

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
AND INITIAL STUDY

Buena Vista Landfill Project 2020  
APNs: 012-040-042, 012-040-043, 012-040-044

June 2020

Prepared by:  
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## **APPENDICES**

**Appendix A** - Buena Vista Landfill Phase 1 Waste Management Unit Cover Investigation Report- NV5

**Appendix B** - Tetra Tech - Aerial topograph map of the landfill

**Appendix C** - RWQCB Work Plan Letter Dated January 31, 2020

**Appendix D** - Request for Qualification RFQ No. 20-06- County of Amador



Project Title: Buena Vista Landfill Project 2020  
Expanded Title: Buena Vista Landfill Phase 1 Final Cover Re-Construction, and Class II Surface Impoundment Expansion & Liner Replacement

Project Location: 6500 Buena Vista Road, Ione (Amador County, CA)  
APN(s): 012-040-042, 012-040-043, 012-040-044

Project Sponsor's Name and Address: County of Amador, Waste Management Department  
810 Court St. Jackson, CA 95642

Current General Plan Designation(s): "MRZ," Mineral Resource Zone (APN: 012-040-042) and  
"X," Special Use District (APNs: 012-040-043, -044)

Current Zoning(s): PS- Public Service

Lead Agency Name and Address: Amador County Planning Department  
810 Court Street, Jackson, Ca 95642

Contact Person/Phone Number: Krista Ruesel, Planner  
209-233-6380

Date Prepared: May, 2020

Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.) RWQCB

### ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact," as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics               | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources     | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology / Soils                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials      | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning      | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing     | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation / Traffic | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems        | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources          |



## EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS PER CEQA:

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses," as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c) (3) (D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
  - a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
  - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
  - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
- 7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
- 9) The explanation of each issue should identify:
  - a) The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
  - b) The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.



## EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS PER NEPA:

Additionally, pursuant to §1970.102 Of the National Environmental Policy Act Guidelines, Preparations of EAs must include the following topics:

1. **Purpose and Need** for proposed action;
2. **Affected environment**, including baseline conditions that may be impacted by the proposed action and alternatives; Environmental impacts of the proposed action including the NO Action alternative, and, if a specific project element is likely to adversely affect a resource, at least one alternative to that project element;
3. Any applicable Environmental Laws and Executive Orders;
4. Any required **coordination** undertaken with any federal, State, or local agencies or Indian Tribes regarding compliance with applicable laws and Executive Orders;
5. **Mitigation measures** considered, including those measures that must be adopted to ensure the action will not have significant impacts; any documents incorporated by reference, if appropriate, including information provided by the applicant for the proposed action; and listing of persons and agencies consulted.

According to CEQ Guidance, the 40 Most Asked Questions Concerning CE's NEPA Regulations (CEQ, 30 Questions-46 FR 18026, March 23, 1981), The EA is intended to contain a brief discussion of the need for the proposal, alternatives to the proposal, the environmental impacts of the proposed action, and a list of persons or agencies consulted to determine the need for a preparation of a FONSI or an EIS.

### 1. Purpose and Need

This requirement addresses the underlying purpose of and need for the applicant's proposal and for which Agency financial assistance is being requested; including:

- i. Program objectives and applicant's purpose/need for financial assistance, as well as a establishing a baseline range of reasonable alternatives.
- ii. Reasonable alternative may include: design alternatives, siting and location alternatives, alternative water sources or locations of point discharges/receiving waters of treated wastewater, system capacities, project timing, etc., ,or alternative corridors or routes for utility infrastructure proposals.
- iii. No action alternative, consistent 2ith 7CFR §§1970.13 A and 1970.102a3 as minimum. Meaning that the proposed activity would not take place, and the resulting environmental effects from no action would be compared with the effects of permitting the proposed activity or alternative activity to go forward. – establishes environmental baseline.
  - Outline initial alternatives (introduced early in proposal process)
  - Document alternatives but dismissed (including rationale for elimination)
  - Reasonable alternatives, with a description of why they were not chosen

Additionally, this section describes the lead agency's authority and program objectives relating to the proposal under consideration, as well as identify specific program authority under which applicant seeks federal financial assistance included with a complete and detailed project description and purpose and need for proposal. Consistent with NEPA requirements, each project must include the following statement:

"USDA, Rural Development is a mission are that includes three federal agencies- Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Rural Housing Service, and Rural Utilities Service. The agencies have in excess of 50 programs that provide financial assistance and a variety of technical and educational assistance to eligible rural and tribal populations, eligible communities, individuals, cooperatives, and other entities with a goal of improving the quality of life, sustainability, infrastructure, economic opportunity, development, and security in rural America. Financial assistance can include direct loans, guaranteed loans, and grants in order to accomplish program objectives."



## **2. Affected Environment**

Addresses the geographical and environmental setting as well as current condition of resources being evaluated, including listed threatened or endangered species, historic properties, archeological resources, sole source aquifers, or waters, etc. with documentation, tables, maps, and other relevant sources.

## **3- 4. Environmental Laws, Executive Orders, Agency Coordination, and Other References**

Throughout any Environmental Assessment, consultation, coordination, and correspondence shall be included from various sources, potentially including but not limited to official correspondence, professional consultation, outside references and sources, list(s) of preparers, existing land use designations, existing policy regulations, local, regional, and state planning agencies or commissions, formally classified lands, tribes, and historical accounts.

## **5. Environmental Consequences and Mitigation**

This element addresses potential impacts to resources, as well as an evaluation of the EA's methodology. Each potential consequence of the project must be individually evaluated with a general conclusion with applicable findings and general statement of significance. If necessary, mitigation may be required which includes an evaluation of context, duration, and intensity of the impacts. Direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts shall be evaluated including beneficial impacts or statements regarding the availability (or lack of) data utilized with the formation of any conclusion. Cumulative Effects Assessments may, depending on the individual project, be required and include scoping, affected environment description, and statement of determination of environmental consequences. Mitigation measures generated through these processes may address environmental consequences and impacts through the avoidance, minimization, rectification, reduction or elimination of impacts, or other various forms of mitigation.



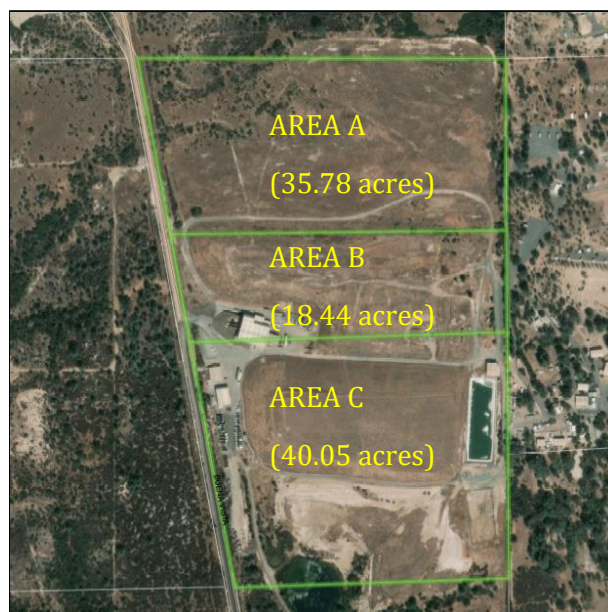
## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### Purpose and Need:

Amador County is responsible for post-closure maintenance of the closed Buena Vista Landfill. This project includes the reconstruction of the final cover on Waste Management Unit 1 (WMU-1), also referred to as the Phase 1 Unit, and expansion of the Class II surface impoundment to provide capacity required by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and replacement of the existing liner in the surface impoundment. The project will be conducted in two phases and is supported by *Attachment A, the Buena Vista Landfill Phase I Waste Management Unit Cover Investigation Report, 6500 Buena Vista Road, Ione, Amador County, California* (October 16, 2019, NV5).

### Phase 1: Final Cover Re-Construction (Areas A and B)

Amador County proposes a reconstruction of the final cover on Waste Management Unit 1 (WMU-1) of the existing Buena Vista Landfill in order to meet the prescriptive standards in CA Title 27. These measures will include a removal of approximately three and a half (3.5) to four (4.0) feet of the existing final cover and a temporary stockpile of soil, to be used for later phases of this project. Reconstruction of a final cover, following prescriptive standards of CA Title 27, will take place in three phases including 1) the construction of a (minimum) two-foot (2ft.) thick foundation layer, 2) a (minimum) one-foot (1ft.) thick low-permeability soil layer, and 3) a new (minimum) one-foot (1ft.) thick vegetative layer, likely including soil amendments to reduce soil susceptibility to desiccation cracking. Following the construction of those three layers, the reconstructed final cover will be hydro-seeded and erosion control will be installed. The existing final cover will consist of the removed and stockpiled soil from the original layer which will be supplemented with additional soil as deemed necessary to complete this project.



### Phase 2: Surface Impoundment Expansion and Liner Replacement (Areas A and C)

Additionally, Amador County will increase the capacity of the existing surface impoundment with the construction of a two and a half (2.5) foot (2.5ft.) soil berm around the existing perimeter of the impoundment, thus raising the sides of the impoundment (i.e., increasing the depth of the impoundment). Phase 2 also addresses potential degraded condition of the existing liner (installed in 1992) by proposing installation of a new liner over the existing liner, extending up the interior sides of the new two-foot (2ft.) soil berm. As part of Phase 2, the existing fence around the impoundment, existing leachate spray evaporation line, and other ancillary equipment and/or facilities will be temporary removed then replaced. Following the installation of the new liner, an electrical leak location survey will be implemented.

### NO Action Alternative- Baseline Alternative

A “no-action alternative” is not a viable option for this project, as the project is necessitated to addresses current environmental impacts which would be potentially significant if no action is taken. The report generated by NV5 states, “the development of vertical desiccation cracks that completely penetrate through the cover soil [of WMU-1] have compromised the ability of the final cover system to act as an effective seal for the purpose of minimizing infiltration of winter storm rain water from entering the underlying waste materials. Therefore, it will be necessary to repair the deep desiccation cracks in order to reestablish the integrity of the final cover system.” Prescriptive



measures proposed through this project address environmental impacts regarding water quality, soils and geology, and hazardous materials release, which would be potentially significant if there were no project or proposed alternative project implemented. As recommended by NV5, short term remediation consisted of ripping [the final cover system] in order to reestablish the integrity of the final cover system (ripping to remove the desiccation cracks, moisture conditioning, and recompacting) which was completed in 2019-2020. The report produced by NV5 discusses long-term repairs in addition to the short-term remediation measures, which would be implemented through this proposed project. Failure to perform long-term remediation (a reduced action alternative) would likely result in eventual need for additional remediation or otherwise introduce potentially significant negative environmental impacts to water quality, soils and geology, and hazardous material release.

### **Project Location**

This project site is located off of the major collector of Buena Vista Road (county-maintained) at 6500 Buena Vista Rd., Ione, CA 95640 approximately 2.5 miles southeast of the City of Ione. The property is entirely in the unincorporated County and located approximately 2,500 ft. northeast of the intersection of Jackson Valley Rd. and Buena Vista Rd., a central hub for the unincorporated community of Buena Vista.

### **Site Characteristics**

The project site extends onto three parcels. The northernmost parcel, identified by APN: 012-040-041 is 35.78 acres. For the purposes of this project, this will be referred to as "Area A." The parcel directly south of Area A, identified by APN: 012-040-042 is 18.44 acres and will be referred to as "Area B." The southernmost parcel identified by APN: 012-040-043 is 40.05 acres and will be referred to as "Area C."

Area A will serve as a storage space for the topsoil (cap) of WMU-1 for Phase 1 of the project. Waste Management Unit (WMU) 1 is located in Area B, and WMUs 2 and 3 are located in Area C. Soil will be removed from Area A to replace the cap on Unit 1 consisting of the soil originally removed from the initial (failing) cap of Unit 1 and supplemental fill from Area A. Phase 2 will increase the capacity of the leachate reservoir/impoundment as described above and replace the liner of the leachate reservoir/impoundment located in the eastern section of Area C, with supplemental soil taken from Area A for the impoundment expansion.

### **Land Use**

The land use will not change as a result of this project. The current land use for this project is a landfill consisting of three closed cells, Waste Management Units 1, 2, and 3 (with Units 2 and 3 combined). The landfill is no longer actively accepting new waste and is closed. There is an active transfer station which will continue to operate throughout this project.

### **Surrounding Land Uses**

Uses of the surrounding properties vary, and include surface mines, industrial and manufacturing uses, agricultural uses, and very low density residences uses. The proposed project is not likely to impact the surrounding land uses, as project will not change the current property use.

### **Access and Transport**

Most proposed transport of materials for this project will take place on the three parcels, and not require additional travel to or from the project site. Soil for Phase 1 and 2 will be drawn from Area A, though additional soil may be necessary to supplement. All traffic will travel to and from the site through the existing encroachment which is already approved for the current level of service.

### **Purpose of the Initial Study**

Amador County (County) is processing an application for the Buena Vista Landfill Phase 1 Final Cover Re-Construction, and Phase 2 Surface Impoundment Expansion & Liner Replacement (project; proposed project),



### **Lead Agency**

The lead agency is the public agency that has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project that may have a significant effect upon the environment. In accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15051(b)(1), "the lead agency will normally be the agency with general governmental powers, such as a city or county, rather than an agency with a single or limited purpose." Amador County is the lead agency for the proposed Buena Vista Landfill Phase 1 Final Cover Re-Construction, and Phase 2 Surface Impoundment Expansion & Liner Replacement Project.

### **PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND SCOPE of Mitigated FONSI/MND/MMRP**

The Environmental Assessment (EA) and Initial Study (IS) will analyze a broad range of potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project. Information will be drawn from the Amador County General Plan, technical information provided by the applicant to date, and any other reputable information pertinent to the project area. This information includes existing Environmental Laws and Executive Orders, Coordination with other agencies and authorities. In the case that no immitigable, significant impacts are identified through the EA/IS, a Mitigated Finding of No Significant Impact (Mitigated FONSI) and Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) will be filed pursuant to CEQA and NEPA requirements. Mitigation measures proposed serve to aid in the avoidance, minimization, rectification, reduction or elimination of impacts.

In the case that through the Environmental Assessment/Initial Study, it is determined that there will be significant, immitigable impacts, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) may be required prior to project approval. Consistent with CEQA, NEPA, and the requirements of Amador County, each environmental chapter will include an introduction, technical approach, environmental setting, regulatory setting, standards of significance, identification of environmental impacts, the development of mitigation measures and monitoring strategies, cumulative impacts and mitigation measures, and level of significance after mitigation measures.



