

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**TO:**

☒ **Office of Planning and Research**
1400 Tenth St.
Sacramento, CA 95814

☒ **Shasta County Clerk**
1643 Market Street
Redding, CA 96001

FROM:

Shasta Community Services District
15611 Rock Creek Road
Shasta, CA 96087

Project Title: Shasta Community Services District Office Building Project

Project Location:

The project site is located in the unincorporated community of Keswick in Shasta County, in Township 32 North, Range 5 West, Sections 17 and 20, of the U.S. Geological Survey Shasta Dam and Redding quadrangles (see **Figure 1**). The office and maintenance buildings would be constructed on Shasta Community Services District (CSD) owned property on School Street. Improvements would also occur within the existing road rights-of-way (ROWs) of California Street, Market Street, Bush Street, and Iron Mountain Road (See **Figure 2**).

City: Unincorporated

County: Shasta

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The 2018 Carr Fire caused extensive destruction in the communities of Keswick and Shasta, including loss of the Shasta Community Services District's (CSD) office/maintenance building on French Alley in Shasta and loss of the Keswick community building and fire hall on School Street in Keswick. The proposed project includes construction of a replacement office building and maintenance building on the School Street parcel, now owned by the CSD. The purpose of the project is to provide facilities to conduct daily business, hold board meetings, and perform general maintenance activities. In addition, paved and unpaved parking areas, as well as a new septic system/leach field would be installed (see **Figure 3**). An emergency backup generator also would be installed.

In order to achieve required fire flows at the property, the project includes the installation of approximately 1,620 feet of waterline within existing roads: ±700-feet on California Street, ±465 feet on Market Street, ±305 feet on Bush Street, and ±150 feet on Iron Mountain Road. Fire hydrants would be installed along the new waterlines as well as on Market Street, west of the CSD property (see **Figure 2**).

The waterlines would be installed in previously disturbed areas using open-cut trenching. Iron Mountain Road and Market Street are paved, while Bush Street and California Street are graveled. Paved areas damaged during construction would be re-paved following installation of the waterlines. Areas in the graveled roadways would be restored to pre-construction conditions. No mature, healthy trees would need to be removed to accommodate the proposed improvements.

Staging of construction equipment and materials would occur in previously disturbed areas on the CSD's property. Staging would also occur within the affected street ROW.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Shasta Community Services District

Name of Agency Carrying out the Project: Shasta Community Services District

Local Agency Contact Person: Chris Koeper, Authorized Representative

Exempt Status: Categorical Exemption:

California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3 (CEQA Guidelines):

Class 2, §15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction)

Class 3, §15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures)

Class 4, §15304 (Minor Alterations to Land)

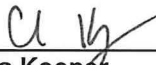
Reason Why Project Is Exempt:

Class 2 covers replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structures are located on the same site as the structures replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity of the structures replaced. Class 3 covers construction or installation of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures, including waterlines and fire hydrants. Class 4 includes minor alterations to the condition of the land (e.g., clearing, grading, trenching, and backfilling) that do not involve the removal of any healthy, mature, and/or scenic trees, and do not involve grading in wetlands or other waters, provided that the surface is restored following construction.

The project is consistent with the categorical exemptions noted above because work would consist of the reconstruction of public facilities buildings on the same site as the original buildings, and the buildings would have essentially the same purpose and capacity as the structures replaced. Construction and installation of the proposed improvements would involve minor earth disturbance, and the ground surface would be restored following construction. No mature, healthy, and/or scenic trees would be removed, and no grading in wetlands or other waters would occur.

As documented in Attachment A, the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances; would not result in damage to scenic resources within a Scenic Highway; is not located on a hazardous waste site pursuant to §65962.5 of the Government Code; would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource; and would not result in cumulative impacts.

