

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & BUILDING Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

PLN-2039 04/2019

Draiget Title & No

Project Title & No. G	uerra Ranch Corperation Majo	or Grading ED20-135 (PMTG2020-00018)
Significant Impact" for enviolent discussion on mitigation resignificant levels or require	ironmental factors checked below neasures or project revisions to e further study.	proposed project could have a "Potentially or Please refer to the attached pages for either reduce these impacts to less than
Aesthetics Agriculture & Forestry Resources Air Quality Biological Resources Cultural Resources Energy Geology & Soils	Greenhouse Gas Emissio Hazards & Hazardous Ma Hydrology & Water Quali Land Use & Planning Mineral Resources Noise Population & Housing	iterials Recreation
DETERMINATION: (To be	completed by the Lead Agency	<u>()</u>
The proposed project DECLARATION will be Although the proposed significant effect in the project proponent. A The proposed project IMPACT REPORT is remitigated" impact on earlier document pur measures based on the IMPACT REPORT is remainded. Although the proposed potentially significant DECLARATION pursuate to that earlier EIR or	prepared. ed project could have a significant en is case because revisions in the promotion of MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION of MAY have a significant effect on the quired. If MAY have a "potentially significant the environment, but at least one established by the earlier analysis as described on a quired, but it must analyze only the ed project could have a significant entered for the effects (a) have been analyzed adeant to applicable standards, and (b)	ffect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE ffect on the environment, there will not be a ject have been made by or agreed to by the N will be prepared. e environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL impact" or "potentially significant unless iffect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an and 2) has been addressed by mitigation attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL effects that remain to be addressed. ffect on the environment, because all quately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE have been avoided or mitigated pursuant revisions or mitigation measures that are
Prepared by (Print)	Signature	Date Steve McMasters, Principal Environmental Specialist
Reviewed by (Print)	Signature	Date

Project Environmental Analysis

The County's environmental review process incorporates all of the requirements for completing the Initial Study as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines. The Initial Study includes staff's on-site inspection of the project site and surroundings and a detailed review of the information in the file for the project. In addition, available background information is reviewed for each project. Relevant information regarding soil types and characteristics, geologic information, significant vegetation and/or wildlife resources, water availability, wastewater disposal services, existing land uses and surrounding land use categories and other information relevant to the environmental review process are evaluated for each project. Exhibit A includes the references used, as well as the agencies or groups that were contacted as a part of the Initial Study. The County Planning Department uses the checklist to summarize the results of the research accomplished during the initial environmental review of the project.

Persons, agencies or organizations interested in obtaining more information regarding the environmental review process for a project should contact the County of San Luis Obispo Planning Department, 976 Osos Street, Rm. 200, San Luis Obispo, CA, 93408-2040 or call (805) 781-5600.

A. Project

DESCRIPTION: Request by Guerra Ranch Corporation for a Major Grading Permit (PMTG2020-00018) to construct a new lined 31-acre/foot agricultural reservoir to contain water for irrigation. The reservoir will be approximately 300 feet long by 23 feet wide and 40 feet deep. It will be lined with a textured HDPE geomembrane and have an overflow PVC pipe outlet structure. The reservoir will be supplied by an existing well and pump on the south side of Atascadero Road located on the subject property. The project would result in the disturbance of 2.56 acres of a 352-acre site including 23,445-cubic-yards of cut and 23,442-cubic-yards of fill material. The project is within the Agriculture land use category and is located at 1835 Atascadero Road, approximately 2 miles east of City of Morro Bay. The site is in the Estero Planning Area.

ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER(S): 073-031-035

Latitude: 35° 24' 44.352" N **Longitude:** 120° 49' 7.896" W **SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT #** 2

B. Existing Setting

Plan Area: Estero Sub: NA Comm:

Land Use Category: Agriculture

Combining Designation: None

Parcel Size: 352 acres

Topography: Moderate to steep slopes

Vegetation: Nonnative annual grassland, coastal sage scrub, ruderal, serpentine outcrop

Existing Uses: Residential, Avocado and citrus crops

Surrounding Land Use Categories and Uses:

North: Agriculture; Vacant East: Agriculture; Vacant

South: Agriculture; Residential uses / crops **West:** Agriculture; / Residential uses / crops

C. Environmental Analysis

The Initital Study Checklist provides detailed information about the environmental impacts of the proposed project and mitigation measures to lessen the impacts.

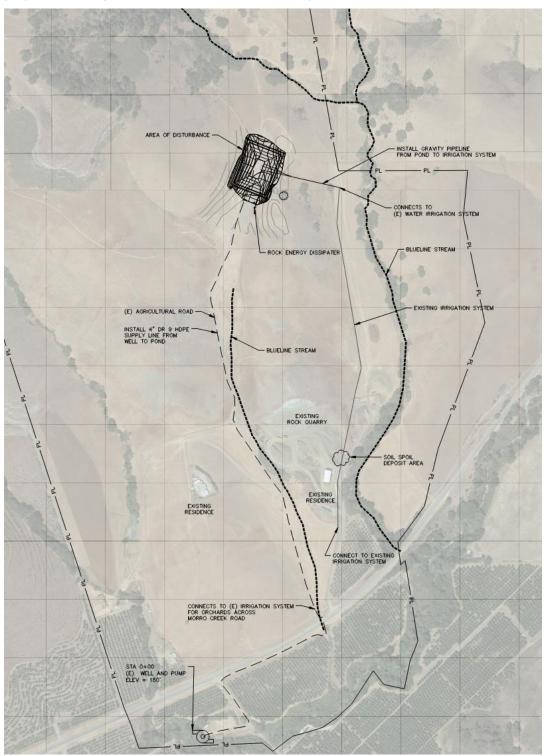


Figure 1. Site Map.

I. AESTHETICS

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Exce	pt as provided in Public Resources Code Section	n 21099, would the	e project:		
(a)	Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				
(b)	Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				
(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?				
(d)	Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?				

Setting

The proposed reservoir is located between 2,100 and 3,500 feet from Highway 41, and 1.95 miles from the community of Morro Bay. The project site is within a productive agricultural area. The visual setting includes vast agricultural views (predominantly orchards), open hillsides, a few scattered rural residences, and other appurtenant agricultural infrastructure and development. There are approximately 15 existing agricultural reservoirs within 5 miles of the project sites. Portions of Highway 41, which are located approximately 2 miles northeast of the project site, have been officially designated as scenic corridors. Highway 41 has been identified as an eligible state scenic highway by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) California Scenic Highway Mapping System. Highway 41 runs east-west just northeast of Morro Bay, approximately 0.5 miles south of the reservoir site.

Discussion

(a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

The project site is located in rural areas accessed by agricultural farm roads off of Highway 41, which serve as the primary public viewing location for the project sites. For the purposes of determining significance under CEQA, a scenic vista is defined as a viewpoint that provides expansive views of a highly valued landscape for the benefit of the general public.

While the project vicinity has high scenic value and an appealing rural and agricultural character, it is not officially or unofficially designated as a scenic vista. Therefore, the project would not result in a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista, and impacts would be *less than significant*.

- (b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?
 - The most prominent scenic features of the project site include the rolling hills and orchards throughout the proposed development area. The project site would not be visible from Highway 41 due to distance, the non-descript agricultural nature of the proposed development, and intervening agricultural uses and topography; and would therefore not be visible from a designated state scenic highway or eligible state scenic highway. Therefore, the project would not result in substantial damage to scenic resources within a state scenic highway, and impacts would be *less than significant*.
- (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?
 - The visual character of the project vicinity is dominated by agricultural land uses including orchards, agricultural reservoirs, agricultural accessory structures, and scattered rural residences. Although Highway 41 has no official scenic designation, the roadway offers high-value views of rural agricultural landscapes. The proposed reservoir would not be highly visible from Highway 41 due to intervening topography, active orchards and agricultural uses, and distance. The agricultural reservoir would also be consistent with the existing visual character and quality of the area and existing adjacent uses. Therefore, impacts to the visual character and quality of the area would be *less than significant*.
- (d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

The project does not propose the installation of lighting. Sun during the day can reflect off the water and cause glare; however, due to the limited visibility of the reservoir site and the consistency with existing adjacent uses, glare would not adversely affect public views in the area. Therefore, impacts relating to nighttime lighting and glare would be *less than significant*.

Conclusion

The project would be visually consistent with existing uses in the project vicinity and would not adversely affect scenic resources, quality, or character. Therefore, potential impacts on aesthetic resources would be less than significant and no mitigation measures are necessary.

Mitigation

No mitigation is required.

Sources

See Exhibit A.

II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Calif an c reso Calif Rang	etermining whether impacts to agricultural resolution and Site Assessing and Site Assessing impacts of assessing impacts of urces, including timberland, are significant environting Department of Forestry and Fire Protections Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Protect by the California Air Responses	essment Model (19 in agriculture and conmental effects, on regarding the s essment project;	997) prepared by the I farmland. In dete I lead agencies may r state's inventory of fo and forest carbon m	California Dept. o rmining whether i refer to information orest land, includi	f Conservation as impacts to fores n compiled by the ng the Forest and
(a)	Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?				
(b)	Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				
(c)	Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?				
(d)	Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				\boxtimes
(e)	Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				
Settir					
	following area-specific elements relate to			·	
Lan	d Use Category: Agriculture	Histori	c/Existing Comn	nercial Crops:	Avocado

and Citrus Orchards

State Classification: Prime Farmland, Farmland In Agricultural Preserve? Yes of State Importance, Grazing Land Under Williamson Act contract? Yes

Based on the California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) and the San Luis Obispo County Important Farmland Map (FMMP 2018), the project sites contain Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance and Grazing Land. The soil type(s) and characteristics on the subject property include:

- <u>Briones-Tierra complex</u> (15 50% slope). This moderately to steeply sloping sandy soil is considered moderately drained. The soil has low erodibility and low shrink-swell characteristics, as well as having potential septic system constraints due to: poor filtering capabilities, steep slopes, shallow depth to bedrock. The soil is considered Class VII without irrigation and Class is not rated when irrigated.
- 143 <u>Lodo clay loam</u> (15 30 % slope). This moderately sloping, shallow fine loamy soil is considered somewhat excessively drained. The soil has moderate erodibility and moderate shrink-swell characteristics, as well as having potential septic system constraints due to: steep slopes, shallow depth to bedrock. The soil is considered Class VI without irrigation and Class is not rated when irrigated. This soil is classified as Not Prime Farmland by the NRCS.
- 183 ObispoRock outcrop complex (15 75% slope). This moderately to very steeply sloping, shallow clayey serpentine soil is considered very poorly drained. The soil has moderate erodibility and moderate shrink-swell characteristics, as well as having potential septic system constraints due to: steep slopes, shallow depth to bedrock. The soil is considered Class VII without irrigation and Class is not rated when irrigated. This soil is classified as Not Prime Farmland by the NRCS.
- 198 <u>Salinas silty clay loam, 2 to 9 percent slopes.</u> This well-drained soil has medium runoff and moderately slow permeability. The major uses include vineyards and orchards, irrigated crops, dry-farmed crops, and livestock grazing. The main management consideration includes paying special attention to slope. This soil is classified as Prime Farmland and Highly Productive Rangeland by the NRCS. This soil has a CA Storie Index Rating of Grade 1 Excellent.
- 460 Los Osos loam, 30 to 50 percent slopes. This well-drained soil has medium runoff potential and slow permeability above the duripan. The major uses include crops and livestock grazing. Management considerations include paying special attention to excessive slope, water erosion, limited available water capacity, and depth to the hardpan. This soil is classified as Not Prime Farmland by the NRCS. This soil has a CA Storie Index Rating of Grade 5 Very Poor.
 - However, the soils to be disturbed by the proposed project only include Diablo and Cibo clays (15-30%) and Lodo Clay Loam (30-50%). These soils are typically formed from residuum weathered from sandstone and shale on ridges and hillslopes with a clay or clay loam topsoil. Both are well-drained soils that have a "very high" runoff class. Diablo and Cibo Clay shave "moderate" available water storage, while Lodo clay loam has "very low".
- 130 <u>Diablo and Cibo clays</u> (15 30 % slope). This moderately sloping clayey soil is considered very poorly drained. The soil has moderate erodibility and high shrink-swell characteristics, as well as having potential septic system constraints due to: steep slopes, slow percolation. The soil is considered Class IV without irrigation and Class is not rated when irrigated. This soil is classified as Farmland of Statewide Importance.
- 149 <u>Lodo Clay loam</u> (30-50% slope). This moderately to steeply sloping, shallow fine loamy soil is considered somewhat excessively drained. The soil has very high runoff potential and moderately slow

permeability. This soil is classified as Not Prime Farmland by the NRCS.

Discussion

(a) (Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?

The Guerra Reservoir site includes various soils including those which are classified Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Grazing Land. The portion of the parcel to be disturbed by the proposed project is designated as Not Prime Farmland and the remainder of the parcel is Grazing Land. The reservoir is proposed to support existing agricultural use of avocado orchards. Therefore, no Farmland would be converted to non-agricultural uses and potential impacts would be *less than significant*.

(b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

The subject property is within the Agriculture land use category and is currently under a Williamson Act contract. The proposed agricultural reservoirs are considered an agricultural use and would support the production of existing avocado orchards. Therefore, the project would support existing agriculture and would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or the existing Williamson Act Contract that the property is enrolled in. Potential impacts would be *less than significant*.

(c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?

Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

There is no forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production or zoning for such uses in the project vicinity; *no impact would occur*.

(d) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

The project proposes the development of an agricultural support facility and would not involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to nonagricultural use or conversion of forestland to non-forest use. The project would be compatible with existing agricultural operations, would not adversely affect existing proximate agricultural uses, agricultural support services, or agricultural infrastructure or resources. Although the project will result in the pumping of an additional water from the groundwater basin to account for evaporation, an offset is not required because the site is not within a Level of Severity (LOS) Ill groundwater basin. Therefore, the creation and maintenance of the reservoir would not adversely affect groundwater supplies for proximate agricultural uses. The proposed project would not result in the indirect conversion of existing farm or forestland to another use. Therefore, *no impacts would occur*.

Conclusion

The purpose of the proposed reservoirs is to provide onsite frost protection and irrigation for existing orchards and offsite transfer of reservoir water and/or other uses of the reservoirs would be prohibited.

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Therefore, potential impacts on agricultural resources would be less than significant and no mitigation is necessary.

Mitigation

None needed.

Sources

See Exhibit A.

III. AIR QUALITY

		Potentially Significant Impact	Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	re available, the significance criteria established ict may be relied upon to make the following de	•		ment district or aiı	pollution control
(a)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?		\boxtimes		
(b)	Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?				
(c)	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			\boxtimes	
(d)	Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?				

Less Than

Setting

The proposed reservoir site is located in the South Central Coast Air Basin (SCCAB) under the jurisdiction of the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (SLOAPCD). The SLOAPCD has developed and updated a CEQA Air Quality Handbook (2012) and clarification memorandum (2017) to evaluate project specific impacts and help determine if air quality mitigation measures are needed, or if potentially significant impacts could result. To evaluate long-term emissions, cumulative effects, and establish countywide programs to reach acceptable air quality levels, a Clean Air Plan has been adopted (prepared by SLOAPCD).

San Luis Obispo County Clean Air Plan

San Luis Obispo County is currently in attainment of all state and federal standards for criteria air pollutants, except state standards for ozone (O₃) and Respirable Particulate Matter (PM₁₀). The SLOAPCD's San Luis Obispo County 2001 Clean Air Plan (CAP) is a comprehensive planning document intended to evaluate long-term emissions and cumulative effects and provide guidance to the SLOAPCD and other local agencies on how to attain and maintain the state standards for ozone and PM₁₀. The CAP presents a detailed description

of the sources and pollutants which impact the jurisdiction's attainment of state standards, future air quality impacts to be expected under current growth trends, and an appropriate control strategy for reducing ozone precursor emissions, thereby improving air quality.

