ENVIRONMENTAL INITIAL STUDY

INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST
PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Trinity County Type 3 Cannabis Conditional Use Permit and Variance
Amalgamated Growers, Inc.

Cannabis Cultivation Use Permit No.: CCUPT3-2018-004

Prepared by:
TRINITY COUNTY
Department of Planning
61 Airport Road
Weaverville, California 96093
(530) 623-1351

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TRINITY COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

1. **Project Title:** Trinity County Use Permit Type 3 Cannabis Cultivation and Variance Amalgamated Growers, Inc. (Sharringhausen, Robert), Application CCUPT3-2018-004

2. **Lead Agency Name and Address**:

   TRINITY COUNTY
   Department of Planning
   61 Airport Road
   Weaverville,
   CA 96093

3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:** Leslie Hubbard (530) 623-1351 ext. 3

4. **Project Location:** The Project is located in an unincorporated part of Trinity County, approximately 3.3 air miles southeast of the incorporated community of Weaverville, California. The Project is located at 55361 State Highway 299, Douglas City California on Trinity County Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 024-090-18, approximately 55.4 acres in size. Refer to **Figure 1** (Project Location) and **Figures 2-3** for specific information on the Project location and activities.

5. **Applicant's Name and Address:**
   Robert Sharringhausen
   Amalgamated Growers, Inc.
   1137 Columbus Way
   Vista, CA 92081

6. **General Plan Designation:** Rural Residential (RR)

7. **Zoning:** Rural Residential 10 Acre Minimum (RR10)

8. **Description of Project:** The applicant is applying for a Type 3 (T3) license for the cultivation of up to one acre of canopy on the parcel of approximately 55.4 acres. Cannabis cultivation would occur outdoors and within hoop houses that would be developed on portions of the Applicant's parcel on previously disturbed sites. The Applicant's activities would use existing agricultural facilities, including hoop houses, water storage tanks, road infrastructure and storage and processing facilities on land previously disturbed and previously graded. These sites have had vegetation removed, have been graded to provide generally flat terrain and have existing road access. In addition to agriculture, existing uses include a residence of approximately 1,100 square feet (sf), an inactive groundwater well and a septic system.

9. **Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:** The parcels immediately surrounding the project are designated by the County's General Plan as a part of the Resource (RE) land designation and the Rural Residential (RR) land designation. The parcels are zoned as Agricultural Forest 160 Acre minimum (AF160), Agricultural Forest 20 Acre minimum (AF20), Timber Production Zone (TPZ), Rural Residential 10 Acre minimum (RR10), and Rural Residential 2.5 Acre minimum (RR2.5). Access to the site is provided via an existing unpaved road. Vegetation in the area consists primarily of mixed conifer forest, with an even distribution between evergreen forest and oak woodland.

10. **Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):** Trinity County as Lead Agency for the proposed project has discretionary authority over the primary project proposal. To implement this project, the applicant may need to obtain, at a minimum, the following discretionary permits/approvals from other agencies:

    - Trinity County Department of Environmental Health

- Trinity County Solid Waste
- CALFIRE
- California Department of Fish & Wildlife (Region 1)
- North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

11. **Tribal Consultation:** Tribal consultation pursuant to AB 52 was initiated on July 9, 2019 with the Nor-Rel-Muk Nation, Wintu Tribe of Northern California, Wintu Educational and Cultural Council and the Redding Rancheria. The Nor Rel Muk Wintu Nation requested consultation under the provisions of AB 52, there were no modifications requested as a result of the consultation.

12. **Purpose of this Document:** This document analyzes the environmental impacts of the development of the proposed use of Cannabis Cultivation of up to one acre (Type-3 license).

SECTION 1.0
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction and Regulatory Guidance

This document is an Initial Study that summarizes the technical studies prepared for the proposed Amalgamated Growers, Inc. Cannabis Conditional Use Permit (CUP) and provides justification for a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). This document has been prepared in accordance with the current California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq., and the State CEQA Guidelines. The purpose of this document is to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Trinity Sungrown Cannabis Conditional Use Permit project. Mitigation measures have been proposed to avoid or minimize any significant impacts that were identified.

1.2 Lead Agency

The Lead Agency is the public agency with primary responsibility for implementing a proposed project. Accordingly, the Trinity County Planning Department (County) is the CEQA Lead Agency.

1.3 Purpose of the Initial Study

CEQA requires that public agencies document and consider the potential environmental effects of the agency's actions that meet CEQA's definition of a "project." Briefly summarized, a "project" is an action that has the potential to result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. A project includes the agency's direct activities as well as activities that involve public agency approvals or funding. Guidelines for an agency's implementation of CEQA are found in the "CEQA Guidelines" (Title 14, Chapter 3 of the California Code of Regulations).

Provided that a project is not exempt from CEQA, the first step in the agency's consideration of its potential environmental effects is the preparation of an Initial Study. The purpose of an Initial Study is to determine whether the project would involve "significant" environmental effects, as defined by CEQA, and to describe feasible mitigation measures that would avoid significant effects or reduce them to a level that is less than significant. If the Initial Study does not identify significant effects, then the agency prepares a Negative Declaration. If the Initial Study notes significant effects but also identifies mitigation measures that would reduce these significant effects to a level that is less than significant, then the agency prepares a Mitigated Negative Declaration. If a project would involve significant effects that cannot be readily mitigated, then the agency must prepare an Environmental Impact Report. The agency may also decide to proceed directly with the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report without an Initial Study.

The proposed project is a "project" as defined by CEQA and is not exempt from CEQA consideration. The County has determined that the project may potentially have significant environmental effects and therefore would require preparation of an Initial Study. This Initial Study describes the proposed project and its environmental setting, discusses the potential environmental effects of the project, and identifies feasible mitigation measures that would eliminate any potentially significant environmental effects of the project or reduce them to a level that would be less than significant.

This Initial Study is a public information document that describes the proposed project, existing environmental setting at the project site, and potential environmental impacts of construction and operation of the proposed project. It is intended to inform the public and decision-makers of the proposed project's potential environmental impacts and to document the lead agency's compliance with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines.

This Initial Study concludes that the project would have potentially significant environmental effects, all of which would be avoided or reduced to a level that would be less than significant with recommended mitigation measures. The project applicant has accepted all the recommended mitigation measures. As a result, the County has prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration and has issued a Notice of Intent to adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project. The time available for public comment on the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration is shown on the Notice of Intent.

1.4 Regulatory Background Related to Cannabis

State Regulatory Framework

Until 1996, the cultivation, use, and sale of cannabis (also known as marijuana) for any purpose was illegal in the State of California. In 1996, California voters approved Proposition 215, which allowed seriously ill Californians the right to obtain and use cannabis for medical purposes when recommended by a physician. In 2015, the State Legislature enacted the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MCRSA), which mandated a comprehensive State licensure and regulatory framework for cultivation, manufacturing, distribution, transportation, testing, and dispensing of medical cannabis on a commercial basis.

As the State was drafting regulations in compliance with MCRSA, California voters in 2016 approved Proposition 64, which legalized the use and possession of non-medicinal cannabis products within California by adults age 21 years and older. In June 2017, the State Legislature passed a budget trailer bill, Senate Bill (SB) 94, that repealed MCRSA and integrated its medicinal licensing requirements with Proposition 64 to create the Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MAUCRSA). MAUCRSA provides the regulatory structure for commercial cannabis activities in California.

MAUCRSA designates applicable responsibilities for oversight of cannabis commerce in California to several State agencies. The Bureau of Cannabis Control (BCC) is the lead agency in regulating commercial cannabis licenses for retailers, distributors, testing labs, and microbusinesses involved with medical and adult-use cannabis. CalCannabis Cultivation Licensing, a division of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), licenses and regulates commercial cannabis cultivators and manages the State's "track-and-trace" system that tracks cannabis and its products from cultivation to sale. The Manufactured Cannabis Safety Branch of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is responsible for regulation of commercial cannabis manufacturing. In accordance with MAUCRSA, all three agencies have adopted emergency regulations related to their respective responsibilities, and all three have drafted permanent regulations that are currently undergoing the State rulemaking process.

It is important to note that, although California allows medicinal and adult use, cannabis remains classified as a Schedule 1 controlled substance under the federal Controlled Substances Act of 1970. Individuals engaging in cultivation and other cannabis-related activities risk prosecution under federal law.

Local Regulatory Framework

Trinity County occupies an area of about 2.053 million acres (3,208 square miles) in northwestern California. Of the total acreage, about 75% is owned and managed by federal agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The remaining lands are mostly privately-owned properties under the land use authority of the County. Lands in private ownership are located mainly along the primary waterways and in adjacent valleys (Trinity County 2017).

Trinity County has a history as a cannabis-producing region. The County's geographic and climatic conditions, low population density, and availability of resource lands previously utilized for forestry and grazing have attracted an influx of individuals for the purpose of participating in cannabis activity (Trinity County Project Initial Study 2017). Since 2016, the County has issued approximately 425 cultivation licenses. As of 2018, there were approximately 310 active licensed sites and another 25 in the licensing process. It is estimated by Trinity County that more than 3,500 unpermitted cultivation operations exist on private land in the County, and 10-20 illegal trespass grows on public lands.

Trinity County has enacted several ordinances that apply to various aspects of commercial cannabis. Ordinance No. 315-823, subsequently amended, created regulations on commercial cannabis cultivation, including the designation of several zoning districts as appropriate locations for licensed cultivation without encumbrances. The total amount of land within these designated zoning districts is approximately 187,782 acres, with another 11,989 acres encumbered by ordinance provisions (Trinity County Project Initial Study 2017). The license types for cannabis cultivation, described in the CDFA regulations that are allowed by the County at this time are the following:

- "Specialty Cottage Outdoor" – for outdoor cultivation up to 25 mature plants.

- “Specialty Cottage Indoor” – for indoor cultivation with 500 square feet or less of total canopy.

- “Specialty Cottage Mixed-Light Tier 1 and 2” – for cultivation using mixed light (i.e., sunlight and artificial light) with 2,500 square feet or less of total canopy. “Tier 1” means the use of artificial light at a rate of six watts or less per square foot, and “Tier 2” means the use of artificial light at a rate greater than six watts but no greater than 25 watts per square foot.

- “Specialty Outdoor” – for outdoor cultivation less than or equal to 5,000 square feet of total canopy, or up to 50 mature plants on noncontiguous plots.

- “Specialty Mixed-Light Tier 1 and 2” – for cultivation using mixed light between 2,501 and 5,000 square feet of total canopy.

- “Small Outdoor” – for outdoor cultivation between 5,001 and 10,000 square feet of total canopy.

- “Small Mixed-Light Tier 1 and 2” – for cultivation using mixed light between 5,001 and 10,000 square feet of total canopy.

- “Medium Outdoor” – for outdoor cultivation between 10,001 square feet and one acre in total canopy.

1.5 Incorporation By Reference

In accordance with Section 15150 of the State CEQA Guidelines to reduce the size of the report, the following documents are hereby incorporated by reference into this Initial Study and are available for public review at the Trinity County Planning Department. A brief synopsis of the scope and content of each of these documents is provided below.

Trinity County General Plan

The Trinity County General Plan (General Plan) is a long-range planning guide for growth and development for the County. The General Plan serves two basic purposes: 1) to identify the goals for the future physical, social, and economic development of the County; and 2) to describe and identify policies and actions adopted to attain those goals. The General Plan is a comprehensive document that addresses seven (7) mandatory elements/ issues in accordance with State law. These elements include Land Use, Housing, Circulation, Conservation, Open Space, Noise, and Public Safety. Other issues that affect the County, including Public Facilities and Services, Recreation, and Economic Development are addressed on a local level in the Douglas City, Hayfork, Junction City, Lewiston, and Weaverville Community Plans. The County’s General Plan was utilized throughout this Initial Study as the fundamental planning document governing development on the proposed project site. Background information and policy information from the General Plan is cited in several sections of this Initial Study.

Douglas City Community Plan

The Douglas City Community Plan is the planning guideline for the future development of the area which establishes a framework for both private and public projects within the area to maintain the area’s high quality of life. The plan was adopted in 1987 and addresses approximately 35 square miles centered around the Trinity River from Grass Valley Creek to Steiner Flat. The plan addresses nine (9) key issues including Housing and Population, Transportation, Public Facilities and Services, Economic Development, Parks and Recreation, Hazards, Natural Resources, Community Design, and Land Use. The plan was designed to implement the County General Plan while updating the General Plan relative to the community goals and objectives.