Signature: _____


Chris Koepfer
General Manager

Date: _____

9-22-20

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Sep 30 2020

Date Received for Filing at OPR: _____

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Attachments:

- Figure 1: Project Location and Vicinity Map
- Figure 2: Proposed Improvements
- Figure 3: Site Plan – Shasta CSD Office Building
- Attachment A: Notice of Exemption Support Documentation

Path: N:\company\file\01-jobs Active\032-70 PACE - Shasta CSD Office Building\3-Project GIS\3-Map Documents\Figure 1 Project Vicinity 090920.mxd

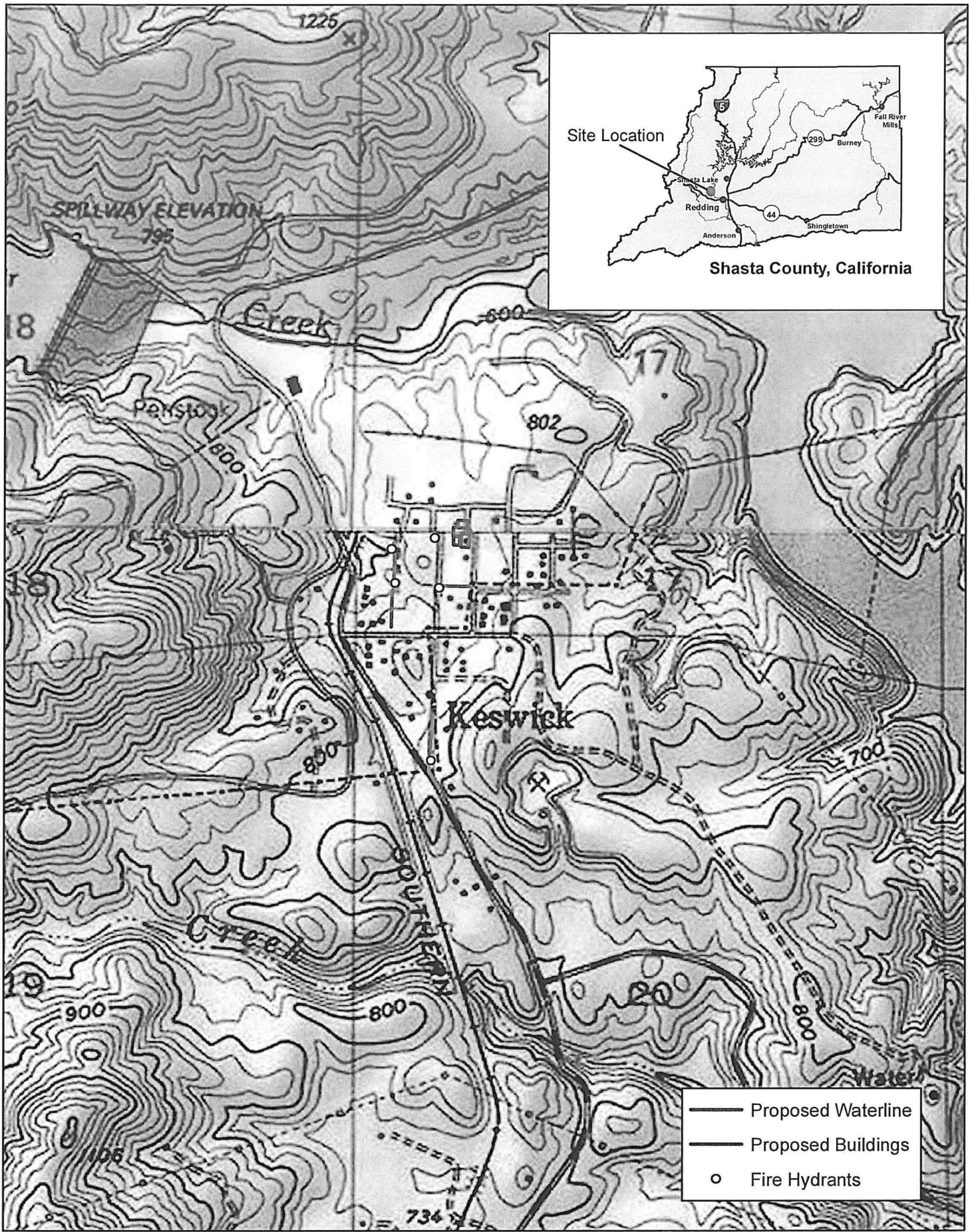


Figure 1

All depictions are approximate. Not a survey product.

