



COUNTY OF LAKE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Planning Division
Courthouse - 255 N. Forbes Street
Lakeport, California 95453
Telephone 707/263-2221 FAX 707/263-2225

December 10, 2019

California Environmental Quality Act

INITIAL STUDY 19-36

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

1. **Project Title:** Middletown Trailside Park Improvements GPC19-03
2. **Permit Number:** IS19-36; GPC19-03
3. **Lead Agency Name and Address:** County of Lake
Community Development Department, Planning Division
Courthouse – 255 North Forbes Street
Lakeport CA 95453
4. **Contact Person and Phone Number:** Peggy Barthel, Associate Resource Planner II (707) 263-2221
5. **Project Location:** 21044 Dry Creek Cutoff, Middletown; Whispering Pines USGS
Quad, Collayomi Section; T10&11N R7W, M.D.M.
APN 014-002-42
6. **Project Sponsor's Name and Address:** County of Lake Department of Public Services
333 2nd St
Lakeport, CA 95453
7. **General Plan Designation:** Public Facilities
8. **Zoning:** "O - SC" Open Space – Scenic (adjacent to Highway 175)
9. **Description of Project: (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary).**

The project would include improvements to 107-acre Middletown Trailside Park, primarily for passive recreation opportunities including restoration to wetlands, meadows, and other habitat after the devastation from the 2015 Valley Fire (see aerial photos below). Proposal includes wetland overlooks with boardwalks and bridge crossings; additional pedestrian/equestrian/bicycle paths with trails being up to 8 feet wide and improved with decomposed granite or other hardened surfaces; interpretive signage at key environmental and cultural locations; horse trailer parking adjacent to the existing parking area; a pavilion and picnic area near the existing parking area; a dog park; and other associated improvements such as a native plant demonstration garden, new restroom, fencing and benches. Utilities will be provided onsite with a proposed solar array with backup batteries for power and new water well(s) for irrigation and drinking. One restroom facility is proposed to replace the existing restroom. It is proposed to be a waterless restroom (waste vault style) with pumping services on a recurring and as-needed basis.

The Study Area contains evidence of the 2015 Valley Fire, including many downed, burned and dead trees; burned stumps and snags; and roads created during fire debris clean-up. The area contains approximately 86 acres of valley oak woodland habitat disturbed by wildfire and fire debris cleanup. Some large trees survived the fire, and

ponderosa pine and valley oak currently occur in small, scatted patches in the eastern portion of the property. The majority of the project area is made up of small valley oak saplings, with an understory of manzanita, poison oak, medusahead, big quaking grass, bristly dogtail grass, and oats. About 16 acres of ruderal/disturbed habitat is made up of an extensive system of roads/trails, a parking lot, a dog run area, and a local art installation trail. Aquatic features within the area comprise about 4.6 acres and include intermittent streambed, seasonal wetlands, and seasonal wetland/swales.

10. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting: Briefly describe the project’s surroundings:

The property is zoned “O – SC” Open Space - Scenic Combining District. Surrounding land uses include rural residential housing, viticulture, and undeveloped/disturbed undeveloped parcels. Parcels to the southwest were also damaged by the 2015 Valley Fire.

