant effect on the environment.

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## CHAPTER 2 - PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 INTRODUCTION

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR or California State Parks) has prepared this Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND) to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed Cabin Expansion \& Campsite Relocation Project at Calaveras Big Trees State Park (CBTSP), located in Calaveras County, California. The proposed project would expand an existing cluster of four rental cabins (plus one recreational building) by adding eleven additional cabins and a camp host site (Recreational Vehicle space) along with the infrastructure necessary to support the expansion. A portion of project funding is from Caltrans, the result of mitigation money resulting from the loss of five campsites in the North Grove Campground, eliminated as part of their widening project of State Route 4 (SR 4) through the park.

### 2.2 Project Location

CBTSP is located off SR 4 on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada and consists of 6,500acres of forested land including groves of Sierra Redwoods in Calaveras and Tuolumne counties. The North Fork of the Stanislaus River divides the park almost evenly, serving

Figure 1 - Regional Location Map


Cabin Expansion Location


Calaveras Big Trees Campground Improvements - Regional Map

as the boundary between the counties. The highway bisects the northwest corner of the CBTSP with the majority of the park (95\%) located on the south side of the highway.

The 12.3-acre project site is located on the small 275-acre portion of the park located north of the highway at approximately 4,830 feet in elevation. Access is via CBTSP Fire Road (Google Earth), a narrow road between 16 and 18 feet in width, currently serving as access to the existing cabins, a 100-person capacity group campground as well as the park's water storage tank. The road intersects with SR 4 approximately 1 mile east of the main entrance road to CBTSP.

### 2.3 Background and Need for the Project

The proposed Campsite Relocation and Cabin Expansion Project is the product of an effort to meet specific objectives and policies of the 1989 general plan, recent legislation, climate change, and a recent Caltrans widening of SR 4 through the park.

The primary purpose of CBTSP's formation as noted in the 1989 Calaveras Big Trees State Park General Plan (General Plan or Plan) was, "to make available to the people for their inspiration, enlightenment, and enjoyment: The North and South Calaveras Groves of Sierra Redwoods and their enclosing basins in a condition of ecological integrity". To that end, the General Plan identified specific policies the Central Valley District would pursue in protecting these trees including managing the groves in a manner that restores/maintains conditions as close to a natural state as possible while maintaining the ecological condition of the groves.

The General Plan further notes that the meadow just below the North Grove is considered an outstanding park resource and identifies as its ultimate objective, "to remove all camping facilities from the North Grove area. Campsites that are closest to the meadow on both sides should be given the highest priority for removal. In so doing, consideration may be given to establishing new or expanded camping facilities in other areas of the park."

In 2016, Caltrans undertook a widening project along both sides of the highway through CBTSP, designed to allow Caltrans to discontinue the practice of blowing snow/sand/salt mixture into Big Tree Creek by creating storage for the mixture along the shoulders. This improvement project necessitated the removal of five campsites in the North Grove Campground, requiring Caltrans to mitigate that loss by providing funding to reestablish those campsites in a new location. The original intent was to relocate those five campsites to other areas within the same campground. However, the District chose to relocate those five sites to the less ecologically sensitive areas north of the highway, consistent with the GP objective for reducing the footprint on the meadow. Due to the age of the General Plan, there will need to be a future assessment regarding number and location of campsite removal considering today's recreation needs and what we have learned over 30 years of managing the natural, cultural, and recreation resources.

Figure 2 - Project Location Map


Calaveras Big Trees Cabin Expansion - Location Map


In 2012, the Legislature passed laws that require California State Parks to develop a Revenue Generation Program to improve its financial situation to aid in responding to years of budget cuts, threats of park closures, and service reductions. Senate Bill 1018, the trailer bill for the FY 2012-13-budget year, requires California State Parks to develop a revenue generation program. Assembly Bill 1478 (Blumenfield) created the State Parks Enterprise Fund and required the Department to establish a revolving loan program to improve infrastructure and provide services that generate revenue. Projects and services funded by the Revenue Generation Program are to be consistent with the mission and values of State Parks.

In 2013, the District undertook a rehabilitation project on four unoccupied and deteriorating staff housing units, and converted these units to rental cabins. These units, located on a driveway off the access road, have proven extremely popular with park visitors.

Also in 2016, the District commissioned a Conceptual Planning Study (see Appendix A) to identify opportunities for relocating camping outside of sensitive areas as well as to strengthen the District's financial sustainability. The planning study identified locations for increased tent camping sites, development of RV campsites, additional cabin rentals and/or other lodging facilities, circulation and the development of a camp store.

### 2.4 Project Objectives

The mission of DPR is to provide for the health, inspiration, and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality recreation. The objectives of the proposed Campsite Relocation \& Cabin Expansion Project are to:

- Offer high quality recreational opportunities at CBTSP in a comprehensively planned environment.
- Provide new facilities that respond to contemporary recreation trends and changing demographics.
- Establish a park hub that welcomes and orients visitors.
- Enhance the health and function of the park's biological and cultural resources through intelligent planning and interpretation of new and existing visitor opportunities.


### 2.5 Project Description

DPR proposes to construct an expansion of an existing complex of four cabins and a recreation building, that are located just off the Group Campground access road. The scope of this Project includes the provision of eleven (11) new cabins along with a camp host (RV) site.

The expansion requires some infrastructure improvements including widening the existing access road from just outside the SR 4 right-of-way, to the cabin site, improvements to the existing water tank and water conveyance system, propane and electrical systems as well as construction of a new on-site sewage disposal system. Specific project components are as follows:

## Demolition / Tree Removal / Clear \& Grub / Grading

Demolition requirements for the project are limited to removal of the existing modular home and septic tank, and saw cutting and removal of about $6,000 \mathrm{ft}^{2}$ of asphalt along the access roadway. The District intends to remove the modular home and transport to another area of the park to a location to be determined. All but the removal itself is outside the scope of this Project.

Table 1- Tree Impacts

| Species |  | Number | Max dbh |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | Total dbh

The Project also requires removal of approximately 270 trees around the 12.3 -acre Project area, the majority of which are comprised of incense cedars and ponderosa pines. The word "approximate" is key for several reasons. The 270

Figure 3 - Project Boundary Map


Calaveras Big Trees Campground Improvements - Site Plan

impacted trees is a worst-case scenario, as DPR will retain as many large diameter trees as feasible as it refines the construction drawings and makes field adjustments during the construction process. Also potentially affecting the final number of impacted trees is the continuing die-off of trees in the project area a result of the drought and bark beetle infestation. Within the Project area, tree die-off has been occurring at the rate of approximately 1.5 trees each month so some of the impacted trees may in fact have succumbed by the time of their removal. Since DPR conducted the original and supplemental tree survey in 2015 and 2017 respectively, DPR found that approximately 90
of those trees had succumbed by the time of a follow-up tree evaluation conducted on January 7, 2019. Most of that die-off was concentrated along the access road although many others were scattered throughout the proposed cabin sites.

Table 2 - Project Impacts by Component

| Project Component | Impacted Trees | Typical Area of Soil Disturbance (Total) | Typical Area of Permanent Disturbance (Fill/Structures/Grading) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Access road | 54 | 1 acre | 6-8 foot-widening per linear foot with a 2-foot shoulder, a 4-foot wide cobble-lined swale on one side for storm water drainage, and 11-foot cut bank (up to 25 feet in width total). |
| Cabins 1-5 access road, driveways, parking pads, cabin pads, decking, walkways \& camphost site | 139 | . 75 acre | 20-foot wide road with 2-foot shoulders from end of existing road |
| Cabins 6-11 access road, driveways, parking pads, decking \& walkways | 57 | 1 acre | 20-foot wide road from end of existing road |
| Leachfield | 20 | . 25 acre | Install approximately 600 lineal feet of infiltration trench / leach field with native ground disturbance of 3' deep by 3' wide; Install approximately 6 leach field inspection ports with native ground disturbance of $3^{\prime}$ deep by 2.5' wide. |
| Water Tank | 0 | . 10 acre | Install approximately 1,750 lineal feet of 2" conduit and telemetry conductor from the water tank to the cabin site with native ground disturbance of 3' deep by 2' wide. |
|  |  |  | Anticipated Total Tree Impacts: 270 trees |
| Anticipated Total Permanent Disturbance: 3.10 acres |  |  |  |

A majority of the proposed tree removal necessary for the project is concentrated within the area of proposed cabins 1 through 5, as the Project will require these areas be raised by fill between 1 and 7 feet above existing grade for cabin pads and parking. Smaller incense cedars comprise most of the trees in this area and are at a density that creates a fire hazard. To accommodate the grading, the Project will require clearing and grubbing of approximately 3.4 acres.

As noted above, DPR intends to reestablish the native vegetation in the cabin area by relocating desirable species from those areas where fuel thinning will occur. Also, refer to the Landscape and Replanting section of the Project description below.

## Access Roadway

Access to the Project site is via an existing road named CBTSP Fire Road (Google Earth) (commonly and interchangeably referred to as the Group Campground or Cabin access road), located approximately 850 ' east of the main park entrance road. The road extends approximately 2000' as it winds its way up to the existing cabins and single-family modular home, before narrowing and continuing up to the group campground where the road terminates. Road width varies between 16 ' and 18 ', with no shoulders.

To ensure adequate emergency access, the existing access road would be widened to a consistent 24 feet in width along its entire length, resulting in a road profile that encompasses two 10 -foot travel lanes and 2 -foot shoulders, and a 4 -foot cobble lined swale. Widening will occur primarily on the road's north side, which is an existing cut-bank slope, and will require the removal of approximately 54 trees. Approximately 4500 cubic yards of material will be excavated from along the access road, which will be used to construct the cabin and parking pads, primarily for cabins 1 through 5. DPR has designed the project grading such that a cut/fill balance will be achieved.

## Utilities

The site contains existing utilities providing service to the existing cabins and Group Campground, though an upgrade will be necessary for the Project. An existing 110,000gallon concrete water tank is located at the end of the road to the Group Campground, and serves the entire park. Although the tank size is adequate for both the existing use and the proposed Project, modifications and upgrades to the facility would be necessary to provide adequate flows for the new fire hydrants.

Additionally, an existing 2.5 " waterline from the tank to the existing cabins would be abandoned in place and a new 8 " waterline extending for 225 lineal feet, would be installed primarily within the existing roadway. In addition to each of the new cabin and camp host connections, the Project also includes installation of four (4) fire hydrants for fire protection. No tree removal is required for the water system upgrades.

As noted previously, two existing septic systems are located on the project site; one system serves the existing manufactured home that would be removed and one system serves the existing four cabins. A new leach field system would be constructed just east of the existing remaining system to serve the eleven new cabins and camp host site, and would consist of 3000 linear feet of collection system piping, one 4000-gallon septic tank and 600 linear feet of leach field lines.

The existing electrical system would also be upgraded for the project. Electrical system upgrades include the addition of a new utility transformer and distribution board on a 13' x 5' x 6"-thick concrete pad, and an underground electrical system serving each of the cabins.

The final utility upgrade for the project would be the provision of propane service to each of the cabins. Propane system components include two, 2000 gallon aboveground propane
tanks on concrete pads and approximately 1100 linear feet of 2" gas pipe providing service to the cabins.

## Vehicular Access to Cabins/Parking

Vehicular access to proposed cabins 1 through 5 and the camp host site would be from an extension of the road/driveway fronting the existing four cabins. Access to Cabins 6 through 11 would be off the existing loop driveway serving the modular home, located across from the existing cabins. Only minimal widening/modifications and possibly repaving will be required for this facility.

Each cabin site would be provided a 600 square foot accessible parking area sized for two vehicles and comprised of $6^{\prime \prime}$ reinforced concrete paving on $6^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{AB}$, along with a $15^{\prime} \times 17$ ’ asphalt driveway.

## Cabins

The new cabins will be pre-manufactured units that will be transported to CBTSP by truck, where they will be set on a bed of 6 " of compacted aggregate base and anchored with rebar. DPR has designed the cabins with materials to blend with or complement the existing cabins to provide a cohesive and unifying setting. The cabins will be clad in horizontal cementitious lap siding painted to match the existing cabins, with a 5/12-pitch green metal standing seam roof. The one-bedroom cabins will contain a kitchen and bathroom complete with all utilities and heating.

DPR also designed the cabin layout to promote interaction between visitors as well as to cater to large group rentals. Four of the new cabins will be situated roughly perpendicular to the four existing cabins forming an "L"-shape facing the sloping open grassy area. DPR will site Cabins 6-11 and the camp host site, along the existing road opposite from the existing cabins. Each of the 12' x 33' cabins include two parking spaces, wooden accessible ramps connecting the parking to the cabin, a deck, along with picnic tables and a fire pit area. Additionally, a meandering accessible sidewalk will connect each of the cabins 1-4 to each other as well as to the four existing cabins.

The new cabins will meet or exceed accessibility, fire, life safety standards; access compliance regulations; and seismic design standards, in compliance with the California Building Code.

## Permanent BMPs/Landscape/Revegetation

The project will make extensive use of cobble-lined swales to direct runoff and dissipate hydraulic energy. These swales will be located along the north side of the widened access road as well as between each of the cabins, and between the cabins and parking pads.

Each cabin site would be provided large redwood decks outside the cabins along with picnic tables to facilitate outdoor dining as well as raised walkways constructed between the parking pads and cabins. Each cabin would also be provided a separate 12 ’ x 12 ’ compacted aggregate base pad where a fire ring would be installed, bordered by stone edging and/or low stone walls. Finally, the Project will also provide a meandering concrete
path along edge of meadow connecting cabins 1 through 4 with the concrete path that is located behind the existing cabins.

Finally, the Project also includes a revegetation/planting plan that includes relocating approximately 60 native trees ranging in size from 6 " to 12 " dbh, from other locations in the park. The plan also includes planting 220 native 5 -gallon shrubs.

### 2.6 Project Requirements

Under the CEQA guidelines, the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is in a unique role as both the Lead Agency and a Trustee Agency. The Lead Agency is a public agency that has the primary responsibility for carrying out or approving a project and for implementing CEQA. A Trustee Agency is a state agency having jurisdiction by law over natural resources affected by a project that are held in trust for the people of the State of California. DPR takes this distinction with responsibility to ensure that its actions protect both cultural and natural resources on all projects.

However, DPR is also the project proponent. Because of its unique role as Lead Agency, Trustee Agency as well as the project proponent, DPR's resources professionals take a prominent and influential role during the project conceptualization, design and planning process consistent with Section 15004(b)(1) of CEQA. Their early involvement during the planning process enables environmental considerations to influence project programming and design. This approach permits DPR under CEQA Section 15065(b)(1), to incorporate project modifications prior to the start of the public review process of the environmental document, to avoid impacts to a point where clearly no significant effect on the environment would occur.

As part of its effort to avoid impacts, DPR also maintains a list of Project Requirements that are included in project design to reduce impacts to resources. From this list, standard project requirements are assigned, as appropriate to all projects. For example, projects that include ground-disturbing activities, such as trenching would always include standard project requirements addressing the inadvertent discovery of archaeological artifacts. However, for a project that replaces a roof on an historic structure, ground disturbance would not be necessary; therefore, standard project requirements for ground disturbance would not be applicable and DPR would not assign it to the project.

DPR also makes use of specific project requirements. DPR develops these project requirements to address project impacts for projects that have unique issues but do not typically standardize these for projects statewide. As part of the Initial Study review process, DPR has identified the following Standard and Specific Project Requirements that apply to the project to ensure that impacts remain less than significant:

Table 3 - Project Requirements
ELEMENT/TITLE

## REQUIREMENT

## AIR QUALITY

SPR AIR 1 AIR QUALITY

- During dry, dusty conditions, all active construction areas will be lightly sprayed with dust suppressant to reduce dust without causing runoff.
- All trucks or light equipment hauling soil, sand, or other loose materials on public roads will be covered or required to maintain at least two feet of freeboard.
- All gasoline-powered equipment will be maintained according to manufacturer's specifications, and in compliance with all State and federal requirements.
- Paved streets adjacent to the Park shall either be swept or washed at the end of each day, or as required, to remove excessive accumulations of silt and/or mud that could have resulted from project-related activities.
- Excavation and grading activities will be suspended when sustained winds exceed 15 miles per hour (mph), instantaneous gusts exceed 25 mph , or when dust occurs from remediation related activities where visible emissions (dust) cannot be controlled by watering or conventional dust abatement controls.


## BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

## SPR BIO-1 Special Status Plant Species

Surveys for special status plant species with a potential to occur in the VMP project area of impact will be conducted during the appropriate blooming periods or when identity can be confirmed. All occurrences of special status plant species within the project area boundary will be recorded on project maps, flagged or otherwise identified on the ground. Where possible, occurrences of all special status plants will be avoided and protected from construction activities. Those locations where special status plants cannot be avoided will be subject to the following conditions:

## Perennial species

- Prior to project activities plants will be carefully excavated and transplanted nearby in suitable habitat. All transplant work will be conducted under the direction of a DPR Environmental Scientist or DPRapproved biologist.
- Transplanting will occur during the dormant growing season (i.e. late fall) when the plants are least disturbed and when they can be watered by winter precipitation.


## Annual species

Seeds from annual special status plant species will be collected during the appropriate season and properly stored prior to ground disturbing activities. Seeds will be sown during the appropriate season in suitable locations identified by a DPR Environmental Scientist. A monitoring plan for
transplant and/or seeding locations will be prepared and implemented. This plan will identify revegetation success criteria and follow-up remediation for locations not meeting minimum performance standards.

## SPR BIO 2 Raptors and Migratory Birds

If construction-related activities exceeding ambient noise levels are conducted between March 1 through and August 31 then focused surveys for nesting migratory bird and raptor species will be conducted by a DPR-approved biologist before construction activities occur in these months to identify active nests. The following requirements apply to the surveys:

- Surveys for active raptor nests will be conducted within a 500 -foot radius of the project area boundary no more than 7 days prior to the beginning of construction. If active nests are located within the survey area, then an appropriate buffer will be established at the discretion of a DPR-approved biologist. No construction activities will occur within buffer zones until the young have fledged and the young will no longer be impacted by construction activities, as determined by the DPR-approved biologist.
- Surveys for active migratory bird nests will be conducted within a 150foot radius of the project area boundary no more than 7 days prior to the beginning of construction. If active nests are located within the survey area, then an appropriate buffer will be established at the discretion of a DPR-approved biologist. No construction activities will occur within buffer zones until the young have fledged and the young will no longer be impacted by construction activities, as determined by the DPR-approved biologist.


## CULTURAL RESOURCES

SPR CULT 1 Previously Undocumented Cultural Resources
If previously undocumented cultural resources are encountered during project implementation (including but not limited to dark soil containing, bone, flaked stone, groundstone, or deposits of historic trash), work within the immediate vicinity of the find will be halted or diverted until a DPR-qualified cultural resource specialist has evaluated the find and implemented appropriate treatment and regulatory compliance
SPR CULT 2 DISCOVERY OF HUMAN REMAINS
In the event that human remains were discovered, work would cease immediately in the area of the find and the project manager/site supervisor would notify the appropriate DPR personnel. Any human remains and/or funerary objects would be left in place or returned to the point of discovery and covered with soil. The DPR Sector Superintendent (or authorized representative) would notify the County Coroner, in accordance with §7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, and the Native American Heritage Commission (or Tribal Representative). If a Native American monitor is onsite at the time of the discovery, the monitor would be responsible for notifying the appropriate Native American authorities.

If it is determined the remains represent Native American interment, the NAHC in Sacramento would be consulted to identify the most likely descendants and appropriate disposition of the remains. Work would not resume in the area of the find until proper disposition is complete (PRC §5097.98). No human remains or funerary objects would be cleaned, photographed, analyzed, or removed from the site prior to determination

If it is determined the find indicates a sacred or religious site, the site would be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Formal consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office and review by the Native American Heritage Commission/Tribal Cultural representatives would also occur as necessary to define additional site mitigation or future restrictions.

## GEOLOGY AND SOILS

## SPR GEO 1 Wet Season Heavy Equipment USE

No track-mounted or heavy-wheeled vehicles are permitted within the drip line or the root health zone ( 5 times dbh), whichever is greater, of retained trees during the rainy season or when soils are saturated to avoid compaction and/or damage to soil structure.

## Hydrology and Water Quality

SPR HYDRO 1 Heavy equipment Storage and Maintenance
All refueling/servicing of equipment, solid waste disposal and worksite sanitation stations should occur in designated staging areas away from flowing water and outside the root health zone of retained trees.
PSR HYDRO 2 Erosion and Sediment Control and Pollution Prevention

- Construction-related erosion and sediment disturbance will be addressed with conformance and implementation of standard erosion, sediment control, and pollution prevention requirements.
- Modify the proposed project or activity as necessary by changing the project design, location, and timing to reduce potential water quality impacts.


## Hazards and Hazardous Materials

## SPR HAZ 1 Hazardous MATERIals

- Prior to the start of on-site construction activities, Contractor will inspect all equipment for leaks and regularly inspect thereafter until equipment is removed from the project site. All contaminated water, sludge, spill residue, or other hazardous compounds will be contained and disposed of outside the boundaries of the site, at a lawfully permitted or authorized destination.
- Prior to the start of on-site construction activities, Contractor will prepare a Spill Prevention and Response Plan (SPRP) as part of the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for DPR approval to provide protection to on-site workers, the public, and the environment from accidental leaks or spills of vehicle fluids or other potential contaminants. This plan will include (but not be limited to);
- a map that delineates construction staging areas, where refueling, lubrication, and maintenance of equipment will occur;
- a list of items required in a spill kit on-site that will be maintained throughout the life of the project;
- procedures for the proper storage, use, and disposal of any solvents or other chemicals used in the restoration process;
- identification of lawfully permitted or authorized disposal destinations outside of the project site.
- Contractor will set up decontamination areas for vehicles and equipment at Park entry/exit points. The decontamination areas will be designed to completely contain all wash water generated from washing vehicles and equipment. Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be installed, as necessary, to prevent the dispersal of wash water beyond the boundaries of the decontamination area, including over-spray.
- Prior to the start of construction, Contractor will develop a Fire Safety Plan for District approval. The plan will include the emergency calling procedures for both the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) and local fire department(s).
- All heavy equipment will be required to include spark arrestors or turbo chargers (which eliminate sparks in exhaust) and have fire extinguishers on-site. Construction crews will park vehicles away from flammable material, such as dry grass or brush. At the end of each workday, construction crews will park heavy equipment over a non-combustible surface to reduce the chance of fire.
- Prior to the start of on-site construction activities, Contractor will clean and repair (other than emergency repairs) all equipment outside the project site boundaries.
- Under dry conditions, a filled water truck will be onsite during activities with the potential to start a fire.


## NOISE

## SPR NOISE 1 CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

- Internal combustion engines used for project implementation will be equipped with a muffler of a type recommended by the manufacturer. Equipment and trucks used for Project-related activities will utilize the best available noise control techniques (e.g., engine enclosures, acoustically attenuating shields or shrouds, intake silencers, ducts, etc.) whenever necessary.
- Contractor will locate stationary noise sources and staging areas as far from potential sensitive noise receptors, as possible. If they must be located near potential sensitive noise receptors, stationary noise sources will be muffled or shielded, and/or enclosed within temporary sheds.
- Construction activities will generally be limited to the daylight hours, Monday - Friday. If work during weekends or holidays is required, no work will occur on those days before 8:00 a.m. or after 5:00 p.m.
- All motorized construction equipment will be shut down when not in use. Idling of equipment and haul trucks will be limited to 5 minutes.