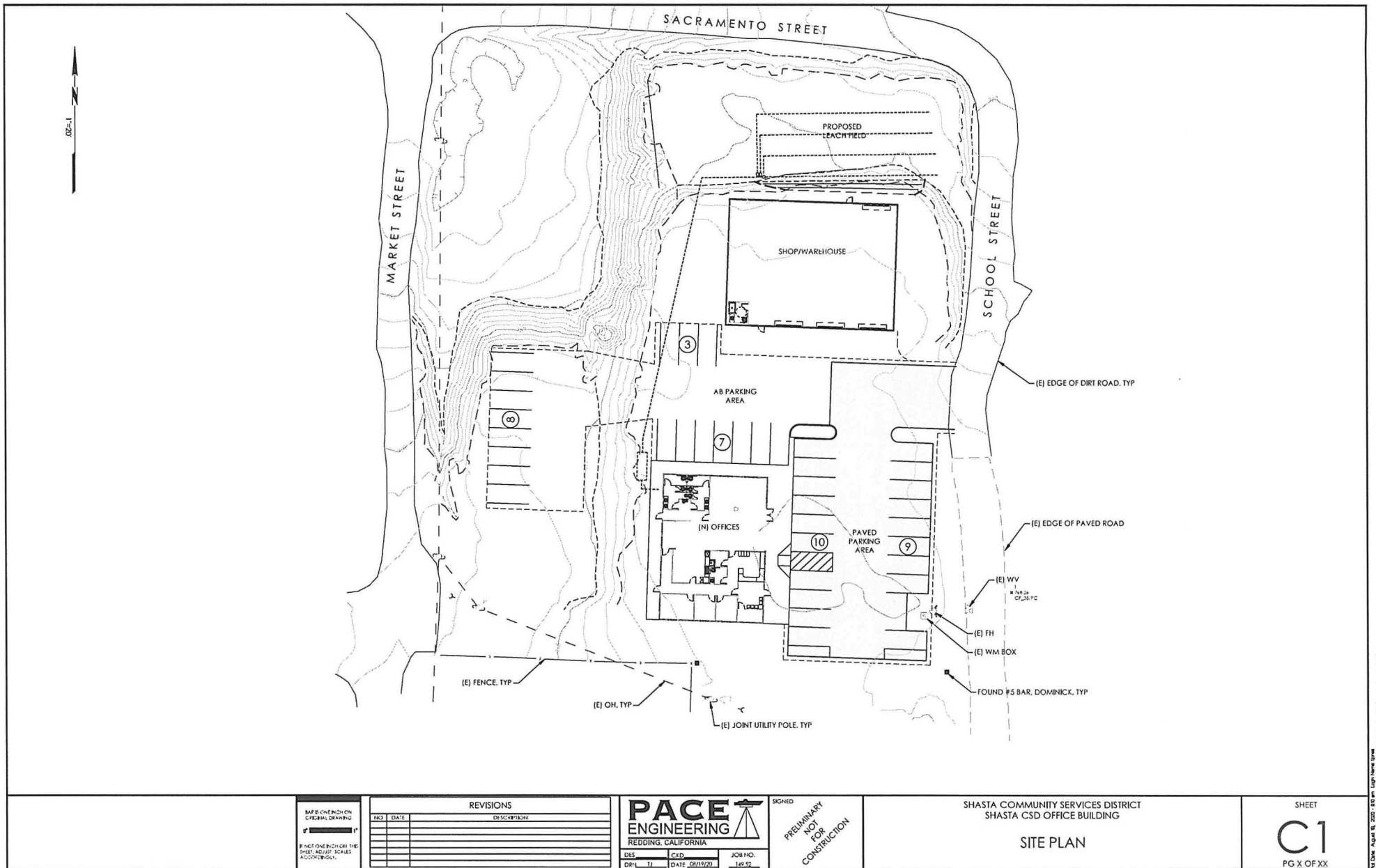
09.09.20



Project Location and Vicinity Map

ENPLAN





MAP ORIENTATION
ON ORIGINAL DRAWING
1" = 100'
IF FACT ONE INCH ON THE
SHEET, ADJUST SCALES
ACCORDINGLY.

