**CEQA Initial Study**

**Environmental Checklist Form**

1. **Project Title:** Riparian Habitat Restoration at Grayson Riverbend Preserve
2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:** Reclamation District 2092

121 W. Main Street, Suite H

Turlock CA 95380

1. **Contact Person and Phone Number:** Maggie Blankinship, (209) 872-3744
2. **Project Location:** The Project is located adjacent to the Old San Joaquin River Channel near Grayson, CA. The property on which the project will occur is owned by River Partners.
3. **Project Sponsor’s Name and Address:** River Partners, attn: Stephen Sheppard

121 W. Main Street

Turlock CA 95380

1. **General Plan designation:** Agricultural and Open Space
2. **Zoning:** “A-2-40” Agricultural Lands minimum parcel size 40 acres. River Partners purchased the property with State funding from the California Wildlife Conservation Board. The funds were granted to River Partners subject to a Notice of Unrecorded Grant Agreement that prohibit uses on the property that are inconsistent with the goals of the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1).
3. **Description of project:** The project will restore vegetation on previously degraded primary and secondary floodplain lands along the San Joaquin River. Site preparation will include clearing debris and weeds. Fields will be leveled and slightly modified (all grading will include mass balance on site) to promote improved hydraulic conditions for floodplain wildlife. A drip irrigation system will be installed above-ground to provide irrigation for part of the restoration project, while existing furrow irrigation systems will be used to irrigate the balance of the restoration project. Native plants will be propagated from local material and planted across the site in a patterned configuration parallel to the direction of flow. Weed control and irrigation will be performed during the growing season for three years. Irrigation will be sourced through onsite wells. Detailed information is provided in the Draft Restoration Plan for the Riparian Habitat Restoration at Grayson Riverbend Preserve Project (final version expected Fall 2019).

1. **Surrounding land uses and setting:** The property is located in a rural portion of Stanislaus County, miles from urban or urbanizing areas, and immediately adjacent to the 8,000-acre San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge.
2. **Other public agencies whose approval is required:**

Central Valley Flood Protection Board: Encroachment Permit

1. **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.?**

**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.

**□ Aesthetics**

**□ Agriculture Resources and Forestry Resources**

**□ Air Quality**

**□ Biological Resources**

**□ Cultural Resources**

**□ Energy**

**□ Geology/Soils**

**□ Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

**□ Hazards & Hazardous Materials**

**□ Hydrology/Water Quality**

**□ Land Use/Planning**

**□ Mineral Resources**

**□ Noise**

**□ Population/Housing**

**□ Public Services**

**□ Recreation**

**□ Transportation**

**□ Tribal Cultural Resources**

**□ Utilities/Service Systems**

**□ Wildfire**

**□ 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.

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**Signature Date**

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**Printed Name For**

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, 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 "Earlier Analyses," as described in (5) below, 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