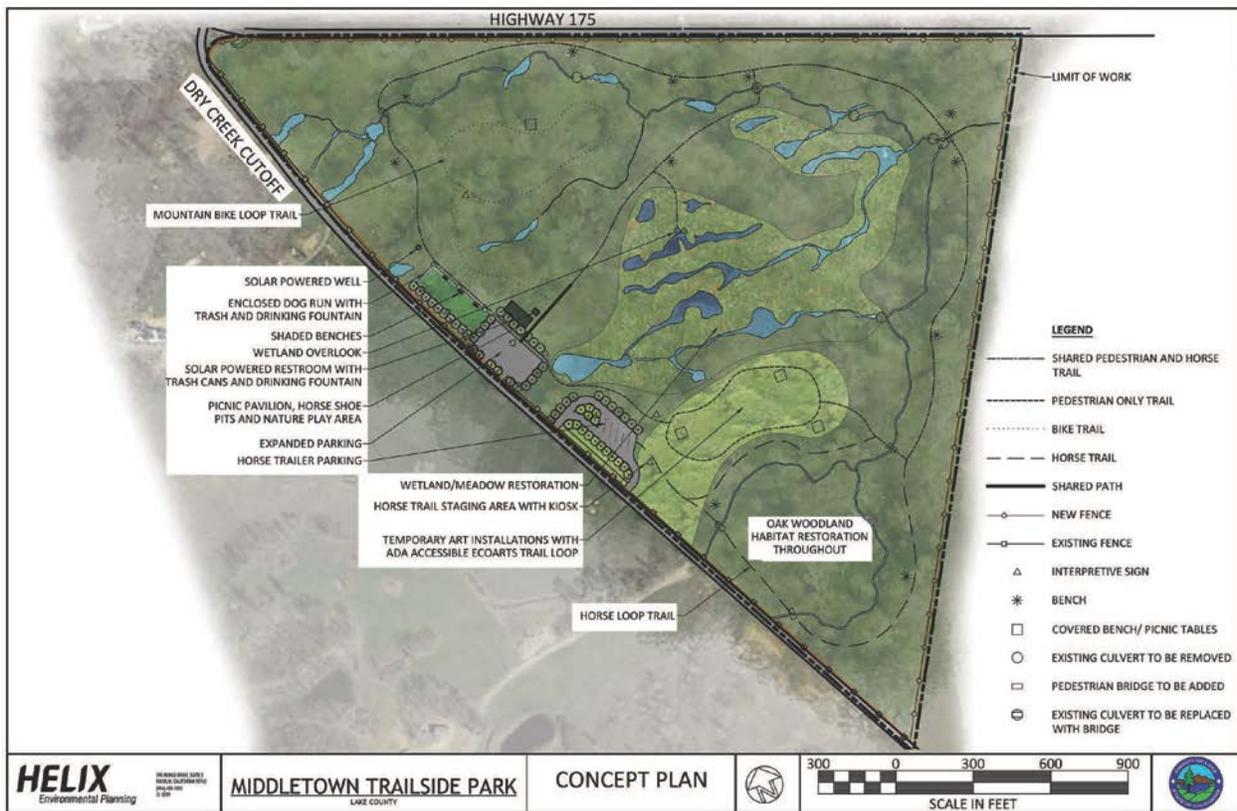
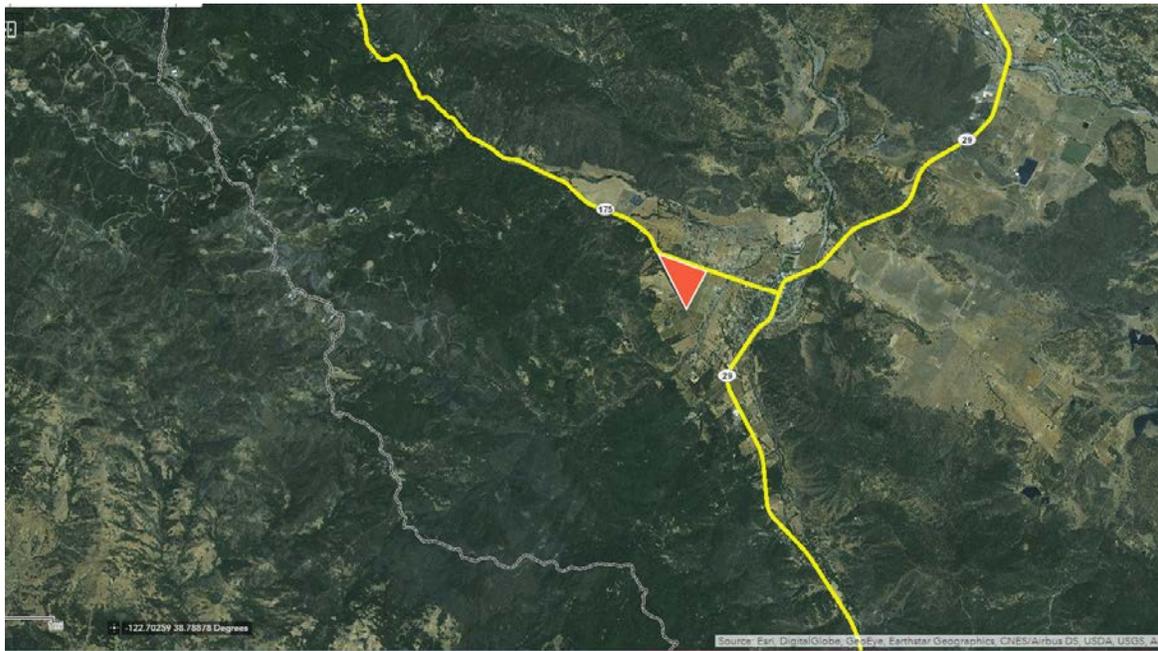
11. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., Permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.)