Trinity County Zoning Ordinance

The Trinity County Ordinance No. 315 established a Zoning Plan in an effort to promote and protect public health. The Zoning Plan serves three (3) basic purposes: 1) to assist in providing a definite plan of development for the County, and to guide, control and regulate the future growth of the County, in accordance with said plan; 2) to protect the character and

the social and economic stability of agricultural, residential, commercial, industrial, and other areas, within the County and to assure the orderly and beneficial development of such areas; and 3) to minimize harm to public safety resulting from the location of buildings, and the uses thereof, and of land adjacent to highways which are a part of the Circulation Element of the General Plan, or which are important thoroughfares, in such manner as to cause interference with existing or prospective traffic movement on said highways. The Zoning Plan specified and established designations, locations and boundaries of zoning districts. The districts explicitly established permitted uses including building types, building heights, lot dimensions, yard dimensions, lot setbacks, lot coverage, allowable uses, density, and allowable accessory buildings and uses.

Trinity County Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance No. 315-823

Under the Ordinance No. 315, enacted on October 3, 2017, Trinity County enacted several ordinances that apply to various aspects of commercial cannabis cultivation. Initially Ordinance No. 315-823, subsequently amended, created regulations on commercial cannabis cultivation, including the designation of several zoning districts as appropriate locations for licensed cultivation without encumbrances. The Ordinance also identified exclusionary standards to indicate restrictions that would cause an application to not be approved.

Trinity County Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance No. 315-829

Under Ordinance No. 315-829, enacted on February 6, 2018, Trinity County amended Section 28 of the Zoning Ordinance No. 315 pertaining to commercial cannabis cultivation.

Trinity County Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance No. 315-830

Under Ordinance No. 315-830, enacted on March 6, 2018, Trinity County amended Section 28 of the Zoning Ordinance No. 315 pertaining to commercial cannabis cultivation. The amendment clarified allowable cultivation types and allowable simultaneous commercial cannabis activities.

Trinity County Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance No. 315-841

Under Ordinance No. 315-841, enacted on September 19, 2018, Trinity County amended Section 43 of the Zoning Ordinance No. 315 pertaining to commercial cannabis cultivation. The amendment clarified that a cultivator may “self-transport” their product without being required to obtain a County distribution permit.

Trinity County Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance No. 315-843

The Cannabis Ordinance No. 315-843, enacted on March 20, 2019, amended Section 43 of the Zoning Ordinance No. 315 pertaining to commercial cannabis cultivation. The amendment removed the requirement for an applicant to prove residency in the county for a minimum of one year as well as the limit of one application per person/ entity or legal parcel.

1.6 Project Environmental Studies

As part of the preparation of this Initial Study, the following studies, which are included in Section 6.0, Appendix, were prepared or utilized to develop baseline information and project-related impact discussions. Hard copies of these studies are available for inspection at the Trinity County Planning Department, 61 Airport Road Weaverville, California 96093, during normal business hours (8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday).

- GeoServ, Inc. *Additional Information Required from Applicant Letter*. August 2019.
- GeoServ, Inc. *Amalgamated- Archaeological Reconnaissance Report*. June 2019
- Tributary Biological Consultants. *Biological Assessment for Amalgamated Growers, Inc., Douglas City, California*. April 2018.

- Trinity Valley Consulting Engineers, Inc. *Water Resource Protection Plan for WDID #1A161325CTRI*. May 2018.

Information contained in the cultural resources documentation related on the specific location of prehistoric and historic sites is confidential and exempt from the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the California Public Records Act (CPRA); therefore, this information is not included in Section 6.0, Appendix. Professionally qualified individuals, as determined by the California Office of Historic Preservation, may contact the Trinity County Planning Department directly in order to inquire about its availability.

1.7 Review Process

This Initial Study is being circulated for public and agency review as required by CEQA. Because State agencies will act as responsible or trustee agencies, the County will circulate the Initial Study to the State Clearinghouse of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research for distribution and a 30-day review period. During the review period, written comments may be submitted to:

TRINITY COUNTY
Department of Planning
61 Airport Road
Weaverville, CA 96093

Leslie Hubbard, Deputy Director of Planning
lhubbard@trinitycounty.org
(530) 623-1351 ext. 3

SECTION 2.0
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Project Location and Setting

Regional Setting

The project area lies within Trinity County, California in the Klamath Mountain Province. This region is at the junction of the uplifted Coast Ranges, the volcanic Cascades, and the ancient volcanic roots of the Sierra Nevada. The Trinity Basin is characterized by cold, wet winters and dry summers. The Trinity watershed drains into the Klamath River, which empties into the Pacific Ocean west of Trinity County. Several plant communities are present in the region, including Klamath mixed conifer, foothill pine (gray pine), mixed chaparral, montane hardwood, montane riparian, and riverine flora. In general, the growing season ranges from March 1 to October 31, but may be as short as mid-June through early September in some areas. Most herbaceous growth occurs during a relatively short period in late spring, ceasing as soil moisture depletes in early summer.

Local Setting

The proposed project is located adjacent to Weaver Creek which merges with West Weaver Creek and is a tributary of the Trinity River watershed. The proposed project parcel is 3.3 air miles southeast of the incorporated community of Weaverville, California. A portion of the proposed project property does fall within a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floodplain, this portion is across Highway 299 along Weaver Creek and does not affect the proposed project. Historical onsite activities included resource extraction (timber harvest).

Project Location

The proposed Amalgamated Growers, Inc. Project is located within Trinity County to the north of Douglas City. The project site is located at 55361 State Highway 299, Weaverville, California. The 55.4-acre site is identified as Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 024-090-18. Primary site access is provided via an existing gravel road off of Highway 299, a portion of this road is a right-of-way for the Trinity Public Utilities District (PUD). The site is also identified on the Weaverville USGS quadrangle map, Section 30, Township 33N North, Range 9 West, Mount Diablo Base Meridian (MDBM). The location of the proposed project is shown on **Figure 1** with a site plan shown on **Figure 3**.The parcels immediately surrounding the project are designated by the County's General Plan as a part of the Resource (RE) land designation and the Rural Residential (RR) land designation. The parcels are zoned as Agricultural Forest 160 Acre minimum (AF160), Agricultural Forest 20 Acre minimum (AF20), Timber Production Zone (TPZ), Rural Residential 10 Acre minimum (RR10), and Rural Residential 2.5 Acre minimum (RR2.5). Access to the site is provided via an existing unpaved road.

Existing Conditions

The land encompassing the project area has been historically used for various resource extractions including timber harvest and currently has some agricultural uses on previously excavated terraces. The parcel falls under the Rural Residential (RR) General Plan designation, with a zoning designation of Rural Residential 10 Acre minimum (RR10). The site is surrounded by largely undeveloped land. There are Rural Residential, Agricultural Forest 160 Acre minimum, Timber Production Zone, and Agricultural Forest 20 Acre minimum zoned parcels bordering the proposed project parcel.

The site currently has a residence, an inactive groundwater well, a septic system, terraces excavated for agriculture and one existing hoop house. Water is provided by the Weaverville Community Services District (Weaverville CSD) and is connected to a water meter. Power is provided by the Trinity Public Utilities District (TPUD).

2.2 Proposed Uses

The purpose of this project is to expand cannabis cultivation operations onsite as a permitted use under the County's cannabis ordinances. The project, as proposed, meets the requirements for uses compatible within the Rural Residential

(RR) General Plan designation, is consistent with the Rural Residential 10 Acre Minimum (RR10) zoning. The proposed project includes the development of up to one acre (43,560 sf) of cannabis canopy under a Type-3 medium license. The proposed project would not alter existing activities at the residence.

Related Zoning and Uses

The subject property has been zoned by the County as Rural Residential 10 Acre Minimum (RR10), which allows for agricultural uses provided the number of animals per square foot is not exceeded or a use permit is first secured. The proposed uses, as described by the applicant and evaluated in this document, are consistent with the uses allowed for RR10 zoned lands.

The project as proposed does not comply with the Trinity County Ordinance 315-823, that requires a 500 ft setback from the property line for a medium (up to one acre of canopy) cannabis cultivation site. The nearest residence on an adjacent parcel is approximately 850 ft to the north east, which is more than the 350 ft setback from a residential structure that is required for Specialty Cottage, Specialty and Small license cultivation sites. The applicant intends to submit an application for a variance. As a condition of approval the variance will need to be approved before the applicant can proceed with the proposed project.

Proposed Operations

The proposed project requests to expand existing onsite activities through the addition of two (2) hoop houses (approximately 15 feet by 45 feet and 12 feet by 45 feet) totaling approximately 1,215 square feet (sf) in size for raising immature plants, an existing hoop house (260 sf) for a drying room, an existing conex box #1 (160 sf) for harvest storage, a conex box #2 (160 sf) for agricultural and chemical storage, a conex box #3 (160 sf) for trim use, an existing conex box #4 (160 sf) for a drying room, and three (3) new designated compost and waste management areas, totaling approximately 740 sf as shown on **Figure 3**.

The proposed expansion would employ three (3) permanent full-time employees and two (2) temporary workers from September through November for approximately three (3) months. The applicant proposes to utilize the local labor force within the County. The existing residence will provide housing for up to three (3) permanent employees.

Site Access

The subject property's main access is provided through an existing unpaved road. No new roadway encroachments are required for the implementation of the proposed project.

Water Availability

Water is provided to the project site by the Weaverville Community Services District.

The County Fire Safe Ordinance 1162 requires buildings created and/or approved after January 1, 1992 to provide a minimum 2,500-gallon water tank. The property has six (6) water storage tanks totaling 13,100 gallons and is available for fire suppression use at the project. Additional fire suppression systems may be required based on the ultimate occupancy and use of the property. Review of the project by CALFIRE will determine the required fire suppression equipment specifications as a condition of approval of the use permit.

Domestic Wastewater Discharge

The site maintains an existing permitted septic system that would continue to serve the subject property treating typical residential wastewater from the residence and daily workers. Three (3) full-time employees are anticipated.

SECTION 3.0
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

This chapter provides an evaluation of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed cannabis cultivation for the Trinity County Use Permit Type 3 Cannabis Cultivation and Variance project in Douglas City, California, as well as the CEQA Mandatory Findings of Significance. A discussion of cumulative impacts is included at the end of this chapter. The issue areas evaluated in this Initial Study include:

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology / Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology / Water Quality
- Land Use / Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population / Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities / Service Systems
- Wildfire

The environmental analysis in this section is patterned after the Initial Study Checklist recommended by the State CEQA Guidelines and used by Trinity County in its environmental review process. This checklist has been updated with the revisions of the January 1, 2019 State CEQA Guidelines. For the preliminary environmental assessment undertaken as part of this Initial Study's preparation, a determination that there is a potential for significant effects indicates the need to more fully analyze the development's impacts and to identify mitigation.

For the evaluation of potential impacts, the questions in the Initial Study Checklist are stated and an answer is provided according to the analysis undertaken as part of the Initial Study. The analysis considers the long-term, direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the development. To each question, there are four possible responses:

- **No Impact.** The development will not have any measurable impact on the environment.

- **Less Than Significant Impact.** The development will have the potential for impacting the environment, although this impact will be below established thresholds that are considered to be significant.

- **Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated.** The development will have the potential to generate impacts which may be considered as a significant effect on the environment, although mitigation measures or changes to the development's physical or operational characteristics can reduce these impacts to levels that are less than significant.

- **Potentially Significant Impact**. The development will have impacts which are considered significant, and additional analysis is required to identify mitigation measures that could reduce these impacts to less than significant levels.

All answers must take into account the whole action involved, including potential off- and onsite, indirect, direct, construction, and operation, except as provided for under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15183 and State CEQA Statute Section 21083. The setting discussion under each resource section in this chapter is followed by a discussion of impacts and applicable mitigation measures.

This Initial Study identifies several potentially significant environmental effects related to the proposed project. Some effects are mitigated by implementation of existing provisions of law and standards of practice related to environmental protection. Such provisions are considered in the environmental impact analysis, and the degree to which they would reduce potential environmental effects is discussed. Additional mitigation measures are specifically identified when necessary to avoid potential environmental effects or to reduce them to a level that is less than significant.

I. **AESTHETICS**: *Would the project:*	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
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

Setting: The project site is surrounded by resource lands that have significant vegetative screening and topographic relief that screen the site from many offsite views, and is not adjacent to any historic sites, therefore the project is unable to adversely affect a scenic resource (Trinity County GIS). The existing built environment in the vicinity of the proposed project includes both public and privately maintained access roads, scattered residential buildings, and a variety of associated rural structures. The proposed project has the same general features including an existing cannabis cultivation area and a variety of above and below ground utility services. The nearest residence (offsite) is located approximately 850 ft north west of the cultivation area.