Naturally Occurring Asbestos

Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) has been identified as a toxic air contaminant by the California Air Resources Board (ARB). Under the ARB Air Toxics Control Measure (ATCM) for Construction, Grading, Quarrying, and Surface Mining Operations, prior to any grading activities a geologic evaluation should be conducted to determine if NOA is present within the area that will be disturbed. If NOA is not present, an exemption request must be filed with the District. If NOA is found at the site, the applicant must comply with all requirements outlined in the Asbestos ATCM. This may include development of an Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan and an Asbestos Health and Safety Program for approval by the APCD.

Discussion

(a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

Construction Impacts

The SLOAPCD CEQA Air Quality Handbook provides thresholds of significance for construction related emissions. Table 1 lists SLOAPCD's general thresholds for determining whether a potentially significant impact could occur as a result of a project's construction activities.

Table 1. SLOAPCD Thresholds of Significance for Construction Activities

Bollistant	Threshold ⁽¹⁾				
Pollutant	Daily	Quarterly Tier 1	Quarterly Tier 2		
Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM)	7 lbs	0.13 tons	0.32 tons		
Reactive Organic Gases (ROG) + Oxides of Nitrogen (NO _X)	137 lbs	2.5	6.3 tons		
Fugitive Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀), Dust ⁽²⁾	-	2.5 tons ⁽²⁾	-		

^{1.} Daily and quarterly emission thresholds are based on the California Health and Safety Code and the CARB Carl Moyer Guidelines.

2. Any project with a grading area greater than 4.0 acres of worked area can exceed the 2.5-ton PM_{10} quarterly threshold.

As proposed, the project would result in the total disturbance of approximately 2.56 acres, including approximately 23,445 cubic yards of material moved.

The SLOAPCD CEQA Air Quality Handbook also provides preliminary screening construction emission rates based on the proposed volume of soil to be moved and the anticipated area of disturbance. Table 2 lists the SLOAPCD's screening emission rates that would be generated based on the amount

of material to be moved. The APCD's CEQA Handbook also clarifies that any project that would require grading of 4.0 acres or more can exceed the 2.5-ton PM_{10} quarterly threshold listed above will have an impact.

Table 2. Standard Screening Emission Rates for Construction Activities

Pollutant	Grams/Cubic Yard of Material Moved	Lbs/Cubic Yard of Material Moved
Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM)	2.2	0.0049
Reactive Organic Gases (ROG)	9.2	0.0203
Oxides of Nitrogen (NO _x)	42.4	0.0935
Fugitive Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀)	0.75 tons/acre/month of (assuming 22 days month)	- 1

Based on the cut estimates and the standard construction emission rates shown in Table 2, construction-related emissions that would result from the project were calculated and are shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Proposed Project Estimated Construction Emissions.

	Total	SLOAPCD T	hreshold	Threshold Exceeded?
Pollutant	Estimated Emissions	Quarterly		
	Emissions	Tier 1		
ROG + NO _X (combined)	1.34 tons	2.5 tons	6.3 tons	No
Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM)	0.06 tons	0.13 tons	.32 tons	No
Fugitive Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀)	5.76 tons	2.5 tons	-	Yes

As shown above, the project would exceed SLOAPCD's Tier 1 thresholds for PM₁₀. For projects that exceed the 2.5 tons/quarter PM10 threshold, the SLOAPCD requires Fugitive PM10 Mitigation Measures.

Based on the volume of proposed grading, area of project site disturbance, estimated duration of the construction period, and the APCD's screening construction emission rates identified above, the project would result in the emission of criteria pollutants that would exceed construction-related

thresholds established by the SLOAPCD. The applicant shall implement standard Air Pollution Control District measures to control dust. Implementation of Mitigation Measures **AQ-1 and AQ-2** would reduce these impacts to less than significant with mitigation.

Operational Impacts

The SLOAPCD's CEQA Air Quality Handbook provides operational screening criteria to identify projects with the potential to exceed APCD operational significance thresholds (refer to Table 1-1 of the CEQA Handbook). Based on Table 1-1 of the CEQA Handbook, the project does not propose a use that would have the potential to result in operational emissions that would exceed APCD thresholds. The project would not generate substantial new long-term traffic trips or vehicle emissions and does not propose construction of new direct (source) emissions. the project would not generate substantial operational emissions or increased energy demands. Therefore, potential operational emissions would be less than significant.

Based on the above analysis, with implementation of **AQ-1 through AQ-2**, the project would not conflict or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan and the project would be generally consistent with the San Luis Obispo County CAP. Therefore, project impacts related to implementation of an air quality plan would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

(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?

San Luis Obispo County is currently designated as non-attainment for ozone (in the eastern part of the county) and PM_{10} . Project-related construction disturbances would further contribute to existing PM_{10} exceedances. New emissions associated with the proposed project would be almost entirely limited to temporary construction activities. As noted above, the project would result in construction-phase emissions that would exceed SLOAPCD thresholds. However, with implementation of **AQ-1 through AQ-2**, project emissions would be reduced to less than significant. Given that construction related emissions would be reduced below applicable thresholds and long-term operational emissions would be negligible, the project would have a less than cumulatively considerable effect on air quality. Therefore, cumulative project impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

(c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

The reservoir sites are generally surrounded by agricultural land uses, including avocado orchards, and undeveloped hills used for grazing. There are no sensitive receptors within 1,000 feet of any of the reservoir site. There are two residences within 1 mile of the proposed Reservoir site (approximately 0.4 miles to the east and 0.45 miles to the west) and three onsite residence approximately 0.4 miles south. In addition, the project would be subject to standard mitigation measures for construction equipment and emissions. Therefore, the project would not result in substantial air pollutant concentrations within close proximity to a sensitive receptor and impacts would be *less than significant*.

(d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

Construction could generate odors from heavy diesel machinery and materials used for excavation and construction of the project. The generation of odors during the construction period would be temporary, would be consistent with odors commonly associated with typical construction equipment

and activities, and would dissipate within a short distance from the active work area. The project site is almost entirely surrounded by existing orchards and undeveloped hillsides and no significant long-term operational emissions or odors would be generated by the project. Therefore, impacts related to other emissions adversely affecting a substantial number of people would be *less than significant*.

Conclusion

The project would have the potential to result in PM_{10} emissions that exceed the quarterly thresholds established by SLOAPCD for construction emissions. Mitigation Measures AQ-1 and AQ-2 have been identified to reduce construction-related emissions. With implementation of these measures, potential impacts to air quality would be less than significant.

Mitigation

- **AQ-1 Prior to issuance of construction permits**, the following measures related to fugitive dust emissions shall be incorporated into the construction phase of the project and shown on all applicable construction plans:
 - a) Reduce the amount of the disturbed area where possible;
 - Use of water trucks or sprinkler systems in sufficient quantities to prevent airborne dust from leaving the site. Increased watering frequency would be required whenever wind speeds exceed 15 mph. Reclaimed (non-potable) water should be used whenever possible;
 - c) All dirt stock pile areas should be sprayed daily as needed;
 - d) Permanent dust control measures identified in the approved project revegetation and landscape plans should be implemented as soon as possible following completion of any soil disturbing activities;
 - Exposed ground areas that are planned to be reworked at dates greater than one month after initial grading should be sown with a fast germinating, non-invasive grass seed and watered until vegetation is established;
 - f) All disturbed soil areas not subject to revegetation should be stabilized using approved chemical soil binders, jute netting, or other methods approved in advance by the APCD;
 - g) All roadways, driveways, sidewalks, etc. to be paved should be completed as soon as possible. In addition, building pads should be laid as soon as possible after grading unless seeding or soil binders are used;
 - h) Vehicle speed for all construction vehicles shall not exceed 15 mph on any unpaved surface at the construction site;
 - All trucks hauling dirt, sand, soil, or other loose materials are to be covered or should maintain at least two feet of freeboard (minimum vertical distance between top of load and top of trailer) in accordance with CVC Section 23114;
 - j) Install wheel washers where vehicles enter and exit unpaved roads onto streets, or wash off trucks and equipment leaving the site;
 - k) Sweep streets at the end of each day if visible soil material is carried onto adjacent paved roads. Water sweepers with reclaimed water should be used where feasible;
 - l) All of these fugitive dust mitigation measures shall be shown on grading and building plans; and

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- m) The contractor or builder shall designate a person or persons to monitor the fugitive dust emissions and enhance the implementation of the measures as necessary to minimize dust complaints, reduce visible emissions below 20% opacity, and to prevent transport of dust offsite. Their duties shall include holidays and weekend periods when work may not be in progress. The name and telephone number of such persons shall be provided to the APCD Compliance Division prior to the start of any grading, earthwork, or demolition.
- **AQ-2 Prior to issuance of any construction permits**, the applicant shall incorporate Best Available Control Technology (BACT) into the construction phase of the project and shown on all applicable construction plans. The BACT measures shall be reviewed and verified by the SLOAPCD.

Sources

See Exhibit A.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Wou	ld the project:				
(a)	Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				
(b)	Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?				
(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?				

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(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?				
(e)	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				
(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?				

Setting

Federal and State Endangered Species Acts

The Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 (FESA) provides legislation to protect federally listed plant and animal species. The California Endangered Species Act of 1984 (CESA) ensures legal protection for plants listed as rare or endangered, and wildlife species formally listed as endangered or threatened, and also maintains a list of California Species of Special Concern (SSC). SSC status is assigned to species that have limited distribution, declining populations, diminishing habitat, or unusual scientific, recreational, or educational value. Under state law, the CDFW has the authority to review projects for their potential to impact special-status species and their habitats.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) protects all migratory birds, including their eggs, nests, and feathers. The MBTA was originally drafted to put an end to the commercial trade in bird feathers, popular in the latter part of the 1800s. The MBTA is enforced by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and potential impacts to species protected under the MBTA are evaluated by the USFWS in consultation with other federal agencies and are required to be evaluated under CEQA.

Clean Water Act and State Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulates discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. These waters include wetland and non-wetland water bodies that meet specific criteria. USACE jurisdiction regulates almost all work in, over, and under waters listed as "navigable waters of the U.S." that results in a discharge of dredged or fill material within USACE regulatory jurisdiction, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Under Section 404, USACE regulates traditional navigable waters, wetlands adjacent to traditional navigable waters, relatively permanent non-navigable tributaries that have a

continuous flow at least seasonally (typically 3 months), and wetlands that directly abut relatively permanent tributaries.

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs) regulate discharges of fill and dredged material in California, under Section 401 of the CWA and the State Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, through the State Water Quality Certification Program. State Water Quality Certification is necessary for all projects that require a USACE permit, or fall under other federal jurisdiction, and have the potential to impact waters of the State. Based on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory, the project site does not support wetlands, riparian or deep-water habitats (USFWS 2019).

Conservation and Open Space Element

The intent of the goals, policies, and implementation strategies in the COSE is to identify and protect biological resources that are a critical component of the county's environmental, social, and economic well-being. Biological resources include major ecosystems; threatened, rare, and endangered species and their habitats; native trees and vegetation; creeks and riparian areas; wetlands; fisheries; and marine resources. Individual species, habitat areas, ecosystems and migration patterns must be considered together in order to sustain biological resources. The COSE identifies Critical Habitat areas for sensitive species including California condor, California red legged frog, vernal pool fairy shrimp, La Graciosa thistle, Morro Bay kangaroo rat, Morro shoulderband snail, tiger salamander, and western snowy plover. The COSE also identifies features of particular importance to wildlife for movement corridors such as riparian corridors, shorelines of the coast and bay, and ridgelines. Project site does not provide habitat for Critical Habitat species.

Site Setting

The proposed 31-acre/foot agricultural reservoir is approximately 300 feet long by 23 feet wide and 40 feet deep with a total area of disturbance estimated to be 2.5 acres. The project is located on a vacant portion of a 352-acre parcel is located at 1835 Atascadero Road, approximately 2 miles east of City of Morro Bay, within the coastal foothills of the Santa Lucia Range. The site ranges from gently to steeply sloping with elevation ranges from approximately 290 to 450 feet above mean sea level. Three unnamed seasonal streams connect to Morro Creek, which flows west along the southern border of the parcel. The surrounding area is primarily cattle ranch land or agricultural fields.

Althouse and Mead Inc. preformed a series of field surveys of the project site and prepared a Biological Report, in September of 2019 (Althouse and Mead Inc., September 2019) for the proposed project. This report includes information and analysis on potential impacts and proposed mitigation measures related to the currently proposed reservoir.

The proposed location of the reservoir is on a flattened terrace within a grassland ridge on the Guerra Ranch property. Although tributary streams are located onsite, no streams or drainages are present in the study area. Nonnative annual grassland surrounds the project site with coastal sage scrub occurring on sloping shallow soils, and serpentine rock outcrop where soil is absent. Several species of rare plants occur within serpentine outcrop and coastal sage scrub, and at least one species occurs within annual grassland. Coast live oak trees occur on the north-facing slopes of the surrounding vicinity, with one oak tree partially entering the eastern boundary of the study area. Fill soil has been deposited in the flat terrace since approximately 2006 and ruderal habitat occurs on this fill. Cattle actively graze the site and surrounding hillsides.

No potentially jurisdiction wetlands or waters are present in the study area or within 100 feet of the project footprint. The study area is not part of a significant wildlife movement corridor although numerous common animals are likely to move through the area periodically or seasonally.

Habitat Types

Four habitat types are found onsite, Nonnative Annual Grassland; Coastal Sage Scrub; and Ruderal Serpentine Rock Outcrop. See Figure 2 on the following page for the habitat type locations.

Nonnative Annual Grassland covers approximately 4.6 acres of the study area and is dominated by Italian rye grass (Festuca perennis) and is generally found in seasonally moist environments that are regularly disturbed. One rare plant species, Cambria morning glory (Calystegia subacaulis subsp. episcopalis) is known to occur within this habitat type. This annual grassland was actively grazed by cattle during the 2019 surveys.

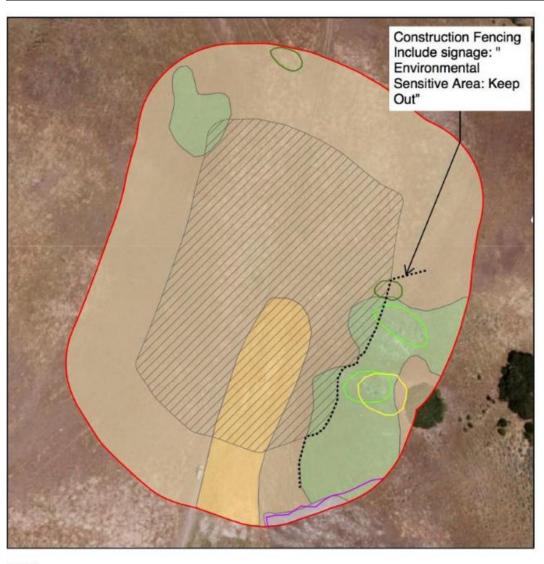
Coastal Sage Scrub occupies approximately 0.9 acres of the study area. It occurs in low density shrubland on moderately sloped terrain with bare serpentine bedrock occasionally exposed. Introduced annual grasses make up the dominant herbaceous understory. Two rare plant species, club haired mariposa lily (Calochortus clavatus var. clavatus) and Blockman's dudleya (Dudleya blochmaniae subsp. blochmaniae), occur in the serpentine exposures within the coastal sage scrub.

Ruderal habitat occupies approximately 0.5 acres of the study area, restricted to a large area of artificial fill that occurs along the east side of the existing ranch road. Almost all plants occurring within ruderal habitat are ranked as invasive by the California Invasive Plant Council. No rare plants were found in ruderal habitat.

Serpentine Rock Outcrop occupies approximately less than 0.1 acres within the study area although it is common in the vicinity. This habitat type commonly exists in deep clay soils but is also known to occur in sterile serpentine soils. Within the study area, serpentine rock outcrop occurs where there is exposed bedrock with little to no soil. Rare and native plants—such as Palmer's spineflower (Chorizanthe palmeri), California plantain (Plantago erecta), and purple needle grass (Stipa pulchra) dominate rock outcrops with few invasive species present.

