

## Paradise Irrigation District Water System Recovery and Reservoir B Replacement Project

Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study Administrative Draft (v2)

April 6, 2021

CEQA Lead Agency:

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## **Abbreviations and Acronyms**

°F degrees Fahrenheit

AB 52 Assembly Bill 52

BCAQMD Butte County Air Quality Management District

BMP Best Management Practice

CalOES California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

CEQA California Environmental Quality Act

FEMA Federal Emergency Management Agency

GHG greenhouse gas

IS Initial Study

MG million gallons

MMRP Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

MND Mitigated Negative Declaration

NAHC Native American Heritage Commission

PID Paradise Irrigation District

PM2.5 particulate matter 2.5 microns or less PM10 particulate matter 10 microns or less

PRC Public Resources Code

project Water System Recovery and Reservoir B Replacement Project

TCR Tribal Cultural Resource

VOC volatile organic compounds

WTP water treatment plant

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## **Project Information**

1. Project Title: Paradise Irrigation District Water System Recovery and

Reservoir B Replacement Project

2. Lead Agency Name and Address Paradise Irrigation District

6332 Clark Road

Paradise, California 95969

3. Contact Person and Phone Number Tom Lando, Interim District Manager

Paradise Irrigation District

(530) 624-2939

tlando@paradiseirrigation.com

**4. Project Location** The project is in the town of Paradise, Butte County,

California. The water system recovery elements are located throughout Paradise in multiple parcels. The Reservoir B replacement element is in Township 22N, Range 3E,

Sections 1 and 12, Paradise East, California U.S. Geological Survey topographic quadrangle, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian. Accessor Parcel Numbers in the Reservoir B

replacement part of the project include:

050-070-075-000 050-070-077-000 050-070-083-000

**5. Project Sponsor's Name**Paradise Irrigation District

6. General Plan Designation Reservoir B Element

Public Institution (PI)

Multi-Family Residential (MR)

Town Residential (TR)

7. Zoning Reservoir B Element

Community Facilities (CF)

Multiple-Family Residential (MF)

Town Residential (1/2 acre min) (TR ½)

#### 8. Description of Project

Paradise Irrigation District operates a water treatment plant and the accompanying distribution system for Paradise, California. The Camp Fire on November 8, 2018, caused significant damage to Paradise Irrigation District's potable water storage and distribution system infrastructure. Prior to the Camp Fire, the distribution system supplied potable water to 10,507 connections serving a population of approximately

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26,000. Approximately 1,500 structures survived the fire and the post-fire estimate of customer connections as of December 2020 is 2,936 connections. The project would replace key components of the water storage and distribution system to serve the connections in the rebuilt community. The project would consist of the following elements:

- Reservoir B replacement
- Almond Street main replacement
- Service lateral replacement
- Meter replacement
- Main replacement

#### 9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting

Rural Residential/Mobile Home Park/Commercial/Public Facilities and Infrastructure/Light Industrial/Public Lands

## 10. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval May Be Required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.)

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- California State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water
- California Department of Fish & Wildlife (Region 2)
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Region)
- California Department of Transportation (District 3)
- California Office of Emergency Services

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### CHAPTER 1.0 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 INTRODUCTION AND REGULATORY GUIDANCE

This document is an Initial Study (IS) that summarizes the technical studies prepared for the proposed Paradise Irrigation District (PID) Water System Recovery and Reservoir B Replacement Project (project). It includes an evaluation of potential environmental impacts that could result from project implementation and provides justification for a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the project. This document was prepared in accordance with the current California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21000 et seq., and the State CEQA Guidelines. Mitigation measures are proposed to avoid or minimize any significant impacts that were identified. The project is needed due to damage incurred during the Camp Fire in November 2018. Although the damage to PID's infrastructure from the fire was widespread, only Reservoir B will be fully evaluated in this IS/MND. These other project components will be described in the project description of the IS/MND and reference made to the appropriate Categorical Exemptions. Specifically, project recovery actions that would be authorized under a Categorical Exemption include:

- Almond Street main replacement
- Service lateral replacement
- Meter replacement
- Main replacement

The initial Reservoir B Replacement Project, approved by adoption of a CEQA MND in October 2018 (State Clearinghouse Number 2018082044), included three main project elements: Reservoir B replacement, the Zone A pump station, and the Zone A transmission main. On November 8, 2018, the Camp Fire devastated Paradise and surrounding areas. Conditions changed by the fire have altered the Reservoir B project needs; therefore, the project has been amended as follows:

- Remove the Zone A pump station from the original project
- Remove the Zone A transmission main from the original project
- Downsize the recommended Reservoir B total volume to 3 million gallons
- The project will include two 1.5-million-gallon, bolted steel tanks instead of two 2.3-million-gallon steel tanks.

### 1.2 LEAD AGENCY

The Lead Agency is the public agency with primary responsibility for implementing a project. The Lead Agency for the proposed project will be PID. It is anticipated that the project will be funded in part by Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, as well as Additional funding has been attained from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). It is anticipated that CalOES will act as the National Environmental Policy Act Lead Agency on behalf of FEMA. PID is also partially funding the project through their insurance and reserves.

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### 1.3 SUPPORTING TECHNICAL STUDIES

Completed technical studies are available for review at the following location:

Paradise Irrigation District 6332 Clark Road Paradise, CA 9596 (530) 877-4971

Technical studies completed for this project include:

- Cultural Resources Investigation (confidential; available to qualified readers only)
- Biological Resources Assessment Report
- Wetland Delineation Report

### 1.4 DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

The IS consists of the following chapters:

- Chapter 1.0 Introduction: describes the purpose and content of this document.
- **Chapter 2.0 Project Description:** provides a comprehensive description of the project, tentative schedule, required permit approvals, and project alternatives.
- Chapter 3.0 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures: describes the environmental
  impacts of the project using the CEQA Environmental Checklist. Where appropriate, mitigation
  measures are provided that would reduce potentially significant impacts to a less-than-significant
  level.
- Chapter 4.0 Determination: provides the environmental determination for the project.
- Chapter 5.0 Summary of Mitigation Commitments: provides a comprehensive list of all mitigation measures proposed for the project.
- Chapter 6.0 Report Preparation: identifies the individuals responsible for preparation of this
  document.
- Chapter 7.0 –References: provides a list of references used to prepare this document.

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### CHAPTER 2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 LOCATION

The project would be in PID's service area in the town of Paradise, Butte County, California. The water system recovery elements would be constructed throughout Paradise, while the Reservoir B replacement element would be located at PID's existing facility between Skyway Road and Paradise Memorial Trail in Paradise (Figure 1). Paradise is located approximately 12 road miles northeast of Highway 99 and the city of Chico in Butte County, California. The Reservoir B replacement element is shown on the *Paradise East, California* 7.5-minute U.S. Geological Survey quadrangle, Township 22N, Range 3E, Sections 1 and 12 (Figure 2).

Prior to the Camp Fire, the 5.9-acre Reservoir B replacement project area included an earthen embankment covered reservoir (Reservoir B), distribution infrastructure, and adjacent areas. The land in the project area is largely disturbed with small areas of semi-natural habitat located near the existing reservoir. It is located on private and PID-owned parcels.

### 2.2 PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of the project is to repair and replace critical potable water and distribution system infrastructure that was damaged by the Camp Fire in 2018. The project is needed to sustain operations and provide water for the anticipated post-fire re-build population within the PID service boundary.

### 2.3 EXISTING FACILITIES

The PID distribution system is split into seven distribution zones that before the fire varied in the number of individual connections from 61 to 2,808. The distribution system includes approximately 178 miles of pipeline with approximately 49 connections per mile of main. There are five water storage reservoirs in the distribution system. All reservoirs except Reservoir B are steel tank reservoirs, with the latter being an earth embankment lined reservoir that was covered by a flexible membrane cover that was destroyed by the fire. The PID water distribution system is designed to route finished water from its water treatment plant to Reservoir B via a 12,500-foot, 42-inch finished water transmission line. Reservoir B is integral to the other reservoirs in the system, gravity feeding into reservoirs C, D, and E. Reservoir A is supplied water by Reservoir B via Pump Station #2 in Zone B of the distribution system.

The water treatment plant sustained minor damages during the Camp Fire and continues to produce potable water for PID. The reservoir storage tanks remain operational, except for Reservoir B. The distribution system has undergone a major recovery project since the fire to return potable water service to the customers.

Reservoir B is a Hypalon-lined earthen reservoir with a floating high-density polyethylene cover. The fire melted the cover and liner in multiple locations, destroying them beyond repair. The reservoir could not be placed back into service after the fire because the liner and cover were no longer intact.

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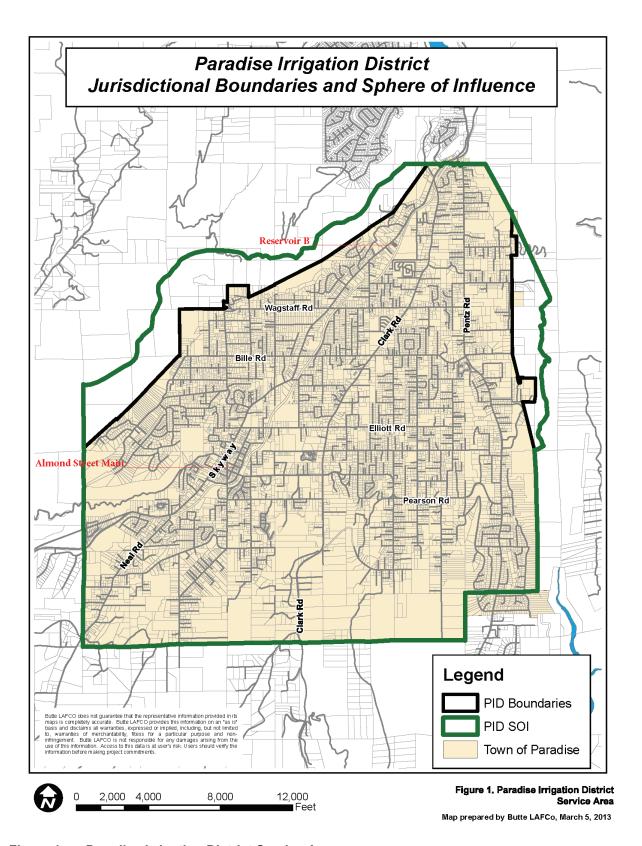


Figure 1. Paradise Irrigation District Service Area

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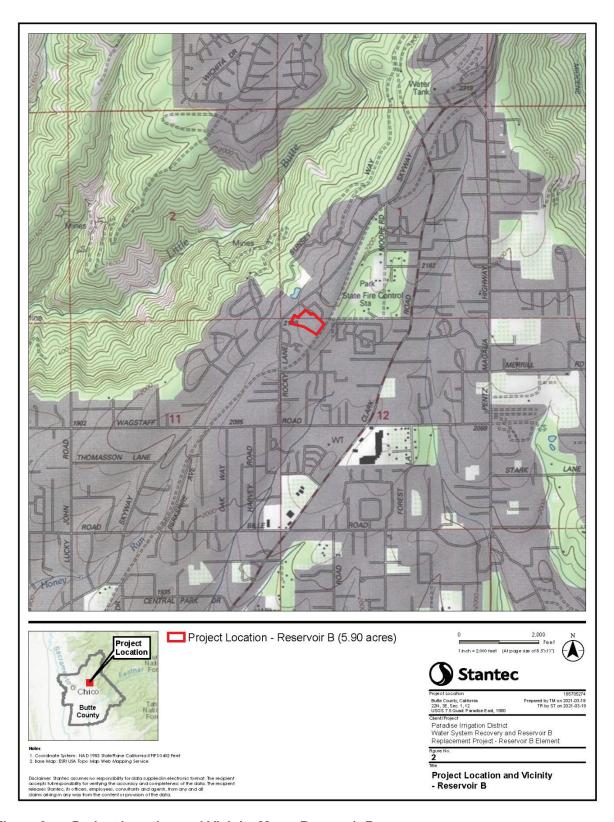


Figure 2. Project Location and Vicinity Map – Reservoir B

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Post-fire reconstruction, including heavy debris removal, construction, and logging traffic has destroyed many roads in Paradise. The Almond Street "downtown" corridor is underlain by approximately 2,600 linear feet of 8-inch water main. This section of main currently represents a high likelihood of failure and continuing maintenance requirements due to leaks and damage from necessary and impending roadway improvements.

The majority of PID's customer meters sustained fire damage and were removed from the field. Since that time, PID has operated without volumetric metering. During and after the fire, open and flowing service connections at destroyed homes caused PID's water distribution system to depressurize. This negative pressure drew contaminants into the piping where they were absorbed or adhered to the pipe material. This occurred primarily in the smaller diameter service lateral piping where buildings were destroyed. An exhaustive water quality sampling and analysis project (over 400,000 individual tests at 6,000+ locations) was undertaken to characterize and identify the extent and nature of this unprecedented contamination. Each surviving structure's service lateral was tested and individually evaluated before being put back in potable service. After hundreds of tests, PID, in coordination with CalOES and FEMA, determined that for destroyed structures, the data trend of 50% contamination was sufficiently representative. It was ultimately more cost effective to replace all service laterals serving destroyed structures than to test each and replace those found to contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) (Water Works Engineers 2021).

### 2.3.1 Storage Capacity and Water Demand

The California Code of Regulations, Title 22, provides the design standards for determining adequate storage volumes for customer consumption. The domestic water uses in Paradise are comprised of mixed residential and commercial use. The storage volume requirement for the post-fire system was recalculated based on the post-fire buildout population estimate of 13,100 people and typical customer use rates. Storage volumes per zone needed to meet maximum daily demand and 4-hour peak hour demand volumes for the anticipated buildout were calculated according to industry standards (Water Works Engineers 2021). The revised storage volume requirements for PID for the post-fire buildout population are shown in Table 1. The table also shows the current storage volume capacity accounting for the loss of Reservoir B. The final column summarizes the storage excess or deficit for each zone and the system. The Reservoir B Replacement Project will return necessary storage volume to PID.

The initial Reservoir B Replacement Project (2018) targeted a total site volume of 4.6 million gallons (MG) to provide adequate water supply for the pre-fire population and anticipated population growth. FEMA project funding agreements stipulated the funded replacement project will include a total site volume of 3 MG, which was the volume of the original reservoir. The replacement Reservoir B storage volume was added to the existing storage volume to determine the total storage available to PID following the Reservoir B Replacement Project. The system will have a deficit of 2.35 MG at a population of 13,100 people after the Reservoir B replacement is complete.

The calculation was repeated for the 2019 population of 6,650 people (2.14 persons per household is 3,106 connections). PID will have a deficit of 2.23 MG of storage after the Reservoir B Replacement Project is complete with the current population estimate.

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Table 1. Pre- and Post-fire Storage Volume Requirements

Zone	Pre-fire Connections	Post-fire Connections	Served By Reservoir	Pre-fire Total Storage Required (million gallons)	Post-fire Total Storage Required (million gallons)	Post-fire Existing Storage (million gallons)	Post-fire Excess or Deficit
All	10,507	6,121	All	7.91	6.28	6.31	0.03
Α	1,224	713	A, B	4.46	4.86	0.98	-3.88
В	2,192	1,277	В	4.82	4.48	0	-4.48
С	2,808	1,636	B, C	5.04	4.61	1.94	-2.67
D	2,462	1,434	B, C, D	4.92	4.53	3.88	-0.65
E	1,195	696	B, C, D, E	4.44	4.83	5.33	0.50
F	565	329	B, C, D, E	4.68	4.39	5.33	0.94
G	61	36	B, C, D, E	4.07	4.04	5.33	1.29

In conclusion, the Reservoir B replacement element would not seek to install the remaining 2.35 MG of storage as required by the storage calculations due to the funding limitations put forth by the FEMA agreement. PID may seek funding for a third tank installation project at the Reservoir B site to accommodate the remaining volume deficit. The project site would be designed to accommodate a third tank installation.

### 2.4 PROPOSED PROJECT

The proposed project includes water system recovery and rehabilitation elements and replacement of Reservoir B. Although the proposed recovery and rehabilitation elements of the water system are included in the following project description, only the project activities proposed for restoration of Reservoir B are carried through the analysis presented in Section 3 since changed conditions have altered the Reservoir B project previously approved in October 2018. It is anticipated that the water system recovery component of the proposed project will comply with CEQA under a Categorical Exemption (Article 19, Section 15302 Replacement or Reconstruction).

#### 2.4.1 Water System Recovery

The Camp Fire resulted in the widespread damage of critical water service infrastructure. The water system recovery element of the proposed project will comply with CEQA using a Categorical Exemption. Elements of the water system recovery would include

- Almond Street main replacement
- Service lateral replacement
- Meter replacement
- Main replacement

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#### **Almond Street Main Replacement**

The Almond Street main replacement element includes the removal and replacement of approximately 2,600 linear feet of 8-inch water main through the Almond Street downtown corridor of Paradise. The total disturbance area is approximately 20,150 square feet. This section of main currently represents a high likelihood of failure and continuing maintenance requirements due to leaks and damage from necessary and impending roadway improvements. Replacement would ensure the removal of underperforming pipe, reduce failure risk, reduce maintenance demands, and ensure the longevity of a critical component of water distribution infrastructure.

#### Service Lateral Replacement

The service lateral replacement element includes the replacement of between 4,070 and 5,470 service laterals throughout the PID service area. Approximately 50 square feet of ground disturbance would occur for each service lateral, totaling approximately 273,500 square feet for the entire project.

#### **Meter Replacement**

Prior to the fire, PID used a Zenner metering system to record water use data. The Zenner meter housing was plastic and most meters were installed in plastic meter boxes. The heat from the fire caused damage to a significant amount of the water meter infrastructure both in terms of accuracy and contamination. PID, in coordination with CalOES and FEMA, determined that the necessary course of action was to replace the damaged centralized metering infrastructure and install all new customer meters with updated technology specifically designed to serve residential fire flow conditions (as required of all rebuilt structures). The new meter system would include brass body meters, concrete meter boxes, and a mesh network infrastructure. Mass fire suppression system installations in new buildings require installation of backflow prevention devices at all commercial and residential services. These devices were adopted into the standard detail for new meter installations and would be included in the service lateral replacement element as a hazard mitigation component of the project. Approximately 25 square feet of ground disturbance would be required for each meter replaced (5,897 sites) totaling approximately 147,425 square feet for this element of the project.

A hazard mitigation proposal for backflow prevention devices at each service lateral replacement site would be included for a matching number of backflow prevention devices (4,070 to 5,470). Replacement of service laterals and installation of backflow prevention devices support the restoration of potable water service to each location where a structure is being rebuilt following the 2018 Camp Fire.