California Dept of Fish and Wildlife	---	Streambed Alteration Agreement
Army Corps of Engineers	---	Permits for excavation and filling of waters of the US
CVRWQCB	---	Water Quality Certification; Construction General Permit
Lake County Environmental Health	---	Well installation permit

12. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.? Note: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 21080.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission’s Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code section 21082.3 (c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

Requests for review of the project were sent to local tribes. Redwood Valley Pomo deferred review, comment, or concerns to Middletown Rancheria. Middletown Rancheria requested tribal consultation. Consultation outcome is discussed in Section V below. The California Historical Resources Information System noted that 5% of the project area had previously been studied and recommended portions of the parcel not previously surveyed be studied prior to commencement of project activities.

Location Map and Concept Plan



Park before and after 2015 Valley Fire



March 2015



September 2015



September 2018

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.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Green House Gas Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Forestry | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology /Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildfire |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology / Soils | <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Initial Study prepared by:
Peggy Barthel, Associate Resource Planner



SIGNATURE

Date: 12/10/2019

Michalyn DelValle, Director
Community Development Department

SECTION 1 EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

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

- KEY: 1 = Potentially Significant Impact**
2 = Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation
3 = Less Than Significant Impact
4 = No Impact

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
I. AESTHETICS						
<i>Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:</i>						
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?			X		The project includes improvements to wetlands, meadows, and other natural habitats. The visual impacts are anticipated to be negligible. There may be a temporary visual impact to the site during construction related to the presence of equipment, materials and earthmoving activities; however, this would be a temporary impact and is not considered significant.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?			X		No scenic resources would be disturbed within a state scenic highway. Although Highway 175 is a designated scenic corridor by the Lake County General Plan and "eligible" for scenic designation by the California Department of Transportation, it is not a designated state scenic highway. The project is anticipated to have only temporary visual impacts during construction and would not significantly impact visual resources in the area.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?			X		See response to Section I (a).	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?				X	No lighting is proposed. There is no proposed nighttime work that would involve lighting.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES						
<i>In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:</i>						
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?				X	Although the soils are considered "Farmland of Local Importance," no active agricultural uses will be affected.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				X	See response to Section II (a).	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?				X	The project would not result in the rezone of forest land, timber land, or Timberland Production lands.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				X	The project would not result in the loss or conversion of forest land to a non-forest use.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				X	The project would not induce changes to existing farmland that would result in its conversion to non-agricultural use.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
III. AIR QUALITY						
<i>Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:</i>						
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?		X			<p>Removed vegetation would be chipped onsite and used for erosion control or compost; burning is not authorized. Vegetation that cannot be repurposed on-site will be hauled to Quackenbush Mountain Resource Recovery Facility. Fugitive dust and emissions related to construction activities have the potential to result in conflict with local air quality plans.</p> <p>Mitigation Measures:</p> <p>AQ-1: Work practices shall implement standard fugitive dust control measures consistent with the rules and regulation of the Lake County Air Quality Management District at all times during construction to reduce the impact of fugitive dust emissions to a less than significant level in staging areas, work areas, and adjoining roads.</p> <p>AQ-2: Vehicles and equipment shall be well-maintained and in compliance with State emission requirements. A complete list of all equipment installed as operating, support, or emergency backup equipment shall be submitted to the LCAQMD including generators, diesel powered pumps, and diesel engines.</p>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under and applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?				X	The Lake County Air Basin is designated as an attainment area. No criteria pollutants for the project region have been exceeded.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			X		The project is located in a rural area where the surrounding parcels contain residences and agricultural uses. Residences exist primarily on either side of Highway 175. The project is not expected to result in significant air quality impacts.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors or dust) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?			X		Dust or objectionable odors resulting from park improvement activities are expected to be temporary and not significant in impact to surrounding properties.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES <i>Would the project:</i>						
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?		X			<p>A Biological Resources Assessment was prepared by Helix Environmental Planning in August 2019. No special-status plants or special-status wildlife were observed within the Study Area during the field survey. However, suitable habitat is present for a number of special-status plant and wildlife species and there is potential that special-status species may occur within the Study Area, including California red-legged and foothill yellow-legged frogs, white-tailed kite, purple martin, special-status bat species, and western bumblebee.</p> <p>Ground-disturbing and other development activities including grading, vegetation clearing, and construction could impact nesting birds if these activities occur during the nesting season (generally February 1 to August 31). To avoid impacts to nesting birds, all ground disturbing and development activities should be completed between September 1 and January 31, if feasible. If activities must occur outside of this timeframe, implementation of mitigation measure BIO-1 will reduce potential impacts to less than significant.</p> <p>Seasonal wetlands and intermittent streambeds were identified as potential waters of the U.S. and/or State. The Project is currently expected to largely avoid these aquatic features; however, pedestrian footbridges are proposed to be constructed over portions of the trail that overlap with seasonal wetlands and a wetland overlook area is proposed to occur in the vicinity of delineated seasonal wetlands. These activities may result in impacts to aquatic features. Permits from RWQCB and CDFW may be required for these activities. Permits will include terms and conditions to minimize impacts and to fully mitigate for any permanent impacts to wetlands and other waters.</p> <p>Mitigation Measures:</p> <p>BIO-1: Prior to ground disturbance, a qualified botanist shall conduct special-status plant surveys within the appropriate identification periods for species with potential to occur within the Study Area. The survey(s) shall take place prior to the initiation of any ground disturbing activities. If no special-status plants are observed within the Study Area, then a letter report documenting the survey results shall be prepared and provided to the Community Development Department and no further measures are required. If special-status plants are observed within the Study Area, then the location of the special-status plants shall be marked with pin flags or other highly visible markers and may also be marked by GPS. If the special-status plants cannot be avoided by construction, then the Project proponent shall consult with CDFW and/or the USFWS to determine potential mitigation measures prior to disturbance.</p> <p>BIO-2: Prior to ground disturbance, a qualified biologist shall conduct pre-construction surveys for California red-legged frog, foothill yellow-legged frog, nesting migratory birds and raptors including white-tailed kite and purple martin (during the nesting season which is generally February 1 to August 31), special-status bats, and western bumblebee within 14 days prior to the initiation of construction or ground disturbing activities. If construction or ground disturbing activities do not commence within 14 days, or halt for more than 7 days once initiated, then additional surveys are required prior to resuming or starting work. A follow-up survey for California red-legged frog and foothill yellow-legged frog should be conducted no more than 24 hours prior to the start of ground disturbing activities or construction.</p> <p>• If California red-legged frog and/or foothill yellow-legged frog are</p>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 14