Based on the CNDDB and US Fish and Wildlife Service data, there are 101 special status plants known to occur in the region, however, based on the known ecological requirements known for these species and habitat conditions present in the study area, it was determined that 6 special status plant species have a high potential to occur in the study area. Botanical surveys conducted on May 29 and June 16, 2019 identified 55 species, subspecies, and varieties of vascular plant taxa in the study area. The list includes 25 species native to California and 30 introduced species. Native plants account for approximately 45% of the study area flora, while 55% are introduced. Four special status species were identified in the study area; Club-haired Mariposa Lily; Cambria Morning-glory; Palmer's Spineflower; and Blochman's Dudleya.

Club-haired Mariposa Lily (*Calochortus clavatus* var. *clavatus*) is a CRPR 4.3 taxon that is endemic to California, where it occurs in San Benito County, and from San Luis Obispo County south to Los Angeles County. It is known to occur on serpentine, clay or rocky soils in grassland, coastal scrub, chaparral, and cismontane woodland habitats. This species was determined to have high potential to occur as it was detected in the study area during the spring 2019 surveys. An estimated 50 individual club hairdo mariposa lilies were mapped within 2 polygons totally approximately 4,545 square feet during 2019 surveys, primarily in serpentine exposures within coastal sage scrub habitat.



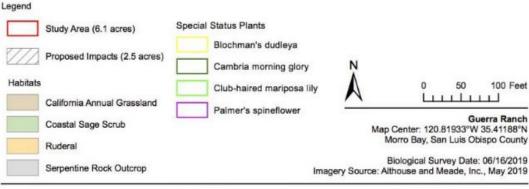


Figure 2. Biological Resource map.

ALTHOUSE AND MEADE, INC.
BIOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Special Status Plant Species

Map Updated:

September 13, 2019 10:03 AM by JBB

Cambria Morning-glory (*Calystegia subacaulis* subsp. *episcopalis*) is a CRPR 4.2 subspecies endemic to California. It is known to occur in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal prairie, and valley and foothill grassland or clay soils. The closest known record is approximately 3.1 miles SW of the study area. It was determined to have a high potential to occur and was detected in the study area during the spring 2019 surveys. An estimated 39 Cambria morning-glory plants were mapped during the 2019 surveys in two polygons totally approximately 1,632 square feet of nonnative annual grassland habitat.

Palmer's Spineflower (*Chorizanthe pameri*) is a CRPR 4.2 species endemic to San Benito Monterey, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara Counties. It is known to occur on rocky soils in grassland, chaparral and cismontane woodland habitats. The closest known record is approximately 3.6 miles south of the Study area but was determined to have a high potential to occur because it was detected during the spring 2019 survey. An estimated 380 Palmer's spineflower individuals were mapped within an approximately 2,031 square foot polygon in serpentine rock outcrop and coastal sage scrub along the southeastern edge of the study area.

Blochman's Dudleya (*Dudleya blochmaniae* subsp. *blochmaniae*) is a CRPR 1B.1subspecies that occurs in coastal areas from San Luis Obispo County south to Baja Califronia. It grows in open rocky slopes composed of serpentine or clay soils. The closest known record is approximately 1.3 miles southwest of the study area and was determined to have a high potential to occur because it was detected in the study area during the spring 2019 surveys. At least 67 Blochman's dudleya plants were mapped primarily in coastal sage scrub along the eastern boundary of the Study Area.

Special Status Wildlife Species

Based on the CNDDB and US Fish and Wildlife Service data, there are 47 special status animal species known to occur in the region, however, based on the known ecological requirements known for these species and habitat conditions present in the study area, it was determined that only one species has a high potential to occur onsite, the Grasshopper sparrow. During the site visits in May and June 2019, very little wildlife was observed in the study area. One reptile, the coast range lizard (Sceloporus occidentalis bocourtii) was observed in rocky areas of coastal scrub habitat. A red-tailed hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) and an American crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos) were observed flying over the site. One adult male grasshopper sparrow (Ammodramus savannarum), a Species of Special Concern in California, was heard singing just west of the study area on a hillside with tall grasses. California ground squirrels (Otospermophilus beecheyi) were observed along the ranch road accessing the study area, along with sign of cayote (Canis latrans) and pocket gopher (Thomomys bottae). No other special status species were observed in or near the study area.

Discussion

(a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

The project could affect special status plants and special status nesting birds.

The project would impact an estimated 11 Cambria morning glory plants (28% of the onsite total plant count) and 3 club-haired mariposa lily plants (5% of the onsite total plant count). Avoidance of special status plants, resulting in no net loss, is recommended where feasible. Because both plants are considered locally common, minor impacts are considered negligible, and do not require mitigation.

As recommended by the Biological Report, impacts to greater than 30% of the onsite patch size would trigger mitigation requirements, comprised of occupied habitat creation by transplanting impacted plants to expand onsite protection habitat areas (Althouse and Mead Inc., September 2019).

Construction impacts are estimated to result in loss of approximately 450 square feet of Cambria morning glory habitat and 240 square feet of club-haired mariposa lily. Therefore, no mitigation is recommended via the Biological Report.

Avoidance and protection measures will be implemented to ensure incidental impacts to special status plants do not occur (**BR-1 and BR-2**). If permanent impacts to special status plants cannot be avoided, replacement at a minimum ratio of 1:1 for all impacts greater than 30% shall be implemented onsite, as applicable (**BR-3**).

Four special status animals have the potential to occur in the study area, however only the grasshopper sparrow was detected during the 2019 site surveys and was not present inside the study area. Nesting California horned larks and northern harriers are unlikely, but possible for the area. Preconstruction surveys for nesting birds will be implemented to offset potential adverse impacts on special status bird species. Impacts to, or take of, nesting birds could occur if project construction activities or operations phase vegetation management activities are conducted during nesting season (February 1 through September 15). A variety of common bird species are expected to nest in all habitat types in the project footprint. To reduce potential adverse effects of the proposed project on nesting birds, mitigation measure **BR-4** is required. Therefore, impacts to special status species will be *less than significant with mitigation*.

- (b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?
 - The project could affect nonnative annual grassland, coastal sage scrub, and ruderal habitats. Temporary impacts for staging and other activities are expected to be small and would be limited to nonnative grassland and ruderal habitats. Two acres of nonnative annual grassland would be permanently removed by the project along with 0.15 acres of coastal sage scrub and 0.37 acres of weedy ruderal habitat. Serpentine rock outcrop habitat would be avoided. Coastal sage scrub is the only native habitat that would be affected (Althouse and Mead Inc., September 2019). Mitigation measures for impacts to non-native or common habitat types are not required except where special status plants are affected. Impacts to native habitat in the study area will be minimized through mitigation measures **BR-1 and BR-2** to ensure coastal sage scrub and associated special status plants are protected. Therefore, impacts will be *less than significant with mitigation*.
- (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?
 - No potentially jurisdiction wetlands or waters are present in the study area or within 100 feet of the project footprint, therefore impacts will be *less than significant*.
- (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?
 - Based on the California Essential Habitat Connectivity Project, the project site is not located in an identified Essential Connectivity Area. The project site does not contain habitat features conducive to migratory wildlife species such as riparian corridors, shorelines, or ridgelines, therefore, impacts will be *less than significant*.

- (e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?
 - The project does not propose the removal of any trees, and therefore is not subject to the County's Oak Woodland Ordinance. The project is not located in a Sensitive Resource Area (SRA) and there are no applicable planning area standards related to biological resource preservation. A sedimentation and erosion control plan would be required per LUO Section 23.05.036 to minimize potential impacts related to erosion and sedimentation, and includes requirements for specific erosion control materials, setbacks from creeks, and siltation. Therefore, the project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources and *no impacts* would occur.
- (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?
 - The project is not located within an area covered by an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation plan, or other adopted habitat conservation plan. Therefore, there would be *no impact*.

Conclusion

The project would result in the disturbance of approximately 2.56 acres of the parcel including 2 acres of nonnative annual grassland, 0.15 acres of coastal sage scrub, and 0.37 acres of weedy ruderal habitat. It is not expected to cause significant impacts to onsite special status plant and animal species; however, preconstruction surveys, avoidance and protection measures are recommended to ensure species protection.

Mitigation

- **BR-1 Avoidance.** During project construction, where feasible, project components shall be adjusted to avoid and/or minimize impacts to the mapped locations of coastal sage scrub habitat and associated special status plants in the study area. These resource areas should be shown on all project plans. If permanent impacts to special status plants cannot be avoided, measures BR-2 and BR-3 shall be implemented as applicable.
- **BR-2 Protection.** Prior to any ground disturbing activities, construction fencing shall be used to delineate protected sensitive habitat areas within 50 feet of project activities. Fencing shall be installed under the direction of a biologist at the location that protects coastal sage scrub and special status plants to the maximum extent feasible. Fencing shall be installed prior to commencement of construction and shall be maintained in good condition throughout construction, or until the biologist confirms the remaining work activities do not pose a risk for impacting sensitive habitat areas. Signage stating "Environmental Sensitive Area: Keep Out" shall be placed along the fencing. Entry into the protected area shall be prohibited during construction. Where approved, project impact areas are within the protected area, fencing shall be temporarily moved to facilitate the work. A biological monitor shall be present during approved project activities within the sensitive area.
- **BR-3 Mitigation.** If direct impacts to special status plants cannot be avoided, prior to final, CRPR4 species such as Cambria morning glory and club-haired mariposa lily shall be mitigated by creating onsite habitat in protected areas of the site at a minimum ratio of 1:1 for all impacts greater than 30% of the onsite occupied habitat. A mitigation monitoring plan shall be completed if proposed impacts exceed 30% of the onsite populations.

- **BR-4 Pre-construction Survey for Sensitive and Nesting Birds.** If work is planned to occur between February 1 and September 15, a qualified biologist shall survey the area for nesting birds within one week prior to initial project activity beginning, including ground disturbance and/or vegetation removal/trimming. If nesting birds are located on or near the proposed project site, they shall be avoided until they have successfully fledged, or the nest is no longer deemed active.
 - A 50-foot exclusion zone shall be placed around non-listed, passerine species, and a 250-foot exclusion zone will be implemented for raptor species. Each exclusion zone shall encircle the nest and have a radius of 50 feet (non-listed passerine species) or 250 feet (raptor species). All project activities, including foot and vehicle traffic and storage of supplies and equipment, are prohibited inside exclusion zones. Exclusion zones shall be maintained until all project-related disturbances have been terminated, or it has been determined by a qualified biologist that the young have fledged or that proposed project activities would not cause adverse impacts to the nest, adults, eggs, or young.
 - If special-status avian species (aside from the burrowing owl or tricolored blackbird [if identified in biological report]) are identified and nesting within the work area, no work will begin until an appropriate exclusion zone is determined in consultation with the County and any relevant resource agencies.
 - The results of the survey shall be provided to the County prior to initial project activities. The
 results shall detail appropriate fencing or flagging of exclusion zones and include
 recommendations for additional monitoring requirements. A map of the project site and nest
 locations shall be included with the results. The qualified biologist conducting the nesting survey
 shall have the authority to reduce or increase the recommended exclusion zone depending on
 site conditions and species (if non-listed).

If two weeks lapse between different phases of project activities (e.g., vegetation trimming and the start of grading), during which no or minimal work activity occurs, the nesting bird survey shall be repeated.

Sources

See Exhibit A.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Wou	ıld the project:				
(a)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5?				

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(b)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?				
(c)	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?				

Setting

The project is located in an area historically occupied by the Obispeño Chumash and Salinan. These Native Americans established a sophisticated system of horticulture, using seed scattering, harrowing, selective harvesting, coppicing, and spot burning to produce crops of acorns, grass, and wildflower seeds. They also hunted wildlife and foraged for juncus, willow, redbud, and elderberry for basket making. The founding of Mission Asistencia at Santa Margarita in the 1780s and Mission San Miguel Arcángel in 1797 led to the gradual depopulation of native communities in this area. The Highway 41/46 corridor has historically served as a traveling route between the coastal areas and the Central Valley. These same routes were previously used by Native Americans for the movement of people and goods as well.

A Phase 1 Archaeological Survey was prepared by Heritage Discoveries, Inc. in June 2019, which included a records search at the Central Coast Information Center (CCIC) at the University of California, Santa Barbara and a pedestrian surface survey. The results of the records search showed that the specific study area had two previous surface surveys with negative results very near to the current survey location of the proposed project. The records search and surface survey concluded that known prehistoric or historic cultural resources were not present within the proposed project area.

Discussion

- (a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5?
 - The CCIC records search data confirmed that the project site does not contain, nor is located near, any historic resources identified in the National Register of Historic Places or California Register of Historic Resources. Therefore, the proposed project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource and *no impacts* will occur.
- (b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?
 - No known archaeological resources are present on the project site. As noted above, the Cultural Resources Survey identified no known archaeological sites within vicinity of the reservoir and the pedestrian surveys were also negative for resources. In the unlikely event resources are uncovered during grading activities, implementation of CZLUO Section 23.05.140 (Archaeological Resources Discovery) would be required, which states:
 - In the event archeological resources are unearthed or discovered during any construction activities, the following standards apply:

- a. Construction activities shall cease, and the Environmental Coordinator and Planning Department shall be notified so that the extent and location of discovered materials may be recorded by a qualified archaeologist, and disposition of artifacts may be accomplished in accordance with state and federal law.
- b. In the event archaeological resources are found to include human remains, or in any other case when human remains are discovered during construction, the County Coroner is to be notified in addition to the Planning Department and Environmental Coordinator so that proper disposition may be accomplished.
- (c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?

The nearest dedicated cemetery is the Cayucos-Morro Bay Cemetery, located approximately 3.6 miles to the northwest. The record and literature search of the project area did not identify any known burial sites within the vicinity of the reservoir. Additionally, consultation with the Native American tribes did not result in identification of known burials (See Section XVIII. Tribal Cultural Resources.) However, project excavations have the potential to encounter previously unidentified human remains in the form of burials or isolated bones and bone fragments. If human remains are exposed during construction, construction shall halt around the discovery of human remains, the area shall be protected, and consultation and treatment shall occur as prescribed by State law. The County's Coroner and Sheriff Department shall be notified immediately to comply with State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, which states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has been notified and can make the necessary findings as to origin and disposition of the remains. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the Coroner will notify the NAHC and the remains will be treated in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. With adherence to State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, impacts related to the disturbance of human remains would be reduced to *less than significant*.

Conclusion

Based on the results of a Phase 1 Archaeological Report and pedestrian survey of the site, there are no known historic or archaeological resources within or near the project site, and the probability of discovering unknown human remains is very low. No significant impacts on cultural resources would occur. In the event of an unanticipated discovery of archaeological resources during earth-moving activities, compliance with the CZLUO would ensure potential impacts to cultural resources would be reduced to less than significant.

Mitigation

No mitigation is required.

Sources

See Exhibit A.

VI. ENERGY

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Wou	ld the project:				
(a)	Result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?				
(b)	Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?				\boxtimes

Setting

Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) is the primary electricity provider for urban and rural communities within the County of San Luis Obispo. Approximately 33% of electricity provided by PG&E is sourced from renewable resources and an additional 45% is sourced from greenhouse gas-free resources (PG&E 2017).

The County has adopted a Conservation and Open Space Element (COSE) that establishes goals and policies that aim to reduce vehicle miles traveled, conserve water, increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This element provides the basis and direction for the development of the County's EnergyWise Plan (EWP), which outlines in greater detail the County's strategy to reduce government and community-wide greenhouse gas emissions through a number of goals, measures, and actions, including energy efficiency and development and use of renewable energy resources.

The EWP established the goal to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions to 15% below 2006 baseline levels by 2020. Two of the six community-wide goals identified to accomplish this were to "[a]ddress future energy needs through increased conservation and efficiency in all sectors" and "[i]ncrease the production of renewable energy from small-scale and commercial-scale renewable energy installations to account for 10% of local energy use by 2020." In addition, the County has published an EnergyWise Plan 2016 Update to summarize progress toward implementing measures established in the EWP and outline overall trends in energy use and emissions since the baseline year of the EWP inventory, 2006.

The California Building Code (CBC) contains standards that regulate the method of use, properties, performance, or types of materials used in the construction, alteration, improvement, repair, or rehabilitation of a building or other improvement to real property. The CBC includes mandatory green building standards for residential and nonresidential structures, the most recent version of which are referred to as the 2019 Building Energy Efficiency Standards. These standards focus on four key areas: smart residential photovoltaic systems, updated thermal envelope standards (preventing heat transfer from the interior to the exterior and vice versa), residential and nonresidential ventilation requirements, and non-residential lighting requirements. While the CBC has strict energy and green-building standards, U-occupancy structures (such as greenhouses) are typically not regulated by these standards.

The County LUO includes a Renewable Energy Area combining designation to encourage and support the development of local renewable energy resources, conserving energy resources and decreasing reliance on environmentally costly energy sources. This designation is intended to identify areas of the county where renewable energy production is favorable and establish procedures to streamline the environmental review and processing of land use permits for solar electric facilities (SEFs). The LUO establishes criteria for project eligibility, required application content for SEFs proposed within this designation, permit requirements, and development standards (LUO 22.14.100). The project site is not located in a Renewable Energy Area combining designation.

Discussion

(a) Result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

The proposed energy usage is approximately the same amount of energy that is currently required to irrigate the existing avocado orchard. The primary difference is that with the irrigation reservoir, water will be pumped and stored before use rather than pumped and immediately used. The project would not result in cumulatively considerable energy demand, generation of substantial new traffic, or significant intensification of land use that would generate substantial additional mobile or stationary emissions. The proposed project would be consistent with energy use of the other agricultural reservoirs in the area. The majority of energy usage would be during construction and the initial filling period of the reservoirs, at which point the pumps will be running at full capacity and filling the agricultural reservoir. After the initial filling is completed, the pumps will continue to use electricity but at a significantly reduced rate as their long-term use would be limited to maintaining the reservoirs' water level as opposed to running at full capacity to fill the reservoir. This energy use during operation is consistent with the historical energy use for irrigation of the orchards and would not be out of character with this type of project or similar uses in the area. As a result, the implementation of the proposed reservoir would cause a *less than significant* impact in relation to the consumption of energy resources.

(b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

The project would not be located within the County's Renewable Energy Area combining designation, which is an area identified as favorable for renewable energy production but does not preclude the development of the site for other uses. The project's proposed use would be consistent with site's underlying land use designation and is consistent with the anticipated development for the area. As such, the project does not propose a use or activity that would otherwise conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. Therefore, *no impacts* would occur.

Conclusion

The project would utilize approximately the same amount of energy as has historically been used to irrigate the existing orchards and is consistent with the energy demand of other irrigation reservoirs. Therefore, potential impacts on energy resources would be less than significant.

Mitigation

No mitigation is required.

PMTG2020-00018

Guerra Ranch Corporation

PLN-2039 04/2019

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

Sources

See Exhibit A.

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

			Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Woul	ld the	project:				
(a)	Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:					
	(i)	Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.				
	(ii)	Strong seismic ground shaking?			\boxtimes	
	(iii)	Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				
	(iv)	Landslides?			\boxtimes	
(b)		ult in substantial soil erosion or the of topsoil?				
(c)	is ur unst pote land	ocated on a geologic unit or soil that instable, or that would become table as a result of the project, and entially result in on- or off-site slide, lateral spreading, subsidence, efaction or collapse?				
(d)	in Ta Code	ocated on expansive soil, as defined able 18-1-B of the Uniform Building e (1994), creating substantial direct adirect risks to life or property?				

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(e)	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?				
(f)	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?				

Setting

The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act (Act) is a California state law that was developed to regulate development near active faults and mitigate the surface fault rupture potential and other hazards. The Act identifies active earthquake fault zones and restricts the construction of habitable structures over known active or potentially active faults. San Luis Obispo County is located in a geologically complex and seismically active region. The Safety Element of the County of San Luis Obispo General Plan identifies three active faults that traverse through the County and that are currently zoned under the State of California Alquist-Priolo Fault Zoning Act: the San Andreas, the Hosgri-San Simeon, and the Los Osos. The San Andreas Fault zone is located along the eastern border of San Luis Obispo County and has a length of over 600 miles. The Hosgri-San Simeon fault system generally consists of two fault zones: the Hosgri fault zone that is mapped off of the San Luis Obispo County coast; and the San Simeon fault zone, which appears to be associated with the Hosgri, and comes onshore near the pier at San Simeon Point, Lastly, the Los Osos Fault zone has been mapped generally in an east/west orientation along the northern flank of the Irish Hills.

The County's Safety Element also identifies 17 other faults that are considered potentially active or have uncertain fault activity in the County. The Safety Element establishes policies that require new development to be located away from active and potentially active faults. The element also requires that the County enforce applicable building codes relating to seismic design of structures and require design professionals to evaluate the potential for liquefaction or seismic settlement to impact structures in accordance with the Uniform Building Code.

Groundshaking refers to the motion that occurs in response to local and regional earthquakes. Groundshaking can endanger life and safety due to damage or collapse of structures or lifeline facilities. The California Building Code (CBC) currently requires structures to be designed to resist a minimum seismic force resulting from ground motion.

Liquefaction is the sudden loss of soil strength due to a rapid increase in soil pore water pressures resulting from groundshaking during an earthquake. Liquefaction potential increases with earthquake magnitude and groundshaking duration. Low-lying areas adjacent to creeks, rivers, beaches, and estuaries underlain by unconsolidated alluvial soil are most likely to be vulnerable to liquefaction. The CBC requires the assessment of liquefaction in the design of all structures. Although portions of the site have a moderate potential for liquefaction, the project is located in an area with low potential for liquefaction.

Landslides and slope instability can occur as a result of wet weather, weak soils, improper grading, improper drainage, steep slopes, adverse geologic structure, earthquakes, or a combination of these factors. Despite

current codes and policies that discourage development in areas of known landslide activity or high risk of landslide, there is a considerable amount of development that is being impacted by landslide activity in the County each year. The County Safety Element identifies several policies to reduce risk from landslides and slope instability. These policies include the requirement for slope stability evaluations for development in areas of moderate or high landslide risk, and restrictions on new development in areas of known landslide activity unless development plans indicate that the hazard can be reduced to a less than significant level prior to beginning development. The project is located in an area with moderate potential for landslides.

Shrink/swell potential is the extent to which the soil shrinks as it dries out or swells when it gets wet. Extent of shrinking and swelling is influenced by the amount and kind of clay in the soil. Shrinking and swelling of soils can cause damage to building foundations, roads, and other structures. A high shrink/swell potential indicates a hazard to maintenance of structures built in, on, or with material having this rating. Moderate and low ratings lessen the hazard accordingly. According the NRCS, Diablo and Cibo clays (15 - 30 % slope) and Lodo Clay loam (30-50% slope) underlying the site is characterized as having a moderate to moderately low erodibility and low shrink-swell characteristics, a having potential septic system constraints due to steep slopes and slow percolation. However, a Soils Engineering Report prepared by GeoSolutions, Inc (GeoSolutions Inc., December 2019) concluded that the site was suitable for the proposed project.

The County LUO identifies a Geologic Study Area (GSA) combining designation for areas where geologic and soil conditions could present new developments and their users with potential hazards to life and property. All land use permit applicants located within a GSA are required to include a report prepared by a certified engineering geologist and/or registered civil/soils engineer as appropriate. This report is then required to be evaluated by a geologist retained by the County. In addition, all uses within a GSA are subject to special standards regarding grading and distance from an active fault trace within an Earthquake Fault Zone (LUO 23.07.080). The project is within a GSA combining designation; however it is located within an area with low potential for liquefaction and a moderate potential for landslides. Therefore, evaluation by the County Geologist is not required.

The County Conservation and Open Space Element (COSE) identifies a policy for the protection of paleontological resources from the effects of development by avoiding disturbance where feasible. Paleontological sensitivity is defined as the potential for a geologic unit to produce scientifically significant fossils

The reservoir site is nearly level to gently sloping and is located within the County's Geological Study Area. Landslide and liquefaction potential of the site is considered moderate and low and the soils have low shrink/swell (expansive) potential. The nearest known fault line is an unknown potentially capable fault located approximately 1.8 miles southwest of the Reservoir. There are known serpentine or ultramafic rocks/soils on the project site. There are no other notable geologic features.

Discussion

- (a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:
 - (a-i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

The project site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Fault Hazard Zone, and there are no mapped active faults crossing or adjacent to the sites. The closest known fault is

approximately 1.8 miles southwest of the Reservoir site. A Soils Engineering Report was prepared for the reservoir site by prepared by GeoSolutions, Inc (GeoSolutions Inc., December 2019) and provided similar conclusions for the reservoir and provided recommendations for site preparation, grading, and foundations. In addition, the proposed project would be subject to professional engineering and construction standards to ensure the reservoir is constructed in a stable manner. Therefore, the potential for impacts related to surface ground rupture to occur at the reservoir site is low, and potential impacts would be *less than significant*.

(a-ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

The project would be required to comply with the California Building Code (CBC) to ensure the effects of a potential seismic event would be minimized to the greatest extent feasible. The project would not be open to the public and would be unmanned except for occasional maintenance operations. Therefore, impacts related to the production of strong seismic ground shaking would be *less than significant*.

(a-iii - a-iv) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? Landslides?

Based on the County Safety Element Liquefaction Hazards Map and the County Safety Element Landslides Hazards Map, the reservoir site is located in an area with low potential for liquefaction and moderate potential for landslides. The soils engineering report prepared for the site determined that based on the consistency and relative density of the in-situ soils, the potential for liquefaction to occur is considered low. Additionally, since there will be no structures built at the reservoir site and employees will rarely be on site, the likelihood of a landslide or liquefaction resulting in loss, injury, or death is considered low. The geotechnical reports provide recommendations for site preparation, grading, and foundations. Incorporation of the preliminary geotechnical recommendations as well as professional engineering standards and CBC requirements would ensure the project is designed to adequately address potential liquefaction and landslide related impacts. Therefore, potential impacts would be *less than significant*.

(b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

The reservoir would result in a total disturbance of approximately 2.56 acres, including approximately 23,445 cubic yards of cut and 23,442 cubic yards of fill, balanced on site. The greatest potential for onsite erosion to occur would be during the initial site preparation and grading during construction. A sedimentation and erosion control plan is required for all construction and grading projects (CZLUO Section 23.05.036) to minimize potential impacts related to erosion and sedimentation, and includes requirements for specific erosion control materials, setbacks from creeks, and siltation. In addition, the project would be subject to Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) requirements for preparation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) (for projects that disturb more than 1.0 acre of land) which may include the preparation of a Storm Water Control Plan to further minimize onsite sedimentation and erosion. The soils engineering report prepared a slope stability analysis and determined the tested section reflect stable conditions. There are no concerns of loss of topsoil as a result of the ag reservoir, therefore, impacts would be *less than significant*.

- (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?
 - Landslides typically occur in areas with steep slopes or in areas containing escarpments. Based on the Landslide Hazards Map provided in the County Safety Element, the project site is not located in an area with slopes susceptible to local failure or landslide.
 - The project would be required to comply with CBC seismic requirements to address potential seismic-related ground failure including lateral spread. Based on the County Safety Element and USGS data, the project is not located in an area of historical or current land subsidence (USGS 2019). Based on the County Safety Element Liquefaction Hazards Map, the project site is located in an area with low potential for liquefaction risk. The project is located within the GSA combining designation, however based on the soils engineering report, the site is suitable for the proposed project. Therefore, impacts related to on- or off-site landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse would be less than significant.
- (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?
 - Based on the Soil Survey of San Luis Obispo County and Web Soil Survey, the project site is not located within an area known to contain expansive soils as defined in the Uniform Building Code. The project site is located on soil units with a low shrink-swell (expansive) potential. Therefore, impacts to life or property related to expansive soils would be *less than significant*.
- (e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?
 - The project is the construction of an agricultural reservoir or existing agricultural uses and does not propose the installation or use of septic tanks or waste water disposal systems. Therefore, there would be *no impact*.
- (f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?
 - There are no known unique paleontological resources or unique geological features located within the project site and the area has a low potential for encountering important fossils. Therefore, impacts would be *less than significant*.

Conclusion

Based on compliance with existing regulations and recommendations in the Soils Engineering Report, implementation of the sedimentation and erosion control measures as specified in project plans, and compliance with the measures outlined in the County's LUO and codes, impacts to geologic and soil resources would be less than significant.

Mitigation

No mitigation measures beyond County standards are required.

Sources

See Exhibit A.

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Wou	ld the project:				
(a)	Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?				
(b)	Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?				

Setting

As noted in Section 3 Air Quality, the project sites are located in the South Central Coast Air Basin (SCCAB) under the jurisdiction of the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (SLOAPCD). The SLOAPCD has developed and updated a CEQA Air Quality Handbook (2012) and clarification memorandum (2017) to evaluate project specific impacts and help determine if air quality mitigation measures are needed, or if potentially significant impacts could result. To evaluate long-term emissions, cumulative effects, and establish countywide programs to reach acceptable air quality levels, a Clean Air Plan has been adopted (prepared by APCD).

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions have been found to result in an increase in the earth's average surface temperature by exacerbating the naturally occurring "greenhouse effect" in the earth's atmosphere. The rise in global temperature is has been projected to lead to long-term changes in precipitation, sea level, temperatures, wind patterns, and other elements of the earth's climate system. This phenomenon is commonly referred to as global climate change. These changes are broadly attributed to GHG emissions, particularly those emissions that result from human production and use of fossil fuels.

The passage of AB32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act (2006), recognized the need to reduce GHG emissions and set the greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal for the State of California into law. The law required that by 2020, State emissions must be reduced to 1990 levels. This is to be accomplished by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from significant sources via regulation, market mechanisms, and other actions. Subsequent legislation (e.g., SB97-Greenhouse Gas Emissions bill) directed the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to develop statewide thresholds.

In March 2012, the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) approved thresholds for GHG emission impacts, and these thresholds have been incorporated the APCD's CEQA Air Quality Handbook. APCD determined that a tiered process for residential / commercial land use projects was the most appropriate and effective approach for assessing the GHG emission impacts. The tiered approach includes three methods, any of which can be used for any given project:

1. Qualitative GHG Reduction Strategies (e.g. Climate Action Plans): A qualitative threshold that is consistent with AB 32 Scoping Plan measures and goals; or,

- 2. Bright-Line Threshold: Numerical value to determine the significance of a project's annual GHG emissions; or,
- 3. Efficiency-Based Threshold: Assesses the GHG impacts of a project on an emissions per capita basis.

For most projects, the Bright-Line Threshold of 1,150 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year (MT $CO_2e/year$) will be the most applicable threshold. In addition to the residential/commercial threshold options proposed above, a bright-line numerical value threshold of 10,000 MT CO_2e/yr was adopted for stationary source (industrial) projects.

It should be noted that projects that generate less than the above-mentioned thresholds will also participate in emission reductions because air emissions, including GHGs, are under the purview of the CARB (or other regulatory agencies) and will be "regulated" either by CARB, the federal government, or other entities. For example, new vehicles will be subject to increased fuel economy standards and emission reductions, large and small appliances will be subject to more strict emissions standards, and energy delivered to consumers will increasingly come from renewable sources. Other programs that are intended to reduce the overall GHG emissions include Low Carbon Fuel Standards, Renewable Portfolio Standards, and the Clean Car Standards. As a result, even the emissions that result from projects that produce fewer emissions than the threshold will be subject to emission reductions.

Under CEQA, an individual project's GHG emissions will generally not result in direct significant impacts. This is because the climate change issue is global in nature. However, an individual project could be found to contribute to a potentially significant cumulative impact. Projects that have GHG emissions above the noted thresholds may be considered cumulatively considerable and require mitigation.

Discussion

(a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

Based on the size of the proposed project, it is expected to generate less than the SLOAPCD's Bright-Line Threshold of 10,000 MT CO2e/yr of GHG emissions due to the negligible long-term operational emissions. Therefore, the project's potential direct and cumulative GHG emissions would be less than significant and less than a cumulatively considerable contribution to GHG emissions. Section 15064(h)(2) of the CEQA Guidelines provides guidance on how to evaluate cumulative impacts. If it is shown that an incremental contribution to a cumulative impact, such as global climate change, is not "cumulatively considerable," no mitigation is required. Because this project's emissions fall under the threshold, impacts related to GHGs would *be less than significant*.

(b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

The proposed project would not generate significant additional long-term vehicle trips or mobile-source emissions. The project would not conflict with the control measures identified in the Clean Air Plan or other state and local regulations related to GHG emissions and renewable energy. The project would result in *less than significant impacts* associated with conflicts with plans and policies adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions.

Conclusion

No potentially significant impacts to greenhouse gases were identified and therefore no mitigation is required.

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Mitigation

No mitigation is required.

Sources

See Exhibit A.

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Woul	ld the project:				
(a)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				
(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?				
(c)	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				
(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?				
(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?				

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(f)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				
(g)	Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?				

Setting

The project is not located in an area of known hazardous material contamination and is not on a site listed on the "Cortese List" (which is a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5) (SWRCB 2018; California Department of Toxic Substance Control [DTSC] 2018). The project is located within a Moderate Fire Hazard Severity Zone and based on the County's response time map, it will take approximately 5 to 10 minutes to respond to a call regarding fire or life safety. The project is not located within an Airport Review Area and the closest public use airport, Paso Robles Municipal Airport, located approximately 20 miles southwest from the proposed reservoir.

Discussion

- (a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?
 - The project does not propose the routine use, transport, or disposal of hazardous materials. Therefore, there would be *no impact*.
- (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?
 - During construction, the proposed project would utilize limited quantities of hazardous substances such as gasoline, diesel fuel, hydraulic fluid, solvents, oils, paints, etc. Handling of these materials has the potential to result in an accidental release. Construction contractors would be required to comply with applicable federal and state environmental and workplace safety laws. Additionally, the construction contractor would be required to implement BMPs for the storage, use, and transportation of hazardous materials during all construction activities. Therefore, impacts would be *less than significant*.
- (c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?
 - The nearest school is Del Mar Elementary, located approximately 2 miles to the southwest. There are no schools within a quarter mile of the proposed project. Therefore, there would be *no impact*.

- (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?
 - The project is not located in an area of known hazardous material contamination and is not on a site listed on the "Cortese List" pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Therefore, there would be *no impact*.
- (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?
 - The project site is not located within an airport land use plan and is not located within two miles of a public use airport. Therefore, there would be *no impact*.
- (f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?
 - The project would not conflict with any regional emergency response or evacuation plan as the existing access roads would be wide enough to accommodate emergency vehicles and the project footprint is small. Construction and operation of the project would not require road closure, and the project would not physically block the onsite residents from evacuating during an emergency. No structures or other obstacles are proposed that would hinder evacuation or emergency response. Therefore, impacts would be *less than significant*.
- (g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

According to Cal Fire, the project site is located in a Moderate Fire Hazard Severity Zone within a State Responsibility Area. With the exception of the construction period, the proposed project would not regularly have employees onsite. Construction would be temporary and would last approximately three to four and a half months. Once construction is completed, employees would be onsite for periodic maintenance. The project would not be accessible to the public and no structures are proposed. Therefore, impacts related to risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires would be less than significant.

Conclusion

No significant impacts related to hazards or hazardous materials would occur.

Mitigation

No mitigation is required.

Sources

See Exhibit A.

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

			Potentially Significant Impact	Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Woul	ld the	project:				
(a)	wast othe	ate any water quality standards or te discharge requirements or erwise substantially degrade surface round water quality?				
(b)	supp grou proje	stantially decrease groundwater olies or interfere substantially with andwater recharge such that the ect may impede sustainable andwater management of the basin?				
(c)	patto thro strea of in	stantially alter the existing drainage ern of the site or area, including ugh the alteration of the course of a am or river or through the addition opervious surfaces, in a manner th would:				
	(i)	Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;				
	(ii)	Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;				
	(iii)	Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or				
	(iv)	Impede or redirect flood flows?			\boxtimes	
(d)	zone	ood hazard, tsunami, or seiche es, risk release of pollutants due to ect inundation?				
(e)	of a	flict with or obstruct implementation water quality control plan or ainable groundwater management ?				

Setting

The project proposes to utilize an existing well at the southwestern corner of the subject property to fill the reservoir. The project site is not within a designated groundwater basin, but is just outside of the Toro Valley and Morro Valley Ground Water Basins. The project lies within the Morro Bay water planning area. The topography of the project site is moderately to steeply sloping. Three unnamed seasonal creeks pass through the project parcel connecting to Morro Creek at the southern property line of the parcel. The proposed ag reservoir is greater than 300 feet from any of the onsite seasonal creeks.

Soil in and around the project site is considered to be very poorly drained and, as described in the NRCS Soil Survey, the soil surface is considered to have moderate erodibility. A Soils Engineering Report was prepared for the project by GeoSolutions, Inc (GeoSolutions Inc., December 2019). Evaluation of the subsurface indicates that the soils to be disturbed by the proposed project only include Diablo and Cibo clays (15-30%) and Lodo Clay Loam (30-50%). These soils are typically formed from residuum weathered from sandstone and shale on ridges and hillslopes with a clay or clay loam topsoil. Both are well-drained soils that have a "very high" runoff class. Diablo and Cibo Clay shave "moderate" available water storage, while Lodo clay loam has "very low".

The primary geotechnical concerns identified by the soils engineering report were the potential for differential settlement occurring between foundations supported on two soil materials having different settlement characteristics, such as native soils and engineered fill. Therefore, all foundations must be founded in equally competent uniform material in accordance with the Soils Engineering Report.

The proposed reservoir would be lined with 40 mil rough textured HDPE geomembrane liner. The liner will be installed per manufacturer's recommendations by a company specializing in liner installation. The HDPE liner would provide protection from leakage into the subsurface. The source of water is a new 4-inch SR 9 DHPE waterline from an existing well and no surface water shall enter the reservoir. A new 4-inch SD 9 HDPE outlet line will be bored to daylight and attached to an existing irrigation system. A 6-inch PVC Pipe Outlet Structure will serve as an emergency overflow and is sized to prevent the reservoir from overtopping.

Based on the quality and conditions of the soil, the potential for liquefaction and/or lateral spreading is low at this site (GeoSolutions Inc., December 2019). A sedimentation and erosion control plan is required for all construction and grading projects (LUO Sec. 23.05.036) to minimize these impacts. When required, the plan is prepared by a civil engineer to address both temporary and long-term sedimentation and erosion impacts.

Discussion

(a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?

With regards to project impacts on water quality the following conditions apply:

- Approximately 2.56 acres of site disturbance;
- Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) is required;
- The project will be subject to standard County requirements for drainage, sedimentation and erosion control for construction and permanent use;
- The project is on a portion of the parcel with moderate erodibility, and gentle to steep slopes;
- The eastern portion of the project parcel is within a 100-year Flood Hazard designation, but the agricultural pond site is not;
- Although multiple blue line streams are located onsite, the project is not within close proximity to any of them;

• Stockpiles will be properly managed during construction to avoid material loss due to erosion.

Implementation of Land Use Ordinance Section 23.05.042 and Section 23.05.036 will help ensure less than significant impacts to water quality standards and surface and ground water quality.

To provide protection from downward migration of stored water within the reservoir, the proposed reservoir would be lined with 40 mil rough textured HDPE geomembrane liner. The liner will be installed per manufacturer's recommendations by a company specializing in liner installation. The HDPE liner would provide protection from leakage into the subsurface; therefore, water quality related associated with subsurface leakage to groundwater would be less than significant.

The source of water is a new 4-inch SR 9 DHPE waterline from an existing well and no surface water shall enter the reservoir. A new 4-inch SD 9 HDPE outlet line will be bored to daylight and attached to an existing irrigation system. A 6-inch PVC Pipe Outlet Structure will serve as an emergency overflow and is sized to prevent the reservoir from overtopping.

The proposed project would not result in any wastewater discharge. The existing farm field sheet flows across the location from 2% to 8% and construction crews will key into an existing slope of 20%. Stormwater would be diverted around the reservoirs and implementation of the project would not substantially change the volume or velocity of runoff leaving any point of the site or result in a significant increase in impervious surface area.

Existing regulations and/or required plans will adequately address surface water quality impacts during construction and permanent use of the project. The applicant has provided a stormwater control plan based on the requirements set forth in the County of San Luis Obispo Post Construction Stormwater Requirements Handbook. Therefore, impacts to surface or ground water quality are considered *less than significant*.

- (b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?
 - The project is not located within a groundwater basin designated as level of Severity III per the County's Resource Management System or in severe decline by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. Apart from the initial filling of the agricultural reservoir and gradual evaporation loss, the project would not increase water demand, deplete groundwater supplies, or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge; therefore, the project would not interfere with sustainable management of the groundwater basin. Potential impacts associated with groundwater supplies would be less than significant.
- (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:
 - (ci) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?

The soil surface is considered to have moderate erodibility. The proposed project will be required to provide an erosion control plan, consistent with County standards and is not expected to result in any substantial erosion or siltation on or off site. Therefore, the impact is considered *less than significant*.

(cii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?

The proposed project will be required to submit a drainage plan, consistent with County standards. The project is not expected to result in substantial increases to the rate or amount of surface runoff which could result in flooding on or off site. Therefore, the impact is considered *less than significant*.

(ciii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

The proposed project shall submit a drainage plan, consistent with County standards. Therefore, it is not expected that the project would result in substantial increases to the rate or amount of surface runoff which could result in flooding on or off site. The grading and agricultural reservoir site would be outside of the 100-year flood hazard area. The project would be at a great enough distance from the potential flood area to not be considered at risk of hazards associated with periodic flooding, including the possible release of pollutants. Therefore, impacts would be *less than significant*.

(civ) Impede or redirect flood flows?

The proposed ag reservoir site is outside of the 100-year flood hazard area and the required drainage plan shall be designed to keep flood flows on site or keep with existing historic flows. Therefore, the project is not expected to impede or redirect flood flows. Impacts are expected to be *less than significant*.

(d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

As discussed in the previous section (Hazards and Hazardous Materials), although portions of the subject property are within the 100-year Flood Hazard Combining Designation (FH), the residential development area is not considered to be at risk of hazards associated with periodic flooding, including the possible release of pollutants. The project does not fall within a flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zone. *No impacts* are anticipated.

(e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

The project will not conflict or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable management plan. Impacts will be *less than significant*.

Conclusion

The applicant would be required to prepare a drainage plan and sedimentation and erosion control plan in accordance with the County of San Luis Obispo Land Use Ordinance (CZLUO Section 23.05.036). Compliance with these existing regulations would ensure potential impacts related to drainage, sedimentation, and erosion would be less than significant. Compliance with existing regulations and/or required plans would adequately address the potential for surface water quality impacts during construction and permanent use of the project. The project would result in negligible water level drawdown at neighboring properties due to increased pumping activities. Potential impacts related to water level drawdown would be less than

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significant.

This project will require connection to an existing private onsite well. This project would not affect, or exceed the capacity of existing facilities or community water service provider. The project is not within the 100-year flood zone and would not increase the risk of flooding or inundation. Therefore, potential impacts related to water service providers and flooding would be less than significant.

Mitigation

No mitigation required.

Sources

See Exhibit A.

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:					
(a) Physically divide an ecommunity?	established				
(b) Cause a significant e impact due to a confuse plan, policy, or refor the purpose of avan environmental ef	lict with any land egulation adopted voiding or mitigating				

Setting

The proposed agricultural reservoirs are located in an area zoned as Agriculture by the County of San Luis Obispo. The project sites are surrounded by avocado orchards, grazing land, and single-family residences. The proposed project was reviewed for consistency with policy and/or regulatory documents relating to the environment and appropriate land use (e.g., Coastal County Land Use Ordinance, Estero Area Plan, etc.).

Discussion

(a) Physically divide an established community?

The proposed project is located on an existing parcel and would not involve any components that would physically divide the rural community. The project would utilize the existing circulation system and onsite roads for access and would not require the construction of offsite infrastructure. Therefore, there would be *no impact*.

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(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?

The project sites are located in areas surrounded by agricultural operations (avocado orchards). The project sites are zoned as Agriculture by the County of San Luis Obispo and no zoning changes are proposed. Agricultural reservoirs are a compatible use for the agriculture designation since they aid in agricultural operations. The project was found to be consistent with standards and policies set forth in the County General Plan, the North County Area Plan, the SLOAPCD Clean Air Plan, and other land use policies for this area. The project would be required to be consistent with standards set forth by County Fire/CAL FIRE and the Public Works Department. Therefore, impacts related to inconsistency with land use and policies adopted to address environmental effects would be *less than significant*.

Conclusion

No significant land use or planning impacts would occur.

Mitigation

None beyond County ordinance needed.

Sources

See Exhibit A.

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Wou	ld the project:				
(a)	Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?				
(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?				

Setting

The County Land Use Ordinance provides regulations for development in delineated Energy and Extractive Resource Areas (EX) and Extractive Resource Areas (EX1). The proposed project is not located within an EX or EX1 designation. Based on the California Geological Survey (CGS) Information Warehouse for Mineral Land Classification, the project site is located within an Aggregate Materials study area which covers the majority of the county. There are two mines onsite, one is a County mine for Stone (Guerra Quarry) and the second was a past producer of gravel.

Discussion

(a-b) 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?

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?

There have been two mines on the project parcel, both for gravel/stone. There are no known mineral resources on the project site. Based on the California Geological Survey (CGS) Information Warehouse for Mineral Land Classification, the project site are not located within any study areas that have identified mineral resources and are not located in close proximity to an active mine (CGS 2015). In addition, based on Chapter 6 of the County of San Luis Obispo General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element – Mineral Resources, the project sites are not located within an extractive resource area or an energy and extractive resource area. Therefore, impacts related to preclusion of future extraction of valuable mineral resources would be *less than significant*.

Conclusion

Due to the lack of valuable minerals in the area, and the lack of a mineral resource recovery designation, the proposed project would not significantly hinder future extraction or availability of valuable mineral resources.

Mitigation

None needed.

Sources

See Exhibit A.

XIII. NOISE

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Wou	ld the project result in:				
(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?				
(b)	Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?				

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(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?				

Setting

The existing ambient noise environment is characterized by light traffic on Atascadero Road, as well as agricultural equipment from surrounding properties. Noise-sensitive land uses typically include residences, schools, nursing homes, and parks. The nearest existing noise-sensitive offsite land use is a residence located approximately 0.4 miles southwest of the proposed ag reservoir. The project would not be located within an Airport Review Area and the closest active landing strip, Santa Margarita Ranch Airport, a private landing strip, is located approximately 11 miles from the proposed Guerra Ag Reservoir.

Discussion

- (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?
 - The proposed project would not introduce noise-generating equipment for operation of the proposed project and therefore would not generate a permanent increase in ambient noise levels. However, project construction activities would generate short-term construction noise. These activities would be limited to the daytime hours of 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday or Sunday, in accordance with County construction noise standards (County Code Section 23.06.044.a) and would be located approximately 0.4 miles from any offsite receptor (single family residence). Construction-related noise would not be substantially different than existing farm equipment uses and would attenuate considerably before reaching offsite receptors. Therefore, impacts related to increases in ambient noise levels would be *less than significant*.
- (b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?
 - Operation of the proposed project would not result in groundborne vibration. No construction equipment or methods are proposed that would generate substantial ground vibration (blasting, pile driving, demolition, etc.). Therefore, impacts related to temporary or permanent groundborne vibration would be *less than significant*.

