

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION****TO:**

- ☒ **Office of Planning and Research**  
*US Mail*  
 PO Box 3044  
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044    Sacramento, CA 95814
- ☒ **Shasta County Clerk**  
 1643 Market St.  
 Redding, CA 96001

**FROM:**

**City of Anderson**  
 1887 Howard Street  
 Anderson, CA 96007

**Project Title:** Anderson Park Village Consolidation Planning Project

**Project Location:**

The proposed project is located in the incorporated City of Anderson, in Section 22 and an unsectioned portion of the Rancho Buenaventura Land Grant, both of which are in Township 30 North, Range 4 West, of the U.S. Geological Survey's Cottonwood 7.5-minute quadrangle. Improvements are proposed at three locations: the Anderson Park Village apartment complex on the southeast side of Bruce Street, the City's Volonte Well site on the northwest side of Bruce Street in the southern area of Volonte Park, and the emergency bypass site in the southeast terminus of West Street (see **Figure 1**).

**City:** Anderson

**County:** Shasta

**Project Description, Purpose, and Beneficiaries:**

The project includes abandonment/demolition of a small community public water system serving the Anderson Park Village apartment complex property, extension of City water service to the apartment complex, and improvements to the City's Volonte Well. The existing well on the apartment complex property was drilled in the mid-1960s and is deteriorating. There are no backflow prevention devices, resulting in the potential for contamination hazards due to cross connections.

The existing well pump would be removed and the existing well would be abandoned; the vault would be backfilled and the area paved with asphalt to match existing grade. The existing hydropneumatics tank and appurtenant improvements would be removed, and the existing waterline between the well and the tank would be capped and abandoned in place. The apartment complex would be connected to the City's public water system by installing a new 2-inch water service and backflow prevention device on the apartment complex property. A new ±50-foot waterline would be installed from the apartment complex to the City's existing water main in Bruce Street. These improvements would ensure a safe and reliable water supply for residents in the apartment complex and comply with the Shasta County Environmental Health Department's recommendation to obtain an alternative water supply for the apartment complex.

According to the City's Master Water Plan, the Volonte Well was constructed in 1974 and is need of repairs. Improvements to the Volonte Well include removing the existing fence, removing all existing vegetation within the fenced area, demolishing all above-ground structures on the well site, installing a concrete slab, constructing a new ±300-square foot concrete masonry building, replacing the well pump, completing miscellaneous electrical improvements, and redeveloping the well. In addition, a new back-up emergency generator and perimeter fencing would be installed.

When the Well is taken out of service, the only water supply source in the South Pressure Zone would be the Highway 273 Well and an intertie with marginal capacity. Although work on the Volonte Well is anticipated to occur during the months of November through January when water demands are lower, in the event that work occurs outside of this timeframe or the Highway 273 Well fails, an emergency bypass would be installed around a normally closed valve to supply water between pressure zones. The bypass would be installed in the paved road right-of-way of West Street, southeast of South Street. Two 8-inch risers with isolation valves would be installed inside a permanent, traffic-rated vault; the vault would be installed just below finished grade. The road area disturbed during construction would be repaved following completion of the work. The bypass unit would remain following construction for future use in the event of an emergency.