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
					<p>observed within the Study Area, then agency consultation may be required to determine appropriate buffers and additional avoidance measures to reduce impacts to these species during construction;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A qualified biologist will establish a species-specific no disturbance buffer prior to the initiation of any ground disturbing activities if nesting birds, including white-tailed kite and purple martin, special-status roosting bats, or western bumblebee nests are found within the Study Area. <p>BIO-3: For work in regulated aquatic features or any impacts to wetlands or other waters subject to USACE jurisdiction, the following permits shall be obtained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 404 Permit from USACE 401 Water Quality Certification from RWQCB Section 1600 Streambed Alteration Notification submitted to CDFW. 	
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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?		X			Seasonal wetlands and intermittent streambeds were identified as potential waters of the U.S. and/or State. The Project is currently expected to largely avoid these aquatic features; however, pedestrian footbridges are proposed to be constructed over portions of the trail that overlap with seasonal wetlands and a wetland overlook area is proposed to occur in the vicinity of delineated seasonal wetlands. These activities may result in impacts to aquatic features. Implementation of mitigation measure BIO-3 will reduce impacts to less than significant.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 14
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?		X			Seasonal wetlands and intermittent streambeds were identified as potential waters of the U.S. and/or State. The Project is currently expected to largely avoid these aquatic features; however, pedestrian footbridges are proposed to be constructed over portions of the trail that overlap with seasonal wetlands and a wetland overlook area is proposed to occur in the vicinity of delineated seasonal wetlands. These activities may result in impacts to aquatic features. Implementation of mitigation measure BIO-3 will reduce impacts to less than significant.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 14
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?			X		The project does not propose to place any structures in a creek bed that would interfere with the movement of wildlife in the creek.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 14
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				X	The project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 12, 13
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				X	The project would not conflict with any established conservation plan.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES <i>Would the project:</i>						
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?			X		<p>A Cultural Resource Assessment was prepared by Helix Environmental Planning in August 2019. Two historic-age resources and one pre-contact resource have been recorded within the project area. The two historic sites previously recorded within the project area are considered not eligible for listing on the CRHR; those sites were found to have been mostly destroyed by previous grading activities. The pre-contact lithic scatter recorded in 2018 was not found during the survey and is presumed to no longer be extant.</p> <p>Tribal Consultation was held with Middletown Rancheria. Department of Public Services indicated that they would be entering a monitoring agreement with the Tribe. A copy of the agreement will be submitted to the Community Development Department.</p> <p>Should any cultural, archaeological or paleontological materials be discovered during replacement activities, all activity shall be halted in the vicinity of the find(s), and a qualified archaeologist retained to evaluate the find(s) and recommend mitigation procedures, if necessary, subject to the approval of the Community Development Director and the local overseeing Tribe.</p>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 15
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?			X		See response to Section V (a).	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 15
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?			X		<p>See response to Section V (a).</p> <p>The applicant shall halt all work and immediately contact the Lake County Sheriff's Department, the local overseeing Tribe, and the Community Development Department if any human remains are encountered.</p>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 15
VI. ENERGY <i>Would the project:</i>						
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?				X	The proposed project would not consume excessive amounts of energy.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?				X	The proposed project would not conflict with or obstruct an energy plan.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS <i>Would the project:</i>						