**Legend**

- Ione
- Buena Vista Landfill- Project Site

**Buena Vista Landfill**  
6500 Buena Vista Rd.  
Ione, Amador County, California

**Context Map**

Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, GEBCO, NOAA, National Geographic, Garmin, HERE, Geonames.org, and other contributors  
Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, Invenient P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, Geobase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri, Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Swisstopo, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community  
Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA/NGDC, and other contributors



Figure B: Site Map- Aerial Context





Figure C: Site Map- Aerial





*Figure D: Site Map- Aerial Class II Surface Impoundment*





Figure E: Project Site Overview

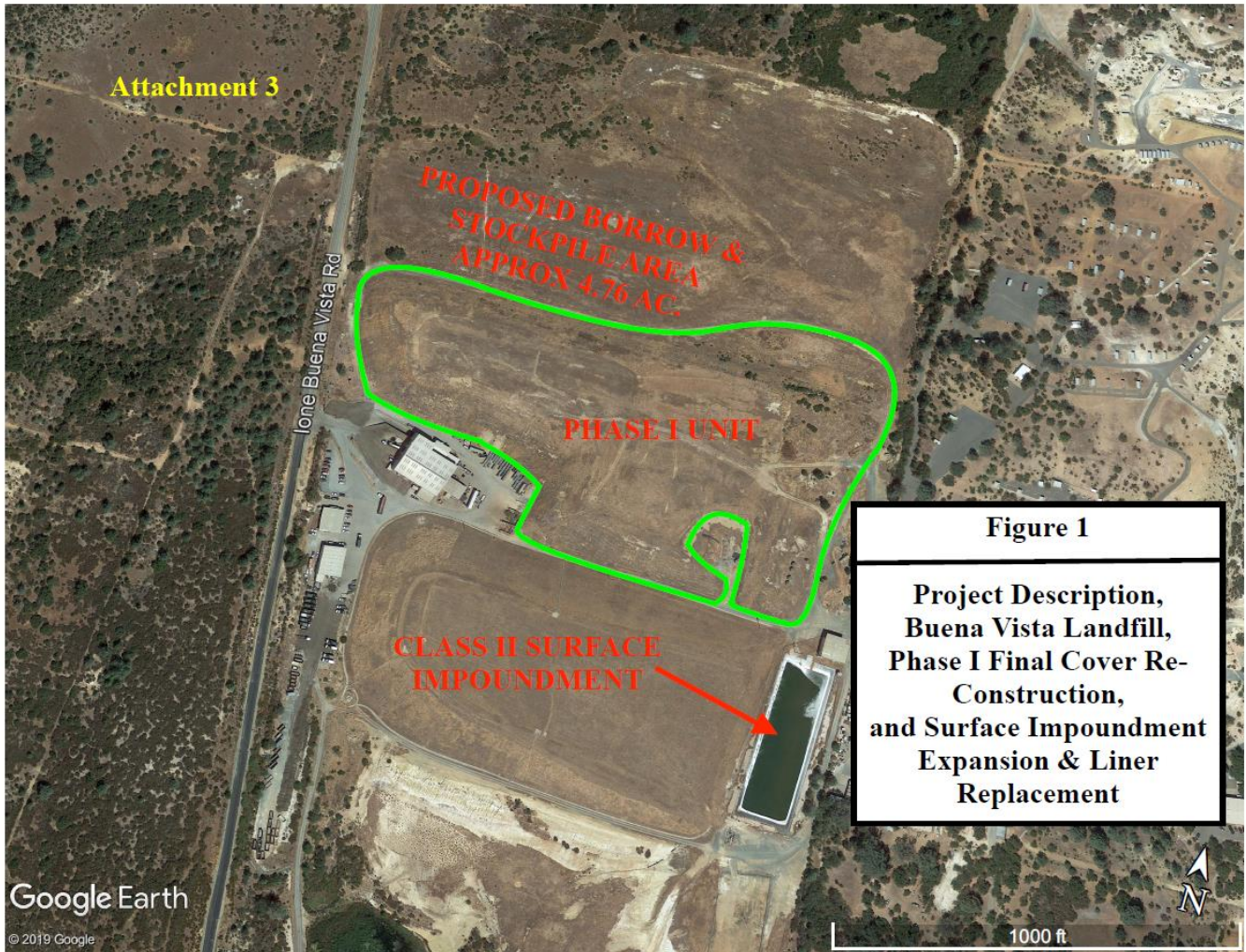




Figure F: Zoning Designation

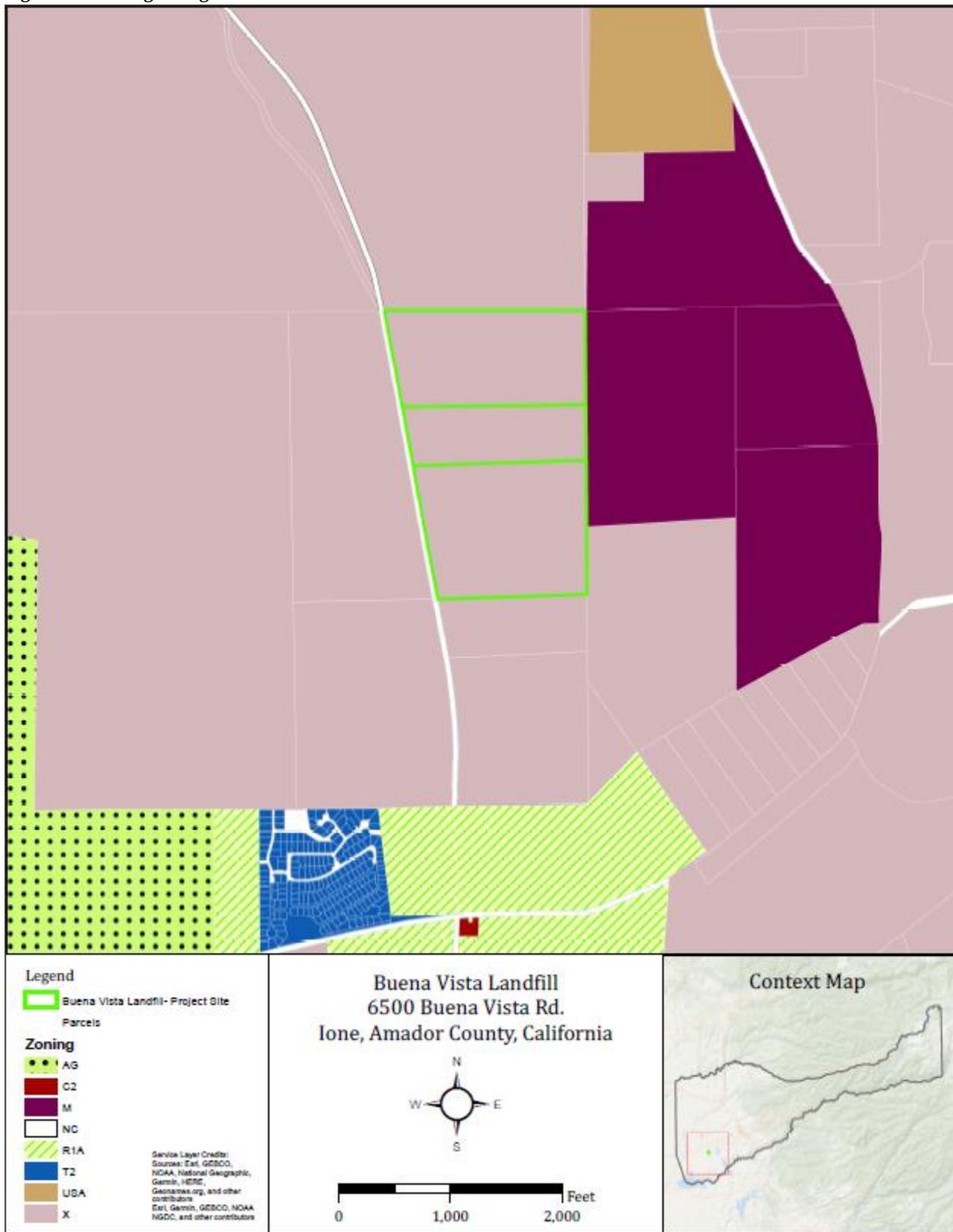
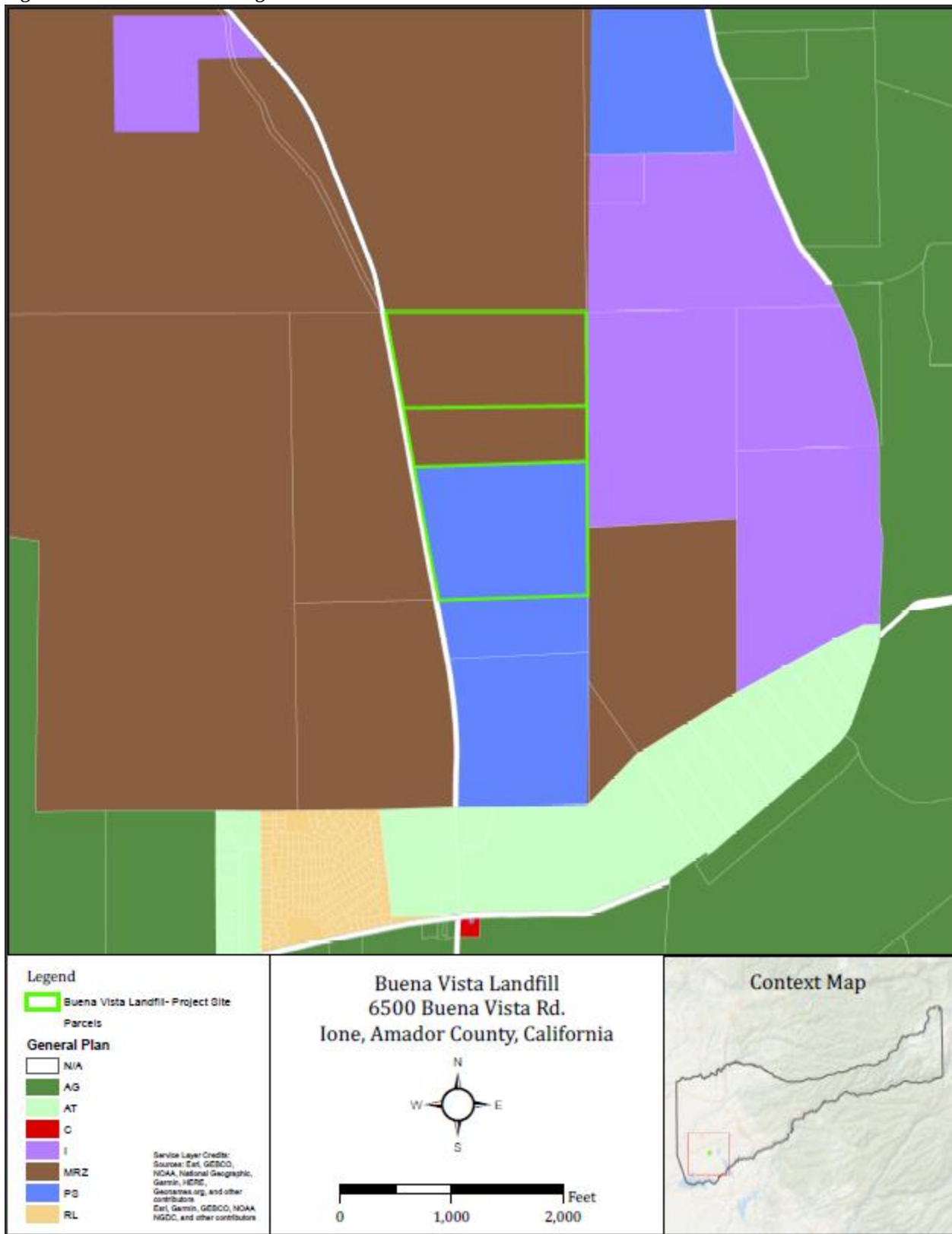




Figure G: General Plan Designation





## Chapter 1. AESTHETICS

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) In nonurbanized 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). Would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

- A. Scenic Vistas: 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. A substantial adverse impact to a scenic vista would be one that degrades the view from such a designated location. No governmentally designated scenic vista has been identified within the project area. In addition, no specific scenic view spot has been identified in the project area. Therefore, there is **no impact**.
- B. Scenic Highways: The nearest scenic highway is Highway 88 east of the Dew Drop Ranger Station to the Alpine County Line as designated by Caltrans and the Amador County General Plan. The project is not located within the section of Highway 88 designated as a scenic highway or affected by the County's scenic highway overlay district. There is **no impact**.
- C. There are no officially designated scenic vistas in the project area, and it is unlikely that short-range views would be significantly affected by this project. This project is not foreseen to cause any significant change in the aesthetic quality of the property. Any construction-phase aesthetic changes of the property consisting of additional construction equipment, removal of materials, establishment of equipment or material holding areas, and other physical changes of the landscape relating to the temporary construction activities will also be nonpermanent. The replacement of the existing cap with a new cap would not significantly affect views or landscape characters of the project. The existing vegetation on the existing cap will be replaced as part of this project. Due to existing topography of the land, the additional height added to the existing impoundment in Area C would not introduce substantial changes in view from the nearby roadways or property lines. There is **a less than significant impact**.
- D. Any additional lighting proposed with this project would be temporary. Potential additional temporary lighting could consist of construction lighting, hazard lighting, security lighting, or directional/traffic lighting. These light



sources would be only during the construction phase of this project and removed afterwards. **Mitigation Measure AES-1** and **AES-2** addresses temporary construction lighting associated with this project, and proposes Best-Management-Practices (BMPs) to limit glare and prevent hazardous lighting. The impacts are **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

**Mitigation Measure:**

**AES-1** Any installed lighting accompanying the proposed use and development must comply with General Plan Mitigation Measure 4.1-4:

“To reduce impacts associated with light and glare, the County will require that new projects be conditioned to incorporate measures to reduce light and reflectance to the maximum extent practicable. Conditions may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Exterior building materials on nonresidential structures shall be composed of a minimum 50% low reflectance, non-polished finishes.
- Bare metallic surfaces (e.g., pipes, vents, light fixtures) shall be painted or etched to minimize reflectance.
- Require public lighting in commercial, industrial, and residential areas to be of a type(s) that are shielded and downward directed, utilizing light sources that are the best available technology for eliminating light bleed and reflectance into surrounding areas to the maximum extent possible.
- Prohibit light fixtures that are of unusually high intensity or brightness or that blink or flash.
- Use automatic shutoffs or motion sensors for lighting features to further reduce excess nighttime light. “

**AES-2** Any security lighting for the ground facilities shall be shielded and directed in such a manner so as not to direct light onto neighboring properties/buildings/roadways. In an effort to minimize light pollution, all non-emergency lighting must be turned off by 11:00 p.m.