Highway 299 runs East/ West through the area and is adjacent to the project. Weaver Creek runs adjacent to Highway 299, across from the proposed project and any views of the creek are not impacted by the proposed project. The project area is characterized by forested mountainous terrain and generally level developed terraces for agriculture. Vegetation grades between developed sites with scattered grassland vegetation, transitioning to hardwoods and conifers. The Trinity River, part of the National Wild and Scenic River System is located approximately 0.8 miles to the east. While the Trinity River is in proximity to the proposed project site, there are no views of the project from the river and no views of the river from the project site.

The County has not designated specific scenic vistas in the immediate project area as a part of the General Plan and there are no designated State or federal scenic highways or scenic highway corridors in the vicinity of the project (California Department of Transportation, California Scenic Highway Mapping System).

Impact Analysis: Based on a field review by the Planning Department, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

a) Scenic vistas are defined as expansive views of highly-valued landscapes from publicly accessible viewpoints. Scenic vistas include views of natural features such as topography, water courses, outcrops, and natural vegetation, as well as man-made scenic structures. There are limited views of the site from Highway 299, but the development is consistent with current uses and the development of the proposed project is expected to be viewed as a continuation of the existing development on the site. There are no designated scenic vistas in the project vicinity; therefore, there would be no impact. The Trinity River is located approximately 0.8 miles to the east of the site, but there are no views of the river from the project site. Based on these factors, there will be no impact to visual resources from the development of the project.

b) California's Scenic Highway Program was created by the Legislature in 1963. Its purpose is to preserve and protect scenic highway corridors from changes that would diminish the aesthetic value of lands adjacent to highways.

According to Caltrans' California Scenic Highway Program and the National Scenic Byways Program, the proposed project is not located near a highway which has been listed as a State or federal Scenic Highway or as an Eligible State Scenic Highway-Not Officially Designated. Additionally, the project is not located on a National Scenic Byway System route. The proposed project will develop facilities in areas previously developed for agricultural uses and would not change the visual character of the area. Therefore, there is no impact.

c) Project development would not have any short- or long-term visual effects on the immediate area surrounding the areas of development, because they are proposed for areas or within structures that have been developed by previous activities that changed the visual landscape at that time. The project does not propose to add significant new above ground structures, and those that are constructed are not expected to change the visual character or quality of the site as it will be consistent with other existing structures at these locations. Therefore, impacts to the visual character of the surrounding area or impacts to public views are considered less than significant.

d) Light pollution occurs when nighttime views of the stars and sky are diminished by an over-abundance of light coming from the ground. Light pollution is a potential impact from the operation of any light source at night. Proper light shields, lighting design, and landscaping are commonly used to reduce light pollution generated from lighting by blocking the conveyance of light upwards. The result is that the lights are not visible from above; therefore, ambient light is not added to the nighttime sky. In addition, light reflecting off surfaces during daylight hours has the potential to create a source of glare in the vicinity of the proposed project.

The proposed project site currently has minimal uses that include minor amounts of nighttime light sources (residence, security lighting). These sources of light are limited and while they are generally seen from a distance as a small light source, do not generate large amounts of light either on or offsite. Introduction of new lighting from the proposed project would include lights within and around the proposed new hoop houses and conex boxes or for security lighting purposes. The County Cannabis Cultivation ordinance (Ordinance No. 315-823 and amendments) requires that the light generated by the proposed project would be required to be both (1) downcast, shielded and/or screened to keep light from emanating offsite or into the sky, and (2) light uses for operations require that lighting in greenhouses is shielded so that little to no light escapes, and light shall not escape at a level that is visible from neighboring properties between sunset and sunrise. No light will be generated from the proposed cultivation site because the applicant will not use artificial lights on the cultivation site at any time.

After evaluation of the proposed project, and the potential for impacts due to new lighting sources, the implementation of the standard requirements of the County's General Plan and Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance provide a uniform standard for reduction and minimization of light trespass. With adherence to applicable General Plan policies and provisions of the Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance impacts related to light pollution and glare impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required. Impacts would be less than significant.

Findings: In the course of the above evaluation impacts associated with *Aesthetics* resources were found to be less than significant because of the inability of a project of this scope to create such impacts or the absence of project characteristics producing effects of this type.

References:

California Department of Transportation. *California Scenic Highway System*. 2019. [Online]: https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways. Accessed: November 7, 2019.

National Scenic Byways Program. 2019. [Online]: https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/byways/states/CA. Accessed: November 7, 2019.

Trinity County. *General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element*.

Trinity County. *Cannabis Ordinance No. 315-823.* Enacted October 3, 2017.

National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. [Online]: https://www.rivers.gov/california.php. Accessed November 7, 2019.

II. AGRICULTURE 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 Mode (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:*	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less-Than-Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or 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) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?				**X**

Setting: The parcel falls under the Rural Residential (RR) General Plan designation, with a zoning designation of Rural Residential 10 Acre minimum (RR10). The General Plan describes RR zoning as areas that should be used single family dwellings, small scale agricultural uses, small scale farming, public stables, campgrounds, or public or quasi- public uses. Current uses include a single family residence as well as agricultural uses with established utility systems.

Discussion: Based on a field review by the Planning Department and other agency staff, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

a) The project site has been historically used for resource extraction (timber harvest) and has some existing cannabis cultivation. The proposed project site possesses soils that are considered "not prime" for agricultural production according to the California Department of Conservation. The County has zoned the area as Rural Residential (RR) which allows agricultural production. The site is not identified on the Department of Conservation's Important Farmland Series Mapping and Monitoring Program. Based on the above, development Impacts related to the conversion of prime, unique, or important farmland would not occur. There is no impact.

b) The proposed project site is not currently zoned for agricultural uses or under a Williamson Act contract. Therefore, project implementation would not result in conflicts with existing agricultural zoning. No impacts would occur.

c) Implementation of the proposed project would not result in a conversion of farmland to non farmland. Therefore, no impacts would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required as there is no impact.

Findings: In the course of the above evaluation, there will be no impacts associated with *Agricultural Resources* because of the inability of a project of this scope to create such impacts or the absence of project characteristics producing effects of this type.

References:

State of California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, [Online]: https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF/. Accessed: November 8, 2019.

Trinity County. *General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element.*

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:*	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
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	
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors or dust) affecting a substantial number of people?			X	

Setting: The project is located in Trinity County, which is a part of the North Coast Air Basin (NCAB). The NCAB extends for 250 miles from Sonoma County in the south to the Oregon border. The climate of NCAB is influenced by two major topographic units: the Klamath Mountains and the Coast Range provinces. The climate is moderate with the predominant weather factor being moist air masses from the ocean. Average annual rainfall in the area is approximately 50 to 60 inches with the majority falling between October and April. Predominate wind direction is typically from the northwest during summer months and from the southwest during winter storm events.

Project activities are subject to the authority of the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District (NCUAQMD) and the California Air Resources Board (CARB). The NCUAQMD is listed as "attainment" or "unclassified" for all the federal and state ambient air quality in Trinity County. The only exception is for 24-hour particulate (PM10) standards in Humboldt County (which is not a part of the project area). Due to the large size of the NCUAQMD, it is well understood that particulate matter can travel from other areas into Humboldt County (such as from Trinity County) and affect air quality. In the NCUAQMD, particulate matter has been determined to be primarily from vehicles, with the largest source of fugitive emissions from vehicular traffic on unpaved roads.

In determining whether a project has significant air quality impacts on the environment, agencies often apply their local air district's thresholds of significance to project in the review process. The District has not formally adopted specific significance thresholds, but rather utilizes the Best Available Control Technology (BACT) emissions rates for stationary sources as defined and listed in the NCUAQMD Rule and Regulations, Rule 110 – New Source Review (NSR) and Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD), Section 5.1 – BACT (pages 8-9) (NCUAQMD, 2018).

Sensitive receptors (e.g. children, senior citizens, and acutely or chronically ill people) are more susceptible to the effect of air pollution than the general population. Land uses that are considered sensitive receptors typically include residences, schools, parks, childcare centers, hospitals, convalescent homes, and retirement homes. The nearest sensitive receptors to the project site are tenants of a single family residence on an adjacent parcel (approximately 850 ft to the north of the cultivation area, across SR 299) and the Douglas City Elementary School (approximately 2.2 miles distant).

Discussion: Based on a field review by the Planning Department and other agency staff, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

a-b) Since Trinity County is in attainment or unclassified for all federal and state air quality standards, the project is not subject to an air quality plan. The NCUAQMD prepared a Draft Particulate Matter Attainment Plan in May 1995, which is only applicable to portions of the District which are nonattainment for PM_{10} (e.g., Humboldt County).

Construction activities proposed by the project may create minor amounts of dust from construction of hoop-houses, but these activities are considered minor activities and would not create dust emissions that would require specialized abatement practices. Vehicle use during operation of the project would be limited to light duty vehicles, and dust emissions would be minor and insignificant. Vehicle traffic associated with the project is not expected to generate dust emissions that

would cause a substantial increase in PM_{10} within the surrounding area, Trinity County or the NCUAQMD. Developing a cannabis cultivation facility within the community of Weaverville is not anticipated to impact vehicle miles traveled and associated vehicular exhaust emissions. As such, the project will not violate any air quality standard, contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation, or result in a cumulative increase of any criteria pollutant for which the region is in non-attainment.

The project does not propose to use generators for power, as the site has power provided by the Trinity Public Utilities District (TPUD). Should generators be used at a future time, those uses would be required to be in compliance with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) requirements for the Portable Equipment Registration Program (PERP), should the generators qualify for coverage by this permitting program, or as may be required by the NCUAQMD. Based on the analysis above, there were no impacts identified.

c-d) Due to the nature and size of the project, construction and operational activities are not expected to generate air quality pollutants that would cause a significant impact, and the development of the project will not expose sensitive receptors or a large number of people to substantial pollutant concentrations or objectionable odors.

Pesticide applications are normally required to be administered a minimum of 300 feet from sensitive receptors (e.g. residences) in the case of dry pesticides and 200 feet in the case of wet pesticides. Generally, pesticide application should occur at low wind velocities (less than 10 mph). As shown on **Figure 3** (Site Plan) and based on a review of aerial photography, application of pesticides in the hoop-house structures and outdoor cultivation area would occur approximately 850 feet from the closest sensitive receptors, a residential building to the north east across SR299. The requirement to maintain appropriate setbacks from nearby residences and limit spraying activities at low wind velocities is a standard County development condition related to cannabis operations. Specifically the following condition of approval will be a part of the CUP:

Condition of Approval. The spray application of pesticides (e.g. neem oil, sulfur or other materials) shall occur no closer than 500 feet to an adjacent residence. Spraying shall not occur at wind speeds greater than 10 miles per hour (CCR, Title 3, Division 6, 6960(b)(3)). The operator shall measure the wind speed prior to and during spraying activities to ensure wind speeds are below 10 mph. Spraying activities shall cease if wind speeds are measured at greater than 10 mph.

Odors that would be generated by the proposed cannabis facility would primarily occur from the outdoor cultivation activities. While odors from flowering cannabis plants can be strong within the immediate vicinity of cultivation sites, the distance of the operation to the nearest sensitive receptor, a single-family home is approximately 850 ft (to the north east). The project does require a variance as the cultivation area is within 500 ft of the property line, however as the nearest adjacent use is more than 500 ft distant any cannabis odors from the operations would not being a significant issue to offsite sensitive receptors.

As proposed, the project's outdoor cultivation facility requires a variance as it does not meet the property line setback requirements of the Cannabis Ordinance. Once a variance is issued by the County, the variance is evaluated on an annual basis. Should odor from the project become an issue at the offsite residence the County could terminate the variance and require relocation of the outdoor cultivation area farther from the property line or require mitigation be implemented to reduce odors. Based on the analysis above and proposed operating restrictions, development of the project would have a less than significant impact.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required. Impacts would be less than significant.

Findings: In the course of the above evaluation impacts associated with *Air Quality* were found to be less than significant because of the project design, size, location, and proposed operating restrictions.

References:

California Air Resources Board. 2017. *Area Designation Maps / State and National.* [Online]:https://www.arb.ca.gov/permits/permits.htm. Accessed: November 8, 2019.

California Department of Pesticide Regulation. *California Code of Regulations, Title 3, Food and Agriculture, Division 6. Pesticides and Pest Control Operations. Chapter 4. Environmental Protection, Subchapter 5. Surface Water, Article 1,*

Pesticide Contamination Prevention. Section 6960. [Online]: https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/legbills/calcode/040501.htm. Accessed: November 7, 2019.

North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District. 2018. [Online]: http://ncuaqmd.org/index.php?page=rules.regulations. Accessed: November 7, 2019.