REVISIONS	
NO.	DATE

PACE
ENGINEERING
REDDING, CALIFORNIA

DES	CKD	JOB NO.
DR/L	DATE	146192

SIGNED
PRELIMINARY
NOT
FOR
CONSTRUCTION

SHASTA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
SHASTA CSD OFFICE BUILDING
SITE PLAN

SHEET
C1
PG X OF XX

ATTACHMENT A
Notice of Exemption Support Documentation
Shasta Community Services District Office Building Project

As described in the Notice of Exemption (NOE), the proposed project is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to 15302 (Class 2-Replacement or Reconstruction), 15303 (Class 3-New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures), and §15304 (Class 4-Minor Alterations to Land) of the CEQA Guidelines. CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 identifies exceptions that override a lead agency's ability to use a categorical exemption. These exceptions are listed below, followed by documentation of why each exception does not apply to the proposed project.

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

The project involves replacement of public facilities that were destroyed in the Carr Fire. The replacement buildings would be on a parcel that contained public facilities prior to the fire, and would have substantially the same use and capacity as the original uses. Waterlines and hydrants would be installed to ensure adequate fire flows and fire protection in the area. There are no other closely related past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future projects in the area that would cause related impacts. Impacts during construction would be temporary and cease at completion of the project. Therefore, the proposed project's impacts would not be cumulatively considerable.

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

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

Aesthetics:

Project components that have a potential to result in permanent aesthetic impacts include the office building, maintenance building, and fire hydrants. However, the buildings would be constructed on property that previously contained public facilities, and there would not be a significant change to the visual character or quality of views of the site and its surroundings. Installation of fire hydrants also would not change the visual character of the area. Waterlines would be installed subsurface and paved roads that are disturbed during construction would be re-paved upon completion of the improvements. Other temporarily disturbed areas would be restored to pre-construction conditions. Temporary visual impacts during construction due to excavation and staging activities would cease at the completion of the improvements. No mature, scenic trees would be removed. The proposed activity would not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

Agriculture and Forestry Resources:

Improvements would occur within roadways and in other previously disturbed areas. There are no forest resources or properties in agricultural use in the project area. Therefore, project implementation would not result in the loss of agricultural lands or forest resources.

Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions:

The proposed project would result in the temporary generation of ROG, NO_x, PM₁₀, and other regulated pollutants during construction. ROG and NO_x emissions are associated with employee vehicle trips, delivery of materials, and construction equipment exhaust. PM₁₀ is generated during site preparation, excavation, road paving, and from exhaust associated with construction equipment. Emissions would also

be generated with use of the generator; however, the generator would be used only in the event of an emergency. The buildings would replace buildings destroyed by the fire, and long-term emissions would not be greater than the former uses. There are no unusual circumstances associated with air quality that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Biological Resources:

Special-Status Plant and Wildlife Species

Review of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service species list for the project area did not identify any federally listed plant species as potentially occurring in the project area. The project area does not contain designated critical habitat for federally listed plant species.

A review of California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) records showed that no special-status plants have been reported in the project site. Five special-status plants have been reported within an approximate five-mile radius of the project site: Canyon Creek stonecrop, maverick clover, Nuttall's ribbon-leaved pondweed, Sulphur Creek brodiaea, and Shasta huckleberry. Two non-status plant species, slender silver moss and dubious pea, were also reported within the search radius.

Review of the USFWS species list for the project area identified the following federally listed animal species as potentially being present in the project area: northern spotted owl, California red-legged frog, Delta smelt, valley elderberry longhorn beetle (VELB), vernal pool fairy shrimp, and vernal pool tadpole shrimp. The USFWS species list does not identify designated critical habitat in the study area for any federally listed animal species.

A review of CNDDB records showed that no special-status wildlife species have been reported in the project site. The following special-status wildlife species have been reported within an approximate five-mile radius of the project site: bald eagle, Chinook salmon – Central Valley spring-run ESU, Chinook salmon – Sacramento River winter-run ESU, fisher – West Coast DPS, foothill yellow-legged frog, Shasta salamander, steelhead-Central Valley DPS, Townsend's big-eared bat, western pond turtle, and western red bat. The following non-status animals have also been mapped within the search radius: kneecap lanx, long-eared myotis, Oregon shoulderband, Shasta chaparral, silver-haired bat, and Yuma myotis.