|  | | | **Potentially Significant Impact** | | | | **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated** | | | | | **Less Than**  **Significant Impact** | | | | | | **Beneficial or**  **No Impact** | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **I. AESTHETICS** -- Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099,would the project: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista? | | |  | | | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway? | | |  | | | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| c) In non-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 | |
| d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area? | | |  | | | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| ***Summary:***  *The project would enhance local aesthetics by establishing vegetation on previously degraded weedy lands.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES** -- 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: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use? | | |  | | | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract? | | |  | | | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))? | | |  | | | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use? | | |  | | | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use? | | |  | | | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| ***Summary:***  *The project area includes approximately 180 acres of farmable land that will be converted to restored habitat. As such, the land will not be used for cropping, though the integrity of the soils, surface permeability, and open space will remain. Open space land uses identified for the project area do not conflict with existing Williamson Act contracts on enrolled lands.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **III. AIR QUALITY** -- 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: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan? | | |  | | | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard? | | |  | | | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations? | | |  | | | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| e) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors adversely affecting a substantial number of people? | | |  | | | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| ***Summary:***  *The project does not conflict with any air quality plans or standards and will not increase criteria pollutants, pollution concentrations, exposure of sensitive receptors or objectionable odors. Historically, the project area has been used for agricultural production. This land use was permitted through air quality management permits at the regional and state levels. This land use will be permanently retired from the project area and the San Joaquin Air Pollution Board has concluded that open space and wildlife habitat uses proposed for the project area require no air quality permitting. Therefore, the project will have a positive effect on air quality in the region.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES** -- Would the project: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? | | | | |  | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service? | | | | |  | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means? | | | | |  | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites? | | | | |  | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? | | | | |  | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan? | | | | |  | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| ***Summary:***  *The project will enhance wildlife habitat for native wildlife. By re-establishing native vegetation communities, the project will result in greater acreage of suitable habitat for riparian-obligate wildlife including several threatened and endangered species. A USFWS Section 10a1a recovery permit is currently being negotiated.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **V. CULTURAL RESOURCES** -- Would the project: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to in § 15064.5? | | |  | | | |  | | | | | | | | |  | | X | |
| b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5? | | |  | | | |  | | | | | | | | |  | | X | |
| c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries? | | |  | | | |  | | | | | | | | |  | | X | |
| ***Summary:***  *Literature search for historic or cultural resources has resulted in no known records. The tribes of the San Joaquin Valley have been contacted regarding the project and have returned no known records for the property. Avoidance protocols are in place to halt work immediately and consult with appropriate authorities should such resources be found.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **VI. ENERGY** – Would the project: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation? | |  | | | | | |  | | | | | | |  | | X | | |
| b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency? | |  | | | | | |  | | | | | | |  | | X | | |
| ***Summary:*** *The project will not require the use of energy resources beyond what is necessary to transport plants, materials and labor to the project site. This project does not conflict with local renewable energy plans.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS** -- 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 Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault?Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42. | | | | |  | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| ii) Strong seismic ground shaking? | | | | |  | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? | | | | |  | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| iv) Landslides? | | | | |  | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? | | | | |  | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse? | | | | |  | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property? | | | | |  | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water? | | | | |  | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature? | | | | |  | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| ***Summary:***  *The project involves only minor land leveling and vegetation management to establish native plant communities. Soil analysis has shown that the soils underlying stratification are sufficient to support the project as designed.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS** – Would the project: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment? | | | |  | | | |  | | | | | | **`** | | | | X | |
| b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? | | | |  | | | |  | | | | | |  | | | | X | |
| ***Summary:*** *The project will not generate greenhouse gas emissions in excess of the benefit which they provide through planting of tens of thousands of native plants. This project will result in a net benefit to greenhouse gas emissions regionally.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS** -- Would the project: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials? | | | | |  | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment? | | | | |  | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? | | | | |  | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment? | | | | |  | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area? | | | | |  | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? | | | | |  | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires? | | | | |  | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| ***Summary:***  *The project includes the use of herbicides to control undesirable vegetation. Such herbicide application will be performed according to label instructions and in collaboration with the Agricultural Commissioners of Stanislaus County.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY** -- Would the project: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality? | | | | |  | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin? | | | | |  | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would: | | | | |  | |  | | | | |  | | | | | |  | |
| i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site; | | | | |  | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite; | | | | |  | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or | | | | |  | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| iv) impede or redirect flood flows? | | | | |  | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation? | | | | |  | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan? | | | | |  | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| ***Summary:***  *The primary goals of the project are to establish native riparian vegetation on land that has been previously farmed and to improve floodplain hydrology on-site to support native wildlife habitat (River Partners, 2020).*   1. ***Beneficial or No Impact****. The project is anticipated to result in a long-term benefit to water quality by stabilizing soils with perennial native vegetation and increasing the capacity of the riparian corridor to filter chemicals and excess nutrients derived from off-site upslope agricultural operations.* 2. ***Beneficial or No Impact****. Implementation of the project would require short-term irrigation (3 years of irrigation commensurate with existing agricultural water use) until plants have become established. Water would be supplied by an existing on-site groundwater well previously used to irrigate agricultural crops. The project will have a long-term net benefit to groundwater supplies as 1) all water use at the site will be permanently retired by 12/31/2024 pursuant to funding conditions associated with acquisition of the property; 2) the transition to native riparian vegetation from irrigated agriculture will save an estimated 180-200 acre-feet of water per year, on average, from a reduction in evapotranspiration demands (ITRC, 2020); and 3) improved connectivity to historic floodplain habitat will likely enhance local groundwater supplies as floodwaters inundate and infiltrate this land more frequently.* 3. ***Beneficial or No Impact.