## PSR NOISE 2 Public Notice

The District shall post notices on the Calaveras Big Trees web portal under the Cabin Rental section notifying park visitors of potential disruptions caused by project construction activities.

### 2.7 Project Implementation

As noted in Section 2.5 above, DPR intends to implement the project in phases due to the shorter construction season at this elevation, as well as to maintain public access to the Group Campground and existing cabins during construction. Phase I of the Project would entail widening the access road as well as performing all rough grading for the cabin sites. Phase II would begin the following year and would entail all underground utility work; finished grading and paving of the remaining access roads and parking as well as installation of the cabins. While cabin installation would occur during this phase, installation of all eleven units could occur over multiple years depending on funding availability.

The Cabin Expansion Project would begin during the late spring or early summer of 2020 or 2021, continuing for approximately six months. DPR will require the contractor to install appropriate BMPs on all graded areas prior to demobilization after the first year.

As noted above, the District intends to maintain visitor access to the Group Campground and to the existing cabins throughout the duration of the construction process although certain aspects of the project may sporadically affect cabin availability. DPR would schedule work only during daylight hours and when it would incur the least amount of impact to visitors. DPR however, could implement weekend work to accelerate construction or address emergency or unforeseen circumstances. During project implementation, construction activity may necessitate traffic control efforts on the access road.

DPR would use construction crews with mechanical equipment such as an excavator, bulldozer, logging truck, dump truck, water truck and tub grinder or chipper for rough and final grading, including for the road-widening component of the project. Please refer to Table 6 - Construction Equipment and Use Assumptions, for a more comprehensive list of equipment likely to be employed during the various construction periods of the project.

DPR will incorporate BMPs into this project design to protect the natural and cultural resources in and around the project area during and after construction. DPR obtained the BMPs discussed in this document and used in the implementation of this project from the California Stormwater Quality Association (CSQA), Stormwater Best Management Practices Construction Handbook. The project would employ temporary BMPs to keep sediment on-site throughout the duration of the project; during construction, DPR would check BMPs daily, and maintain and modify as needed. DPR would use BMPs after construction to stabilize the site and minimize erosion.

### 2.8 VISITATION To CBTSP

Visitation to CBTSP has increased consistent with State population increases. DPR has designed the Cabin Expansion project to provide a greater variety of accommodation types, and does not expect the project to significantly change the nature of park visitation.

Table 4 - Visitation to CBTSP

| Year | Free Day Use | Paid Day-Use | Overnight <br> Camping | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $2014 / 15$ | 9,713 | 152,215 | 44,209 | 206,137 |
| $2015 / 16$ | 4,231 | 175,486 | 27,882 | 207,599 |
| $2016 / 17$ | 4,409 | 180,823 | 42,420 | 227,652 |
| $2017 / 18$ | 2,972 | 166,272 | 23,175 | 192,419 |
| $2018 / 19$ | 2,810 | 170,881 | 39,517 | 213,208 |
| Total <br> Average | 4,827 | 169,135 | 35,441 | 209,403 |
| Attendance |  |  |  |  |

### 2.9 Consistency with Local Plans and Policies

The Cabin Expansion project with the associated infrastructure, utility, and accessibility improvements will adhere to all applicable regulations, codes, ordinances, and permit requirements set forth by regulatory agencies.

### 2.10 Discretionary Approvals

DPR has approval authority for subsequent projects within the boundaries of CBTSP. Although unlikely, the following permits and/or consultations may be required to allow implementation of components of the Project:

- Federal and State Endangered Species Act
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)


### 2.11 Related Projects

DPR often has other smaller maintenance programs and rehabilitation projects planned for a park unit. Due to the condition and historic nature of buildings at the park, there are numerous maintenance and restoration projects in progress at any given time.

- Jack Knight Hall Rehabilitation Project
- Fuel Thinning/Prescribed burning
- Environmental Restoration Projects
- Facilities Maintenance
- Deferred Maintenance (facilities, roads, etc.)

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CHAPTER 3 - ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

|  | PROJECT INFORMATION |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1. | Project Title: | Cabin Expansion \& Campsite Relocation Project |
| 2. | Lead Agency Name \& Address: | California Department of Parks and Recreation |
| 3. | Contact Person \& Phone Number: | Brad Michalk, (916) 445-8783 |
| 4. | Project Location: | Calaveras Big Trees State Park <br> C. |
|  |  | Crojaveras County |

## 1. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

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

| $\square$ Aesthetics | $\square$ Agricultural \& Forest Resources | $\square$ Air Quality |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\square$ Biological Resources | $\square$ Cultural Resources | $\square$ Energy |  |
| $\square$ Geology/Soils | $\square$ Greenhouse Gas Emissions | $\square$ Hazards \& Hazardous Materials |  |
| $\square$ Hydrology/Water Quality | $\square$ Land Use/Planning | $\square$ Mineral Resources |  |
| $\square$ Noise | $\square$ Population \& Housing | $\square$ | Public Services |
| $\square$ Recreation | $\square$ Transportation | $\square$ | Tribal Cultural Resources |
| $\square$ Utilities/Service Systems | $\square$ Wildfire | $\square$ | Mandatory Findings of Significance |
|  |  | $\boxed{\text { None }}$ |  |

## DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:
I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

I find that, although the original scope of the proposed project COULD have had a significant effect on the environment, there WILL NOT be a significant effect because revisions/mitigations to the project have been made by or agreed to by the applicant.
A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT or its functional equivalent will be prepared.

I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated impact" on the environment. However, at least one impact has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document, pursuant to applicable legal standards, and has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis, as described in the report's attachments. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the impacts not sufficiently addressed in previous documents.

I find that, although the proposed project could have had a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects have been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration, pursuant to applicable standards, and have been avoided or mitigated, pursuant to an earlier EIR, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, all impacts have been avoided or mitigated to a less-than-significant level and no further action is required.

| Brad Michal |  | 09/17/2019 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Brad Michalk |  | Date |

# ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES 

## I. AESTHETICS.

## Environmental Setting

## Regional Context

Calaveras County is located in the central part of the historic Mother Lode Region. The County's history and natural setting are the foundation of its economically important tourism industry and influences the physical and cultural character of many of the County's numerous small communities. The federal government owns approximately 20 percent of the County, as either national forests, Bureau of Land Management lands or Bureau of Reclamation/Army Corps of Engineers land and water (Calaveras County 2016).

Established as a State Park in 1931, Calaveras Big Trees State Park (CBTSP) is one of the most visited units of the California State Park System. In 1964, the State Parks Commission declared that the purpose of this park was to make the North and South Calaveras groves of Sierra Redwoods available to the people forever, in a condition of ecological integrity, for their inspiration, enlightenment, and enjoyment. Visitors are attracted not only by the Sierra redwood groves, but also by the surrounding forests, streams, and vistas. The 6,500-acre park contains two groves of Sierra redwoods and extremely fine examples of the other coniferous species for this portion of the Sierra Nevada, most of which reach exceptional size and majesty. These trees are also notable for their coloration and effect produced by the play of light and shadows upon them at different seasons and times of day and in the various circumstances under which they grow.

Located at approximately 5,000 feet in elevation, the park experiences seasonal changes of weather and foliage against an evergreen backdrop of forest conifers. Wildflowers and mountain dogwood announce spring in the park and the brilliant fall colors of big-leaf maples, dogwood, and hazelnut trees herald the approaching snows. Visitors may hike or ski in the park, (i.e. take the $31 / 2$ mile Ski Trail to the Scenic Overlook and loop back around to the North Grove).

## Project Site

The location of the project site is on the small portion of the park located at approximately 4,830' in elevation, on the north side of State Route 4. Access to the site is via CBTSP Fire Road, which serves the existing cabins as well as the group campground. The road intersects with Highway 4 approximately 1 mile east of the main entrance road to CBTSP.

The project site sits within an area with stands of black oaks, white fir, sugar pine, ponderosa pine, and incense cedar. Additionally, a non-natural meadow area serves as the backdrop for the existing cabins. This area of the park has an allowable use intensity of Category III-IV. Category III includes low to moderate intensity recreational use, sightseeing along scenic corridors, vehicle accessibility to scenic attractions, picnicking, and day-use areas. Category IV areas allow largescale facilities, formal interpretive exhibits, and major paved roads, so long as consideration is given for the special natural and cultural sensitivities that define this park.

Since 1971, SR 4 has been designated an Official State Scenic Highway from CBTSP to State Route 89, for its natural beauty and to preserve its scenic assets for the region for posterity (California Department of Transportation). The designation of Official State Scenic Highway requires local jurisdictions to adopt adjacent land use regulations and develop ordinances controlling the appearance of earthwork, landscaping, vegetation, structures and equipment within the scenic corridor surrounding the highway. The California Streets and Highway Code states that, concerning State Scenic Highways, Caltrans "shall give special attention both to the impact of the highway and the landscape and to the highway's visual appearance." The highway is also designated in the National Scenic Byway program as the Ebbetts Pass Scenic Byway (Federal Highway Administration).

The project site currently contains four existing cabins and a mobile home. Each of the units contains exterior lighting, including floodlights for security and safety.


## DISCUSSION

a) The Proposed Project consists of the expansion of the existing cabin development and the infrastructure necessary to serve the cabins. The project will require removal of approximately 270 of the 1319 surveyed trees located within the limits of work. Trees proposed for removal are concentrated along the access road widening as well as within the cabin area itself. Views of the surrounding forest will remain intact. There are no designated
scenic vistas located within the vicinity of the proposed project. The impact, therefore, is less than significant.
b) With the exception of a portion of the access road improvements, the project site itself is at an elevation approximately 40 feet above the highway elevation in this location, and nearly $1 / 2$ mile back off the highway. Given the topographic variation and vegetation screening the site, the Project site is not visible to vehicles driving either eastbound or westbound through the park. Less than significant.
c) DPR designed the project for visual continuity and compatibility with the existing cabins on the site, with complementary materials and color schemes. However, the lengthy construction process combined with a shortened construction season at this elevation may result in an interim condition of at least year in duration, in which the project site appears denuded from the tree removal and mass grading. Upon completion of the first construction season, the interim condition will be of a site with less surrounding tree canopy and larger open areas that are hydromulched as part of the BMPs. As this condition is temporary and visibility limited only to users of the existing cabins and group camping, these impacts would be less than significant.
d) Each cabin will include a shielded light at the entry as required by code and consistent with exterior lighting on the existing cabins. No other external lighting is a part of the project. Less than significant.

## II. Agricultural And Forest Resources.

## Environmental Setting

The project site is located in the most northerly portion of CBTSP within the small 275-acre area of the park that is located on the north side of SR 4. It is located on the west slopes of the Sierra Nevada mountain range, at roughly 5000 feet in elevation in an area of mixed coniferous forests. The Project area consists of previously disturbed montane forest with a dense coniferous understory of many small diameter trees in some locations, partly resulting from exclusion of natural processes including naturally occurring wildfire. Locations selected for new cabin development occur partly in a very dense stand of incense cedars as well as in partially cleared forest.

According to the California Department of Conservation (DOC) Important Farmland Finder website, and the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, no DOC mapping exists for agriculturally important lands in Calaveras County (California Department of Conservation). However, the 1996 Calaveras County General Plan includes a map titled "High Capability Agricultural Lands". As indicated on the referenced map, the Proposed Project site is not located within an area considered High Capability Agricultural Lands (Calaveras County, 2016). There are no Williamson Act Land Conservation contracts near CBTSP (California Department of Conservation, 2013).

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) defines a forested area as "forest land" if it is at least one acre in size and at least 10 percent occupied by forest trees of any size or formerly having had such tree cover and not currently developed for non-forest use. Non-forest uses may include cropland, pasturelands, residential areas, and other land uses. Forestland includes transition zones, which are those "areas located between heavily forested and non-forested lands that are at least 10 percent stocked with forest trees, and forest areas adjacent to urban and built-up lands." (EPA, 2017).

Section 12220(g) of the California Public Resources Code defines forest land as land that can support 10 percent native tree cover of any species, including hardwoods, under natural conditions, and that allows for management of one or more forest resources, including timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, and other public benefits.
"Timberland" is land owned by the federal government and designated by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection as experimental forestland, which is available for, and capable of, growing a crop of trees of a commercial species used to produce lumber and other forest products, including Christmas trees. Sections 51112 or 51113 (h) of the California Public Resources Code defines "Timberland Production Zone" (TPZ) is land used for growing and harvesting timber and compatible uses.

The Calaveras County General Plan indicates that commercial timberland is located immediately adjacent to the west and north of the project site. Aerial imagery indicates the forest products company that owns the adjoining land immediately north and west of the site, has extensively logged much of the land over the past 30 years and replanted with a single-tree species, lowering diversity and habitat value (Google Earth Pro, 2018).


## DISCUSSION

a) The Farmland mapping and Monitoring Program indicates that there is no Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), near the Project site. No Impact.
b) No land with agricultural zoning or under Williamson Act land conservation contracts are located near the project site. No impact.
c) DPR began constructing staff housing in this area in the 1940s, consistent with DPR policy for facilities that are appropriate in a unit classified as a State Park. Additionally, the project site meets the definition of "forest land" as defined in PRC section 12220 (g), which allows for management of forest resources for the benefit of aesthetics, fish and wildlife, water quality, and recreation. As such, development of the cabin project would not conflict with or cause rezoning of forestland or timberland. Less than significant.
d) As stated above in section c), the project site has been previously developed and existing and proposed development is consistent with PRC section 12220(g), which allows for management of forestland for non-forest product uses, including recreation, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, and water quality. The Project site consists of disturbed forestland often with a dense understory of many small diameter trees, partly resulting from exclusion of natural processes including naturally occurring wildfire, reducing its habitat value for animals requiring mature forest characteristics. Impacts to the existing previously disturbed forestland from project proposals are considered less than significant.

Finally, DPR must also balance its mission to protect cultural and natural resources while providing high quality recreation. To that end, the CBTSP General Plan prioritizes preservation of the giant sequoias and in doing so suggests, "Consideration may be given to establishing new or expanded camping facilities in other areas of the park. This project does precisely that in that it relocates the five campsites removed from the North Grove Campground for the SR 4 widening project, to the less ecologically valuable north side of the highway. Less than significant.
e) As noted in responses to questions a) and b) above, no farmland is located near the project site. Additionally, as noted in responses to questions c) and d) above, expansion of the cabin area will not result in the conversion of forestland to non-forestry uses. Less than significant.

## III. AIR QUALITY.

## Environmental Setting

## Air Quality Designations

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 (NOX) 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). Calaveras County is currently in nonattainment status for the 8hour ozone NAAQS. The County is in nonattainment status for 8-hour ozone and PM10 CAAQS. The NAAQS and CAAQS attainment status of Calaveras County is presented in Table 1.

Table 5 - Attainment Status for Calaveras County

| Pollutant | Nationa/ Designation | State Designation |
| ---: | :--- | :--- |
| 8 -hour Ozone | Nonattainment | Nonattainment |
| $\mathrm{PM}_{10}$ | Unclassified | Nonattainment |
| $\mathrm{PM}_{2.5}$ | Unclassified/ Attainment | Unclassified |
| CO | Unclassified/ Attainment | Unclassified |
| $\mathrm{NO}_{2}$ | Unclassified/ Attainment | Attainment |
| $\mathrm{SO}_{2}$ | Unclassified | Attainment |
| $\mathrm{SO}_{4}$ | NA | Attainment |
| Lead | Unclassified/ Attainment | Attainment |
| Hydrogen Sulfide | NA | Unclassified |
| Visibility Reducing Particles | NA | Unclassified |

The Calaveras County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) administers the state and federal Clean Air Acts in accordance with state and federal guidelines. The APCD 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 APCD draft Guidelines for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts of Land Use Projects (2014) provides specific daily emissions thresholds to be used in determining the significance of project emissions. The APCD 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:

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


## WOULD THE PROJECT:

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard.
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors adversely

| $\frac{\text { POTENTIALLY }}{\text { SIGNIFICANT }}$ | $\frac{\text { LES S THAN }}{\text { SIGNIFICANT }}$ <br> $\frac{\text { IMPACT }}{}$ <br> MITIGATION | $\frac{\text { SIGNIFICANT }}{\text { IMPACT }}$ | NO IMPACT |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\square$ | $\square$ | $\boxed{y}$ | $\square$ |
| $\square$ | $\square$ | $\square$ | $\square$ |

affecting a substantial number of people?

## DISCUSSION

a) A project is inconsistent with regional air quality planning if it would result in population and/or employment growth that exceeds growth estimated in the applicable air quality plan. The proposed Project does not include development of new housing or employment centers, and would not induce population or employment growth. The proposed project improvements include eleven new cabins and a camp host site that would not increase in population or employment. Nevertheless, the project will be required to implement Standard Project Requirement AIR 1 - Air Quality, which will ensure that the proposed project would not conflict with or obstruct the implementation of any air quality plan. Less than significant.
b) Implementation of the proposed Project would result in short-term emissions from construction activities. Construction-generated emissions would be short term and of temporary duration, lasting only as long as construction activities occur. Emissions commonly associated with construction activities include fugitive dust from soil disturbance, fuel combustion from mobile heavy-duty diesel- and gasoline-powered equipment, portable auxiliary equipment, and worker commute trips. During construction, fugitive dust, the dominant source of coarse particulate matter (PM10) and fine particulate matter (PM2.5) emissions, is generated when wheels or blades disturb surface materials. Uncontrolled dust from construction can become a nuisance and potential health hazard to those living and working nearby. Emissions of airborne particulate matter are largely dependent on the amount of ground disturbance associated with site preparation activities. Off-road construction equipment is often diesel-powered and can be a substantial source of nitrogen oxide (NOX) emissions, in addition to PM10 and PM2.5 emissions. Worker commute trips and architectural coatings are dominant sources of reactive organic gas (ROG) emissions.

CSP estimated potential construction emissions for the Project using the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod), version 2016.3.2. CalEEMod is a statewide land use emissions computer model designed to quantify potential criteria pollutant emissions associated with both construction and operations from a variety of land use projects. Project construction-generated air pollutant emissions were calculated primarily using CalEEMod model defaults for Nevada County; however, DPR anticipates the length of construction to last six months.

Based on similar projects, the assumptions presented in Table 6 - Construction Equipment and Use Assumptions regarding type of construction equipment were used in the CalEEMod. CalEEMod does not have a land use for campsite cabins so a proxy of "Condo/Townhouse" is used. A "Mobile Home" is used as a proxy land use for the Camp Host. These proxies are conservative as they account for a full time living space. Additionally, DPR applied a fire pit to each cabin and the Camp Host. Results of the CalEEMod based on the Project assumptions are in Table 7 - Estimated Construction Emissions.

Table 6 - Construction Equipment and Use Assumptions

| Construction Period |  | Equipment |  |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :---: |
| Grubbing/Land Clearing | Quantity | Type |  |
| Grading/Excavation | 1 | Excavator |  |
|  | 1 | Bulldozer |  |
|  | 1 | Logging Truck |  |
|  | 1 | Dump Truck |  |
|  | 1 | Water Truck |  |
|  | 1 | Tub Grinder or Chipper |  |
| Drainage/Utilities/Sub-Grade | 1 | Crane |  |
|  | 1 | Bulldozer |  |
|  | 1 | Excavator |  |
|  | 1 | Grader |  |
|  | 1 | Roller |  |
|  | 1 | Rubber Tired Loader |  |
|  | 1 | Backhoe |  |
|  | 1 | Graders |  |
|  | 1 | Backhoe |  |
|  | 1 | Paver |  |
|  | 1 | Paving Equipment |  |
|  | 1 | Roller |  |
|  | 1 | Signal Board |  |
|  |  | Backhoe |  |
|  |  |  |  |

Table 7 - Estimated Construction Emissions

| Project Phases | ROG <br> lbs./day | CO <br> lbs./day | Nox <br> lbs./day | PM <br> Ibs./day | Exhaust <br> PM <br> Ibs./day | Fugitive <br> Dust <br> PM |
| ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | lbs./day |

Based on the estimates above, and with implementation of Standard Project Requirement AIR 1- Air Quality, impacts on air quality would be less than significant.
c) There are no sensitive receptors near the project site and the pollutants emitted during construction will be limited. Less than significant.
d) The Project entails expanding the existing cabin area and related infrastructure to serve the additional cabins. Emissions from diesel exhaust may have the potential to adversely affect

visitors staying in the cabins during the construction process. However, these cabins only accommodate limited numbers of people that will likely be away from the cabins during the day. Less than significant.

## STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT

## AIR 1 - AIR QUALITY

- During dry, dusty conditions, all active construction areas will be lightly sprayed with dust suppressant to reduce dust without causing runoff.
- All trucks or light equipment hauling soil, sand, or other loose materials on public roads will be covered or required to maintain at least two feet of freeboard.
- All gasoline-powered equipment will be maintained according to manufacturer's specifications, and in compliance with all State and federal requirements.
- Paved streets adjacent to the Park shall either be swept or washed at the end of each day, or as required, to remove excessive accumulations of silt and/or mud that could have resulted from project-related activities.
- Excavation and grading activities will be suspended when sustained winds exceed 15 miles per hour (mph), instantaneous gusts exceed 25 mph , or when dust occurs from remediation related activities where visible emissions (dust) cannot be controlled by watering or conventional dust abatement controls.


## IV. Biological Resources.

## Environmental Setting

Calaveras Big Trees State Park (CBTSP) lies within the Lower Montane Forest zone of the Sierran Floristic Province at elevations ranging from approximately 3400 feet ( 1035 meters) to 5560 feet (1700 meters) in elevation. The westerly flowing North Fork Stanislaus River bisects the 6500acre park, which is roughly evenly divided between Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties.

## Vegetation/Habitat

Several forest, shrub, and meadow vegetation types occur in CBTSP. These types have been classified into alliances (equivalent to plant communities) or associations, as defined by Sawyer et al (2009) and that conform to the U.S. National Vegetation Classification Standard adopted by the federal government (USNVC 2015).

Vegetation within the project area consists of several different types of coniferous forest and a small area of open shrubland. The coniferous forest types intergrade readily and distinct boundaries are often not discernible. Those alliances marked with an asterisk are considered Sensitive Natural Communities by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife based on rarity and threat (CDFW 2019a).

# Abies concolor - Pinus lambertiana (White fir - sugar pine forest) Forest Alliance Pinus ponderosa (Ponderosa pine forest) Forest Alliance <br> Pinus ponderosa - Calocedrus decurrens (Mixed conifer forest) Forest Alliance <br> Pinus ponderosa - Pinus lambertiana Association <br> Calocedrus decurrens (Incense cedar forest) Forest Alliance* <br> Ceanothus cordulatus (Mountain whitethorn chaparral) Shrubland Alliance 

## Abies concolor - Pinus lambertiana Forest Alliance

This plant community partly encompasses a site for proposed cabins and a proposed new leach field. White fir (Abies concolor) and sugar pine (Pinus lambertiana) co-dominate in the canopy. The understory is a mix of white fir and incense cedar (Calocedrus decurrens) seedlings and saplings. A heavy duff and litter layer inhibits the development of an herbaceous layer.