<p>a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:</p> <p>i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist- Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.</p> <p>ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?</p> <p>iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?</p> <p>iv) Landslides?</p>			X		<p><u>Earthquake Faults</u> No Earthquake Fault Zones have been established in the project vicinity by the California Geological Survey under the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act. The proposed park improvements would be designed to meet current safety and seismic codes.</p> <p><u>Seismic Ground Shaking and Seismic-Related Ground Failure, including liquefaction.</u> Lake County contains numerous known active faults. Future seismic events in the Northern California region can be expected to produce seismic ground shaking at the site. All construction would be required to be built consistent with Current Seismic Safety construction standards.</p> <p><u>Landslides</u> According to the Lawrence Livermore landslide map series for Lake County, the area is considered generally stable and not a landslide risk.</p>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 16, 17, 18, 19
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?		X			<p>According to the soil survey of Lake County, prepared by the U.S.D.A., the soil in the project area is Jafra loam with 2-5% slopes (soil unit 144). The soils consist of loam derived from mixed rock sources. The permeability is moderately slow, surface runoff is slow, and the hazard of erosion is slight. Nevertheless, improper earthwork without necessary erosion control measures can cause the potential for substantial soil erosion.</p> <p>Mitigation Measure GEO-1: The project design shall incorporate appropriate BMPs consistent with County and State storm water drainage regulations to the maximum extent practicable. Typical BMPs include scheduling of activities, erosion and sediment control (placement of straw, mulch, reseeded, straw wattles, silt fencing and planting of native vegetation), and operation and maintenance procedures. The site shall be monitored during the rainy season (October 15-April 15) and erosion controls maintained. The BMPs shall prevent or reduce discharge of all construction or post-construction pollutants and hazardous materials offsite.</p>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8
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-site or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?		X			<p>According to the soil survey of Lake County, prepared by the U.S.D.A., the soils at the site are considered "generally stable" and there is little risk of landslide at the site. The soil unit is considered to have a slight hazard of erosion and slow rate of surface runoff. Nevertheless, improper earthwork resulting in erosion has the potential to induce localized earth movement.</p> <p>Implementation of Mitigation Measure GEO-1 would reduce potential erosion impacts to less than significant.</p>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 17, 18, 19
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?				X	The shrink swell potential for soil unit 144 is low. There is no increased risk to life or property.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?				X	No septic tanks are proposed or needed for the project. One restroom facility is proposed. It is proposed to be a waterless restroom (waste vault style) with pumping services on a recurring and as-needed basis.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?				X	No paleontological resources or unique geologic features were identified in the project area.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 15
VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS <i>Would the project:</i>						
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			X		In general, GHG emissions from construction activities include the use of construction equipment, haul trucks, worker commute vehicles, and stationary equipment (such as generators, if any). Greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the temporary use of standard grading equipment would be negligible and would not result in a significant impact to the environment.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?				X	This project would not conflict with any adopted plans or policies for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11
IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS <i>Would the project:</i>						
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?		X			The park improvements would not create an increased routine hazard for accidents that could involve the release of hazardous materials into the environment. However, there is the potential that construction activities related to the staging areas and park improvements could involve the accidental spill of hazardous materials as spills from construction equipment. Construction activities would be temporary in nature, and with proper control measures the impact would be less than significant. Mitigation Measure HAZ-1: Any spills of oils, fluids, fuel, concrete, or other hazardous construction material shall be immediately cleaned up. All equipment and materials shall be stored in staging areas away from any creek; vehicles and equipment shall receive proper and timely maintenance.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 21, 22
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonable foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?		X			See response to Section VIII (a).	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 21, 22
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				X	The project will not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous materials.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				X	The project location is not listed as a site containing hazardous materials.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 23