#### Main Replacement

Loss of pressure in the water distribution system, exacerbated by continuous water demand for fire-fighting equipment, resulted in unchecked backflow of VOC-contaminated burn residue into the service laterals and the distribution mains. Extensive VOC testing of the distribution system was performed on water samples taken from blowoffs, hydrants, and service laterals. VOC contamination has been identified in 79,500 linear feet of water main pipe throughout PID zones A through G. The contaminated main sections that cannot be cleaned by flushing alone and would undergo replacement. Approximately

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12 square feet of ground disturbance would be required per linear foot of main replacement totaling 953,592 square feet for the project.

### 2.4.2 Reservoir B Replacement

Reservoir B would be reconstructed using two 1.5-MG bolted steel water storage tanks. A 500-foot section of large diameter water main on site would be re-routed around the new tank installation. The yard piping design would include connections for a future third tank and valving to operate the two 1.5 MG tanks in series or in parallel. The site civil design would also provide a location for a third future tank. The placement of the new tanks partially outside of the existing Reservoir B footprint would require relocation of a portion of the existing 36-inch water line and grading of the existing reservoir berms on the northwest, southwest, and southeast sides of the reservoir. Although most woody vegetation was burned by the fire, remaining vegetation would be removed from the site to accommodate the redistribution of soil material from the tank site grading. The Reservoir B facility boundary encompasses approximately 5.9 acres. About 4.5 acres would incur ground disturbance as a result of the project. The project design is shown on Figure 3. The dotted red lines shown in Figure 3 indicate the outline of the proposed 1.5 MG tanks. Two would be constructed. The third is included in the design for future installation.

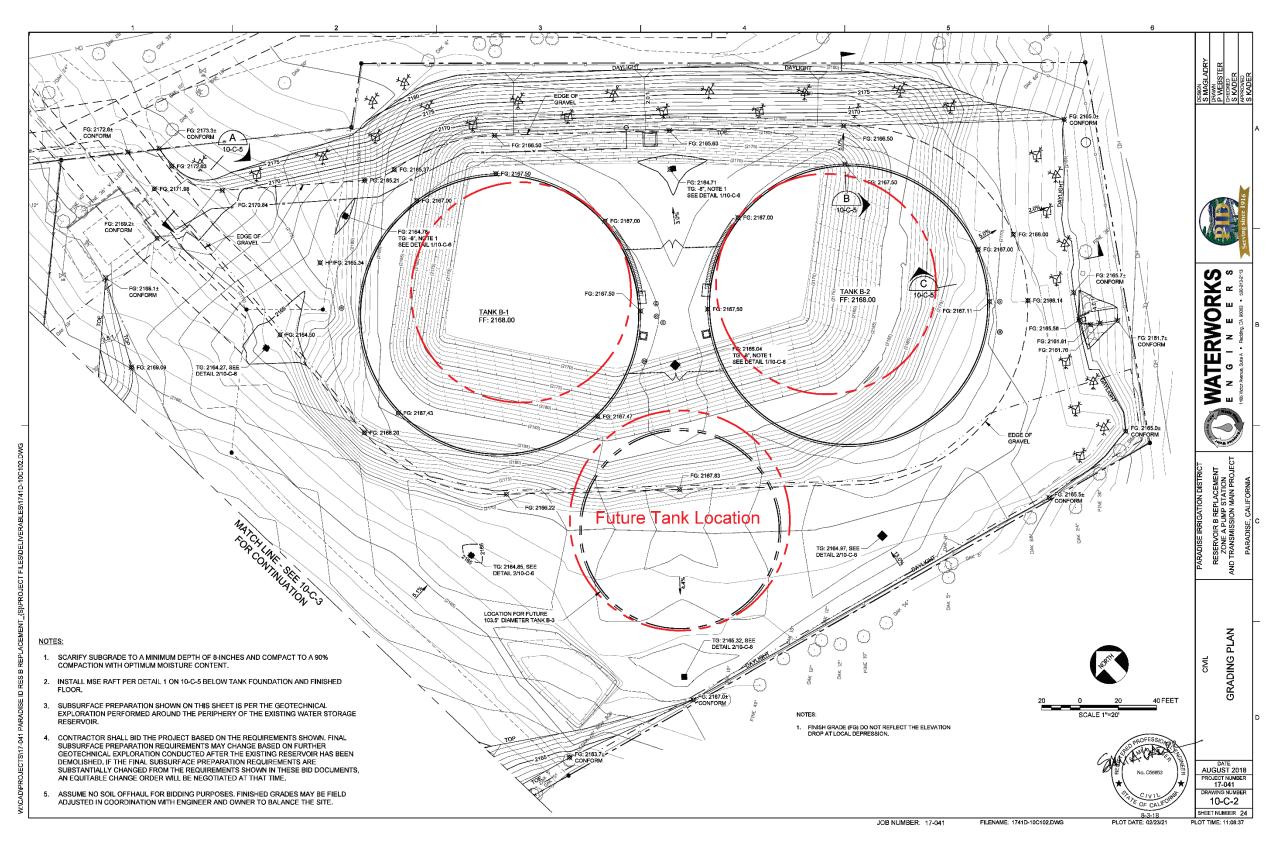


Figure 3. Proposed Layout - Reservoir B

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## 2.5 PROJECT DESIGN CRITERIA AND BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The project was designed to avoid or minimize potential environmental impacts. The proposed project improvements would be constructed primarily in previously disturbed areas including PID facilities and work areas. The following best management practices (BMPs) were incorporated into the project design.

### 2.5.1 Contractor Staging Areas/Construction Access Routes

Contractor staging would make use of existing roads and paved or graveled areas at existing PID facilities. Potential staging areas are located on existing graveled work areas at the Reservoir B site. Construction access would make use of existing public and PID roads.

#### 2.5.2 Conservation Measures

#### Conservation Measure #1—Air Pollution and Dust Control

Air pollution control would conform to all applicable air pollution control rules, regulations, ordinances, and statutes. Dust would be controlled during construction activities and subsequent operation of the project. Dust controls may include, but would not be limited to the following elements, as appropriate:

- Pursuant to California Vehicle Code (Section 23114) (California Legislative Information 2021), all
  trucks hauling soil and other loose material to and from the construction site shall be covered or
  shall maintain at least 6 inches of freeboard (i.e., minimum vertical distance between top of load
  and the trailer).
- Any soils that are removed during construction shall be stored onsite in piles not to exceed 4 feet in height. These spoil piles shall be clearly marked and flagged. Spoil piles that will not be immediately returned to use shall be revegetated with a non-persistent erosion control mixture.
- Equipment and manual watering shall be conducted on all stockpiles, dirt/gravel roads, and exposed or disturbed soil surfaces, as necessary, to reduce airborne dust.
- PID or its contractor shall designate a person to monitor dust control and to order increased watering as necessary to prevent transport of dust offsite. This person shall also respond to any citizen complaints.

#### Conservation Measure #2—Water Pollution Prevention

Although the Reservoir B site contains no potential waters of the United States or State and the water system recovery footprint follows preexisting distribution lines, construction activities could affect wetland and waters features that are outside the project footprint. The following BMPs have been incorporated into the proposed project to avoid and minimize the potential for adverse indirect effects on water quality.

Activities that increase the erosion potential within the project area shall be restricted to the
relatively dry summer and early fall period (approximately May 15 to October 15) to the maximum
extent practicable to minimize the potential for rainfall events to transport sediment to surface

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water features. If construction activities must take place during the late fall, winter, or spring, then temporary erosion and sediment control structures must be in place and operational at the end of each construction day and maintained until the completion of the project.

- Within 10 days of completion of construction, weed-free mulch shall be applied to disturbed areas in order to reduce the potential for short-term erosion. Prior to a rain event or when there is greater than 50 percent possibility of rain forecasted by the National Weather Service during the next 24 hours, weed-free mulch, tarps, or geotextile fabrics shall be applied to all exposed areas upon completion of the day's activities. Soils shall not be left exposed during the rainy season.
- Suitable BMPs, such as silt fences, straw wattles, or catch basins, shall be placed below all
  construction activities at the edge of surface water features to intercept sediment before it
  reaches the waterway. These structures shall be installed prior to any clearing or grading
  activities.
- If spoil sites are used, they shall be located such that they do not drain directly into a surface
  water feature, if possible. If a spoil site drains into a surface water feature, catch basins shall be
  constructed to intercept sediment before it reaches the feature. Spoil sites shall be graded and
  vegetated to reduce the potential for erosion.
- Sediment control measures shall be in place prior to the onset of the rainy season (or no later than October 15) and will be monitored and maintained in good working condition until vegetation becomes established within the disturbed areas.
- Fueling construction equipment shall be done at a fixed fueling station to reduce the area exposed to the potential for fuel spills.
- Secondary containment, such as a drain pan or drop cloth, shall be used to catch spills or leaks when removing or changing fluids.
- Spill containment materials shall be kept onsite at all times to contain any accidental spill.
- Absorbent materials shall be used on small spills rather than hosing down or burying the spill.
   The absorbent material shall be promptly removed and disposed of properly.
- Onsite vehicles and equipment shall be regularly inspected for leaks and repaired immediately.
- If vehicle and equipment maintenance must occur onsite, it shall be done in designated areas, located away from drainage courses, to prevent the run-on of storm water and the run-off of spills.
- Equipment and materials shall be stored at least 50 feet away from surface water features.
- PID is responsible for compliance with applicable federal, state, or local laws or ordinances and shall obtain authorization from all applicable regulatory agencies.

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#### Conservation Measure #3—Greenhouse Gas Emissions

PID shall include provisions in the construction bid documents to minimize project-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The following measures shall be implemented to reduce construction-related GHG emissions:

- Reuse and recycle construction and demolition waste, including, but not limited to soil, vegetation, concrete, lumber, metal, and cardboard.
- Ensure that the project enhances, and does not disrupt or create barriers to, non-motorized transportation (e.g., bicycles, pedestrians) through proper pre-construction planning.
- Protect existing trees to the extent possible and encourage the planting of new trees.

#### Conservation Measure #4—Wildfire Potential

PID shall include the following measure in the construction bid documents to minimize project-related potential for wildfire ignition:

 Per the requirements of PRC Section 4442, PID shall include a note on all construction plans that internal combustion engines shall be equipped with an operational spark arrester, or the engine must be equipped for the prevention of fire.

### Conservation Measure #5—Prevention of Spread of Invasive Species

The following avoidance and minimization measures are recommended during project construction to reduce the potential spread of invasive species:

- All equipment used for construction activities off of paved surfaces will be weed-free prior to entering the project site.
- If project implementation calls for mulches or fill, they will be weed free.
- Any invasive plant species removed during construction will be properly disposed of to ensure the species does not spread to other areas.

### 2.6 PROJECT APPROVALS

### 2.6.1 Funding Sources

It is anticipated that the project will be funded in part by Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act. Additional funding has been attained from CalOES and FEMA. PID is also partially funding the project through their insurance and reserves.

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## 2.6.2 Anticipated Permits and Regulatory Approvals

If construction activities result in soil disturbance on more than 1 acre, PID must comply with the provisions of the Construction General Permit [Order No. 2009-009-DWQ, as amended by 2010-0014-DWG] under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System program.

#### California Environmental Quality Act

Following is a list of authorizations and permits anticipated for project compliance under CEQA.

- CEQA Categorical Exemption (Article 19, Section 15302 Replacement or Reconstruction) water system recovery element
- CEQA Notice of Determination to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration Reservoir B replacement element
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan Approval (Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board)

### 2.7 TENTATIVE PROJECT CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

Construction of the project would begin upon receipt of all necessary preconstruction authorizations, including completion of CEQA documentation and receipt of any regulatory permits determined to be required. The proposed project element construction schedule would be as follows:

- Reservoir B replacement element anticipated to begin in July 2021 with completion in January 2022
- Almond Street main replacement anticipated to begin in April 2021 with completion in May 2022
- Service lateral replacement anticipated to begin in 2022 with completion in 2031
- Meter replacement begin in March 2021 and complete in March 2022
- Main replacement anticipated to begin in 2022 with completion in 2031

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# CHAPTER 3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING, IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES

This chapter incorporates the Environmental Checklist contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, including the CEQA Mandatory Findings of Significance. Each resource section provides a brief description of the setting, a determination of impact potential, and a discussion of the impacts. Where appropriate, mitigation measures are provided that would be used by PID to reduce potential impacts to a less-than-significant level. A discussion of cumulative impacts is included at the end of this chapter. This chapter includes the environmental setting, impacts, and mitigation measures for the Reservoir B replacement element of the proposed project. The remaining water system elements are expected to be satisfied by the Categorical Exemption (Article 19, Section 15302 Replacement or Reconstruction) under CEQA and are not included in this discussion.

Addressed in this section are the following 20 environmental categories and mandatory findings of significance:

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality

- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire
- Mandatory Findings of Significance

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Each of these issue areas was fully evaluated and one of the following four impact determinations was made:

- No Impact: No impact to the environment would occur as a result of implementing the proposed project.
- Less-than-Significant Impact: Implementation of the proposed project would not result in a substantial and adverse change to the environment and no mitigation is required.
- Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated: A "significant" impact that can be reduced to a less-than-significant level with the incorporation of project-specific mitigation measures.
- **Potentially Significant Impact:** Implementation of the proposed project could result in an impact that has a "substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project" (CEQA Guidelines Section 15382).

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### 3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

### 3.1.1 Regional Setting

PID's Reservoir B lies in the central portion of Butte County, California in the Cascade Range foothills. This region is at the southern extent of the volcanic Cascades near the junction of Sierra Nevada. The topography of Butte County is quite varied and includes low elevation areas of the northern Sacramento Valley to rugged and steep terrain on the western slopes of the Cascades and Sierra Nevada. Butte County contains four incorporated cities and a total population of approximately 220,000.

The region supports an extensive system of rivers and streams. The Feather River watershed occupies a large part of eastern Butte County and streams in the northern part of the county drain into the Sacramento River, which represents a portion of the western border of the county. The region contains a diverse assemblage of vegetation communities due to the large elevational gradient. Developed agricultural lands are dominant in the Sacramento Valley and transition to grassland, woodland, and forest habitats as elevations increase in the mountainous regions. Mid- and upper-elevation regions of Butte County contain productive timberlands managed by private timber companies (e.g., Sierra Pacific Industries) and federal land managers (e.g., Lassen and Plumas national forests).

### 3.1.2 Local Setting

Reservoir B is in the town of Paradise in central Butte County, California. Reservoir B is located on private and PID lands.

#### Climate

The climate is typical of the Cascade Range foothills in northern California with moderate winters and hot, dry summers. Approximately 55 inches of precipitation and 2 inches of snow fall occurs annually, most of which occurs between November 1 and March 30. Air temperatures range between an average January high of 54 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) and an average July high of 92°F. The average annual high is approximately 71°F. The average minimum temperature is approximately 50°F (Western Regional Climate Center 2021).

#### **Existing Land Uses**

Surrounding land uses consist of rural residential, mobile home, and urban residential development, commercial businesses, transportation corridors, forest, and local infrastructure. Reservoir B is an established PID facility.

#### **Topography**

The Reservoir B site occurs on a broad ridgetop that separates the Feather River watershed to the east from the Butte Creek watershed to the west. The topography of the reservoir and adjacent areas is gently sloping. Elevation in the project area is approximately 2,180 feet above mean sea level and slopes upward from west to east.

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#### **Hydrological Setting**

No hydrologic features occur in the Reservoir B facility footprint. Precipitation runoff from roads and adjacent hillsides in the project area contribute to the hydrology of the West Branch Feather River and Little Butte Creek.

#### Soils

One soil map unit occurs in the Reservoir B facility footprint. It is described in the *Soil Survey of Butte Area, California, Parts of Butte and Plumas Counties* (Natural Resources Conservation Service 2021). The soil unit is Paradiso loam, 2 to 15 percent slopes. It is well-drained, not hydric, and a restrictive layer is more than 80 inches below the surface.

### Geology

Reservoir B is primarily underlain by Pleistocene-age volcanic flows that underlie the greater Paradise area (Saucedo and Wagner 1992). Artificial fill, colluvium, and alluvium may be present (Vertical Sciences 2017).

No active faults are mapped in the immediate vicinity (Vertical Sciences, Inc. 2017). Although many potentially active and inactive faults have been mapped in the region, none were mapped that may affect Reservoir B. No landslides, incipient or otherwise, were observed during preparation of the previous Reservoir B project geotechnical study (Vertical Sciences, Inc. 2017). The potential for landslides in or near Reservoir B is low (Butte County 2012).

#### **Vegetation Community Types**

Although the Reservoir B facilities are largely developed, some natural vegetation remains adjacent to the reservoir. Vegetation communities occurring in the Reservoir B facility were characterized based on descriptions provided in *A Manual of California Vegetation* (Sawyer et al. 2009). Three vegetation types occur in the Reservoir B facility: annual grassland, ponderosa pine forest, and urban/ruderal.

#### Annual Grassland

Annual grassland occurs along road shoulders and in other disturbed portions of the facility. This habitat is characterized by an open canopy cover and dense herbaceous layer dominated by annual grasses and forbs, including bristly dogtail grass (*Cynosurus echinatus*), ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), wild oats (*Avena fatua*), and yellow star-thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*).

#### Ponderosa Pine Forest

Ponderosa pine forest was present south of Reservoir B before the Camp Fire. The habitat was dominated by ponderosa pine with a relatively low abundance of other trees such as Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and incense-cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*). The Camp Fire destroyed all of the trees on site, and the area is currently composed of early successional shrubs and small trees. The landscape has scattered shrubs such as poison oak and Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) with non-native annual grasses and ruderal herbaceous species.

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### Urban/Ruderal

Urban/ruderal habitat includes Reservoir B and its vicinity. This habitat is characterized by ornamental trees and shrubs and a sparse cover of non-native annual plant species in continuously disturbed areas (e.g., graveled areas).

### 3.2 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

#### I. AESTHETICS

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:	Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Potentially Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				$\boxtimes$
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?				
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?				

#### **Discussion of Impacts**

- a, b) **No Impact.** Replacement of Reservoir B would not affect a scenic vista or scenic resources. Neither is present in the project area.
- c) Less-than-Significant Impact. The new water tanks would be partially obscured by the adjacent topography. The exterior walls of the tanks would be painted a forest green color to blend with the surrounding landscape. It is anticipated that the tanks domes would not be painted. The areas around the tank would be landscaped with vegetation to help mask the tank from nearby residences. Travelers along Skyway may have brief views of the top of the new tank as they pass by the project area, but the tanks would not substantially alter views from the road.
- d) Less-than-Significant Impact. Nighttime lighting associated with the proposed tanks would be consistent with existing conditions before the fire and may be visible from some existing and future nearby residences and roads. Motion detectors would activate lights if there is unexpected movement on the site or if PID staff are working onsite. Surrounding topography and the distance between the tank site and viewers would minimize the potential for light and glare to affect residents and travelers along the roads. Vegetative regrowth over time would further buffer views of the site. The new tanks would be made of steel with a special coating that prevents glare. The proposed project would have a less-than-significant impact on light and glare in the area.

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### **Mitigation Measures**

No project-specific mitigation is required under this subject.

#### II. AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST RESOURCES

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?				
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined by Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?				
d) Result in loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use, or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				

#### **Discussion of Impacts**

- a) **No Impact.** No parcels in the Reservoir B site or vicinity are mapped as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (California Department of Conservation 2021a). Onsite soils are not prime agricultural soils. Replacement of Reservoir B would have no impact on Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance.
- b) **No Impact.** No parcels in Reservoir B or its vicinity are zoned for agricultural use (Town of Paradise Planning Department 2021). No parcels in Reservoir B or its vicinity are under a Williamson Act contract (Butte County 2016). Replacement of Reservoir B would not conflict with existing zoning and would have no impact on agriculture.

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c, d, e) **No Impact.** Reservoir B does not contain any farmland, forest land (as defined by PRC section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g)). The majority of trees adjacent to the reservoir were destroyed by the Camp Fire. Although some tree removal would occur at Reservoir B, it would not have an impact on any designated timberland.

### **Mitigation Measures**

No project-specific mitigation is required under this subject.

#### III. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?				
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?			$\boxtimes$	
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?				
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?				

#### **Discussion of Impacts**

- a) Less-than-Significant Impact. Replacement of Reservoir B would result in minimal and temporary air emissions for the criteria pollutants regulated by the Butte County Air Quality Management District (BCAQMD) (reactive organic gases, nitrogen oxides, particulate matter), as discussed under item b) below. It would be consistent with and would not obstruct implementation of any BCAQMD management plans, or other applicable air quality plans and regulations for the region such as the Northern Sacramento Valley Planning Area 2018 Triennial Air Quality Attainment Plan (SVAQEEP 2018). Replacement of Reservoir B would not induce unplanned growth in PID's service area or conflict with assumptions made by BCAQMD when preparing its air quality management plans.
- b) Less-than-Significant Impact. Butte County is a non-attainment area for the state and federal ozone standards, the state particulate matter (particulate matter 2.5 microns or less [PM2.5]) standards, and the state particulate matter (particulate matter 10 microns or less; [PM10]) standards (California Air Resources Board 2021). Butte County is in attainment for the state and federal standards for sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, lead, and carbon monoxide in addition to the state standards for sulfates and the federal standards for PM2.5 and PM10 (California Air Resources Board 2021). Construction activities would result in short-term increases in emissions

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from the use of heavy equipment that generates dust, exhaust, and tire-wear emissions; soil disturbance; materials used in construction; and construction traffic. These activities would create short-term increases in fugitive dust (PM10 and PM2.5) and would generate both reactive organic compounds and nitrogen oxides emissions from vehicle and equipment operation. Fugitive dust emissions could affect local air quality near the project area but would not be expected to contribute substantially to regional air quality. Implementation of BCAQMD BMP's for dust and emissions reduction, as described in the project description would help minimize dust and emissions generated during construction activities, ensuring impacts are less than significant. Long-term emissions from pump and tank operations and periodic maintenance trips would be minimal based on the infrequent nature of these emissions. *Conservation Measure #1 – Air Pollution and Dust Control* (described in Section 2.6.2) will be used to maintain air quality and to ensure that any construction-related impacts would be less than significant.

- c) Less-than-Significant Impact. Sensitive receptors such as residences occur immediately adjacent to Reservoir B. However, the effect to air quality experienced by these sensitive receptors would be similar to the effect generated by existing motor vehicle traffic. In addition, Conservation Measure #1 Air Pollution and Dust Control (described in Section 2.6.2) would further reduce the potential for impacts on air quality in Reservoir B and vicinity. Impacts on air quality experienced by sensitive receptors because of the replacement of Reservoir B would be less than significant.
- d) **No Impact.** Replacement of Reservoir B would not create any new or increased objectionable odors.

#### **Mitigation Measures**

No project-specific mitigation is required under this subject.

#### **IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?				$\boxtimes$

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Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?				
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				

### **Discussion of Impacts**

- a) Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. A Biological Resources Assessment report (Stantec 2018a) prepared for the prior Reservoir B replacement project analyzed potential similar project-related impacts on biological resources. The Biological Resources Assessment included a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service species list for the project area. Plant and wildlife habitat was substantially altered by the 2018 Camp Fire; however, because the replacement of Reservoir B proposed under the previous project and the current project would have similar effects on specialstatus species, the impacts assessment for the current Reservoir B replacement uses the earlier biological resources assessment and findings.
  - Special-Status Plants. One special-status plant species was determined to have a
    potential to occur in the vicinity of Reservoir B: Hall's rupertia (*Rupertia hallii*), California
    Rare Plant Rank 1B.2.

A botanical survey of suitable habitats in the project area was conducted by North State Resources, now Stantec, on June 30 and October 20, 2017, and coincided with the blooming period of the potentially occurring plant. No special-status plant species were observed during the botanical survey, including federal or state listed as threatened or endangered, or candidates for listing. While a subset of annual special-status species follow fire, the special-status species that typically occur in the area do not have this unique characteristic and are not likely to occur, even though the site incurred fire disturbance.

- Special-Status Wildlife. No federal or state listed as threatened or endangered wildlife
  species, or candidates for listing or other special-status wildlife species were determined to
  have potential habitat in the Reservoir B facility or vicinity. However, most breeding birds
  that may use surviving or newly grown vegetation are protected under state and federal
  regulations.
- Migratory Birds and Raptors. Potential nesting habitat for migratory birds and raptors
  occurs in the trees and other vegetation that remains or is newly grown in or near Reservoir

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B. Adverse effects on migratory birds and raptors could occur if they are actively nesting in the construction area. Construction disturbance during the nesting season could result in the loss of fertile eggs or nestlings, or otherwise lead to nest abandonment. Loss of fertile eggs or any activities resulting in nest abandonment, may adversely affect nesting birds. Construction activities could also result in a small temporary reduction of nesting or foraging habitat for birds. However, due to the limited nature of the work and regional occurrence of similar habitats, temporary habitat loss is not expected to result in an adverse effect on migratory birds and raptors. *Mitigation Measure #1 – Migratory Birds and Raptors* will be used to reduce any potential impacts on migratory birds and raptors to a less-than-significant level.

- b) **No Impact.** No rare natural communities occur in the Reservoir B facility. No additional avoidance or minimization measures are recommended.
- No Impact. A wetland delineation (Stantec 2018b) was prepared to document and describe potential waters of the United States, including wetlands, in the previous project area, which included the Reservoir B facility. No potential waters of the United States were mapped within the 2018 project area. No impacts would occur, and no additional avoidance or minimization measures are recommended.
- d) No Impact. Proposed activities would be confined to the existing PID Reservoir B site. These activities would not impede movement of wildlife or fragment migration corridors. The Reservoir B site does not encompass any wildlife nursery sites. No hydrologic features suitable for salmonid habitat occur within the proposed work area or immediately adjacent areas. During project construction wildlife would be able to move around the site or move through it at night. Replacement of Reservoir B would have no impact on fish or wildlife movement or nursery sites.
- e) **No Impact.** Replacement of Reservoir B would not conflict with any local biological resource policies or ordinances. There would be no impact on any local policies or ordinances.
- f) **No Impact.** There are no adopted Habitat Conservation Plans, Natural Community Conservation Plans, or other approved habitat conservation plans that cover Reservoir B. Replacement of Reservoir B would not conflict with any local, regional, or state conservation plans. Replacement of Reservoir B would have no impact on any conservation plans.

#### **Mitigation Measures**

#### Mitigation Measure #1—Migratory Birds and Raptors

The following measures shall be implemented to avoid or minimize the potential for adverse impacts on nesting migratory birds and raptors:

Construction activities should be scheduled to avoid the nesting season to the extent feasible.
 The typical nesting seasons in northern California extends from February 15 through September 15. Thus, if construction activities can be scheduled to occur outside of the nesting season, no

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impacts would be expected. If the nesting season cannot be completely avoided, the following measures shall be implemented.

- A qualified biologist shall conduct a minimum of one pre-construction survey for nesting migratory birds and raptors within the Reservoir B site and a 250-foot buffer around the site. The survey should be conducted no more than 14 days prior to the initiation of activities in any given area. The pre-construction survey should be used to ensure that no active bird nests occurring within or immediately adjacent to Reservoir B would be disturbed during construction. If an active nest is found, a qualified biologist should determine the extent of a construction-free buffer zone to be established around the nest. If it is anticipated that construction activities will encroach on the buffer, a biological monitor will be present to ensure that the nesting birds are not disturbed by the activities.
- If vegetation is to be removed during construction and all necessary approvals have been obtained, potential nesting substrates (e.g., trees and shrubs) to be removed should be removed before the onset of the nesting season, if feasible. This will help preclude nesting and substantially decrease the likelihood of direct impacts.

**Timing/Implementation:** Prior to and during construction

**Enforcement:** California Department of Fish and Wildlife, PID

**Monitoring:** PID and its contractor

#### V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?				
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?			$\boxtimes$	
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?			$\boxtimes$	

### **Discussion of Impacts**

a, b) **No Impact.** The Cultural Resources Inventory and Evaluation Report (Stantec 2018c) prepared for the prior Reservoir B replacement project analyzed potential similar project-related impacts. The report determined that the 2018 project would have no impact on historic, archaeological, or paleontological properties in the project area and vicinity. This confidential report is available only to qualified reviewers upon request. There are no recorded historic sites within the Reservoir B site or vicinity. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, there would be no adverse effect on cultural resources as a result of Reservoir B replacement activities. Replacement of Reservoir B would have no impact on cultural resources.

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c) Less-than-Significant Impact. Although no impacts on known cultural resources are anticipated, currently undetected cultural resources or evidence of human remains could be exposed during excavation activities. *Mitigation Measure #2 – Cultural Resources* and *Mitigation Measure #3 - Human Remains* will be adhered to in the case of an unanticipated discovery of cultural resources or human remains. Replacement of Reservoir B would have a less-than-significant impact.

### **Mitigation Measures**

### Mitigation Measure #2—Cultural Resources

PID shall include provisions in the construction bid documents to minimize Reservoir B replacement impacts on cultural resources. The following measure shall be implemented to avoid construction-related impacts on cultural resources:

• If any unanticipated archaeological finds are made in the Reservoir B site that are considered to be significant, a number of methods may be used to mitigate potential adverse effects. Avoidance through project redesign or some method of preservation is the preferred method. If redesign or preservation is not an option, it is recommended that any potential adverse effects on unanticipated finds be mitigated through data recovery, although actual mitigation would be determined through consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer under the National Historic Preservation Act. It is also recommended that local Native American groups be consulted, and their input solicited and considered in all aspects of such testing and mitigation.

**Timing/Implementation:** During construction

**Enforcement:** Native American Heritage Commission, PID

**Monitoring:** PID and its contractor

#### Mitigation Measure #3—Human Remains

PID shall include provisions in the construction bid documents to minimize Reservoir B replacement impacts on cultural resources. The following measure shall be implemented to avoid construction-related impacts on inadvertently discovered human remains:

• If human remains are found, the California Health and Safety Code requires that excavation be halted in the immediate area and that the Butte County coroner be notified to determine the nature of the remains. The coroner is required to examine all discoveries of human remains within 48 hours of receiving notice of a discovery on private or State lands (California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5[b]). If the coroner determines that the remains are those of a Native American, he or she must contact the Native American Heritage Commission by telephone within 24 hours of making that determination (California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5[c]).

**Timing/Implementation:** During construction

**Enforcement:** Native American Heritage Commission, PID

**Monitoring:** PID and its contractor

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#### **VI. ENERGY**

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

### **Discussion of Impacts**

a, b) No Impact. It would be necessary to use diesel-powered equipment during Reservoir B replacement construction. This would not be considered wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources. The Reservoir B replacement would comply with state and Butte County plans for energy efficiency.

### **Mitigation Measures**

No project-specific mitigation is required under this subject.

#### **VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.				
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?				$\boxtimes$
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				
iv) Landslides?				$\boxtimes$
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			$\boxtimes$	
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?				

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Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code, creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?				
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?				$\boxtimes$

### **Discussion of Impacts**

- a) i, ii, iii, iv) **No Impact.** The project area is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone and there are no active faults mapped in the Reservoir B site or vicinity (California Department of Conservation 2021b). However, several potentially active and inactive faults have been mapped nearby (California Department of Conservation 2021c), but since no faults pass through the Reservoir B site, construction would not result in the rupture of any known fault. Due to the lack of active faults near the Reservoir B site, construction and operation would not expose people or structures to seismic ground shaking or seismic-related ground failure. Topography in and around Reservoir B is low to moderately sloping. No landslides, incipient or otherwise, are present in the project area (Vertical Sciences 2017). The project area and vicinity have a low to moderate potential for slope instability (Butte County 2012). The project would have no impact.
- b) Less-than-Significant Impact. Construction activities would result in soil disturbance on approximately 4.48 acres and would redistribute topsoil to accommodate new Reservoir B facilities. All excavated material is expected to be used to restore disturbed areas in the Reservoir B site, so no topsoil would be lost.

Overall soil loss would be minimal with implementation of standard construction practices for dust control and stormwater pollution prevention. Erosion and sediment control measures included in *Conservation Measure #2 – Water Pollution Prevention* (described in Section 2.6.2) and a stormwater pollution prevention plan will be used during construction to minimize the potential for erosion. Long-term erosion would be minimized around the tanks by drainage control devices and use of the existing stormwater system. Replacement of Reservoir B would result in less-than-significant impacts relating to soil erosion and loss of topsoil.

- c) **No Impact.** The project is not located on unstable soils (Vertical Sciences 2017).
- d) Less-than-Significant Impact. Some of the soils in the project area are considered expansive (Natural Resources Conservation Service 2021) and could pose a constraint to construction of Reservoir B. Design considerations for expansive soils, such as excluding highly plastic clays from engineered fill materials or lime- or cement-treatment of soils to reduce their expansive potential, would minimize the potential for shrink-swell conditions to affect Reservoir B facilities.
- e) **No Impact.** Replacement of Reservoir B does not involve wastewater facilities.

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### **Mitigation Measures**

No project-specific mitigation is required under this subject.

#### **VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

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

### **Discussion of Impacts**

a) Less-than-Significant Impact. GHGs are recognized by wide consensus among the scientific community to contribute to global warming/climate change and associated environmental impacts because of their ability to trap heat in the atmosphere and affect climate. The major GHGs that are released from human activity include carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide (Governor's Office of Planning and Research 2008). The primary sources of GHGs are vehicles (including planes and trains), energy plants, and industrial and agricultural activities (such as dairies and hog farms).

Emissions of GHGs from the replacement and operation of Reservoir B would be generated offsite from the production of materials used for construction materials production (e.g., pipe) as well as onsite construction-related equipment emissions. Replacement and operation of Reservoir B would not increase the generation of emissions after construction is complete because services provided by the reservoir would be similar to current conditions. Emissions of GHGs resulting from off-road heavy-duty diesel engines during construction activities would be short-term and minor. Gas or diesel generators permitted by BCAQMD would be used if needed in the event of electrical failure and emergency; however, these alternative sources of power will be maintained, and emissions outputs will comply with BCAQMD internal combustion engine permit requirements. Implementation of *Conservation Measure #1— Air Pollution and Dust Control* (described in Section 2.6.2) would reduce GHG emissions. This measure, combined with *Conservation Measure #3 – Greenhouse Gas Emissions* (described in Section 2.6.2) was incorporated into the project design and would be used during construction to ensure that impacts related to Reservoir B construction and operation would remain less than significant.

(b) No Impact. The BCAQMD has not adopted a plan, policy, or regulation for reducing GHG emissions. However, the State of California has adopted several regulations related to GHG emissions reduction. These include efforts to reduce tailpipe emissions and diesel exhaust

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produced by fuel-combustion engines. Reservoir B operations would adhere to statewide efforts aimed at minimizing GHG emissions and would not conflict with any applicable plans, policies, or regulations adopted for the purpose of reducing the emission of GHGs. Replacement of Reservoir B would have no impact on GHG emissions.

### **Mitigation Measures**

No project-specific mitigation is required under this subject.

#### IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?			$\boxtimes$	
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?				
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				$\boxtimes$
e) For a project located within an airport land use compatibility plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?				
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?				

#### **Discussion of Impacts**

a, b) **Less-than-Significant Impact.** The use of diesel or gasoline powered construction equipment (trucks, excavators, etc.) and lubricants such as oil and hydraulic fluids could pose a hazard to the public and the environments; however, construction-related hazards would be temporary and use of these materials for Reservoir B operation would be consistent with existing conditions. All equipment, regardless of its use as temporary or permanent, would be routinely maintained and inspected to avoid leaks. BMP's described in *Conservation Measure #2 – Water Pollution* 

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*Prevention* (described in Section 2.6.2) will be used to reduce potential impacts associated with accidental spills of pollutants (i.e., fuels, oil, grease, etc.) on the area environment.

- c) No Impact. An existing or proposed school is not located within 0.25 mile of Reservoir B. Replacement of Reservoir B would have no impact.
- d) **No Impact.** A search of the State Department of Toxic Substances Control EnviroStor database (California Department of Toxic Substances Control 2021) and the State Regional Water Quality Control Board's GeoTracker database (SWRCB 2021) found no record of any contaminated sites in the project area. The nearest recorded hazardous site to the project area is a leaking underground storage tank site at 8710 Skyway Road in Paradise (approximately 500 feet west of the Reservoir B tank site). However, the site was cleaned-up and the case was closed in 2000 (SWRCB 2021). The project area is not included on the list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. The project would have no impact.

The 2018 Camp Fire left enormous volumes of potentially contaminated debris throughout the burn area. Although hazardous materials were not stored or used at the Reservoir B site prior to the fire, the debris left onsite post-fire was subject to hazardous material removal criteria. The two-phase cleanup effort was established by the State Department of Toxic Substances Control, with assistance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other federal, state, and local agencies. Reservoir B is mapped as having undergone Phase 1 cleanup, but not Phase 2 (Butte County 2021).