## Pinus ponderosa Forest Alliance

Ponderosa pine (Pinus ponderosa) dominates the canopy of this plant community, which is largely restricted to a small area bordering the project access road. California black oak (Quercus kelloggii) occurs as a minor component of the canopy. The shrub layer consists of Sierra coffeeberry (Frangula rubra), mountain whitethorn (Ceanothus cordulatus), and a few a scattered greenleaf manzanita (Arctostaphylos patula). A heavy duff and litter layer inhibits the development of an herbaceous layer.

## Pinus ponderosa - Calocedrus decurrens Forest Alliance

Ponderosa pine and incense cedar co-dominate the canopy of this plant community. Sugar pine, white fir and in more open canopy locations California black oak are minor components of the canopy. Dominant species in the shrub layer include mountain whitethorn and seedlings/saplings
of white fir, incense cedar, and to a lesser extent ponderosa pine. Patches of this vegetation type occur along the access road. A heavy duff and litter layer inhibits the development of an herbaceous layer.

## Pinus ponderosa - Pinus lambertiana Association

Ponderosa pine and sugar pine co-dominate the canopy of this plant community, which has limited distribution within the project area. Seedlings and saplings of white fir and incense cedar comprise the shrub layer. A moderately deep duff and litter layer inhibits the development of an herbaceous layer.

## Calocedrus decurrens Forest Alliance

Incense cedar dominates the canopy of this CDFW-identified California Sensitive Natural Community, which comprises a majority of the vegetation at the site of the proposed cabins. Sugar pine and ponderosa pine are minor components of the canopy. The understory consists of immature ponderosa pine and white fir and incense saplings/seedlings. The subshrub mountain misery (Chamaebatia foliolosa) is present in some locations, but a moderately deep duff and litter layer inhibits the development of an herbaceous layer.

## Ceanothus cordulatus Shrubland Alliance

Mountain whitethorn dominates this shrub community; other common species include Sierra coffeeberry and to a lesser extent greenleaf manzanita. A thinner duff and litter layer than forest communities promotes a more varied herbaceous layer. This community occurs along the access road near the junction with Highway 4.

## Special-Status Species

Sensitive biological resources that occur or potentially occur in or near the proposed project site are discussed in this section. Special-status species (sensitive species) are defined as legally protected plants and animals or that are considered sensitive by federal, state, or local resource conservation agencies and organizations. Specifically, this includes species listed as State or Federally Threatened or Endangered, those considered as candidates for listing as Threatened or Endangered, species identified by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and/or California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) as Species of Special Concern (SSC), animals identified by CDFW as Fully Protected or Protected (FP, P), and plants considered by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) to be rare, threatened, or endangered. Also included are habitats that considered critical for the survival of a listed species or have special value for wildlife species and plant communities that are unique or of limited distribution.

Special-status species and their habitats were evaluated for potential impacts from implementation of the Revenue Generation Cabins Project. Existing available data was collected and reviewed to determine the occurrence or potential occurrence of special status plants, animals, and their habitats in the project area. Queries of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's California Natural Diversity Database (CDFW 2019b), the USFWS (2019) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC), and the California Native Plant Society's On-line Inventory, Eighth Edition (CNPS 2019), were conducted for special-status species and habitats within the Dorrington, Boards Crossing, Crandall Peak, and Stanislaus United States Geological Society (USGS) quadrangle maps.

Special-status plant and animal species are described below along with their potential to occur within the project area.

## Plant Species

The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), CNPS, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have identified twenty-two special status species as occurring or having a potential to occur within the four USGS quadrangle maps identified in the Special Status Species introduction. Suitable habitat may be available in the project area for ten of these species, which are described below.

Special-Status Plant Species that are included in resource database searches for the project area that are Known to Occur, or Could Potentially Occur within the Project Area

Coleman's rein orchid (Piperia colemanii) - Coleman's rein orchid is a California Rare Plant Rank 4.3 perennial herb of chaparral and lower montane coniferous forest habitat (often sandy substrates) of the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Mountain Ranges. It ranges from Tulare County north to Butte County at elevations of approximately 3940 feet to 7550 feet amsl (above mean sea level) and blooms from June through August. Potentially suitable habitat for Coleman's rein orchid occurs within the project area.

Fresno ceanothus (Ceanothus fresnensis) - Fresno ceanothus is a California Rare Plant Rank 4.3 perennial evergreen shrub that occurs in lower montane coniferous forest and openings in cismontane woodland habitat at elevations from approximately 2950 feet to 6900 feet amsl. Blooming from May through July, this California endemic is restricted to the Sierra Nevada Mountains. A 1940 occurrence of Fresno ceanothus was reported "Near Big Trees" (Calflora 2019). Potentially suitable habitat for Fresno ceanothus occurs within the project area.

Humboldt lily (Lilium humboldtii ssp. humboldtii) - Humboldt lily is a California Rare Plant Rank 4.2 perennial bulbiferous herb that occupies openings in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forest habitats of the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Ranges. Ranging from Fresno County north to Tehama County, this species blooms from May through July (sometimes to August) and occurs at elevations from approximately 300 feet to 4200 feet amsl. Although slightly outside of elevation range (CNPS 2019), potentially suitable habitat for Humboldt lily occurs within the project area.Pleasant Valley mariposa lily (Calochortus clavatus var. avius) Pleasant Valley mariposa lily is a California Rare Plant Rank 1B. 2 perennial bulbiferous herb that occurs on Josephine silt loam and volcanic soils in lower montane coniferous forest habitat of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. This California endemic ranges from Mariposa County north to Placer County at elevations from approximately 1000 feet to 5900 feet amsl and blooms from May through July. Potentially suitable habitat for Pleasant Valley mariposa lily occurs within the project area.

Red Hills soaproot (Chlorogalum grandiflorum) - Red Hills soaproot is a California Rare Plant Rank 1B. 2 bulbiferous herb that blooms from May through June and occurs on serpentinite, gabbroic and other soils in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forest habitats. This California endemic ranges from elevations of 4770 feet to 7150 feet amsl and has
only been reported from Amador, Butte, Calaveras, El Dorado, Placer, and Tuolumne Counties. Potentially suitable habitat for Red Hills soaproot occurs within the project area.

Sierra clarkia (Clarkia virgata) - Sierra clarkia is a California Rare Plant Rank 4.3 annual herb that occupies cismontane woodland and lower montane coniferous forest habitat in Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Mariposa, Plumas, and Tuolumne Counties. It blooms from May through August and occurs at elevations of approximately 1310 feet to 5300 feet amsl. In 1890, a specimen of Sierra clarkia was collected from what is now the Big Trees area of CBTSP (Calflora 2019) and potentially suitable habitat occurs within the project area.

Small's southern clarkia (Clarkia australis) - Small's southern clarkia is a California Rare Plant Rank 1B. 2 annual herb that blooms from May through August and occurs at elevations of approximately 2620 feet to 6800 feet amsl. This California endemic species occupies cismontane woodland and lower montane coniferous forest habitats in Calaveras, Tuolumne, Madera, and Mariposa Counties. Potentially suitable habitat for Small's southern clarkia occurs within the project area.

Stebbins' lomatium (Lomatium stebbinsii) - Stebbins' lomatium is a California Rare Plant Rank 1B. 1 perennial herb that grows on gravelly, volcanic clay substrates in chaparral and lower montane coniferous forest habitats of Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties. It blooms from March through May and ranges in elevation from approximately 4085 feet to 7800 feet amsl. Gibson (Calflora 2019) has identified a small population of this California endemic species 1 mile east of the park entrance station at an elevation of the 4,480 feet. No suitable habitat for Stebbin's lomatium occurs within the project area.

Three-bracted onion (Allium tribracteatum) - Three-bracted onion is a California Rare Plant Rank 1B. 2 perennial bulbiferous herb that grows on volcanic substrates of chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, and upper montane coniferous forest habitats of Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, and Tuolumne Counties. It occurs at elevations of approximately 3600 feet to 9840 feet amsl and blooms from April through August. Walfoort and Hunt (1982) report an occurrence of this California endemic species within CBTSP.

Yellow-lip pansy monkeyflower (Diplacus pulchellus) - Yellow-lip pansy monkeyflower is a California Rare Plant Rank 1B. 2 annual herb that grows on vernally mesic, often disturbed, clay soils of meadows and seeps and lower montane coniferous forest habitats. It occurs at elevations ranging from approximately 1965 feet to 6560 feet amsl and blooms from April through July. This California endemic species only occurs in Calaveras, Tuolumne, and Mariposa Counties. Potentially suitable habitat for yellow-lip pansy monkeyflower occurs within the project area.

## Wildlife Species

Typical mammal species in CBTSP include western gray squirrel (Sciurus griseus), Douglas squirrel (Tamiasciurus douglasii) raccoon (Procyon lotor), coyote (Canis latrans), mule deer (Odocoileus hemionus), and American black bear (Ursus americanus). Common bird species include dark-eyed junco (Junco hyemalis), mountain chickadee (Poecile gambeli), red-breasted nuthatch (Sitta canadensis), pygmy nuthatch (Sitta pygmaea), and American robin (Turdus
migratorius). Less conspicuous avian species include pileated woodpecker (Dryocopus pileatus) and white-headed woodpecker (Picoides albolarvatus), as both are heard more often than seen.

The CNDDB has identified ten special status wildlife species for the four USGS quadrangle maps identified in the Special Status Species introduction. Two additional species have been identified by the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) and CSP observers. Four of these twelve species have a potential to occur in or adjacent to the project area. These species are described below.

## Birds

California spotted owl (Strix occidentalis occidentalis) - California spotted owl breeds and roosts in forests and woodlands containing large old trees and snags, dense canopies ( $\geq 70 \%$ canopy closure), multiple canopy layers, and downed woody debris (Zeiner et al. 1990a). In the Sierra Nevada Mountains, it predominantly utilizes Sierran mixed-conifer, white fir (Abies concolor), montane hardwood-conifer, and montane hardwood forest habitats at mid-elevations. Marginally suitable habitat for this species occurs in and adjacent to the project area.

Great Gray Owl (Strix nebulosa) - Great gray owl is a State Endangered species whose numbers were estimated to be as low as 300 birds in the state as of a 2015 study (Wikipedia 2017b). The first nest south of Canada was found in 1914 in Yosemite National Park. This population is genetically isolated from populations in Oregon and farther north. One of the thirty occurrences for Calaveras and Tuolumne counties identified in the CNDDB is from a project area USGS quad, on Stanislaus National Forest land, dated September 1993. Great gray owl foraging habitat is absent in or adjacent to the project area.

Northern goshawk (Accipiter gentilis) - The SSC northern goshawk is the largest of the accipter hawks and prefer old-growth conifer, mixed hardwood-conifer, birch, or aspen forests for nesting (Cornell 2019, Squires and Reynolds 1997, Small 1994; Zeiner et al. 1990a). This species’ diet depends on season and region, but generally small rodents, squirrels, large songbirds, and mediumsized game birds form the bulk of their diet. The nesting period typically starts in March or early April, with only one brood produced per season. Fledging occurs approximately 36 days after hatching. Suitable breeding and foraging habitat exists in and adjacent to CBTSP; the CNDDB (CDFW 2019) documents northern goshawk nesting within a few miles of the park.

## Mammals

North American Porcupine (Erethizon dorsatum) - The North American porcupine is an herbivore that feeds on aquatic and terrestrial herbs, shrubs, fruits, leaves, and buds in the spring and summer and twigs, bark, and cambium of trees (particularly conifers), and evergreen leaves (Zeiner et. al. 1990b). Caves, crevices in rocks, cliffs, hollow logs, snags, and burrows of other animals are preferred denning sites. Mating occurs in fall or winter, resulting in a litter of one or rarely twins. Porcupines are nocturnal and forage for food during the night. This species has been observed in the park and suitable foraging habitat exists in the project area.

## Federal and State Wetlands and Waters of the United States

No federal or state defined wetlands or Waters of the United States occur within project boundaries.

| WOULD THE PROJECT： | $\begin{aligned} & \text { POTENTIALLY } \\ & \hline \text { SIGNIFICANT } \\ & \text { IMPACT } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \frac{\text { LES S THAN }}{\frac{\text { SIGNIFICANT }}{}} \\ & \frac{\text { WITH }}{\text { MIIGATION }} \end{aligned}$ | $\frac{\text { LESS THAN }}{\text { SIGNIFICANT }} \text { IMPACT }$ | NOIMPACT |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| a）Have a substantial adverse effect， either directly or through habitat modifications，on any species identified as a candidate，sensitive，or special status species in local or regional plans，policies，or regulations，or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U．S． Fish and Wildlife Service？ | $\square$ | $\square$ | 区 | $\square$ |
| 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 Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service？ | $\square$ | $\square$ | 区 | $\square$ |
| 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？ | $\square$ | $\square$ | $\square$ | 区 |
| d）Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors，or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites？ | $\square$ | $\square$ | $\square$ | 区 |
| e）Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources，such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance？ | $\square$ | $\square$ | $\square$ | 区 |
| 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？ | $\square$ | $\square$ | $\square$ | 区 |

## DISCUSSION

This project proposes construction of eleven new cabins with full amenities and a camp host（RV） site near an existing 4－unit cluster of cabins．Expansion of overnight facilities will require
widening of the access road from State Route 4 to the cabins site, improvements to the existing water tank and water conveyance system, propane and electrical systems, as well as construction of a new on-site sewage disposal system.

Measures and/or requirements to mitigate, minimize or eliminate impacts are described below.
a) (i) Special status plant species. As described in the Environmental Setting, suitable habitat exists within the project area for 10 special status plant species. Integration of Standard Project Requirement BIO-1: Special Status Plant Species would reduce project impacts to a less than significant level.
(ii) North American porcupine. As described in the Environmental Setting, the North American porcupine is a species that has nocturnal feeding habits and would not be affected by daytime construction activities. In the unlikely event a porcupine is encountered in the daytime, it can easily be avoided because it is slow moving.
(iv) Nesting raptors and migratory birds. As described above in the Environmental Setting, suitable habitat occurs within or adjacent to the project area for California spotted owl and northern goshawk. Suitable habitat is also available for other raptors and migratory birds not identified in federal and state (e.g. CNDDB) databases. Nesting raptors and migratory birds are protected by the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712), and by the state Department of Fish and Wildlife Fish and Game Code (Sections §3503, §3503.5, and §3513). Under these laws, all raptors and migratory birds, and their nests, are protected.

Project activities, especially the removal of trees, have the potential to affect special status avian species. Integration of Standard Project Requirement BIO-2: Raptors and Migratory Birds would reduce project impacts to these species to a less than significant level.
b) As described in the Environmental Setting, the Calocedrus decurrens (Incense cedar forest) Forest Alliance is a CDFW Sensitive Natural Community that occurs in the project area. It intergrades readily with Pinus ponderosa - Calocedrus decurrens Forest Alliance and a distinct boundary is often not discernible between the two vegetation types. Incense cedar forest occurring within the project area lacks the components of a mature primary forest ecosystem; the dense canopy and dense understory constitutes an immature forest type not representative of a pristine ecosystem. Ninety (90) of the 172 incense cedars proposed for removal have a dbh of 14 inches or less and none have a dbh greater than 30 inches. The impacts to this plant community are less than significant.
c) As described in the Environmental Setting, no federal or state defined wetlands or Waters of the United States occur within project boundaries. No impact.
d) The proposed project would not impede fish passage, wildlife movement along wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. No impact.
e) The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is not subject to local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance; however, Department policy and its Mission Statement incorporate the protection of natural resources into the short-term and long-term management goals for its park units. Furthermore, DPR operates cooperatively with sister agencies and local jurisdictions to insure natural resources are protected in perpetuity. No impact.
f) This project does not conflict with any Habitat Conservation Plans, Natural Communities Conservation Plans, or other approved habitat conservation plan. No impact.

## STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

## BIO-1: SPECIAL STATUS PLANT SPECIES

Surveys for special status plant species with a potential to occur in the project area of impact will be conducted during the appropriate blooming periods or when identity can be confirmed. All occurrences of special status plant species within the project areas will be recorded on project maps, flagged or otherwise identified on the ground. Where possible, occurrences of all special status plants will be avoided and protected from construction activities. Those locations where special status plants cannot be avoided will be subject to the following conditions:

## Perennial species

- Prior to project activities plants will be carefully excavated and transplanted nearby in suitable habitat. All transplant work will be conducted under the direction of a DPR Environmental Scientist or DPR-approved biologist.


## Annual species

- Seeds from annual special status plant species will be collected during the appropriate season and properly stored prior to ground disturbing activities. Seeds will be sown during the appropriate season in suitable locations identified by a DPR Environmental Scientist. A monitoring plan for transplant and/or seeding locations will be prepared and implemented. This plan will identify revegetation success criteria and follow-up remediation for locations not meeting minimum performance standards.


## BIO 2 - RAPTORS AND MIGRATORY BIRDS

If construction-related activities exceeding ambient noise levels are conducted between March 1 through and August 31 then focused surveys for nesting migratory bird and raptor species will be conducted by a DPR-approved biologist before construction activities occur in these months to identify active nests. The following requirements apply to the surveys:

- Surveys for active raptor nests will be conducted within a 500 -foot radius of the project area boundary no more than 7 days prior to the beginning of construction. If active nests are located within the survey area, then an appropriate buffer will be established at the
discretion of a DPR-approved biologist. No construction activities will occur within buffer zones until the young have fledged and the young will no longer be impacted by construction activities, as determined by the DPR-approved biologist.
- Surveys for active migratory bird nests will be conducted within a 150 -foot radius of the project area boundary no more than 7 days prior to the beginning of construction. If active nests are located within the survey area, then an appropriate buffer will be established at the discretion of a DPR-approved biologist. No construction activities will occur within buffer zones until the young have fledged and the young will no longer be impacted by construction activities, as determined by the DPR-approved biologist.


## V. Cultural Resources.

## Environmental Setting

Calaveras Big Trees State Park (CBTSP) is located midway up the western slope of the central Sierra Nevada along State Highway 4 in eastern Calaveras County. Elevations are highest at the northeast ( 5,230 feet) and southeast ( 5,560 feet) portions of the park, while the lowest is at the park entrance off State Highway 4 near the North Grove at 4,700 feet in elevation. Calaveras Big Trees State Park possesses a rich cultural heritage having likely been at least seasonally occupied for several thousand years.

## Pre-Contact Era Archaeological Sites

A systematic unit wide archaeological survey was conducted at CBTSP in advance of a proscribed burning program and in preparations of a general plan during 1979-1985. This survey covered roughly 5500 acres or $85 \%$ of the park area. These surveys provide the baseline archaeological information or assessing project impacts. Subsequent project specific surveys have been conducted primarily in the developed core around the North Grove campground and visitor center. A total of 39 pre-contact Native American sites and 14 historic era Euromerican sites are present in the park (McAleer et al. 1986). The Native American sites consist almost exclusively of bedrock mortar sites, some with associated lithic scatters and habitation debris.

Extensive recent data recovery excavations archaeological site CA-CAL-277/H were conducted in 2014 and 2016 for a Caltrans road realignment project. The data recovered provide important information on the chronology of occupation and types of settlement at CBTSP (Wohlgemuth et al. 2017). Seasonal Native American occupation dating back to 4000 B.P. (Before Present) was identified. Botanical data indicates the habitation was primarily between spring and fall and focused on gathering and processing acorn and pine nut crops.

## Historic Resources

John Bidwell saw the Calaveras North Grove for the first time in 1841, but it was not until Augustus T. Dowd, an employee of a water company in Murphy's, saw it while pursuing a bear in 1852 that the grove was publicized. At first his colleagues dismissed the story of his find as a hoax, but it was not long before word of the discovery of the incredible trees spread through the community, the state, and then throughout the botanical world. Exploitation of the Big Trees and tourism immediately followed Dowd's discovery.

By 1854, William W. Lapham built a small hotel near the grove to accommodate visitors who came to see the trees. This initial enterprise was not profitable and the ownership of the 320-acre North Grove changed hands multiple times by 1860 when John Perry and James Sperry became the sole owners of the property. In 1861, Perry and Sperry built a new 212 -story hotel that was gradually enlarged to accommodate 100 people. Additionally, they purchased the South Grove to add to their holdings. In 1878, after a long battle over ownership was settled, the property was sold at public auction and James L. Sperry purchased it. Along with different partners, Sperry continued to own the Big Trees property, and to operate the hotel until 1900.

In 1900, Sperry sold the property to Robert P. Whiteside, a lumberman, raising protests from the public. Whiteside refused to sell to legislators in the federal government who wanted to open it as a national park. For the next 30 years, interest in preserving the groves for public enjoyment continued. By the early 1930s, widespread public concern for the trees was beginning to have a positive effect. Inspired by the Sierra Club and Save the Redwoods League who were on the forefront of a movement to create a system of California State Parks, the Calaveras Grove Association was formed. The North Grove Association took the lead in raising necessary matching funds through private donors like John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and Mrs. William Crocker. In 1931, as a result of this fundraising effort, the North Grove and vicinity were acquired from the Whitesides, placing the land under the protection of the State of California. Acquisition of the South Grove would not come until 1954. Unfortunately, the United States was in the middle of the Great Depression in 1931 so initial development of the park would wait until President Franklin D. Roosevelt helped establish the Civilian Conservation Corps.

The Emergency Conservation Work Act, passed by Congress in 1933, created an unprecedented public works program that was more popularly known as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). By 1934, thirty thousand young men between the ages of 18 and 23 were working in California improving public lands including the recently established state parks.

When it opened in June 1933, Calaveras Big Trees became the location of the first CCC camp in California. Company 590 from Kentucky consisting of 210 enrollees, four army officers and a number of foremen were the first to occupy it. While they only spent one summer season in the park, other CCC companies would take over. The various CCC companies that eventually worked in the park accomplished most of their development goals. They rehabilitated the 1870s era hotel, established a new phone line, built the campground and day use picnic areas (including all the tables, stoves, and cupboards), built the combination restroom/shower buildings, improved the water system, created a fire break and constructed perimeter fencing around the park, built a new entrance station, constructed a network of trails and roads, made log benches, repaired the surface of the Big Stump and constructed new handrails to it, and they also built a winter sports area and warming shelter near the western end of the meadow. In 1937, they built the "Big Trees Lodge," now known as Jack Knight Hall, to serve as the recreation hall (Engbeck, 2002).

While this activity focused primarily on the North Grove, the CCC also built a maintenance area and a set of residences on the high ground on the north side of Highway 4. This area is in the vicinity of the new cabin project. The remaining CCC buildings on this side of the highway are in what today is the maintenance area. They consist of an auto shop, a loading ramp, a carpenter's shop, a storage building, a small weather station shelter and a utility building (Roland 1991). The entrance to the maintenance area is located approximately 825 feet south of the entrance road to the employee housing area (the proposed location for the cabins).

While the CCC constructed many buildings in the park, the employee housing area at Calaveras Big Trees is a reflection of the expansion of state park facilities that came right after World War II. During World War II, resources and manpower were focused on the war effort, leaving park development across the state at a standstill. After the war, California experienced rapid population growth from a new rush of immigration into the state as well as the baby boom that was felt across the nation.