*** *The purpose of the project is to alter flow patterns in the project vicinity to achieve beneficial ecological and physical outcomes. Construction activities associated with the proposed project are not anticipated to alter the existing drainage pattern of the project area in a way that would result in erosion or sedimentation downstream. Modeling completed as part of the Hydraulic Impact Analysis (MBK, 2020) shows no significant potential for increased aggradation or erosion during both the 1955 Design Flow (Figure 21) or the 1-in-100 year flow (Figure 23).* 4. ***Beneficial or No Impact.*** *The project Hydraulic Impact Analysis (MBK, 2020) assessed the project’s potential effects on the State and federal flood control system, the Lower San Joaquin River and Tributaries Project. The results of the hydraulic analysis indicate that project-related variances in water surface elevation are within the margin of error of the model hydrology (+/- 2-3% of WSE). Therefore, the project is not expected to increase flood risk to neighboring properties or flood control infrastructure.* 5. ***Beneficial or No Impact.*** *The project would not adversely affect the rate of storm water runoff from the site; rather, revegetation would increase the water holding capacity of the soils and reduce runoff rates. Herbicides such as Round-Up® which will be used during the establishment phase of this project are specifically formulated to decompose quickly and would not be a significant pollutant carried by runoff.* 6. ***Beneficial or No Impact.*** *The proposed project does not involve the construction of any structures that would impede or redirect flood flows. However, the project does involve the planting of shrubs and trees within the designated floodway. Floodwater conveyance and the structural resistance (i.e., flexibility versus rigidity) of woody plants to flows were an integral part of the hydraulic analysis used in the development of the project design. The hydraulic analysis concluded that any impacts to flood flow water surface elevations and velocities associated with the proposed project would be less than significant within the modeled area (MBK, 2020).* 7. ***Beneficial or No Impact.*** *The project site is not at risk of seiche or tsunami. The project is within the designated floodway and as such, is subject to seasonal flooding. The project would not adversely impede or alter flows associated with flood events (MBK, 2020).* 8. ***Beneficial or No Impact.*** *The project would not impede implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. The project will have water quality benefits by filtering water with native riparian vegetation and permanently augmenting streamflows through retirement of agricultural water use (after initial three years of irrigation), as well as enhance groundwater resources by increasing groundwater recharge through improved floodplain connectivity and inundation.*   ***References***  *ITRC, 2020. Evapotranspiration at the Grayson Property. Prepared by the Irrigation Training and Research Center, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California.*  *MBK, 2020. Hydraulic Impact Analysis: Grayson Riverbend Preserve Restoration Project. Prepared by MBK Engineers.*  *River Partners, 2020. Riparian Habitat Restoration Plan for Grayson Riverbend Preserve: San Joaquin River Mile 76-77, Stanislaus County, California.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING** - Would the project: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a) Physically divide an established community? | | | | | |  |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? | | | | | |  |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| ***Summary:***  *The project is compatible with numerous overlapping planning efforts including the General Plan for Stanislaus County, the Regional Flood Management Plan for the Mid-San Joaquin River, the Central Valley Joint Venture Implementation Plan, and the San Joaquin River Restoration Program.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **XII. MINERAL RESOURCES** -- Would the project: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state? | | | | | |  |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan? | | | | | |  |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| ***Summary:***  *The project will not alter mineral resources on the site.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **XIII. NOISE** -- Would the project result in: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in vicinity of the project excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies? | | | | | |  |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels? | | | | | |  |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? | | | | | |  |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| ***Summary:***  *The use of hand-held landscaping tools and vehicles may temporarily increase noise levels in the vicinity of the project. Such noise will be restricted to daylight hours and is not anticipated to exceed decibel levels associated with routine landscaping, thus the potential impact is less than significant.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING** -- 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)? | | | | | |  |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? | | | | | |  |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| ***Summary:***  *The project will re-establish native vegetation on previously degraded lands. The project is located adjacent to a small disadvantaged community however there will be no direct impact to population or housing as a result of the project.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **XV. PUBLIC SERVICES** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services: | | | | | |  |  | | | | |  | | | | | |  | |
| Fire protection? | | | | | |  |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| Police protection? | | | | | |  |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| Schools? | | | | | |  |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| Parks? | | | | | |  |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| Other public facilities? | | | | | |  |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| ***Summary:***  *The project will change the vegetation community Grayson Riverbend Preserve– owned and managed by River Partners. The restoration plan has been reviewed by local fire departments and first responders and has not been found to increase the need for public service.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **XVI. RECREATION** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? | | | | | |  |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? | | | | | |  |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| **Summary:**  *This project does not include recreational facilities* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **XVII. TRANSPORTATION** -- Would the project: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a) Conflict with an applicable program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities? | | | | | |  |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)? | | | | | |  |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| 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 | |
| d) Result in inadequate emergency access? | | | | | |  |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| ***Summary:***  *The project will have no influence on traffic or circulation.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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: |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | | |
| 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. |  | | | | | | | | |  |  | | | | | | X | | |
| ***Summary:***  *Literature search for historic or cultural resources has resulted in no known records. The tribes of the San Joaquin Valley have been contacted regarding the project and have returned no known records for the property. Avoidance protocols are in place to halt work immediately and consult with appropriate authorities should such resources be found.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS** -- Would the project: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects? | | |  | | | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years? | | |  | | | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| 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? | | |  | | | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals? | | |  | | | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste? | | |  | | | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| ***Summary:***  *The project will have no influence on wastewater treatment facilities. The project will have sufficient water supplies to be able to complete the project as designed and upon completion, will no longer require water use to maintain.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **XX. WILDFIRE** – If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? | | | |  | | | | |  | | | |  | | | | | | X |
| b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire? | | | |  | | | | |  | | | |  | | | | | | X |
| c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment? | | | |  | | | | |  | | | |  | | | | | | X |
| d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes? | | | |  | | | | |  | | | |  | | | | | | X |
| ***Summary:*** *The project plan has received input and coordination from local fire districts and is determined to have no impact to local communities emergency response or evacuation plans. This project will install native vegetation that will not necessitate installation of new emergency response infrastructure nor threaten local communities with enhanced risk of wildfire or exposure to pollutant concentrations resultant from wildfire.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **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 | |
| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | 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 | |
| c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? | | | | |  | |  | | | | |  | | | | | | X | |
| **Note:** Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21087, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 21080(c), 21080.1, 21080.3, 21082.1, 21083, 21083.3, 21093, 21094, 21151 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |