



Mitigated Negative Declaration

Pursuant to Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Article 6, Sections 15070 and 15071 of the California Code of Regulations and pursuant to the Procedures for Preparation and Processing of Environmental Documents adopted by the County of Sacramento pursuant to Sacramento County Ordinance No. SCC-116, the Environmental Coordinator of Sacramento County, State of California, does prepare, make, declare, publish, and cause to be filed with the County Clerk of Sacramento County, State of California, this Mitigated Negative Declaration re: The Project described as follows:

1. **Control Number:** PLER2020-00062
2. **Title and Short Description of Project:** Bar Du Lane Grading Permit
The project consists of a grading permit to allow for the construction of a pad for a second home and a dual-access driveway. If approved, the applicant intends to extend existing access roads, construct a second home, an outdoor, in-ground pool, and a pool house.
3. **Assessor's Parcel Number:** 121-0050-025-000
4. **Location of Project:** The project site is located at 7793 Bar Du Lane in the Florin-Vineyard community in the unincorporated area of Sacramento County
5. **Project Applicant:** Joseph Marques
6. Said project will not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:
 - a. It will not 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.
 - b. It will not have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals.
 - c. It will not have impacts, which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable.
 - d. It will not have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.
7. As a result thereof, the preparation of an environmental impact report pursuant to the Environmental Quality Act (Division 13 of the Public Resources Code of the State of California) is not required.
8. The attached Initial Study has been prepared by the Sacramento County Office of Planning and Environmental Review in support of this Negative Declaration. Further information may be obtained by contacting the Office of Planning and Environmental Review at 827 Seventh Street, Room 225, Sacramento, California, 95814, or phone (916) 874-6141.

[Original Signature on File]

Todd Smith

Interim Environmental Coordinator
County of Sacramento, State of California

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
OFFICE OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
INITIAL STUDY

PROJECT INFORMATION

CONTROL NUMBER: PLER2020-00062

NAME: Bar Du Lane Grading Permit

LOCATION: The project site is located at 7793 Bar Du Lane in the Florin-Vineyard community in the unincorporated area of Sacramento County (Plate IS-1).

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER: 121-0050-025-0000

OWNER: Marques Family Trust

APPLICANT: Joseph Marques

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project consists of a grading permit to allow for the construction of a pad for a second home and a dual-access driveway. If approved, the applicant intends to extend existing access roads, construct a second home, an outdoor, in-ground pool, and a pool house (reference Plate IS-2 & Plate IS-3).

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project site is 5.71-acre residential parcel, surrounded by low-density, rural residential development. Vegetation found within and adjacent to the project site includes developed areas of ornamental vegetation, annual grassland, and ruderal areas dominated by nonnative annual vegetation. The project site also contains a vernal pool.

Plate IS-1: Vicinity Map

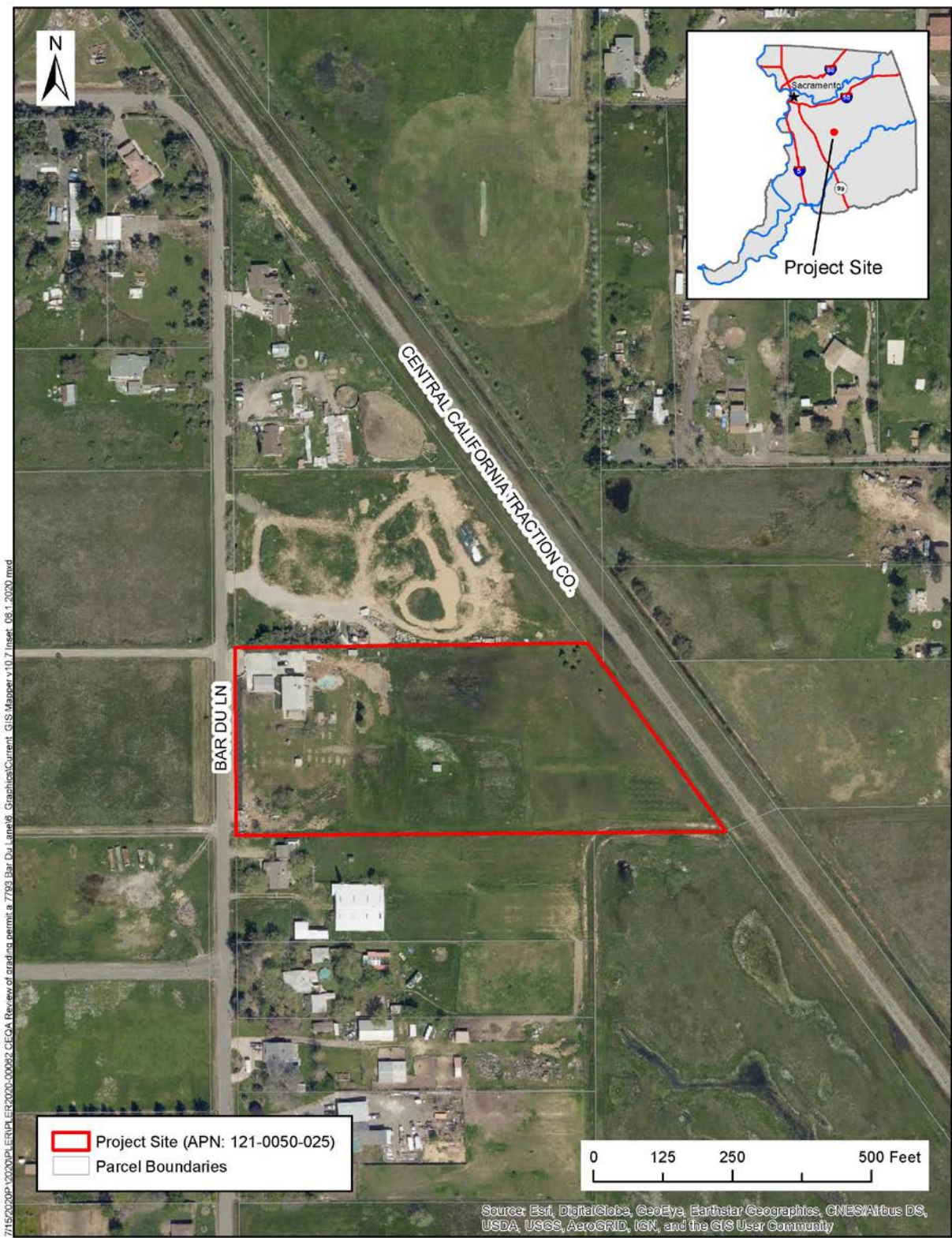
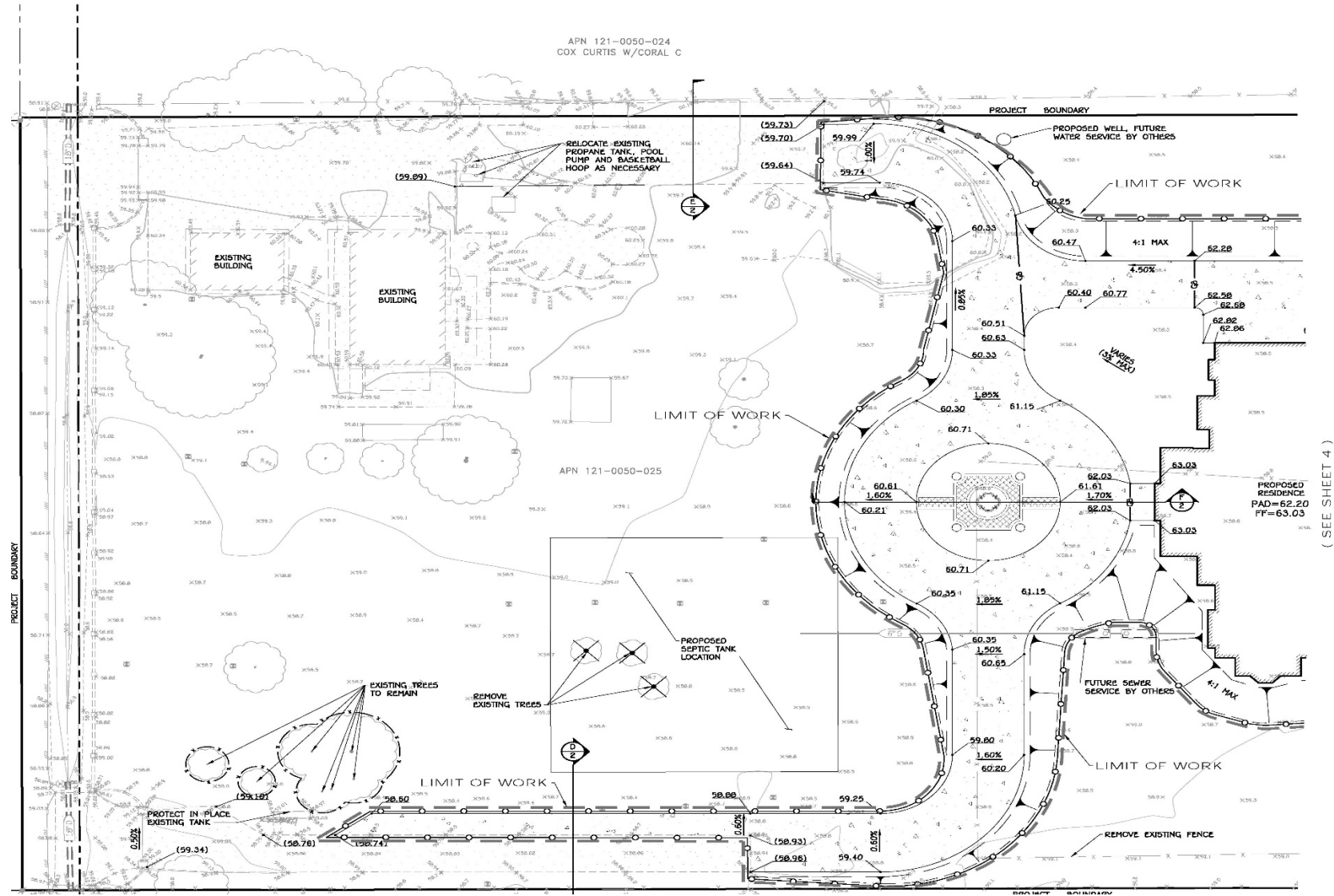
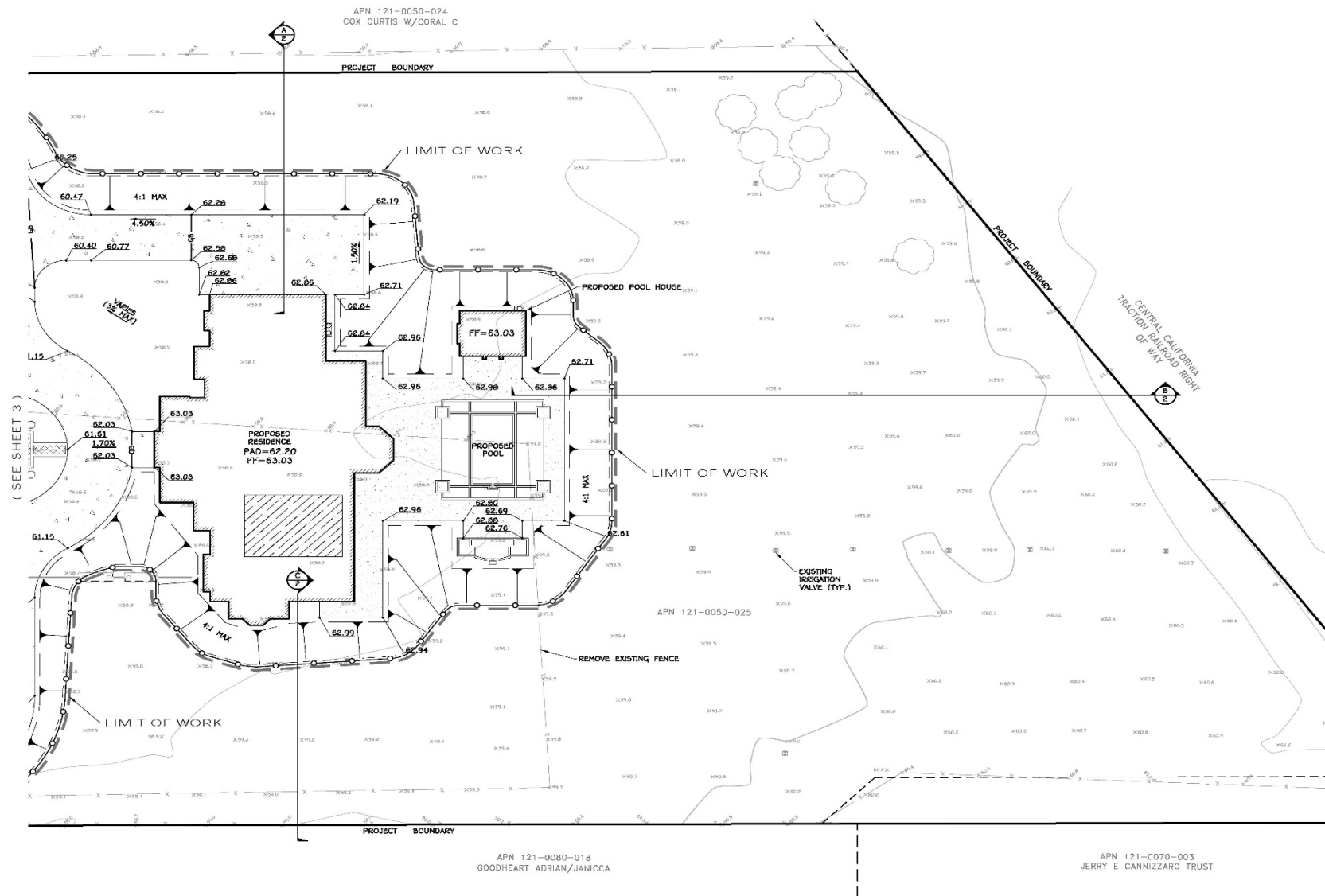


Plate IS-2: Proposed Grading Plans (Western Half of Parcel)





ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) provides guidance for assessing the significance of potential environmental impacts. Based on this guidance, Sacramento County has developed an Initial Study Checklist (located at the end of this report). The Checklist identifies a range of potential significant effects by topical area. The topical discussions that follow are provided only when additional analysis beyond the Checklist is warranted.

AIR QUALITY

This section supplements the Initial Study Checklist by analyzing if the proposed project would:

- Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard.
- Expose sensitive receptors to pollutant concentrations in excess of standards.

The proposed project site is located in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin (SVAB). The SVAB's frequent temperature inversions result in a relatively stable atmosphere that increases the potential for pollution. Within the SVAB, the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) is responsible for ensuring that emission standards are not violated. Project related air emissions would have a significant effect if they would result in concentrations that either violate an ambient air quality standard or contribute to an existing air quality violation (Table IS-1). Moreover, SMAQMD has established significance thresholds to determine if a proposed project's emission contribution significantly contributes to regional air quality impacts (Table IS-2).

Table IS-1: Air Quality Standards Attainment Status

Pollutant	Attainment with State Standards	Attainment with Federal Standards
Ozone	Non-Attainment Classification = Serious (1 hour Standard ¹)	Non-Attainment, Classification = Severe -15* (1 hour ² and 8 hour ³ Standards)
Particulate Matter 10 Micron	Non-Attainment (24 hour Standard and Annual Mean)	Attainment (24 hour standard)
Particulate Matter 2.5 Micron	Attainment (Annual Standard)	Non-Attainment (24 hour Standard) and Unclassified/Attainment (Annual)
Carbon Monoxide	Attainment (1 hour and 8 hour Standards)	Attainment (1 hour and 8 hour Standards)
Nitrogen Dioxide	Attainment (1 hour Standard and Annual)	Unclassified/Attainment (1 hour and Annual)
Sulfur Dioxide ⁴	Attainment (1 hour and 24 hour Standards)	Attainment (1 hour)
Lead	Attainment (30 Day Standard)	Attainment (3-month rolling average)
Visibility Reducing Particles	Unclassified (8 hour Standard)	No Federal Standard
Sulfates	Attainment (24 hour Standard)	No Federal Standard
Hydrogen Sulfide	Unclassified (1 hour Standard)	No Federal Standard

1. Per Health and Safety Code (HSC) § 40921.59(c), the classification is based on 1989-1001 data, and therefore does not change.

2. Air Quality meets Federal 1-hour Ozone standard (77 FR 64036). EPA revoked this standard, but some associated requirements still apply. The SMAQMD attained the standard in 2009. SMAQMD has requested EPA recognize attainment to fulfill the requirements.

3. For both that 1997 and the 2008 Standard.

4. Cannot be classified

*Federal designations based on information from <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2010-title40-vol17/pdf/CFR-2010-title40-vol17-sec81-305.pdf>

*California Area Designations based on information from <http://www.arb.ca.gov/desig/changes.htm#reports>

Source: SMAQMD. "Air Quality Standards Attainment Status". *Air Quality Data*. Accessed: May 18, 2020. <http://www.airquality.org/air-quality-health/air-quality-pollutants-and-standards>

Table IS-2: SMAQMD Significance Thresholds

	ROG ¹ (lbs/day)	NO _x (lbs/day)	CO (µg/m ³)	PM ₁₀ (lbs/day)	PM _{2.5} (lbs/day)
Construction (short-term)	None	85	CAAQS ²	80 ^{3*}	82 ^{3*}
Operational (long-term)	65	65	CAAQS	80 ^{3*}	82 ^{3*}
1. Reactive Organic Gas 2. California Ambient Air Quality Standards 3*. Only applies to projects for which all feasible best available control technology (BACT) and best management practices (BMPs) have been applied. Projects that fail to apply all feasible BACT/BMPs must meet a significance threshold of 0 lbs/day.					

CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS/SHORT-TERM IMPACTS

Short-term air quality impacts are mostly due to dust (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) generated by construction and development activities, and emissions from equipment and vehicle engines (NO_x) operated during these activities. Dust generation is dependent on soil type and soil moisture, as well as the amount of total acreage actually involved in clearing, grubbing and grading activities. Clearing and earthmoving activities comprise the major source of construction dust generation, but traffic and general disturbance of the soil also contribute to the problem. Sand, lime or other fine particulate materials may be used during construction, and stored on-site. If not stored properly, such materials could become airborne during periods of high winds. The effects of construction activities include increased dust fall and locally elevated levels of suspended particulates. PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} are considered unhealthy because the particles are small enough to inhale and damage lung tissue, which can lead to respiratory problems.

PARTICULATE MATTER AND OZONE PRECURSOR (NO_x) EMISSIONS

The SMAQMD Guide includes screening criteria for construction-related particulate matter and NO_x. Projects that are 35 acres or less in size will generally not exceed the SMAQMD's construction PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, or NO_x thresholds of significance provided that the project does not:

- Include buildings more than 4 stories tall;
- Include demolition activities;
- Include significant trenching activities;
- Have a construction schedule that is unusually compact, fast-paced, or involves more than 2 phases (i.e., grading, paving, building construction, and architectural coatings) occurring simultaneously;
- Involve cut-and-fill operations (moving earth with haul trucks and/or flattening or terracing hills); or,
- Require import or export of soil materials that will require a considerable amount of haul truck activity

Some PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} emissions during project construction can be reduced through compliance with institutional requirements for dust abatement and erosion control. These institutional measures include the SMAQMD “District Rule 403-Fugitive Dust” and measures in the Sacramento County Code relating to land grading and erosion control [Title 16, Chapter 16.44, Section 16.44.090(K)].

The SMAQMD Guide includes a list of Basic Construction Emissions Control Practices that should be implemented on all projects, regardless of size. Dust abatement practices are required pursuant to SMAQMD Rule 403 and California Code of Regulations, Title 13, sections 2449(d)(3) and 2485; the SMAQMD Guide simply lays out the basic practices needed to comply.

DISCUSSION OF PROJECT IMPACTS

The proposed project is less than 35 acres, does not involve buildings of more than four stories, does not include demolition activities, an unusually compact construction schedule, nor will it require import or export of soil materials with a considerable amount of haul truck activity. The majority of the project site is relatively flat, but fill is needed to raise the base flood elevation of the proposed pad an estimated four feet. The project engineer has estimated 4,135 cubic yards of fill will be needed for the project. The project likely screens out using SMAQMD’s screening guidance; however, CalEEMod was used to estimate construction-related emissions for the grading and construction of the second home and pool house (Appendix A). CalEEMod allows users to model construction criteria air pollutants and precursor emissions from demolition, site grading, asphalt paving, building construction, and architectural coating activities. The results of the CalEEMod run are shown in Table IS-3.

Table IS-3: CalEEMod Construction-Related Emission Estimates

	Constituent in pounds per day			
	ROG	NOx	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
Thresholds	None	85	80	82
CalEEMod Emissions	8.97	48.73	15.29	8.61

As shown in Table IS-3, construction-related emission estimates do not exceed SMAQMD thresholds.

CONCLUSION

Impacts related to construction-related emissions will be ***less than significant***.

OPERATIONAL EMISSIONS/LONG-TERM IMPACTS

Once a project is completed, additional pollutants are emitted through the use, or operation, of the site. Land use development projects typically involve the following sources of emissions: motor vehicle trips generated by the land use; fuel combustion from landscape maintenance equipment; natural gas combustion emissions used for space and water heating; evaporative emissions of ROG associated with the use of

consumer products; and, evaporative emissions of ROG resulting from the application of architectural coatings.

DISCUSSION OF PROJECT IMPACTS

CalEEMod was used to estimate operational estimates for the project. The CalEEMod operational estimates are shown in Table IS-4.

Table IS-4: CalEEMod Operational Emission Estimates

Operational Year 2021	Constituent in pounds per day			
	ROG	NOx	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
Thresholds	65	85	80	82
Operational (long-term)	0.31	0.10	0.08	0.02

As shown in Table IS-4, the project's operational emission estimates do not exceed daily emission thresholds.

CONCLUSION

As shown in Table IS-4, the project will not exceed significance thresholds during the operational period. Since the proposed project is significantly below the operational thresholds adopted by SMAQMD, impacts to Air Quality are anticipated to be ***less than significant***.

HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

This section supplements the Initial Study Checklist by analyzing if the proposed project would:

- Develop within a 100-year floodplain as mapped on a federal Flood Insurance Rate Map or within a local flood hazard area.
- Place structures that would impede or redirect flood flows within a 100-year floodplain.
- Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the project area and/or increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site.
- Create or contribute runoff that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems.
- Create substantial sources of polluted runoff or otherwise substantially degrade ground or surface water quality.

100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN

The project is within the Gerber Creek watershed as mapped in the Florin Vineyard Community Plan (FVGCP). The entire parcel is located within a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designated AO zone (2-foot depth; reference Plate IS-4). Zone AO is the flood insurance rate zone that corresponds to the areas of one-percent shallow flooding (usually sheet flow on sloping terrain) where average depths are between one and three feet. Average flood depths derived from the detailed hydraulic analyses are shown within this zone. Zone AOs and zones with a 1-percent chance of annual flooding are classified as a 100-year flood zone.

DISCUSSION OF PROJECT IMPACTS

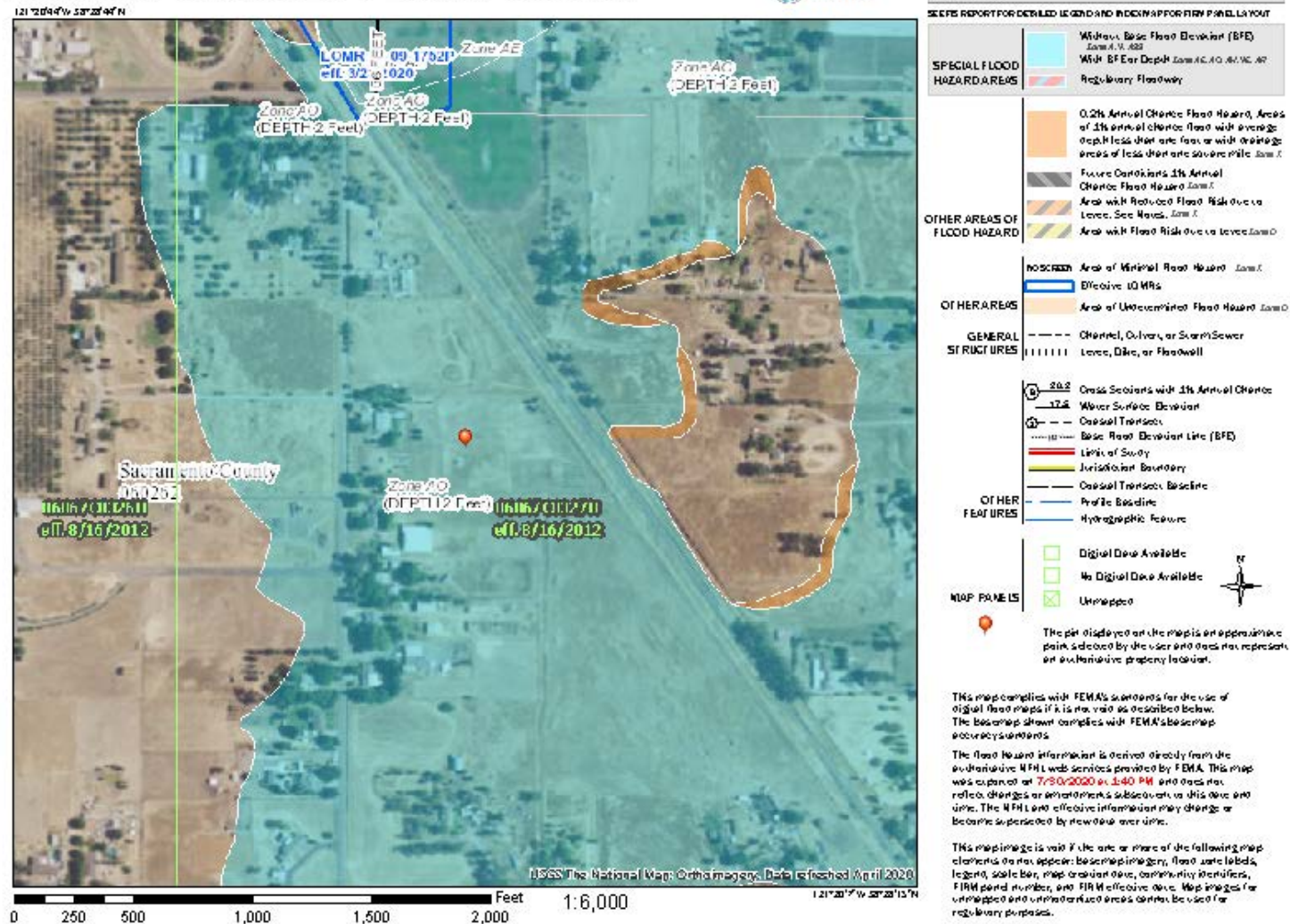
The project will result in the placement of approximately 4,000 cubic yards of imported fill to raise the proposed pads for the second home and pool house approximately 4 feet. This would raise the structures above the 100-year base flood elevation with the intention of directing flows around the structures. This would result in minor alterations in existing drainage patterns. The project will be required to comply with the provisions of the County Floodplain Management Ordinance.

CONCLUSION

Compliance with the Floodplain Management Ordinance will ensure that impacts are ***less than significant***.

Plate IS-4: FEMA FIRMette

National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette



WATER QUALITY

CONSTRUCTION WATER QUALITY: EROSION AND GRADING

Construction on undeveloped land exposes bare soil, which can be mobilized by rain or wind and displaced into waterways or become an air pollutant. Construction equipment can also track mud and dirt onto roadways, where rains will wash the sediment into storm drains and thence into surface waters. After construction is complete, various other pollutants generated by site use can also be washed into local waterways. These pollutants include, but are not limited to, vehicle fluids, heavy metals deposited by vehicles, and pesticides or fertilizers used in landscaping.

Sacramento County has a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Stormwater Permit issued by Regional Water Board. The Municipal Stormwater Permit requires the County to reduce pollutants in stormwater discharges to the maximum extent practicable and to effectively prohibit non-stormwater discharges. The county complies with this permit in part by developing and enforcing ordinances and requirements to reduce the discharge of sediments and other pollutants in runoff from newly developing and redeveloping areas of the county.

The county has established a Stormwater Ordinance (Sacramento County Code 15.12). The Stormwater Ordinance prohibits the discharge of unauthorized non-stormwater to the county's stormwater conveyance system and local creeks. It applies to all private and public projects in the County, regardless of size or land use type. In addition, Sacramento County Code 16.44 (Land Grading and Erosion Control) requires private construction sites disturbing one or more acres or moving 350 cubic yards or more of earthen material to obtain a grading permit. To obtain a grading permit, project proponents must prepare and submit for approval an Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) Plan describing erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) that will be implemented during construction to prevent sediment from leaving the site and entering the County's storm drain system or local receiving waters. Construction projects not subject to SCC 16.44 are subject to the Stormwater Ordinance (SCC 15.12) described above.

In addition to complying with the county's ordinances and requirements, construction sites disturbing one or more acres are required to comply with the State's General Stormwater Permit for Construction Activities (CGP). CGP coverage is issued by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/construction.shtml and enforced by the Regional Water Board. Coverage is obtained by submitting a Notice of Intent (NOI) to the State Board prior to construction and verified by receiving a WDIID#. The CGP requires preparation and implementation of a site-specific Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that must be kept on site at all times for review by the State inspector.

Applicable projects applying for a County grading permit must show proof that a WDIID # has been obtained and must submit a copy of the SWPPP. Although the County has no

enforcement authority related to the CGP, the county does have the authority to ensure sediment/pollutants are not discharged and is required by its Municipal Stormwater Permit to verify that SWPPPs include the minimum components.

The project must include an effective combination of erosion, sediment and other pollution control BMPs in compliance with the county ordinances and the state's CGP.

Erosion controls should always be the *first line of defense*, to keep soil from being mobilized in wind and water. Examples include stabilized construction entrances, tackified mulch, 3-step hydroseeding, spray-on soil stabilizers and anchored blankets. Sediment controls are the *second line of defense*; they help to filter sediment out of runoff before it reaches the storm drains and local waterways. Examples include rock bags to protect storm drain inlets, staked or weighted straw wattles/fiber rolls, and silt fences.

In addition to erosion and sediment controls, the project must have BMPs in place to keep other construction-related wastes and pollutants out of the storm drains. Such practices include, but are not limited to: filtering water from dewatering operations, providing proper washout areas for concrete trucks and stucco/paint contractors, containing wastes, managing portable toilets properly, and dry sweeping instead of washing down dirty pavement.

It is the responsibility of the project proponent to verify that the proposed BMPs for the project are appropriate for the unique site conditions, including topography, soil type and anticipated volumes of water entering and leaving the site during the construction phase. In particular, the project proponent should check for the presence of colloidal clay soils on the site. Experience has shown that these soils do not settle out with conventional sedimentation and filtration BMPs. The project proponent may wish to conduct settling column tests in addition to other soils testing on the site, to ascertain whether conventional BMPs will work for the project.

If sediment-laden or otherwise polluted runoff discharges from the construction site are found to impact the county's storm drain system and/or waters of the state, the property owner will be subject to enforcement action and possible fines by the county and the Regional Water Board.

CONCLUSION

Project compliance with requirements outlined above, as administered by the County and the Regional Water Board will ensure that project-related erosion and pollution impacts are ***less than significant***.

OPERATION: STORMWATER RUNOFF

Development and urbanization can increase pollutant loads, temperature, volume and discharge velocity of runoff over the predevelopment condition. The increased volume, increased velocity, and discharge duration of stormwater runoff from developed areas has the potential to greatly accelerate downstream erosion and impair stream habitat in natural drainage systems. Studies have demonstrated a direct correlation between the

degree of imperviousness of an area and the degradation of its receiving waters. These impacts must be mitigated by requiring appropriate runoff reduction and pollution prevention controls to minimize runoff and keep runoff clean for the life of the project.

The County requires that projects include source and/or treatment control measures on selected new development and redevelopment projects. Source control BMPs are intended to keep pollutants from contacting site runoff. Examples include “No Dumping-Drains to Creek/River” stencils/stamps on storm drain inlets to educate the public, and providing roofs over areas likely to contain pollutants, so that rainfall does not contact the pollutants. Treatment control measures are intended to remove pollutants that have already been mobilized in runoff. Examples include vegetated swales and water quality detention basins. These facilities slow water down and allow sediments and pollutants to settle out prior to discharge to receiving waters. Additionally, vegetated facilities provide filtration and pollutant uptake/adsorption. The project proponent should consider the use of “low impact development” techniques to reduce the amount of imperviousness on the site, since this will reduce the volume of runoff and therefore will reduce the size/cost of stormwater quality treatment required. Examples of low impact development techniques include pervious pavement and bioretention facilities.

The County requires developers to utilize the *Stormwater Quality Design Manual for the Sacramento Region, 2018* (Design Manual) in selecting and designing post-construction facilities to treat runoff from the project. Regardless of project type or size, developers are required to implement the minimum source control measures (Chapter 4 of the Design Manual). Low impact development measures and Treatment Control Measures are required of all projects exceeding the impervious surface threshold defined in Table 3-2 and 3-3 of the Design Manual. Further, depending on project size and location, hydromodification control measures may be required (Chapter 5 of the Design Manual).

Updates and background on the County’s requirements for post-construction stormwater quality treatment controls, along with several downloadable publications, can be found at the following websites:

<http://www.waterresources.saccounty.net/stormwater/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://www.beriverfriendly.net/Newdevelopment/>

The final selection and design of post-construction stormwater quality control measures is subject to the approval of the County Department of Water Resources; therefore, they should be contacted as early as possible in the design process for guidance.

CONCLUSION

Project compliance with requirements outlined above will ensure that project-related stormwater pollution impacts are ***less than significant***.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

This section supplements the Initial Study Checklist by analyzing if the proposed project would:

- Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan or other approved local, regional, state or federal plan for the conservation of habitat.
- Have a substantial adverse effect on streams, wetlands, or other surface waters that are protected by federal, state, or local regulations and policies.
- Have a substantial adverse effect on any special status species, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, or threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community.
- Have a substantial adverse effect on the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species.

SURVEYS AND METHODOLOGY

Area West conducted biological and floristic surveys in October and December of 2019 and in April & May 2020; the findings and observations of are included in the Biological Resources Report (Appendix C). Area West reviewed and analyzed a variety of data from state and federal agencies. A list of special-status species known or with potential to occur on the project site or in the immediate vicinity was developed from database queries of USFWS' Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC), CDFW's California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Rare Plant Inventory. Significance findings have been based on the impact conclusions of applicable surveys and studies. In absence of such published documents, the analyses rely on the general definitions of significance.

SOUTH SACRAMENTO COUNTY HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (SSHCP)

The SSHCP is a regional approach to addressing development, habitat conservation, and agricultural lands within the south Sacramento County region, including the cities of Galt and Rancho Cordova. The specific geographic scope of the SSHCP includes U.S. Highway 50 to the north, the Sacramento River levee and County Road J11 (connects the towns of Walnut Grove and Thornton, it is known as the Walnut Grove-Thornton Road) to the west, the Sacramento County line with El Dorado and Amador counties to the east, and San Joaquin County to the south. The SSHCP Project area excludes the City of Sacramento, the City of Folsom, the City of Elk Grove, most of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and the Sacramento community of Rancho Murieta.

The SSHCP covers 28 different species of plants and wildlife, including 10 that are state and/or federally-listed as threatened or endangered. The SSHCP has been developed as a collaborative effort to streamline permitting and protect covered species habitat. .

On May 15, 2018, the Final SSHCP and EIS/EIR was published in the federal Register for a 30-day review period. Public hearings on the proposed adoption of the final SSHCP, final EIS/EIR, final Aquatic Resources Plan (ARP), and final Implementation Agreement (IA) began in August 2018, and adoption by the County occurred on September 11, 2018. The permit was received on June 12, 2019 from the U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service, July 25, 2019 from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and August 20, 2019 from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The proposed project is in the Urban Development Area (UDA) and considered a covered activity in the SSHCP; therefore, the project must comply with the provisions of the SSHCP and associated permits. The analysis contained below addresses the applicability of the SSHCP, and mitigation has been designed to comply with the SSHCP.

CONSISTENCY WITH THE SOUTH SACRAMENTO COUNTY HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

The proposed project's design and construction must comply with all SSHCP requirements including SSHCP avoidance and minimization measures (AMMs). The SSHCP is a habitat-based plan in which mitigation fees are based on impacts to habitat or land cover rather than impacts to individual species.

The land covers outlined in the baseline map are an interpretation of habitat based on remote sensing analyses conducted over a number of years prior to adoption of the SSHCP. The baseline land covers are intended to serve as a guide to for potential habitat present on the project site and are intended to be updated with pedestrian-level biological surveys. During the local impact authorization process, these land covers will be refined, and calculation of project mitigation impact fees will be based on project specific survey and wetland delineation data.

HABITAT VERIFICATION

The baseline mapping for the project's SSHCP land covers is illustrated in Plate IS-5. The baseline map shows that the site is composed of Valley Grassland (4.34 acres), Low Density Development (1.38 acres), Vernal Pool (0.09 acres), and Disturbed (0.08 acres).

Area West staff performed multiple pedestrian level surveys of the site, in Winter 2019 and Spring 2020. Plate IS-6 depicts the verified land cover classification submitted by Area West. Plate IS-7 depicts the estimated land cover impacts overlayed upon the consultant's land cover classifications. Table IS-5 shows Area West's land cover classifications and their respective area (acres) and transcribes those to SSHCP land cover types with estimated impact area (acres).

Table IS-5: Land Cover Classifications and Estimated Impacts

Area West Land Cover Type	SSHCP Land Cover Type	Area (acres)	Estimated Impacts (acres)
Vernal Pool	Vernal Pool	0.251 acres	0.251 acres
Disturbed (Ruderal)	Disturbed	3.905 acres	3.482 acres
Stream/Creek (Ephemeral Drainage)	Stream/Creek	0.055 acres	N/A
Low-Density Development	Low-Density Development	2.108 acres	N/A
Disturbed (Roadside Ditch)	Stream/Creek	0.021 acres	N/A
Area West Habitat Type= land cover classification submitted in Area West Biological Report SSHCP Land Cover Type= Area West land cover classification transcribed to SSHCP land cover classification			

Area's West biological surveys found that the project site is characterized by relatively constant human disturbances (disking, mowing, herbicide use, vehicular traffic and placement of fill material). The biological report describes a ruderal habitat consistent with these disturbances. The ruderal habitat is dominated by weeds that can tolerate the perturbations and generally consisted of non-native forbs including Mexican groundcherry (*Physalis philadelphica*), bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), yellow star-thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), little hop clover (*Trifolium dubium*), skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*), yellowflower tarweed (*Holocarpha virgata*), stinkwort (*Dittrichia graveolens*), and Turkey-mullein (*Croton setigerus*) with some grasses including hare barley (*Hordeum murinum* subsp. *leporinum*), Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*).

Review of multiple years of aerial imagery and site visit photographs found signs of compacted areas from mowing and frequent vehicular traffic, which have resulted in large barren areas devoid of vegetation. The SSHCP describes Disturbed land cover as:

... areas that have been subject to previous or ongoing disturbances such as along roadsides, trails, and parking lots. Scraped or graded land, gravel mining, and waste disposal sites are included in this land cover type. Disturbed land cover type is vegetated with diverse weedy flora. These areas are of special concern as they tend to harbor and facilitate the spread of invasive plant species. Vascular plant species associated with the disturbed land cover typically include Johnson grass, Canadian horseweed (*Conyza canadensis*), milk thistle (*Silybum marianum*), yellow-star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), stinkwort (*Dittrichia graveolens*) and field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*).

The area classified as disturbed (ruderal) habitat is consistent with the SSHCP definition for Disturbed land cover. Land cover impact fees are not assessed for Disturbed land cover.

CONCLUSION

The analysis contained in this section is consistent with the protocol for covered species analysis under the SSHCP. Compliance with the SSHCP will ensure that impacts to covered species and their habitat will be less than significant. The mitigation contained in this chapter has been structured such that the required mitigation is consistent with the adopted SSHCP mitigation and monitoring protocols.

The applicant will be required to obtain a signed SSHCP authorization form from the Environmental Coordinator for potential impacts to terrestrial and aquatic habitats. The project will comply with the requirements of the SSHCP, including adherence to the Avoidance and Minimization Measures (Appendix B), as well as payment of fees to support the overall SSHCP Conservation Strategy. The project is consistent with, and aids in the goals set forth in the proposed SSHCP.

Impacts with regards to consistency with the SSHCP are ***less than significant***.