- e) **No Impact.** The privately-owned Paradise Skypark Airport is approximately 4.8 miles south of Reservoir B. The Reservoir B site is outside of the Paradise Skypark Airport Influence Area as defined in the Butte County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (Butte County Airport Land Use Commission 2017). Replacement of Reservoir B would have no impact on the airport.
- f) No Impact. Replacement of Reservoir B would not require road closure or detours and would not interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Replacement of Reservoir B would have no impact on emergency plans.
- g) **Less-than-Significant Impact.** Although Reservoir B is in a wildland-urban interface moderate to high fire hazard zone, the proposed infrastructure would store water and would not create a fire hazard. The use of construction equipment in and around vegetated areas increases the potential for wildfire ignition. *Conservation Measure #4 Wildfire Potential* (described in Section 2.6.2) will be used to reduce the risk of wildfire associated with construction to a less-than-significant level. Operation of Reservoir B would have no impact on wildfire potential.

#### **Mitigation Measures**

No project-specific mitigation is required under this subject.

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#### X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?				
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?				$\boxtimes$
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:  i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site; ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite; iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or iv) impede or redirect flood flows?				
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?				
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?			$\boxtimes$	

- a) Less-than-Significant Impact. Construction and operation of Reservoir B would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements set forth by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board in its water quality control plan for the Central Valley region. Water pollution control measures were incorporated into the project design to avoid and/or minimize impacts on water quality. These measures, in conjunction with Conservation Measure #2 Water Pollution Prevention (described in Section 2.6.2) will reduce this impact to a less than significant level.
- b) **No Impact.** Construction and operation of Reservoir B would not result in any net changes in the current demand placed on the local aquifer or local groundwater table nor would construction and operation deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge. Replacement of Reservoir B would have no impact on groundwater.
- c) **Less-than-Significant Impact.** Replacement of Reservoir B would involve grading activities that would modify contours at the proposed tank site. The overall drainage patterns would remain similar to current conditions with surface runoff traveling east toward the existing connection to

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the stormwater system. Runoff patterns may increase slightly as a result of modifications (e.g., vegetation removal) to the Reservoir B site, but runoff would primarily infiltrate into the soils in the surrounding area or be conveyed to the existing stormwater drain on the east side of the Reservoir B site. No substantial areas of new additional impervious surface areas would be created as a result of construction. The proposed Reservoir B tanks would cover a similar area as the existing Reservoir B facilities. Replacement of Reservoir B would not create a substantial increase in stormwater runoff. The impact would be less than significant.

- d) **No Impact.** Reservoir B is not in an area with potential for a seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.
- e) Less-than-Significant Impact. Construction and operation of Reservoir B would not obstruct Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's water quality control plan or groundwater quality protection strategy for the Central Valley region. Construction and operation of Reservoir B would involve the use of hazardous materials (i.e., petroleum-based fuels and lubricants). Conservation Measure #2 Water Pollution Prevention (described in Section 2.6.2) will reduce this impact to a less than significant level.

### **Mitigation Measures**

No project-specific mitigation is required under this subject.

### XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?				$\boxtimes$
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				

- a) No Impact. Replacement of Reservoir B would not divide an established community.
   Construction would be temporary and a means for ingress/egress will be maintained to the facility through the duration of construction. Replacement of Reservoir B would have no impact.
- b) **No Impact.** Replacement of Reservoir B is consistent with applicable land use plans, policies, and regulations. Replacement of Reservoir B would not conflict with any applicable conservation plans. Replacement of Reservoir B would not involve a change in existing land use and would not conflict with any habitat conservation plans or natural communities' conservation plans. All necessary land use authorizations (i.e., landowner agreements), if required, will be in place prior to the onset of construction. The Reservoir B site is not included in any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural communities' conservation plan. Replacement of Reservoir B would have no impact on land use.

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### **Mitigation Measures**

No project-specific mitigation is required under this subject.

### XII. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?				
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?				

### **Discussion of Impacts**

a, b) No Impact. The Reservoir B site has not been mapped by the California Department of Conservation as containing marketable aggregate (California Department of Conservation 2018). The Reservoir B site is not designated as a mineral resource area, as depicted by the Butte County General Plan Conservation and Open Space and Element (Butte County 2012). Gravel mining activities do not occur at this location. Replacement of Reservoir B would not result in the loss of availability of a valuable mineral resource. There would be no impact.

### **Mitigation Measures**

No project-specific mitigation is required under this subject.

#### XIII. NOISE

Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?				
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?				
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				

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### **Discussion of Impacts**

a) Less-than-Significant Impact. Construction activities would temporarily increase noise levels in the vicinity of Reservoir B. Actual noise levels would vary throughout the period of construction, depending on the type of construction equipment involved, activities being implemented, and distance between the source of the noise and receptors. Although most nearby residences were destroyed by the Camp Fire in 2018, it is anticipated that some rebuilding will occur before or concurrent with Reservoir B construction activities. Construction noise would temporarily expose residents to increased noise levels.

Construction-related noise would be temporary and occur only during daylight hours (typically 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday). Construction-related noise would be limited to levels lower than the maximum allowable noise exposure as defined in the Butte County General Plan Noise Element (Butte County 2012) as shown in Table 2 below.

Noise generated by construction and operation of Reservoir B from sources such as heavy equipment, stationary pumps, and occasional truck traffic are common to the existing daily operations of existing PID facilities and ambient noise in Paradise. Noise generated by construction and operation of Reservoir B would have a less-than-significant impact on the community.

Table 2. Maximum Allowable Noise Exposure to Non-Transportation Sources

Noise Level Description	Urban Zone	Non-Urban Zone	Urban Zone	Non-Urban Zone	Urban Zone	Non-Urban Zone
Noise Level Description	Daytime 7 a.m.—7 p.m.		Evening 7 p.m.—10 p.m.			ght —7 a.m.
Hourly Equivalent Sound Level, dB	55	50	50	45	45	40
Maximum Level, dB	70	60	60	55	55	50

Source: Butte County 2012

Notes:

<sup>1. &</sup>quot;Non-Urban designations" are Agriculture, Timber Mountain, Resource Conservation, Foothill Residential and Rural Residential. All other designations are considered "urban designations" for the purposes of regulating noise exposure.

<sup>2.</sup> Each of the noise levels specified above shall be lowered by 5 dB for simple tone noises, noises consisting primarily of speech or music, or for recurring impulsive noises. These noise level standards do not apply to residential units established in conjunction with industrial or commercial uses (e.g., caretaker dwellings).

<sup>3.</sup> The county can impose noise level standards which are up to 5 dB less than those specified above based upon determination of existing low ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project site.

<sup>4.</sup> In urban areas, the exterior noise level standard shall be applied to the property line of the receiving property. In rural areas, the exterior noise level standard shall be applied at a point 100 feet away from the residence. The above standards shall be measured only on property containing a noise sensitive land use. This measurement standard may be amended to provide for measurement at the boundary of a recorded noise easement between all affected property owners and approved by the county.

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- b) Less-than-Significant Impact. Construction-related groundborne vibration resulting from the movement of heavy equipment within the construction area would be temporary and localized. There is no potential for persons outside of the immediate construction area to be affected by groundborne vibration. Construction would not involve the use of explosives or pile driving activities. Groundborne vibrations associated with operation of the proposed water distribution improvements would be localized and consistent with existing conditions. Groundborne vibrations or noise levels generated by Reservoir B construction and operation would have a less-than-significant impact on individuals.
- c) **No Impact.** Replacement of Reservoir B is not located in the vicinity of a private airport or landing strip and therefore would have no impact.

### **Mitigation Measures**

No project-specific mitigation is required under this subject.

#### XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING

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

#### **Discussion of Impacts**

Replacement of Reservoir B will comply with Environmental Justice, Executive Order No. 12898, and will have no adverse impacts on low-income, minority, or any racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic group.

- a) No Impact. Replacement of Reservoir B would replace a reservoir that is no longer functional due to the Camp Fire of 2018. It would provide water for the expected post-fire population.
   Replacement of Reservoir B would have no impact on population growth.
- b) **No Impact.** Existing housing or people within the town of Paradise would not be displaced by the replacement of Reservoir B and no replacement housing would be required. Replacement of Reservoir B would have no impact on the numbers of existing housing. Replacement of Reservoir B would have no impact.

#### **Mitigation Measures**

No project-specific mitigation is required under this subject.

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#### XV. PUBLIC SERVICES

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

### **Discussion of Impact**

a) **No Impact.** Replacement of Reservoir B would have no impact on public resources, including fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, and other public facilities. During construction, water distribution where currently available would continue. Replacement of Reservoir B would have no impact on public services during construction. Operation of Reservoir B would benefit PID's water system customers and provide an additional source of emergency water for the community.

### **Mitigation Measures**

No project-specific mitigation is required under this subject.

#### XVI. RECREATION

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				

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### **Discussion of Impacts**

a, b) **No Impact.** Replacement of Reservoir B would not result in an increased demand for recreational facilities. Replacement of Reservoir B would not require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Replacement of Reservoir B would have no impact.

#### **Mitigation Measures**

No project-specific mitigation is required under this subject.