**Source:** Amador County Planning Department, Amador County General Plan and Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR).



## Chapter 2. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES

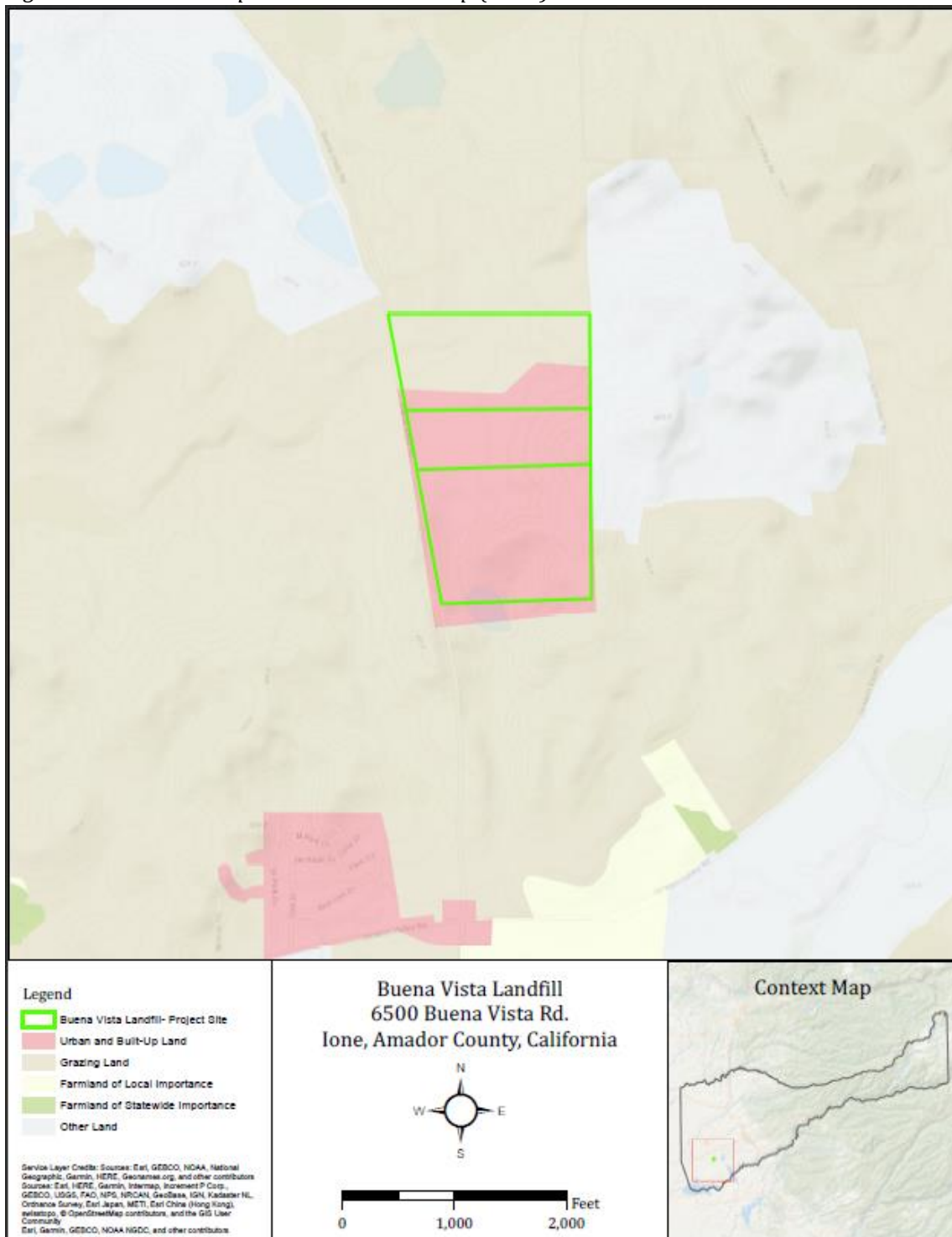
In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the CA Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. – Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 CA Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in PRC §12220(g)), timberland (as defined in PRC §4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code § 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

**A-E** There is no significant impact to farmland or forest land through this project. According to the California USDA Important Farmland Map (2016) (See Figure 2a), all affected areas of this project are classified as Urban and Built-up Land and/or grazing land. There is no important farmland in immediate vicinity of this project or which would be significantly impacted by this project. There is **no impact**.



Figure 2a: CA USDA Important Farmland Map (2016)



**Source:** California Important Farmland: 1984-2016 Map, California Department of Conservation; Amador County General Plan; Amador County Planning Department; CA Public Resources Code.



## Chapter 3. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard, result in substantial increase of any criteria pollutant, or substantially contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation under an applicable local, federal, or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in other emissions (example: Odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:**

- A. The project site is within the jurisdiction of the Amador Air District. Any construction or emissions would not be in excess of existing standards established through the County's air quality guidelines, consistent with **Mitigation Measure AIR-1**, which references the Amador County General Plan Mitigation Measure 4.3: Air Quality Standards, and applicable state-established standards. Amador Air District is responsible for attaining and maintaining compliance with the NAAQS and CAAQS in the Mountain Counties Air Basin (MCAB) through the regulation of pollution emissions from stationary and industrial sources. The emissions due to the increased construction traffic would not cause substantial increase over current traffic. The increases would also be temporary in nature as once the work is completed emissions would return to the levels prior to the project's implementation. Regarding emissions, there is a **no impact** to implementation of any applicable air quality plans.
- B. The proposed project would not generate an increase in operational or long-term emissions. The existing development climate of the area is a combination of industrial, agricultural, and residential uses. The current use of the property is for an existing landfill and solid waste transfer station, which will not change through this proposed project. The project will not introduce any high-intensity uses or uses beyond what is allowed by the Public Services use of the parcel. This project would not violate any air quality standards and or contribute to the net increase of PM10 or ozone in the region, as any additional emissions would comply under the regulations of the Amador Air District and California Air Resources Board (CARB). **Mitigation Measure AIR-1** consists of implementation of BMPs during construction and is consistent with the General Plan. There is a **less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated** relative to air quality standards.
- C. Sensitive receptors are uses that have an increased sensitivity to air pollution or environmental contaminants. Sensitive receptor locations include schools, parks and playgrounds, day care centers, nursing homes, hospitals, and residential dwelling units. The nearest incorporated city is Ione, located approximately two-and a half (2.5) miles to the north. The project is approximately 2,000 ft. from the intersection of Buena Vista Rd. and Jackson Valley Rd., a central element of the unincorporated community of Buena Vista. The area is characterized by scattered residences with occasional manufacturing/industrial uses. Though there are sensitive receptors a short



distance from the project site, the project itself does not introduce any significant increases of air pollution or environmental contaminants which would affect the surrounding populations. Buena Vista Road and Jackson Valley Road are classified as Major Collectors (with portions of Jackson Valley Rd. classified as a minor collector, as well) therefore the increased construction traffic would have negligible impacts as far as the increase of emissions from associated transportation along those roads. For these reasons, there would be no significant increase the exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations with the implementation of **Mitigation Measure AIR-1**. Additional Mitigations regarding Air Quality and GHG Emissions are included in **Mitigation Measures GHG-1** and **GHG-2** in Chapter 8 of this Initial Study. There is **a less than significant impact with mitigations incorporated**.

- D. The proposed project consists of a slight expansion of uses on a property already utilized for Public Service uses (landfill and transfer station). This would not generate any significantly objectionable odors beyond that which is permitted under the existing uses and this project would not introduce an increase of objectionable odors discernable at property boundaries. The current use of the transfer station at the property already includes release and production of odors, and therefore this additional project results in **a less than significant impact**.

**Mitigation Measures:**

**AIR-1** Air District's Rules and Regulations will be observed through the course of this project, including:

- Rule 202 regarding Visible emissions;
- Rule 205 regarding Nuisance;
- Rule 207 regarding Particulate Matter;
- Rule 210 regarding Specific Contaminants including sulfur compounds and combustion contaminants;
- Rule 218 regarding Fugitive Dust Emissions;
- Regulation IV- Authority to Construct, and;
- Regulation V- Permit to Operate.
- Regulation X – Landfill Gas

**Source:** Amador Air District, Amador County Planning Department, Amador County General Plan Mitigation Measure 4.3.



## Chapter 4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 CA Dept. of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the CA Dept. of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:**

- A. The Information for Planning and Consultation (IPAC) database provided through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was reviewed to determine if any special status animal species or habitats occur on the project site or in the project area. The report generated specific to this project site is included as Appendix B. The National Marine Fisheries Service Habitat Conservation Map from NOAA did not identify any Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC) nor EFH Protected Areas within the project area. The Marine Fish and Wildlife Bios did not identify any State Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Areas of Special Biological Significance. CDFW Bios does not identify California Essential Habitat Connectivity (CEHC) "Natural Landscape Blocks" areas in the project area however there are mapped CEHC "Natural Areas Small" in portions of the project site. There is also mapped NSNF Wildlife linkage area in the project site with connectivity rank 4 and CDFW Areas of Conservation



Emphasis (ACE) terrestrial connectivity rank 1: “limited connectivity opportunity.” CDFW IPAC database identified potential habitat area for one (1) endangered species, Ione (including Irish Hill) Buckwheat (*Eriogonum apricum* (including var. *prostratum*)) as well as six (6) listed threatened species, the California Red-legged Frog (*Rana draytonii*), California Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*), Delta Smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*), Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*), Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), and Ione Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos myrtifolia*) the following of which have identified final critical habitats according to the Federal Register: *r. draytonii*: March, 2010, a. *californiense*: August, 2005; *h. transpacificus*: December, 1994; *d. californicus dimorphus*: August, 1980 : *b. lynchi*: February, 2006; *a. myrtifolia*. As the entire project site is determined to be previously disturbed and no endangered species were determined to be present in the project site, it is very unlikely that these species would be located on the property and thus affected by this project. Though there is a relatively high existing level of development of the site, **Mitigation Measures BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-3, and BIO-4** are required in order to ensure that impacts are **less than significant with mitigations incorporated**. In the case that any of these species are found on the project site, the proper authorities shall be notified and all construction and/or ground disturbing activity halted so that additional mitigation measures may be prescribed.

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants identified eight (8) plants found in Quad 038120c8(3812038, Ione) where the property is located. These plants are shown in Figure 5a, below. CNDDDB Bios- NLCD Land Cover (2011) identified areas of Herbaceous, Shrub/Scrub, and Developed (Open Space, Low, and Medium Intensity) land cover classifications within the project area. Additionally, CNDDDB Bios identified additional possible species in the quad where the project is located, referenced by Figure 5c. As the proposed project would not significantly impact these species due to the existing levels of site disturbance due to the ongoing uses, there is **a less than significant impact with mitigations incorporated**.

- B. Riverine Community: CDFW IPAC and the US Fish and Wildlife National Wetlands mapper identified areas of R4SBC (Riverine/Intermittent/Streambed/Seasonally Flooded) areas in the project site. CA Fish and Wildlife may require that the project proponents obtain a 404 Streambed Alteration Permit or other forms of permitting in order to comply with the State Clean Water Act or other State/Federal statutes and regulation. Additionally, due to the mapped riverine community within areas proposed for ground disturbance, **Mitigation Measures BIO-5 and BIO-6** are required to render impacts **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.
- C. Federally Protected Wetlands: The project site includes Freshwater pond areas of PUBHh (Palustrine/Unconsolidated Bottom/Permanently Flooded/Diked/Impounded) and PABFx (Palustrine/Aquatic Bed/Semipermanently Flooded/Excavated classifications according to IPAC and the National Wetlands Mapper. Any part of this project which would affect these areas would potentially be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act or other State/Federal statutes, according to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (IPAC, BIOS). **Mitigation Measures BIO-5 and BIO-6** are required to render impacts **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.
- D. Movement of Fish and Wildlife: The following migratory bird species could have potential habitat areas in the project site as identified by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (IPAC). \*Note\* “BCC”- Birds of Conservation Concern, “BCR”- only listed BCC in Bird Conservation Regions.



Figure 4a: Migratory Birds List (IPAC 2020)

Species Name	Common Name	Birds of Conservation Concern Listed	Other Conservation List
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle	Non-BCC Vulnerable	Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
<i>Toxostoma redivivum</i>	California Thrasher	BCC Rangewide (CON)	
<i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i>	Clark's Grebe	BCC Rangewide (CON)	
<i>Geothlypis trichas sinuosa</i>	Common Yellowthroat	BCC-BCR	
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden Eagle	Non-BCC Vulnerable	Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
<i>Carduelis lawrencei</i>	Lawrence's Goldfinch	BCC Rangewide (CON)	
<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>	Lewis's Nutcracker	BCC Rangewide (CON)	
<i>Picoides nuttalli</i>	Nuttall's Woodpecker	BCC-BCR	
<i>Baeolophus inornatus</i>	Oak Titmouse	BCC Rangewide (CON)	
<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>	Rufous Hummingbird	BCC Rangewide (CON)	
<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Song Sparrow	BCC-BCR	
<i>Pipilo maculatus clementae</i>	Spotted Towhee	BCC-BCR	
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	Tricolored Blackbird	BCC Rangewide (CON)	
<i>Chamaea fasciata</i>	Wrentit	BCC Rangewide (CON)	
<i>Pica nuttalli</i>	Yellow-billed Magpie	BCC Rangewide (CON)	

In addition to the abovementioned Migratory Bird species, **Delta Smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*)** is an anadromous pelagic fish which migrates from the San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Bay estuaries upstream to spawn seasonally. There is no mapped habitat for Delta Smelt in the project location. In the event that any of the aforementioned species are found within the project site, the proper authorities shall be notified and all construction and/or ground disturbing activity halted so that additional mitigation measures may be prescribed. **Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-2** required to render impacts **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

- E. The proposed project would not conflict with local policies adopted for the protection biological resources. **No impact** would occur.
- F. Amador County does not have an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plans. **No impact** would result.