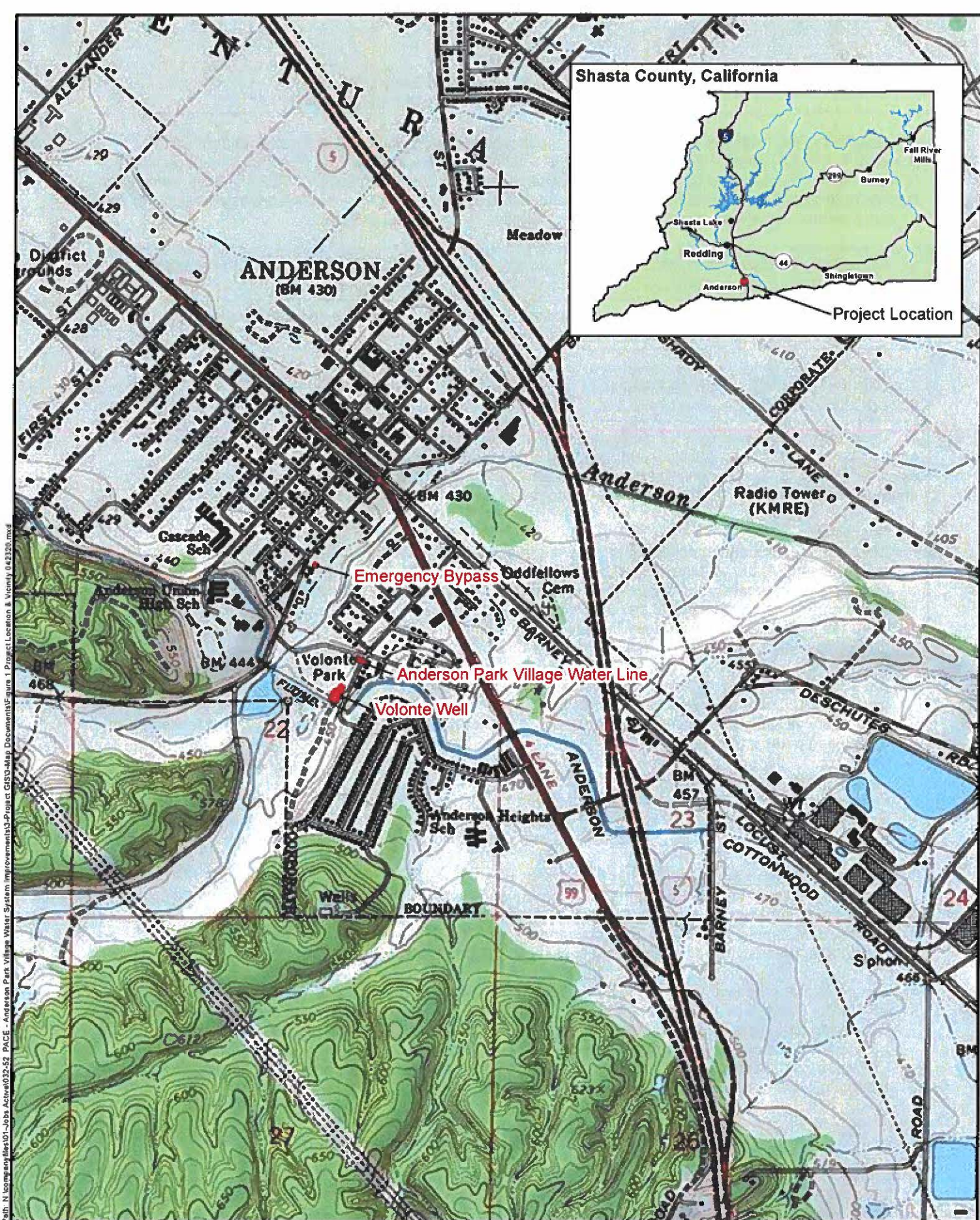
<b>Name of Public Agency Approving Project:</b>	City of Anderson
<b>Name of Agency Carrying out the Project:</b>	City of Anderson
<b>Local Agency Contact Person:</b>	<b>Jeff Kiser, City Manager</b>
<b>Exempt Status: Categorical Exemption</b> California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3 (CEQA Guidelines): Class 1, §15301 (Existing Facilities) Class 2, §15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction) Class 4, §15304 (Minor Alterations to Land)	
<b>Reason Why Project Is Exempt:</b> Class 1 includes the repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public structures, facilities, and mechanical equipment, involving negligible or no expansion of use; Class 2 includes replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity; and Class 4 includes minor trenching and backfilling on land with a slope of less than ten percent where the surface is restored.  The project is consistent with the categorical exemptions noted above because work would consist of repair, maintenance, and minor alterations to existing facilities; no expansion of capacity or use would occur; and the apartment complex improvements and Volonte Well improvements would be completed in previously disturbed areas, and the ground surface would be restored following construction. As documented in Attachment A, the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances; would not result in damage to scenic resources within a Scenic Highway; is not located on a hazardous waste site pursuant to §65962.5 of the Government Code; would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource; and would not result in cumulative impacts.	
<b>Signature:</b> <u>Jeff Kiser</u> Jeff Kiser City Manager	<b>Date:</b> <u>5-28-2020</u> Governor's Office of Planning & Research
<b>Date Received for Filing at OPR:</b> <u>MAY 29 2020</u>	

## STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

**Attachments:** Vicinity Map

Attachment A: Documentation in support of a Categorical Exemption





Path: N:\companyfiles\01-Jobs Active\02-52 PACE - Anderson Park Village Water System Improvements\0-Project GIS\Map Documents\Figure 1 Project Location & Vicinity 042120.mxd

All depictions are approximate. Not a survey product. 04.23.20



Figure 1  
Project Location and Vicinity



**ATTACHMENT A**  
**Documentation for Categorical Exemption**  
**Anderson Park Village Consolidation Planning Project**

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As described in the Notice of Exemption (NOE), the proposed project is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to §15301 (Class 1-Existing Facilities); §15302 (Class 2-Replacement or Reconstruction); and §15304 (Class 4-Minor Alterations to Land) of the CEQA Guidelines. CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 identifies exceptions that override a lead agency's ability to use a categorical exemption. These exceptions are listed below, followed by documentation of why each exception does not apply to the proposed project.

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

There are no successive similar projects proposed in the study area. Therefore, the proposed project's impacts would not be cumulatively considerable.

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

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

**Aesthetics**

Work at the apartment complex would consist of a subsurface waterline; no new above-ground structures are proposed. At the Volonte Well site, an existing fence would be removed and replaced with similar fencing. Ornamental shrubs within the fenced area would be removed to accommodate the new building; however, no mature trees would be removed. The existing building within the fenced area would be demolished and replaced with a similar-sized concrete masonry building. A new back-up emergency generator would be installed adjacent to the new building.

Because existing fencing and structures would be replaced with similar improvements, there would not be a significant change to the visual character or quality of views of the site and its surroundings. Temporary visual impacts during construction due to excavation and staging activities would cease at the completion of the improvements.

**Agriculture and Forest Resources**

Improvements would occur within the public road right-of-way (ROW) and in other previously disturbed areas. There are no forest resources or properties in agricultural use in the project area. Therefore, project implementation would not result in the loss of agricultural lands or forest resources.

**Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions**

The proposed project would result in the temporary generation of ROG, NO<sub>x</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>, and other regulated pollutants during construction. ROG and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions are associated with employee vehicle trips, delivery of materials, and construction equipment exhaust. PM<sub>10</sub> is generated during site preparation, excavation, road paving, and from exhaust associated with construction equipment.

The generator proposed for the Volonte Well site must comply with applicable sections of Shasta County Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD) Rule 3-28 (Stationary Internal Combustion Engines) that were adopted to limit emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) and carbon monoxide (CO). In addition, architectural coatings and solvents must comply with SCAQMD Rule 3-31 (Architectural Coatings). There are no unusual circumstances associated with air quality or GHG emissions that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

## **Biological Resources**

### ***Special-Status Plant Species***

Review of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) species list for the project area identified one federally listed plant species, slender Orcutt grass, as potentially occurring in the project vicinity. The project area does not contain designated critical habitat for federally listed plant species. A review of California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) records showed no special-status plants have been reported in the project site. In addition to slender Orcutt grass, the following four special-status plants have been reported within a five-mile radius of the project site: Ahart's paronychia, legenere, Red Bluff dwarf rush, and silky cryptantha. One non-status plant, Henderson's bent grass, has also been reported within the five-mile search radius. The CNPS Inventory does not identify any additional special-status plants in the USGS Cottonwood Quadrangle.