A field evaluation was completed by an ENPLAN biologist on September 4, 2020. Some of the special-status species potentially occurring in the project area would not have been evident at the time the fieldwork was conducted; however, determination of their potential presence could readily be made based on observed habitat characteristics. No special-status species or habitats capable of supporting such species were observed during the field survey. The proposed activity would not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

Natural Communities and Wildlife Habitats

Most of the trees and other vegetation in and adjacent to the project site were damaged or destroyed by the 2018 Carr Fire; however, vegetation is starting to naturally regenerate, and the surrounding area provides suitable habitat for various wildlife species, such as frogs, lizards, snakes, deer, and coyotes. Because all work would occur in previously disturbed areas and minimal vegetation would be removed, impacts on natural communities would be negligible. Further, the field evaluation confirmed that no sensitive natural communities would be affected by the proposed project.

Although construction noise and activity could temporarily impede wildlife movement in the area, this is a temporary effect that would cease at completion of the project, and is not an unusual circumstance. In addition, Best Management Practices (BMPs) for spill prevention and erosion/sediment control would be implemented to prevent damage to streams, watercourses, and aquatic habitats. Implementation of BMPs would avoid/minimize significant indirect impacts.

Nesting Birds

The USFWS identified the following Birds of Conservation Concern as potentially being present in the study area: bald eagle, golden eagle, Nuttall's woodpecker, oak titmouse, rufous hummingbird, song sparrow, spotted towhee, and wrenit. The locally common oak titmouse was observed during the field evaluation.

Construction activities would not directly affect nesting birds because no trees or other significant vegetation would be removed to accommodate the proposed improvements. Indirect effects such as nest abandonment by adults in response to loud noise levels are likewise not expected because any birds that may nest adjacent to the work area would be accustomed to periodic loud noises and other human-induced disturbances. There are no unusual circumstances associated with nesting birds that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Energy:

The proposed project does not include any components that would result in environmental impacts due to the wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources. Buildings would be constructed to State Energy Efficiency Standards. There are no unique circumstances related to energy use during construction or operation of the proposed project that would result in more significant impacts than other similar projects.

Geology and Soils:

According to the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, the nearest Alquist-Priolo Special Study Zone to the project area is the Rocky Ledge Fault Zone, approximately 45 miles northeast of the community of Keswick, near Burney. The nearest potentially active faults are located 19 miles south of the project area in the Battle Creek fault zone. Soils on the project site are mapped by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as Diamond Springs very stony sandy loam, 8 to 30 percent slopes (DfD2). This soil type is found throughout the project area and is not unique to the project site. There are no unusual circumstances associated with geology or soils that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Hydrology and Water Quality:

Construction activities would result in the temporary disturbance of soil and would expose disturbed areas to storm events, which could generate accelerated runoff, localized erosion, and sedimentation. However, this is a temporary impact during construction activities, and no long-term impacts would occur. BMPs for erosion/sediment control would be implemented to prevent damage to streams, watercourses, and aquatic habitats. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (Panels 06089C1215G and 1530G, effective March 17, 2011), the proposed improvements are not located within a 100-year flood hazard area. There is nothing unique about the project site that would result in significant impacts to water quality.

Land Use and Planning:

The project would not conflict with a land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. Further, the project does not include any components that would physically divide an established community. The proposed activity would not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

Mineral Resources:

The California Geological Survey has not designated any Mineral Resource Zones in the project area and the project site is not zoned for mining activities.

Noise:

Construction activities would generate noise and would temporarily increase noise levels in the area. Additionally, use of the emergency generator would increase noise levels; however, the generator would only be used in the event of emergency. The new buildings would replace former public facilities on the same property, and noise in the area would not exceed that of the former uses. There is nothing unique to

the project that would result in more significant impacts than other construction projects.