#### Mitigation Measures:

- BIO-1 Special-Status Species – Animals-** Special-status animal species should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. If complete avoidance is infeasible, project impacts will need to be quantified and mitigation developed to reduce the impacts to a less-than-significant level. Mitigation may include preservation and enhancement of on and/or off-site populations, transplanting individuals to a preservation area, or other actions, subject to the approval of CDFW, USFWS, or CNPS.
- BIO-2 Ground Disturbance Timing for Nesting Birds.** To avoid impacts to nesting bird species or birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, all ground disturbing activities conducted between **February 1 and September 1** must be preceded by a pre-construction survey for active nests, to be conducted by a qualified biologist. This survey should be conducted within two weeks prior to any construction activities. The purpose



of this survey is to determine the presence or absence of nests in an area to be potentially disturbed. If nests are found, a buffer depending upon the species and as determined by a qualified biologist **in consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and** shall be demarcated with bright orange construction fencing. Any vegetation clearing should be schedule outside of the avian nesting season (February 1 through August 31) or survey should be conducted immediately prior to vegetation removal. If active nests are found, vegetation removal should be delayed until the young fledge. No ground disturbing or other construction activities shall occur within this buffer until the County-approved biologist has confirmed that breeding/nesting is completed and the young have fledged the nest. **Nesting bird surveys are not required for ground disturbing activities occurring between September 2 and January 31.**

- BIO-3 Special-Status Species – Plants-** Special-status plant populations should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. If complete avoidance is infeasible, project impacts will need to be quantified and mitigation developed to reduce the impacts to a less-than-significant level. Mitigation may include preservation and enhancement of on and/or off-site populations, transplanting individual plants to preservation area, or other actions, subject to the approval of CDFW, USFWS, or CNPS.
- BIO-4 Plant Survey-** Prior to any construction activity, a biological and/or rare plant survey shall be conducted to determine if there are any special-status plants within the project area and which may potentially be disturbed. Surveys shall be timed according to the blooming period for the target species, and known reference populations will be visited prior to surveys to confirm the species is blooming where known to occur. If special-status species are identified, avoidance zones may be established around plant populations to clearly demarcate areas for avoidance. Avoidance measures and buffer distances may vary between species, and the specific avoidance zone distance will be determined in coordination with the appropriate resource agencies. For individual specimens, highly visible temporary construction fencing shall be placed at least 10 ft. away from the drip line of the plant. No construction activity or grading would be permitted within the buffer zone. Where avoidance is infeasible, and the plant subject to removal or potential damage from construction, the project applicant shall develop and implement a mitigation plan pursuant to State and Federal regulation. The mitigation plan shall provide for no net loss of habitat and shall include, but is not limited to, relocation of the affected plants, replanting, and monitoring of relocated and planted specimens.
- BIO-5 Riparian and Wetland Conservation.** Complete avoidance of wetlands is conservatively recommended to ensure compliance with wetland laws. Site development shall implement erosion control plans, and best management practices (BMPs) that prevent the discharge of sediment into nearby drainage channels and wetlands. To the extent feasible, any intermittent creeks within the project vicinity shall be preserved, with a 50-foot buffer, limited to construction on either side of the creek. This buffer should be 50 feet in width on each side of the creek as measured from the edge of US Army Corps of Engineers jurisdiction. This mitigation measure shall not apply where it conflicts with hazardous site remediation required by orders from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. If complete avoidance of potential jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. or wetlands is not practicable, a wetland delineation should be prepared and submitted to USACE for verification in order to determine the jurisdictional or non-jurisdictional nature of the seasonal wetlands and man-made drainage ditch. If jurisdictional areas will be impacted, wetland permits/and or certification should be obtained from USACE, CDFW, and the RWQCB prior to placement of any fill (e.g., a culvert, fill slope, rock) within potential Waters of the U.S.
- BIO-6 Grading and Runoff-** Site development shall demonstrate compliance with Amador County's grading ordinance. Site development shall demonstrate compliance with National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits administered by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).



Figure 4b: California Native Plant Society Database Query  
**Plant List**

8 matches found. Click on scientific name for details

Search Criteria
Found in <b>Amador County</b> , Found in Quad <b>3812038</b>

[Modify Search Criteria](#)
[Export to Excel](#)
[Modify Columns](#)
[Modify Sort](#)
[Display Photos](#)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family	Lifeform	Blooming Period	CA Rare Plant Rank	State Rank	Global Rank
<a href="#">Arctostaphylos myrtifolia</a>	lone manzanita	Ericaceae	perennial evergreen shrub	Nov-Mar	1B.2	S1	G1
<a href="#">Crocanthemum suffrutescens</a>	Bisbee Peak rush-rose	Cistaceae	perennial evergreen shrub	Apr-Aug	3.2	S2?	G2?Q
<a href="#">Eriogonum apricum var. apricum</a>	lone buckwheat	Polygonaceae	perennial herb	Jul-Oct	1B.1	S1	G2T1
<a href="#">Eryngium jepsonii</a>	Jepson's coyote thistle	Apiaceae	perennial herb	Apr-Aug	1B.2	S2?	G2?
<a href="#">Eryngium pinnatisectum</a>	Tuolumne button-celery	Apiaceae	annual / perennial herb	May-Aug	1B.2	S2	G2
<a href="#">Erythranthe marmorata</a>	Stanislaus monkeyflower	Phrymaceae	annual herb	Mar-May	1B.1	SX	GXQ
<a href="#">Horkelia parryi</a>	Parry's horkelia	Rosaceae	perennial herb	Apr-Sep	1B.2	S2	G2
<a href="#">Navarretia myersii ssp. myersii</a>	pincushion navarretia	Polemoniaceae	annual herb	Apr-May	1B.1	S2	G2T2

**Suggested Citation**

California Native Plant Society, Rare Plant Program. 2020. Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (online edition, v8-03 0.39). Website <http://www.rareplants.cnps.org> [accessed 12 May 2020].



Figure 4c: US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wetlands Inventory

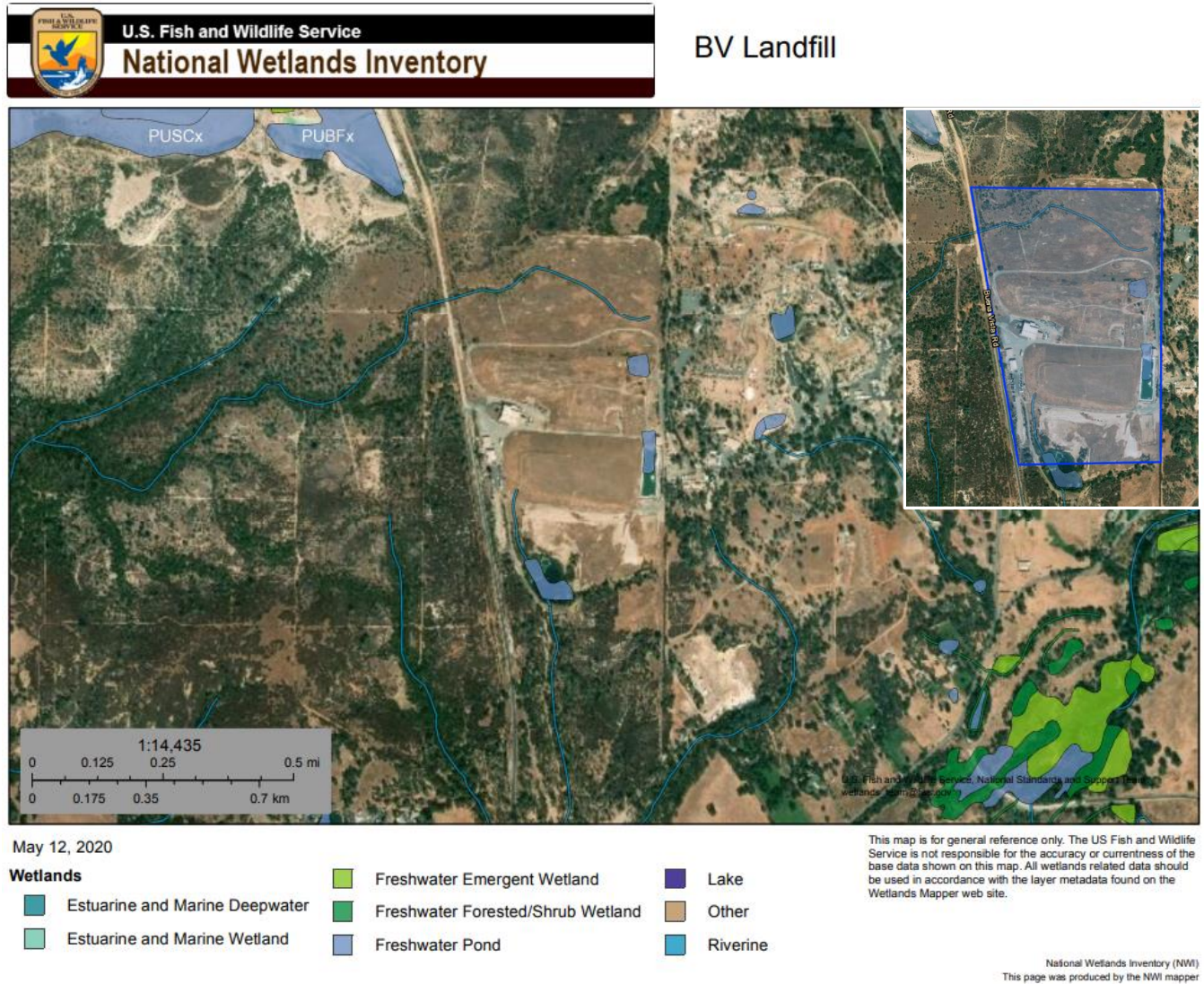




Figure 4d: CNDDDB BIOS Species List

CNDDDB Quad Species List 10 records.

Element Type	Scientific Name	Common Name	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	CDFW Status	CA Rare Plant Rank	Quad Code	Quad Name	Data Status	Taxonomic Sort
Animals - Amphibians	<i>Rana boylei</i>	foothill yellow-legged frog	AAABH01050	None	Candidate Threatened	SSC	-	3812057	FIDDLETOWN	Mapped	Animals - Amphibians - Ranidae - <i>Rana boylei</i>
Animals - Amphibians	<i>Rana draytonii</i>	California red-legged frog	AAABH01022	Threatened	None	SSC	-	3812057	FIDDLETOWN	Mapped	Animals - Amphibians - Ranidae - <i>Rana draytonii</i>
Animals - Insects	<i>Cosumnoperla hypocrena</i>	Cosumnes stripetail	IIPLE23020	None	None	-	-	3812057	FIDDLETOWN	Mapped	Animals - Insects - Perlodidae - <i>Cosumnoperla hypocrena</i>
Animals - Reptiles	<i>Emys marmorata</i>	western pond turtle	ARAAD02030	None	None	SSC	-	3812057	FIDDLETOWN	Mapped	Animals - Reptiles - Emydidae - <i>Emys marmorata</i>
Community - Aquatic	Central Valley Drainage Hardhead/Squawfish Stream	Central Valley Drainage Hardhead/Squawfish Stream	CARA2443CA	None	None	-	-	3812057	FIDDLETOWN	Mapped	Community - Aquatic - Central Valley Drainage Hardhead/Squawfish Stream
Plants - Vascular	<i>Claytonia parviflora</i> ssp. <i>grandiflora</i>	streambank spring beauty	PDPOR030D1	None	None	-	4.2	3812057	FIDDLETOWN	Unprocessed	Plants - Vascular - Montiaceae - <i>Claytonia parviflora</i> ssp. <i>grandiflora</i>
Plants - Vascular	<i>Clarkia biloba</i> ssp. <i>brandegeae</i>	Brandegee's clarkia	PDONA05053	None	None	-	4.2	3812057	FIDDLETOWN	Mapped and Unprocessed	Plants - Vascular - Onagraceae - <i>Clarkia biloba</i> ssp. <i>brandegeae</i>
Plants - Vascular	<i>Eriogonum tripodum</i>	tripod buckwheat	PDPGN085Y0	None	None	-	4.2	3812057	FIDDLETOWN	Unprocessed	Plants - Vascular - Polygonaceae - <i>Eriogonum tripodum</i>
Plants - Vascular	<i>Primula pauciflora</i>	beautiful shootingstar	PDPRI030D0	None	None	-	4.2	3812057	FIDDLETOWN	Unprocessed	Plants - Vascular - Primulaceae - <i>Primula pauciflora</i>
Plants - Vascular	<i>Jepsonia heterandra</i>	foothill jepsonia	PDSAX0J010	None	None	-	4.3	3812057	FIDDLETOWN	Unprocessed	Plants - Vascular - Saxifragaceae - <i>Jepsonia heterandra</i>

**Source:** California Department of Fish and Wildlife BIOS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service IPAC, California Native Plant Society (CNPS) California Department of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Planning, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, NOAA, National Wetlands Inventory, Amador County Planning Department,



## Chapter 5. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

(A.)(B.)(C.)(D.)

Cultural resources include prehistoric and historic period archaeological sites; historical features, such as rock walls, water ditches and flumes, and cemeteries; and architectural features. Cultural resources consist of any human-made site, object (i.e., artifact), or feature that defines and illuminates our past. Prehistoric resources sites are found in foothill areas, areas with high bluffs, rock outcroppings, areas overlooking deer migratory corridors, or above bodies of water. Grading and other soil disturbance activities of previously undisturbed land on the project site have the potential to uncover historic or prehistoric cultural resources. As the site is previously disturbed, it is unlikely that any grading or construction activity would encroach into previously undisturbed land. In the case that any ground disturbing or construction activity is proposed in the future which does encroach onto any previously undisturbed land, additional environmental review would be necessary including but not limited to requiring the developer to halt construction upon the discovery of as-yet undiscovered significant prehistoric sites, documenting and/or avoiding these resources, informing the County Planning Department, and consultation with a professional archeologist.

Discretionary permits for projects “that could have significant adverse impacts to prehistoric or historic-era archeological resources” in areas designated by the Amador County General Plan as being moderate-to-high cultural resource sensitivity are required to have a Cultural Resource Study prepared prior to project approval, per Mitigation Measures 4.5-1a, 4.5-1b, and 4.5-2 of the Amador County Implementation Plan. Though the project site is located in an area of high cultural resource sensitivity, the project site is previously disturbed and highly developed with the existing uses, therefore there is no required Cultural Resource Study for this project. If any cultural resources are identified over the course of this project, project applicant and/or property owner must contact the applicable authority and additional mitigations maybe required. There is **a less than significant impact** to cultural resources.

### Mitigation Measures

**CULTR-1** During ground-disturbing activity, if paleontological, historic or pre-historic resources such as chipped or ground stone, fossil-bearing rock, large quantities of shell, historic debris, building foundations, or human bone are inadvertently discovered, the operator/permittee shall immediately cease all such activities within 100 feet of the find and notify the applicable agency. A qualified archaeologist shall be



contracted by the operator/permittee to assess the significance of the find and prepare an evaluation, avoidance or mitigation plan, as appropriate, which shall be implemented before resuming ground disturbing activities.