Plate IS-5: SSHCP Baseline Land Cover Exhibit

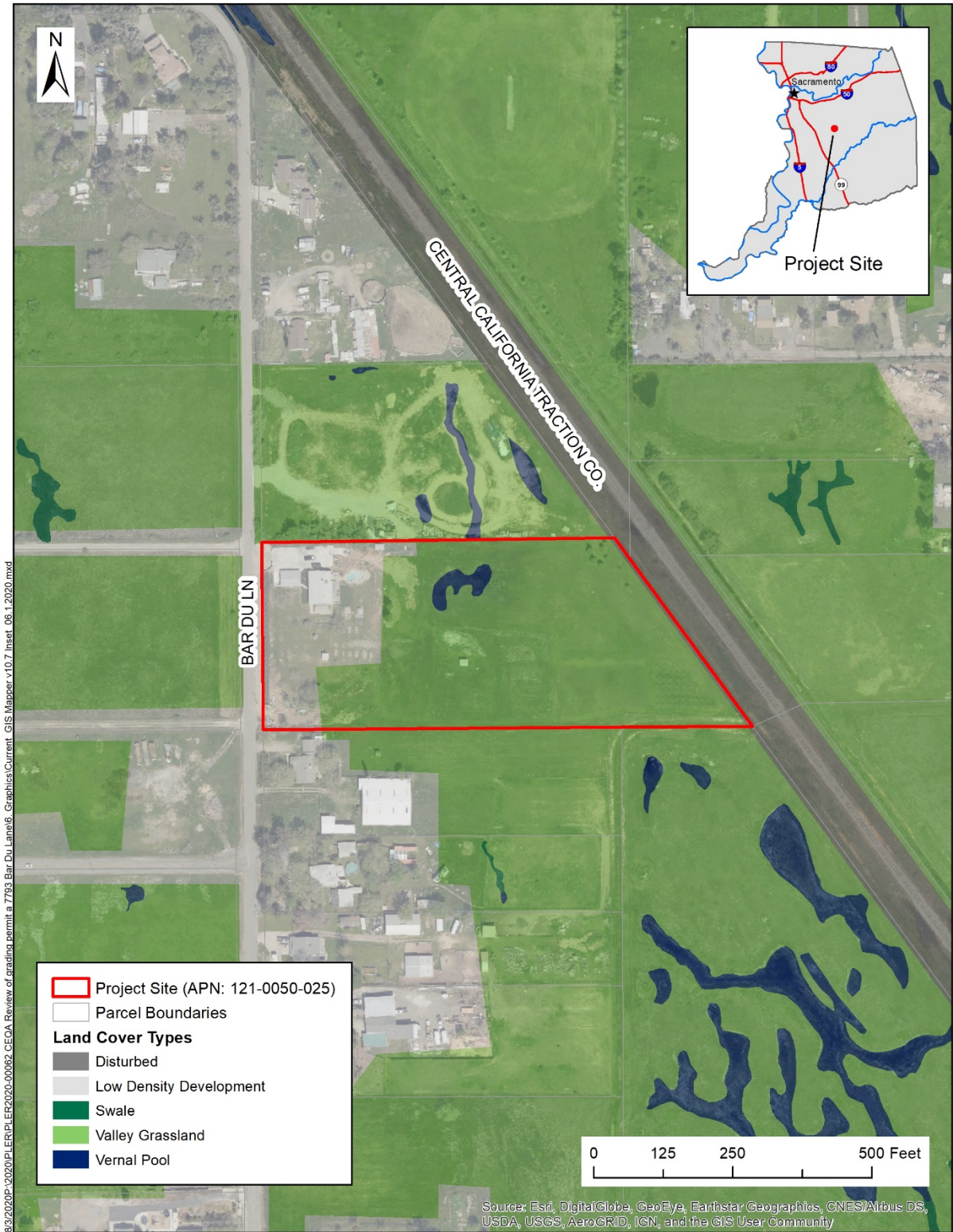


Plate IS-6: Verified SSHCP Land Cover

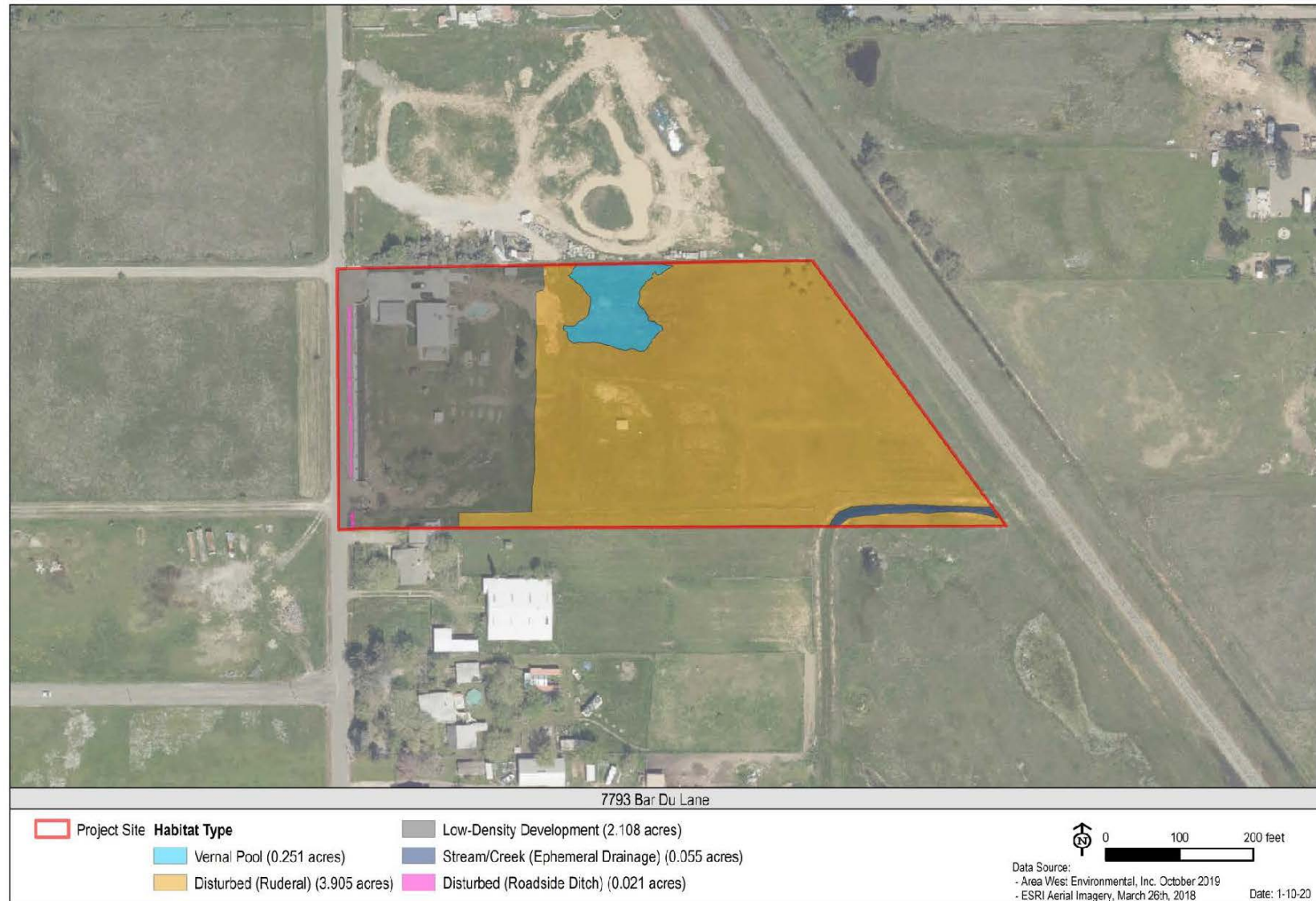
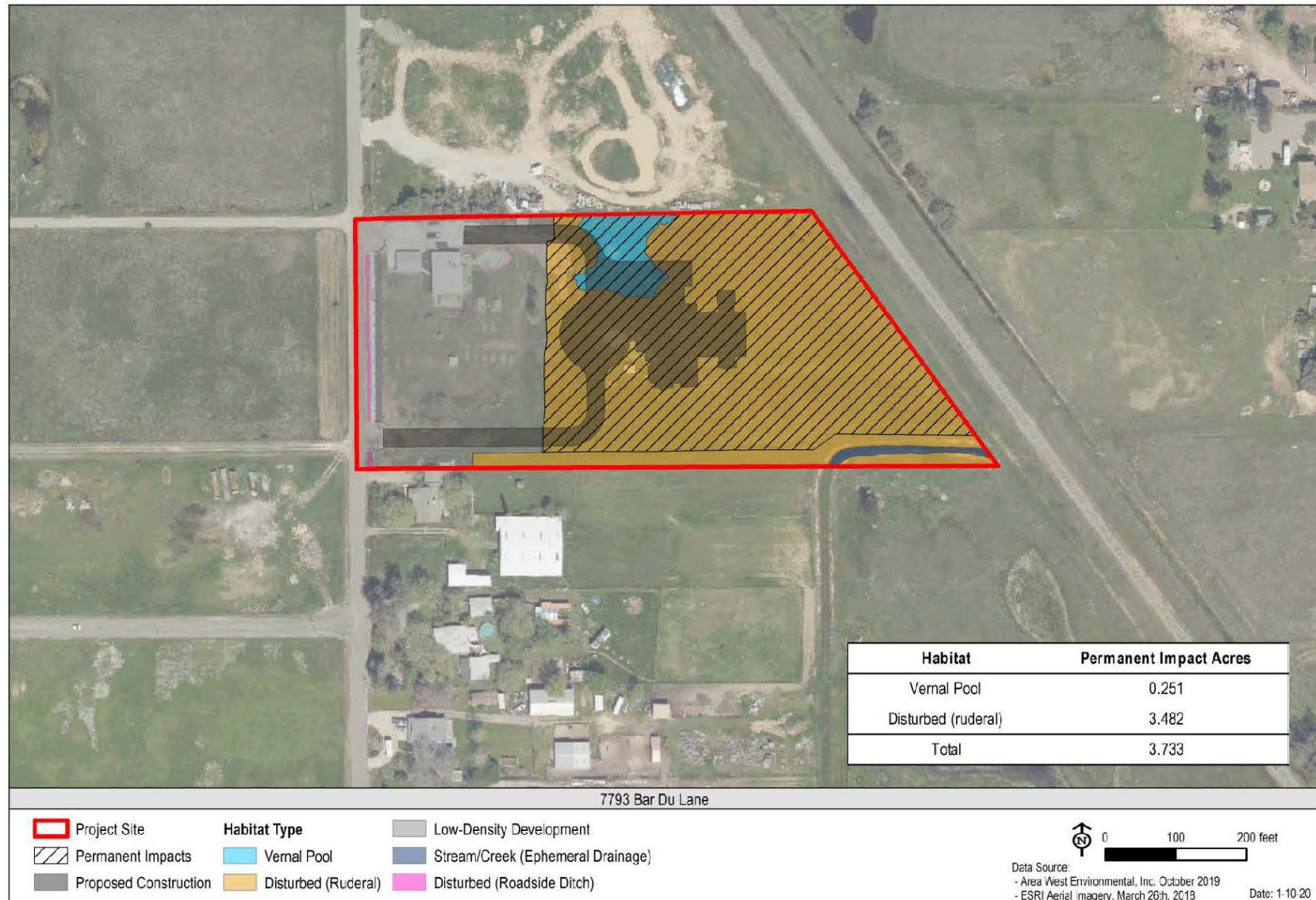


Plate IS-7: Estimated Land Cover Impacts



WETLANDS AND WATERS OF THE U.S.

Federal and state regulation (Clean Water Act Sections 404 and 401) uses the term “surface water” to refer to all standing or flowing water which is present aboveground either perennially or seasonally. There are many types of surface waters, but the two major groupings are linear waterways with a bed and bank (streams, rivers, etc.) and wetlands. The Clean Water Act has defined the term wetland to mean “those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions”. The term “wetlands” includes a diverse assortment of habitats such as perennial and seasonal freshwater marshes, vernal pools, and wetted swales. The 1987 Army Corps Wetlands Delineation Manual is used to determine whether an area meets the technical criteria for a wetland and is therefore subject to local, State or Federal regulation of that habitat type. A delineation verification by the Army Corps will verify the size and condition of the wetlands and other waters in question, and will help determine the extent of government jurisdiction.

Wetlands are regulated by both the Federal and State government, pursuant to the Clean Water Act Section 404 (federal) and Section 401 (state). The United States Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) is generally the lead agency for the federal permit process, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) is generally the lead agency for the state permit process. The Clean Water Act protects all “navigable waters”, which are defined as traditional navigable waters that are or were used for commerce, or may be used for interstate commerce; tributaries of covered waters; and wetlands adjacent to covered waters, including tributaries.

In addition to the Clean Water Act, the state also has jurisdiction over impacts to surface waters through the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, which does not require that waters be “navigable”. For this reason, Federal non-jurisdictional waters – isolated wetlands – can be regulated by the State of California pursuant to Porter-Cologne.

The Clean Water Act establishes a “no net” loss” policy regarding wetlands for the state and federal governments, and General Plan Policy CO-58 establishes a “no net loss” policy for Sacramento County. Mitigation requirements consistent with the SSHCP are in compliance with these policies.

The SSHCP implements a CWA Section 404 permit strategy (SPK-1995-00386) for SSHCP covered activity projects that would discharge fill material into wetlands and other waters of the United States. The multi-tiered CWA 404 permit strategy draws upon the content of the SSHCP, the Aquatic Resources Program (ARP), and aquatic resource protection ordinances. The ARP is a local jurisdiction based aquatic resources permit program that adds to the strength of the SSHCP framework of protection of natural communities and native plant and wildlife species, including protection of aquatic resources. A primary goal of ARP implementation is to achieve an overall no net loss of aquatic resources functions and services. While the ARP focuses on a permit program to address impacts to aquatic resources and the SSHCP focuses on permitting related

to incidental take of species, both permitting processes are done in conjunction with one another and consist of:

- A programmatic general permit (PGP), founded on a local aquatic resources protection program and designed to reduce duplication with that program, for covered activities with minimal individual and cumulative effects on aquatic resources. The PGP is implemented by the three land-use authority Permit Applicants (i.e., Sacramento County, Galt, and Rancho Cordova).
- A regional general permit (RGP), for covered activities with minimal individual and cumulative effects on aquatic resources that do not qualify for the PGP.
- A procedure for issuing Letters of Permission (LOP procedure) for covered activities with more than minimal effects, but less-than-significant effects, on the human environment, including aquatic resources.
- An abbreviated process for issuing standard permits (abbreviated SP) for other covered activity impacts that do not qualify for the PGP or the LOP procedure. The abbreviated SP process is used for the small number of SSHCP covered activities requiring authorization under CWA 404 that may significantly affect the human environment under NEPA, requiring the preparation of an EIS.

The CWA 404 permit strategy relies, at all levels of permitting, on the SSHCP to address avoidance, minimization and requirements for compensatory mitigation for impacts to aquatic resources. Key to satisfying compensatory mitigation requirements, payment of SSHCP-required fees dually fulfills a Corps-approved South Sacramento In Lieu Fee Program established by the SSHCP Permittees, which relies on the compensatory mitigation ratio requirements for aquatic resources contained in the SSHCP (vs. project-by-project compensatory mitigation evaluation).

DISCUSSION OF PROJECT IMPACTS

As shown in Plate IS-6, Area West identified 0.251 acres of vernal pool along the northern property boundary, 0.55 acres of ephemeral ditch in the southeast corner of the property, and 0.021 acres of roadside drainage along Bar Du Lane at the western property line. The Army Corps issued a preliminary jurisdictional determination for the project site on June 8, 2020 for 0.306-acres of waters of the U.S.

As shown in Plate IS-7, a segment of the northern access road and a portion of the second home would be located within the vernal pool. Construction activities would result in permanent fill to approximately 0.251 acres of vernal pool onsite. The placement of permanent fill within the vernal pool feature would be considered a direct impact and would require payment for the entire feature (0.251 acres). The proposed project would avoid the ephemeral ditch at the southeastern corner of the site, and the roadside drainage feature at the western end of the project.

CONCLUSION

By mitigating for loss of vernal pools through the SSHCP, impacts to wetland resources will be ***less than significant with mitigation***.

SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES

The likelihood of a special status species to be present on the project site was determined using the technical studies/documents listed above, and topical literature as cited. Species considered for presence are those species with modeled habitat identified in the SSHCP and species considered with potential occurrence as indicated on the official USFWS species list, CNDDDB quad queries (Elk Grove, Sloughhouse, Clay, Galt, Bruceville, Florin, Sacramento East, Carmichael, and Buffalo Creek US Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangles), CNPS queries. This is the basis for species outlined in Table IS-5 and Table IS-6, which report the likelihood of species occurrence based on habitat presence either on the site or in proximity of the site, survey results (if any), and nearby recorded species occurrences. Likelihood of occurrence is rated as Not Expected to Occur, Could Occur, and Known to Occur, which are defined as:

- Not Expected to Occur: Species is unlikely to be present on the project site due to poor habitat quality, lack of suitable habitat features, or restricted current distribution of the species.
- Could Occur: Suitable habitat is available on the project site; however, there are little to no other indicators that the species might be present.
- Known to Occur: The species, or evidence of its presence, was observed on the project site during project surveys, or was otherwise documented.
- Species with a Not Expected to Occur designation are not discussed further in subsequent analysis sections.

SPECIAL-STATUS PLANTS

Table IS-5 provides a list of the special-status plant species with potential to occur based upon the available data from USFWS' IPaC, CNNDDB, CNPS, and species covered by the SSHCP. The table describes their regulatory status, habitat, and potential for occurrence on the project site.

Table IS-6: Special-Status Plant Species and Potential for Occurrence

Species	Status ¹				Habitat and Blooming Period	Potential for Occurrence ²
	USFWS	CDFW	CRPR	SSHCP		
Ahart's dwarf rush <i>Juncus leiospermus</i> var. <i>ahartii</i>	–	–	1B.2	Yes	An annual herb found in mesic valley and foothill grassland from 100 to 750 feet. Blooms March - May (CNPS 2020).	Not expected to occur. Habitat is below elevation range of the species. No known occurrences are present within five miles of the project site.

Bogg's Lake hedge-hyssop <i>Gratiola heterosepala</i>	–	E	1B.2	Yes	L A state-endangered annual herb found in clay soils along margins of lakes, marshes, swamps, and in vernal pools from 33 to 7,792 feet elevation. Blooms from April - June (CNPS 2020).	Not expected to occur. Clay soils do not occur onsite and the disturbed vernal pool habitat has sandy loam soils. The nearest recorded occurrence is located approximately 3.14 miles to the southwest.
Bristly sedge <i>Carex comosa</i>	–	–	2B.1	No	Coastal prairies, marshes, swamps, lake margins, and valley and foothill grasslands. 0 to 2,050 feet elevation. Blooms May – September. (CNPS 2020)	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur on site. No recorded, CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the site.
Delta tule pea <i>Lathyrus jepsonii</i> var. <i>jepsonii</i>	–	–	1B.2	No	Freshwater and brackish marshes and swamps. 0 to 15 feet elevation. Blooms May - July. (CNPS 2020)	Not expected to occur. No suitable habitat onsite. No known occurrences within five miles of the project site.
Dwarf downingia <i>Downingia pusilla</i>	–	–	2B.2	Yes	An annual herb found in mesic valley and foothill grassland and vernal pools from 3 to 1,500 feet elevation. Blooms March - May (CNPS 2020).	Not expected to occur. The vernal pool onsite has been severely disturbed. Three recorded occurrences are located approximately 3.25 miles to the southwest.
Heckard's pepper grass <i>Lepidium latipes</i> var. <i>heckardii</i>	–	–	1B.2	No	Valley and foothill grasslands (alkaline soils) from 0-655 feet elevation. Blooms March – May (CNPS 2020).	Not expected to occur. The site does not contain alkaline soils. No known occurrences within five miles of the project site.
Legenere <i>Legenere limosa</i>	–	–	1B.1	Yes	Relatively deep and wet vernal pools below 3,000 feet elevation. Blooms April – June (CNPS 2020).	Not expected to occur. The vernal pool feature onsite is shallow, does not support spikerush or smooth goldfields and is severely degraded. There are 29 recorded occurrences within the nine-quad search area; the nearest occurrences are located approximately 2.91 miles south of the site.
Marsh skullcap <i>Scutellaria galericulata</i>	–	–	2B.2	No	Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps (mesic), as well as marshes and swamps. 0 to 6,890 feet elevation. Blooms June – September (CNPS 2020)	Not expected to occur. No suitable habitat present. No occurrences within five miles of the site.
Mason's lilaeopsis <i>Lilaeopsis masonii</i>	–	Rare	1B.1	No	Marshes and swamps (freshwater or brackish) and riparian scrub. 0 – 35 feet elevation. Blooms April-November.	Not expected to occur. No suitable habitat present onsite. Not detected during October floristic survey, during evident and identifiable period. No known occurrences within five miles of the site.
Peruvian dodder <i>Cuscuta obtusiflora</i> var. <i>glandulosa</i>	–	–	2B.2	No	Marshes and swamps (fresh water) from 0-920 feet elevation. Blooms July-October (CNPS 2020).	Not expected to occur. No suitable habitat on site. No recorded occurrences within five miles of the site.

Pincushion navarretia <i>Navarretia myersii</i>	–	–	1B.1	Yes	Vernal pools (often acidic). 65 – to 980 feet elevation. Blooms April – May.	Not expected to occur. Vernal pool is severely degraded, but provides marginal habitat. Not observed during floristic surveys, but surveys were not conducted during the evident and identifiable period. No recorded occurrences within nine-quad search area.
Sacramento Orcutt grass <i>Orcuttia viscida</i>	E	E	1B.1	Yes	Vernal pools; 98 to 328 feet elevation. Blooms April–July (CNPS 2020).	Not expected to occur. The vernal pool onsite is located below the known elevation range and is degraded state. The BSA is not in or near designated critical habitat for Sacramento Orcutt grass. There are eight CNDDDB occurrences within the nine-quad search area. The nearest recorded occurrence is located approximately 2.81 miles northeast of the project site.
Saline clover <i>Trifolium hydrophilum</i>	–	–	1B.2	No	Shallow marsh, vernal pools, alkaline flats; 0-985 feet. Blooms April – June (CNPS 2019)	Not expected to occur. The site does not contain saline or alkaline soils. No recorded occurrences within five miles of the site.
Sanford's arrowhead <i>Sagittaria sanfordii</i>	–	–	1B.2	Yes	Shallow freshwater marshes, swamps, drainage channels; below 2,200 feet elevation. Blooms May–October (CNPS 2020).	Not expected to occur. Southeast ditch provides marginal habitat; however, the species was not identified during site surveys during the evident and identifiable period. There are 45 recorded occurrences within the 9-quad search area, with the nearest known occurrence located approximately 1.40 miles to the southeast.
Side-flowering skullcap <i>Scutellaria lateriflora</i>	–	–	2B.2	No	Meadows and seeps (mesic) as well as marshes and swamps. 0 to 1,640 feet elevation. Blooms July – September.	Not expected to occur. No suitable habitat present onsite. No known occurrences within five miles of the site.
Slender Orcutt grass <i>Orcuttia tenuis</i>	E	E	1B.1	Yes	Annual herb found in vernal pools, often those with gravelly substrate, from 115 to 5,800 ft. Blooms May –October (CNPS 2020).	Not expected to occur. No habitat on-site. There are two known occurrences in the search area; the closest occurrence was recorded approximately 4.92 miles east of the project area. The species was not observed during the May 2019 botanical survey conducted during the evident and identifiable period for this species.
Watershield <i>Brasenia schreberi</i>	–	–	2B.3	No	Freshwater marshes and swamps. 95-7,220 feet elevation. Blooms June-September. (CNPS 2020)	Not expected to occur. The project site lacks suitable habitat and is below the elevation range of the species. No recorded, CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the project site.
Woolly rose mallow <i>Hibiscus lasiocarpus var. occidentalis</i>	–	–	1B.2	No	Often found in riprap on sides of levees in freshwater marshes and swamps. 0 to 395 feet elevation. Blooms June – September (CNPS 2020)	Not expected to occur. No suitable habitat onsite. No known occurrences within five miles of the project site.

Notes: USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; CDFW = California Department of Fish and Wildlife; CRPR = California Rare Plant Rank; SSHCP = South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan; CNDDDB = California Natural Diversity Database; ESA = Federal Endangered Species Act; CESA = California Endangered Species Act

¹ Legal Status Definitions

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:	California Rare Plant Ranks:
E Endangered (legally protected)	1B Plant species considered rare or endangered in California and elsewhere (protected under CEQA, but not legally protected under ESA or CESA)
T Threatened (legally protected)	2 Plant species considered rare or endangered in California but more common elsewhere (protected under CEQA, but not legally protected under ESA or CESA)
California Department of Fish and Game:	CRPR Extensions:
E Endangered (legally protected)	.1 Seriously endangered in California (>80% of occurrences are threatened and/or high degree and immediacy of threat)
	.2 Fairly endangered in California (20 to 80% of occurrences are threatened)

CONCLUSION

As shown in Table IS-5, no special status species are expected to occur on-site. There is no suitable habitat, no special-status plant species were detected during any of the floristic surveys. Impacts to special-status plants are considered ***less than significant***.

SPECIAL STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES

Table IS-6 provides a list of the special-status wildlife species with potential to occur based upon the available data from USFWS' IPaC, CNNDDB, Area West's biological report, and species covered by the SSHCP. The table describes their regulatory status, habitat, and potential for occurrence on the project site.

Table IS-7: Special-Status Wildlife and Potential for Occurrence

Species	Listing Status ¹			Habitat	Potential for Occurrence ²
	Federal	State	SSHCP		
		Invertebrates			
California linderiella <i>Linderiella occidentalis</i>	–	–	No	Inhabit shallow vernal pools and other seasonal wetlands.	Could occur. The site has suitable habitat for the species. There are 72 occurrences within the 9-quad search area. The nearest recorded occurrence is located 0.51 miles south of the site.
Midvalley fairy shrimp <i>Branchinecta mesovallensis</i>	–	–	Yes	Inhabit shallow vernal pools, vernal swales, and various artificial ephemeral wetland habitats in the Sacramento (SSHCP 2018).	Could occur. The site has suitable habitat for the species. There are 28 occurrences within the 9-quad search area. The nearest recorded occurrence is located 0.51 miles south of the site.
Ricksecker's water scavenger beetle <i>Hydrochara rickseckeri</i>	–	–	Yes	Inhabits seasonal wetlands, including vernal pools.	Could occur. The site contains suitable habitat for the species; however, it is unlikely that species would be found given its extreme rarity. There are two known occurrences within the nine-quad area. The nearest occurrence is located approximately 5.12 miles to the northeast of the project site.
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle <i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i>	T	–	Yes	Dependent on elderberry shrubs (host plant); potential habitat is shrubs with stems 1 inch in diameter within Central Valley.	Not expected to occur. The site does not contain elderberry shrubs.
Vernal pool fairy shrimp	T	–	Yes	Vernal pools and other seasonal wetlands in valley and foothill grasslands. Tends to occur in	Could occur. The site has suitable habitat for the species. There are 89 occurrences

Species	Listing Status ¹			Habitat	Potential for Occurrence ²
	Federal	State	SSHCP		
<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>				smaller wetland features (less than 0.05 acre in size) (USFWS 1994).	within the 9-quadrant search area. The nearest recorded occurrence is located 0.51 miles south of the site.
Vernal pool tadpole shrimp <i>Lepidurus packardii</i>	E	–	Yes	Vernal pools and other seasonal wetlands in valley and foothill grasslands that pond for sufficient duration to allow the species to complete its life cycle. Typically found in ponds ranging from 0.1 to 80 acres in size (USFWS 1994).	Could occur. The site has suitable habitat for the species. There are 93 occurrences within the 9-quadrant search area. The nearest recorded occurrence is located 0.51 miles south of the site.
Amphibians and Reptiles					
California red-legged frog <i>Rana draytonii</i>	FT	SC	No	Inhabits ponds, slow-moving creeks, and streams with deep pools that are lined with dense emergent marsh or shrubby riparian vegetation. Submerged root masses and undercut banks are important habitat features for this species.	Not expected to occur. The site does not contain suitable habitat (semi-permanent freshwater habitat). The species is considered extirpated from the Sacramento Valley floor.
California tiger salamander <i>Ambystoma californiense</i>	FT	ST	Yes	Vernal pools and seasonal wetlands with a minimum 10-week inundation period and surrounding uplands, primarily grasslands, with burrows and other belowground refugia (e.g., rock or soil crevices).	Not expected to occur. The study area does not provide suitable habitat for this species (deep ponds that pool for roughly three continuous months). There are 10 occurrences within the 9-quadrant search area, with the nearest occurrence located approximately 4.01 miles to the northeast.
Giant garter snake <i>Thamnophis gigas</i>	T	T	Yes	Slow-moving streams, sloughs, ponds, marshes, inundated floodplains, rice fields, and irrigation/drainage ditches on the Central Valley floor with mud bottoms, earthen banks, emergent vegetation, abundant small aquatic prey and absence or low numbers of large predatory fish. Also require upland refugia not subject to flooding during the snake's inactive season.	Could occur. The drainage feature at the southeastern corner of the site provides moderate foraging habitat. The site also provides upland habitat. There are 15 recorded occurrences within the 9-quadrant search area. The nearest occurrence is located approximately 4.30 miles to the southwest.
Western pond turtle <i>Emys marmorata</i>	–	SC	Yes	Forage in ponds, marshes, slow-moving streams, sloughs, and irrigation/drainage ditches; nest in nearby uplands with low, sparse vegetation.	Not expected to occur. No suitable habitat present. The drainage channel is ephemeral and is generally too narrow and shallow to support the species. There are 13 recorded occurrences within the search area, with the nearest occurrence located approximately 3.67 miles to the northeast.
Western spadefoot <i>Spea hammondi</i>	–	SC	Yes	Vernal pools and other seasonal ponds with a minimum three-week inundation period in valley and adjacent foothill grasslands.	Could occur. The site contains suitable habitat; however, the vernal pool is severely degraded. There are 12 occurrences within the 9-quadrant area and the nearest occurrence is located approximately 2.77 miles to the northeast.
Birds					
Burrowing owl <i>Athene cunicularia</i> (burrow sites)	–	SC	Yes	Nests and forages in grasslands, agricultural lands, open shrublands, and open woodlands with existing ground squirrel burrows or friable soils. Suitable burrow sites consist of short, herbaceous	Could occur. The valley grasslands on-site could provide suitable habitat for the species; however, the owners have multiple dogs on the property. The only area that is

Species	Listing Status ¹			Habitat	Potential for Occurrence ²
	Federal	State	SSHCP		
				vegetation with only sparse cover of shrubs or taller herbs (Shuford and Gardali 2008: 221).	protected by fence from the dogs is along the drainage channel. The species was not observed during site surveys. There are 43 CNDDDB records within the search area. The nearest occurrence is located 2.77 miles northwest of the site. Further discussion below
Cooper's hawk <i>Accipiter cooperi</i>	–	–	Yes	Nests in a wide variety of woodland and forest habitats. Dense stands of live oak, deciduous riparian, or other forest habitats near water are preferred. Nests are placed in deciduous trees in crotches 10-80 ft above the ground (CWHR 2019).	Could occur. The site contains suitable foraging habitat. There are six known CNDDDB records within the search area; closest record, from 1997, is approximately 1.01 miles southeast of the site. Unlikely that nesting would occur nearby since there are no live oak, deciduous, riparian, or other forest habitats near water anywhere close to the BSA. Further discussion below.
Ferruginous hawk <i>Buteo regalis</i>	–	–	Yes	Forages in large, open tracts of grasslands, sparse scrubland, and deserts. It frequents open grasslands, sagebrush flats, desert scrub, low foothills and surrounding valleys, and fringes of pinyon-juniper habitats. Nesting occurs in lone trees or on telephone poles; species is not known to breed in California (CWHR 2019).	Could occur. The site's valley grassland suitable foraging habitat. There are three CNDDDB records in the search area; the closest record, from 1993, is located approximately 3.67 miles southwest of the site. Further discussion below.
Golden eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	–	FP	No	Foothills and mountains throughout California; uncommon nonbreeding visitor to lowlands in the Central Valley. Nests on cliffs and escarpments or tall trees; forages in annual grasslands, chaparral, and oak woodlands with plentiful prey.	Not expected to occur. Although the site provides foraging habitat it is unlikely the species would be forage within on a small property in a disturbed, residential area. There is one occurrence in the search area, from 1991, located 3.71 miles to the northeast.
Loggerhead shrike <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	–	SC	Yes	Nests in a densely-foliaged shrub or tree. Prefers open grasslands or scrub with shrubs or trees and low, sparse herbaceous cover with perches available (fences, posts, utility lines). In California, the critical nesting season is from March into August (CHWR 2019).	Could occur. The valley grassland provides suitable foraging habitat. There are no known CNDDDB records of loggerhead shrike in Sacramento County; however, this species is frequently observed in open grasslands in the Central Valley, including portions of Sacramento County as indicated by eBird (2020) observations. Further discussion below.
Northern harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	–	SC	Yes	Breed and forage in a variety of open (treeless) habitats that provide adequate vegetative cover, an abundance of suitable prey, and scattered hunting, plucking, and lookout perches such as shrubs and fence posts. Habitats include freshwater marshes, brackish and saltwater marshes, wet meadows, weedy	Could occur. The valley grassland provides suitable foraging habitat. There are no known CNDDDB records of northern harrier in the search area or in Sacramento County; however, this species is frequently observed throughout Sacramento County as indicated by eBird (2020) observations.