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				X	The project is not located within an airport land use plan or within 2 miles of an airport.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 24
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				X	The park improvements would not physically interfere with an adopted emergency response or evacuation plan.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 21
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?		X			<p>Fire hazard in the area is moderate. Equipment and vehicles have the potential to ignite wildland fires in the staging areas, and during land clearing and grading activities.</p> <p>Mitigation Measures:</p> <p>HAZ-2: Brush shall remain cut and removed and grass shall be mowed in the staging areas during construction activities.</p> <p>HAZ-3: Vehicles and equipment shall be maintained and operated in a manner to prevent hot surfaces, sparks or any other heat sources from igniting grasses, brush or other highly combustible material.</p>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 21, 25
X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY <i>Would the project:</i>						
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?		X			<p>The project site is relatively flat and not within a special flood hazard area. Construction activities have the potential to result in erosion and sediment loss if the site is not properly managed.</p> <p>Implementation of Mitigation Measures GEO-1 and HAZ-1 will reduce potential impacts to less than significant.</p>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 14, 16, 26, 27
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?			X		The project proposes installation of a well(s) for irrigation and drinking water. There is no anticipated impact to ground water levels as a result of the project.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
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 that would: i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on-site 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?		X			The project will not alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area. Construction activities have the potential to result in erosion and sediment loss if the site is not properly managed. Implementation of Mitigation Measures GEO-1 and HAZ-1 will reduce potential impacts to less than significant.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 14, 26, 27
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?				X	The project site is not located in an area of potential inundation by seiche or tsunami. The soils at the project site are relatively stable and the site is flat therefore has a minimal potential to induce mudflows.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 16, 17, 18, 19
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?				X	The project would not conflict with or obstruct water quality or management plans.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 26
XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING <i>Would the project:</i>						
a) Physically divide an established community?				X	The project would not divide a community.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 30
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				X	The project does not conflict with any land use plan or policy.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
XII. MINERAL RESOURCES <i>Would the project:</i>						
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?				X	Project site is not identified by the Lake County Aggregate Resource Management Plan as a mineral resource site.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 28
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?				X	See response to Section XII (a).	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 28