(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?

The project site is not located within an airport land use plan and is not located within two miles of a public use airport. Therefore, there would be *no impact*.

Conclusion

No significant long-term change in noise levels would occur. Short-term construction related noise would be limited in nature and duration and would only occur during appropriate daytime hours. Therefore, potential noise impacts would be *less than significant*.

Mitigation

No mitigation measures beyond County ordinance are required.

Sources

See Exhibit A.

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Wou	ld the project:				
(a)	Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				
(b)	Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				

Setting

The proposed project is located within the unincorporated area of San Luis Obispo County, just east of the City of Morro Bay. The site is located within the Estero planning area. The project site is a large agricultural parcel surrounded by similar agricultural and sparse residential use.

In its efforts to provide for affordable housing, the County currently administers the Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, which provides limited financing to projects relating to affordable housing throughout the county. The County's Inclusionary Housing Ordinance requires provision of new affordable housing in conjunction with both residential and nonresidential development and subdivisions.

Discussion

(a-b) 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)?

Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

The proposed project proposes construction of an agricultural reservoir to store water to serve existing agricultural uses (avocado orchards). The proposed project does not include any residential uses or structures for human habitation. The project would not require additional employees beyond the existing amount used for the existing agricultural operation. The project would not result in a need for new housing and would not displace existing housing. The project does not propose new roads or infrastructure to undeveloped or underdeveloped areas that would indirectly result in population growth. Therefore, there would be *no impacts*.

Conclusion

No population and housing impacts would occur.

Mitigation

None needed.

Sources

See Exhibit A.

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES

		Potentially Significant Impact	Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
	Fire protection?			\boxtimes	

Less Than

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Police protection?			\boxtimes	
Schools?				\boxtimes
Parks?				\boxtimes
Other public facilities?			\boxtimes	

Setting

<u>Police</u>: County Sheriff Location: Morro Bay (Approximately 1.6 miles to the west)

<u>Fire</u>: Cal Fire (formerly CDF) Hazard Severity: Moderate Response Time: 5 to 10 minutes

Location: #11Cayucos Station Approximately 2.7 miles to the northwest

School District: Paso Robles Joint Unified School District.

Discussion

(a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

Fire protection? Police protection?

The proposed project proposes construction one (1) agricultural reservoir to serve the existing agricultural use and would not generate substantial long-term increases in demand for fire or police protection. The proposed project, along with other projects in the area, would result in a cumulative effect on police and fire protection services. The project's direct and cumulative impacts would be within the general assumptions of allowed use for the subject property that was used to estimate the public facility fees in place. Therefore, impacts would be *less than significant*.

Schools? Parks?

The proposed project would not result in the need for new housing and would not result in population growth. Therefore, there would be *no impacts* related to school or park facilities.

Other public facilities?

The proposed project would not generate a substantial long-term increase in demand for roads, solid waste, or other public services or utilities. Electrical demands of the project would be negligible and electrical service is available immediately adjacent to the project site. The proposed project site would be accessed by existing local and farm roads and would not generate substantial long-term operational trips. Cut and fill material would be balanced onsite and the project would not generate

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substantial amounts of solid waste requiring disposal. Therefore, potential impacts on public services or utilities would be *less than significant*.

Conclusion

No significant impacts to public services or utilities would occur.

Mitigation

No mitigation is required.

Sources

See Exhibit A.

XVI. RECREATION

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with 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?				
(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?				

Setting

The project would be located within privately owned operational agricultural parcel that primarily supports existing orchard.

Discussion

(a-b) 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?

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?

Construction and operation of the proposed reservoir would not have any adverse effects on existing or planned recreational opportunities in the County. The proposed project would not create a need for additional park, natural area, and/or recreational resources. The proposed project would be located on a private agricultural zoned parcel and would not induce population growth that would require increased recreational services and facilities. Therefore, there would be *no impacts*.

Conclusion

No significant impacts to recreational resources would occur.

Mitigation

No mitigation is required.

Sources

See Exhibit A.

XVII. TRANSPORTATION

Wou	ld the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with 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?				
(b)	Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?				\boxtimes
(c)	Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				
(d)	Result in inadequate emergency access?			\boxtimes	

Setting

The County has established the acceptable Level of Service on roads for this rural area as "C" or better. The existing road network in the area including the project's access street—Highway 41—are operating at acceptable levels. Based on existing road speeds and configuration (vertical and horizontal road curves), sight distance is considered acceptable.

Discussion

(a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?

The proposed project includes construction of an agricultural reservoir for water storage to serve an existing agricultural operation. Short-term construction-related trips would be minimal, and area roadways are operating at acceptable levels and would be able to accommodate construction-related

traffic. Long-term maintenance and operational trips would not substantially differ from existing onsite avocado orchard operations. As a result, the proposed project would have an insignificant long-term impact on existing road service or traffic safety levels. The project does not conflict with adopted policies, plans and programs related to transportation, would not affect air traffic patterns or policies related to public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities. Therefore, impacts would be *less than significant*.

- (b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

 CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 does not apply until July 1, 2020 and the County has not elected to be governed by the provisions of this section in the interim. Therefore, this threshold does not apply and there is no impact.
- (c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?
 - The project would not result in any changes to the access road or alterations to the existing driveway approach. Therefore, the project would not substantially increase hazards and would have a *less than significant impact*.
- (d) Result in inadequate emergency access?

The project site's access roads are currently approximately 15 feet wide on a nearly level surface which is ample room to accommodate farm equipment, construction vehicles, and emergency vehicles. The project site would have the highest risk of emergencies occurring construction, which would be temporary. During operation, the likelihood of an emergency incident occurring is low due to a lack of structures and infrequency of persons at the project. Therefore, impacts related to emergency access would be *less than significant*.

Conclusion

No significant traffic impacts would occur.

Mitigation

None needed.

Sources

See Exhibit A.

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

			Potentially Significant Impact	Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	advo triba Reso a sit that the sacr valu	ald the project cause a substantial erse change in the significance of a al cultural resource, defined in Public ources Code section 21074 as either te, feature, place, cultural landscape is geographically defined in terms of size and scope of the landscape, red place, or object with cultural is to a California Native American e, and that is:				
	(i)	Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or				
	(ii)	A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.				

Setting

Approved in 2014, Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) added tribal cultural resources to the categories of resources that must be evaluated under CEQA. Tribal cultural resources are defined as either of the following:

- 1) Sites, features, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either of the following:
 - a. Included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources; or
 - b. Included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of California Public Resources Code Section 5020.1.

2) 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 California Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying these criteria for the purposes of this paragraph, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American Tribe.

AB 52 consultation letters were sent to four tribes on June 22, 2020: Northern Chumash Tribal Council, Salinan Tribe of San Luis Obispo and Monterey Counties, Xolon Salinan Tribe, and yak tityu tityu yak tiłhini. A response was submitted by the Northern Chumash Tribal Council on June 29, 2020 requesting to see the records search and archeological report prepared for the project. No significant sensitive resources were identified.

As noted in Section V. Cultural Resources, the project is located in an area historically occupied by the Obispeño Chumash and Salinan.

Discussion

- (a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:
 - (a-i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k)?
 - No resources have been found on site or within the project scope which would be considered a "historical resource" according to Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k). Therefore, impacts would be *less than significant*.
 - (a-ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.
 - Per AB 52, notices regarding the opportunity for tribal consultation were sent on June 22, 2020, to four Native American tribes affiliated with the project area (Northern Salinan, Xolon Salinan, Yak Tityu Tityu Northern Chumash, and the Northern Chumash Tribal Council). A response was submitted by the Northern Chumash Tribal Council on June 29, 2020 requesting to see the records search and archaeological report prepared for the project. No significant sensitive resources were identified.

In the unlikely event resources are uncovered during grading activities, implementation of LUO Section 22.10.040 (Archaeological Resources) would be required:

In the event archaeological resources are unearthed or discovered during any construction activities, the following standards apply:

- A. Construction activities shall cease, and the Department shall be notified so that the extent and location of discovered materials may be recorded by a qualified archaeologist, and disposition of artifacts may be accomplished in accordance with state and federal law.
- B. In the event archaeological resources are found to include human remains, or in any other case when human remains are discovered during construction, the County

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Coroner shall be notified in addition to the Department so proper disposition may be accomplished.

There are no known tribal cultural resources within the project area. Therefore, impacts would be *less than significant*.

Conclusion

No significant impacts on tribal cultural resources would occur. In the event of an unanticipated discovery of tribal resources during earth-moving activities, compliance with the LUO would ensure potential impacts would be reduced to less than significant.

Mitigation

No mitigation is required.

Sources

See Exhibit A.

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Wou	ld the project:				
(a)	Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?				
(b)	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?				
(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?				

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(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?				
(e)	Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				

Setting

The proposed project is an agricultural reservoir requiring one-time fill of water, located in an agricultural area and will not result in a permanent use or development, therefore not requiring water or sewer connections. Once grading activities are complete, the site will maintain existing agricultural and residential operations.

Discussion

- (a) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?
 - The proposed project would not result in the necessity of new or expanded water, wastewater, electric, natural gas, or telecommunications connections or facilities. Power is currently provided on site through an existing PG&E connection and water would be supplied from an existing well on site. Since no expansion or relocation of facilities would be required for construction or operation of the proposed project, *no impacts* would occur.
- (b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?
 - The project would be subject to the County's Title 19 (Building and Construction Ordinance, Sec. 19.20.238), states that no grading or building permit shall be issued until either the water purveyor provides a written statement that potable water service will be provided (community systems), or an on-site well is installed, tested and certified to meet minimum capacity requirements and Health Department approval.

The project includes major grading to establish an agricultural reservoir. Water trucks are proposed to prevent airborne dust from leaving the site during grading activities. Reclaimed water will be used whenever possible. Once grading and the initial fill of the reservoir is complete, the water usage would remain unchanged when compared to the historic usage. Since water usage would be consistent with historical use, the impacts from having insufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development would be *less than significant*.

- (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?
 - The proposed project would not result in the production of any wastewater, and all wastewater produced during construction would be collected in portable restroom facilities that would be serviced offsite. The project site is not served by a wastewater treatment provider, and the proposed project would have *no impacts* on capacity of a wastewater treatment provider's facilities.
- (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?
 - The proposed project is an agricultural reservoir which is not expected to generate solid waste and will likely not result in the impairment of solid waste reduction goals. Operation of the proposed project would not result in the production of solid waste and therefore would comply with all federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Any waste generated from the construction of the proposed facility would be removed by the contractor and disposed of. Therefore, impacts would be *less than significant*.
- (e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

The project is required to abide by federal, state, and local management reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Therefore, the project will comply with all statutes and regulations related to solid waste, and impacts will be *less than significant*.

Conclusion

The proposed project would not result in the need for expanded utility and service systems and is not expected to create any solid waste in excess of state and local standards. Portable restrooms would be provided during construction and handled by the portable restroom provider. Solid waste may be generated during construction of the facility and would be removed from the site by the project contractor. No significant impacts related to utilities and service systems would occur, and therefore mitigation is not required.

Mitigation

There is no evidence that measures above what will already be required by ordinance or codes and geologist recommendations are needed.

Sources

See Exhibit A.

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XX. WILDFIRE

		Potentially Significant Impact	Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
If loc	ated in or near state responsibility areas or lan	ds classified as ve	ery high fire hazard s	everity zones, wou	ıld the project:
(a)	Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				
(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?				
(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?				
(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?				

Setting

The proposed project site is located in a High Fire Hazard Severity Zone and has an average annual windspeed of approximately 7.50 to 9.9 miles per hour (mph) (WeatherSpark 2020). Existing conditions that may exacerbate fire risk include the gently sloping topography in some areas and the moderate average windspeed.

The County of San Luis Obispo Safety Element establishes goals, policies, and programs to reduce the threat to life, structures, and the environment caused by fire. Policy S-13 identifies that new development should be carefully located, with special attention given to fuel management in higher fire risk areas, and that new development in fire hazard areas should be configured to minimize the potential for added danger.

The California Fire Code provides minimum standards for many aspects of fire prevention and suppression activities. These standards include provisions for emergency vehicle access, water supply, fire protection systems, and the use of fire-resistant building materials.

Discussion

- (a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?
 - The project would not conflict with any regional emergency response or evacuation plan as no structures or other obstacles are proposed that would hinder evacuation or emergency response. Therefore, there would be *no impacts*.
- (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?
 - The proposed project site is located in an area of moderate wind, with an average annual wind speed of approximately 7.5 to 9.9 mph (WeatherSpark 2020). The project site has abundant fuel, especially during the summer months when vegetation is drier, and has gently sloping topography in some areas, all of which exacerbate fire risk. All of these conditions have resulted in the project sites being classified in a Moderate Fire Hazard Severity Zone. The proposed project would have the highest fire risk during construction as construction vehicles have the ability to spark wildfires when operating machinery around dry vegetation. This risk would be temporary however, and there would be no long-term fire risk from the implementation of the project. Therefore, impacts would be *less than significant*.
- (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?
 - The proposed project sites already have access to all utilities required for their operation and therefore would not require construction of other utilities that could exacerbate fire risk. Furthermore, existing farm roads will be used for access as opposed to construction of new roads for access. Impacts would be *less than significant*.
- (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?
 - As stated earlier, the project would not result in the construction of structures and employees would rarely be onsite. Therefore, there would be a *less than significant* impact to people and structures in regard to flooding and landslides from post-fire slope instability.

Conclusion

No significant wildfire impacts were identified and therefore project impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation

No mitigation is required.

Sources

See Exhibit A.

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XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

		Potentially Significant Impact	Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?				
(b)	Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?				
(c)	Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?				

Discussion

(a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

As discussed in each resource section above, the project has the potential to impact onsite special status plant and animal species, as well as nonnative annual grassland, coastal sage scrub, and ruderal habitats. Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-4 would reduce impacts to sensitive species and habitats to less than significant. Therefore, the project would not result in significant impacts to biological resources and would not substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, 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. Potential impacts to air quality were also evaluated. Mitigation measures AQ-1 through AQ-2 would reduce potential air quality impacts to less than significant.

Therefore, the project impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

- (b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?
 - Potential cumulative impacts of the proposed project have been analyzed within the discussion of each environmental resource area above. Cumulative impacts associated with the proposed project would be *less than significant with mitigation*.
- (c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?
 - Environmental impacts that may have an adverse effect on human beings, either directly or indirectly, are analyzed in each environmental resource section above. In addition, implementation of mitigation measures included in Exhibit B Mitigation Summary Table would further reduce potential adverse effects on human beings; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

Conclusion

With the implementation of the mitigation measures listed in Exhibit B – Mitigation Summary Table, impacts would be reduced to *less than significant with mitigation*.