Species	Listing Status ¹			Habitat	Potential for Occurrence ²
	Federal	State	SSHCP		
				borders of lakes, rivers and streams, annual and perennial grasslands, vernal pool complexes, weed fields, ungrazed or lightly grazed pastures, low-growing crop fields, sagebrush flats, and desert sinks (Shuford and Gardali 2008).	Further discussion below.
Purple martin <i>Progne subis</i>	–	SC	No	Uses valley foothill and montane hardwood, valley foothill and montane hardwood-conifer, and riparian habitats. Also occurs in coniferous habitats. Utilizes abandoned woodpecker holes and tree cavities in valley oak and cottonwood forests for nesting. Also has been found nesting in vertical drainage holes under freeways and bridges. Open area required for foraging.	Not expected to occur. No suitable habitat is present onsite. There are no known occurrences within five miles of the site.
Song sparrow <i>Melospiza melodia</i>	–	SC	No	Inhabits tidally influenced marshes with cord grass, pickleweed, and/or gumplant.	Not expected to occur. No suitable habitat present onsite. There are no known occurrences within five miles of the project site.
Swainson's hawk <i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	–	T	Yes	Forages in grasslands and agricultural lands; nests in riparian and isolated trees.	Could occur. There are 179 CNDDDB occurrences within the search area. Closest occurrence, from 2009, is located approximately 0.76 miles northeast of the project site. The site provides suitable foraging habitat but does not contain large trees suitable for nesting. Further discussion below.
Tricolored blackbird <i>Agelaius tricolor</i> (nesting colony)	–	E	Yes	Forages in agricultural lands and grasslands; nests in marshes, riparian scrub, and other areas that support cattails or dense thickets of shrubs or herbs. Requires open water and protected nesting substrate, such as flooded, spiny, or thorny vegetation (Schuford and Gardali 2008: 439).	Not expected to occur. The site does not contain any potential nesting habitat, but does provide potential habitat for foraging. There are 87 CNDDDB records in the search area. The closest record, from 2014, is located approximately 0.86 miles south of the site—colony is considered presumed extant.
Western yellow-billed cuckoo <i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	T	E	No	Prefer isolated wooded riparian corridors surrounded by extensive arid uplands. Known breeding populations in California, exist along the Sacramento River and Feather River (Dettling MD, Seavy NE, Howell CA, Gardali T 2015).	Not expected to occur. The site does not contain suitable habitat. The one record within the search area was recorded in 1877. This occurrence has a 5-mile radius and is located approximately 6.17 miles northwest of the site.
White-tailed kite <i>Elanus leucurus</i>	–	FP	Yes	White-tailed kites occur in herbaceous and open stages of most habitats in cismontane California. Areas with substantial groves of dense, broad-leaved deciduous trees are used for nesting and roosting. Nests are typically located from 20 to 100 feet above the ground near the top of dense oak, willow, or other tree stands, and are often located near an open	Could occur. Valley grasslands on-site provide potential foraging habitat. No nesting habitat present onsite. There are 18 known CNDDDB records within the search area, with the closest record, from 1990, located 1.57 miles northwest of the BSA. Further discussion below.

Species	Listing Status ¹			Habitat	Potential for Occurrence ²
	Federal	State	SSHCP		
				foraging area with a dense population of voles (CWHR 2019).	
Mammals					
American badger <i>Taxidea taxus</i>	–	SC	Yes	Suitable habitat occurs in the drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats with friable soils. Badgers are generally associated with treeless regions, prairies, parklands, and cold desert areas.	Not expected to occur. No friable soils onsite. Site lacks species and is patrolled by two large dogs. There are 4 known CNDDDB records with the search area, with the nearest occurrence located approximately 3.60 miles northeast of the site.
Pallid bat <i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	–	SC	No	Grasslands, agricultural fields, and desert habitat. Roosts in rock crevices, caves, mine shafts, under bridges, in buildings and tree hollows. Some hibernate; many remain active all year in low to mid-elevations.	Not expected to occur. Suitable foraging habitat but site lacks roosting habitat. No CNDDDB occurrences within search area.
Western red bat <i>Lasiurus blossevillei</i>	–	SC	Yes	This species roost primarily in trees along edge habitats adjacent to streams, fields, or urban areas. The species can be found within either natural or human-made structures, such as caves, mines, crevices (including under bridges), hollow trees, and in abandoned or seldom-used buildings. Young are born to the species in the spring and early summer (maternity colonies typically begin to form in April, and births occur from May through early July).	Not expected to occur. Site lacks suitable roosting habitat. Trees onsite do not meet typical roosting habitat (tall trees with limited branches below for dropping from perch). There are no known occurrences of western red bat within five miles of the project area.
Yuma myotis <i>Myotis yumanensis</i>	–	–	No	Found in open forests and woodlands usually feeding over water. Emerges soon after sunset and feeds on a variety of flying insects low to the ground. Roosts in buildings, bridges, mines, caves, or crevices (CDFW 2020).	Not expected to occur. Suitable foraging habitat but site lacks roosting habitat. No CNDDDB occurrences within search area.

Note: CNDDDB = California Natural Diversity Database; USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; SSHCP = South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan

¹ Legal Status Definitions

Federal:

E Endangered
(legally protected)

T Threatened
(legally protected)

D Delisted

State:

D Delisted

FP Fully protected (legally protected)

SC Species of special concern (no formal protection other than CEQA consideration)

E Endangered (legally protected)

T Threatened (legally protected)

² Potential for Occurrence Definitions

Not expected to occur: Species is unlikely to be present on the project site due to poor habitat quality, lack of suitable habitat features, or restricted current distribution of the species.

Could occur: Suitable habitat is available on the project site; however, there are little to no other indicators that the species might be present.

Known to occur: The species, or evidence of its presence, was observed on the project site during project surveys, or was otherwise documented.

Source: Area West Environmental, Inc., CDFW 2020, CNDDDB 2020, USFWS 2020

As noted in Table IS-6, several special-status species and SSHCP cover species have the potential to occur on the project site. Species not expected to occur will not be discussed further. Species with potential to occur are discussed below.

VERNAL POOL CRUSTACEANS

Vernal pool habitats may be subject to either direct or indirect impacts. Indirect impacts may be caused because development in proximity of a vernal pool could deliver runoff polluted with urban contaminants and introduce non-native species associated with development landscaping. Development may also reduce the size of the watershed that supports the vernal pool, by diverting runoff that once went into the vernal pool into a storm drainage system. This watershed reduction could cause a reduction in the depth and/or duration of ponding. Shorter inundation durations may mean a change in pool temperature, depth, and pH. Features that may have been utilized by species that required specific inundation durations for the completion of breeding cycles may no longer provide suitable habitat. The programmatic consultation indicates that all habitats within 250 feet of proposed development may be subject to indirect impacts. The same approach is being used to assess onsite indirect impacts to vernal pools within the SSHCP. Thus, all development must occur a minimum of 250 feet from the margin of any vernal pool in order to achieve total avoidance of impacts, unless a lesser buffer is approved by U.S. Fish and Wildlife. Indirect impacts to preserves is calculated using a modeled watershed approach under the SSHCP. The project is not expected to impact existing or known proposed preserves.

The SSHCP assumes all modeled habitat to be potential habitat for vernal pool crustaceans, including vernal pools, and swales. A direct impact is the filling or excavation of a vernal pool. The SSHCP specifies that if filling or excavation occurs within any portion of a vernal pool, the entire vernal pool should be considered directly impacted.

The SSHCP permit strategy relies on the USFWS biological opinion (BO) that includes all future SSHCP covered activities requiring a CWA 404 permit, eliminating the need for individual project-by-project consultations under ESA Section 7. Compensatory mitigation for the loss of vernal pool habitat is satisfied through the SSHCP by purchasing credits from the South Sacramento (in-lieu fee) ILF Program. The ILF program was established compliant with the 2008 federal mitigation rule (33 CFR Part 332), and is fully synergized with the SSHCP's fees for the applicable land cover type (e.g., vernal pools). The ILF program utilizes the compensatory mitigation ratio requirements for aquatic resources required by the SSHCP, which consist of a 1:1 ratio of re-establishment/establishment (i.e., net gain) with respect to loss, for all potential waters of the U.S. In addition to the ILF program, the SSHCP mitigation fees provide funding for habitat preservation to mitigate (1:1) for direct and/or indirect impacts to SSHCP covered species habitat.

DISCUSSION OF PROJECT IMPACTS

The project site contains 0.251 acres of vernal pool. Wetland and water features on and off-site may provide potential habitat for vernal pool fairy species. The biological report noted that there was moderate potential for the presence of vernal pool crustaceans. As noted in Table IS-6, there were multiple records of crustaceans within five miles of the site, with the nearest CNDDDB occurrence located approximately 0.51 miles south of the project site. The protocol under the SSHCP assumes that the delineated onsite and

offsite wetlands may be vernal pool habitat and potentially contain special status vernal pool crustaceans, even if there are no documented occurrences in the waters.

The project intends to place permanent fill in the vernal pool in order to construct an access road and build a second home. This would result in the loss of vernal pool habitat and potential take of the species. Participation in the SSHCP would require compensatory mitigation for the loss of vernal pool habitat.

CONCLUSION

With participation in the SSHCP and compliance with AMMs, impacts to vernal pool crustaceans are considered ***less than significant with mitigation***.

RICKSECKER'S WATER SCAVENGER BEETLE

The Ricksecker's water scavenger beetle (RWSB) is a SSHCP covered species and does not have a state or federal listing status. The species is an aquatic beetle that requires seasonally inundated vernal pools and depressional wetlands that remain inundated for a minimum of 18 days in all but the driest years. The species was originally described as endemic to the San Francisco Bay region, but recent collections have been made in Solano County and from vernal pools in Sacramento and Placer counties. In the Central Valley, suitable habitat occurs below 980 feet. It is listed primarily due to its association with in-decline habitats, rather than based on known population trends. The beetle is known to co-occur with vernal pool fairy shrimp.

DISCUSSION OF PROJECT IMPACTS

RWSB could occur within the vernal pools onsite; however, it is unlikely that species would be found given its extreme rarity. There are two CNDDDB records within the nine-quad area, with the closest occurrence over five miles northeast of the site. The vernal pools and swales provide only marginal habitat for RWSB since these features are shallow, dry in early spring, and may not hold water continuously for a sufficient period for RWSB to reproduce. The extent and duration of inundation, and therefore RWSB habitat suitability, will vary from year to year depending on precipitation, temperature, etc.

The project intends to place permanent fill in the vernal pool in order to construct an access road and build a second home. This would result in the loss of vernal pool habitat and potential take of the species. Participation in the SSHCP would require compensatory mitigation for the loss of vernal pool habitat.

CONCLUSION

With participation in the SSHCP and compliance with AMMs, impacts to RWSB are considered ***less than significant with mitigation***.

GIANT GARTER SNAKE

Giant garter snake (GGS; *Thamnophis gigas*) is listed as Threatened, by the state and federal governments. The species can be found in slow-moving streams, sloughs, ponds, marshes, inundated floodplains, rice fields, and irrigation/drainage ditches on the

Central Valley floor with mud bottoms, earthen banks, emergent vegetation, abundant small aquatic prey and absence or low numbers of large predatory fish. It is important to note that the species requires upland refugia not subject to flooding during the snake's inactive season.

DISCUSSION OF PROJECT IMPACTS

The species could occur onsite. The drainage feature at the southeastern corner of the site provides moderate foraging habitat. The site and neighboring parcels provide upland habitat. There are 15 recorded occurrences within the 9-quad search area. The nearest occurrence is located approximately 4.30 miles to the southwest.

While the project intends to avoid the drainage channel, construction activities will occur within 200 feet of the aquatic habitat in the upland area. The project will be required to comply with the SSHCP's AMMs.

CONCLUSION

With participation in the SSHCP and compliance with AMMs, impacts to GGS are considered ***less than significant***.

WESTERN SPADEFOOT

The western spadefoot (*Scaphiopus (Spea) hammondi*) occurs in shallow, seasonal wetlands in valley and foothill habitats such as grasslands, open chaparral, sage scrubland, short-grass plains, and pine woodlands. Spadefoot occur in both grazed and ungrazed habitat. Adult spadefoot occupy burrows up to three feet in depth in upland habitat during dry periods to avoid desiccation. Individuals may remain in these burrows for eight to nine months. Most surface activity is nocturnal. The spadefoot leave their upland burrows for wetlands during the breeding season, which lasts from January to August, depending on rainfall. It appears that vernal pools and other temporary wetlands may be optimal for breeding due to the absence or reduced abundance of both native and nonnative predators (bullfrogs, fish, and crawfish), many of which require more permanent water sources. Current research on amphibian conservation suggests that average habitat utilization falls within 1,200 feet of aquatic habitats¹.

DISCUSSION OF PROJECT IMPACTS

The vernal pool and drainage channel provide only suitable habitat for the species; however, the vernal pool feature is severely degraded, shallow, dry in early spring, and may not hold water continuously for 30 continuous days as required for western spadefoot reproduction. There are 12 occurrences within the 9-quad area and the nearest occurrence is located approximately 2.77 miles to the northeast.

Construction activities related to grading and paving have the potential to impact the species. To avoid direct and indirect effects of covered activities on western spadefoot

¹ United States Fish and Wildlife Service, 2005. Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon. Portland, Oregon.

compliance with the SSHCP avoidance and minimization measures (AMMs) associated with the species will be required.

CONCLUSION

Participation in the SSHCP and compliance with the AMMs for western spadefoot will ensure that potential impacts to the species are ***less than significant***.

BURROWING OWL

According to the California Fish and Wildlife life history account for the species, burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) habitat can be found in annual and perennial grasslands, deserts, and arid scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation. Burrows are the essential component of burrowing owl habitat. Both natural and artificial burrows provide protection, shelter, and nesting sites for burrowing owls. Burrowing owls typically use burrows made by fossorial mammals, such as ground squirrels or badgers, but also use human-made structures such as cement culverts; cement, asphalt, or wood debris piles; or openings beneath cement or asphalt pavement. Burrowing owls are listed as a California Species of Special Concern due to loss of breeding habitat.

Burrowing owls may use a site for breeding, wintering, foraging, and/or migration stopovers. Nesting season is generally defined as February 1 – September 15. Occupancy of suitable burrowing owl habitat can be verified at a site by detecting a burrowing owl, its molted feathers, cast pellets, prey remains, eggshell fragments, or excrement at or near a burrow entrance. Burrowing owls exhibit high site fidelity, reusing burrows year after year.

According to the California Fish and Wildlife “Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation” (March 2012), surveys for burrowing owl should be conducted whenever suitable habitat is present within 500 feet of a proposed impact area; this is also consistent with the “Burrowing Owl Survey Protocol and Mitigation Guidelines” published by The California Burrowing Owl Consortium (April 1993). Occupancy of burrowing owl habitat is confirmed whenever one burrowing owl or burrowing owl sign has been observed at a burrow within the last three years.

The California Fish and Wildlife Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation indicates that the impact assessment should address the factors which could impact owls, the type and duration of disturbance, the timing and duration of the impact, and the significance of the impacts. The assessment should also take into account existing conditions, such as the visibility and likely sensitivity of the owls in question with respect to the disturbance area and any other environmental factors which may influence the degree to which an owl may be impacted (e.g. the availability of suitable habitat).

DISCUSSION OF PROJECT IMPACTS

The valley grasslands on-site could provide suitable habitat for the species; however, the owners have multiple dogs on the property. The only area that is protected by fence from the dogs is along the drainage channel. The species was not observed during site

surveys. There are 43 CNDDDB records within the search area. The nearest occurrence is located 2.77 miles northwest of the site. Participation in the SSHCP and compliance with the AMMs, including preconstruction surveys for burrowing owl, will ensure take of the species does not occur.

CONCLUSION

With participation in the SSHCP and compliance with AMMs, impacts to burrowing owls are considered ***less than significant***.

COOPER'S HAWK

Cooper's hawk nests in a wide variety of woodland and forest habitats. Dense stands of live oak, deciduous riparian, or other forest habitats near water are preferred. Nests are placed in deciduous trees in crotches 10-80 feet above the ground (CWHR 2019). Findings in a 1987 study of Cooper's hawk in California indicate that most nests occur in groves of six or more trees. Cooper's hawks appear tolerant of habitat fragmentation and human disturbance near the nest. Urban nest sites have included trees within 492 feet of commercial and recreational activities, and within 66 to 98 feet of residential houses. Pairs often reuse the same nest sites over consecutive years.