44
Cabin Expansion \& Campsite Relocation Project
Initial Study / Negative Declaration

Between 1940 and 1970, the population of California tripled and the state entered a period of unprecedented prosperity. The flood of people into the state changed the landscape. New housing developments could not keep up with the demand, cities expanded and industrial complexes were developed. Agricultural fields and orchards were replaced by urban growth.

As people were drawn to California from other states and countries for new opportunities, the California climate and lifestyle was fully embraced. Large portions of the population had automobiles and traveled further on the improved freeways. Furthermore, there was a greater amount of leisure time and expendable income which created demand for recreational opportunities. People turned towards State Parks to help meet this demand.

While the California State Park system had expanded rapidly during the Depression with the assistance of CCC labor, it had remained understaffed and limited in resources during the war years. Designed to meet the needs of a 1930s population, the system no longer had adequate facilities to serve the growing number of visitors. During the immediate post-war years, the Division began to accommodate its own housing needs for rangers and maintenance staff that would live within Parks' grounds. The expansion of new parks and new Parks staff following the war led to a growing need for additional housing. The State Park Residence Program of 1947-48 was the first phase of the post-war program that was meant to meet the housing needs of the rapidly growing Division’s field staff. New employee residences and residential garages constructed during the years after World War II were subject to the standardization of design and the minimization of detailing and craftsmanship that characterized this period. Residences in Calaveras Big Trees State Park illustrate this trend. The standard plans included an "Inland Residence Type." At Calaveras, a row of four residences were constructed, flipping the plan for some variation (ESA 2017).

## WOULD THE PROJECT:

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5?
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?

## DISCUSSION

a) As stated in the CCC and Post World War II State Parks Administrative Facilities (19331965), Calaveras Big Trees State Park has "a potential Historic District, encompassing preCCC facilities and CCC Standard Plan Park Rustic facilities in the North Grove Entry Area and Campground, Maintenance Yard, and Residential Area. . . This district illustrates the
evolution of State Parks architecture. The resources cluster in several areas: the North Grove Campground, Maintenance Yard, and Residential Area (the latter now repurposed for recreational use)" (ESA 2017).

The Post War era park residences mentioned in the historic resources setting and in the paragraph above are in the APE of this project. They reflect the Standard Plan Park Rustic aesthetic of low gable roofs, horizontal siding and massing, and dark brown paint scheme. When combined with the earlier CCC era buildings in the park, they present a continuum of the CCC Park Rustic design through its continuation in the standard plan designs of the Post War era. The report also acknowledged the repurposing of these homes for "recreational purposes." This repurposing is their conversion into rental cabins.

The current project proposes to construct an additional 11 cabin sites for pre-manufactured cabin units within the vicinity of the current residential area.

While this project would expand the access road and alter the setting by expanding the existing residential area, the new cabins will not significantly alter the spatial organization of the former residential area (now cabins). Cabins one through four are the cabins that are near the existing Post War era residences with the closest cabin being over 80 feet behind to the east/southeast across a meadow. The second phase cabins will be constructed to the northwest across an existing road from the residences in the area where the existing mobile home is located. The closest residence to these cabins is over 180 feet away. When the Post War buildings were initially constructed, they were private residences without the feeling of community currently projected by rental cabins with a shared recreation hall (a former garage building that was converted for this purpose) and walkways linking the buildings to outdoor features like picnic tables and barbecues.

The proposed cabins will also not visually detract from the former residences. The proposed design of the new cabins compliments the existing buildings in size, scale and cladding. Per the project description, the cabins will be clad in horizontal cementitious lap siding the will be painted to match the current cabins (the converted residences). The horizontal siding on both buildings is compatible but since the new cabins are smaller in scale and the siding is not natural wood material, they are different enough to provide a clear separation between the original buildings and the new additions within the area. The new cabins will be pre-manufactured units that will be set on a bed of six inches of aggregate base and anchored with rebar. They are considered portable so they are reversible as well. Their removal would leave a base rock slab that could be covered or relandscaped to blend with the environment.

The project also proposes to install a mix of redwood decks and ramps combined with concrete walkways leading to the cabins. The concrete paths will be located in what is now meadow. They are low profile and will blend with the cabins. While a large number of trees will be removed, these trees are native and encroach on the development. Some are diseased and others are secondary growth spreading from the existing trees. While the tree removal will open up the cover to some extent, it is not going to significantly alter the feel of the open meadow and open residential area. As designed, this project will have a less
than significant impact on the potentially eligible historic district at Calaveras Big Trees State Park.
b) A record search at the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), and a pedestrian survey were conducted for the project area (Kimsey 2018). No archaeological resources were identified, and therefore the project will not cause any substernal adverse changes. In the case of inadvertent finds during project implementation, the protocols in CULT-1 will ensure no adverse changes occur.
c) Burials have not been documented or recorded in the APE; however, there is always a potential of unanticipated discoveries of human bone. If any human remains or burial artifacts were identified, implementation of Standard Project Requirement CULT- 2 below would ensure that impacts from the project will remain at a less than significant level.

## STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

## CULT 1 - PREVIOUSLY UNDOCUMENTED RESOURCES

If previously undocumented cultural resources are encountered during project implementation (including but not limited to dark soil containing, bone, flaked stone, groundstone, or deposits of historic trash), work within the immediate vicinity of the find will be halted or diverted until a DPR-qualified cultural resource specialist has evaluated the find and implemented appropriate treatment and regulatory compliance

## CULT 2 - DISCOVERY OF HUMAN REMAINS

In the event that human remains were discovered, work would cease immediately in the area of the find and the project manager/site supervisor would notify the appropriate DPR personnel. Any human remains and/or funerary objects would be left in place or returned to the point of discovery and covered with soil. The DPR Sector Superintendent (or authorized representative) would notify the County Coroner, in accordance with $\S 7050.5$ of the California Health and Safety Code, and the Native American Heritage Commission (or Tribal Representative). If a Native American monitor is on-site at the time of the discovery, the monitor would be responsible for notifying the appropriate Native American authorities.

If it determined the remains represent Native American interment, the NAHC in Sacramento would be consulted to identify the most likely descendants and appropriate disposition of the remains. Work would not resume in the area of the find until proper disposition is complete (PRC §5097.98). No human remains or funerary objects would be cleaned, photographed, analyzed, or removed from the site prior to determination

If it is determined the find indicates a sacred or religious site, the site would be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Formal consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office and review by the Native American Heritage Commission/Tribal Cultural representatives would also occur as necessary to define additional site mitigation or future restrictions.

## VI. ENERGY.

## Environmental Setting

Pacific Gas \& Electric (PG\&E) provides natural gas and electricity services to the region. PG\&E is a regulated public utility that provides energy service to 16 million people through 5.3 million electric distribution accounts 4.4 million natural gas distribution accounts in a majority of central and northern California. Their service area spans 70,000 square miles. In 2018, PG\&E's energy mix consisted of 33 percent from renewable energy sources (PG\&E Corporation, 2015). An existing pole line supporting a PG\&E 120 kV circuit is located north and west of the project site. Service to the existing cabins is from a pole line parallel to the roadway in front of those cabins.

State Title 20 and Title 24, California Code of Regulations New buildings constructed in California must comply with the standards contained in Title 20, Public Utilities and Energy, and Title 24, Building Standards Code, of the California Code of Regulations. These efficiency standards apply to new construction of both residential and nonresidential buildings, and they regulate energy consumed for heating, cooling, ventilation, water heating, and lighting. The building efficiency standards are enforced through the local building permit process. Local government agencies may adopt and enforce energy standards for new buildings, provided these standards meet or exceed those provided in Title 24 guidelines.

## California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen)

On August 1, 2009, the California Building Standards Commission’s California Green Building Standards Code went into effect. This code is the country's first statewide green building standards code. A voluntary standard initially, aspects of CALGreen became mandatory in the 2010 code. The 2010 version of CALGreen took effect January 1, 2011, and instituted mandatory minimum environmental performance standards for all ground-up new construction of commercial and lowrise residential buildings, state-owned buildings, schools, and hospitals. It also includes voluntary tiers (I and II) with stricter environmental performance standards for these same categories of residential and nonresidential buildings. Updates were added to CALGreen on July 1, 2012, and involve clarification of the difference between mandatory and voluntary provisions regarding nonresidential additions and alterations. Additional updates associated with regulations of nonresidential buildings went into effect on January 1, 2014.

## WOULD THE PROJECT:

| POTENTIALLY | LESS THAN <br> SIGNIFICANT | LESS THAN <br> SIGNIFICANT | WITH <br> IMPACT |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| MITIGATION | SIGNIFICANT | IMPACT | NO |
| IMPACT |  |  |  |

a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

## DISCUSSION

a) Construction of the first phase of the project would last for approximately six months with the second phase beginning the following year. Construction activities would consume energy through the operation of heavy off-road equipment, trucks, and worker traffic. The construction equipment, summarized in Table 6 - Construction Equipment and Use Assumptions, is anticipated to be used in each phase (grubbing/clearing, grading, utilities, paving) of the project. The contractor would use only as much heavy equipment as needed to construct the project so by definition, the project would not result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during project construction.

## Electricity and Propane Gas Consumption during Operations

Visitors to the park occupying the cabins would consume propane gas for space heating, water heating, and cooking. In addition to the consumption of propane gas, the visitors would use electricity for lighting, appliances, and other uses associated with the project's land uses. Less than significant.
b) The Project would not conflict with or obstruct any state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. No impact.

## VII. Geology And Solls.

## Environmental Setting

## Geology

Calaveras Big Trees State Park is located between Calaveras and Tuolumne counties. This area is within the Sierra Nevada Geomorphic province. Rock units within the park consists of Surficial Deposits, Eureka Valley Tuff, Table Mountain Latite, Mehrten formation, granitic rocks, and Paleozoic metamorphic rocks of the Shoo Fly Complex. Surficial Deposits, Eureka Valley Tuff, Table Mountain Latite, and Mehrten formation are thought to be from the Cenozoic era, Tertiary period. The granitic rocks are from the Mesozic era, Jurassic period and metamorphic rocks are from the Paleozoic era, pre-Silurian (Leivas, 1983).

The project site lies within Mesozoic Granitic rocks, and adjacent to Mehrten Formation. Additionally, the Eureka Valley Tuff is within close proximity of the project site. The rock types encountered by a subsurface investigation for the project included both a pyroclastic tuff consistent with the Eureka Valley Tuff, and a lava flow rock consistent with the Mehrten Formation. It is likely that Mesozoic Granitic rock is also present in the area, but were not encountered during the site investigation (CSP 2014).

## Seismicity

The site is not contained within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. No active faults, with the potential for surface fault rupture, are known to occur within the State Park. Therefore, the potential for ground rupture due to onsite active faulting is low (Geocon 2016). However, the Park has pre-Quaternary faults (older than 1.6 million years old) (Bryant, 2010). Due to soil and

Figure 4 - Pre-Quaternary Faults CBTSP
 vegetation cover in the area, it is possible that concealed faults may exist (Leivas, 1983).

The closest active faults to the project site include the Foothills Fault system (16 miles away), Genoa fault (38 miles away), Mohawk - Honey Lake Zone (40 miles away), Antelope Valley ( 47.9 miles away), and Robinson Creek faults (54.4 miles away). A geotechnical investigation conducted for this project determined the potential for ground shaking in the event of an earthquake along the faults mentioned above or other area faults. However, other considerations are important in seismic
design, including frequency and duration of motion and soil conditions underlying the site (Geocon 2016).

Based on the California Geological Survey's (CGS) 2016 Earthquake Shaking Potential Map, the project location will experience lower levels of shaking less frequently from anticipated future earthquakes. Earthquake shaking potential is calculated by the CGS with consideration to historic earthquakes, slip rates on major faults and deformation throughout the region, and the potential for amplification of seismic waves by near-surface geologic materials. In most earthquakes, only weaker, masonry buildings would be damaged. However, very infrequent earthquakes could still cause strong shaking in this region (D. Branum, 2016).

## Topography

Calaveras Big Trees State Park is located on the west flank of the Central Sierra Nevada with elevations ranging from 3400 to 5560 feet (Leivas, 1983). The Park is located approximately four miles northeast of the town of

Figure 5-Earthquake Shaking Potential at Project Location
 Arnold, and just east of Highway 4 near the main park entrance and visitor center. The topographic features of the park are generally characterized by long, relatively flat-topped, northeast-southwest trending ridges with steep slopes (Leivas, 1983).

The topography at the project location is relatively flat and previously disturbed as part of past projects. The road leading up to the cabins and campground travels along a south facing ridge. Areas adjacent to the project site have relatively flat to gently rolling site topography between approximately 4860 and
4800 feet above mean sea level.

## Landslide

Landslide problems are not widespread within the Park. Historically, a few landslide are documented to have occurred on the Calaveras County side and along the Parkway (Leivas, 1983). At the project location, slope instability was not determined to be a hazard due to the site topography and the presence of shallow bedrock (Geocon 2016).

## Soils

A geotechnical investigation conducted for this project determined clayey soils at the project location contain very low expansion potential and are not considered a constraint (Geocon 2016). Additionally, a 1983 report by the CGS observed no evidence of expansive soils at the Park (Leivas, 1983).

Calaveras Big Trees State Park is located in the Natural Resource Conservation Service's major land resource areas of soil survey region 2, Pacific Region. The State Park is within unit CA731 "Stanislaus National Forest, California, Parts". The Natural Resource Conservation’s Web Soil Survey has identified the following Map units adjacent to the project area:

Figure 6 - Web Soil Survey Map for CBTSP


Soil Survey Staff, Natural Resources Conservation Service,
United States Department of Agriculture.
Web Soil Survey. Available online at http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/. Accessed [03/06/2019]
(120) Gerle, Deep-Wintoner Families Complex, 5 to 35 Percent Slopes

These soils can be found at elevations of 5,000 feet to 7,000 feet and have a medium runoff class. These soils units are not considered prime for farmland classification. The composition of this map unit consist of 40 percent Gerle family, deep and similar soils, 25 percent Wintoner family and similar soils, and 35 percent minor components. Gerle Family, Deep soil units are associated with moraine landforms and do not have a hydric soils rating. These soils are well drained and have a depth to water table of more than 80 inches. Wintoner Family soil units are associated with moraine landforms and do not have a hydric soils rating. They are well drained soils with a very high runoff class (USDA, Central Sierra Foothills Area, California, Parts of Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties and Stanislaus National Forest, California, Parts, 2019).

## (121) Gerle, Deep-Wintoner Families Complex, 35 to 50 Percent Slopes

These soils can be found at elevations of 5,000 feet to 7,000 feet and have a medium runoff class. These soils soils units are not considered prime for farmland classification. The composition of this map unit consist of 40 percent Gerle family, deep and similar soils, 25 percent Wintoner family and similar soils, and 35 percent minor components. Gerle Family, Deep soil units are associated with moraine landforms and do not have a hydric soils rating. These soils are well drained and have a depth to water table of more than 80 inches. Wintoner Family soil units are associated with moraine landforms and do not have a hydric soils rating. They are well drained soils with a very high runoff class (USDA, Central Sierra Foothills Area, California, Parts of Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties and Stanislaus National Forest, California, Parts, 2019).

## (126) Holland Family, Deep, 5 to 35 Percent Slopes

These soils can be found at elevations of 3000 feet to 5000 feet and have a high runoff class. These soils are not considered prime for farmland classification. The composition of this map unit consists of 75 Holland family, deep and similar soils, and 25 percent minor components. Holland Family, Deep soils are associated with mountain landforms and do not have a hydric soils rating. They are well-drained soils with a high run off class (USDA, Central Sierra Foothills Area, California, Parts of Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties and Stanislaus National Forest, California, Parts, 2019).

## (127) Holland Family, Deep, 35 to 50 Percent Slopes

These soils can be found at elevations of 3000 feet to 5000 feet and have a high runoff class. These soils are well-drained soils and not considered prime for farmland classification. The composition of this map unit consists of 75 Holland family, deep and similar soils, and 25 percent minor components. Holland Family, Deep soils are associated with mountain landforms and do not have a hydric soils rating (USDA, Central Sierra Foothills Area, California, Parts of Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties and Stanislaus National Forest, California, Parts, 2019).
(137) Holland, deep dark Surface-moderately Deep Dark Surface-McCarthy, Moderately Deep Families Complex, 5 to 35 Percent Slopes
These soils can be found at elevations of 3000 feet to 6000 feet and have a high runoff class. These soils are not considered prime for farmland classification. The composition of this map unit consists of 40 Holland family, deep and similar soils, 30 percent Holland family, moderately deep, dark surface, and similar soils, 20 percent McCarthy family and 10 percent minor components. These soils are associated with mountain landforms and do not have a hydric soils rating. (USDA,

Central Sierra Foothills Area, California, Parts of Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties and Stanislaus National Forest, California, Parts, 2019).
(139) Holland Family, Moderately Deep-deep Complex, 5 to 35 Percent Slopes

These soils can be found at elevations of 3000 feet to 6000 feet and have a high runoff class. These soils are not considered prime for farmland classification. The composition of this map unit consists of 40 percent Holland family, moderately deep, dark surface, and similar soils, 30 Holland family, deep, and similar soils, and 30 percent minor components. These soils are associated with mountain landforms and do not have a hydric soils rating. (USDA, Central Sierra Foothills Area, California, Parts of Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties and Stanislaus National Forest, California, Parts, 2016).
(146) Hugo-Holland Family, deep-Wilder Families Complex, 53 to 50 Percent Slopes

These soils can be found at elevations of 3000 feet to 5500 feet and have a high runoff class. These soils are not considered prime for farmland classification. The composition of this map unit consists of 30 percent Hugo family and similar soils, 25 Holland family, deep, and similar soils, and 20 percent Wilder family and similar soils, and 25 percent minor components. These soils are associated with mountain landforms and do not have a hydric soils rating. (USDA, Central Sierra Foothills Area, California, Parts of Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties and Stanislaus National Forest, California, Parts, 2019).

## (153) Josephine Family, deep-Moderately deep Complex, 5 to 35 Slopes

These soils can be found at elevations of 3000 feet to 5000 feet and have a high runoff class. These soils are not considered prime for farmland classification. The composition of this map unit consists of 50 percent Josephine family, deep, and similar soils, 25 percent Josephine family, moderately deep, and similar soils, and 25 percent minor components. These soils are associated with mountain landforms and do not have a hydric soils rating. (USDA, Central Sierra Foothills Area, California, Parts of Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties and Stanislaus National Forest, California, Parts, 2019).

## (154) Josephine Family, deep-Moderately deep Complex, 35 to 50 Slopes

These soils can be found at elevations of 3000 feet to 5000 feet and have a high runoff class. These soils are not considered prime for farmland classification. The composition of this map unit consists of 40 percent Josephine family, deep, and similar soils, 30 percent Josephine family, moderately deep, and similar soils, and 30 percent minor components. These soils are associated with mountain landforms and do not have a hydric soils rating. (USDA, Central Sierra Foothills Area, California, Parts of Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties and Stanislaus National Forest, California, Parts, 2019).

## (155) Josephine-Sites Families association, deep, 5 to 35 Slopes

These soils can be found at elevations of 3000 feet to 5000 feet and have a high to very high runoff class. These soils are not considered prime for farmland classification. The composition of this map unit consists of 40 percent Sites family, deep and similar soils, 40 percent Josephine family, deep, and similar soils, and 20 percent minor components. These soils are associated with mountain landforms and do not have a hydric soils rating. (USDA, Central Sierra Foothills Area,

California, Parts of Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties and Stanislaus National Forest, California, Parts, 2019).
(160) Josephine Family, moderately deep-Deep Complex, 35 to 70 Percent Slopes

These soils can be found at elevations of 3500 feet to 5000 feet and have a high runoff class. These soils are not considered prime for farmland classification. The composition of this map unit consists of 45 percent Josephine, moderately deep, and similar soils, 25 percent Josephine, deep, and similar soils, and 30 minor components. These soils are associated with mountain landforms. Josephine, moderately deep, and similar soils have a hydrologic soil group C rating. Other soils in this complex do not have a hydrologic soil rating. (USDA, Central Sierra Foothills Area, California, Parts of Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties and Stanislaus National Forest, California, Parts, 2019).

## (175) Lithic Xerumbrepts-Rock Outcrop-McCarthy Family, Moderately Deep Complex 5 to

 60 Percent SlopesThese soils can be found at elevations of 3000 feet to 7000 feet and have a medium runoff class. These soils are not considered prime for farmland classification. The composition of this map unit consists of 40 percent Lithic xerumbrepts and similar soils, 20 McCarthy family, moderately deep, and similar soils, 20 percent rock outcrop, and 20 percent minor components. These soils are associated with mountain landforms and do not have a hydrologic soil rating. (USDA, Central Sierra Foothills Area, California, Parts of Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties and Stanislaus National Forest, California, Parts, 2019).
(176) McCarthy Family, deep-Moderately Deep Complex, 5 to 35 Percent Slopes

These soils can be found at elevations of 3000 feet to 6000 feet and have a medium runoff class. These soils are not considered prime for farmland classification. The composition of this map unit consists of 55 percent McCarthy family, deep, and similar soils, 20 McCarthy family, deep, and similar soils, and 25 percent minor components. These soils are associated with mountain landforms and do not have a hydric soils rating. (USDA, Central Sierra Foothills Area, California, Parts of Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties and Stanislaus National Forest, California, Parts, 2019).

## (180) McCarthy Family, Moderately Deep-deep Complex, 35 to 60 Percent Slopes

These soils can be found at elevations of 3000 feet to 6000 feet and have a medium runoff class. These soils are not considered prime for farmland classification. The composition of this map unit consists of 85 percent rock outcrop, and 15 percent minor components. These soils are associated with mountain landforms and do not have a hydric soils rating. (USDA, Central Sierra Foothills Area, California, Parts of Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties and Stanislaus National Forest, California, Parts, 2019).

## (188) Sites Family, deep, 5 to 35 Percent Slopes

These soils can be found at elevations of 3000 to 4500 feet and have a very high runoff class. These soils are not considered prime for farmland classification. The composition of this map unit consists of 70 percent Sites family, deep, and similar soils, and 30 percent minor components. These soils are associated with mountain landforms and do not have a hydric soil rating. (USDA,

Central Sierra Foothills Area, California, Parts of Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties and Stanislaus National Forest, California, Parts, 2019).

## (191) Wilder-Ovall Families Complex, 5 to 35 Percent Slopes

These soils can be found at elevations of 3000 feet to 5430 feet and have a medium runoff class. These soils are not considered prime for farmland classification. The composition of this map unit consists of 50 percent Wilder family and similar soils, 30 percent Ovall family and similar soils, and 20 percent minor components. These soils are associated with mountain landforms and do not have a hydric soils rating. (USDA, Central Sierra Foothills Area, California, Parts of Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties and Stanislaus National Forest, California, Parts, 2019).

## (195) Windy Family, Moderately Deep-deep Complex, 5 to 35 Percent Slopes

These soils can be found at elevations of 4190 feet to 8000 feet and have a medium runoff class. These soils are not considered prime for farmland classification. The composition of this map unit consists of 50 percent Windy family, deep, and similar soils, 30 percent Windy family, moderately deep, and similar soils, and 20 percent minor components. These soils are associated with mountain landforms and do not have a hydric soils rating. (USDA, Central Sierra Foothills Area, California, Parts of Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties and Stanislaus National Forest, California, Parts, 2019).