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
XIII. NOISE <i>Would the project result in:</i>						
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?			X		There is the potential that construction activities could increase temporary ambient noise levels in the vicinity. All construction activities, including engine warm-up, are limited to from 7AM to 7PM to reduce the impact to a less than significant level. Back-up beepers shall be adjusted to the lowest allowable levels.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			X		Construction activities may result in small scale ground vibrations related to grading and excavation activities. However, this vibration would be short-term and is not anticipated to affect neighboring properties. Impacts are expected to be less than significant.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				X	Project is not located within an airport land use plan or within 2 miles of a public airport.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 24
XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING <i>Would the project:</i>						
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				X	The project would not induce substantial population growth in the area.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X	No housing would be displaced as a result of the project	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
XV. PUBLIC SERVICES <i>Would the project:</i>						
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services: Fire Protection? Police Protection? Schools? Parks? Other Public Facilities?				X	The project would not require new police protection, schools, parks, or other public facilities.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
XVI. RECREATION <i>Would the project:</i>						
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				X	The project is rehabilitation of an existing park that sustained damage in the 2015 Valley Fire.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				X	The project is rehabilitation of an existing park that sustained damage in the 2015 Valley Fire.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
XVII. TRANSPORTATION <i>Would the project:</i>						
a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?				X	The project would not conflict with any transit plan, ordinance, or policy.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 21, 29, 30
b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?				X	The project has no impact on vehicle miles traveled.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				X	The existing road alignment would not be altered by this project.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 30
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?				X	The project will not impact emergency access.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 30