Trinity County. *Cannabis Ordinance No. 315-823.* Enacted October 3, 2017.

Trinity County. *Cannabis Ordinance No. 315-829.* Enacted February 6, 2018

Trinity County. *Cannabis Ordinance No. 315-830.* Enacted March 6, 2018.

Trinity County. *Cannabis Ordinance No. 315-841.* Enacted September 19, 2018.

Trinity County. *Cannabis Ordinance No. 315-843.* Enacted March 20, 2019.

IV. **BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES:** *Would the project:*	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial 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 of regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. 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

Setting: The project is situated on lands that have been previously disturbed by timber harvest and are currently used for a single-family residence and cannabis production, as well as appurtenant structures and related uses.

Discussion: Based on a field review by the Planning Department and other agency staff, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

a) A Biological Report was prepared for the project by the applicants' consultant, Tributary Biological Consultants (Refer to Appendix, Section 6.0). The biological report included an evaluation of onsite wildlife habitats and the potential presence of Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive (TES) plant and animal species. The evaluation found that the site has been historically disturbed by past logging and agricultural activities and existing plant communities and wildlife habitats consist primarily of non-native and invasive plant species.

Literature searches and data analysis of the nine quadrangle area surrounding the project site documented occurrences of 11 special status bird species, 8 mammal species of special concern, 3 amphibians of special concern, 4 special status fish species, one invertebrate of special concern, and two special plant species.

Of the 29 species identified, none will be impacted by development of the project as they are either not present on the site or the habitat areas are not considered part of the project site (Tributary Biological Consultants, 2018).

b) The project does not propose any development or impacts to riparian habitat or any sensitive natural community. Riparian habitat has not been identified onsite. No impacts will occur in this regard.

c) The Biological Report identified one ponded area near Highway 299 that is an artificially formed jurisdictional wetland and is not part of the project area, as no further wetlands were identified an official delineation was deemed

unnecessary. Since no wetlands will be disturbed by the proposed project, no impacts to federally protected wetlands would occur.

d) Due to the small scale of the proposed project, the movement of any native resident or migratory wildlife species or established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors is not anticipated to be significant. The project does not propose to alter any streams or rivers or otherwise impact fish movements. Also, the project site has been previously developed, farmed and otherwise developed with historical activities prior to the project proposal. These historic activities may have previously altered deer migration or local travel patterns, but this impact is considered the baseline condition and is not considered an impact for this project. Fencing that may be required around the cannabis operations represents a small portion of the overall historically impacted area and is not seen as an impediment to deer migration or the migration of other mammals. There will be no impact to avian migration from the project.

e) The County General Plan, Conservation Element, discusses the need for the protection and conservation of natural resources including biological resources within the county. While the plan outlines various goals and objectives, there has been no policy developed related to specific biological resources or tree preservation or management that would specifically apply to the project and the lands where the project is located. The project does not propose to remove any trees or otherwise impact tree vegetation, as there are no trees on the project site that would be impacted. There will be no impact to these resources from development of the project.

f) No habitat conservation plans, or other similar plans have been adopted for the project site or project area. No impact would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required. Impacts would be less than significant.

Findings: In the course of the above evaluation, impacts associated with *Biological Resources* were found to be less than significant with the implementation of the mitigation measures because of the project size, location, and limited scope of potential impact and lack of suitable habitat onsite.

References:

California Department of Pesticide Regulation. *Legal Pest Management Practices for Cannabis Growers in California*. December 2017. [Online]: https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/county/cacltrs/penfltrs/penf2015/2015atch/attach1502.pdf. Accessed: November 11, 2019.

California Department of Pesticide Regulation. *Cannabis Pesticides that Cannot be Used*. September 2018. [Online]: https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/cannabis/cannot_use_pesticide.pdf. Accessed: November 11, 2019.

California Department of Pesticide Regulation. *Legal Pest Management Practices for Marijuana Growers in California*. 2015.

California Department of Pesticide Regulation. *Pesticide Use on Marijuana*. 2015.

Tributary Biological Consultants. *Biological Assessment for Amalgamated Growers, Inc., Douglas City, California*. April 2018.

Trinity County. *General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element.*

USFWS. 2019. *National Wetland Inventory*. [Online]: https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/Mapper.html. Accessed November 12, 2019.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES: *Would the project:*	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?				X
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?		X		
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?		X		

Setting: The project site has a documented history of being developed for resource extraction, logging, and has had minor cannabis cultivation in addition to the existing single family residence. Other non-historical cultural uses may have occurred at the project site and in the surrounding vicinity. The Applicant provided a cultural resource study conducted by Mark Arnold for GeoServ, Inc., that evaluated the proposed project site.

Discussion: Based on a field review by the Planning Department, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

a) An onsite cultural resources survey was conducted by Mark Arnold for GeoServ, Inc. (Appendix, Section 6.0). The survey did not identify any prehistoric or historic archaeological sites during the reconnaissance survey. There are no National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR) sites located at the project, or within close proximity of the site, that would call for the retention of the historical structure or listing. Therefore, no impacts to historical resources would occur with implementation of the proposed project.

b) A cultural resources review completed for the project did not find any archaeological site that could be impacted by the proposed project. However, there is a possibility that cultural resources, including buried archaeological materials, could exist in the area and may be uncovered during project development. Therefore, if any resources are found during the construction of the proposed project, they will be mitigated through implementation of **Mitigation Measure CR-1**. Adherence to protocols established by **Mitigation Measure CR-1** would serve to avoid impacts that would result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource as defined in CEQA §15064.5. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

c) There are no known burial sites on or immediately adjacent to the proposed project site. If human remains are unearthed during future development of the site, the provisions of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 shall apply. Under this Section, no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin and disposition, pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 and **Mitigation Measure CR-2**. Impacts are considered less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

Mitigation Measures:
The following mitigation measures have been developed, to reduce potential impacts related to undocumented cultural resources and unknown human burials to less than significant levels:

Mitigation Measure CR-1. If cultural resources, such as chipped or ground stone, or bone are discovered during ground-disturbance activities, work shall be stopped within 50 feet of the discovery, as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; January 1999 Revised Guidelines, Title 14 California Code of Regulations [CCR] 15064.5 (f)). Work near the archaeological finds shall not resume until a professional archaeologist, who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines, has evaluated the material and offered recommendations for further action.

Mitigation Measures CR-2. If In the event that previously unidentified evidence of human burial or human remains are discovered during project construction, work will stop at the discovery location, within 20 meters (66 feet), and

any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie human remains (Public Resources Code, Section 7050.5)., The Trinity County Coroner must be informed and consulted, per State law. If the coroner determines the remains to be Native American, he or she shall contact the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours. The Native American Heritage Commission shall identify the person or persons it believes to be the most likely descendent. The most likely descendent will be given an opportunity to make recommendations for means of treatment of the human remains and any associated grave goods. when the commission is unable to identify a descendant or the descendants identified fail to make a recommendation, or the landowner or his or her authorized representative rejects the recommendation of the descendants and the mediation provided for in subdivision (k) of Section 5097.94, if invoked, fails to provide measures acceptable to the landowner, the landowner or his or her authorized representative shall reinter the human remains and items associated with Native American human remains with appropriate dignity on the property in a location not subject to further and future subsurface disturbance. Work in the area shall not continue until the human remains are dealt with according to the recommendations of the County Coroner, Native American Heritage Commission and/or the most likely descendent have been implemented.

Findings: With the implementation of the mitigation measures identified the project will have a less than significant impact to *Cultural Resources*.

References:

GeoServ, Inc. *Amalgamated Growers, Inc. Trinity County Cultivation Permit Archaeological Reconnaissance Report*. June 2019.

VI. ENERGY:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?			X	
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?			X	

The proposed project includes cannabis cultivation in outdoor full sun conditions and within hoop houses, the Applicant has not proposed any artificial lighting as part of the cultivation process, the only additional uses of power include additional outdoor lighting for safety and security. The project site is currently provided power by the Trinity County Public Utilities District (TPUD) which provides power for the existing residence and the existing small scale cannabis cultivation. Proposed operations do not require any additional power or any portable or stationary generators.

Discussion: Based on the analysis undertaken as part of this Initial Study, the following findings can be made:

a) Due to the limited scope of the proposed project as a minor expansion of an existing agricultural use, there are no proposed sources of new or expanded sources energy consumption onsite that could potentially cause significant environmental impact. There are no generators or other large machinery proposed for use either during construction or during operation. Due to the nature of project impacts are considered less than significant.

b) There are no local plans for renewable energy or energy efficiency. California passed AB 32 which requires local governments to take an active role in addressing climate change and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions using methods such as energy efficiency in new development. As noted above, the proposed project would not result in a substantial increase in energy consumption beyond existing conditions. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict or obstruct plans related to renewable energy or energy efficiency, and impacts are less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required. Impacts would be less than significant.

Findings: Based upon the review of the information above the implementation of the project will have a less than significant impact with respect to *Energy*.

References:
Trinity County. *Trinity County General Plan.*

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS: *Would the project:*	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
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 Publications 42. ii) Strong seismic ground shaking? iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? 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 wastewater 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

Setting: The project is situated in the Western Paleozoic and Triassic Belt of the Klamath Mountains province. The area consists of sedimentary and metamorphic rocks from the Weaverville and Bragdon Formations, the pre-Silurian meta-volcanic schist deposits, and Quaternary alluvium and terrace deposits. The project site consists of primarily Brownscreek-DouCity Complex soils and Xerofluents- Riverwash Complex soils. All soils have gravelly compositions and are well drained. The location of the proposed project consists of mostly colluvium derived from mica schist and residuum weathered from mica schist.

Discussion: Based on a field review by the Planning Department, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

a) The project may expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault:

There are no active faults mapped in the project vicinity. The California Geological Survey (CGS, 2018) has the responsibility for mapping active earthquake faults in California, through legislation referred to as the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act. There are no Alquist-Priolo earthquake fault zones identified in close proximity to the project site. There is no supplemental geologic data to suggest unmapped active faults in the region. Based on this existing information, there will be no impact to the project components from impacts related to surface fault rupture.

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking:

Although there are no known earthquake faults in the project vicinity, the entire northern California region is subject to the potential for moderate to strong seismic shaking due to distant seismic sources. Seismic shaking can be generated on faults many miles from the project vicinity. Seismic shaking potential is considered minimal and the hazard is not higher or lower at the project site than throughout the region. Standard design and construction practices meeting current California Building Code (where applicable) will provide adequate protection for buildings, pipelines and other facilities anticipated for the project. The implementation of these standard building practices will allow the project to have less than significant impacts.

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction:

Although located in a seismically active region (northern California), the project site is not likely to be subject to seismic shaking of adequate strength or duration to generate secondary seismic effects. Likely seismic sources are too far from the project site to generate sufficient long-duration strong shaking. Construction standards that meet the current California Building Codes (as applicable) will provide adequate protections and ensure less than significant impacts.

iv) Landslides:

The proposed project site is located on flat terrain created by terracing the land, surrounded by steep slopes and mountainous terrain. There are no documented landslide hazard areas identified within the immediate vicinity of the site that would have an impact on the proposed project. Impacts would be less than significant.

b) The project soil classifications consist mainly of gravelly loam from colluvium derived from mica schist and residuum weathered from mica schist. These gravelly soils in the Brownscreek- Dougcity complex families have high permeability as indicated by their well drained, drainage classification. There are no significant proposed modifications to the surface terrain from the project, as historical land development has significantly modified the site; therefore, the project is not expected to alter the susceptibility of the land to unstable earth conditions or erosion. Impacts would be less than significant.

c) See discussion VI.a, above.

d) There are no documented expansive soils located at the project site. No impacts would occur in this regard.

e) An existing septic system is installed on the project site that has been in operation for several years. The applicant must comply (as a Condition of Approval) that the septic system meets the requirements of Trinity County Environmental Health Department.

f) No paleontological resources or unique geologic features have been identified on the proposed project site, and the potential for their occurrence is considered minimal; there will be no impact.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required. Impacts would be less than significant.

Findings: Based upon the review of the information above, the implementation of the project will have a less than significant impact with respect to *Geology and Soils*.

References:

California Geological Survey. 2018. *Fault-Rupture Hazard Zones in California, Special Publication 42, Interim Revision 2018*. Sacramento, California.

National Resource Conservation Service. *WebSoil Survey.* [Online]: https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx.Accessed: November 7, 2019.

USGS. *U.S. Quaternary Faults*. [Online]: https://usgs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html. Accessed November 8, 2019.

IIX. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS: *Would the project:*	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
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	

Setting: Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are gases in the atmosphere that absorb and emit radiation. The greenhouse effect traps heat in the troposphere through a three-fold process, summarized as follows: short wave radiation emitted by the sun is absorbed by the Earth; the Earth emits a portion of this energy in the form of long wave radiation; and GHGs in the upper atmosphere absorb this long wave radiation and emit this long wave radiation into space and toward the Earth. This "trapping" of the long wave (thermal) radiation emitted back toward the Earth is the underlying process of the greenhouse effect. The main GHGs in the Earth's atmosphere are water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), ozone (O_3), hydrofluorocarbons (HCFs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6).

California has passed Assembly Bill 32, mandating a reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and Senate Bill 97, evaluating and addressing GHG under CEQA. On April 13, 2009, Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) submitted to the Secretary for Natural Resources its proposed amendments to the state CEQA Guidelines for GHG emission, as required by Senate Bill 97 {Chapter 185, 2007} and they became effective March 18, 2010. As a result of these revisions to the CEQA Guidelines, lead agencies are obligated to determine whether a project's GHG emissions significantly affect the environment and to impose feasible mitigation to eliminate or substantially lessen any such significant effects. At this time, neither the NCUAQMD nor Trinity County has established thresholds of significance for evaluating a project's GHG emissions. In addition, neither a Climate Action Plan nor GHG Reduction Plan has been developed for Trinity County.

Discussion: Based on a field review by the Planning Department and other agency staff, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

a) There are several unique challenges to analyzing greenhouse gas emissions and climate change largely because of the global nature of climate change. Most environmental analyses examine the "project specific" impacts that a particular project is likely to generate. With regard to global warming, however, it is generally accepted that while the magnitude of global warming effects is substantial, the contribution of an individual project is so small that direct project specific impacts are highly unlikely.

The proposed project involves the construction and operation of cannabis cultivation. The proposed project could generate both direct and indirect GHG emissions. Direct GHG emissions include emissions from construction activities, area sources, and mobile (vehicle) sources. Typically, mobile sources make up the majority of direct emissions. Indirect GHG emissions are generated by incremental electricity consumption and waste generation. Electricity consumption is responsible for the majority of indirect emissions.

As noted above, neither the NCUAQMD nor Trinity County has established thresholds of significance for evaluating a project's GHG emissions. Since there are no applicable thresholds for projects in the Air District or Trinity County, the NCUAQMD recommends the use of thresholds and guidance provided by other air districts in the State such as the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). The BAAQMD has developed project screening criteria to provide lead agencies and project applicants with a conservative indication of whether a project could result in potentially significant impacts related to greenhouse gas emissions. Projects below the applicable screening criteria would not exceed the 1,100 metric tons (MT) of CO2e/yr GHG threshold established by the BAAQMD for land use projects, other than permitted stationary sources.

The BAAQMD has not established a threshold of significance for this type of project as it is agricultural rather than commercial or industrial. Additionally, due to the nature of the project the crops will sequester carbon minimizing any overall emissions. Since the proposed project does not have specific screening criteria based on the limited potential

for emissions, emissions from construction and operation of the project are determined to be less than significant. Based on the analysis above, development of the project would have a less than significant impact.

b) The proposed project involves the expansion of a cannabis cultivation facility. As a result, the proposed project could generate both direct and indirect GHG emissions. As noted above, there are no local plans that have been adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

In 2006, the California Global Warming Solutions Act (Assembly Bill 32) definitively established the state's climate change policy and set GHG reduction targets (Health & Safety Code §38500 et sec.), including setting a target of reducing GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. AB 32 requires local governments to take an active role in addressing climate change and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Recommendations to reduce residential GHG emissions include promoting energy efficiency in new development and improved coordination of land use and transportation planning on the city, county and subregional level, and other measures to reduce automobile use.

It is noted that the California Air Resources Board (CARB) announced in July 2018, that the State has already met the AB 32 goal of reducing emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 approximately four years early. As stated in the Executive Summary of the 2018 Edition of the California Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory: 2000-2016:

> *"The inventory for 2016 shows that California's GHG emissions continue to decrease, a trend observed since 2007. In 2016, emissions from routine GHG emitting activities statewide were 429 million metric tons of CO2 equivalent (MMTCO2e), 12 MMTCO2e lower than 2015 levels. This puts total emissions just below the 2020 target of 431 million metric tons. Emissions vary from year-to-year depending on the weather and other factors, but California will continue to implement its greenhouse gas reductions program to ensure the state remains on track to meet its climate targets in 2020 and beyond."*

The project is subject to a myriad of state regulations applicable to project design, construction, and operation that would reduce GHG emissions, increase energy efficiency, and provide compliance with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Climate Change Scoping Plan (CARB, 2017). The State of California has the most comprehensive GHG regulatory requirements in the United States, with laws and regulations requiring reductions that affect project emissions. Legal mandates to reduce GHG emissions from vehicles, for example, reduce project-related vehicular emissions. Legal mandates to reduce GHG emissions from the energy production sector that will serve the proposed project would also reduce project-related GHG emissions from electricity consumption. Legal mandates to reduce per capita water consumption and impose waste management standards to reduce methane and other GHGs from solid wastes are all examples of mandates that reduce GHGs.

Due to the limited size of the project and due to the agricultural rather than industrial nature of the project there will be no significant sources of GHGs either during construction or during routine operation. Based on the analysis above, development of the project would have a less than significant impact.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required. Impacts would be less than significant.

Findings: In the course of the above evaluation, impacts associated with *Greenhouse Gas Emissions* were found to be less than significant because of the limited size, nature, and location of the project.

References:

Bay Area Air Quality Management District. *California Environmental Quality Act Air Quality Guidelines.* 2017.

California Air Resources Board. *2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan: The Strategy for achieving California's 2030 greenhouse gas reduction target.* January 20, 2017.

California Air Resources Board. *8th Edition, California Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory: 2000-2016. California Greenhouse Gas Emissions for 2000 to 2016, Trends of Emissions and Other Indicators.* 2018.

Trinity County. *Cannabis Ordinance No. 315-823.*Enacted October 3, 2017.

Trinity County. *Cannabis Ordinance No. 315-829.* Enacted February 6, 2018

Trinity County. *Cannabis Ordinance No. 315-830.* Enacted March 6, 2018.

Trinity County. *Cannabis Ordinance No. 315-841.* Enacted September 19, 2018.

Trinity County. *Cannabis Ordinance No. 315-843.* Enacted March 20, 2019.

Trinity County Public Utility District. *District History.* [Online]: https://www.trinitypud.com/about/history.aspx. Accessed: November 8, 2019.

Trinity County. *Regional Transportation Plan. October 2017.*

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: *Would the project:*	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
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	

Setting: Hazards are those physical safety factors that can cause injury or death, and while by themselves in isolation may not pose a significant safety hazard to the public, when combined with development of projects can exacerbate hazardous conditions. Hazardous materials are typically chemicals or processes that are used or generated by a project that could pose harm to people, working at the site or on adjacent areas. Many of these chemicals can cause hazardous conditions to occur should they be improperly disposed of or accidentally spilled as part of project development or operations. Hazardous materials are also those listed as hazardous pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

Lists of hazardous materials are maintained by federal and state agencies and are available for public review. The US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) maintains a database of hazardous materials as well as radiological materials as part of its RCRAInfo database (USEPA, 2019). The State of California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) maintains a list of hazardous substances and contaminated sites as part of its Envirostor database (DTSC, 2019), as well as other hazardous and waste sites being overseen by the various State Water Resources Control Board which are inventoried in their Geotracker database (SWRCB, 2019). These databases are available to the public for review. No hazardous facilities or sites have been documented to be present at the project site or in the adjacent area.

The CALFIRE Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP), delineates the project area as a part of a designated “Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone” (VHFHSZ). The FRAP designates lands in three general classifications, “Moderate”, “High” and “Very High” Fire Hazard Severity Zones. Fire suppression for the area is provided by a combination of first responders such as CALFIRE (designated as a State Responsibility Area), with additional fire fighting support from nearby the US Forest Service (USFS) stations, and local volunteer fire companies.

Additionally, the Trinity County General Plan-Safety Element discusses wildland fires and outlines Wildland Urban Interface Zones Fuels Treatment Goals (Safety Plan, 2002) that describe fuel treatment activities around residential and other structures.

Discussion: Based on a field review by the Planning Department and other agency staff, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

a) Small quantities of potentially hazardous substances (e.g., petroleum, chemicals used to operate and maintain vehicles and equipment) would be used at the project site, but none of these materials will be stored at the project facilities in quantities to be considered a significant hazard. Fertilizers and soil amendments are used during cultivation operations and are purchased and transported to the site as needed, these will be stored within a shed adjacent to the residence. The nutrients used during the 2017-2018 growing season are listed in the Applicant's Water Resource Protection Plan. Pest management consists of applications of commercially available neem oil, sulfur and citric acid. The products are listed by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) as "Legal to Use on Cannabis." The applicant states that these are routinely purchased and utilized onsite but are not stored in quantity. Application of fertilizers and pesticides are used on cultivation areas only. Applicant has stated that used fertilizer and chemical containers are disposed of according to manufacturer's requirements. Compliance with standard transport and handling procedures of the chemical manufacturers and standard conditions of approval through the various County cannabis ordinances and DPR requirements would ensure that impacts would not be significant.

b) The proposed project could expose workers, the public, or the environment to hazardous materials through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. Small quantities of potentially hazardous substances (e.g., petroleum and other chemicals used to operate and maintain equipment, fertilizers and pesticides) would be used at the proposed project site. Accidental releases of these substances could potentially contaminate soils and degrade the quality of surface water and groundwater, resulting in a public safety hazard. Compliance with standard safety procedures, hazardous materials handling regulations, and pesticide application requirements would ensure that impacts would not be significant.

c) The proposed project would not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. No impacts would occur in this regard.

d) The proposed project is not located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites and would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. No impacts would occur in this regard.

e) The proposed project is not located within two miles of a public or private airport. No impacts would occur in this regard.

f) There are no indications at this time that the proposed project would impair implementation of, or physically interfere, with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. There would be no impact from this project and there would be no impact to users of the project site.

g) The majority of the site has been previously disturbed by onsite timber harvest and agricultural activities. Development of the project will comply with State Fire Safe Standards for protection of life and property from wildfires through maintaining appropriate vegetation management around proposed cultivation structures, the availability and accessibility of onsite water storage (i.e., water storage tanks storing a total of 13,100 gallons), and other actions required for fire protection/suppression actions as may be determined by the County or CALFIRE. Through implementation of fire safe standards, the project will not be at significant risk of damage from wildfire and the project would not cause significant wildfire risk to the area from project related activities and be in compliance with the County General Plan Safety Element. Based on this evaluation the project would contribute to a less than significant impact related to increased wildfire risk in the area.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required. Impacts would be less than significant.

Findings: In the course of the above evaluation impacts associated with *Hazards and Hazardous Materials* were found to be less than significant because of the project size, location and limited scope of potential impact.

References:

California Department of Pesticide Regulation. *Cannabis Pesticides that are Legal to Use*. December 2017. [Online]: https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/cannabis. Accessed: November 11, 2019.

California Department of Pesticide Regulation. *Legal Pest Management Practices for Marijuana Growers in California*. 2015.

California Department of Toxics Substances Control (DTSC). *Envirostor Database*. 2019.

State of California Fire and Resource Assessment Program. *State Responsibility Areas. 2012.*

State of California Fire and Resource Assessment Program*. Fire Hazard Severity Zones. 2007.*

State Water Resources Control Board. *Geotracker Database*. 2019.

Trinity County. *General Plan Safety Element.* Revised March 2002.

Trinity County. *General Plan Circulation Element.* Revised 2002.

Trinity County. *Cannabis Ordinance No. 315-823*. Enacted October 3, 2017.

Trinity County. *Cannabis Ordinance No. 315-829.* Enacted February 6, 2018

Trinity County. *Cannabis Ordinance No. 315-830.* Enacted March 6, 2018.

Trinity County. *Cannabis Ordinance No. 315-841.* Enacted September 19, 2018.

Trinity County. *Cannabis Ordinance No. 315-843.* Enacted March 20, 2019.

USEPA. *RCRA Database*. 2019.

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY: *Would the project:*	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
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 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: Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site; Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite; Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or 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

Setting: The project is on private lands surrounded by minimal development. The nearest water source is a tributary of Weaver Creek which runs through the western portion of the project area across Highway 299. There are no stream crossings or additional water diversions proposed as a part of this project.