## (196) Windy Family, Moderately Deep-deep Complex, 35 to 50 Percent Slopes

These soils can be found at elevations of 4190 feet to 8000 feet and have a medium runoff class. These soils are not considered prime for farmland classification. The composition of this map unit consists of 50 percent Windy family, deep, and similar soils, 30 percent Windy family, moderately deep, and similar soils, and 20 percent minor components. These soils are associated with mountain landforms and do not have a hydric soils rating. (USDA, Central Sierra Foothills Area, California, Parts of Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties and Stanislaus National Forest, California, Parts, 2019).

## (200) Xerolls, 1 to 10 Percent Slopes

These soils can be found at elevations of 3000 feet to 5000 feet and have a medium runoff class. These soils are not considered prime for farmland classification. The composition of this map unit consists of 90 percent Xerolls and similar soils, and 10 percent minor components. These soils are associated with basin floor landforms and do not have a hydric soils rating. (USDA, Central Sierra Foothills Area, California, Parts of Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties and Stanislaus National Forest, California, Parts, 2019).

## WOULD THE PROJECT:

a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:
i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake

|  | LESS THAN |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| POTENTIALLY | SIGNIFICANT | LESS THAN |  |
| SIGNIFICANT | WITH | SIGNIFICANT |  |
| IMPACT | MITIGATION | IMPACT | NO IMPACT |
| $\square$ | $\square$ | $\square$ | ® |

Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.
ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?
iv. Landslides?
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste disposal systems, where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

## DISCUSSION

a) The project site located within an area of relatively low seismicity. The possibility of earthquake-induced effects such as surface rupture, strong ground shaking, or liquefaction and lateral spreading are low at this site. An earthquake on any of the above-mentioned faults would likely be felt at the State Park, but ground shaking would be minimal. See individual responses to items a (i-iv) below.
I. The project site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone (APEFZ) as designated by the California Geological Survey (CGS). Therefore, there is no risk of surface rupture as a result of this project. No impact.
II. Based on the California Geological Survey's Earthquake Shaking Potential for California Map sheet 48, the State Parks is expected to experience lower levels of shaking less frequently from anticipated future earthquakes. The shaking potential is calculated as the level of ground motion that has a $2 \%$ chance of being exceeded in 50 years, which is the same as the level of ground-shaking with about a 2500-year average repeat time (D. Branum, 2016). No impact.
III. Seismic-induced ground failure, such as liquefaction, usually occur in unconsolidated granular soils that are water saturated. During seismic-induced ground shaking, pore water pressure can increase in loose soils, causing the soils to change from a solid to a liquid state (liquefaction). Based on the nature of the project, strong seismic ground shaking is not anticipated. No impact.
IV. Landslide problems are not widespread within the Park. Implementation of SPR GEO 1 and PSR HYDRO 2 will ensure that exposure to landslide will not occur as a result of this project. BMPs will be in place to prevent any slope failures caused by excess water on exposed slopes. Therefore, there is a less than significant impact from landslides as a result of this project.
b) A temporary increase in erosion may occur at the project location due to construction activities. However, Implementation of PSR GEO 1 and PSR HYDRO 2 will prevent substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil resulting in a Less than Significant Impact.
c) Construction activities will not result in landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, collapse or liquefaction. Additionally, adherence to the avoidance and minimization measures listed below will ensure that construction activities will result in No impact.
d) A geotechnical investigation conducted for this project determined clayey soils at the project location contain very low expansion potential and are not considered a constraint (Geocon 2016). Additionally, a 1983 report by the CGS observed no evidence of expansive soils at the Park (Leivas, 1983). No impact.
e) A geotechnical investigation conducted for this project determined clayey soils at the project location contain very low expansion potential and are not considered a constraint (Geocon 2016). Additionally, a 1983 report by the CGS observed no evidence of expansive soils at the Park (Leivas, 1983). Less than significant impact.
f) No known paleontological resources exist within the project area, nor are they likely to be encountered by the project. No impact.

## PROJECT SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

## PSR GEO 1 - Wet Season Heavy Equipment Use

No track-mounted or heavy-wheeled vehicle are permitted within the drip line radius of retained trees during the rainy season or when soils are saturated to avoid compaction and/or damage to soil structure.

## VIII. Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

## Environmental Setting

California is the fifteenth largest emitter of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the world, representing about two percent of worldwide emissions. In an effort to help curb global warming, the state enacted new laws in 2006 regulating GHGs. Assembly Bill 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act, requires the State to implement a series of actions to achieve a reduction in GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 (California Air Pollution Control Officers Association, 2008).

Through AB 32, the statewide cap for 2020 GHG emissions has been set at 427 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (MMTCO2E). Reducing GHG emissions to this level means cutting approximately $30 \%$ from business-as-usual emission levels projected for 2020, or about $10 \%$ from today's levels. On a per capita basis, that means reducing our annual emissions of 14 tons of carbon dioxide for every person in California down to about 10 tons per person by 2020.

In December 2009, the Natural Resource Agency adopted amendments to the Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act addressing the significance of impacts for greenhouse gas emissions (California Natural Resources Agency, 2009). Section 15064.4 of the amended CEQA Guidelines states: "A lead agency should make a good-faith effort, based to the extent possible on scientific and factual data, to describe, calculate or estimate the amount of greenhouse gas emissions resulting from a project."

The project site is located in Calaveras County, approximately 3 miles east of Arnold, California, within the Mountain Counties Air Basin (MCAB). The Calaveras County Air Pollution Control District (CCAPCD) is a regional environmental regulatory agency (one of thirty-five local air agencies in California) whose primary responsibility is controlling air pollution from stationary sources (California Air Resources Board, 2005).

California State Parks (CSP) has developed a "Cool Parks" initiative to address climate change within the State Park system. Cool Parks proposes that CSP itself as well as resources under its care adapt to the environmental changes resulting from climate change. In order to fulfill the Cool Parks initiative, CSP is dedicated to using alternative energy sources, low emission vehicles, recycling and reusing supplies and materials, and educating staff and visitors on climate change (CSP, 2008).

The California Natural Resources Agency has developed the Safeguarding California Plan, most recently updated in 2018. This document is a catalog of ongoing actions and recommendations that protect infrastructure, communities, services and the natural environment from climate change. The Plan is intended to serve as a guide for State government while holding agencies accountable. The Plan indicates that temperature increase resulting from climate change is likely to shift tourism patterns toward higher latitudes and altitudes and to cooler regions. Policy PC-2 of the Plan therefore calls for expanding the availability of affordable accommodations and lodging for overnight visitors to inland, mountain and freshwater regions.

Trees and woodlands play an important role in the removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Through the biochemical process of photosynthesis, carbon dioxide is taken in by trees and stored 60

Cabin Expansion \& Campsite Relocation Project
Initial Study / Negative Declaration

as carbon in the trunk, branches, leaves and roots. Carbon is also stored in the soil and indeed this is a major sink for carbon in the forest. Decay of the organic material eventually releases the CO2 back to the atmosphere, and providing the forests are sustainably managed, it is taken up by replacement trees, thereby maintaining a balance in the carbon budget.

## WOULD THE PROJECT:

|  | LESS THAN |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| POTENTIALLY | SIGNIFICANT | LESS THAN |  |
| SIGNIFICANT | WITH | SIGNIFICANT | NO |
| IMPACT | MITIGATION | IMPACT | IMPACT |

a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

## DISCUSSION

a) In 2002 the California legislature declared that global climate change was a matter of increasing concern for the state's public health and environment, and enacted laws requiring the state Air Resources Board (ARB) to control GHG emissions from motor vehicles (Health \& Safety Code §32018.5 et seq.). CEQA Guidelines define greenhouse gases to include carbon dioxide (CO2), nitrous oxide (N2O), hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride. The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Assembly Bill 32) definitively established the state’s climate change policy and set GHG reduction targets (Health \& Safety Code $\S 38500$ et seq.). The State set its target at reducing greenhouse gases to 1990 levels by 2020.

According to Recommendations by the Association of Environmental Professionals on How to Analyze GHG Emissions and Global Climate change in CEQA Documents (March 5, 2007), an individual project does not generate enough GHG emissions to significantly influence global climate change. Rather, global climate change is a cumulative impact. This means that a project may participate in a potential impact through its incremental contribution combined with the contributions of all other sources of GHG. In assessing cumulative impacts, it must be determined if a project's incremental effect is "cumulatively considerable." (CEQA Guidelines §15064(i)(1) and §15130).
In 2011 the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.4 Appendix G was modified to include thresholds of significance for Greenhouse Gases. The project would have potential significant impacts if the project would:

- Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment;
- Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

Due to the nature of the proposed project, DPR has determined that it is appropriate to assess potential GHG impacts qualitatively - as allowed by CEQA Guidelines §15064.4(a)2.

The proposed project could produce GHGs during fuel combustion, particularly during the grading and earthwork. Project vehicles and heavy equipment consists of an excavator, bulldozer, grader, roller, rubber tire loader, backhoe, logging truck, paver, and dump truck.

Not all vehicles and equipment would operate simultaneously. Some equipment would only be operating during certain stages of the project depending on the nature of the work. The initial tree removal and project grading would occur for approximately 180 days but the construction-related greenhouse gas emissions would be short-term. Furthermore, harvesting of trees as they mature can delay the release of $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ if the wood is used for construction, furniture and other end uses that prolong its life. The Project plans call for retaining 92 of the removed trees for use along trails, in the campfire center, and other areas in the park. Therefore, the project construction phase would not significantly increase greenhouse emissions.

Standard Project Requirement AIR 1 - Air Quality as noted in Section III above, would require all construction related equipment engines to be maintained and properly tuned up (according to manufacturer's specifications), and in compliance with all state and federal requirements. This requirement is designed to reduce project-related emissions of $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ and $\mathrm{N}_{2} \mathrm{O}$.
b. The State has not developed specific GHG thresholds of significance for use in preparing environmental analyses under CEQA, and the CCAPCD has not adopted GHG thresholds to determine significance. The Association of Environmental Professionals' document Alternative Approaches to Analyzing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change in CEQA Documents, states that emissions for criteria pollutants tend to follow similar patterns as the emissions for GHG emissions" (AEP, 2007). Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that if all other pollutants from the project are determined to be less than significant, the $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ emissions will also be less than significant. The proposed project would not violate Calaveras County's air quality standards and would not result in a cumulatively considerable increase in emissions. Therefore, the proposed project would not generate significant GHG emissions and would therefore not conflict with the current State and Alpine County guidelines or any applicable plans, policies or regulations concerning GHG emissions.

To reduce potential GHG emissions due to project activities, the project would implement Standard Project Requirement AIR 1 - Air Quality to limit impacts to air quality and reduce GHG emissions during project activities. Implementation of this project requirement would ensure that the project would have a less than significant impact.

## IX. Hazards And Hazardous Materials.

## Environmental Setting

Hazardous materials include all flammable, reactive, corrosive, or toxic substances, which, because of these properties, pose potential harm to the public or environment. Hazardous materials such as agricultural chemicals, pesticides, and various commercial chemical substances may be used, stored, or produced in CBTSP.

The California Department of Environmental Protection (CALEPA) has the responsibility for compiling (pursuant to Government Code §65962.5) information on hazardous material sites in California that together are known as the "Cortese" list. A review of this Cortese list(s) found there are no known hazardous sites within the project area (California Department of Toxic Substances Control, n.d.).

## Airports

The nearest airport is the Columbia Airport is located approximately 16.5 miles (diagonally) from the project site. The airport is owned and operated by Tuolumne County, open for public use and flights are restricted to daylight hours (AirNav.com, 2017).

## Fire Hazards

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) lists the fire hazard severity for CBTSP as Very High (CalFire, 2007) and is designated as a State Responsibility Area in the event of a fire.

## Schools

The nearest school, Hazel Fischer Elementary School, is located approximately 3.5 miles from the proposed project site in the community of Arnold.

## WOULD THE PROJECT:


a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and/or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials, substances, or waste into the environment?
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within
one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites, compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5, and, as a result, create a significant hazard to the public or environment?
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?
f) Impair implementation of or physically
$\square$区 interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death from wildland fires?

## DISCUSSION

a) The project will not create a hazard to the public due to routine use of hazardous materials. Hazardous materials as these are already used routinely in the course of the operation of CBTSP. The District already maintains a spill prevention plan and with implementation of Project Specific Requirement HAZ - 1 Hazardous Materials, impacts from the project remain less than significant.
b) Project construction would require the use of heavy equipment and vehicles that use diesel fuel, gasoline, oil, and hydraulic fluid. Hazardous materials used during construction would be transported, used, and stored in accordance with state and federal regulations regarding hazardous materials. The proposed project would not be located on a site that included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code 65962.5. The project will have a less than significant impact.
c) No existing or proposed schools are located within one-quarter mile of the Project site. Furthermore, the Project will not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or wastes. No impact.
d) CBTSP is not included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code $\S 65962.5$ (DTSC, n.d.). No area within the project site is currently
restricted or known to have hazardous materials present. The existing spill prevention plan requires the cleanup of hazardous materials. Therefore, no impact would occur with project development.
e) As noted in the Environmental Settings above, the project site is not located within two miles of a public/private use airport or within an airport land use plan area. No impact.
f) All construction activities associated with the project would occur within the boundaries of CBTSP and work would not restrict access to or block any public road outside the immediate construction area. Construction work may require the use of existing service roads; however, minimum access requirements for emergency vehicles (as well as to the public) would be maintained at all times. No impact.
g) Heavy equipment can get very hot during the warmer part of the work season; this equipment is sometimes in close proximity to flammable vegetation. Improperly outfitted exhaust systems or friction between metal parts crushing concrete/rocks could generate sparks. Strict adherence to the project conditions and minimization measures below will ensure that impacts from fire will remain at a less than significant level.

## STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT

## HAZ 1 - Hazardous Materials

- Prior to the start of on-site construction activities, Contractor will inspect all equipment for leaks and regularly inspect thereafter until equipment is removed from the project site. All contaminated water, sludge, spill residue, or other hazardous compounds will be contained and disposed of outside the boundaries of the site, at a lawfully permitted or authorized destination.
- Prior to the start of on-site construction activities, Contractor will prepare a Spill Prevention and Response Plan (SPRP) as part of the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for DPR approval to provide protection to on-site workers, the public, and the environment from accidental leaks or spills of vehicle fluids or other potential contaminants. This plan will include (but not be limited to);
- a map that delineates construction staging areas, where refueling, lubrication, and maintenance of equipment will occur;
- a list of items required in a spill kit on-site that will be maintained throughout the life of the project;
- procedures for the proper storage, use, and disposal of any solvents or other chemicals used in the restoration process;
- identification of lawfully permitted or authorized disposal destinations outside of the project site.
- Contractor will set up decontamination areas for vehicles and equipment at Park entry/exit points. The decontamination areas will be designed to completely contain all wash water generated from washing vehicles and equipment. Best Management Practices (BMPs) will
be installed, as necessary, to prevent the dispersal of wash water beyond the boundaries of the decontamination area, including over-spray.
- Prior to the start of construction, Contractor will develop a Fire Safety Plan for District approval. The plan will include the emergency calling procedures for both the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) and local fire department(s).
- All heavy equipment will be required to include spark arrestors or turbo chargers (which eliminate sparks in exhaust) and have fire extinguishers on-site.
- Construction crews will park vehicles away from flammable material, such as dry grass or brush. At the end of each workday, construction crews will park heavy equipment over a non-combustible surface to reduce the chance of fire.
- Prior to the start of on-site construction activities, Contractor will clean and repair (other than emergency repairs) all equipment outside the project site boundaries.
- Under dry conditions, a filled water truck and/or fire engine crew will be onsite during activities with the potential to start a fire.


## X. Hydrology And Water Quality.

## Environmental Setting

Climate and Precipitation
Table 8 - Monthly Temperature Averages

| Month | Temp. <br> Mean <br> Max <br> (F) | Temp <br> Mean. <br> Min <br> (F) | Along with much of California, the western slope of the Sierra Nevada is in a region of Mediterranean climate, with typically warm, dry summers and cool, wet winters. Precipitation at the Park falls mainly as rain, although snow is frequent during the winter, and in some years may be heavy. In 2018, the Park received approximately |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N/A | N/A |  |  |  |
| Feb | 47.7 | 28.4 | 8 inches of total snow fall in the month of February alone (NOAA, |  |  |
| Mar | N/A | N/A | 2018). Temperatures are mild throughout the year, rarely rising over |  |  |
| Apr | N/A | N/A | $100^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$, and only occasionally dropping below $30^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ as shown in Table |  |  |
| May | 63 | 42.6 | 8 - Monthly Temperature Averages. |  |  |
| Jun | 74.7 | 50.6 |  |  |  |
| Jul | 84.3 | 60 | Table 9 - Monthly Precipitation Averages |  |  |
| Aug | 79.9 | 55.3 | Table 9 Monthly Precipitation Month Total <br> Averages shows the total precipitation by  Precipitation <br> month (in inches) for the 2018 calendar year (in)  |  |  |
| Sep | 73.7 | 49.7 |  |  |  |
| Oct | 52.8 | 42.4 |  |  |  |
| Nov | N/A | N/A |  |  |  |
| Dec | N/A | N/A | at Calaveras Big Trees State Park. The precipitation station is located within | Jan | N/A |
|  | rce: Nation | Oceanic |  | Feb | 0.88 |
|  | spheric A | Mistration | Calaveras Big Trees State Park (Calaveras | Mar | 18.04 |
|  |  | 2018 | Big Trees, CA US USC00041277), near the | Apr | N/A |
| highest amount of total precipitation in 2018 occurred between October |  |  |  | May | 0.09 |
| through March (NOAA, 2018). May through September had the lowest |  |  |  | Jun | 0.00 |
| precipitation records for the 2018 calendar year. |  |  |  | Jul | 0.00 |
| Flooding |  |  |  | Aug | 0.00 |
|  |  |  |  | Sep | 0.00 |
| Based on Federal Eme |  |  | ncy Management Agency (FEMA) Flood | Oct | 1.29 |
| Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) Panels 150, 175, 300, 350, and 375, the majority of classified flood zones are within the Calaveras County side |  |  |  | Nov | N/A |
|  |  |  |  | Dec | N/A | of the Park. The Stanislaus River runs through the middle of the Park and is categorized as a 100-year flood zone. Additional 100-year flood zone include Big Tree Creek (in the Calaveras North Grove), Oak

Source: National Oceanic \& Atmospheric Administration Global Summary of the Month for 2018 Hollow Creek, and Love Creek. A 100-year flood, also known as a base flood, is a standard used by federal and state agencies to administer floodplain management programs. FIRM maps are used to illustrate the extent of flood hazards in a flood prone community.

The project site is not within a 100-year floodplain as defined by FEMA. The project area is entirely within a section of the park classified as Zone X (Panel 0300E). FEMA has determined
that Zone X areas are outside of a $0.2 \%$ annual chance floodplain and have minimal flood hazard (FEMA).

## Wild and Scenic Rivers

There are no eligible or designated Wild and Scenic Rivers within or adjacent to the project site.

## Watershed

At the Hydrologic Unit Code 8 (HUC 8) level, Calaveras Big Trees State park is split between the Upper Calaveras watershed and the Upper Stanislaus watershed (NRCS, 2017). The major topographic feature of the Park is a canyon created by the North Fork Stanislaus River, with approximately half of the park draining directly into it, mainly through minor seasonal streams and overland flow. The river courses within the park for $2-1 / 2$ miles, dropping in elevation an approximate 250 feet along the way. The North Fork's flow is regulated by four dams located approximately 20 river miles upstream from the park.

The other major watercourse is Beaver Creek. This is a California State Parks Representative Keystone Watershed which represents, physical, biological, and aquatic values characteristic of the ecoregion, a healthy aquatic system with good water quality, is free from serious exotic species problems and extensive land alterations and is linked to other protected areas large enough to sustain species abundance and variety. This perennial stream runs roughly parallel to the North Fork Stanislaus River about one mile to the southeast, draining 20,299 acres (8,215 hectares) 10\% of which is within the Park. Beaver Creek eventually joins the North Fork Stanislaus River downstream from the park boundary (CSP, 2007).

Three other minor drainages occur in the park, two of which are entirely within its borders. Big Trees Creek (in the South Grove Natural Preserve) is the largest of the three, draining an area of about 1,400 acres ( 570 hectares) and flowing into Beaver Creek while still within the park. Oak Hollow Creek, (formerly known as Squaw Hollow Creek) is a seasonal stream that flows eastward into the North Fork Stanislaus River. Finally, Big Tree Creek starts in the North Grove as a seasonal watercourse, but becomes perennial immediately below the North Grove Meadow, eventually flowing into San Antonio Creek, near the community of White Pines. Various springs are located in the park, some of which have been plumbed as water sources, although only two, Oak Leaf Spring and the headwaters of Oak Hollow Creek are currently maintained as water sources.

There are no major water courses that travel through the project site.

## Water Quality

The preparation and adoption of water quality control plans (Basin Plans) are required by California Water Code (Section 13240) and supported by Section 303 of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA). The Park is within the Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins. The proposed project will comply with all local, state, and federal water quality through conformance with all applicable NPDES construction permits and related local standards.

CWA Section 303(d) requires states to identify waters within their borders that are not attaining water quality standards. Based on a review of the 2014/2016 Integrated Report on Water Quality with Web-Based Interactive Map, there are no impaired water bodies within Calaveras Big Trees State Park.

## WOULD THE PROJECT:

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or
otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:
i. result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;
ii. substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;
iii. create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or
iv. impede or redirect flood flows?
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?
e) Conflict with or obstruct
implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?
cattern of the site or area, including drainage systems or provide

| $\frac{\text { POTENTIALLY }}{\text { LESS THAN }}$ |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| SIGNIFICANT |  |  |
| IMPACT | $\frac{\text { SIGNIFICANT }}{\text { WITH }}$ |  |
| MITIGATION |  |  |
| SESS THAN |  |  |
| IMPACT |  |  |

NO IMPACT

## DISCUSSION

a) All activities undertaken by the proposed project will adhere to state and federal policy on water quality standards and discharge requirements. Construction-related erosion and sediment disturbance will be addressed with conformance and implementation of standard erosion, sediment control, and pollution prevention requirements. It is the policy of the Department to adopt a comprehensive, integrative, and cooperative watershed approach to managing watersheds as complete hydrologic systems, and to minimize human disturbance to the natural upland processes that deliver water, sediment, nutrients, and natural debris to streams (CSP C. S., 2007). PSR HYDRO 1, HYDRO 2, and site specific BMPs are anticipated to minimize these effects to the extent feasible. Therefore, the project will have a less than significant impact on water quality standards.
b) The proposed project will not deplete groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge. The existing water tank and water conveyance system will be updated as part of this project to accommodate the new facilities. Therefore, the project will have no impact on groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge.
c) Construction activities are anticipated to result in temporary increased sedimentation and runoff within the project location. However, the project would not create or contribute runoff water, which would exceed the capacity of the existing drainage system or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. PSR HYDRO 2 and site specific BMPs are anticipated to minimize these effects to the extent feasible. Additionally, the project will not alter the course of a river or substantially increase the rate of surface runoff. Onsite monitoring during construction activities will ensure corrective actions are taken as needed. Therefore, the project will have a less than significant impact.
d) The project site is not within a 100-year floodplain as defined by FEMA. The project area is entirely within a section of the park classified as Zone X (Panel 0300E). FEMA has determined that Zone X areas are outside of a $0.2 \%$ annual chance floodplain and have minimal flood hazard (FEMA). Therefore, the project will have a less than significant impact.
e) The preparation and adoption of water quality control plans (Basin Plans) are required by California Water Code (Section 13240) and supported by Section 303 of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA). Calaveras Big Trees State Park is within the Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins. The proposed project will comply with all local, state, and federal water quality through conformance with all applicable NPDES construction permits and related local standards.

## STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT

HYDRO 1 - HEAVY EQUIPMENT STORAGE AND MAINTENANCE
All refueling/servicing of equipment, solid waste disposal and worksite sanitation stations should occur in designated staging areas away from flowing water.

## PROJECT SPECIFIC REQUIREMENT

## PSR HYDRO 2 - EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

- Construction-related erosion and sediment disturbance will be addressed with conformance and implementation of standard erosion, sediment control, and pollution prevention requirements.
- Modify the proposed project or activity as necessary by changing the project design, location, and timing to reduce potential water quality impacts.


## XI. Land Use And Planning.

## Environmental Setting

CBTSP is located in the rural, sparsely populated areas of Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties approximately 3 miles northwest of the community of Arnold and 2.5 miles southwest of the community of Dorrington. The North Fork Stanislaus River bisects the park with approximately $40 \%$ of the 6,500 acre park located in Calaveras County. The County has designated the park as OS-R (Open space/Recreation) in the Calaveras County General Plan. The proposed project will construct eleven additional rental cabins and a camp host site, near the existing Group Camp located north of State Route 4, within the park boundaries.

Tourism and recreation are among the county's primary economic areas of interest. The scenic and recreational attributes of Calaveras County make the tourism and recreation industries an extremely valuable part of the county's economy. One of the goals of the updated Calaveras County General Plan is to support recreation and tourism in the county. The projected growth for the County (2035) is 55,541 , an increase of $10 \%$ from the current (2017) population of 45,578 .

The park's General Plan, the Calaveras County General Plan, and the regulations of various agencies guide development and uses within Calaveras Big Trees State Park with jurisdictions over the area in or immediately adjacent to the park. According to Public Resources Code, Section 5019.53, the purpose of land under the State Park classification is to preserve outstanding natural, scenic, and cultural values, and indigenous aquatic and terrestrial fauna and flora. As a public recreation area, the development of permanent housing is not a planned use of the park nor is it currently offered, with the exception of state employee residences. Non-commercial goals are also an element of the park's general plan.

## WOULD THE PROJECT:


d) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

## DISCUSSION

a) This project is located within Calaveras Big Trees State Park. The project will construct eleven additional rental cabins and a camp host site, near the existing Group Camp site in CBTSP. There area is rural and forested and there are no communities immediately surrounding the proposed area of potential effect. Therefore, the project will not divide an established community. No impact.
b) This project is consistent with all applicable state and local land use plans, policies, and regulations. Work proposed for this project is in compliance with PRC §5002.2(c), and, with adoption of this Negative Declaration, would be in compliance with CEQA. The project is also in compliance with all conservation plans, policies, and ordinances that apply to the project and/or surrounding area. No impact.

## XII. Mineral Resources.

## Environmental Setting

No significant mineral resources have been identified within the boundaries of the CBTSP. Mineral resource extraction is not permitted under the Resource Management Directives of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

## WOULD THE PROJECT:

| POTENTIALLY | LESS THAN <br> SIGNIFICANT | LESS THAN <br> SIGNIFICANT | WITH <br> IMPACT |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| MITIGATION | IGNIFICANT | NO |  |
| IMPACT | IMPACT |  |  |

a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that is or would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?

## DISCUSSION

a) The project would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource because no known mineral resources exist within the BLSRA and resource extraction is not allowed in State Park units. No impact.
b) The project would not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site because none exists within the BLSRA and resource extraction is not allowed in State Park units. No impact.

## XIII. NOISE.

## EnvironMEntal Setting

CBTSP is located in a rural, sparsely populated area of Calaveras County approximately 3 miles east of Arnold with relatively low levels of traffic and no industrial noise. The park unit is bisected and bordered by SR 4 and rugged forested terrain, surrounded by steep mountains. Vehicle traffic from SR 4, a two-lane State Highway, is the primary source of noise for this property along with occasional air traffic consisting of small private planes and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) firefighting aircraft. There are no noise-sensitive land uses located near the project site, other than those uses that exist within the park.

Noise is defined as unwanted sound and is known to have several adverse effects on people, including hearing loss, speech and sleep interference, physiological responses, and annoyance. Based on these known adverse effects of noise, the federal government, the State of California, and many local governments have established criteria to protect public health and safety and to prevent disruption of certain activities.

The health effects of noise on people are the primary consideration of assessing potential noise impacts from a project. The effect of noise on humans can be placed in three categories:

- Subjective effects of annoyance, nuisance, and dissatisfaction
- Interference with activities such as speech, sleep, and learning
- Physiological effects such as hearing loss or sudden startling

Environmental noise (such as noise measured in conjunction with a proposed new development) generally produces effects in the first two categories. Workers in industrial plants can experience noise in the last category, although project-related noise can infrequently be associated with the third category.

There is no completely satisfactory way to measure the subjective effects of noise or the corresponding reactions of an individual or community to noise, but tolerance levels tend to be based on an individual's experiences with noise. Therefore, an important way of predicting human reaction to a new noise environment (i.e., post-project) is to compare it with the existing environment (pre-project) to which the community has adapted-the ambient noise level. In general, the more a new noise exceeds the previously existing noise level, the less acceptable the new noise will be judged by those hearing it.

DPR does not maintain a standard for noise, typically deferring to the requirements of the local jurisdiction in which the park unit is located. Calaveras County's Noise Ordinance (Chapter 9.02 of the Calaveras County Code) addresses intermittent and occasional noise from vehicles and outdoor recreational activities. The County's Noise Ordinance does not require a 24 -hour noise measurement (CNEL/Ldn) and is enforced primarily in response to complaints received by the County Sheriff's department related to isolated incidents (e.g., barking dog, loud party) (Calaveras County, 2015).

As noted above，noise is commonly described in＂Ldn，＂that expresses average sound level over a 24－hour period in decibels（dB），the standard measure of pressure exerted by sound．Ldn includes a 10 dB penalty for sounds between 10 P．M．and 7 A．M．，when background noise is lower and people are most sensitive to noise．Because decibels are logarithmic units of measure，a change of 3 decibels is hardly noticeable，while a change of 5 decibels is quite noticeable and an increase of 10 decibels is perceived as a doubling of the noise level．A change from 50 dB to 60 dB increases the percentage of the population that is highly annoyed at the noise source by about 7 percent， while an increase from 50 dB to 70 dB increases the annoyed population by about 25 percent． Sounds as faint as 10 decibels are barely audible，while noise over 120 decibels can be painful or damaging to hearing．

## WOULD THE PROJECT：

a）Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance，or applicable standards of other agencies？
b）Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels？
c）For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or，where such a plan has not been adopted，within two miles of a public airport or public use airport，would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels？

| POTENTIALLY | $\begin{aligned} & \text { LESS THAN } \\ & \text { SIGNIFICANT } \end{aligned}$ | LESS THAN |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| SIGNIFICANT | WITH | SIGNIFICANT | NO |
| IMPACT | MITIGATION | IMPACT | $\underline{\text { IMPACT }}$ |
| $\square$ | $\square$ | 区 | $\square$ |
| $\square$ | $\square$ | 区 | $\square$ |
| $\square$ | $\square$ | $\square$ | 区 |

## DISCUSSION

a）The majority of noise will likely occur during the land clearing and grading and excavation portion of the project that will occur during the initial part of construction．As noted above， no noise－sensitive land uses occur within the vicinity of the project site but there are the existing cabins that will be available for renting by visitors throughout the construction process．The Project Implementation Section 2.7 notes that the project would involve the use of heavy equipment，such as backhoe，excavator，grader，bulldozer，loader，compressor， water truck and dump truck during construction as would explosives for concrete demolition．

The project would have a less than significant impact on the exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of applicable standards．Noise generated during construction will be temporary and intermittent and therefore will have a less than significant impact．Campers，park visitors，motorists and other users in the area may hear periodic high volume noises during construction，as they drive or recreate in close
proximity to the construction activity. Due to the brief duration of exposure, and with implementation of Standard Project Requirement - NOISE 1 and Specific Project Requirement - NOISE 2, noise impacts to those living in or traveling through the vicinity of the project will have a less than significant impact. After project is complete, noise levels will return to pre-construction levels and will not result in a permanent increase in ambient noise.
b) The project will by necessity, generate groundborne vibrations and higher groundborne noise levels. Modest and temporary vibration may occur as a result of construction activities potentially including heavy equipment such as jackhammers, backhoes, and heavy trucks, and other equipment that are known to produce noticeable noise and ground borne vibration. Additionally, the mass of the concrete superstructure may necessitate the potential use of explosives if the heavy equipment proves to be inadequate to facilitate removal. Due to the brief duration of exposure, and with implementation of Standard Project Requirements Noise 1 - Construction Activities impacts resulting from groundborne vibrations or groundborne noise levels will be less than significant.
c) The project is not within 2 miles of a private airstrip or within an Airport Land Use Plan area; therefore no impact.

## STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT

## NOISE 1 - CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

- Internal combustion engines used for project implementation will be equipped with a muffler of a type recommended by the manufacturer. Equipment and trucks used for Project-related activities will utilize the best available noise control techniques (e.g., engine enclosures, acoustically attenuating shields or shrouds, intake silencers, ducts, etc.) whenever necessary.
- Contractor will locate stationary noise sources and staging areas as far from potential sensitive noise receptors, as possible. If they must be located near potential sensitive noise receptors, stationary noise sources will be muffled or shielded, and/or enclosed within temporary sheds.
- Construction activities will generally be limited to the daylight hours, Monday Friday. If work during weekends or holidays is required, no work will occur on those days before 8:00 a.m. or after 5:00 p.m.
- All motorized construction equipment will be shut down when not in use. Idling of equipment and haul trucks will be limited to 5 minutes.


## PROJECT SPECIFIC REQUIREMENT

## NOISE 2 - PUBLIC NOTICE

The District shall post notices on the Calaveras Big Trees web portal under the Cabin Rental section notifying park visitors of potential disruptions caused by project construction activities.

## XIV. Population And Housing

## Environmental Setting

Calaveras Big Trees State Park is located in the rural, sparsely populated areas of Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties approximately 3 miles northwest of the community of Arnold and 2.5 miles southwest of the community of Dorrington. The North Fork Stanislaus River bisects the park with approximately $40 \%$ of the 6,500 -acre park located in Calaveras County. The park is open year round, sunrise to sunset and offers its visitors many activities such as camping, fishing, hiking and guided tours. The general area is rural in nature, with a few small communities within twenty-five miles from the park. Arnold is the closest town from the park and has a population of only 3,843 people as of the 2010 census. The population of Calaveras County, as of the same census was 45,578 , an increase of approximately 5,000 people from the 2000 census, an indication that growth in the overall county has been slow.

The project area currently contains four guest cabins and the proposed project will construct eleven additional rental cabins and a camp host site beginning in 2020. No permanent housing development is planned. While tourism does result in seasonal fluctuations in the population of this area, the project would not contribute to these variations.

WOULD THE PROJECT:
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

## DISCUSSION

a) The proposed project will construct cabins for use as rentals. As such, the occupation of the cabins will be temporary, and will not induce substantial population growth, either directly or indirectly, in the project area. No impact
b) As stated above the project proposes the construction of cabins for use as rentals with temporary occupation of the cabins by people engaging in the recreational opportunities provided by Calaveras Big Trees State Park. The cabins will not displace existing people or housing. No impact.

## XV. Public Services.

## Environmental Setting

Calaveras Big Trees SP is located four miles northeast of Arnold on State Highway 4. The park contains two groves of trees: the North and South Grove, which make up the park's 6,500 acres. Calaveras Big Trees SP offers visitor camping, hiking, fishing, guided tours, and interpretive exhibits.

DPR Park Rangers are trained peace officers and serve the public in that capacity within park boundaries. The California Highway Patrol (CHP) and the Calaveras County Sheriff's department, which has five substations within Calaveras County, assist Park Rangers with the protection of the park. The Calaveras County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team works closely with the Ebbetts Pass Search and Rescue Team, which is responsible for wilderness search and rescue operations in the county. The Ranger staff is informed each year as to the location, staffing, and type of projects being implemented in the park and vicinity.

## Fire Services

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) provides fire protection for the area and maintains a fire station in Arnold. CDF also maintains a seasonal fire station located amidst the commercial timberlands about eight miles south of Calaveras Big Trees State Park at Skull Creek. Additionally, the CDF Air Attack base is located in Columbia, approximately 20 miles from CBTSP. The Park is also within the response area of the Ebbetts Pass Fire District (EPFD), which has a permanently staffed station in Arnold. There are 11 cooperative districts that provide local fire protection services in Calaveras County. In 2018, the EPFD had 20 sworn personnelone full-time fire chief, three full-time battalion chiefs, three full-time captains, six full-time engineers, and seven firefighters. Park Rangers patrol and inspect all designated fire roads during the fire season.

## Schools

There are no schools within the project site. The closest schools to the project site are Avery Middle School and Hazel Fischer Elementary School. Both are located within 3 miles of the park.

## Parks

Calaveras County has a multitude of recreational opportunities including mountains, forests, lakes, streams, and areas of historical significance. The Stanislaus National Forest comprises 13 percent ( 85,000 acres) of the County's land area. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has numerous scattered land holdings throughout the County. BLM lands comprise 6 percent (39,500 acres) of the County's land area and provides undeveloped open space and recreational resources. Five major reservoirs comprise 5 percent ( 35,000 acres) of the County's land area. Calaveras Big Trees State Park has 6,500 acres.

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:
i. Fire protection?
ii. Police protection?
iii. Schools?
iv. Parks?
v. Other public facilities?

| POTENTIALLY | LESS THAN |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
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| IMPACT | MITIGATION | SIGNIFICANT |
| IMPACT |  |  |

NO IMPACT


## DISCUSSION

a) The addition of eleven cabins over a three-year period will not have an impact on fire protection and police services. The cabins will be used for the temporary lodging of visitors to Calaveras Big Trees State Park and will therefore have no impact on local schools. The expanded cabin area park-approved and endorsed project and will not result in a substantial enough number of new visitors to cause an impact to the park or other surrounding public facilities. No impact.

## XVI. RECREATION.

## Environmental Setting

Calaveras Big Trees SP is one of the most visited units of the California State Park System, averaging over 200,000 visitors each year. This park was brought into the California State Park system in 1931 to preserve the North Grove of giant sequoias; however the park also features the primitive South Grove, a five-mile hiking trip through a spectacular grove of giant sequoias in their natural setting. Visitor activities include hiking, camping, fishing, swimming, birding, and other forms of nature study. In addition, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are pursued in the winter.

Facilities currently available to the public include three campgrounds (124 family campsites and a group site), five backcountry campsites, four picnic areas (150 picnic sites), four main trails (over 15 miles total), a campfire center, numerous outdoor interpretive displays, and a visitor center/museum. These facilities are most heavily-used during the summer vacation season from Memorial Day through Labor Day, but use continues throughout the entire year.

The proposed project site is located north of the North Grove entrance to the park at State Highway 4. The project site contains four existing short-term rental cabins and is located near the group campground area, which provides camping accommodations for up to 100 people. The proposed project will add eleven new cabins and a camp host site.

The proposed Project consists of adding eleven additional cabins along with a camp host site along with utilities and other infrastructure improvements to serve the cabins. Both the existing rental cabins and the group campground will remain open during project implementation.

## WOULD THE PROJECT:

| POTENTIALLY | LESS THAN <br> SIGNIFICANT | LESS THAN <br> SIGNIFICANT | WITH <br> IMPACT |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| MITIGATION | SIGNIFICANT | IMPACT | IMPACT |

a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

## DISCUSSION

a) The proposed project would not increase the use of neighborhood or regional parks, and no physical deterioration would result to any recreational facilities. No impact.
b) The intent of the project is to for construction/expansion of recreational facilities, for which this report assesses effects on the environment. Less than significant impact.

## XVII. Transportation.

## Environmental Setting

The project site is located in Calaveras County on the north side of State Route 4 (SR 4), an eastwest corridor beginning at Interstate 80 near Hercules, California in Contra Costa County and ending at SR 89 near Markleeville, in Alpine County. This two-lane highway passes through and serves as the sole point of access to the park, and separates the maintenance, group camp and cabin area from the rest of the park facilities, including the trees for which the park is known.

The Calaveras Council of Governments (CCOG) is the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for the County of Calaveras and the City of Angels. As an RTPA, the CCOG is the designated planning and administrative agency for transportation projects and programs in the County. The agency is responsible for creating the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), a 20-year blueprint that serves as a master plan for regional air, highway, public transit, bicycle, pedestrian and other transportation improvement projects. The RTP clearly defines local needs, transportation alternatives, funding sources, transportation project priorities, and alternative modes of transportation. The CCOG most recently updated the RTP in 2017.

There is presently no transit system operating near CBTSP; the nearest is on the "Blue Line" transit route located at the Arnold Library branch, approximately 3 miles to the west (Calaveras Council of Governments, 2017). The Blue Line serves the City of Angels Camp, Murphys and Arnold. Service hours are 5:10 AM to 7:52 PM with five daily round trips (Raney Planning \& Management, 2018).

There are no airports, public or private, within two miles of the project site and the site is not located within an airport land use area.

## LOS vs. VMT

Level of service (LOS) is a qualitative measure of traffic operating conditions, whereby a letter grade, from A to F is assigned, based on quantitative measurements of delay per vehicle. The grades represent the perspective of drivers and are an indication of the comfort and convenience associated with driving, as well as speed, travel time, traffic interruptions, and freedom to maneuver.

The LOS grades are generally defined as follows:

- LOS A represents free-flow travel with an excellent level of comfort, convenience, and freedom to maneuver;
- LOS B has stable operating conditions, but the presence of other road users causes a noticeable, though slight, reduction in comfort, convenience, and maneuvering freedom;
- LOS C has stable operating conditions, but the operation of individual users is substantially affected by the interaction with others in the traffic stream;
- LOS D represents high-density, but stable flow. Users experience severe restriction in speed and freedom to maneuver, with poor levels of comfort and convenience;
- LOS E represents operating conditions at or near capacity. Speeds are reduced to a low but relatively uniform value. Freedom to maneuver is difficult with users experiencing frustration and poor comfort and convenience. Unstable operation is frequent, and minor disturbances in traffic flow can cause breakdown conditions; and
- LOS F is used to define forced or breakdown conditions, wherein the volume of traffic exceeds the capacity of the roadway. Long queues can form behind bottleneck points with queued traffic traveling in a stop-and-go fashion.

On September 27, 2013, Governor Brown signed Senate Bill 743 (SB 743) and started a process intended to change transportation impact analysis as part of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance. These changes include the elimination of auto delay, level of service, and other similar measures of vehicle capacity or traffic congestion as a basis for determining significant impacts. The Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) has issued final guidance entitled Proposed Updates to the CEQA Guidelines (November 2017), covering the specific changes to the CEQA guidelines. The final guidance recommends elimination of auto delay and level of service for CEQA purposes and the use of Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as the preferred CEQA transportation metric. SB 743 goes into effect after the Natural Resources Agency adopts the new rules.

The updated CEQA Guidelines will apply prospectively only, and would not affect projects that have already commenced environmental review. Statewide application of the new section are not required until January 1, 2020, although public agencies could immediately apply the new Guidelines once adopted. The OPR developed technical advisory that contains recommendations regarding the assessment of VMT, thresholds of significance, and mitigation measures. However, lead agencies have the discretion to set or apply their own thresholds of significance. The technical advisory acknowledges that rural areas of non-MPO counties (i.e., areas not near established or incorporated cities or towns), fewer options may be available for reducing VMT and that significance thresholds may be best determined on a case-by-case basis.

Neither Calaveras County nor DPR have established significance thresholds for CEQA analysis on future projects under the criteria. Consequently, DPR has determined that it is appropriate to evaluate the cabin expansion project under the previous LOS standard.

The volume of traffic using the highway averages 2,575 vehicles per day, including heavy truck traffic (Calaveras Council of Governments, 2017). State Route 4 through CBTSP0 currently operates at an LOS C or better (Calaveras County, 2018). Unless otherwise posted, the maximum speed limit is 55 mph on a two-lane undivided highway and for vehicles towing trailers.

Access to the project site is via an existing unnamed road (commonly referred to as the Group Campground access road), located approximately 850 ’ east of the main park entrance road. Site distance is generally good in each direction. The road extends approximately 2000' feet as it winds its way up to the existing cabins and single-family staff home, before continuing up to the group campground where the road terminates. Road width varies between 16 ' and 18 ', with no shoulders. There are currently no trails or other pedestrian facilities connecting the Project area and the main area of the park south of SR 4.

The group camp will accommodate up to a maximum of 100 people with only tent camping permitted. However, the group camp only accommodates parking for 30 vehicles, which the District considers a limiting factor for the number of campers. Additionally, there are four existing rental cabins and one single-family manufactured home in the project vicinity. These existing uses generate an estimated 270 maximum daily vehicle trips at maximum occupancy (Sokolow, 2010).

## WOULD THE PROJECT:

## LESS THAN

a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment) would substantially increase hazards?
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decreast performance or safety of such facilities?

## DISCUSSION

a) As noted in the environmental Setting section above, the General Plan indicates that SR 4 through the project site currently operates at LOS C or better. The annual average daily trip rate is 2575 with 690 peak hour trips. The proposed project would remove the manufactured home and add 11 cabins as well as upgrade the current camp host site. The changes would result in the increase in the maximum potential daily vehicle trips to just over 300, an estimated maximum 25\% increase. This represents less than a $2 \%$ increase in the number of daily trips on SR 4 and less than $1 \%$ increase in peak hour trips. As such, the project is not expected to result in a reduction in the existing level of service. Less than signficant impact.
b) With a population less than 50,000 , Calaveras County does not meet the minimum population threshold for an urbanized area that would require the County to establish a Congestion Management Agency and to prepare a Congestion Management Program (Raney Planning \& Management, 2018). Therefore, SR 4 in Calaveras County is not subject to standards of a Congestion Management Program. Given that the County does not have a Congestion Management Program, no impact would result.
c) The proposed project would not result in changes in air traffic patterns or otherwise result in safety risks. No impact.
d) The geometric design of the highway remains unchanged. The intersection within the Caltrans right-of-way (ROW) has a stop sign with stop bar and legend and a break in the double yellow centerline striping. Sight distance is several hundred feet in both directions and the downhill direction has a large, 30 mph speed warning sign immediately uphill from the intersection. The current intersection configuration is the standard configuration for intersections as you head east. To the west of this location, turn pockets, acceleration, and deceleration lanes are more prevalent as those intersections are within the town of Arnold and serve the Big Trees State Park Visitor Center. Both are higher concentrations than the intersections heading east. Given the standard intersection configurations along the highway and current volume of traffic, the estimated additional vehicle trips per day as discussed in question a) above, do not substantially increase hazards at this location. Less than significant impact.
e) The project was designed to meet all State building and fire codes, and includes widening the access road serving the project from as narrow as $16^{\prime}$ in width, to $24^{\prime}$ in width that would include 2, 10’ lanes with $\mathbf{2}^{\prime}$ shoulders. Less than significant impact.
f) The project includes two accessible parking space for each cabin. No impact.
g) Alternative modes of transportation are currently relatively limited due to the dispersed and rural nature of existing development within the County. Approved/adopted policies, plans, and programs related to public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities are limited to the following:

- Calaveras County Short Range Transit Plan Update (approved January 2016);
- Calaveras County 2014 Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan (approved June 2014); and
- Murphys Circulation, Pedestrian, Bicycling, and Parking Study (adopted February 2002).

Construction of the Project would not conflict with any of the above planning documents. No impact.

## XVIII. Tribal Cultural Resources.

## Environmental Setting

California State Park is required to consult with Native American tribes regarding projects that may impact tribal cultural resources under PRC 21080.3.1(b)(d). Additionally, the department has requirements to consult tribes under E.O. W-26-92.

Under PRC 21074 tribal cultural resources are defined as sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, or objects with cultural value to a tribe. Important tribal cultural resources can include archaeological resources, but are not limited to them. Other places and landscapes can be considered tribal cultural resources. If tribal cultural resources are identified during consultation, the agency should evaluate them for the California Register of Historical Resources (PRC 21080.3.2(a)).

Calaveras Big Trees State Park is located in a zone of interaction between two larger tribal groups: the Sierra Mi-Wuk and the Washoe. Ethnographic accounts indicate that both groups used the area seasonally with the Mi-Wuk moving up from lower elevation in the Sierra Foothills and the Washoe coming over the Sierra Crest from the Great Basin. It is expected that many of the archaeological sites in the parks as well as other location may have significance as tribal cultural resources.

Previous project specific consultation at the park has been conducted with the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, and the Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk Indians. Neither tribe has previously request formal consultation under PRC 21080.3 .1 or identified any tribal cultural resources as defined under PRC 21074. However, both tribes are actively involved in the park and have commented on and monitored projects.

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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| a) 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: | $\square$ | $\square$ | $\square$ | ® |
| i. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or | $\square$ | $\square$ | $\square$ | $\boxtimes$ |

ii. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

## DISCUSSION

a) A tribal contact list for this project was obtained from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in August of 2017. Tribes were notified of the project as asked to comment by letter, which was followed up with a phone call. One tribe responded: the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California. Darrel Cruz, the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), requested a copy of the archaeological survey report for the project (Kimsey 2018 See Appendix E). This report was provided along with summary of its negative findings. Mr. Cruz acknowledged that he received the report and said he had no further comments or requests except to be notified of inadvertent discoveries during construction.

No tribal cultural resources have been identified within the project area, so no impact will occur. Standard project measure regarding inadvertent finds of cultural resources or human remains during project implementation in CULT-1 and CULT-2 will ensure no impact occurs to tribal cultural rescues.

## XIX. Utilities And Service Systems.

## Environmental Setting

Calaveras Big Trees State Park is served by several public utilities, with internal collection and distribution systems generally owned and/or maintained by park maintenance staff. Pacific Gas and Electric Company provides electricity to the park; any one of several local mobile distribution companies delivers propane gas to various-sized domestic tanks; and AT\&T provides commercial telecommunications. A local waste management company provides solid waste disposal services. Most potable water is supplied to the park by the Calaveras County Water District (CCWD).

## Water

CCWD's service area includes all of Calaveras County, but the agency is separate from the Calaveras County government. CCWD is the largest public water purveyor in the County in terms of service area; number of customers served, and amount of water delivered. Combined, CCWD provides water and/or wastewater service through 17,000 water and wastewater connections within the County.

CBTSP is located within the Ebbetts Pass service area, which is in the southeast sub-region of the County and covers the State Route (SR) 4 corridor from Avery to Arnold. The Ebbetts Pass improvement district was formed on January 28, 1964 to provide water and wastewater services. The system includes six wholesale connections in addition to approximately 6,000 retail connections. The Ebbetts Pass area has been a second home destination for many of the homeowners. However, trends indicate that year-round residency is increasing, exerting a larger demand for water supply and creating larger volumes of wastewater to discharge. CCWD incorporated these trends in recent updates to facilities plans in the service area and modifications to water management strategies are ongoing as necessary to meet the needs of the changing demographics.

The system receives water from North Fork Stanislaus River through the Collierville Tunnel. The existing Hunters Lake Water Treatment Plant capacity is 4.0 million gallons day (mgd). Within CBTSP, water is pumped to a 100,000 -gallon concrete reservoir near the group campground west of Highway 4 and then distributed by gravity flow to park facilities including the main visitor areas south of SR 4. Water for the proposed cabins will come from this source.

## Sewer

Wastewater currently generated on the project site is disposed of via on-site sewage disposal systems. There are currently two operating septic/leach field systems in the project area; one serving the four existing cabins and a separate system serving only the existing mobile home. The project includes abandoning the existing system serving the mobile home and construction and installation of a new system (adjacent to the existing remaining system) that will have sufficient capacity to serve all of the eleven new cabins and the camp host site based upon the maximum occupancy.

## Propane Gas

The existing cabins and the mobile home are currently individual served by separate 500-gallon propane tanks. The proposed project entails includes provisions for two new common propane tanks for each cluster of cabins.

## WOULD THE PROJECT:

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| MITIGATION | $\frac{\text { LESS THAN }}{\text { SIGNIFICANT }}$ |  |

NO IMPACT
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, or wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?
c) Result in a determination by the 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?
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

## DISCUSSION

a) The project scope includes will require the installation of an additional leach field to service the proposed new cabins. Less than significant impact.
b) As noted in the Environmental Setting above, CCWD provides potable water supply to the project site, via a 100,000-gallon water tank near the group camp. Existing entitlement is
sufficient to accommodate construction needs and the modest increase in water usage anticipated once the cabins are operational. Less than significant impact.
c) DPR owns and operates its own wastewater disposal system, which includes a 20,000-gallon septic tank; leach field, spray field, and distribution mains from core-area buildings and the North Grove Campground. The proposed new cabins will be serviced by a new leach field installed to handle the expanded number of cabins. No impact.
d) The proposed project would not significantly increase the park's waste generation or solid waste disposal needs; therefore, this project would have a less than significant impact.
e) Waste generated by the project will be stored in appropriate receptacles and removed daily or as needed. No impact.

## XX. WildFire.

## Environmental Setting

The project site is located in Calaveras County on the north side of State Route 4, approximately 80 miles east of Stockton, on the western slope of the central Sierra Nevada mountain range. The nearest community is the town of Arnold, located three miles southwest of the park entrance on Highway 4. Park elevations range from 3400 feet to 5500 feet above sea level while the project site itself is located on a southwest-facing ridgetop at approximately 4850' in elevation. The primary vegetation community consists of mixed-coniferous forest and the predominant surface wind-flow pattern for Calaveras County during the summer months (July - August) and the fall months (September - November) is from the west (State of California Air Resources Board, 1994). The project site contains four existing cabins and a mobile home in addition to several out buildings.

The project would result in the removal of the existing mobile home and subsequent expansion of the cabin area by an additional eleven units, plus a camp host site. The project also incorporates fire protection measures including widening the existing road to two complete lanes plus shoulders, improving the existing water supply and installing new hydrants in the vicinity of the existing cabins. Additionally, each cabin will have sprinkler systems incorporated for increased safety.

CBTSP is located within a state responsibility area and CDF classifies it as being located within a very high, fire hazard severity zone (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, 2007). The nearest Cal Fire Station is located in Arnold, approximately 5 miles from the park.

The Calaveras County's Emergency Operations Plan addresses the planned response to extraordinary emergency situations associated with natural disasters, technological incidents, and national security emergencies in or affecting the County of Calaveras. The plan:

- Establishes a flexible, all hazards, emergency management organization required to facilitate the response to, and provide for short-term recovery activities related to any significant emergency or disaster affecting Calaveras County.
- Identifies the policies, responsibilities and procedures required to protect the health and safety of Calaveras County communities, public and private property and the environmental effects of natural and technological emergencies and disasters.
- Establishes the operational concepts and procedures associated with Initial Response Operations (field response) to emergencies, the Extended Response Operations (County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activities) and the recovery process (Calaveras County Office of Emergency Services, 2011).

Over 100 million trees have died throughout the state and more continue to die due to many years of drought that have weakened the trees and left millions of acres of forestland susceptible to insect attacks. The drought stress is exacerbated in forests with too many trees competing for limited resources, especially water. CDF expects tree losses due to drought stress and bark beetle attacks to increase for the foreseeable future given the expected rate of climate change.

On October 30, 2015, Governor Brown issued an emergency proclamation that established the California Tree Mortality Task Force (TMTF) and on September 1, 2017, issued Executive Order B-42-17 to bolster the state's response to the unprecedented tree die-off. One goal of the task force was to identify and map areas of tree mortality that pose the greatest potential of harm to people and property. These areas, known as High Hazard Zones, are the areas prioritized for tree removal. The mapping identified the project area as having tree mortality of between 5-40 dead trees per acre (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, 2017).

Tree surveys for the project site were conducted in Sep 2015 and 2017, and during a subsequent January 2018 field evaluation, found that 65 trees ( $17 \%$ of the 380 total surveyed) designated for removal were either dead, had dead limbs, or were otherwise determined to be unhealthy. A January 2019 evaluation revealed this number had risen to 121 trees ( $32 \%$ of the 380 total). This represents an infestation rate of approximately 1.4 trees / month over a period of approximately 40 months. The project incorporates removal of these trees, consistent with the Executive Order.

CBTSP has a park evacuation or emergency response plan (Martin, 2019) and Calaveras County Office of Emergency Services does maintain the Emergency Operations Plan.

## WOULD THE PROJECT:

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MITIGATION


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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?

## DISCUSSION

a) As noted in Environmental Setting Section above, the project entails increasing the number of cabins from four units (and a mobile home), to a total of 15 cabins and a camp host site. While it may bring a nominal increase in visitors to the area, it will not impair implementation
of any response to emergencies. As such, impacts on emergency response will be less than significant.
b) The changing climate has made the Sierra Nevada mountain range increasingly susceptible to wildland fires. Any increase in the number of accommodations at CBTSP could potentially result in an increase in the number of people at risk for wildland fires or higher pollution concentrations if wildland fires occur in the vicinity during their visitation. The project incorporates various life safety improvements including widening the access road to two lanes, improving the water system and installing new hydrants, and incorporating sprinkler systems into the cabins. When wildland fires do occur in state park units, visitor facilities and entire park units are closed to the public when a risk to public safety occurs, including from increased pollutant concentrations. As such, impacts would remain less than significant.
c) As noted above, the project does entail the installation of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines and other utilities). However, all new electrical installed for the project will be underground, minimizing the potential for downed trees and limbs to ignite wildland fires. As such, impacts from infrastructure construction on fire risks will be less than significant.
d) Given the setting of the project site along a ridgeline, and the project design, which incorporates California Building Code 7A fire protection measures, fuels reduction and appropriate BMPs, the project would not expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes. Less than significant impact.

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## CHAPTER 4 - MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE


#### Abstract

Would the project: 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 selfsustaining 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?




LES S THAN

## SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

## DISCUSSION

a) As discussed in Section IV above, all potential biological related impacts would be less than significant with implementation of the biological resources project requirements. As identified in Section V above, no known historically sensitive sites or structures, paleontological resources, sites or unique geological features have been identified within the project site. In the event archaeological artifacts are found, a standard condition of approval would be incorporated into the project to stop work, until the resource could be evaluated. Impacts would be less than significant with the incorporation of the biological resources project requirements and standard condition of approval related to cultural resources. Less than significant impact.
b) The project does not have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. Potential air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, hydrology, and traffic impacts are discussed in the respective sections above. The project would not increase the demands for public services, increase traffic and air pollutions, or contribute to cumulative effects when future development in Calaveras County is considered. Less than significant impact.
c) All impacts identified in this ND are less than significant with project requirements and do not require mitigation. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in environmental effects that cause substantial adverse effects on human being either directly or indirectly. Impacts would be less than significant.

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# CHAPTER 6 - REPORT PREPARATION 

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Dan Osanna, Environmental Program Manager

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Appendix A
Project Development Plans

















(A) SECTION A

A SECTION B


PLAN
$\frac{\text { CLEARING \& GRUBBING: }}{1}$ GRUBBING SHALINC
WOOD FINISH:
NOTES

MATCH EXIST.
GRADE Min

2. EXP ANSION (WEDGE ANCHORS SHALL HAVE A MINMUM OF 1/2" DIA, MIN. EMBEDMENT SHALL BE 3". EXPANSION

 JOIST HANGERS:
 STEEL
JIITT TO BEAM CONNECTIN:

1. EACH JIITT SHALEEATATACHED TO THE BEAM WITH MECHANICAL FASTENERS THAT ARE GALVANIZED WITH 1.85 OZ/sF
RIM JOIST REQUIREMENTS

BULLT-UP BEAM REQUIREMENTS:
2. BULIT UP BEAMS SAALL BE NALL
POST-TO-BEAM REQUIREMENTS:

Footings: 1 ALL Footings shall bear on solid ground. bearing conditions shall be verfiled in the fill prior to



NALLS AND SCREWS:

1. GRUBBINGSHALL INCLUDE REMOVING ALL ABOVE AND BELOW-SURFACE VEGETATION.
2. CLEARNG SHAL INCLUE CUTTNG ALL ABOVE GROUND VEGETATION TO SURFACE LEVEL ONLY, AND NO
BELOWSUURFACE VEGETATION REMOVAL
3. PROCIDEA BAAE INTERMEDATE AND TOP COAT OF CLEAR OR SEM-TRANSPARENT ALKYD TYPE COATING FOR WOOD
 3. APD GREASCO ADING TO MANUFACTURER'S WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MPI MANUAL. 4. APPLY TT PRODUCE SUREAC FLIMS WITHOUUT CLOUDINESS, SPOTTING, LAPS,BRUSH MARKS, ROLLER TRACKING, RUNS,
SAGS ANO OTHER SURFACE IMPERFECTIONS.


PROJECT ADDRESS
1170 CA-4, Arnold, CA 95223


CABII: 390 S.F.
(1) $\frac{\text { FLOOR PLAN }}{\text { SCALE@ } 22 \times 34} 114^{\prime \prime}=$
$\stackrel{\text { FLOOR PLAN }}{\text { SCALE } 2234 ~} 1 / 4^{4}=1$
CABN: 300 S.F.
${ }_{w} \overbrace{\square}^{N}$

## SHEET NOTES

1. ALL FLOORING, EXCEPT IN BATHROOM, SHALL BE FORBO MARMOLEUM SHEET


2. KITCHEN COUNTER SHALL HAVE STAINLESS STEEL SINK AND RANGE TOP. RANGE HOOD SHALL BE INTEGRATED INTO UPPER CABINETS.
WALSS SHALL BE PRIMED AND PAINTED GYPSUM BOARD.
3. WALLS SHALL BE PRIMED AND PAINTED GYPSUM BOARD.
4. INTERIOR DOORS SHALL BE STAINED


THIS RECREATIONAL DWELLING SHALL BE ENGINEERED TO WITHSTAND SNOW LOADS AND SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT SEISMIC FACTORS.

_36" X 84" SINGLE LTE DOOR - TYP.
(2) ELEVATION - SOUTH

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3 ELEVATION - WEST
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(5) $\frac{\text { ELEVATION - EAST }}{\text { SCALE@22X34 } 1 / 4^{4}=1^{\prime}-0^{\prime \prime}}$

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--- of XXX


WRNG DEVICESTMBOLS

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NEMA RECCPTCLETYERECEPTAC
SIINGLE POLE SWITCH
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DOWN-LIGHT FIXTURE AND OUTLET BOX

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- AREA LIGHTING POLE WITH FIXTURE(S)
emergency battery unit
- EXIT SIIN: WALL MOUNTED; ARROWS AND FACES
${ }^{\otimes}$ EXIT SIGN; CELLNG MOUNTED; ARROWS AND
- Ground mounted uplight
(A) counine

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ALLS IN FINSHED AREAS OR EXPOSED IN UNFINSHED

-     -         - Conduit installed below finished floor or below
indicates conduit turning up
ALEXILLE CONDUTT WITH SINGLE POINT OF CONNECTION
AT ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT
 CONDUCTORS TO CIRCUIT OVER CURRENT PROTECTVE
DEVICE

GENERAL NOTES:
 WORK UNDER THIS CONTRACT.


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sYstems.
AND ARE RLCAL DRAWINGS ARE DIAGRAMMATIC ONLY


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BID. OBSERVE CONDTIONS RELATING TO WORK AND



ONCE WORK IS COMMENCED, CONTRACTOR SHAL
A wors sha mexecutiona

10. INSTALLATION OF ALL ELECTRICAL EOUPMENT AND
RACEWAYS SHALL BE CAREFULY COORDINATED WITH RACENAS SHALLBE CAREFULLY COORDIN
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INTERERENCE PROBLEMS.

1. PROVIDE SUFFICIENT ACCESS AND WORKING
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2. PROVID ACCESS AND ENTRANCES TO WORKING SPACE
3. ALL POWER AND CONTRO Wiring indctit ong ing LINE AND SCHEMATC DALWNGS SHALL BE FURNIIHED
AND INTALLED AS PART OF THI CONTRETWHED OR NOT THIS WIRNG IS SHOWN ON PLANS WHERE
WIRING IS NOT SHOW
4. COORDDNTE AND VERIIY Y REQUIREMENTS OF ALL
EQUPMENT PRIOR TO INSTALLING WIRING.
5. IN FIRE RATED SEPARATIONS, ADDITIONAL ENCLOSURES
6. MAKE ALL FINAL ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS TO ALL

THIS SHAAL NCLUDE BUT NOT TE LLMTED TO THE


ACQUISITION \&
EEVELOPMENT DIVIIION One Capitol Mall
Sacaramento
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Appendix B
LANDSCAPE SITE PlANS













## SENSITIVE SpECIES LIST

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF

| Erythronium tuolumnense | Tuolumne fawn lify | Monocots | PMLILOUOHO | 35 | 4 | None | None | G2G3 | S2S3 | 18.2 | BLM_S-Sensitive, SB_RSABGRancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, USFS_S-Sensitive | Broadieaved upland forest, Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Lower montane coniferous forest |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Euderma maculatum | spotted bat | Mammals | AMACC07010 | 68 | 2 | None | None | G4 | S3 | null | BLM_S-Sensitive, CDFW_SSCSpecies of Special Concern, UCN_LC-Least Concern, WBWG_H-High Priority | null |
| Horkelia parryi | Parry's horkelia | Dicots | PDROSOWOCO | 44 | 1 | None | None | G2 | S2 | 18.2 | BLM_S-Sensitive, USFS̄_S-Sensitive | Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Ione formation |
| Lomatium stebbinsii | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Stebbins' } \\ & \text { lomatium } \end{aligned}$ | Dicots | PDAPI1B1V0 | 91 | 18 | None | None | G2 | S2 | 1 B .1 | USFS_S-Sensitive | Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest |
| Margaritifera falcata | western pearlshell | Mollusks | IMBIV27020 | 78 | 1 | None | None | G4G5 | S1S2 | null | null | Aquatic |
| Pandion haliaetus | osprey | Birds | ABNKC01010 | 500 | 1 | None | None | G5 | S4 | null | CDF_S-Sensitive, CDFW_WLWatch List, IUCN_LC-Least Concern | Riparian forest |
| Peltigera gowardii | western waterfan lichen | Lichens | NLVER00460 | 26 | 1 | None | None | G3G̣4 | S3 | 4.2 | USFS_S-Sensitive | Riparian forest |
| Rana boylii | foothill yellowlegged frog | Amphibians | AAABH01050 | 2411 | 13 | None | Candidate Threatened | G3 | S3 | null | BLM_S-Sensitive, CDFW_SSCSpecies of Special Concern, IUCN_NT-Near Threatened, USFS_S-Sensitive | Aquatic, Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Coastal scrub, Klamath/North coast flowing waters, Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadow \& seep, Riparian forest, Riparian woodland, Sacramento/San Joaquin flowing waters |
| Rana sierrae | Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog | Amphibians | AAABH01340 | 659 | 3 | Endangered | Threatened | G1 | S1 | null | CDFW_WL-Watch List, IUCN_EN-Endangered, USFS_S-Sensitive | Aquatic |
| Strix nebulosa | great gray owl | Birds | ABNSB12040 | 79 | 1 | None | Endangered | G5 | S1 | null | CDF_S-Sensitive, IUCN_LC- <br> Least Concern, <br> USFS_S-Sensitive | Lower montane coniferous forest, Oldgrowth, Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest |



## Plant List

22 matches found. Click on scientific name for details

|  |  | Search Criteria |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Found in Quads 3812033, 38120323812022 and 3812023; |  |  | Display Photos |  |  |
| Q Modify Search Criteria |  | 20. Export to Excel | ๑ Modify Columns | 2+ Modify Sort |  |  |  |
| Scientific Name | Common Name | Family | Lifeform | Blooming Period | CA Rare <br> Plant <br> Rank | State Rank | Global Rank |
| Allium tribracteatum | three-bracted onion | Alliaceae | perennial bulbiferous herb | Apr-Aug | 1B. 2 | S2 | G2 |
| Bolandra californica | Sierra bolandra | Saxifragaceae | perennial herb | Jun-Jul | 4.3 | S4 | G4 |
| Botrychium crenulatum | scalloped moonwort | Ophioglossaceae | perennial rhizomatous herb | Jun-Sep | 2B. 2 | S3 | G4 |
| Botrychium minganense | Mingan moonwort | Ophioglossaceae | perennial rhizomatous herb | Jul-Sep | 2B. 2 | S3 | G4G5 |
| Botrychium montanum | western goblin | Ophioglossaceae | perennial rhizomatous herb | Jul-Sep | 2B. 1 | S2 | G3 |


| Calochortus clavatus var. avius | Pleasant Valley mariposa lily | Liliaceae | perennial bulbiferous herb | May-Jul | 1B. 2 | S2 | G4T2 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Carex davyi | Davy's sedge | Cyperaceae | perennial herb | May-Aug | 1B. 3 | S3 | G3 |
| Ceanothus fresnensis | Fresno ceanothus | Rhamnaceae | perennial evergreen shrub | May-Jul | 4.3 | S4 | G4 |
| Chlorogalum grandiflorum | Red Hills soaproot | Agavaceae | perennial bulbiferous herb | May-Jun | 1B. 2 | S3 | G3 |
| Clarkia australis | Small's southern clarkia | Onagraceae | annual herb | May-Aug | 1B. 2 | S2 | G2 |
| Clarkia biloba ssp. australis | Mariposa clarkia | Onagraceae | annual herb | Apr-Jul | 1B. 2 | S3 | G4G5T3 |
| Clarkia virgata | Sierra clarkia | Onagraceae | annual herb | May-Aug | 4.3 | S3 | G3 |
| Claytonia parviflora ssp. grandiflora | streambank spring beauty | Montiaceae | annual herb | Feb-May | 4.2 | S3 | G5T3 |
| Claytonia umbellata | Great Basin claytonia | Montiaceae | perennial herb | May-Aug | 2B. 3 | S1 | G4 |
| Diplacus pulchellus | yellow-lip pansy monkeyflower | Phrymaceae | annual herb | Apr-Jul | 1B. 2 | S2 | G2 |


| Erythronium tuolumnense | Tuolumne fawn lily | Liliaceae | perennial bulbiferous herb | Mar-Jun | 1B. 2 | S2S3 | G2G3 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Horkelia parryi | Parry's horkelia | Rosaceae | perennial herb | Apr-Sep | 1B. 2 | S2 | G2 |
| Iris hartwegii ssp. columbiana | Tuolumne iris | Iridaceae | perennial rhizomatous herb | May-Jun | 1B. 2 | S1 | G4T1 |
| Lilium humboldtii ssp. humboldtii | Humboldt lily | Liliaceae | perennial bulbiferous herb | MayJul(Aug) | 4.2 | S3 | G4T3 |
| Lomatium stebbinsii | Stebbins' lomatium | Apiaceae | perennial herb | Mar-May | 1B. 1 | S2 | G2 |
| Peltigera gowardii | western waterfan lichen | Peltigeraceae | foliose lichen (aquatic) |  | 4.2 | S3 | G3G4 |
| Piperia colemanii | Coleman's rein orchid | Orchidaceae | perennial herb | Jun-Aug | 4.3 | S4 | G4 |

## Suggested Citation

California Native Plant Society, Rare Plant Program. 2019. Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (online edition, v8-03 0.39). Website http://www.rareplants.cnps.org [accessed 19 August 2019].