Population and Housing:

The project includes replacement of buildings destroyed in the Carr Fire. Although new waterlines would be installed, the purpose of the lines is to achieve adequate fire flows at the building site. The project does not have any components that would directly or indirectly induce unplanned population growth in the area.

Public Services, Recreation, and Utilities:

Because the project would not induce population growth in the area, the project would not generate a demand for additional fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, recreational facilities, or other public services. Further, utility demand for the buildings would not exceed the utility demand for the former use.

Transportation:

There would be short-term increases in traffic in the area associated with construction workers and equipment; however, this is a temporary impact and would cease upon completion of the improvements. The project does not include any components that would create a traffic hazard, and would not substantially affect traffic volumes. The proposed activity would not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

Wildfire:

The proposed project does not include any development or improvements that would increase long-term risks associated with wildfire. The project includes installation of waterlines and hydrants to increase fire flows and ensure adequate fire protection. There are no unique circumstances associated with the proposed project that would result in more significant impacts than other projects in the area.

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

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

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

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

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

The records search revealed that the project is not located on a hazardous waste site. There are no active clean-up sites or hazardous waste sites within a one-mile radius of the project area.

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

Virtually all structures and vegetation in the project area were destroyed by the Carr Fire in 2018, and there are no known historical-era resources that could be affected by the implementation of the proposed project. However, there is always some potential for previously unknown cultural resources to be encountered during excavation activities. Therefore, the following stipulations should be included as conditions of project approval to address the inadvertent discovery of cultural resources and human remains.

1. In the event of any inadvertent discovery of cultural resources (i.e., burnt animal bone, midden soils, projectile points or other humanly-modified lithics, historic artifacts, etc.), all work within 50 feet of the find shall be halted until a professional archaeologist can evaluate the significance of the find in accordance with PRC §21083.2(g) and §21084.1, and CEQA Guidelines §15064.5(a). If any find is determined to be significant by the archaeologist, Shasta CSD staff shall meet with the archaeologist to determine the appropriate course of action. If necessary, a Treatment Plan prepared by an archeologist outlining recovery of the resource, analysis, and reporting of the find shall be prepared. The Treatment Plan shall be reviewed and approved by the District prior to resuming construction.
2. In the event that human remains are encountered during construction activities, the Shasta CSD shall comply with §15064.5 (e) (1) of the CEQA Guidelines and PRC §7050.5. All project-related ground disturbance within 100 feet of the find shall be halted until the County coroner has been notified. If the coroner determines that the remains are Native American, the coroner will notify the NAHC to identify the most likely descendants of the deceased Native Americans. Project-related ground disturbance in the vicinity of the find shall not resume until the process detailed in §15064.5 (e) has been completed.
3. In the event that project plans change to include areas not surveyed, additional archaeological reconnaissance may be required. If cultural resources are encountered, the archaeologist shall recommend/implement additional measures as necessary, which may include subsequent monitoring by an archaeologist or Native American representative.

DOCUMENTATION:

California Department of Transportation. 2019. California State Scenic Highway Mapping System. Shasta County. <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways>. Accessed September 2020.

California Environmental Protection Agency. 2020. Cortese List Data Resources. <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/sitecleanup/corteselist/>. Accessed September 2020.

California Natural Diversity Database. <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDDB/Maps-and-Data>. Accessed September 2020.

Shasta County. 2018. Shasta County General Plan. <https://www.co.shasta.ca.us/index/drm/planning/general-plan>. Accessed September 2020.

Federal Emergency Management Agency. National Flood Hazard Map (Panels 06089C1215G and 1530G, effective March 17, 2011). <https://hazards-fema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8b0adb51996444d4879338b5529aa9cd>. Accessed September 2020.

State of California, Department of Conservation. 2015. California Geological Survey. <http://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/informationwarehouse/index.html?map=mlc>. Accessed September 2020.

_____. Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. 2016. California Important Farmland Maps. <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/ciff/>. Accessed September 2020.

_____. California Geological Survey. 2019. Earthquake Zones of Required Investigation. <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/EQZApp/app/>. Accessed September 2020.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service. 2020. Web Soil Survey. <https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>. Accessed September 2020.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. List of Threatened and Endangered Species. <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>. Accessed September 2020.