**CULTR-2** Immediately cease any disturbance of the area where such suspected remains are discovered and any nearby areas reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains until the Amador County Coroner is Amador County General Plan FEIR AECOM County of Amador 4.5-15 Cultural Resources contacted, per Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code,. The coroner shall, within two working days:

Determine if an investigation of cause of death is required;

1. Determine if the remains are most likely that of Native American origin, and if so suspected, the coroner shall notify the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) within 24 hours of making his or her determination.
2. The descendants of the deceased Native Americans shall make a recommendation to the operator/ permittee for the means of handling the remains and any associated grave goods as provided in Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5097.98.
3. The NAHC shall immediately notify those persons it believes to be most likely descended from the deceased Native American.
4. The descendants may, with the permission of the landowner or their representative, inspect the site of the discovered Native American remains and may recommend possible treatment or disposition within 24 hours of their notification.
5. Whenever the NAHC is unable to identify a descendent, or the descendent identified fails to make a recommendation, or the landowner or his or her authorized representative rejects the recommendation of the descendent and the mediation provided for in subdivision (k) of PRC Section 5097.94 fails to provide measures acceptable to the landowner, the landowner or his or her authorized representative shall reinter the human remains and items associated with Native American burials with appropriate dignity on the property in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance.

**Source:** Amador County Planning Department, Amador County General Plan Environmental Impact Report, Amador County Implementation Plan 2016, California Health and Safety Code, California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), CA Office of Historic Preservation.



## Chapter 6. ENERGY

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:**

- A. Any related construction and operation of the project would follow industry standard best management practices to reduce impact of energy waste. The project is will temporarily introduce an increase in construction-related energy use, but would not result in significant environmental impact due to energy resource management. There is no long-term project construction or long-term operational changes resulting in substantial energy use, therefore there is **a less than significant impact**.
- B. The only local energy plan is the Energy Action Plan (EAP) which provides incentives for homeowners and business owners to invest in higher-efficiency energy services. The project would not conflict with or obstruct any state or local plan for energy management, therefore there is **no impact**.

**Sources:** Amador County EAP, Amador County Planning Department.



## Chapter 7. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, 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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geological 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique geological site or feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:**

- Ai. The project site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone and no active faults are located on or adjacent to the property, as identified by the U.S. Geologic Survey mapping system. Therefore, **no impact** would occur.



- Ai-iv The State Geologist has determined there are no known sufficiently active or well-defined faults or areas subject to strong ground shaking, liquefaction, landslides, or other ground failure in Amador County as to constitute a potential hazard to structures from surface faulting or fault creep. The project location has not been evaluated for liquefaction hazards or seismic landslide hazards by the California Geological Survey. There is **no impact**.
- B. According to the project location as mapped in *Figure 8* by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS, 2017), the property where the project is located is characterized by 89.6 acres of Sedimentary rock land and 2.6 acres of Red Bluff-Mokelumne complex with 5-16% slopes. Additionally, 0.2 acres of water is located on the property as shown by *Figure 5b*. **Attachment A** provides more detailed information of the existing soil types. According to the USDA Soil Survey, the Project's soil association is part of the Pentz-Pardee association, defined by "very shallow to moderately deep soils in material from rhyolitic tuff, gravelly alluvium, marine clay, sandstone, and volcanic conglomerate.
- Grading Permits are required for any earthmoving of 50 or more cubic yards, and are reviewed and approved by the County in accordance with Ordinance 1619 (County Code 15.40) with conditions/requirements applied to minimize potential erosion. As the grading and construction with this project is according to development standards as determined by the Amador County Community Development Agency and Building Department (and included as **Mitigation Measure GEO-1**), there is **a less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated**.
- C Slopes most susceptible to earthquake-induced failure include those with highly weathered and unconsolidated materials on moderately steep slopes (especially in areas of previously existing landslides). The actuators of landslides can be both natural events, such as earthquakes, rainfall, and erosion, and human activities. Those induced by man are most commonly related to large grading activities that can potentially cause new slides or reactivate old ones when compacted fill is placed on potentially unstable slopes. Conditions to be considered in regard to slope instability include slope inclination, characteristics of the soil materials, the presence of groundwater and degree of soil saturation. This project will not impact the stability of existing geological units or soil, nor impact potential landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse. The required issuance of a grading permit and tests required through **Mitigation Measure GEO-1** will address the geological stability of the site and therefore at this time, there is **a less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated**, of this project on the aforementioned conditions.
- D. Expansive or collapsible soils are characterized by the ability to undergo significant volume change (shrink and swell) as a result of variation in soil moisture content. Soil moisture content can change due to many factors, including perched groundwater, landscape irrigation, rainfall, and utility leakage. The EI is used to measure a basic index property of soil; therefore, the EI is comparable to other indices, such as the liquid limit, shrinkage index, free swell percentage, and plasticity index of soils. Expansive soils are commonly very fine-grained with a high to very high percentage of two to one clays. As there are no structures proposed through this project, it is unlikely that even if expansive soils are found at the project site, that there would be impacts detrimental to the project, property, or current uses. As indicated in the Geotechnical tests conducted by NV5 and included as **Appendix A**, the test pits drilled in Area B had low to medium liquid limits and plasticity indexes. Mitigation Measure GEO-1 requires additional geotechnical/soil testing of the area in Area A where additional soil shall be drawn from to supplement soil from Area B. Tests will determine whether the soil from Area A has a low expansion potential (Expansion Index [EI] less than 50) as defined by the California Building Code Table 18-I-B. With the implementation of **Mitigation Measure GEO-1**, there is **a less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated**.
- E. No additional wastewater service would be required for this project. Wastewater produced through this project shall be monitored, and **Mitigation Measure GEO-2** ensures that wastewater produced through this project shall be disposed of. **The impact is less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.



- F. The proposed project and its operation would not destroy or greatly impact any known unique geological site or feature. The project site is previously disturbed with the majority of the site occupied by developed land. There is a **less than significant impact**.

**Mitigation Measure:**

**GEO-1 Grading Permits** shall be required for all earthmoving activities in excess of 50 cubic yards, certified through the Amador County Building Department. Prior to usage of soil taken from Area A of the project site (not included in the geotechnical study conducted by NV5 (Attachment XXXX, Buena Vista Landfill Phase 1 Waste Management Unit Cover Investigation Report, October, 2019), a soil study shall be performed by a qualified geotechnical engineer, or certified engineering geologist, to determine the composition and characteristics of the soil from Area A, used to amend the replaced cap. If the replacement soil is found insufficient or with an Expansion Index (EI) that is not suitable for the proposed use as landfill final cover, or is otherwise potentially unsuitable, additional soil sources may be necessary.

**GEO-2** Prior to activation of the Use Permit the applicant must submit a certification by a qualified consultant stating that the on-site sewage system has been completed and is sufficient to serve the intended use. For the duration of construction activity, chemical toilets shall be required at the capacity necessary to accommodate workers and other project-related personnel frequenting the project site.

*Figure 7a: Soil Map Unit Legend*

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
RbD	Red Bluff-Mokelumne complex, 5 to 16 percent slopes	2.6	2.8%
Sa	Sedimentary rock land	89.6	97.0%
W	Water	0.2	0.2%
Totals for Area of Interest		92.3	100.0%



Figure 7b: Soil Map Legend

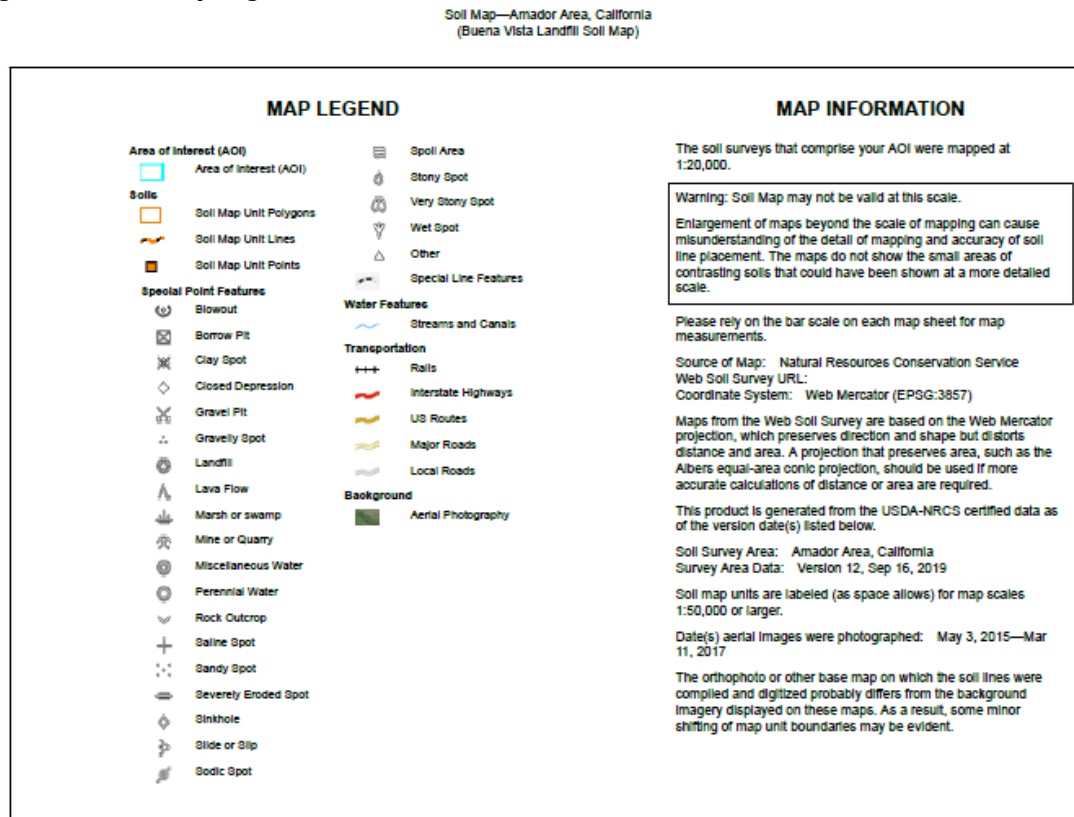




Figure 7c: Soil Map



**Sources:** Soil Survey-Amador County; Amador County Planning Department, Environmental Health Department, National Cooperative Soil Survey, Amador County General Plan EIR, California Geologic Survey; Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones Maps.



## Chapter 8. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:**

- A. This project is not anticipated to generate substantial increase in emissions. Construction activities would cause a temporary increase in emissions but no other emissions would be associated with the operation of the proposed project. **Mitigation Measure GHG-1 and GHG-2** apply to greenhouse gas emissions produced through construction activity, and is consistent with the Amador County General Plan Mitigation Measures 4.7-1a-b. Therefore, the project would not generate significant greenhouse gas emissions or result in significant global climate change impacts. There is **a less than significant impact with mitigations incorporated**.
- B. There is no applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. Any increase in emissions would comply with regulations and limits established by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and Amador Air District. Therefore there is **no impact**.

**Mitigation Measures:**

**GHG-1 Fugitive Dust Control Measures** shall be implemented over the course of this project to meet the requirements of Amador Air District Rule 218 (Fugitive Dust) and General Plan Mitigation Measure 4.3-1a (Particulate Matter Emissions Generated by Construction Activities), including but not limited to:

- Water all exposed surfaces two times daily. Exposed surfaces include, but are not limited to soil piles, graded areas, unpaved parking areas, staging areas, and access roads.
- Cover or maintain at least two feet of free board space on haul trucks transporting soil, sand, or other loose material on the site. Any haul trucks that would be traveling along major roadways should be covered.
- Limit vehicle speeds on unpaved construction roads to 15 miles per hour (mph).
- All roadways, driveways, sidewalks, parking lots 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.
- Maintain all construction equipment in proper working condition according to manufacturer's specifications. The equipment must be checked by a certified mechanic and determine to be running in proper condition before it is operated.
- Water exposed soil with adequate frequency for continued moist soil. However, do not overwater to the extent that sediment flows off the site.
- Suspend excavation, grading, and/or demolition activity when wind speeds exceed 20 mph.
- Plant vegetative ground cover (fast-germinating native grass seed) in disturbed areas as soon as possible. Water appropriately until vegetation is established.



- Treat site accesses to a distance of 100 feet from the paved road with a 6 to 12-inch layer of wood chips, mulch, or gravel to reduce generation of road dust and road dust carryout onto public roads.
- Post a publicly visible sign with the telephone number and person to contact at the construction site regarding dust complaints. This person shall respond and take corrective action within 48 hours.

**GHG-1 Exhaust Emission Reduction Measures** shall be implemented over the course of this project to meet the requirements of General Plan Mitigation Measure 4.3-1b (Exhaust Emissions from Construction Equipment), including but not limited to:

- Where feasible, equipment requiring the use of fossil fuels (e.g., diesel) shall be replaced or substituted with electrically driven equivalents (provided that they are not run via a portable generator set).
- To the extent feasible, alternative fuels and emission controls shall be used to further reduce exhaust emissions.
- Minimize idling time either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the time of idling to 5 minutes (as required by the state airborne toxics control measure [Title 13, Section 2485 of the California Code of Regulations]). Provide clear signage that posts this requirement for workers at the entrances to the site.
- The hours of operation of heavy-duty equipment and/or the amount of equipment in use at any one time shall be limited.
- Staging areas for heavy-duty construction equipment shall be located as far as possible from sensitive receptors.

**Sources:** Amador County General Plan, Amador Air District, Amador County Municipal Codes, Assembly Bill 32 Scoping Plan- California Air Resources Board (CARB), Amador County General Plan EIR.



## Chapter 9. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:**

- A. **Hazardous Materials Transport and Handling:** The project does not significantly increase risk to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Hazardous materials may be included in the material removed from Area A, WMU 1 however none of the material would be removed from the project site. Additionally, leachate from the impoundment would be pumped clear prior to the earthmoving and construction of Phase 2 of the project. All transport of the material would be temporary; no routine removal or transport of hazardous materials is proposed beyond current levels. The impact is **less than significant with mitigations incorporated** in **Mitigation Measures HAZ-1** and **HAZ-2**.
- B. **Hazardous Materials Upset and Release:** **Mitigation Measure HAZ-1** and **HAZ-2** address potential for significant public or environmental hazards due to upset or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment through this project. Potential impacts of hazardous material handling, transport, or release through this project is mitigated by oversight of the Amador County Environmental Health department pursuant to state law. **The impact is less than significant with mitigation incorporated.**



- C. The nearest public schools are located within the Ione City limits and are more than 2.5 miles away. Schools would not be exposed to hazardous materials, substances, or waste due to the project, and there would be **no impact**.
- D. The project is located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5. Oversight of the project by the Waste Management Department and Environmental Health Department would ensure that the project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. Pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, the project site was queried for past-to-current records regarding information collected, compiled, and updated by the Department of Toxic Substances Control and Secretary for Environmental Protection (EPA) evaluating sites meeting the “Cortese List” requirements. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) GeoTracker lists the site (Buena Vista Class II Landfill (L10008365060) as an active facility under Title 27- Municipal Solid Waste Landfill and there is no outstanding violation regarding the permitted underground fuel storage tanks on file. The project site also is listed on the California EPA’s Superfund Enterprise Management System (SEMS) database (Site EPA ID: CAD980696033) and the US EPA Facility Registry Service (FRS) however there were no specific flags for the facility on either site. The Department of Toxic Substances Control’s EnviroStor database for cleanup sites and hazardous waste permitted facilities shows the Energetic Research Lab located off of 6555 Jackson Valley Rd., in Ione as being the nearest State Response location, however this has no impact on this project. . As the project does not propose any significant changes in use, intensity, or major construction, there is **no impact** regarding hazardous materials on or near the project site.
- E. The nearest public use airport to the project site is the Westover Field Airport located in Martell, located approximately 10 miles away. The proposed project is located outside the safety compatibility zones for the area airports, and due to the significant distance from the project site, there is **no impact** to people working on the project site.
- F. The nearest private airport to the project site is Eagle’s Nest Airport, located approximately 12 miles away. Due to the significant distance from the project site, there is **no impact** to safety hazards associated with airport operations are anticipated to affect people working or residing within the project site.
- G. The proposed project is located directly off of Buena Vista Road, a major collector. Amador County has an adopted Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP), updated in January of 2014. The proposed project does not include any actions that physically interfere with any emergency response or emergency evacuation plans. Development of the proposed project would add an increase in the amount of trips onto the area roadways temporarily; however, area roadways and intersections would continue to operate at an acceptable level of service so there would be **a less than significant impact**.