Impacts to water quality associated with cannabis cultivation activities proposed by the Project were initially regulated by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) under Order No. 2015-0023 and were required to transition to regulations of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Order No. WQ 2019-0001-DWQ (previously WQ 2017-0023-DWQ) by July, 2019 as applicable to cannabis production. The applicant transitioned to the SWRCB Cannabis Cultivation Policy in 2019 as required. Additionally, the Cannabis Ordinances developed by the County identify specific requirements for water use and quality, including compliance with Senate Bill 94 (SB 94) and any applicable NCRWQCB or SWRCB regulations in effect. The project applicant has also completed a Water Resource Protection Plan (WRPP) for the operations at the project site, in compliance with the conditions outlined in Order 2015-0023 and is in the process of revising the document into a Site Management Plan as required by the Cannabis Policy. The WRPP includes cleanup activities mostly consisting of roadway maintenance, culvert installations at stream crossings, roadway water bars and and rolling dips to minimize erosion and resist concentrated runoff. The WRPP also requires several stream restorations to reconnect portions of a Class III watercourse that was diverted by an existing road. Most of these activities are required as both haul and access roads resulting from the historical timber operations left roads open and un-remediated.

Discussion: Based on a field review by the Planning Department and other agency staff, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

a) The proposed project is served by an existing onsite permitted septic system for the treatment of domestic wastewater. Additionally, the applicant has had a WRPP completed for the site and the current operations. The plan documents that the applicant has been working on improvements outlined in the plan and there is an agreement in

place between the applicant and CDFW. As stated by the Regional Water Quality Control Board the applicant is required to comply with the requirements of the Regional Order No. R1-2015-0023 which requires dischargers to implement Appendix B: *Best Management Practices for Discharges of Waste Resulting from Cannabis Cultivation and Associated Activities or Operations with Similar Environmental Effects*. Based on the above, the project will have a less than significant impact.

b) Water service for the proposed project is provided by the Weaverville Community Services District. There are no additional water sources requested as part of this project. There will be no impact to groundwater resources.

c) No significant land alteration is proposed by this project; land alteration has occurred with the historical developments at the site and the proposed use will continue to operate within existing facilities. There will be a less than significant impact.

- The project activities will be required to comply with the standard provisions of the County Cannabis Ordinances as well as Regional Order No. R1-2015-0023 which requires dischargers to implement Appendix B: *Best Management Practices for Discharges of Waste Resulting from Cannabis Cultivation and Associated Activities or Operations with Similar Environmental Effects*. Implementation of these standard conditions will result in the protection of water quality and not impact drainage patterns or surface runoff.

- The project does not include the addition of impervious surfaces or any other structural changes that would cause an increase in the volume or flow rate of any runoff.

- Due to the rural location of the project and the nature of the agricultural activities there are no stormwater drainage systems which would be impacted by the proposed project. The project does not include any features which would cause the addition of polluted runoff to the stormwater runoff or a drainage system.

- The project does not propose any features which would impede or redirect flood flows.

d) Flood zones are geographic areas that FEMA has defined according to varying levels of flood risk. These zones are depicted on a community's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). Each zone reflects the anticipated type of flooding in the area. As depicted on the FEMA Flood Zones maps for the area, the project site is not in a floodway, 100-year flood zone, or the 500-year flood zone, however a portion of the parcel across Highway 299 is in the 100 year flood zone for Weaver Creek. Based upon this information and that the location of the project site is outside of any flood zone, there is no risk of release of pollutants due to project inundation. No impact would occur.

e) The location of the project site is outside of an area where inundation from dam failures will occur, however a portion of the parcel where the proposed project is located does fall in a dam inundation zone due to the adjacent Weaver Creek. There are no levees near the proposed project. The threat of a tsunami wave is not applicable to inland areas; there is no potential for the generation of a seiche. No impact has been identified.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required. Impacts would be less than significant.

Findings: In the course of the above evaluation impacts associated *Hydrology and Water Quality* were found to be less than significant.

References:

Federal Emergency Management Agency. 2010. Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), Map Number 06105C1041F, Revised July 20, 2016.

State of California. *Regional Water Quality Control Board Order No. 2015-0023.*

State of California. State Water Resources Control Board Order No. WQ 2017-0023-DWQ. [Online]: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cannabis/docs/finaladoptedcango101717.pdf

Trinity County. *Cannabis Ordinance No. 315-823.* Enacted October 3, 2017.

Trinity County. *Cannabis Ordinance No. 315-829.* Enacted February 6, 2018

Trinity County. *Cannabis Ordinance No. 315-830.* Enacted March 6, 2018.

Trinity County. *Cannabis Ordinance No. 315-841.* Enacted September 19, 2018.

Trinity County. *Cannabis Ordinance No. 315-843.* Enacted March 20, 2019.

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING: *Would the project:*	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
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

Setting: The project site is located adjacent to Highway 299 between the communities of Weaverville and Douglas City. Development surrounding the subject site is generally limited due to the large parcel sizes (160 acres) and the larger parcels surrounding property being Timber Production Zones. The project site is surrounded by County General Plan designated Resource (RE) lands and Rural Residential (RR) lands with minimal development. There are minimal commercial and public service developments in the community of Douglas City.

The project site has been designated Rural Residential (RR) land by the County General Plan and zoned for Rural Residential 10 Acre Minimum (RR10). Both the County General Plan and Zoning Districts did not specifically anticipate development of commercial cannabis when these land use plans and zoning districts were developed. In response to California State Law that allows commercial cannabis activities under permitted and controlled conditions, Trinity County developed County-specific ordinances to regulate commercial cannabis cultivation, testing, nurseries, manufacturing, distribution, microbusiness, events and sales within the County. Ordinances 315-823, 315-829, 315-830 and 315-841 regulate cultivation and are all specifically titled "*An Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Trinity Amending Zoning Ordinance No. 315 Creating Section 28: Commercial Cannabis Cultivation Regulations*". All of these ordinances are referred to, collectively, in this section as the "Cannabis Ordinance."

The Cannabis Ordinance, in combination with the provisions of the General Plan and requirements of the Zoning Districts are used to determine appropriate land uses of cannabis operations in Trinity County. An applicant can apply for a Use Permit for cannabis cultivation operations under the Cannabis Ordinance, including a variance to the provisions and requirements of the Cannabis Ordinance, with approval at the discretion of the County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.

The project will require a variance as the project occurs within the 500 ft setback from the property line, however no sensitive receptors are expected to be affected by the project as the nearest sensitive receptor is a residence on an adjacent parcel (across SR 299) which occurs 850 ft from the cultivation area.

Discussion: Based on a field review by the Planning Department, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

a) The project does not have the potential to physically divide an established community; the project does not propose to divide land or rezone the parcel. Access to the site is limited and the land surrounding the property on three sides is National Forest. No impact has been identified.

b) The County's General Plan serves as the overall guiding policy document for land use and development. The subject property is designated in the General Plan as Rural Residential (RR) land and is zoned for Rural Residential 10 Acre Minimum (RR10). The surrounding properties have assorted zoning including Agricultural Forest, Timber Production and Rural Residential and are identified as Resource (RE) and RR in the General Plan. As the proposed project consists of agricultural related activities onsite, the project is considered consistent with the County RR10 zoning. Additionally, the project will not conflict with any conservation plans as there is no Habitat Conservation Plan or Natural Community Conservation Plan for the area.

The project as proposed does not comply with the Trinity County Ordinance 315-823, requiring a 500 ft setback from the property line for Type- 3 (medium, or up to one acre of canopy) cannabis cultivation. The applicant intends to submit an application for a variance. As a condition of approval for the Use Permit, the variance will need to be

approved by the County before the applicant can proceed with the proposed project. Based on the proposed uses of the project, the proposed project does not conflict with the land use designations for the project site. Therefore, no impacts would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required. Impacts would be less than significant.

Findings: In the course of the above evaluation impacts associated with *Land Use and Planning* were found to be less than significant as the project is compatible with the current land use designations.

References:

Trinity County. *Cannabis Ordinance No. 315-823.* Enacted October 3, 2017.

Trinity County. *Cannabis Ordinance No. 315-829.* Enacted February 6, 2018

Trinity County. *Cannabis Ordinance No. 315-830.* Enacted March 6, 2018.

Trinity County. *Cannabis Ordinance No. 315-841.* Enacted September 19, 2018.

Trinity County. *Cannabis Ordinance No. 315-843.* Enacted March 20, 2019.

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES: *Would the project:*	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
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

Setting: Mineral production has historically been a significant part of the economy of the County but has waned in the last 75 years. Historically, the County has seen a wide array of mineral production, including asbestos, chromite, copper, sand and gravel, limestone and manganese to name a few. The proposed project site has historically been used for residential, agricultural and timber harvest purposes. The project area has not been designated by the State or Trinity County as an area of significant mineral resources or an area of locally important minerals.

Discussion: Based on a field review by the Planning Department, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

a-b) A mineral resource is land on which known deposits of commercially viable mineral or aggregate deposits exist. The designation is applied to sites determined by the California Geological Survey as being a resource of regional significance and is intended to help maintain any quarrying operations and protect them from encroachment of incompatible uses. The project would not 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 and would not result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site. The site has not been designated as an important mineral resource recovery site by a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan or by the State of California. No impact has been identified.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

Findings: In the course of the above evaluation it was determined that there were no impacts associated with *Mineral Resources.*

References:

California Geological Survey. *Mineral Land Classifications.* 2018.

National Resource Conservation Service. *WebSoil Survey.* [Online]: https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx.Accessed: November 7, 2019.

Trinity County. *General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element.*

XIII. NOISE: *Would the project result in:*	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
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	
b) Generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne 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

Setting: Noise impacts are those that exceed general plan or other local ordinances developed to provide reasonable control of noise to residences, parks, open spaces and other specific designated sites. Noise sources typically include roadways, freeways, schools, industrial and commercial operations and other facilities that can generate noise. The Trinity County General Plan Noise Element and the Cannabis Ordinances provide guidelines and direction for noise sources and attenuation requirements for various uses. Projects proposed for development within the County will have their development evaluated to determine potential conformance with the Noise Element and as necessary, specific conditions of approval will be placed on projects.

In the vicinity of the project, noise generation sources are varied and consist of vehicle traffic along SR-299 and County Roads, and any maintenance activities on surrounding residential and forest service lands. The flat terrain of the area allows noise to travel distance, without attenuation due to structures but surrounding vegetation will minimize impacts.

Residential developments, schools and hospitals are considered sensitive noise receptors as these are locations where people sleep or typically expect quiet conditions. Sensitive noise conditions are typically at night and measured as indoor levels in decibels (dB). The nearest sensitive receptors to the project site are residential developments (approximately 850 ft to the north of the property line) and the Douglas City Elementary School (approximately 2.2 mile from the property line).

Discussion: Based on a field review by the Planning Department and other agency staff, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

a) The nearest offsite sensitive receptor is a residence approximately 850 ft north of the proposed cultivation area. Project generated noise may be heard at these residences, but normal cannabis operations are not considered a significant noise generation source because the daily activities are generally hand operations with minimal equipment use. The project will not have any onsite generators, therefore there will be no noise associated with stationary generation devices. Minor amounts of noise could be generated from the development of hoop-houses for cultivation, but this noise is time limited to facility construction and daytime hours, and then is ceased. Based on the limited scope of the construction, the proximity of the project to SR 299, and the distance to the nearest sensitive receptor, implementation of standard conditions of the various cannabis ordinances and review by County for compliance during operations will reduce impacts to less than significant.

b) Ground borne vibrations are usually associated with heavy vehicle traffic (including railroad traffic), and with heavy equipment operations. The proposed project does not include activities that would result in groundborne vibration, such as pile driving or heavy construction equipment. Therefore, there will be no impact.

c) The proposed project is not located within the vicinity of a private or public airport or airstrip. No impacts would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required. Impacts would be less than significant.

Findings: In the course of the above evaluation impacts associated with *Noise* were found to be less than significant.

References:

Environmental Protection Agency, Noise Effects Handbook. USEPA, Revised 1981. [Online]: www.nonoise.org/library/handbook/handbook.htm

Trinity County. *Cannabis Ordinance No. 315-823.* Enacted October 3, 2017.

Trinity County. *Cannabis Ordinance No. 315-829.* Enacted February 6, 2018

Trinity County. *Cannabis Ordinance No. 315-830.* Enacted March 6, 2018.

Trinity County. *Cannabis Ordinance No. 315-841.* Enacted September 19, 2018.

Trinity County. *Cannabis Ordinance No. 315-843.* Enacted March 20, 2019.

Trinity County. *General Plan Noise Element. 2003.*

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING: *Would the project:*	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less-Than-Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
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**

Setting: Trinity County has a population of approximately 13,786 persons based on the 2010 US Census Data. The median household income is $36,563 per year. Housing throughout the area is primarily individual rural residences on larger parcels of land.