There is no potential nesting habitat for species within the BSA. There are six known CNDDDB records within the nine-quad area; closest record, from 1997, is approximately two miles northwest of the site. The species was not observed during biological surveys. It is unlikely that nesting would occur nearby since there are no live oak, deciduous riparian, or other forest habitats near water anywhere close to the BSA; however, the species could forage within the BSA.

DISCUSSION OF PROJECT IMPACTS

The site contains suitable foraging habitat. There are six known CNDDDB records within the search area; closest record, from 1997, is approximately 1.01 miles southeast of the site. It is unlikely that nesting would occur nearby since there are no live oak, deciduous, riparian, or other forest habitats near water anywhere close to the BSA. Compliance with the SSHCP AMMs for raptors will be required.

CONCLUSION

Participation in the SSHCP and compliance with the AMMs for raptors will ensure that potential impacts to the species are ***less than significant***.

FERRUGINOUS HAWK

This species forages in large, open tracts of grasslands, sparse scrubland, and deserts. It frequents open grasslands, sagebrush flats, desert scrub, low foothills and surrounding valleys, and fringes of pinyon-juniper habitats. Nesting occurs in lone trees or on telephone poles. Prey includes lagomorphs, ground squirrels, and mice, although it will also take birds, reptiles, and amphibians. This species is not known to breed in California; however, the species may forage within habitat on-site.

DISCUSSION OF PROJECT IMPACTS

The site's valley grassland suitable foraging habitat. There are three CNDDDB records in the search area; the closest record, from 1993, is located approximately 3.67 miles southwest of the site. Development of the parcel would result in a loss of foraging habitat (valley grassland) and potential nesting habitat.

CONCLUSION

With participation in the SSHCP and compliance with the AMMs for raptors, impacts to ferruginous hawk are considered ***less than significant***.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE

According to the California Fish and Wildlife Life History Account for the loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), the species breeds mainly in shrublands or open woodlands with a fair amount of grass cover and areas of bare ground. The species typically nests in large shrubs or trees. They require tall shrubs or trees (they also use fences or power lines) for hunting perches, territorial advertisement, and pair maintenance. They typically hunt for prey in open areas of short grasses, forbs, and barren ground cover. They also need impaling sites for placement and consuming of prey, which can include sharp, thorny or multi-stemmed plants and barbed-wire fences. The breeding season for this species begins in mid-March to early April and extends to July. The species is listed as a California Species of Special Concern due to loss of nesting habitat.

DISCUSSION OF PROJECT IMPACTS

The valley grassland provides suitable foraging habitat. There are no known CNDDDB records of loggerhead shrike in Sacramento County; however, this species is frequently observed in open grasslands in the Central Valley, including portions of Sacramento County as indicated by eBird (2020) observations.

Development of the site would result in potential nesting and foraging habitat for the species. Compliance with the SSHCP AMMs for raptors will be required. Although the species is not a raptor, it is grouped in with the raptor AMMs because of its use of impaling sites.

CONCLUSION

With participation in the SSHCP and compliance with the AMMs for raptors, impacts to the species are considered ***less than significant***.

NORTHERN HARRIER

Northern harriers breed and forage in a variety of open (treeless) habitats that provide adequate vegetative cover, an abundance of suitable prey, and scattered hunting, plucking, and lookout perches such as shrubs and fence posts. In California, such habitats include freshwater marshes, brackish and saltwater marshes, wet meadows, weedy borders of lakes, rivers and streams, annual and perennial grasslands, vernal pool complexes, weed fields, ungrazed or lightly grazed pastures, low- growing crop

fields, sagebrush flats, and desert sinks (Shuford and Gardali 2008). Northern harriers feed mostly on voles and other small mammals, birds, frogs, small reptiles, crustaceans, insects, and rarely on fish (CWHR 2019). Northern harriers nest on the ground, mostly at marsh edge of emergent wetlands or along rivers or lakes (CWHR 2019), and generally within patches of dense vegetation in undisturbed areas (Shuford and Gardali 2008). They may also nest in grasslands, grain fields, or on sagebrush flats several miles from water.

DISCUSSION OF PROJECT IMPACTS

The site does not contain potential nesting habitat for the species; however, the valley grassland and vernal pool provide foraging habitat. There are no known CNDDB records of northern harrier in the nine-quad area or in Sacramento County; however, this species is frequently observed throughout Sacramento County as indicated by eBird (2019) observations. No nesting habitat is present within the BSA. The species was not observed on or near the BSA, during biological surveys, but may forage in the BSA.

CONCLUSION

Participation in the SSHCP and compliance with the AMMs for raptors will ensure that potential impacts to the species are ***less than significant***.

SWAINSON'S HAWK

The Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) is listed as a threatened species by the State and is a covered species under the SSHCP. It is a migratory raptor typically nesting in or near valley floor riparian habitats during spring and summer months. Swainson's hawks were once common throughout the state, but various habitat changes, including the loss of nesting habitat (trees) and the loss of foraging habitat through the conversion of native Central Valley grasslands to certain incompatible agricultural and urban uses has caused an estimated 90% decline in their population.

DISCUSSION OF PROJECT IMPACTS

The site provides suitable foraging habitat but does not contain large trees suitable for nesting. There are 179 CNDDB occurrences within the search area. Closest occurrence, from 2009, is located approximately 0.76 miles northeast of the project site.

Construction activities associated with the proposed project would result in the loss of potential foraging habitat. In order to avoid potential impacts to the species, compliance with the SSHCP AMMs for Swainson's hawk will be required.

CONCLUSION

With participation in the SSHCP and compliance with the AMMs for raptors, impacts to the species are considered ***less than significant***.

WHITE-TAILED KITE

White-tailed kite is a CDFW fully protected species. White-tailed kites occur in herbaceous and open stages of most habitats in cismontane California. Areas with

substantial groves of dense, broad-leaved deciduous trees are used for nesting and roosting. They also roost in saltgrass and Bermuda grass in southern California. White-tailed kite breeds from February to October, with peak activity from May to August. Nests are typically located from 20 to 100 feet above the ground near the top of dense oak, willow, or other tree stands, and are often located near an open foraging area with a dense population of voles (CWHR 2019).

DISCUSSION OF PROJECT IMPACTS

Valley grasslands onsite provide potential foraging habitat; however, there is no nesting habitat present. There are 18 known CNDDDB records within the search area, with the closest record, from 1990, located 1.57 miles northwest of the BSA.

Development of the site will result in a loss of foraging habitat for the species. Compliance with the SSHCP AMMs for raptors will be required.

CONCLUSION

With participation in the SSHCP and compliance with the AMMs for raptors, impacts to the species are considered ***less than significant***.

MIGRATORY NESTING BIRDS

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, which states “unless and except as permitted by regulations, it shall be unlawful at any time, by any means or in any manner, to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, attempt to take, capture, or kill” a migratory bird. Section 3(18) of FESA defines the term “take” means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. Causing a bird to abandon an active nest may cause harm to egg(s) or chick(s) and is therefore considered “take.” To avoid take of nesting migratory birds, minimization measures have been included to require that activities either occur outside of the nesting season, or to require that nests be buffered from construction activities until the nesting season is concluded.

DISCUSSION OF PROJECT IMPACTS

Suitable tree habitat is present throughout the project site and adjacent properties. Preconstruction surveys for migratory nesting birds will be required if work is to commence between February 1 and September 15. The purpose of the survey requirement is to ensure that construction activities do not agitate or harm nesting migratory birds, potentially resulting in nest abandonment or other harm to nesting success.

CONCLUSION

Impacts to migratory nesting birds are considered ***less than significant***.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

This section supplements the Initial Study Checklist by analyzing if the proposed project would:

- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource
- Have a substantial adverse effect on an archaeological resource
- Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries

Under CEQA, lead agencies must consider the effects of projects on historical resources and archaeological resources. A “historical resource” is defined as a resource listed in, or determined to be eligible for listing in, the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), a resource included in a local register of historical resources, and any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant (Section 15064.5[a] of the Guidelines). Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5042.1 requires that any properties that can be expected to be directly or indirectly affected by a proposed project be evaluated for CRHR eligibility. Impacts to historical resources that materially impair those characteristics that convey its historical significance and justify its inclusion or eligibility for the NRHP or CRHR are considered a significant effect on the environment (CEQA guidelines 15064.5)).

In addition to historically significant resources, an archeological site may meet the definition of a “unique archeological resource” as defined in PRC Section 21083.2(g). If unique archaeological resources cannot be preserved in place or left in an undisturbed state, mitigation measures shall be required (PRC Section 21083.2 (c)).

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 (e) outlines the steps the lead agency shall take in the event of an accidental discovery of human remains in any location other than a dedicated cemetery.

CULTURAL SETTING

Area West prepared the cultural resources report for the project. The following information and analysis is based on their report.

A search of records and historical information on file at the North Central Information Center (NCIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) was conducted on October 29, 2019. A 0.25-mile search radius was used.

The NCIC search revealed that one survey/report has been recorded within the search radius. No survey or report was located by the NCIC that included any portion of the project. The NCIC reported that there are no previously recorded cultural resources within the project area. There are no prehistoric resources located within a 0.25 mile radius; however, there are 4 historic resources within a 0.25 mile radius of the project location. These historic resources include a segment of the Central California Traction Company (CCTC) and three residences built circa pre-World War II or in the 1950s.

A review of the historic maps does not show any homesteads or other historic built environments on or adjacent to the project site.

DISCUSSION OF PROJECT IMPACTS

Area West performed a pedestrian-level site survey on November 23, 2019. The survey did not detect any historic or archeological resources. There are no known cultural resources on the project site.

Project activities are limited to the project site. All four historic resources mentioned in the NCIC records search are located offsite and would be avoided; therefore, the project does not have the potential to impact these resources.

The project is unlikely to impact human remains buried outside of formal cemeteries; however, if human remains are encountered during construction, mitigation is included specifying how to comply with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 (e), Sections 5097.97 and 5097.98 of the State Public Resources Code, and Section 7050.5 of the State Health and Safety Code.

CONCLUSION

Impacts to cultural resources are considered ***less than significant***.

ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION MEASURES

Mitigation Measure A is critical to ensure that identified significant impacts of the project are reduced to a level of less than significant. Pursuant to Section 15074.1(b) of the CEQA Guidelines, each of these measures must be adopted exactly as written unless both of the following occur: (1) A public hearing is held on the proposed changes; (2) The hearing body adopts a written finding that the new measure is equivalent or more effective in mitigating or avoiding potential significant effects and that it in itself will not cause any potentially significant effect on the environment.

As the applicant, or applicant's representative, for this project, I acknowledge that project development creates the potential for significant environmental impact and agree to implement the mitigation measures listed below, which are intended to reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level.

Applicant [Original signature on File] Date:

MITIGATION MEASURE A: COMPLIANCE WITH THE SSHCP

The applicant shall obtain authorization through the SSHCP prior to all ground-disturbing activities, on-site and off-site. Authorization under the SSHCP shall include implementation and conformance with all applicable Avoidance and Minimization Measures (Appendix B) and payment of any fees necessary to mitigate for impacts to species and habitat.

SSHCP Authorization shall compensate for impacts associated with:

1. Impacts to SSHCP land covers, including:

- Vernal pools
2. Potential species-specific impacts including:
- Burrowing owl
 - Cooper's hawk
 - Ferruginous hawk
 - Giant garter snake
 - Loggerhead shrike
 - Northern harrier
 - Ricksecker's water scavenger beetle
 - Swainson's hawk
 - Special status raptors
 - Vernal pool crustaceans
 - Western spadefoot
 - White-tailed kite

MITIGATION MEASURE B: CULTURAL RESOURCES – UNANTICIPATED DISCOVERIES

In the event that human remains are discovered in any location other than a dedicated cemetery, work shall be halted and the County Coroner contacted. For all other unexpected cultural resources discovered during project construction, work shall be halted until a qualified archaeologist may evaluate the resource encountered.

1. Pursuant to Sections 5097.97 and 5097.98 of the State Public Resources Code, and Section 7050.5 of the State Health and Safety Code, if a human bone or bone of unknown origin is found during construction, all work is to stop and the County Coroner and the Office of Planning and Environmental Review shall be immediately notified. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours, and the Native American Heritage Commission shall identify the person or persons it believes to be the most likely descendent from the deceased Native American. The most likely descendent may make recommendations to the landowner or the person responsible for the excavation work, for means of treating or disposition of, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and any associated grave goods.
2. In the event of an inadvertent discovery of cultural resources (excluding human remains) during construction, all work must halt within a 100-foot radius of the discovery. A qualified professional archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for prehistoric and historic archaeology, shall be retained at the Applicant's expense to evaluate the significance of the find. If it is determined due to the types of deposits discovered that a Native American monitor is required, the Guidelines for Monitors/Consultants of Native American Cultural, Religious, and Burial Sites as

established by the Native American Heritage Commission shall be followed, and the monitor shall be retained at the Applicant's expense.

- a. Work cannot continue within the 100-foot radius of the discovery site until the archaeologist and/or tribal monitor conducts sufficient research and data collection to make a determination that the resource is either 1) not cultural in origin; or 2) not potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or California Register of Historical Resources.
 - b. If a potentially-eligible resource is encountered, then the archaeologist and/or tribal monitor, Planning and Environmental Review staff, and project proponent shall arrange for either 1) total avoidance of the resource, if possible; or 2) test excavations or total data recovery as mitigation. The determination shall be formally documented in writing and submitted to the County Environmental Coordinator as verification that the provisions of CEQA for managing unanticipated discoveries have been met.
3. The appended Tribal Cultural Resources (TCRs) Awareness Brochure provides a definition and examples of TCRs that may be encountered during construction. The brochure was developed to assist construction teams with the identification and protection of TCRs. The brochure shall be shared with construction teams prior to ground disturbance.

MITIGATION MEASURE COMPLIANCE

Comply with the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) for this project as follows:

1. The proponent shall comply with the MMRP for this project, including the payment of a fee to cover the Office of Planning and Environmental Review staff costs incurred during implementation of the MMRP. The MMRP fee for this project is \$3,500.00. This fee includes administrative costs of \$948.00.
2. Until the MMRP has been recorded and the administrative portion of the MMRP fee has been paid, no final parcel map or final subdivision map for the subject property shall be approved. Until the balance of the MMRP fee has been paid, no encroachment, grading, building, sewer connection, water connection or occupancy permit from Sacramento County shall be approved.

INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) provides guidance for assessing the significance of potential environmental impacts. Based on this guidance, Sacramento County has developed the following Initial Study Checklist. The Checklist identifies a range of potential significant effects by topical area. The words "significant" and "significance" used throughout the following checklist are related to impacts as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act as follows:

- 1 Potentially Significant indicates there is substantial evidence that an effect MAY be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant" entries an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required. Further research of a potentially significant impact may reveal that the impact is actually less than significant or less than significant with mitigation.
- 2 Less than Significant with Mitigation applies where an impact could be significant but specific mitigation has been identified that reduces the impact to a less than significant level.
- 3 Less than Significant or No Impact indicates that either a project will have an impact but the impact is considered minor or that a project does not impact the particular resource.