#### **Mitigation Measure:**

- HAZ-1 Hazardous Materials Upset and Release:** The Amador County Environmental Health Department will ensure that the site is in full compliance with the requirements of the Unified Program regarding hazardous materials business plan requirements, hazardous waste generation, treatment or storage, aboveground petroleum storage, and underground tanks. If a hazardous materials business plan is required, the emergency response portion shall include a plan for the evacuation of workers in the event of a hazardous materials incident. The applicant shall substantially comply with all requirements of the Unified Program throughout the life of the Use Permit. The project shall maintain substantial compliance with requirements regarding activities subject to oversight by the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA).



**HAZ-2** Prior to the approval of any grading plan, the project applicant shall precisely identify the locations of the existing and proposed groundwater monitoring wells within the project site [i.e., specific lot and precise location provided by a registered surveyor, accurate within 0.01 feet] that are or will be used in conjunction with hazardous site remediation or monitoring required by Central Valley RWQCB, or any future monitoring.

If grading or other ground disturbance activities will occur at any well location within the project boundaries, the project applicant shall submit a groundwater monitoring well protection plan to the Central Valley RWQCB describing the required setback from the well to grading or excavation; how the well and access to the well will be protected throughout the life of the project; or, if that is not feasible, a proposal for abandoning and relocating the well. The County shall not allow grading or other ground disturbance at any location where there is a groundwater monitoring well, until it has received approval from the Central Valley RWQCB for the proposed groundwater monitoring well protection plan or an approved relocated well.

Due to the need to temporarily disconnect landfill gas extraction wells in Phase 1 to allow final cover reconstruction, the project specifications shall require the contractor to develop and implement a program to monitor on-site ambient air to protect worker health and safety. The program shall include corrective measures to mitigate any release of landfill gas in concentrations hazardous to worker health and safety.

**Sources:** Amador County Planning Department, Superfund Enterprise Management System database (SEMS), Department of Toxic Substances Control Envirostor database, Geotracker, California State Water Control Board (CA SWRBC), California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA), Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP).



## Chapter 10. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate or pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
i. Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv. Impede or redirect flood flows or place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) In a flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zone, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation or increase risk of such inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



e) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:**

- A The proposed project would not significantly increase the impermeable surfaces on-site, nor result in an increase in urban storm water runoff. This project is closely monitored by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and their approval is required for project approval. The intent of the project is to implement corrective measures in order to ensure that no water quality standards are violated through the existing use of the property as a landfill, and their consultation is an instrumental element of the project's implementation. Additionally, **Mitigation Measure HAZ-2**, outlined in Chapter 9 of this Initial Study and **Mitigation Measure HYD-1** regarding BMPs for grading and runoff, include additional protections of the wells on site. There is **a less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated**.
- B The proposed project would not significantly require the use of, or otherwise interfere with, available groundwater supplies. As stated above, this project is a corrective measure intending to further reduce impacts of the existing uses to groundwater supplies. Future development would be subject to review by applicable county, state, and federal agencies for potential environmental effects. There is **a less than significant impact** with implementation of **Mitigation Measure HYD-1**.
- Ci-ii The proposed project is not projected to significantly contribute to any increase in erosion, siltation, surface runoff, or redirection of flood flows. The project site is located in a Flood Zone X meaning that the site is outside of the Standard Flood Height Elevation and of minimal flood hazard. Future development in this zone would not necessitate a Flood Plain Study to be conducted by a licensed professional prior to project development. Site disturbance due to this project will not negatively affect alteration of absorption rates or drainage patterns introduced through this project. Existing measures are implemented to reduce runoff and regulate drainage, and in the case that additional mitigations are necessary, they shall be addressed through and permitted by the applicable local, state, and federal agencies, including a Grading Permit issued through the Amador County Building Department with implementation of **Mitigation Measure HYD-1**. There is **a less than significant impact with mitigations incorporated**.
- C iii The project would not contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems. **Mitigation Measure HYD-1** and the requirement of a Grading Permit ensures that there is a **less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated**.
- C iv The proposed project does not involve the construction of housing on the property. The project site falls within Zone X flood map as mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (2010). **No impact** would result with respect to placing housing within a 100-year flood hazard area for this project.
- D The project site has an approximate elevation of approximately 295 ft. above sea level. The site is in close proximity (approximately 1.5 mi.) to Lake Amador however the property itself is not in any mapped floodplain or mapped drainage path. Therefore, it is highly unlikely that the project would be subject to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. There is no known risk mapped on the California Department of



Conservation CGS Information Warehouse regarding landslides. Therefore **a less than significant impact** to/from flood flows would occur.

- E The project would not substantially degrade water quality through its operation. Conditions of additional project approval include submission of plans to the Amador County Environmental Health Department, obtainment of a Grading Permit through the Amador County Building Department, and implementation of **Mitigation Measures HAZ-2 and HYD-1**, therefore there is a **less than significant impact with mitigations incorporated** on water quality.
- F The project will not expose significant risk of loss, injury, or death to people or structures through placement or location near a levee or dam. Lake Amador is located to the northeast of the property, but due to the existing topography of the project site and the existing uses of the site, there would not be substantial risk for property or people through the failure of levees or dams introduced by this project, therefore there is **no impact** regarding risk or loss.
- G There is no existing water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan in the vicinity of this project. **No impact** would result.

**Mitigation Measures:**

- HYD-1** Prior to the issuance of permits for site-specific development, drainage and grading permits shall be prepared by a licensed civil engineer and submitted to the Amador County Building Department for approval. Drainage plans shall demonstrate that new development would not increase peak storm flows and that adequate capacity exists downstream to accommodate increased stormwater volume. All site-specific development shall implement appropriate stormwater runoff best management practices (BMPs) and design features to protect receiving water quality consistent with Amador County standards.

**Sources:** Amador County Planning Department, California State Water Resources Control Board (CSWRCB), California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA). CA Department of Conservation, USGS-USDA Forest Service Quad Map, USGS Landslide Hazards Program, CA Department of Conservation CGS Information Warehouse.



## Chapter 11. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

- A The project site is located along Buena Vista Rd. with road frontage on the western property border. The unincorporated community of Buena Vista is located approximately 2,000 ft. west of the project site. The subject parcel is currently utilized for public service uses and the property is owned and utilized by the County of Amador. Surrounding land uses consist of agricultural uses and residential properties. The proposed project would not divide an established community and is consistent with the General Plan designation of PS- Public Service. There would be no introduced change in use through this project. There is **no impact**.
- B The project presents construction and repairs of existing uses, with no proposed additional uses. Construction will be temporary and return the project to an equal or less impactful level of development. This project does not divide the property and there is no residential use of the property, nor does the presented project change the uses allowed by right or conditional uses, product of the zoning designation of the property. The project does not propose any additional structures or uses therefore there is **a less than significant impact**.
- C The project site is not included in any adopted habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans. Therefore, the project would not conflict with any such plans and **no impact** would result.

**Sources:** Amador County General Plan, Amador County Municipal Codes, Amador County Planning Department.



## Chapter 12. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

A & B According to the California Division of Mines and Geology Mineral Land Classification Map, this project is located in the Sutter Creek 15-Minute Quadrangle which has a reported SMARA Study Area, conducted in 1983. These maps are included as Figures 12a-h, below. This project would not restrict access to any mineral resources on site. The properties directly north of the parcels on which the project is located are zoned "X" with MRZ- Mineral Resource Zone General Plan Classification (See Figure D and E). This project will not encroach onto any of the other properties and therefore not interfere with any present or future access to known mineral resource areas. Due to the public service aspects of this project and the existing general plan designation of the site, there is **no impact** to any mineral resources.

Figure 12a-h: Department of Conservation Mineral Land Conservation Map (1983)

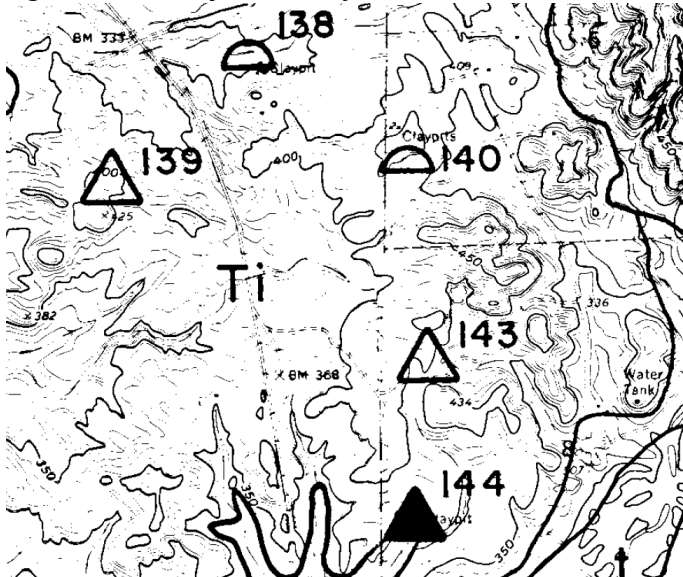


Figure 12a- Plate 1

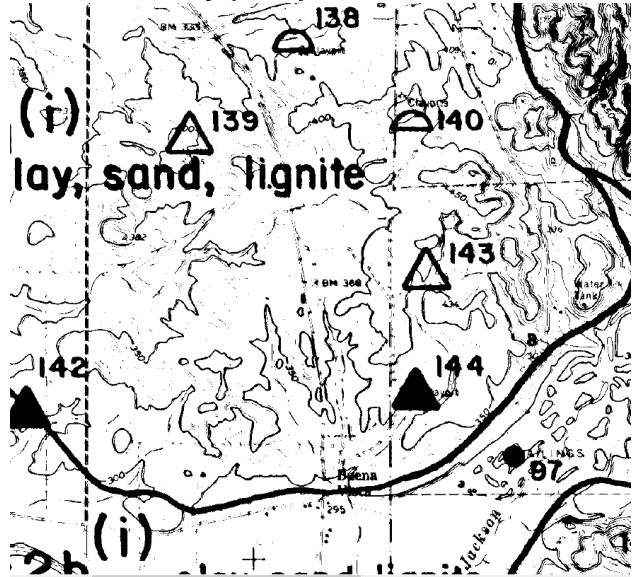


Figure 12b- Plate 2



Figure 12a-h: Department of Conservation Mineral Land Conservation Map (1983) cont.