## IPaC resource list

This report is an automatically generated list of species and other resources such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as trust resources) under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the project area referenced below. The list may also include trust resources that occur outside of the project area, but that could potentially be directly or indirectly affected by activities in the project area. However, determining the likelihood and extent of effects a project may have on trust resources typically requires gathering additional site-specific (e.g., vegetation/species surveys) and project-specific (e.g., magnitude and timing of proposed activities) information.

Below is a summary of the project information you provided and contact information for the USFWS office(s) with jurisdiction in the defined project area. Please read the introduction to each section that follows (Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, USFWS Facilities, and NWI Wetlands) for additional information applicable to the trust resources addressed in that section.

## Location

Calaveras County, California


## Local office

Sacramento Fish And Wildlife Office
C (916) 414-6600
㷁 (916) 414-6713
Federal Building
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605
Sacramento, CA 95825-1846

## Endangered species

This resource list is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an analysis of project level impacts.

The primary information used to generate this list is the known or expected range of each species. Additional areas of influence (AOI) for species are also considered. An AOI includes areas outside of the species range if the species could be indirectly affected by activities in that area (e.g., placing a dam upstream of a fish population, even if that fish does not occur at the dam site, may indirectly impact the species by reducing or eliminating water flow downstream). Because species can move, and site conditions can change, the species on this list are not guaranteed to be found on or near the project area. To fully determine any potential effects to species, additional site-specific and project-specific information is often required.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act requires Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency. A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can only be obtained by requesting an official species list from either the Regulatory Review section in IPaC (see directions below) or from the local field office directly.

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list by doing the following:

1. Draw the project location and click CONTINUE.
2. Click DEFINE PROJECT.
3. Log in (if directed to do so).
4. Provide a name and description for your project.
5. Click REQUEST SPECIES LIST.

Listed species ${ }^{1}$ and their critical habitats are managed by the Ecological Services Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries²).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are not shown on this list. Please contact NOAA Fisheries for species under their jurisdiction.

1. Species listed under the Endangered Species Act are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the listing status page for more information.
2. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

## Mammals

## Amphibians <br> NAME

STATUS

# California Red-legged Frog Rana draytonii <br> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. 

Threatened
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2891

Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frog Rana sierrae
There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9529

## Fishes

NAME
Delta Smelt Hypomesus transpacificus
There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/321

Endangered

## STATUS

Threatened

## Critical habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS AT THIS LOCATION.

## Migratory birds

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act ${ }^{1}$ and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act ${ }^{2}$.

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described below.

## 1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.

2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Birds of Conservation Concern http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/ birds-of-conservation-concern.php
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/project-assessment-tools-and-guidance/ conservation-measures.php
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/management/nationwidestandardconservationmeasures.pdf

The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) list or warrant special attention in your project location. To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this list is generated, see the FAQ below. This is not a list of every bird you may find in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have sighted birds in and around your project area, visit the E-bird data mapping tool (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur off the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found below.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.


Cassin's Finch Carpodacus cassinii
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9462

Breeds May 15 to Jul 15

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9408

Olive-sided Flycatcher Contopus cooperi<br>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3914

Rufous Hummingbird selasphorus rufus
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8002

Williamson's Sapsucker Sphyrapicus thyroideus
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8832

## Probability of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read and understand the FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

## Probability of Presence ( $)$

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10 km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 124 -week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25 .
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05 , and that the probability of presence at week $12(0.25)$ is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is $0.25 / 0.25=1$; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10 , inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

## Breeding Season ( )

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

## Survey Effort (I)

Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10 km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

## No Data (-)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

## Survey Timeframe

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.
 BCC Rangewide (CON) (This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.)

Olive-sided
Flycatcher BCC Rangewide (CON) (This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.)

Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.
Nationwide Conservation Measures describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. Additional measures and/or permits may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

## What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10 km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (Eagle Act requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the AKN PhenologyTool.

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). This data is derived from a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets.

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering, migrating or present year-round in my project area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may refer to the following resources: The Cornell Lab of Ornithology All About Birds Bird Guide, or (if you are unsuccessful in locating the bird of interest there), the Cornell Lab of Ornithology Neotropical Birds guide. If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

## What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the Eagle Act requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

## Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the Northeast Ocean Data Portal. The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf project webpage

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the Diving Bird Study and the nanotag studies or contact Caleb Spiegel or Pam Loring.

## What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to obtain a permit to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

## Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated, and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please also look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal bar). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to
confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds" at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.

## Facilities

## National Wildlife Refuge lands

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the National Wildlife Refuge system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS AT THIS LOCATION.

## Fish hatcheries

THERE ARE NO FISH HATCHERIES AT THIS LOCATION.

## Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory

Impacts to NWI wetlands and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District.
there are no known wethands at this location.

## Data limitations

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

## Data exclusions

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tuberficid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

## Data precautions

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT 

STATE PARK DISTRICT: Central Valley
STATE PARK SYSTEM UNIT: Calaveras Big Trees
NAME OF PROJECTI PCA No.: Rev Gen Cabins/37213
USGS QUADRANGLE: Dorrington
COUNTY: Calaveras
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This project would construct six (maybe more) new cabins at Calaveras Big Trees State Park. Additional work would include new utilities, and a new leach field. The project is still not fully designed and may change. The APE was expanded to a large enough size to accommodate all potential impacts.

RECORDS SEARCH CONDUCTED AT: A full park record search was conducted by the Central California Information Center (CCIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) on June $2^{\text {nd }}, 2017$ (\#10319J/O). Site records and GIS shapefiles for all resources within the park boundaries were obtained. This data, along with records and reports on file at the Northern Service Center in Sacramento, was used to conduct a record search of the APE to identify any previously recorded cultural resources.

## RECORDS SEARCH RESULTS:

The main comprehensive inventory of the park was completed in 1986 (McAleer et al. 1986). Subsequent project related studies have been conducted at the park including significant research culminating in data recovery at the prehistoric site CA-CAL-277 $1 / 4$ mile south of the APE (Wohlgemuth et al. 2017).

The record search did not identify any previously recorded cultural resources within the APE. The closest resource is the Ebbetts Pass Road (HWY-4, CHL \#318, P-05-3552) which is directly adjacent to the APE, but will not be impacted by the project. See the attached record search map for details.

CCC era fire rings, picnic tables, and diablo stoves are present in the group picnic area within the APE. These will not be impacted by the project and will be addressed in the Historian 5024 review.

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF PROJECT AREA (S): 20 ACRES SURVEYED: 20
DATE(S) SURVEY CONDUCTED: Pedestrian Survey 10/11/17. Geotech Monitoring 1/11/18
PERSONS PRESENT DURING SURVEY: Pedestrian Survey: Chris Kimsey, Daniel Jackson, Mel Fukui. Geo Tech Monitoring: Chris Kimsey

SURVEY METHODSI STRATEGY: The entire APE was surveyed with 15 meter transects.
SURVEY RESULTS: No cultural resources were identified within the APE during the survey. The APE is characterized by a southwest sloping ridge. The area is forest and ground visibility was obscured to some extent by forest duff. Soil was periodically exposed by scraping along the transects. The areas around the existing cabins had more extensive ground visibility. Here the landscape has been modified by leveling and grading for previous construction. Geotech monitoring for the placement of the leach field revealed colluvial soils overlaying weathering volcanic cobble alluvium (Mapped as Pliocene Volcanic).

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT

RECOMMENDATIONS: The project areas contains no archaeological resources and has low potential for buried resources within the construction area. No further studies or measures are required

REMARKS: Native American consultation was conducted for this project. An NAHC list was obtained and four tribes were notified of the project via letter and a follow up phone call. Only one tribe responded with comment. Darrel Cruz the THPO of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California requested a copy of any archaeological survey report completed for the project. A copy of this report was provided and he had no further comment. Letters and correspondence are attached to this report.

REPORT PREPARED BY: Chris Kimsey
Title: Archaeological Survey Report for the Calaveras Big Trees Cabin Project
Date: 8/30/2018

## REFERENCES:

McAleer, John, John Kelly, Bonnie Porter, Joe Hood
1986 Calaveras Big Trees State Park Inventory of Features: Cultural Resources
Wohlgemuth, Eric, Angela Younie, and Adrian Whitaker
2017 Updating Central Sierra Nevada Prehistory: A View from the Lower Montane Forest. Data Recovery Excavations at CA-CAL-277/H, Calaveras Big Trees State Park, Calaveras County, California

ATTACHMENTS: Record Search Results/Survey Coverage/Monitoring Log/NA Consultation
DISTRIBUTION: Norther Service Center/UDF



# State of California－The Resource Agency <br> <br> DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION 

 <br> <br> DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION}

DAILY ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

DATE：1／11／17
MONITOR（S）：Chris Kimsey
END TIME： 3 pm
START TIME：9am on site
POSITION（TITLE）：Associate State Archaeologist
PHONE NO．：916－445－8104
ADDRESS：One Capital Mall，Ste． 410 Sacramento，CA 95814

## PARK UNIT：Calaveras Big Trees

PARK DISTRICT：Central Valley
PROJECT NAME：RevGen Cabins
PROJECT DESCRIPTION：Geotechnical testing for proposed leach field．Two test trenches（8＇x2＇x5＇），and six percolation test locations were excavated（ 2 ＇x2＇x4＇）．Testing was done along both sides of the access road to the group camp，south of the camp itself（see attached map）．The testing was conducted on both sides of the access road to the water tank in between the existing cabins and the group campground／picnic area

Equipment Used：$\square$ grader 区 backhoe $\boldsymbol{\otimes}$ auger／borer $\square$ other：
Is the Project Located in or near a known archaeological site（s）？$\square$ YES $\mathbb{X}$ NO；

Monitoring Methodology：DPR archaeologist observed excavation and observed soils

## Description of Soil Disturbances：None

Soil Observations：区Non－midden $\square$ Possible Midden $\square$ Midden
Soil Stratigraphy ：Five soils strata were observed：
IV（0－6＂）：Forest Duff
III（6＂－2＇）：Clayey Sand／with gravel．Colluvium，reddish
II（2＇－4＇）：Weathered Murton yellower than above strata
I（4’＋）：Murton cobble（andesitic volcanic alluvium）

No artifacts we observed in any of the test pits or trenches

## Artifacts Discovered：$\square$ YES 区 NO

Photographs（List subjects，directions of view，and accession numbers or attach a Photographic Record）：
Camera type：Originals Media／Negatives Kept at：
See below

## Attachments：

$\boxtimes$ Sketch Map $\square$ Stratigraphic Profile（s）$\square$ Artifacts Sketch（es）凹 Photos $\square$ Other：


Trench 1



## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

1550 Harbor Blvd., Sulte 100
West Sacramento, CA 95691
(916) 373-3710
(916) 373-5471 FAX

August 18, 2017
Daniel Jackson
California Department of Parks and Recreation
Sent by Email: Daniel.jackson@parks.ca.gov Number of Pages: 3

RE: Calaveras Big Trees Cabin Project, Calaveras County

Dear Mr. Jackson:

Attached is a consultation list of tribes with traditional lands or cultural places located within the boundaries of the above referenced counties. Please note that the intent above reference codes is to avoid and or mitigate impacts to tribal cultural resources, as defined, for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) projects.

As of July 1, 2015, Public Resources Code Sections 21080.3 .1 and 21080.3.2 require public agencies to consult with California Native American tribes identified by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for the purpose mitigating impacts to tribal cultural resources:

Within 14 days of determining that an application for a project is complete or a decision by a public agency to undertake a project, the lead agency shall provide formal notification to the designated contact of, or a tribal representative of, traditionally and culturally affiliated California Native American tribes that have requested notice, which shall be accomplished by means of at least one written notification that includes a brief description of the proposed project and its location, the lead agency contact information, and a notification that the California Native American tribe has 30 days to request consultation pursuant to this section. (Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1(d))

The law does not preclude agencies from initiating consultation with the tribes that are culturally and traditionally affiliated with their jurisdictions. The NAHC believes that in fact that this is the best practice to ensure that tribes are consulted commensurate with the intent of the law.

In accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1(d), formal notification must include a brief description of the proposed project and its location, the lead agency contact information, and a notification that the California Native American tribe has 30 days to request consultation. The NAHC believes that agencies should also include with their notification letters information regarding any cultural resources assessment that has been completed on the APE, such as:

1. The results of any record search that may have been conducted at an Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), including, but not limited to:

- A listing of any and all known cultural resources have already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE;
- Copies of any and all cultural resource records and study reports that may have been provided by the Information Center as part of the records search response;
- If the probability is low, moderate, or high that cultural resources are located in the APE.
- Whether the records search indicates a low, moderate or high probability that unrecorded cultural resources are located in the potential APE; and
- If a survey is recommended by the Information Center to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.

2. The results of any archaeological inventory survey that was conducted, including:

- Any report that may contain site forms, site significance, and suggested mitigation measures.

All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for pubic disclosure in accordance with Government Code Section 6254.10.
3. The results of any Sacred Lands File (SFL) check conducted through Native American Heritage Commission. A search of the SFL was completed for the USGS quadrangle information provided with negative results.
4. Any ethnographic studies conducted for any area including all or part of the potential APE; and
5. Any geotechnical reports regarding all or part of the potential APE.

Lead agencies should be aware that records maintained by the NAHC and CHRIS is not exhaustive, and a negative response to these searches does not preclude the existence of a cultural place. A tribe may be the only source of information regarding the existence of a tribal cultural resource.

This information will aid tribes in determining whether to request formal consultation. In the case that they do, having the information beforehand well help to facilitate the consultation process.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify me. With your assistance we are able to assure that our consultation list contains current information.

If you have any questions, please contact me at my email address: Sharaya.souza@nahc.ca.gov
Sincerely,


Sharaya Souza
Staff Services Analyst

## Native American Heritage Commission Native American Contacts 8/18/2017

Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk Indians
Charles Wilson, Chairperson 546 Bald Mountain Road Mi-Wuk West Point , CA 95255 (209) 293-2189
Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
Darrel Cruz, Cultural Resources Department, THPO
919 Highway 395 South Washoe
Gardnerville, NV 89410
darrel.cruz@watshoetribe.us
(775) $782-0014$
(775) $546-3421$ Cell

Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California Darrel Cruz, Cultural Resources Department, THPO 919 Highway 395 South Washoe Gardnerville , NV 89410 darrel.cruz@watshoetribe.us
(775) 782-0014
(775) 546-3421 Cell

Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk Indians Debra Grimes, Cultural Res. Specialist P.O. Box 1015 Mi-Wuk West Point , CA 95255 Miwok Calaverasmiwukpreservation@gmail. (209) 470-8688<br>California Valley Miwok Tribe 4620 Shippee Lane Miwok Stockton , CA 95212<br>CalaverasMiwukPreservation<br>(209) 931-4567 Office<br>(209) 931-4333 Fax

lone Band of Miwok Indians
Crystal Martinez-Alire, Chairperson
P.O. Box 699 Miwok

Plymouth , CA 95669
crystal@ionemiwok.net
(209) 245-5800 Office
(209) 245-3112 Fax

Ione Band of Miwok Indians
Randy Yonemura, Cultural Committee Chair
P.O. BOX 699 Miwok

Plymouth , CA 95669
randy_yonemura@yahoo.com
(209) 245-5800 Office
(916) 601-4069 Cell
(209) 245-6377 Fax

This Ilst is current only as of the date of this document and is based on the information available to the Commission on the date It was produced.
Distribution of thls ilst does not relieve any person of statutory responsiblity as defined In Sectlon 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resource Section 5097.98 of the Publlc Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessments for the proposed Calaveras Blg Trees Cabin Project, Calaveras County.

XX

Subject: Calaveras Big Trees State Park Cabins Installation
XX,
The California State Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) would like to notify the XX of a potential project within your traditionally and culturally affiliated geographic region. This project, located at Calaveras Big Trees State Park, requires review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and under PRC 5024 and 5024.5. CDPR would also like to offer you the opportunity to consult on any project with potential impact to tribal cultural resources.

This project will install six new cabins in the area (four are already present), along with site and utility improvements. An existing road will be widened for the project and connected to the existing group campsite road to the cabins. An accessible pathway will be constructed to access each new cabin and the existing cabins. A new leach field will also be installed but the size will need to be verified for possible use with new cabins. There will be one large propane tank to service the area.

A map detailing the location and scope of the work has been attached.
The California Department of Parks and Recreation looks forward to meeting with the tribe to discuss the project in more depth. Please contact me so we can set up a field visit at the park at your convenience. I can be reached by phone at (916) 445-8104 or by email at Christopher.Kimsey@parks.ca.gov.

Thank you,
Chris Kimsey,

Associate State Archaeologist
California State Parks - Northern Service Center


# Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California <br> Tribal Historic Preservation Office <br> Protect, Preserve and Promote Washoe Heritage and Culture 



Christopher Kimsey
September 26, 2017
Department of Parks and Recreation
One Capitol Mall, Suite 410
Sacramento, CA. 95814
Subject: Calaveras Big Trees State Park Cabins Installation

Dear Mr. Kimsey,
Thank you for consulting with the Tribal Historic Preservation Office of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California on the proposed Calaveras Big Trees State Park Cabins Installation project.

I am not aware of cultural resources within the project area that may be affected by the proposed project. However, if you have knowledge of cultural resources or if an archaeological survey was or will be conducted for this project that may be affected by the proposed action, we ask to be allowed to review that information and offer comments. Please keep us informed how you will avoid any adverse effects to cultural resources.

In addition, in the event of inadvertent discoveries as a result of project activities, we ask to be kept informed of the findings and continued consultation.

Thank you and please call me if you have any questions at (775) 265-8600.
Respectfully,


| From: | Darrel Cruz |
| :--- | :--- |
| To: | Kimser, Christopher@Parks |
| Subject: | RE: Calaveras Big Trees Cabins |
| Date: | Tuesday, January 08, 2019 8:44:23 AM |

Hello Christopher,
Thank you for informing me of the survey results. At this time I have no further concerns unless something happens that needs my attention.
I appreciate your ongoing communication and commitment to the tribe. There are many times when
I never see the results of my communication

Darrel

Darrel Cruz, Director
Tribal Historic Preservation Office/CRO
Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
919 Highway 395
Gardnerville, NV. 89410
Phone: 775-265-8600 Ext. 10714
Cell: 775-546-3421
darrel.cruz@washoetribe.us
"the more you know the more there is to know" Mike Dick, Washo Medicine Man

From: Kimsey, Christopher@Parks [mailto:Christopher.Kimsey@parks.ca.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, January 2, 2019 3:42 PM
To: Darrel Cruz [Darrel.Cruz@washoetribe.us](mailto:Darrel.Cruz@washoetribe.us)
Subject: Calaveras Big Trees Cabins

Hi Darrel,

More than a year ago I contacted you about this project at Calaveras Big Trees State Park. It was on hold for a while, but is now moving forward. At the time you sent a letter (attached), requesting any survey reports for review. I have attached the survey report I did for the project (it also contains the records search). The survey found no cultural resources within the project area. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Best,
Chris

## Chris Kimsey

Associate State Archaeologist
California State Parks
Northern Service Center
One Capital Mall, Ste. 410

Sacramento, CA 95814
(916)-445-8104

Cell: (707)-299-7456

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Appendix E

## Acronyms

ADA - Americans with Disability Act
ADI - Area of Direct Impact
ALS - Advanced Life Support
AMSL - Above Mean Sea Level
APCD - Air Pollution Control District
APE - Area of Potential Effect
APEFZ - Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone
ARB - Air Resources Board
BGEPA - Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
BMP - Best Management Practice
CAAQS - California Ambient Air Quality Standards
CaIEPA - California Environmental Protection Agency
CalFire - California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

California Register - California Register of Historical Resources

CARB - California Air Resources Board
CBTSP - Calaveras Big Trees State Park
CCR - California Code of Regulations
CDFW - California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA - California Environmental Quality Act
CGS - California Geological Survey
CHP - California Highway Patrol
CNDDB - California Natural Diversity Database
CNPA - California Native Plant Society
CRLF - California red-legged frog
CSP - California State Parks
CSQA - California Stormwater Quality Association
CV - Central Valley steelhead
CVRWQCB - Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control District

CVSR - central valley spring-run Chinook salmon
CWA - Clean Water Act
DBH - Diameter at Breast Height
DPS - NMFS Distinct Population Segment

DTSC - Department of Toxic Substances Control
EIR - Environmental Impact Report
FEMA - Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM - FEMA publishes Flood Insurance Rate Maps
FP, P - Fully Protected or Protected
GHGs - Greenhouse Gases
HABS - Historic American Buildings Survey
HAER - Historic American Engineering Record
IS/ND - Initial Study/Negative Declaration
MBTA - Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MCAB - Mountain Counties Air Basin
NAAQS - National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NMFS - National Marine Fisheries Service
NRHP - National Register of Historic Places
OHWM - ordinary high water mark
PM ${ }_{2.5}$ - Fine Particulate Matter
$\mathbf{P M}_{10}$ - Suspended Particulate Matter
POST - Peace Officer Standards and Training
PRC - Public Resources Code
PSR - Project Specific Requirements
RWQCBs - Regional Water Quality Control Boards
SHPO - State Historic Preservation Officer
SPR - Standard Project Requirements
SPRP - Spill Prevention and Response Plan
SR - State Route
SRA - State Responsibility Areas
SSC - Species of Special Concern
SWRCB - The State Water Resource Control Board
USACE - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USDA - US Department of Agriculture
USEPA - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS - United States Geological Survey
VRPs - Visibility Reducing Particle