A botanical survey was completed by an ENPLAN biologist on March 11, 2019. Although the special-status plant species potentially occurring in the project area would not have been evident at the time the fieldwork was conducted, determination of their potential presence could readily be made based on observed habitat characteristics. No special-status plant species were observed during the botanical field surveys, nor are any expected to be present.

### ***Special-Status Wildlife Species***

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

Review of CNDDB records showed that one special-status animal species, tricolored blackbird, is broadly mapped in the project area. In addition to the species identified by the USFWS, eight special-status animals have been reported within a five-mile radius of the project site: bald eagle, bank swallow, Chinook salmon-Sacramento River winter-run ESU, osprey, steelhead-Central Valley DPS, western pond turtle, western red bat, and western spadefoot. The following non-status animals have been mapped within the five-mile search radius: California linderiella, hoary bat, silver-haired bat, and Yuma myotis.

To determine the presence/absence of special-status animal species, a wildlife survey of the project area was completed by an ENPLAN biologist on March 11, 2019. Although most of the special-status animal species potentially occurring in the project area would not have been evident at the time the fieldwork was conducted, determination of their potential presence was readily determined on the basis of observed habitat characteristics. No special-status animal species were observed during the surveys or are expected to be present.

### ***Nesting Migratory Birds***

The USFWS identified the following Birds of Conservation Concern as potentially being affected by the proposed project: oak titmouse, spotted towhee, and yellow-billed magpie. Construction activities are not expected to directly affect the above species because no suitable nesting habitat for these species is present in the study area. However, there is a low potential for direct impacts to other birds that could nest in the area. Indirect effects such as nest abandonment by adults in response to loud noise levels, are also possible but unlikely given the urban character of the work area. Any birds that may nest adjacent to the work area would be accustomed to periodic loud noises and other human-induced disturbances. To ensure that birds nesting in and adjacent to the study area are not adversely affected, as a standard construction measure a nesting bird survey will be conducted prior to vegetation removal and building demolition if such work would occur during the nesting season (February 1 to August 31).

### **Energy**

The proposed project does not include any components that would result in environmental impacts due to the wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources in the long-term. There are no unique circumstances related to energy use during construction of the proposed project that would result in more significant impacts than other construction in the area.



### **Geology and Soils**

According to the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, the nearest Alquist-Priolo Special Study Zone is the Old Station Fault Zone, approximately 50 miles to the northeast. The California Geological Survey identifies one potentially active fault, the Battle Creek fault that parallels Cottonwood Creek, approximately 5.5 miles south of the project area. However, this is not unique to the proposed project. Soils on the project site are mapped by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as Anderson gravelly sandy loam and Perkins gravelly loam. These soil types are found throughout the Anderson area and are not unique to the project site.

### **Hydrology and Water Quality**

Construction activities would result in the temporary disturbance of soil and would expose disturbed areas to potential storm events, which could generate accelerated runoff, localized erosion, and sedimentation. However, this is a temporary impact during construction activities, and no long-term impacts would occur. In addition, Best Management Practices (BMPs) for spill prevention and erosion/sediment control would be implemented to prevent indirect impacts to streams, watercourses, and aquatic habitats. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (Panel 06089C1935G), effective March 17, 2011, the proposed improvements are not located within a 100-year flood hazard area. There is nothing unique about the project site that would result in significant impacts to water quality.

### **Land Use and Planning**

The proposed project would not divide an established community or cause an environmental impact due to a conflict with the City's General Plan, applicable Municipal Code regulations, or the City's standard construction measures.

### **Mineral Resources**

The California Geological Survey has not designated any Mineral Resource Zones in the project site. In addition, there are no properties in the project area that are zoned or used for mining activities.

### **Noise**

Construction of the project would result in a temporary increase in ambient noise levels. However, the project does not involve pile driving or other similar activities that would create excessive noise or vibration. Further, there is nothing unique to the project that would result in more significant impacts than other similar construction projects. The project includes installation of a backup emergency generator at the Volonte Well site; the closest sensitive receptors are multi-family residence about 100 feet southeast of the Well site. However, the generator would be used only in the event of an emergency and would not result in a significant increase in ambient noise levels in the area.