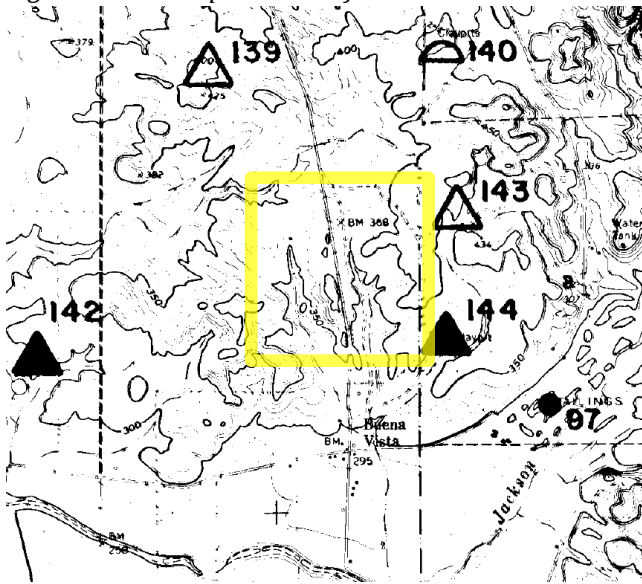


Figure 12c- Plate 3

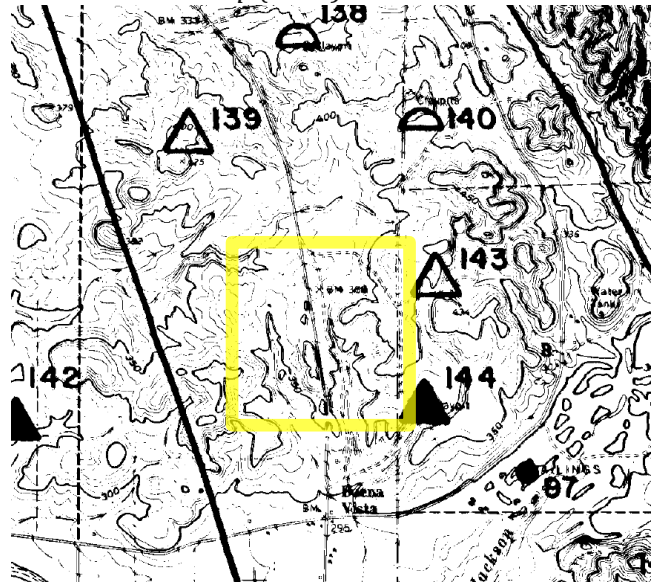


Figure 12d- Plate 4

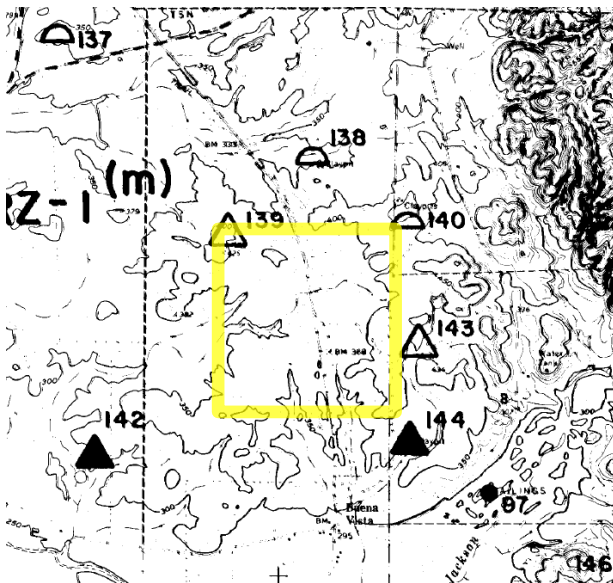


Figure 12e- Plate 5

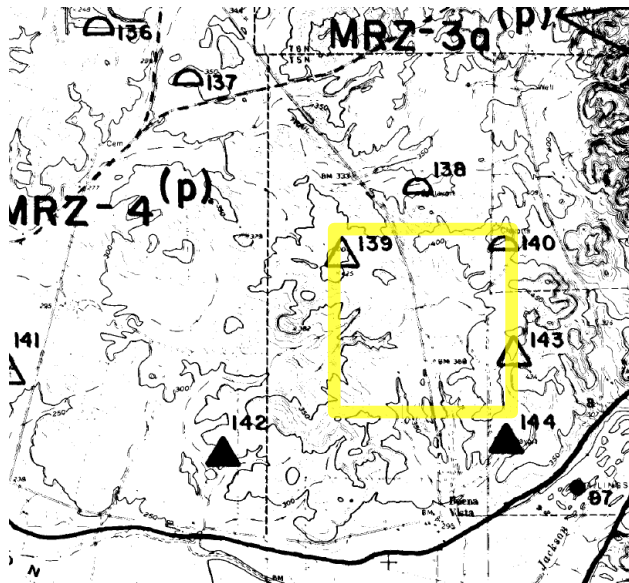


Figure 12f- Plate 6

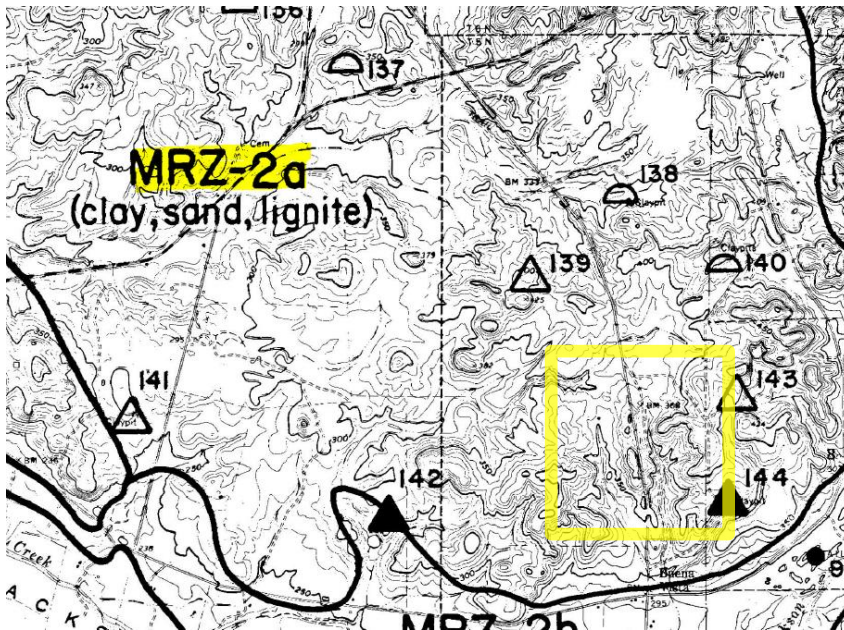


Figure 12g- Plate 7

CALIFORNIA DIVISION OF MINES AND GEOLOGY  
JAMES F. DAVIS, STATE GEOLOGIST

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
THE RESOURCES AGENCY  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

OFR-83-36 SAC  
PLATE 8

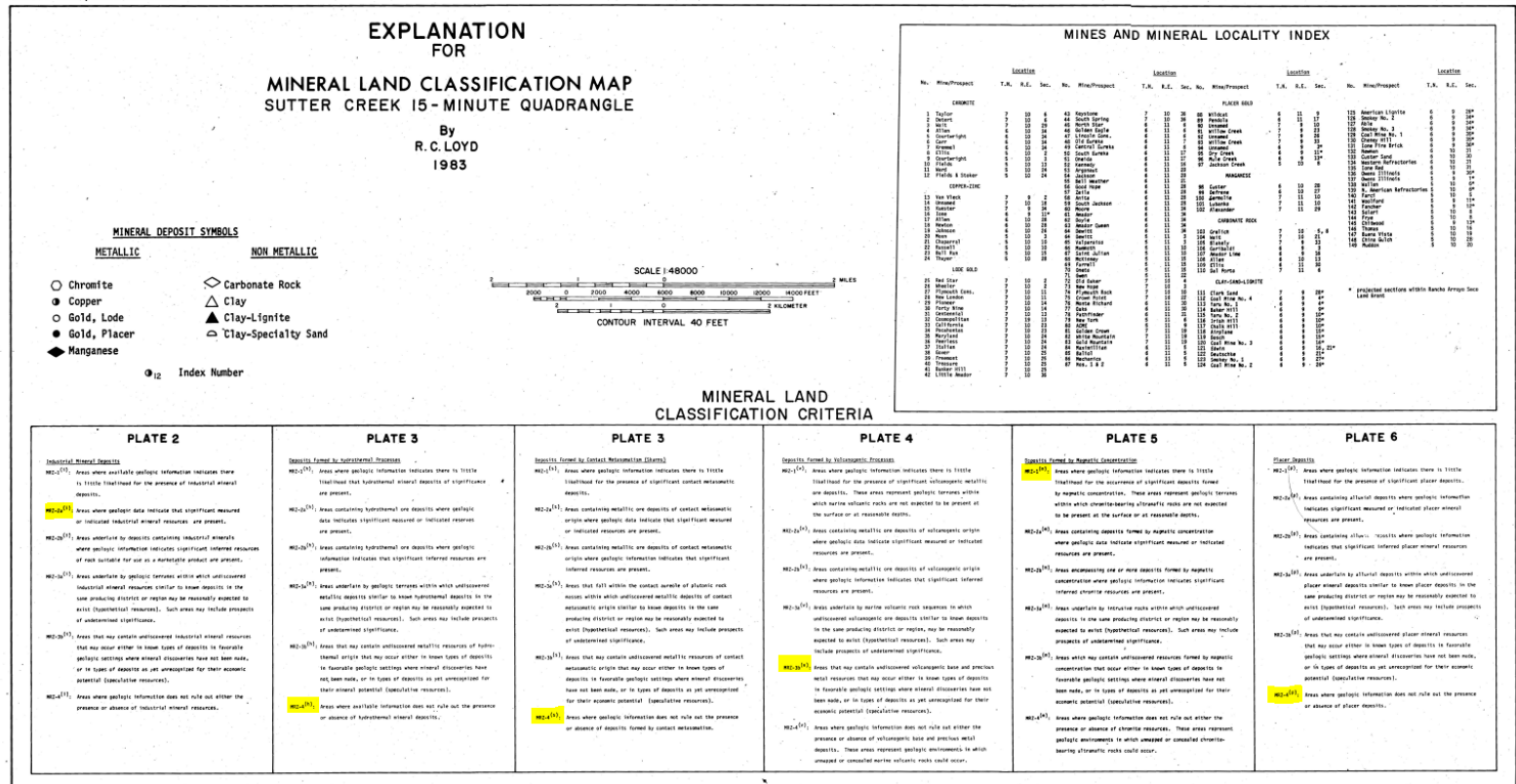


Figure 12h- Plate 8

Source: Amador County Planning Department, California Geological Survey.



## Chapter 13. NOISE

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Contribute to substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Contribute to substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:**

- A Uses associated with this project would not create a significant increase in ambient noise levels within or in proximity to the project site. There are industrial and public service operations which take place on this property and produce an existing level of operational noise. Due to the preexisting conditions and public service uses of this property, there would be no additional noise produced which would significantly affect surrounding properties. There is **a less than significant impact**.
- B The proposed project would include the temporary construction activity which may generate substantial ground-borne vibration, noise, or use construction activities however these activities would not persist for any extended period of time and upon completion of the project, would subside to the pre-existing levels. There are no proposed structures or additional uses which would propose the use of heavy equipment for an extended period of time beyond what is already noted on-site. Mitigation measures included in **NOI-1** require the implementation of industry standard Best Management Practices, consistent with General Plan Mitigation Measure 4.11 and the Noise Element of the General Plan. The existing site-conditions of the parcel, zoning



setbacks, and surrounding context of the site ensure that there is a **less than significant impact with mitigations incorporated.**

- C & D The presented project will not introduce significant increased noise in addition to current operational noise. Noise levels generated would not exceed applicable noise standards established in the General Plan. Noise activities related to the project would not introduce significant increase and shall not significantly affect offsite residences. Additionally, with the implementation of **Mitigation Measure NOI-1**, hours of operation shall be limited in order to prevent project-related noise from 10:00 p.m. through 7:00 a.m. There is a **less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated.**
- E & F The nearest airport is over 15.8 miles away (Westover Field Airport, Martell). **No impact** would result.

**Mitigation Measures:**

- NOI-1 Construction activity and groundborne vibrations:** Consistent with General Plan Mitigation Measure 4.11, all construction equipment shall be properly maintained per manufacturers' specifications and fitted with the best available noise suppression devices (e.g., mufflers, silencers, wraps); all impact tools will be shrouded or shielded; and all intake and exhaust ports on power equipment will be muffled or shielded. All equipment employed during the project shall maintain appropriate setback distances from residences to reduce vibration levels below the recommended FTA and Caltrans guidelines. Any proposed generator shall be constructed and insulated such that it will not exceed the Noise Element Guidelines of the Amador County General Plan at the project parcel's boundary. Noise levels generated by the project shall not exceed 65 decibels at the nearest property line from 10:00 p.m. through 7:00 a.m.

**Sources:** Amador County Planning Department, Amador County General Plan: Noise Element, General Plan Mitigation Measure 4.11.



## Chapter 14. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial 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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:**

- A The proposed project site is currently utilized for public services uses including the landfill and transfer station and associated uses. The proposed project would temporarily increase traffic to the property however, there is no housing displaced through this project. There is no allowed housing on the property therefore there is **no impact**.
- B & C The existing uses of the property would not be negatively affected in any measurable way and no resident housing stock would be depleted through this project. There is **no impact** to available resident housing.

**Sources:** Amador County Planning Department.



## Chapter 15. PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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:				
a) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:**

- A The project site is currently served by the Jackson Valley Fire Protection District (JVFPD). The nearest fire station belongs to JVFPD and is located in Buena Vista, approximately 3,000 ft. south of the project site. Mutual aid agreements coordinate protection service between City or Community Fire Protection Jurisdictions, and CalFire. A **less than significant impact** related to fire protection services would occur.
- B The project site is currently served by the Amador County Sheriff's Department. The nearest Sheriff station is located at 700 Court St., Jackson, which serves the unincorporated area of the County. Proposed improvements would not result in additional demand for sheriff protection services. Mutual aid agreements coordinate police action between City and County police protection service. Ione is located closer to the project site than the Sheriff Department office in Jackson, CA. California Highway Patrol (CHP) also provides police protection associated with the State Highways; the nearest highways to this project are CA State Hwy 88, 124, and 104 all located north of the project site. As these various agencies all provide various police and emergency services, this project would not result in the provision of or need for new or physically altered sheriff or police protection facilities. There is a **less than significant impact** to police protection services.
- C&D This project does not include any construction of additional residential units. Because the demand for schools, parks, and other public facilities is driven by population, the proposed project would not increase demand for those services at this time as the property is not going to experience any change in zoning or general plan designation. As such, the proposed project would result in **no impact** on these public services.
- E The landfill is not an active operation. The transfer station will remain in operation through this project, therefore there would not be significant additional pressure on other solid waste processing/transfer facilities. There is a **less than significant impact**.

**Sources:** Amador County Planning Department.



## Chapter 16. RECREATION

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:**

A&B The proposed project would not increase opportunity for residential development nor present increased demand for parks or recreational facilities. The proposed project would not affect use of existing facilities, nor would it require the construction or expansion of existing recreational facilities at this time. Therefore, the proposed project would have **no impact** on recreational facilities.

**Source:** Amador County Planning Department.



## Chapter 17. TRANSPORTATION / TRAFFIC

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measure of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Conflict with or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines §15064.3, subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:**

A&B The intersection of Jackson Valley Rd. and Buena Vista Rd. is a major intersection and there would be additional traffic product of this project however as both of these roads are County maintained and experience relatively high existing levels of traffic, it is unlikely that the proposed project would exceed current demand. The proposed project would not cause a substantial increase in traffic, reduce the existing level of service, or create any significant congestion at any intersection nor would it conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system. Caltrans, Amador County Department of Transportation and Public Works, and other



applicable transportation agencies have been included in circulation of this project. There would be **less than significant impact**.

- C The proposed project would not be located within any Westover Airport safety zones (Westover Field Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan Draft 2017). Therefore, the project would not result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that would result in a safety risk. **No impact** would result.
- D The proposed project would potentially result in increases to the current level of traffic traveling into and out from the existing driveway however the impact shall not be significant enough to necessitate additional mitigation. The existing encroachment onto Buena Vista Rd. is currently is utilized for industrial and public services uses. Proposed uses would not significantly increase use of the existing encroachment and therefore does not require additional permitting or expansion. There would be **less than significant impact**.
- E The proposed project must comply with the Fire and Life Safety Ordinance (Chapter 15.30) with mitigation measure TRA-1. There is **less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated**.
- F The project would not affect alternative transportation. Therefore, the proposed project is consistent with the policies, plans, and programs supporting alternative transportation, and there would be **less than significant impact**.
- G Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15064.3, subdivision (b) the County's qualitative analysis of this project establishes the impacts to traffic less than significant. There is **a less than significant impact** to the implementation of this project with respects to CEQA Guidelines §15064.3(b).

**Mitigation Measures:**

**TRA-1** The proposed project must comply with the Fire and Life Safety Ordinance (Chapter 15.30).

**Sources:** Amador County Planning, California Fire and Life Safety (Chapter 15.30), California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines 2019.



## Chapter 18. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code § 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:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 § 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code § 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:**

Tribal cultural resources” are defined as (1) Sites, features, places, 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.

(B) Included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 5020.1.