Discussion: Based on a field review by the Planning Department, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

a) Implementation of the proposed project would result in the development and use of existing lands and facilities, with no new housing being proposed. Three (3) permanent workers and approximately two (2) seasonal workers are proposed for this project, and the applicant states that these workers will come from the existing local population. The existing residence may house up to three (3) permanent workers. If temporary employees do not already live in the area, they would be required to find off-site housing as no additional housing is proposed by the project. Based on the information provided, and evaluation of the area, there are no growth-inducing impacts associated with this project.

b) The project parcel is currently used for cannabis cultivation with associated structures (i.e. sheds, existing hoop house), and a single-family residence. The proposed project would not displace any people or existing housing, as none is located at the project site; the existing housing onsite would be retained for use by two of the permanent employees. No impact has been identified.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

Findings: Based on the information reviewed for the *Population and Housing* resource, the project will have no impact.

References:

US Census Bureau. *American Fact Finder.* [Online]: https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml. Accessed: November 11, 2019.

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES: *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:*	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less-Than-Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
Fire Protection?			X	
Police Protection?			X	
Schools?			X	
Parks?				X
Other public facilities?			X	

Setting: The project site is located north of Douglas City and south of Weaverville, which has public services available to residential, commercial and industrial users. Fire protection is provided to the proposed project site by CALFIRE and the nearest volunteer fire department is the Douglas City Volunteer department which provides mutual aid services. Law enforcement to the area is provided by the Trinity County Sheriff's Department and the California Highway Patrol. The nearest medical facility is the Trinity Hospital in Weaverville and about 4 miles north of the proposed project. Douglas City Elementary School serves grades K-8, with Trinity High School located in Weaverville, California.

Discussion: Based on a field review by the Planning Department, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

Fire and Police Protection:

Fire and police protection services to the proposed project are currently provided by County, State and Federal agencies and private emergency responders. Development of the project within the community is not expected to significantly increase the demand for these protection services. A security plan is required for this operation and must be approved by the County Board of Supervisors, as a standard condition of approval, after the Conditional Use Permit is issued. Based on these factors and standard conditions, impacts are considered less than significant.

Schools:

The Douglas City School District is a one-school district that provides primary education to students in the area. While the development of this project could attract employees with families that may have school age children, and those students may contribute to the total student enrollment in these schools, the implementation of the proposed project is not expected to result in a significant increase in the number of school-age children as the result of three (3) permanent employees who work and may also reside within the school districts. Therefore, the potential impacts are considered less than significant.

Parks:

There are no developed parks in the vicinity of the project site, and the proposed project will not increase the intensity of the land use, impacts to parks and recreational facilities in the project area would remain at existing conditions; no new residential uses are proposed. The proposed project would not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Therefore, there is no impact.

Other public facilities:

The proposed project does not involve a substantial change in the land use, does not substantially increase the numbers of people employed in the region, and does not create or require new housing or related facilities, an increased demand on public facilities is unlikely to occur. There would be a less than significant impact to other public services related to this

project.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required. Impacts would be less than significant.

Findings: Based on the evaluations above for Public Services the impacts associated with development of the project were found to be less than significant.

References:

California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. *State Responsibility Area Viewer.* [Online]: https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/wildfire-prevention-planning-engineering/wildland-hazards-building-codes/fire-hazard-severity-zones-maps/. Accessed November 11, 2019.

Douglas City School District. [Online]: http://dcesd.org/. Accessed November 11, 2019.

Trinity County. *General Plan Safety Element.* Revised March 2002.

Trinity County Office of Education. [Online]: www.tcoek12.org. Accessed November 11, 2019.

XVI. RECREATION:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				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

Setting: There are no developed recreation specific parks or facilities near the project. The nearest developed site is the Douglas City Elementary School that has play equipment and sports fields. Other dispersed recreation facilities are day use sites and river access points along the Trinity River.

Discussion: Based on a field review by the Planning Department, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

a) The proposed project does not propose to add significant new numbers of people that would require housing and ancillary recreation facilities, therefore the proposed project would not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.

b) The proposed project would not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

Findings: In the course of the above evaluation it was determined that there were no impacts associated with *Recreation.*

References:

Trinity County. *General Plan Open Space and Conservation.*

USDA Forest Service, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, Recreation. [Online]: https://www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/stnf/recreation.

XVII. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC: *Would the project:*	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with a 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

Setting: The project site is located on private property that has existing access to which intersects with SR-299, the main east/west transportation route in the region.

The Trinity County General Plan, Circulation Element was last updated in 2002 to address changes to state requirements for regional transportation planning and to address other changes to the Circulation element. The Circulation Element does not address vehicle miles traveled (VMT).

Public transit services are provided by the County through Trinity Transit, which provides daily bus service between Weaverville and Redding, Weaverville and Lewiston and Weaverville and Hayfork, each of the three routes have a stop in Douglas City. Other private transit carriers also operate in Trinity County to provide services to the elderly, disabled, school children and others.

Discussion: Based on a field review by the Planning Department, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

a-b) Project approval would allow for the development of a cannabis cultivation site on an existing agricultural site. As this project does not propose the development of new roads or easements there is no conflict with the current Circulation Element of the General Plan. The facility is expected to employ three employees during a majority of the year with a maximum of five employees during peak harvest season; this will not cause a significant increase in traffic or require changes to any roadways, public transit, or pedestrian facilities.

Since the proposed project is a continuation of an existing agricultural development, the impacts to VMT are similar to the existing condition. While some additional traffic can be anticipated with final product transport off of the site, the impacts are not considered significant. This is due to the remote nature of the proposed project, which is isolated from existing commerce areas (Douglas City and Weaverville). Vehicles must currently travel to these destinations (or in cases farther to Redding and Eureka), to access goods and the incremental increase in traffic is not anticipated to be significant. Also, new employees (as well as seasonal employees) are presumed to be from the local Trinity County population and would not cause significant additional traffic in the area. Impacts from development of this project are considered less than significant.

c) The proposed project has not proposed any new roads and does not propose or require any realignment of existing roads that might cause hazards to geometric design features or have incompatible uses. No significant hazards are anticipated with the development of this project; the project would have a less than significant impact.

d) Adequate existing access is provided to the site with State, County and onsite private roads. The project does not change the existing access to the project site; therefore, the ability for emergency vehicles and personnel to access the subject property will remain at existing condition levels upon completion of the proposed project. The project will be required to comply with State and local Fire Safe Standards and applicable regulations for emergency vehicle access to the project sites including implementation of requirements by the Trinity County Department of

Transportation and as directed by CALFIRE for compliance with State Fire Safe Standards. No impacts are anticipated in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required. Impacts would be less than significant.

Findings: In the course of the above evaluation impacts associated with *Transportation and Traffic* were found to be less than significant.

References:

Trinity County. *General Plan Circulation Element.* Revised 2002.

Trinity Transit. [Online]: http://trinitytransit.org/. Accessed November 18, 2019.

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES: *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:*	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less-Than-Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a) 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**	
b) 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 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**	

Discussion: The County circulated an AB 52 notification to interested Tribal entities on July 9, 2019. One response was received within the 30-day comment period requesting formal consultation under the provision of AB 52. Additional Tribal outreach occurred during the development of the Cultural Resources Assessment (Natural Investigations Company), and those efforts and results are discussed in Section V, Cultural Resources.

Based on a field review by the Planning Department, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

a) The County circulated an AB 52 notification to interested Tribal entities on July 9, 2019. One response was received from the Nor-Rel-Muk-Wintu Nation requesting formal consultation under the provision of AB 52. Based on the result of a meeting between the representatives from the Nor-Rel-Muk-Wintu Nation and County staff, and additional Tribal outreach during development of the Cultural Resources Assessment for the proposed project, there are no known historical resources that are listed, or eligible for listing, on the California Register of Historical Resources. Mitigation measures were developed for the potential future location of cultural resources, and are identified in Section V of this document. Based on the lack of known resources, impacts are anticipated to be less than significant.

b) Trinity County (as lead agency) has determined that there are no resources present that are considered significant, and no additional mitigation or project modifications are required. Mitigation measures for cultural resources are provided in Section V, Cultural Resources section for development of this project that are considered to be sufficient to protect unknown future cultural resources that may be found at the project site.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required. Impacts would be less than significant.

Findings: In the course of the above evaluation impacts associated with *Tribal Cultural Resources* were found to be less than significant. Mitigation measures for the protection of currently unknown but discovered resources are provided for in Section IV- Cultural Resources.

References:

GeoServ, Inc. *Amalgamated growers, Inc. Trinity County Cultivation Permit Archaeological Reconnaissance Report.* June 2019.

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS: *Would the project:*	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
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	

Setting: Limited public utilities and service systems are provided and available in the area of the project. Power is provided to the site by the Trinity Public Utilities District (TPUD) and no additional power sources are proposed for this project. The Trinity County Solid Waste Department provides solid waste services at County landfills, with waste disposal by private waste haulers or individuals. Cannabis waste is not permitted at County landfills. Water is provided to the site by the Weaverville Community Services District (Weaverville CSD).

Discussion: Based on a field review by the Planning Department, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

a) The proposed project has an existing onsite septic system that disposes of domestic wastewater. This system would continue to be utilized for the three permanent workers at the site and the two seasonal workers, and is not proposed to be expanded to accommodate other future onsite uses. Should the applicant need to expand the system, they would be required to follow standard County procedures for septic system development as provided for by the Trinity County Department of Environmental Health. It is the applicants' responsibility to continue to provide normal maintenance and repairs to the septic system. The applicant has indicated that no other wastewater would be generated, as the bulk of the water used onsite will be for irrigation. The proposed project is currently served by the Weaverville CSD and no additional water is required. There is sufficient power provided by the TPUD to the site for the proposed project, and there are no stationary generators proposed for the project. Based on the current anticipated uses at the site, impacts would be less than significant.

b) Implementation of the proposed project would not require new infrastructure to support water service. Water is currently provided to the site by a permitted groundwater well and no additional water sources are required for the proposed project. There are five (5) water storage tanks on the property totaling 13,100 gallons which can be used for fire suppression. Based on the water available to the proposed project, impacts are anticipated to be less than significant.

c) The proposed project is served by an onsite septic system that is owned by the applicant; there are no impacts to community/public wastewater systems, as there are none in the area. The applicant shall ensure that the existing

septic system meets the requirements of Trinity County Environmental Health Department, within 60 days of issuance of the use permit.

d) Non-cannabis solid waste produced by the project would be disposed of at existing solid waste facilities as other residential and commercial solid waste is currently handled in the County. Sending the solid waste stream to existing permitted facilities, either by existing contract haulers or self disposal, will ensure that the project does not violate any federal, State or local statutes related to solid waste. The project will also develop one onsite composting of organic debris from the cannabis cultivation operations, which will reduce the solid waste impact to the landfills. Based on the above, the impact to solid waste services will be less than significant.

e) The County regulates and operates programs that promote the proper disposal of toxic and hazardous materials from households, including those created by the project. There are no current waste reduction plans or statues in place in the County. However, should they be implemented the proposed project would comply with local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Less than significant impacts are anticipated in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required. Impacts would be less than significant.

Findings: In the course of the above evaluation impacts associated with *Utilities and Service Systems* were found to be less than significant.

References:

Trinity County Solid Waste. [Online]: https://www.trintycounty.org/Solid-Waste. Accessed November 11, 2019.

XX. WILDFIRE: *If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:*	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
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	

The proposed project is located in an area designated as being in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ), as identified by the CALFIRE Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) Fire Hazard Severity Zones in State Responsibility Areas (SRA) (CALFIRE 2007). However, the majority of land in Trinity County has a designation of VHFHSZ (for both SRA and non-SRA lands) including the existing residential parcels and undeveloped timbered parcels in the area surrounding the project between Weaverville and the Douglas City areas. Fire hydrants in the County are limited to highly developed areas, and none are located in the area of the project. However, the County General Plan has taken this fact into consideration as a part of the Trinity County General Plan Safety Element. In addition to the local General Plan, the State of California has developed Fire Safe Standards (Public Resource Code Sections 4290 and 4291) which dictate development in rural areas throughout the state, and require vegetation clearing, onsite water storage requirements and other building and development standards.