### **Population and Housing**

The purpose of the project is to ensure a safe and reliable water supply and comply with California Waterworks standards. The project would not increase capacity in the City's water system and would not induce substantial unplanned population growth in the area.

### **Public Services, Recreation, and Utilities**

Because the project would not induce population growth in the area, the project would not generate a demand for additional fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, recreational facilities, or other public services. Further, there would be no increased demand for utility services.

### **Transportation/Traffic**

Because the project would not induce population growth, the project would not directly or indirectly result in a permanent increase in traffic. There would be short-term increases in traffic in the area associated with construction workers and equipment; however, existing regulations require safety measures to be employed to safeguard travel by the general public during construction.

### **Wildfire**

The proposed improvements would occur in paved roadways and previously disturbed areas in an urbanized location. There are no unique circumstances associated with the proposed project that would result in more significant impacts than other construction projects in the area.

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

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

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

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

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

The records search revealed that the project is not located on a hazardous waste site. The closest active clean-up site to the proposed improvements is a leaking underground storage tank approximately 0.7 miles to the northwest.

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

A Cultural Resources Inventory (CRI) was completed for the proposed project by ENPLAN. The study included a records search, Native American consultation, and field evaluation. The records search included review of records at the Northeast Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (NEIC), and a review of historic maps, the *National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)*, *California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR)*, *California Historical Landmarks*, *California Inventory of Historic Resources*, and *California Points of Historic Interest*, Shasta Historical Society, and Anderson Historical Society and Museum.

A records search was conducted at the NEIC on February 27, 2019, and covered a half-mile radius around the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE). The APE includes all areas in which improvements would occur, and areas for staging and temporary construction access, as well as sufficient area for construction. The records search revealed that eight archeological surveys have been conducted within a half-mile radius of the APE, one of which encompassed portions of the APE. There are three previously recorded archaeological sites within a half-mile radius of the APE; none of these sites are within the project's APE. Archaeological fieldwork took place on March 5, 2019, during which the APE was intensively surveyed to identify cultural resources that would be potentially affected by the proposed project.

On February 20, 2019, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) conducted a search of the Sacred Lands File and indicated that the search did not reveal any known Native American sacred sites or cultural resources in the project area. The NAHC also provided contact information for several Native American representatives and organizations, who were contacted with a request to provide comments on the proposed project; follow-up correspondence was sent on March 15, 2019. No responses were received.

As a result of the cultural resources survey, two historical-era sites were identified in the APE: the Anderson Park Village Apartment complex and the Volonte Well; however, both sites were determined ineligible for listing in the NRHP or CRHR. One historical-era site was identified adjacent to the APE: the Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District (ACID) Aqueduct. Review of the California Inventory of Historic Resources indicated the ACID Aqueduct is a point of historical interest.

The CRI concludes that the project would have no effect on a historical or prehistoric cultural resource. Although no cultural resources were discovered during field investigations, there is always some potential for previously unknown cultural resources to be encountered during site excavation. Therefore, the following stipulations should be included as conditions of project approval, and these stipulations should be included on



all project construction/design plans for the project to address the inadvertent discovery of cultural resources and human remains:

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

#### DOCUMENTATION:

**California Air Resources Control Board.** 2019 Area Designations Maps—State and National.

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/desig/adm/adm.htm>. Accessed March 2020.

**California Department of Transportation.** 2011. State Scenic Highway Mapping System. Shasta County.

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**California Environmental Protection Agency.** 2020. Cortese List Data Resources.

<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/sitecleanup/corteselist/>. Accessed March 2020.

**City of Anderson.** 2007. City of Anderson General Plan.

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**Federal Emergency Management Agency.** National Flood Hazard Map (Panel 06089C1935G, effective March 17, 2011).

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<https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/EQZApp/app/>. Accessed March 2020.

**U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service.** 2020. Web Soil Survey.

<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>. Accessed March 2020.

**U.S. Geological Survey.** 2010. Interactive Fault Map. <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/hazards/qafaults/map/>.

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