Exhibit A - Initial Study References and Agency Contacts

The County Planning Department has contacted various agencies for their comments on the proposed project. With respect to the subject application, the following have been contacted (marked with an \square) and when a response was made, it is either attached or in the application file:

Con	tacted	Agency		Response
		County Public Works Department		Not Applicable
	Ħ	County Environmental Health Services		Not Applicable
	$\overline{\boxtimes}$	County Agricultural Commissioner's Office		None
	Ħ	County Airport Manager		Not Applicable
		Airport Land Use Commission		Not Applicable
	$\overline{\boxtimes}$	Air Pollution Control District		None
		County Sheriff's Department		Not Applicable
	$\overline{\boxtimes}$	Regional Water Quality Control Board		None
	$\overline{\boxtimes}$	CA Coastal Commission		None
		CA Department of Fish and Wildlife		None
		CA Department of Forestry (Cal Fire)		Not Applicable
		CA Department of Transportation		Not Applicable
		Community Services District		Not Applicable
		Other		Not Applicable
		Other		Not Applicable
** "No	comment	or "No concerns"-type responses are usually not a	ttached	d
propo	osed pro	·	rence	een used in the environmental review for the into the Initial Study. The following information :.
\boxtimes	Project I	File for the Subject Application		Design Plan
_	-	<u>Documents</u>		Specific Plan
\boxtimes	Coastal	Plan Policies	\boxtimes	Annual Resource Summary Report
\boxtimes	Framew	ork for Planning (Coastal /Inland)		Circulation Study
\boxtimes	General	Plan (Inland/ Coastal), includes all		Other Documents
	maps/el	ements; more pertinent elements:	\boxtimes	Clean Air Plan/APCD Handbook
	\boxtimes	Agriculture Element		Regional Transportation Plan
		Conservation & Open Space Element	\boxtimes	Uniform Fire Code
		Economic Element	\boxtimes	Water Quality Control Plan (Central Coast Basin –
		Housing Element		Region 3)
		Noise Element	\boxtimes	Archaeological Resources Map
	_	Parks & Recreation Element/Project List		Area of Critical Concerns Map
		Safety Element	\boxtimes	Special Biological Importance Map
\bowtie		e Ordinance (Coastal)	\boxtimes	CA Natural Species Diversity Database
		and Construction Ordinance	\boxtimes	Fire Hazard Severity Map
		acilities Fee Ordinance		Flood Hazard Maps
		perty Division Ordinance	\boxtimes	Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey
		ole Housing Fund		for SLO County
		ort Land Use Plan	\boxtimes	GIS mapping layers (e.g., habitat, streams,
\bowtie		Nise Plan		contours, etc.)
\bowtie	Estero A	rea Plan	Ш	Other

In addition, the following project-specific information and/or reference materials have been considered as a part of the Initial Study:

- Althouse and Mead, Inc. Biological Report for Guerra Ranch Agricultural Reservoir. September 2019.
- California Department of Conservation (DOC). 2015. Fault Activity Map of California (2010) Available at http://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/fam/>.
- California Department of Conservation (DOC). 2015. CGS Information Warehouse: Regulatory Maps. Available at https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/informationwarehouse/>.
- California Department of Conservation (DOC). 2016. California Important Farmland Finder. Available at < https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF/>.
- California Department of Conservation (DOC). 2016. San Luis Obispo County Important Farmland 2016. Available at <ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dlrp/FMMP/pdf/2016/slo16.pdf>.
- GeoSolutions Inc. Soils Engineering Reprot 1835 Atascadero Road APN: 073-031-035 Morro Bay, California. December 12, 2019.
- Heritage Discoveries Inc., Conway, Thor. Phase 1 Archeological Surface Survey for the Guerra Ranch Ag Reservoir Improvement Project 1835 Atascadero Road, Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo County, California. June 22, 2019.
- Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. 2012. California Annual Average Wind Speed at 30m. Available at: https://windexchange.energy.gov/files/u/visualization/pdf/ca_30m.pdf.
- San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (SLOAPCD). 2019. SLO APCD NOA Screening Buffers. Available at https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1YAKjBzVkwi1bZ4rQ1p6b2OMyvIM&ll=35.664076153 33322%2C-120.44668446503107&z=11>.
- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). 2015. GeoTracker. Available at http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/.

Exhibit B - Mitigation Summary

The applicant has agreed to incorporate the following measures into the project. These measures become a part of the project description and therefore become a part of the record of action upon which the environmental determination is based. All development activity must occur in strict compliance with the following mitigation measures. These measures shall be perpetual and run with the land. These measures are binding on all successors in interest of the subject property.

- **AQ-1 Prior to issuance of construction permits**, the following measures related to fugitive dust emissions shall be incorporated into the construction phase of the project and shown on all applicable construction plans:
 - a) Reduce the amount of the disturbed area where possible;
 - b) Use of water trucks or sprinkler systems in sufficient quantities to prevent airborne dust from leaving the site. Increased watering frequency would be required whenever wind speeds exceed 15 mph. Reclaimed (non-potable) water should be used whenever possible;
 - c) All dirt stock pile areas should be sprayed daily as needed;
 - Permanent dust control measures identified in the approved project revegetation and landscape plans should be implemented as soon as possible following completion of any soil disturbing activities;
 - e) Exposed ground areas that are planned to be reworked at dates greater than one month after initial grading should be sown with a fast germinating, non-invasive grass seed and watered until vegetation is established;
 - f) All disturbed soil areas not subject to revegetation should be stabilized using approved chemical soil binders, jute netting, or other methods approved in advance by the APCD;
 - g) All roadways, driveways, sidewalks, etc. to be paved should be completed as soon as possible. In addition, building pads should be laid as soon as possible after grading unless seeding or soil binders are used:
 - h) Vehicle speed for all construction vehicles shall not exceed 15 mph on any unpaved surface at the construction site;
 - All trucks hauling dirt, sand, soil, or other loose materials are to be covered or should maintain at least two feet of freeboard (minimum vertical distance between top of load and top of trailer) in accordance with CVC Section 23114;
 - j) Install wheel washers where vehicles enter and exit unpaved roads onto streets, or wash off trucks and equipment leaving the site;
 - k) Sweep streets at the end of each day if visible soil material is carried onto adjacent paved roads. Water sweepers with reclaimed water should be used where feasible;
 - All of these fugitive dust mitigation measures shall be shown on grading and building plans;
 and
 - m) The contractor or builder shall designate a person or persons to monitor the fugitive dust emissions and enhance the implementation of the measures as necessary to minimize dust

complaints, reduce visible emissions below 20% opacity, and to prevent transport of dust offsite. Their duties shall include holidays and weekend periods when work may not be in progress. The name and telephone number of such persons shall be provided to the APCD Compliance Division prior to the start of any grading, earthwork or demolition.

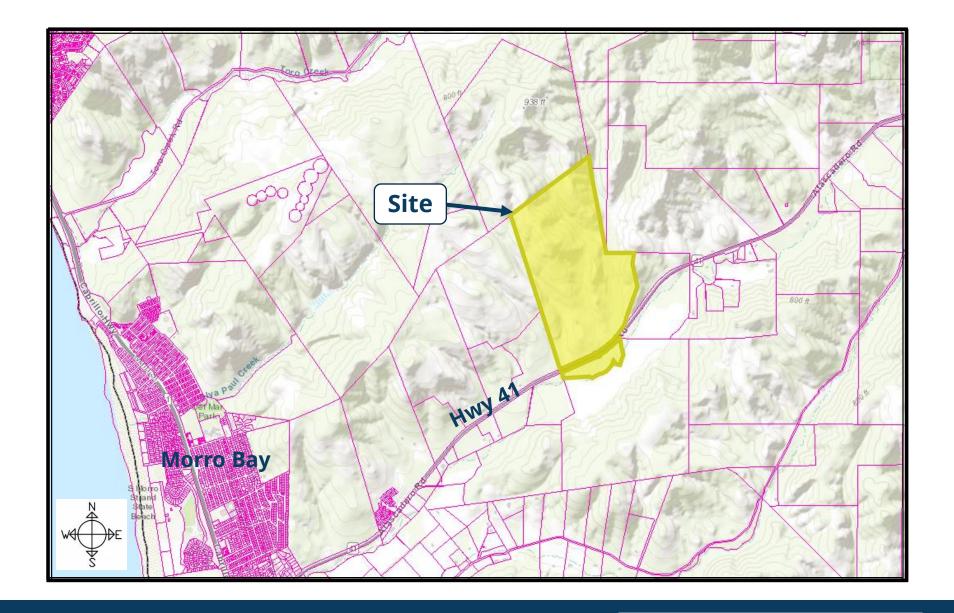
- **AQ-2 Prior to issuance of any construction permits**, the applicant shall incorporate Best Available Control Technology (BACT) into the construction phase of the project and shown on all applicable construction plans. The BACT measures shall be reviewed and verified by the SLOAPCD.
- **BR-1 Avoidance.** During project construction, where feasible, project components shall be adjusted to avoid and/or minimize impacts to the mapped locations of coastal sage sscrub habitat and associated special status plants in the study area. These resource areas should be shown on all project plans. If permanent impacts to special status plants cannot be avoided, measures BR-2 and BR-3 shall be implemented as applicable.
- **BR-2 Protection.** Prior to any ground disturbing activities, construction fencing shall be used to delineate protected sensitive habitat areas within 50 feet of project activities. Fencing shall be installed under the direction of a biologist at the loation that protects coastal sage scrub and special status plants to the maximum extent feasible. Fencing shall be installed prior to commencement of construction and shall be maintained in good condition throughout construction, or until the biologist confirms the remaining work activities do not pose a risk for impacting sensitive habitat areas. Signage stating "Environmental Sensitive Area: Keep Out" shall be placed along the fencing. Entry into the protected area shall be prohibited during construction. Where approved project impact areas are within the protected area, fencing shall be temporarily moved to facilitate the work. A biological monitor shall be present during approved project activities within the sensitive area.
- **Br-3 Mitigation.** If direct impacts to special status plants cannot be avoided, prior to final, CRPR4 species such as Cambria morning glory and club-haired mariposa lily shall be mitigated by creating onsite habitat in protected areas of the site at a minimum ratio of 1:1 for all impacts greater than 30% of the onsite occupied habitat. A mitigation monitoring plan shall be completed if proposed impacts exceed 30% of the onsite populations.
- **BR-4 Pre-construction Survey for Sensitive and Nesting Birds.** If work is planned to occur between February 1 and September 15, a qualified biologist shall survey the area for nesting birds within one week prior to initial project activity beginning, including ground disturbance and/or vegetation removal/trimming. If nesting birds are located on or near the proposed project site, they shall be avoided until they have successfully fledged, or the nest is no longer deemed active.
 - A 50-foot exclusion zone shall be placed around non-listed, passerine species, and a 250-foot exclusion zone will be implemented for raptor species. Each exclusion zone shall encircle the nest and have a radius of 50 feet (non-listed passerine species) or 250 feet (raptor species). All project activities, including foot and vehicle traffic and storage of supplies and equipment, are prohibited inside exclusion zones. Exclusion zones shall be maintained until all project-related disturbances have been terminated, or it has been determined by a qualified biologist that the young have fledged or that proposed project activities would not cause adverse impacts to the nest, adults, eggs, or young.
 - If special-status avian species (aside from the burrowing owl or tricolored blackbird [if identified in biological report]) are identified and nesting within the work area, no work will begin until an

PLN-2039 04/2019

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

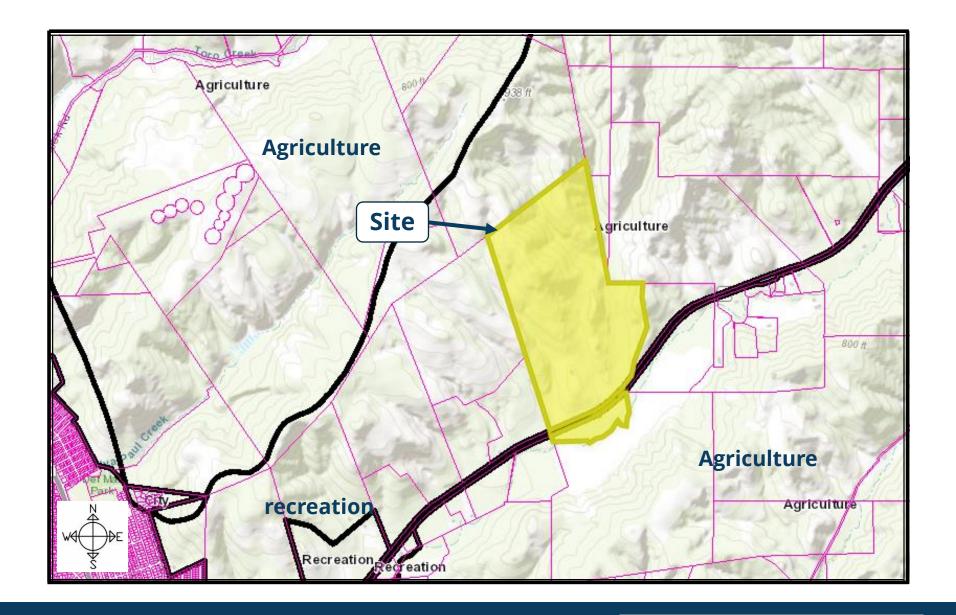
- appropriate exclusion zone is determined in consultation with the County and any relevant resource agencies.
- The results of the survey shall be provided to the County prior to initial project activities. The
 results shall detail appropriate fencing or flagging of exclusion zones and include
 recommendations for additional monitoring requirements. A map of the project site and nest
 locations shall be included with the results. The qualified biologist conducting the nesting survey
 shall have the authority to reduce or increase the recommended exclusion zone depending on
 site conditions and species (if non-listed).

If two weeks lapse between different phases of project activities (e.g., vegetation trimming and the start of grading), during which no or minimal work activity occurs, the nesting bird survey shall be repeated.