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES						
<i>Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:</i>						
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			X		A Cultural Resource Assessment was prepared by Helix Environmental Planning in August 2019. Two historic-age resources and one pre-contact resource have been recorded within the project area. The two historic sites previously recorded within the project area are considered not eligible for listing on the CRHR; those sites were found to have been mostly destroyed by previous grading activities.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 15
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 Resources Code 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.			X		A Cultural Resource Assessment was prepared by Helix Environmental Planning in August 2019. The pre-contact lithic scatter recorded in 2018 was not found during the survey and is presumed to no longer be extant. Tribal Consultation was held with Middletown Rancheria. Department of Public Services indicated that they would be entering a monitoring agreement with the Tribe. A copy of the agreement will be submitted to Community Development Department. Should any cultural, archaeological or paleontological materials be discovered during replacement activities, all activity shall be halted in the vicinity of the find(s), and a qualified archaeologist retained to evaluate the find(s) and recommend mitigation procedures, if necessary, subject to the approval of the Community Development Director and the local overseeing Tribe. The applicant shall halt all work and immediately contact the Lake County Sheriff's Department, the local overseeing Tribe, and the Community Development Department if any human remains are encountered.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 15
XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS						
<i>Would the project:</i>						
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?				X	Not applicable. Wastewater treatment facilities are not a part of the proposed project.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				X	This project would not induce the need for other facilities.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 31
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				X	The project would not require the construction of new storm water facilities or the expansion of existing facilities.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?				X	The project proposes installation of a well(s) for irrigation and drinking water. Permits for wells are issued by the Lake County Department of Environmental Health.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?				X	There is no need for wastewater treatment for this project.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?				X	South Lake Resource Recovery & Compost and the Eastlake Sanitary Landfill are located approximately 20 miles (14 air miles) north of the project site. Very little, if any, waste would be disposed at the local landfill. The landfill has the capacity to accommodate the minimal construction-related waste. The proposed project would not significantly impact local or regional landfills.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 32, 33
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				X	The project would comply with all federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 32, 33
XX. WILDFIRE <i>If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:</i>						
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				X	The project would not impair any emergency plans. The project site is located in a moderate fire hazard severity zone and is in State (CalFire) Responsibility Area. The applicant will adhere to all Federal, State and local fire requirements/regulations.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 25
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?		X			The site is located in a moderate fire hazard area. Equipment and vehicles have the potential to ignite wildland fires during land clearing and grading activities. Implementation of Mitigation Measures HAZ-2 and HAZ-3 will reduce potential impacts to less than significant.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 25
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?				X	No new infrastructure is proposed for this project.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?				X	Risks will not be increased by the project.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE						
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?		X			The potential impacts to biological resources identified in the project area would be adequately minimized through the implementation of mitigation measures such that the project would have a less than significant impact on biological or cultural resources.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 13, 15
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)?		X			Potentially significant impacts have been identified related to Air Quality, Biological Resources, Geology/Soils, Hazards & Hazardous Materials, Hydrology/Water Quality, and Wildfire. Implementation of and compliance with mitigation measures identified in each section as project conditions of approval would avoid or reduce potential impacts to less than significant levels and would not result in cumulatively considerable environmental impacts.	ALL
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?		X			This project is anticipated to have a positive effect for people living within the area by improving bridge safety. The mitigation measures relating to Air Quality, Biological Resources, Geology/Soils, Hazards & Hazardous Materials, Hydrology/Water Quality, and Wildfire would insure that there would be less than significant impacts to neighboring residents due to the construction.	ALL

* Impact Categories defined by CEQA

****Source List**

1. Lake County General Plan
2. Middletown Area Plan
3. Lake County Zoning Ordinance
4. Site Visit: 12/09/2019
5. Community Development Department Application
6. U.S.G.S. Topographic Maps
7. California Department of Transportation:
http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/16_livability/scenic_highways/index.htm
8. U.S.D.A. Lake County Soil Survey
9. Important Farmland Map <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/agriculture/>
10. Lake County Serpentine Soil mapping
11. Lake County Air Quality Management District
12. California Natural Diversity Database
13. Middletown Trailside Park Biological Resources Assessment (Helix Environmental Planning, Inc.)
August 2019
14. Middletown Trailside Park Jurisdictional Delineation Report (Helix Environmental Planning, Inc, Inc.)
August 2019
15. Middletown Trailside Park Project Cultural Resource Assessment (Helix Environmental Planning, Inc.) August 2019
16. Lake County Natural Hazard database
17. U.S.G.S. Geologic Map and Structure Sections of the Clear Lake Volcanics, Northern California, Miscellaneous Investigation Series, 1995
18. Official Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone maps for Lake County
19. Lawrence Livermore landslide map series for Lake County, 1979
20. Lake County Grading Ordinance
21. Lake County Emergency Management Plan
22. Lake County Hazardous Waste Management Plan, adopted 1989
23. Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites List: www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public
24. Lake County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, adopted 1992
25. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, fire hazard mapping
26. National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)
27. FEMA flood hazard maps
28. Lake County Aggregate Resource Management Plan
29. 2010 Lake County Regional Transportation Plan, Dow & Associates, October 2010
30. Active Transportation Program Application Form 01-Lake County-02
31. County of Lake Special Districts
32. CalRecycle Solid Waste Information System
<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/SWFacilities/Directory/Search.aspx>
33. Lake County Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan and Siting Element, 1996