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Comments
1. LAND USE - Would the project:					
a. Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?			X		The project is consistent with environmental policies of the Sacramento County General Plan, Florin-Vineyard Gap Community Plan, South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan, and Sacramento County Zoning Code.
b. Physically disrupt or divide an established community?				X	The project will not create physical barriers that substantially limit movement within or through the community.
2. POPULATION/HOUSING - Would the project:					
a. Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of infrastructure)?			X		The project will not result in substantial unplanned population growth; the proposal is consistent with the existing land use designation.
b. Displace substantial amounts of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X	The project will not result in the removal of existing housing, and thus will not displace substantial amounts of existing housing.
3. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES - Would the project:					
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance or areas containing prime soils to uses not conducive to agricultural production?				X	The project site is not designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance on the current Sacramento County Important Farmland Map published by the California Department of Conservation.
b. Conflict with any existing Williamson Act contract?				X	No Williamson Act contracts apply to the project site.
c. Introduce incompatible uses in the vicinity of existing agricultural uses?				X	The project does not occur in an area of agricultural production.

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Comments
4. AESTHETICS - Would the project:					
a. Substantially alter existing viewsheds such as scenic highways, corridors or vistas?			X		The project does not occur in the vicinity of any scenic highways, corridors, or vistas.
b. In non-urbanized area, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings?			X		Construction will not substantially degrade the visual character or quality of the project site. It is acknowledged that aesthetic impacts are subjective and may be perceived differently by various affected individuals. Nonetheless, given the similar parcels sizes surrounding the proposed project, it is concluded that the project would not substantially degrade the visual character or quality of the project site or vicinity.
c. If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?				X	The project is not located in an urbanized area.
d. Create a new source of substantial light, glare, or shadow that would result in safety hazards or adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?			X		The project will not result in a new source of substantial light, glare or shadow that would result in safety hazards or adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.
5. AIRPORTS - Would the project:					
a. Result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the vicinity of an airport/airstrip?				X	The project occurs outside of any identified public or private airport/airstrip safety zones.
b. Expose people residing or working in the project area to aircraft noise levels in excess of applicable standards?				X	The project occurs outside of any identified public or private airport/airstrip noise zones or contours.
c. Result in a substantial adverse effect upon the safe and efficient use of navigable airspace by aircraft?				X	The project does not affect navigable airspace.

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Comments
d. 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?				X	The project does not involve or affect air traffic movement.
6. PUBLIC SERVICES - Would the project:					
a. Have an adequate water supply for full buildout of the project?			X		The project would be served by a private well.
b. Have adequate wastewater treatment and disposal facilities for full buildout of the project?			X		The project would be served by septic system.
c. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?			X		The Kiefer Landfill has capacity to accommodate solid waste until the year 2050.
d. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the construction of new water supply or wastewater treatment and disposal facilities or expansion of existing facilities?			X		The project would install a private well and septic system and would not result in substantial physical impacts. All septic systems must comply with the requirements of the County Environmental Management Department, Environmental Health Division, as set forth in Chapter 6.32 of the County Code. Compliance with County standards will ensure impacts are less than significant.
e. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of storm water drainage facilities?			X		Minor extension of infrastructure would be necessary to serve the proposed project. Existing stormwater drainage facilities are located within existing roadways and other developed areas, and the extension of facilities would take place within areas already proposed for development as part of the project. No significant new impacts would result from stormwater facility extension.

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f. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of electric or natural gas service?			X		The project will be fully electric and will not utilize natural gas. Minor extension of utility lines would be necessary to serve the proposed project. Existing utility lines are located along existing roadways and other developed areas, and the extension of lines would take place within areas already proposed for development as part of the project. No significant new impacts would result from utility extension.
g. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of emergency services?			X		The project would incrementally increase demand for emergency services, but would not cause substantial adverse physical impacts as a result of providing adequate service.
h. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of public school services?			X		The project would result in minor increases to student population; however, the increase would not require the construction/expansion of new unplanned school facilities. Established case law, <i>Goleta Union School District v. The Regents of the University of California</i> (36 Cal-App. 4 th 1121, 1995), indicates that school overcrowding, standing alone, is not a change in the physical conditions, and cannot be treated as an impact on the environment.
i. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of park and recreation services?			X		The project will result in increased demand for park and recreation services, but meeting this demand will not result in any substantial physical impacts.

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7. TRANSPORTATION - Would the project:					
a. Conflict with or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b) – measuring transportation impacts individually or cumulatively, using a vehicles miles traveled standard established by the County?			X		The project does not exceed County DOT's thresholds requiring a Traffic Impact Study including a vehicle miles traveled (VMT) analysis. The project is below the thresholds established by Sacramento County Department of Transportation. The screening methodology indicates that if a proposed project would result in less than 237 average daily trips, then the project would be considered a small project and would be exempt from preparing a Traffic Impact Study. The proposed project consists of the construction of a new single-family residence, and therefore, would not result in result in more than 237 average daily trips.
b. Result in a substantial adverse impact to access and/or circulation?			X		Minor changes to existing access and/or circulation patterns would occur as a result of the project. The project will be required to comply with applicable access and circulation requirements of the County Improvement Standards and the Uniform Fire Code. Upon compliance, impacts are less than significant.
c. Result in a substantial adverse impact to public safety on area roadways?			X		The project would not result in a substantial adverse impact to public safety on roadways. The project will be required to comply with applicable access and circulation requirements of the County Improvement Standards and the Uniform Fire Code. Upon compliance, impacts are less than significant.
d. Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?			X		The project does not conflict with alternative transportation policies of the Sacramento County General Plan, with the Sacramento Regional Transit Master Plan, or other adopted policies, plans or programs supporting alternative transportation.

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8. AIR QUALITY - Would the project:					
a. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?			X		The project does not exceed the screening thresholds established by the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District and will not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment. Compliance with existing dust abatement rules and standard construction mitigation for vehicle particulates will ensure that construction air quality impacts are less than significant. The California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) was used to analyze ozone precursor emissions; the project will not result in emissions that exceed standards.
b. Expose sensitive receptors to pollutant concentrations in excess of standards?			X		There are no sensitive receptors (i.e., schools, nursing homes, hospitals, daycare centers, etc.) adjacent to the project site. See Response 8.a.
c. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?			X		The project will not generate objectionable odors.
9. NOISE - Would the project:					
a. Result in generation of a temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established by the local general plan, noise ordinance or applicable standards of other agencies?			X		The project is not in the vicinity of any uses that generate substantial noise, nor will the completed project generate substantial noise. The project will not result in exposure of persons to, or generation of, noise levels in excess of applicable standards. The proposed home and outdoor activity area is located within 300 feet of the California Central Traction Railway. This portion of the railway has not been operational since 1998 and at the time of drafting of this document, there is no indication that service will be continued.

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b. Result in a substantial temporary increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity?			X		Project construction will result in a temporary increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity. This impact is less than significant due to the temporary nature of the these activities, limits on the duration of noise, and evening and nighttime restrictions imposed by the County Noise Ordinance (Chapter 6.68 of the County Code).
c. Generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels.			X		The project will not involve the use of pile driving or other methods that would produce excessive groundborne vibration or noise levels at the property boundary.
10. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY - Would the project:					
a. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or substantially interfere with groundwater recharge?			X		The project will incrementally add to groundwater consumption; however, the singular and cumulative impacts of the proposed project upon the groundwater decline in the project area are minor.
b. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the project area and/or increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site?			X		The project does not involve any modifications that would substantially alter the existing drainage pattern and or/increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would lead to flooding. Compliance with applicable requirements of the Sacramento County Floodplain Management Ordinance, Sacramento County Water Agency Code, and Sacramento County Improvement Standards will ensure that impacts are less than significant.
c. Develop within a 100-year floodplain as mapped on a federal Flood Insurance Rate Map or within a local flood hazard area?			X		The project is within a 100-year floodplain as mapped on a federal Flood Insurance Rate Map (Flood Zone AO (Depth 2 feet)). The Sacramento County Floodplain Management Ordinance, Sacramento County Water Agency Code, and Sacramento County Improvement Standards require that the project be located outside or above the floodplain, and will ensure that impacts are less than significant. Refer to the Hydrology discussion in the Environmental Effects section above.

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d. Place structures that would impede or redirect flood flows within a 100-year floodplain?			X		Although the project is within a 100-year floodplain, compliance with the Sacramento County Floodplain Management Ordinance, Sacramento County Water Agency Code, and Sacramento County Improvement Standards will ensure that impacts are less than significant.
e. Develop in an area that is subject to 200 year urban levels of flood protection (ULOP)?				X	The project is not located in an area subject to 200-year urban levels of flood protection (ULOP).
f. Expose people or structures to a substantial risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?			X		The project will not expose people or structures to a substantial risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam.
g. Create or contribute runoff that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems?			X		Adequate on- and/or off-site drainage improvements will be required pursuant to the Sacramento County Floodplain Management Ordinance and Improvement Standards.
h. Create substantial sources of polluted runoff or otherwise substantially degrade ground or surface water quality?			X		Compliance with the Stormwater Ordinance and Land Grading and Erosion Control Ordinance (Chapters 15.12 and 14.44 of the County Code respectively) will ensure that the project will not create substantial sources of polluted runoff or otherwise substantially degrade ground or surface water quality.
11. GEOLOGY AND SOILS - Would the project:					
a. Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including risk of loss, injury or death involving 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?			X		Sacramento County is not within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. Although there are no known active earthquake faults in the project area, the site could be subject to some ground shaking from regional faults. The Uniform Building Code contains applicable construction regulations for earthquake safety that will ensure less than significant impacts.

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b. Result in substantial soil erosion, siltation or loss of topsoil?			X		Compliance with the County's Land Grading and Erosion Control Ordinance will reduce the amount of construction site erosion and minimize water quality degradation by providing stabilization and protection of disturbed areas, and by controlling the runoff of sediment and other pollutants during the course of construction.
c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, soil expansion, liquefaction or collapse?				X	The project is not located on an unstable geologic or soil unit.
d. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available?			X		All septic systems must comply with the requirements of the County Environmental Management Department, Environmental Health Division, as set forth in Chapter 6.32 of the County Code. Compliance with County standards will ensure impacts are less than significant.
e. Result in a substantial loss of an important mineral resource?				X	The project is not located within an Aggregate Resource Area as identified by the Sacramento County General Plan Land Use Diagram, nor are any important mineral resources known to be located on the project site.
f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?			X		No known paleontological resources (e.g. fossil remains) or sites occur at the project location.
12. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - Would the project:					
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on any special status species, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, or threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community?		X			The project site contains suitable habitat for a variety of special status species. Participation in the SSHCP and compliance with the Avoidance and Minimization Measures will ensure impacts are less than significant. Refer to the Biological Resources discussion in the Environmental Effects section above.

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b. Have a substantial adverse effect on riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities?		X			The project site contains suitable habitat for a variety of special status species. Participation in the SSHCP and compliance with the Avoidance and Minimization Measures will ensure impacts are less than significant. Refer to the Biological Resources discussion in the Environmental Effects section above.
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on streams, wetlands, or other surface waters that are protected by federal, state, or local regulations and policies?		X			The project will result in the loss of protected wetlands. Participation in the SSHCP and compliance with the Avoidance and Minimization Measures will ensure impacts to waters are less than significant. Refer to the Biological Resources discussion in the Environmental Effects section above.
d. Have a substantial adverse effect on the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species?		X			Resident and/or migratory wildlife may be displaced by project construction; however, impacts are not anticipated to result in significant, long-term effects upon the movement of resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, and no major wildlife corridors would be affected.
e. Adversely affect or result in the removal of native or landmark trees?			X		Native and/or landmark trees occur on the project site; however, they are located near Bar Du Lane and would not be affected by the proposed project.
f. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources?			X		The project is consistent with local policies/ordinances protecting biological resources.
g. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan or other approved local, regional, state or federal plan for the conservation of habitat?			X		There are no known conflicts with any approved plan for the conservation of habitat. The project is within the Urban Development Area of the South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan (SSHCP). The project will need to comply with the applicable avoidance and minimization measures outlined in the SSHCP. Refer to the Biological Resources discussion in the Environmental Effects section above.

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13. CULTURAL RESOURCES - Would the project:					
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource?			X		No historical resources would be affected by the proposed project.
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on an archaeological resource?			X		No known archaeological resources occur on-site. The Northern California Information Center was contacted regarding the proposed project. A record search indicated that the project site is not considered sensitive for archaeological resources.
c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?		X			No known human remains exist on the project site. Nonetheless, mitigation has been recommended to ensure appropriate treatment should remains be uncovered during project implementation.
14. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES - Would the project:					
a. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as defined in Public Resources Code 21074?			X		<p>A request was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for Sacred Lands File Search (SLFS). On December 16, 2019, the NAHC responded that the results of the Sacred Lands File Search were negative.</p> <p>In accordance with Assembly Bill (AB) 52, codified as Section 21080.3.1 of CEQA, formal notification letters were sent to those tribes who had previously requested to be notified of Sacramento County projects on July 17, 2020. Correspondence was not received from any tribes.</p> <p>There are no known tribal cultural resources on the project site. Unanticipated discovery mitigation has been included in case remains or tribal cultural resources are discovered during construction. Tribal cultural resources have not been identified in the project area.</p>

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15. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS - Would the project:					
a. Create a substantial hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				X	The project does not involve the transport, use, and/or disposal of hazardous material.
b. Expose the public or the environment to a substantial hazard through reasonably foreseeable upset conditions involving the release of hazardous materials?				X	The project does not involve the transport, use, and/or disposal of hazardous material.
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				X	The project site is not located within ¼ mile of an existing /proposed school. The project does not involve the use or handling of hazardous material.
d. Be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, resulting in a substantial hazard to the public or the environment?			X		The project is not located on a known hazardous materials site.
e. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response or emergency evacuation plan?			X		The project would not interfere with any known emergency response or evacuation plan.
f. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to or intermixed with urbanized areas?			X		The project is within an urbanizing area of the unincorporated County and is located within the Local Responsibility Area according to the CalFire Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map (2007). The project is located adjacent to valley grasslands, which could be subject to wildland fires. Compliance with local Fire District standards and requirements ensures impacts are less than significant.

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16. ENERGY – Would the project:					
a. Result in potentially significant environmental impacts due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction?			X		While the project will introduce one new home and increase energy consumption, compliance with Title 24, Green Building Code, will ensure that all project energy efficiency requirements are net resulting in less than significant impacts.
b. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?			X		The project will comply with Title 24, Green Building Code, for all project efficiency requirements.
17. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS – Would the project:					
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			X		The California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) was used to estimate the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the project. Based on the results, the Draft 2030 County threshold of 0.78 annual metric tons of CO2e per capita for the residential energy sector of the proposed project will not be exceeded..
b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation for the purpose of reducing the emission of greenhouse gases?			X		The project is consistent with County policies adopted for the purpose of reducing the emission of greenhouse gases.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

LAND USE CONSISTENCY	Current Land Use Designation	Consistent	Not Consistent	Comments
General Plan	LDR – Low Density Residential	X		
Community Plan	AR 2-5 (Agricultural Residential 2-5 Acres)	X		Florin-Vineyard Gap Community Plan
Land Use Zone	AR-10 (Agricultural Residential – 10 acres)	X		

INITIAL STUDY PREPARERS

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