Discussion: Based on the analysis undertaken as part of this Initial Study the, following findings can be made:

a) Based on the Trinity County General Plan Safety Element SR-299 is considered a Major Evacuation Route. As the project will not impact traffic intensity on the roadway, or impair access to the roadway or surrounding properties, the project is not expected to impair the emergency evacuation plan. Due to the location of the project the impacts are considered to be less than significant.

b) The project area has been previously developed and the proposed project does not propose significant changes to the project site or surrounding property that would exacerbate wildfire risks. Due to the landform of the site occupants could be exposed to elevated concentrations of pollutants from a wildfire as the site sits in a narrow canyon. However, the development of the project itself is not anticipated to contribute to any significant elevation in risks to occupants from uncontrolled spread of wildfire. Based on past land uses at the site and in the area that have cleared flammable vegetation, including conformance with State and County fire safe standards, the project will result in impacts that are less than significant.

c) The project does not include the addition of new roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities. There are five (5) water storage tanks on the property totaling 13,100 gallons which can be used for fire suppression. There are no temporary or ongoing activities that will exacerbate the fire risk in the area, impacts are considered less than significant.

d) The location of the proposed project does not fall within a FEMA flood zone, nor are there any sheer or unstable cliffs in the immediate area. There is no reason to believe that occupants or structures would be exposed to significant risks from flooding or landslides as a result of post-fire runoff, impacts are considered to be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required. Impacts would be less than significant.

Findings: Based upon the review of the information above the implementation of the project will have a less than significant impact with respect to *Wildfire*.

References:

California Public Resources Code, Division 4, Forests, Forestry and Range and Forage Lands. Part 2 Protection of Forest, Range and Forage Lands. Chapter 2, Hazardous Fire Areas, Sections 4251-4290.5.

California Public Resources Code, Division 4, Forests, Forestry and Range and Forage Lands. Part 2 Protection of Forest, Range and Forage Lands. Chapter 3, Mountainous, Forest-, Brush- and Grass-Covered Lands, Sections 4291-4299.

California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. *State Responsibility Area Viewer.* [Online]: https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/wildfire-prevention-planning-engineering/wildland-hazards-building-codes/fire-hazard-severity-zones-maps/. Accessed: November 11, 2019.

California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. *SRA Fire Safe Regulations*. [Online]: https://www.rsf-fire.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/SRAFireSafeRegulations.pdf. Accessed: November 11, 2019.

Trinity County. *General Plan Safety Element.* Revised March 2002.

Trinity County. *Parcel Viewer.* [Online]: http://trinitycounty.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Viewer/index.html?appid=320cf1c1558c43c8b1f2f70c23d35026. Accessed: November 7, 2019.

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to 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 the self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, 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 the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?		X		
c) Does the project have potential environmental effects which may cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?			X	

Discussion: Based on the analysis undertaken as part of this Initial Study the, following findings can be made:

a) Evaluation of the proposed project in this document (Section IV, *Biological Resources*) has shown that the activities of the proposed project do not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment and will not substantially reduce the habitat or cause wildlife populations to drop below self-sustaining levels.

Also, based on the discussion and findings in Section V. *Cultural Resources*, there is evidence to support a finding that the proposed project is not eligible for listing in the NRHP or CRHR under any significance criteria. Considering the history of extensive disturbance within the project area and all its previous uses, the potential for discovery of intact archaeological deposits or features by implementation of this project is considered low. Although no archaeological deposits or features were found during the Cultural Resources study, implementation of mitigation measures will ensure that any additional archaeological deposits or features may be discovered are fully protected during implementation of the project.

b) As discussed throughout this document, implementation of the proposed project has the potential to result in impacts to the environment that are individually limited, but are not cumulatively considerable, including impacts to biological and cultural resources.

In all instances where the project has the potential to contribute to cumulatively considerable impacts to the environment (including the resources listed above) mitigation measures have been imposed to reduce the potential effects to less than significant levels. As such, with incorporation of the mitigation measures imposed throughout this document, the proposed project would not contribute to environmental effects that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable, and impacts would be less than significant.

c) Based on the discussion and findings in all Sections above, there is no evidence to support a finding that the proposed project has potential environmental effects which may cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

Findings: Based upon the review of the information above, the implementation of the project is not anticipated to have a substantial adverse effect on the environment. Therefore, there is no significant impact.

SECTION 4.0
DETERMINATION

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of the initial evaluation:

☐ I find that the proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment, and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.

X 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** of **NEGATIVE DECLARATION**, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Copies of the Initial Study and related materials and documentation may be obtained at the Trinity County Planning, 61 Airport Road, Weaverville, CA 96093. Contact Leslie Hubbard, Deputy Director of Planning (530) 623-1351 ext. 3.

_____ _____

Leslie Hubbard, Deputy Director of Planning
Trinity County Planning Department

Date

SECTION 5.0
REFERENCES

The following technical studies, reference documents, and data sources were utilized as primary references in developing the Trinity Sungrown Cannabis Initial Study:

Bay Area Air Quality Management District. 2017. *California Environmental Quality Act Air Quality Guidelines.* 2017.

California Air Resources Board. 2017. Area Designation Maps / State and National. [Online]:https://www.arb.ca.gov/permits/permits.htm. Accessed: November 8, 2019.

California Air Resources Board. *2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan: The Strategy for achieving California's 2030 greenhouse gas reduction target.* January 20, 2017.

--. 2018. *8th Edition, California Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory: 2000-2016. California Greenhouse Gas Emissions for 2000 to 2016, Trends of Emissions and Other Indicators.*

California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. 2019. *State Responsibility Area Viewer.* [Online]: https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/wildfire-prevention-planning-engineering/wildland-hazards-building-codes/fire-hazard-severity-zones-maps/. Accessed: November 11, 2019

-- 2019. California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. *SRA Fire Safe Regulations*. . [Online]: https://www.rsf-fire.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/SRAFireSafeRegulations.pdf. Accessed: November 11, 2019.

California Department of Pesticide Regulation. 2019. *California Code of Regulations, Title 3, Food and Agriculture, Division 6. Pesticides and Pest Control Operations. Chapter 4. Environmental Protection, Subchapter 5. Surface Water, Article 1, Pesticide Contamination Prevention. Section 6960.* [Online]: https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/legbills/calcode/040501.htm. Accessed: November 7, 2019.

-- 2017. *Cannabis Pesticides that are Legal to Use*. [Online]: https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/cannabis. Accessed: November 11, 2019.

-- 2018. *Cannabis Pesticides that Cannot be Used*. September 2018. [Online]: https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/cannabis. Accessed: November 11, 2019.

-- 2015a. *Legal Pest Management Practices for Marijuana Growers in California*. [Online]: https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/cannabis/index.htm. Accessed: November 11, 2019

-- 2015b. *Pesticide Use on Marijuana*. [Online]: https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/cannabis/index.htm. Accessed: November 11, 2019

California Department of Toxics Substances Control. 2018. *Envirostor Database*. [Online]: https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/. Accessed November 13, 2019.

California Department of Transportation. California Scenic Highway System. 2019. [Online]: https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways. Accessed: November 7, 2019.

California Geological Survey. 2018. Fault-Rupture Hazard Zones in California, Special Publication 42, Interim Revision 2018. Sacramento, California.

California Geological Survey. Mineral Land Classifications. 2018.

California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. *State Responsibility Area Viewer*. [Online]:

https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/wildfire-prevention-planning-engineering/wildland-hazards-building-codes/fire-hazard-severity-zones-maps/. Accessed November 11, 2019.

-- 2007. Fire and Resource Assessment Program*, Fire Hazard Severity Zones. [Online]:* https://egis.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ/. Accessed November 11, 2019.

-- 2016. *SRA Fire Safe Regulations*. [Online]: https://www.rsf-fire.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/SRAFireSafeRegulations.pdf. Accessed: November 11, 2019.

California Public Resources Code, Division 4, Forests, Forestry and Range and Forage Lands. Part 2 Protection of Forest, Range and Forage Lands. Chapter 2, Hazardous Fire Areas, Sections 4251-4290.5.

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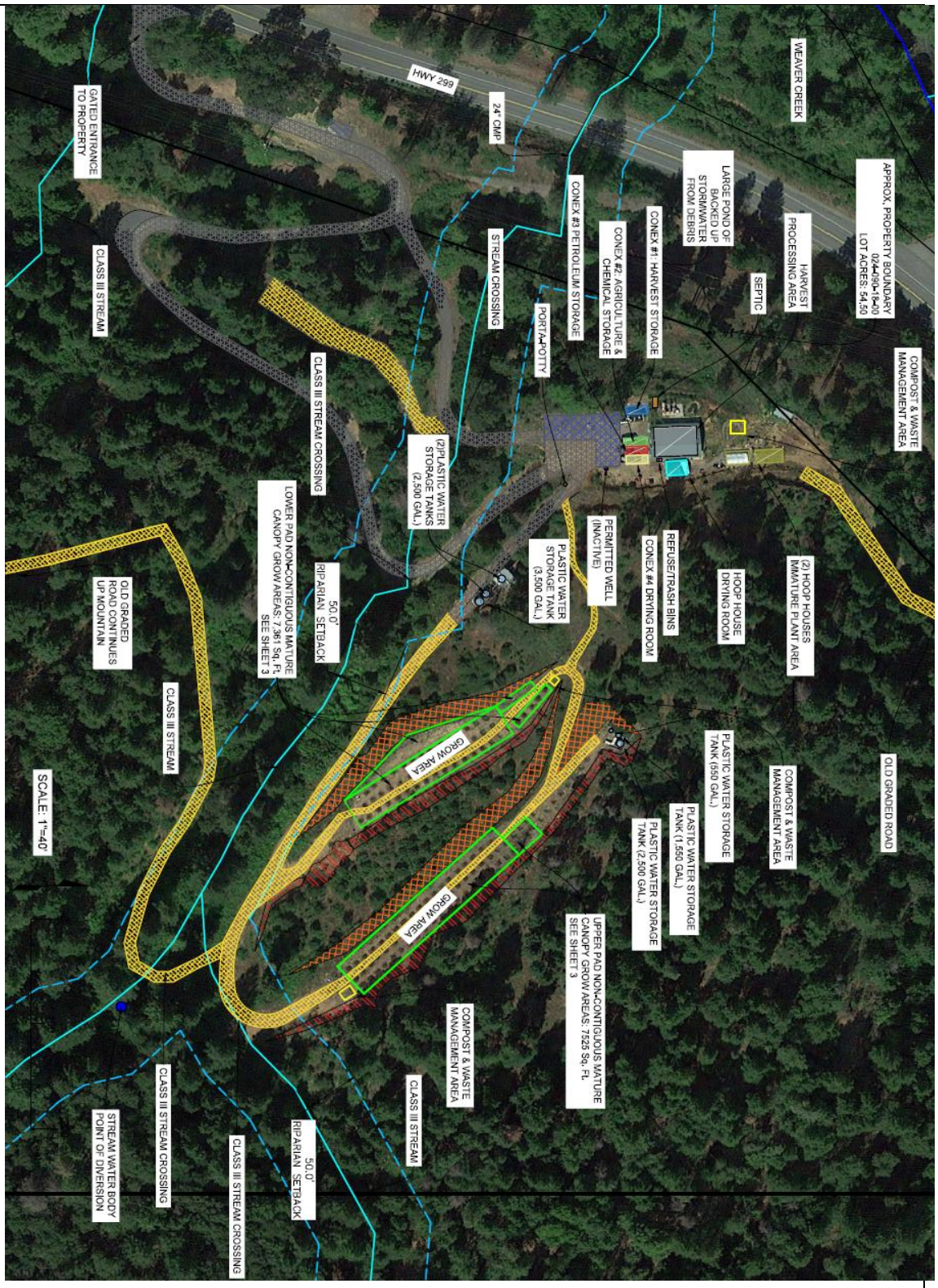
SECTION 6.0
APPENDIX

	Amalgamated Growers, Inc. Cannabis Cultivation Facility **Conditional Use Permit Project** **APN 024-090-18** **Douglas City, Trinity County, California**		**Project Location** JOB #518009.306
	January 2020	\\REDDINGSVR\projects\2018\518009-TrinityCo-CUP\306-Scharringhausen\Figures\Figure 1-project location.docx	Figure **#1**

	Amalgamated Growers, Inc. Cannabis Cultivation Facility **Conditional Use Permit Project** **APN 008-210-10** **Douglas City, Trinity County, California**	**Project Site** JOB #518009.306
	January 2020 | \\REDDINGSVR\projects\2018\518009-TrinityCo-CUP\306-Scharringhausen\Figures\Figure 2- Project Site.docx	Figure **#2**



Amalgamated Growers, Inc. Cannabis Cultivation Facility **Conditional Use Permit Project** **APN 024-090-18** **Douglas City, Trinity County, California**		**Site Plan** JOB #518009.306
January 2020	\\REDDINGSVR\projects\2018\518009-TrinityCo-CUP\306-Scharringhausen\Figures\Figure 3- Site Plan.docx	Figure **#3**