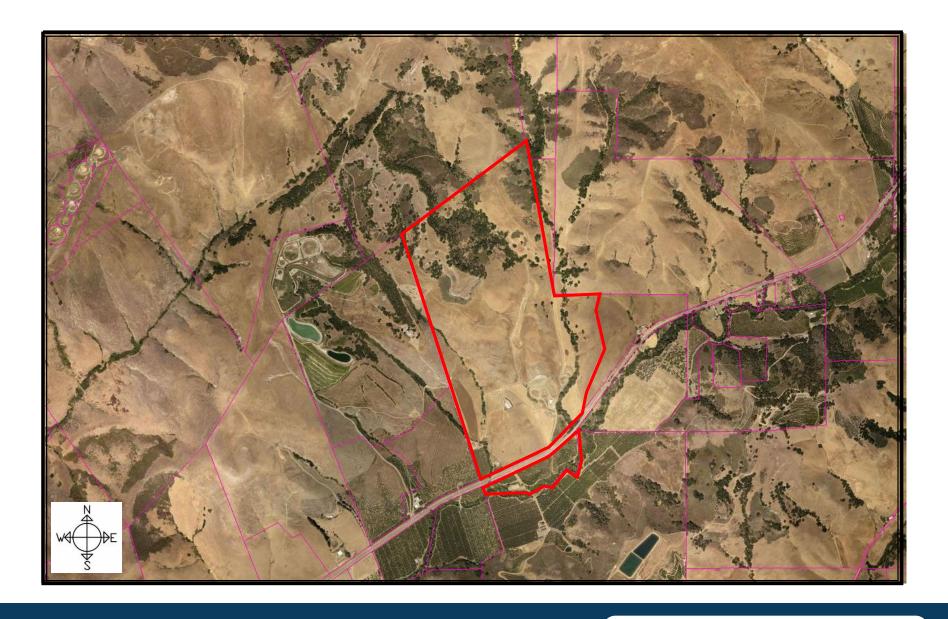


Vicinity Map PMTG2020-00018



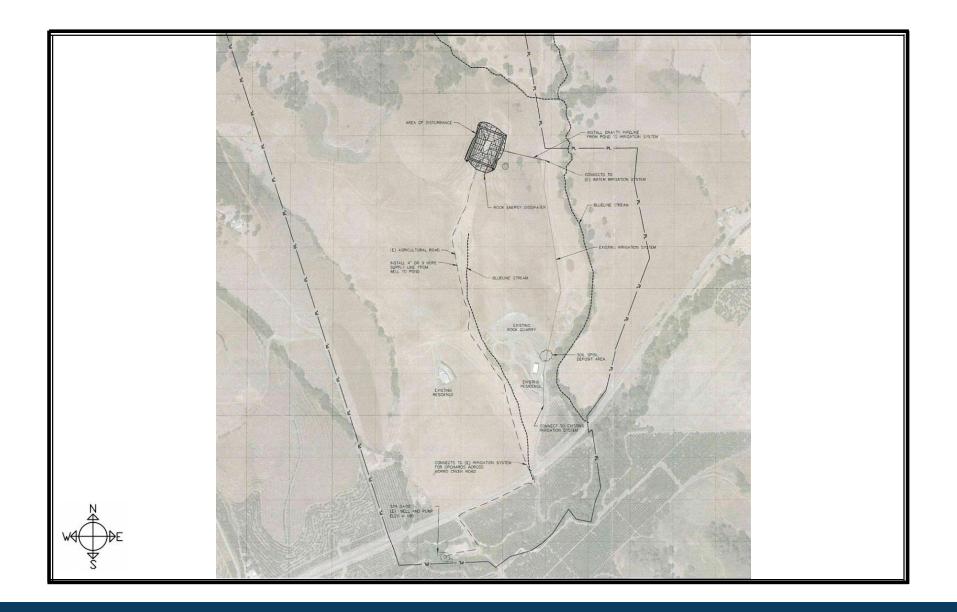


Land Use Category Map PMTG2020-00018



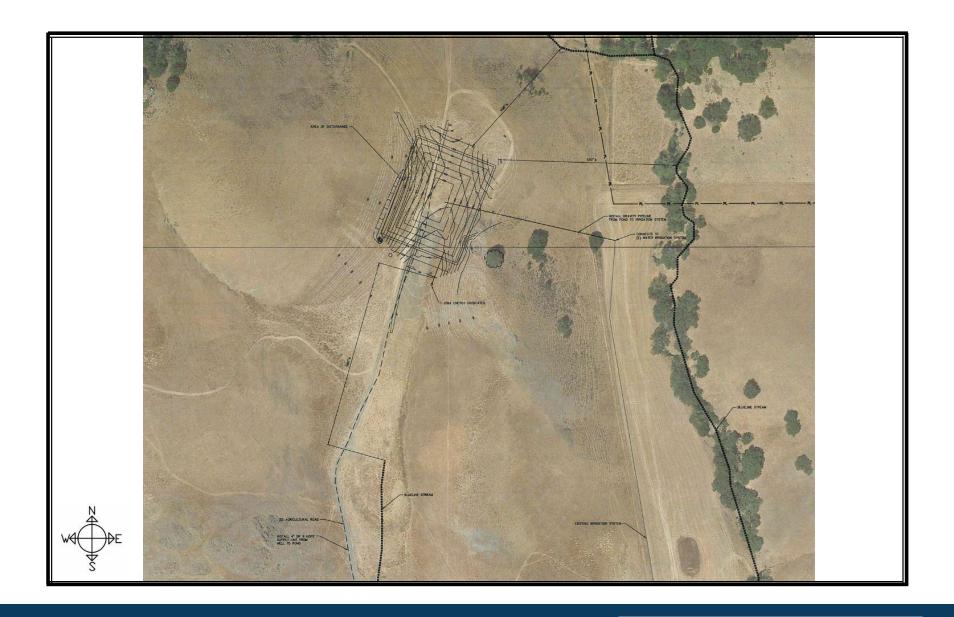


Aerial PMTG2020-00018



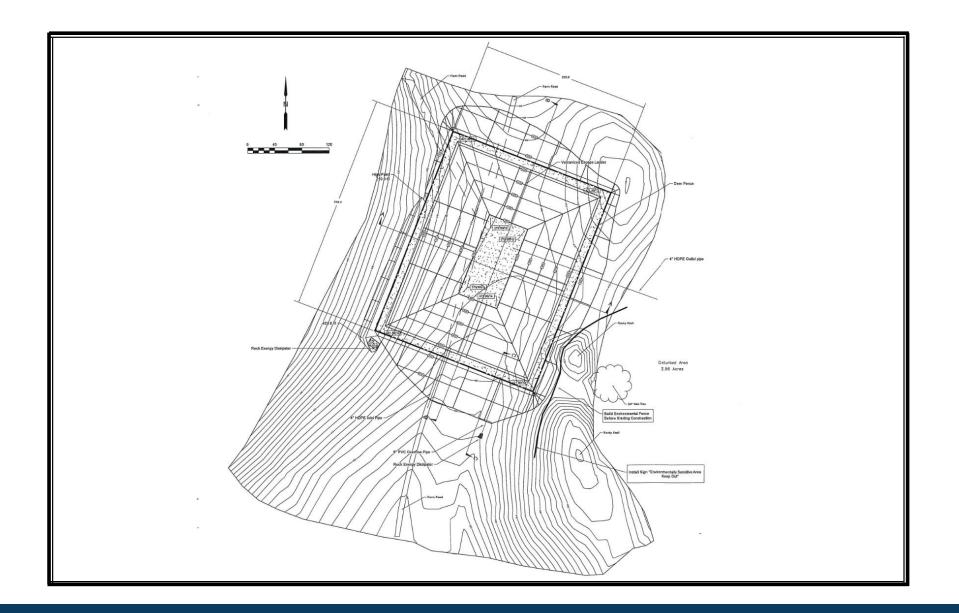


Site Map PMTG2020-00018



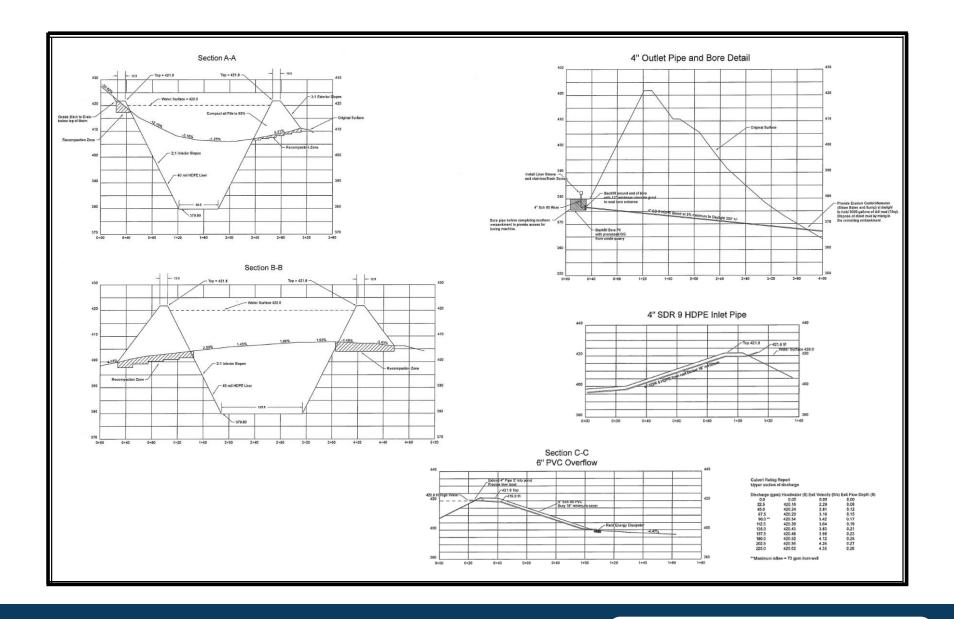


Grading Plan PMTG2020-00018



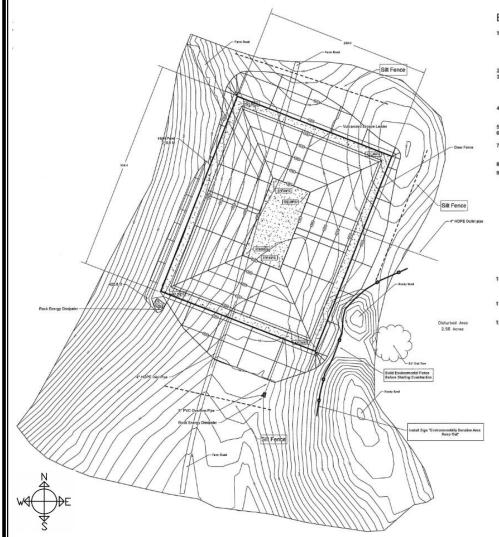


Grading Plan PMTG2020-00018





Cross Sections PMTG2020-00018



Erosion Control Notes:

- Erosion control measures shall be implemented on all projects and shall include source control, including protection of stockpiles, protection of slopes, protection of all disturbed areas, and protection of accesses. In addition, perimeter containment measures shall be placed prior to the commencement of grading and site disturbance activities unless the Engineer determines temporary measures to be unnecessary based upon location, site characteristics or time of year. The intent of the erosion control measures shall be to keep all sediment from entering a swale, drainage way, watercourse or ento adjacent properties. An approved Erosion Control and Sedimentation Control Plan will require County
- Site inspections and appropriate maintenance of crosion control devices shall be conducted and documented prior to, during, and after rain events. The developer shall be responsible for the placement and maintenance of all erosion control devices as specified by the approved plan until such time that the project is accepted as complex by the Engineer. Evolun centrol develores may be relocated, deleted or additional times may be required depending on the actual soll on conditional develores may be relocated. Engineer of Work, Engineer, SWPPP Monitor or RWQCB Inspector. Guidelines for determining appropriate crosion control devices are included in the appendix of the Public Improvement Standards.
- All erosion control devices shall be the first order of work and shall be in place between October 15 and April 15 or anytime when the rain probability exceeds 30%. This work shall be installed or applied after each area is graded and no longer than five (5) working days after the completion of each
- area.
 The Engineer of Work and the Engineer shall be notified before October 15 for inspection of installed erosion control devices.
 A standby crew for emergency work shall be available at all times during the rainy season (October 15 through April 15). Necessary materials shall be available and stockpiled at convenient locations to facilitate rapid construction or maintenance of lemporary devices when rain is imminent.
- Permanent erosion control shall be placed and established with 70% coverage on all disturbed surfaces other than paved or gravel surfaces prior to final inspection. Permanent erosion control shall be fully established prior to final inspection. Temporary erosion control measures shall remain in place until permanent measures are established. A water truck shall be used to water areas hydroseeded until the planting is established.
- In the event of a failure, the developer and/or his representative shall be responsible for cleanup and all associated costs or damages.
- Slurry Mix: The slurry mix shall be composed of the following materials:

Bromas carinatus (California brome)	5 pounds per acre	
Vulpia microstachys (six weeks fescue)	10	
Stipla pulchra (purple needlegrass)	3	
Trifolium wildenovii (tomcat clover)	2	

(Seed avaialbale at S&S Seeds (805) 684-0436

100% Wood fiber mulch (green) 1600 pounds per acre "M-Binder" (stabilizing emulsion) or equal Water (as needed for application and as specified by manufacturer)

- 10. Application: The sturry preparation shall take place at the site and in the presence of the Engineer. Spraying of the slurry shall be done by an experienced hydroseeding company and commence within five minutes after all the materials have been mixed thoroughly
- 11. The hydroseeded areas shall be watered with a fine mist on a daily basis until the seed begins to germinate then every other day until the roots are established and 70% of the area is covered. Do not use the side spray of a watertruck but instead use a nozzle adjusted to spray a fine mist attached to a hose.
- 12. BMP's to be constructed include but are not limited to:
 - b: Straw Bale Barrier



Environmental Determination: <u>ED20-135</u> Date: <u>July 30, 2020</u>

DEVELOPER'S STATEMENT FOR GUERRA RANCH CORPORATION MAJOR GRADING PERMIT PMTG2020-00018

The applicant agrees to incorporate the following measures into the project. These measures become a part of the project description and therefore become a part of the record of action upon which the environmental determination is based. All development activity must occur in strict compliance with the following mitigation measures. These measures shall be perpetual and run with the land. These measures are binding on all successors in interest of the subject property.

Note: The items contained in the boxes labeled "Monitoring" describe the County procedures to be used to ensure compliance with the mitigation measures.

The following mitigation measures address impacts that may occur as a result of the development of the project.

Exhibit B - Mitigation Summary

The applicant has agreed to incorporate the following measures into the project. These measures become a part of the project description and therefore become a part of the record of action upon which the environmental determination is based. All development activity must occur in strict compliance with the following mitigation measures. These measures shall be perpetual and run with the land. These measures are binding on all successors in interest of the subject property.

Air Quality

- **AQ-1 Prior to issuance of construction permits**, the following measures related to fugitive dust emissions shall be incorporated into the construction phase of the project and shown on all applicable construction plans:
 - a) Reduce the amount of the disturbed area where possible;
 - Use of water trucks or sprinkler systems in sufficient quantities to prevent airborne dust from leaving the site. Increased watering frequency would be required whenever wind speeds exceed 15 mph. Reclaimed (non-potable) water should be used whenever possible;
 - c) All dirt stock pile areas should be sprayed daily as needed;
 - d) Permanent dust control measures identified in the approved project revegetation and landscape plans should be implemented as soon as possible following completion of any soil disturbing activities;
 - e) Exposed ground areas that are planned to be reworked at dates greater than one month after initial grading should be sown with a fast germinating, non-invasive grass seed and watered until vegetation is established;
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 - g) All roadways, driveways, sidewalks, etc. to be paved should be completed as soon as possible. In addition, building pads should be laid as soon as possible after grading unless seeding or soil binders are used;
 - h) Vehicle speed for all construction vehicles shall not exceed 15 mph on any unpaved surface at the construction site;

Environmental Determination: <u>ED20-135</u> Date: <u>July 30, 2020</u>

i) All trucks hauling dirt, sand, soil, or other loose materials are to be covered or should maintain at least two feet of freeboard (minimum vertical distance between top of load and top of trailer) in accordance with CVC Section 23114;

- j) Install wheel washers where vehicles enter and exit unpaved roads onto streets, or wash off trucks and equipment leaving the site;
- k) Sweep streets at the end of each day if visible soil material is carried onto adjacent paved roads. Water sweepers with reclaimed water should be used where feasible;
- All of these fugitive dust mitigation measures shall be shown on grading and building plans; and
- m) The contractor or builder shall designate a person or persons to monitor the fugitive dust emissions and enhance the implementation of the measures as necessary to minimize dust complaints, reduce visible emissions below 20% opacity, and to prevent transport of dust offsite. Their duties shall include holidays and weekend periods when work may not be in progress. The name and telephone number of such persons shall be provided to the APCD Compliance Division prior to the start of any grading, earthwork or demolition.
- AQ-2 Prior to issuance of any construction permits, the applicant shall incorporate Best Available Control Technology (BACT) into the construction phase of the project and shown on all applicable construction plans. The BACT measures shall be reviewed and verified by the SLOAPCD.

Biological Resources

- **BR-1** Avoidance. During project construction, where feasible, project components shall be adjusted to avoid and/or minimize impacts to the mapped locations of coastal sage scrub habitat and associated special status plants in the study area. These resource areas should be shown on all project plans. If permanent impacts to special status plants cannot be avoided, measures BR-2 and BR-3 shall be implemented as applicable.
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- **BR-4** Pre-construction Survey for Sensitive and Nesting Birds. If work is planned to occur between February 1 and September 15, a qualified biologist shall survey the area for nesting birds within one week prior to initial project activity beginning, including ground disturbance and/or vegetation removal/trimming. If nesting birds are located on or near the proposed project site, they shall be avoided until they have successfully fledged, or the nest is no longer deemed active.
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Environmental Determination: <u>ED20-135</u> Date: <u>July 30, 2020</u>

and equipment, are prohibited inside exclusion zones. Exclusion zones shall be maintained until all project-related disturbances have been terminated, or it has been determined by a qualified biologist that the young have fledged or that proposed project activities would not cause adverse impacts to the nest, adults, eggs, or young.

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If two weeks lapse between different phases of project activities (e.g., vegetation trimming and the start of grading), during which no or minimal work activity occurs, the nesting bird survey shall be repeated.

The applicant understands that any changes made to the project description subsequent to this environmental determination must be reviewed by the Environmental Coordinator and may require a new environmental determination for the project. By signing this agreement, the owner(s) agrees to and accepts the incorporation of the above measures into the proposed project description.

Signature of Agent(s)

Date

Name (Print)