These may include non-unique archaeological resources previously subject to limited review under CEQA. Assembly Bill 52, which became effective in July 2015, requires the lead agency (in this case, Amador County) to begin consultation with any California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project prior to the release of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report if: (1) the California Native American tribe requested to the lead agency, in writing, to be informed by the lead agency through formal notification of proposed projects in the geographic area that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the tribe, and (2) the California Native American tribe responds, in writing, within 30 days of receipt of the formal notification and requests the consultation (Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1[b]).



- A As defined by Public Resources Code section 21074 (a) there were no tribal cultural resources identified in the project area therefore the project would not cause a substantial adverse change in any identified tribal cultural resources. Additionally, the Ione Band of Miwok Indians, the Buena Vista Band of Me-Wuk Indians, the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, and the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California were notified of this project proposal and did not submit materials referencing tribal cultural resources affected by this project. Impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources on this site are **less than significant**.

**Sources:** Amador County Planning Department, California Public Resources Code; National Park Service National Register of Historic Places.



## Chapter 19. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded systems (causing significant environmental effects):				
i. Water or wastewater treatment facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. Stormwater drainage facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. Electric power facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv. Natural gas facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
v. Telecommunications facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources (for the reasonably foreseeable future during normal, dry, or multiple dry years), or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs while not otherwise impairing the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:**

- A i. The project does not increase water demand. Construction or operational changes through this project are temporary and therefore would not require a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Permit (SWPPP) from State Water Resources Control Board. The impacts are **less than significant**.



- A ii. Stormwater drainage on site will need to be redirected and will necessitate the project proponent obtain a Grading Plan through the Building Department. **Mitigation Measures GEO-1, HAZ-2 and HYD-1** require that Grading permits regulate stormwater drainage and runoff. There is **a less than significant impact with mitigations incorporated.**
- Aiii-v. No new or expanded stormwater or drainage facility, electric power facility, natural gas facility, or telecommunications facility would be necessary over the course of this project and therefore would not cause any environmental effects as a result. There is **a less than significant impact.**
- B. The proposed project would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board or result in the expansion of water or wastewater treatment facilities. Therefore, **no impact** related to these utilities and service systems would occur.
- C. The project is not located within the service area of an existing public water system. The project will not require additional water in excess of the supply of the current water systems. The impacts are **less than significant.**
- D. The project will not increase demands of any wastewater treatment provider. Therefor there is **no impact.**
- E-G The project will not produce an increase in solid waste disposal needs beyond what would be addressed by County and State requirements therefore. The transfer station shall remain in operation for the duration of this project, therefore there is a less than significant impact on landfills and solid waste disposal or solid waste reduction goals.

**Sources:** Amador County Planning Department, Amador County Environmental Health Department.



## Chapter 20. WILDFIRE

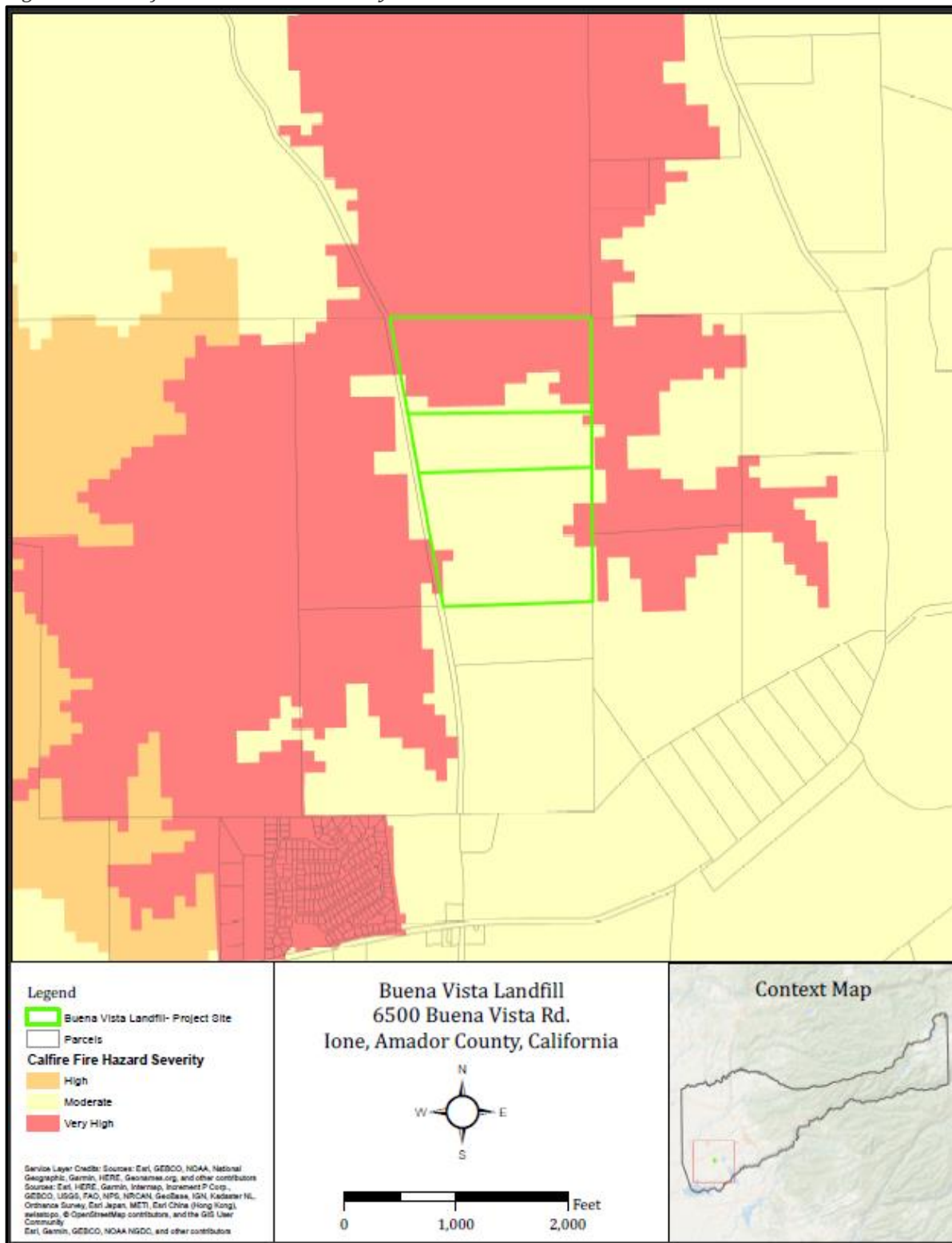
If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:**

- A The project shall not impair any adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. There is **no significant impact**.
- B The project does not exacerbate wildfire risks through significant change in slope, prevailing winds, or other major factors. The project would not require the installation of emergency services and infrastructure that may result in temporary or ongoing environmental risks or increase in fire risk. Therefore there is **no impact**.
- C The project shall not require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure that may exacerbate fire risk or impact the environment. **Mitigation Measure TRA-1** requires compliance with 15.30 regarding fire access, therefore there is **no significant impact with mitigation incorporated**.
- D&E The project will not expose people or structure to any new significant risks regarding flooding, landslides, or wildland fire risk. The project is located in Moderate and Very High Fire Risk Zones (*Figure 20: Calfire Fire Hazard Severity Zones*) and therefore, shall conform to all standard Fire Safety Regulations as determined by Amador County Fire Department and California Building Code. The project is located approximately 3000 ft. from the JVFPD Station 172, and therefore will not require any increased fire protection due to this project. There is **no impact**.



Figure 20a: Calfire Fire Hazard Severity Zones



**Source:** Amador County Planning, Amador County Office of Emergency Services, Calfire Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map.



## Chapter 21. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively are 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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

- A The project will not degrade the quality of the environment and no habitat, wildlife populations, and plant and animal communities would be significantly impacted by this project. All environmental topics are either considered to have "No Impact," "Less Than Significant Impact," or "**Less than Significant Impacts with Mitigation Incorporated.**"

Mitigation measures included with this Initial Study include the following, summarized:

- AES-1** Requiring that any installed lighting accompanying the proposed use and development must comply with General Plan Mitigation Measure 4.1-4;
- AES-2** Any security lighting for the ground facilities shall be shielded and directed in such a manner so as not to direct light onto neighboring properties/buildings/roadways. In an effort to minimize light pollution, all non-emergency lighting must be turned off by 11:00 p.m.;
- AIR-1** Air District's Rules and Regulations will be observed through the course of this project;
- BIO-1** Special Status Animal Species Mitigation plan will reduce biological impacts consistent with BMPs developed with CDFW and USFW;
- BIO-2** Ground Disturbance Timing for Nesting Birds, and Survey will be conducted prior to any construction;
- BIO-3** Special Status Plant Species Mitigation will be developed in conjunction with regulation by CDFW, USFW, and CNPS;



- BIO-4** Plant Survey will be conducted prior to ground disturbance;
- BIO-5** Riparian and Wetland Conservation mitigation shall apply within the affected ranges of mapped riparian and wetland conservation regions;
- BIO-6** Pollution Discharge with Grading and Runoff shall be addressed by the submitted grading plan, produced by a licensed engineer;
- CULTR-1** Historic/Cultural Resources, if found, shall be protected consistent with General Plan Mitigation Measures 4.5-1 and 4.5-2;
- CULTR-2** Human Remains, if discovered, shall be protected consistent with General Plan Mitigation Measure 4.5-3.
- GEO-1** Grading Permits for 50 cubic yards or more shall be issued through the Amador Building Department, and must include plans prepared by a licensed engineer.
- GEO-2** On-Site sewage disposal shall be determined to meet the intended uses, with possible addition of chemical toilets to accommodate temporary increase in demand during construction;
- GHG-1** Fugitive Dust Control (Particulate Matter Emissions) with Construction shall be consistent with General Plan Mitigation Measure 4.3-1a;
- GHG-2** Exhaust Emission Reduction Measures shall be taken accompanying construction, consistent with General Plan Mitigation Measure 4.3-1b;
- HAZ-1** Hazardous Materials Upset and Release shall maintain compliance with the Unified Program, enforced through the Environmental Health Department;
- HAZ-2** Groundwater Monitoring Wells and Grading mitigation measures shall be taken to protect existing wells and groundwater supplies;
- HYD-1** Grading and Drainage Permits and Storm Flows shall be monitored through permitting with the Building Department;
- NOI-1** Construction activity and Groundborne Vibrations shall be minimized according to industry-standard BMPs and consistent with General Plan Mitigation Measure 4.11.
- TRA-1** The proposed project must comply with Fire and Life Safety Ordinance (Chapter 15.30 of Amador County Code) (Transportation and Traffic);

- B** In addition to the individually limited impacts discussed in the previous chapters of this Initial Study, CEQA requires a discussion of “cumulatively considerable impacts”, meaning the incremental effects of a project in connection with the effects of past, current, and probable future projects. These potential cumulatively considerable impacts may refer to those resulting from increased traffic to and from the general area, overall resource consumption, aesthetic and community character, and other general developmental shifts.

Evaluation of these potentially cumulative impacts may be conducted through two alternative methods as presented by the CA State CEQA Guidelines, the list method and regional growth projections/plan method. As this project is independent and unique to the County, the latter is most appropriately employed to evaluate an individual project’s contribution to potential cumulative significant impacts in conjunction with past, current, or reasonably foreseeable future projects. Thresholds of significance may be established independently for the project evaluated depending on potentially cumulative impacts particular to the project under review, but shall reference those established in the 2016 General Plan EIR and be supplemented by other relevant documents as necessary. According to CEQA Guidelines §15064.7, thresholds of significance may include environmental standards, defined as “(1) a quantitative, qualitative, or performance requirement found in an ordinance, resolution, rule, regulation, order, plan, or other environmental requirement; (2) adopted for the purpose of



environmental protection; (3) addresses the environmental effect caused by the project; and, (4) applies to the project under review” (CEQA Guidelines §15064(d)). CEQA states that an EIR may determine a project’s individual contribution to a cumulative impact, and may establish whether the impact would be rendered less than cumulatively considerable with the implementation of mitigation or reduction strategies. Any impacts would only be evaluated with direct associations to the proposed project. If cumulative impacts when combined with the impact product of the specific project are found to be less than significant, minimal explanation is required. For elements of the environmental review for which the project is found to have no impact through the Initial Study, no additional evaluation of cumulative impacts is necessary.

No past, current, or probable future projects were identified in the project vicinity that, when added to project-related impacts, would result in cumulatively considerable impacts. The intent of the project is to stabilize impacts of an existing use and project. The proposed project is not inconsistent with the Amador County General Plan and no cumulatively considerable impacts would occur with development of the proposed project. **Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.**

- C There have been no impacts discovered through the review of this application demonstrating that there would be substantial adverse effects on human beings directly or indirectly relating the project. As this project is implemented in order to reduce negative environmental impacts which would result from inaction, this project would reduce potential impacts, and any additional environmental impacts introduced through this project are either mitigated to a less than significant level or are otherwise less substantial than environmental impacts stemming from inaction or a no-project alternative. Therefore, there is a less **than significant impact with mitigation.**

**Sources:** Chapters 1 through 21 of this Initial Study.

**References:** Amador County General Plan; Amador County General Plan EIR; Amador Air District; Amador County Municipal Codes; Fish & Wildlife’s IPAC and BIOS databases; Migratory Bird Treaty Act; California Native Plant Society; California Air Resources Board; California Department of Conservation; Migratory Bird Treaty Act; California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection; California Geologic Survey: Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones; State Department of Mines & Geology; Superfund Enterprise Management System Database (SEMS); Department of Toxic Substances Control Envirostor Database; Geotracker; Amador County GIS; Amador County Zoning Map; Amador County Municipal Codes; Amador County Soil Survey; California Native American Heritage Commission; Amador Fire Protection District; California Air Resources Board (ARB); California State Water Resources Control Board (CSWRCB); California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA); California Environmental Quality Act 2019 Guidelines (CEQA); California Public Resources Board; Caltrans District 10 Office of Rural Planning; Amador County Important Farmland Map, 2016; Commenting Department and Agencies; Beckett Archeological Consulting- La Mesa Cultural Resources Report (2020); Amador County Community Development Agency and Departments. All sources cited herein are available in the public domain, and are hereby incorporated by reference.

**NOTE:** Authority cited: Sections 21083, 21083.05, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 65088.4, Gov. Code; Sections 21080, 21083.05, 21095, Pub. Resources Code; *Eureka Citizens for Responsible Govt. v. City of Eureka* (2007) 147 Cal. Appl. 4<sup>th</sup> 357; *Protect the Historic Amador Waterways v. Amador Water Agency* (2004) 116 Cal. App. 4<sup>th</sup> at 1109; *San Franciscans Upholding the Downtown Plan v. city and County of San Francisco* (2002) 102 Cal. App. 4<sup>th</sup> 656.