#### XVII. TRANSPORTATION

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?				$\boxtimes$
b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?				
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?				$\boxtimes$

- a) No Impact. Construction traffic (equipment and materials transport and daily worker traffic) would temporarily increase traffic on local roads during the construction phase. Temporary construction traffic would be limited to periodic worker, and equipment and material transport during the construction phase and a few PID vehicles daily during the operational phase. Replacement of Reservoir B would not require road closures or detours.
- b) Less-than-significant. Vehicle miles traveled would increase slightly to accommodate construction workers traveling to and from the site. However, the construction will occur in one season and the number of persons on-site would not result in a significant number of vehicle miles traveled. The volume and type of traffic associated with construction would not exceed the level of service for roads in the Paradise area. Replacement of Reservoir B would not conflict with the Butte County General Plan Circulation Element (Butte County 2012). Any impacts on traffic during construction would be temporary and less than significant.
- c) No Impact. Replacement of Reservoir B would not involve activities that could increase hazards due to a design feature or incompatible uses or affect parking capacity in the region. Construction vehicles would not need to park on streets outside the Reservoir B site. Replacement of Reservoir B would have no impact.

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d) No Impact. Replacement of Reservoir B would not require road closures or detours. Replacement of Reservoir B would not impede emergency vehicle access and would have no impact.

### **Mitigation Measures**

No project-specific mitigation is required under this subject.

#### XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project: cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or				
b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.				

- a, b) Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), passed in 2014, amends sections of CEQA relating to Native Americans. AB 52 establishes a new category of cultural resources, named Tribal Cultural Resources (TCRs), and states that a project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a TCR may have a significant effect on the environment. Defined in Section 21074 (a, b, and c) of the PRC, TCRs are:
  - A.1) Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either of the following:
    - a. Included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources; or
    - b. Included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 5020.1.
  - A.2) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1 for the

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- purposes of this paragraph, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.
- B) A cultural landscape that meets the criteria of subdivision (a) is a TCR to the extent that the landscape is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape; and
- C) A historical resource described in Section 21084.1, a unique archaeological resource as defined in subdivision (g) of Section 21083.2, or a "nonunique archaeological resource" as defined in subdivision (h) of Section 21083.2 may also be a TCR if it conforms to the criteria of subdivision (a).
  - Mitigation measures for TCRs must be developed in consultation with the affected California Native American tribe pursuant to newly chaptered Section 21080.3.2, or according to Section 21084.3. Section 21084.3 identifies mitigation measures that include avoidance and preservation of TCRs and treating TCRs with culturally appropriate dignity, taking into account the tribal cultural values and meaning of the resource.
  - In accordance with AB 52, tribes identified by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) were contacted via letter and phone calls on behalf of PID pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Section 21080.3 of CEQA. Additionally, the NAHC conducted a review of its Sacred Lands database for culturally significant properties and responded by email on September 20, 2017, indicating that the Sacred Lands File contained no records of Native American cultural resources in the immediate area. None of the persons identified by NAHC expressed concerns about the replacement of Reservoir B and no TCRs were identified in the project area after consultation. However, if such resources are inadvertently discovered during project construction, Mitigation Measure #2 Cultural Resources and Mitigation Measure #3 Human Remains will be used to reduce any potential impacts on cultural resources to a less-than-significant level.

#### **Mitigation Measures**

Mitigation Measure #2 – Cultural Resources and Mitigation Measure #3 - Human Remains described in Section 3.2, Section V, Cultural Resources, in will be used to reduce any potential impacts on TCRs to a less-than-significant level.

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#### XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?				
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?				$\boxtimes$
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?				
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?				
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				

- a) Less-than-Significant Impact. Replacement of Reservoir B would involve constructing new water storage tanks. Standard construction measures and mitigation measures described in this document will be implemented to minimize or avoid adverse environmental impacts, and overall impacts to the environment would be less than significant. Replacement of Reservoir B would also not encourage growth or expansion of other facilities because the tank capacity would supply the post-fire re-build population in the PID service area. Replacement of Reservoir B would involve modification of the existing stormwater drainage system at the Reservoir B site. The system would convey runoff from the tank site to an existing storm drain on the east side of the Reservoir B site. The stormwater system would not significantly expand on the existing stormwater system at the Reservoir B site. The impact would be less than significant.
- b) **No Impact.** No new or expanded water entitlements would be required for the replacement of Reservoir B. Replacement of Reservoir B would have no impact.
- c) No Impact. Replacement of Reservoir B would not involve the treatment or creation of wastewater. Replacement of Reservoir B would have no impact.
- d, e) Less-than-Significant Impact. Construction activities associated with the replacement of Reservoir B would generate solid waste in the form of demolished materials and other trash. Any solid waste generated by construction would be disposed of at an approved landfill or recycling

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center (e.g., Neal Road Landfill), in compliance with local, state, and federal regulations pertaining to solid waste disposal. Construction and operation of the Reservoir B is not likely to generate solid waste in amounts that would adversely affect the existing capacity of the local landfill. Replacement of Reservoir B would have a less-than-significant impact.

### **Mitigation Measures**

No project-specific mitigation is required under this subject.

#### XX. WILDFIRE

Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?			$\boxtimes$	
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines, or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?				
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?				

- a) **No Impact.** Replacement of Reservoir B would not require road closures or detours. There would be no impact on adopted emergency response plans or emergency evacuation plans.
- b, c) Less-than-Significant-Impact. Based on current mapping, the lands in the Reservoir B site are mapped as having "low-moderate" fire hazard potential by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (2020) and "extreme" fire risk according to the California Public Utilities Commission Fire-Threat Map (California Public Utilities Commission 2018). Construction activities would not exacerbate fire risks or result in ongoing impacts to the environment. Implementation of Conservation Measure #4—Wildfire (described in Section 2.6.2) would further reduce the potential for wildfire. Wildfire risk potential associated with replacement and operation of Reservoir B would be less than significant.
- d) **No Impact.** The grading profile for Reservoir B would provide sufficient gradient for drainage of roadway surfaces, and as such, construction would not expose people or structures to significant risks as a result in drainage changes, runoff, or slope instability.

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### **Mitigation Measures**

No project-specific mitigation is required under this subject.

#### XI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

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

#### **Discussion**

- a) Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. Construction-related activities could result in impacts on nesting migratory birds and raptors and previously undiscovered cultural resources. Mitigation measures described in Section 3.2, Biological Resources, will be used to avoid or minimize potential impacts on migratory birds and raptors. Although no cultural resources are anticipated to be impacted by construction, mitigation measures described in Section 3.2, Section V, Cultural Resources, will be used in the event of an inadvertent discovery of cultural resources or human remains. Conservation measures were included in the project design (as described in Section 2.6.2) and will be used to further reduce potential construction-related environmental effects. Replacement of Reservoir B would have a less-than-significant impact with mitigation incorporated.
- b) Less-than-Significant Impact. Replacement of Reservoir B would not result in cumulatively considerable impacts with implementation of standard construction measures and mitigation measures described in this IS. Replacement of Reservoir B would not introduce any new land uses or would result in the need for any reasonably foreseeable future projects within the town of Paradise. Impacts associated with the replacement of Reservoir B would be limited primarily to the construction phase, with no significant operational impacts on the environment. All impacts resulting from the replacement of Reservoir B can be fully mitigated for at the project level. As a result, cumulative impacts are considered to be less than significant.

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c) Less-than-Significant Impact. Replacement of Reservoir B, particularly during the construction phase, would result in temporary impacts to human beings. Potential adverse effects would be related to temporary increases in air pollutants, water quality impacts, and any accidental spills of hazardous materials. Construction would occur primarily within previously disturbed areas and would not involve any actions that would have a substantial direct or indirect impact on the human environment. The implementation of standard construction measures described in this IS would ensure construction-related impacts on human beings are minimized, and no long-term or operational-related impacts are anticipated.

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### CHAPTER 4.0 DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

X I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

I find that the proposed project MAY have a "Potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Tom Lado	4/9/2021	
Tom Lando, Interim District Manager Paradise Irrigation District	Date	

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# CHAPTER 5.0 MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

This chapter comprises the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) for the Reservoir B replacement element of the PID Water System Recovery and Reservoir B Replacement Project (project). The purpose of this MMRP is to memorialize the mitigation responsibilities of PID in implementing the replacement of Reservoir B. The mitigation measures listed herein are required by law or regulation and will be adopted by PID as part of the overall project approval. Mitigation is defined by the CEQA Section 15370 as a measure that incorporates one of the following:

- avoids the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action
- minimizes impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation
- rectifies the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the impacted environment
- reduces or eliminates the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the project
- · compensates for the impacts by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments

Mitigation measures provided in this MMRP have been identified in Chapter 3, Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures of the IS/MND and are considered feasible and effective in mitigating project-related environmental impacts.

This MMRP includes discussions of the following: legal requirements, intent of the MMRP; development and approval process for the MMRP; the authorities and responsibilities associated with implementation of the MMRP; a method of resolution of noncompliance complaints; and a summary of monitoring requirements.

**Legal Requirements:** The legal basis for the development and implementation of the MMRP lies within CEQA (including the California PRC). Sections 21002 and 21002.1 of the California PRC state:

- Public agencies are not to approve projects as proposed if there are feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures available that would substantially lessen the significant environmental effects of such projects.
- Each public agency shall mitigate or avoid the significant effects on the environment of projects that it carries out or approves whenever it is feasible to do so.

Section 21081.6 of the California PRC further requires that:

The public agency shall adopt a reporting or monitoring program for the changes made to the
project or conditions of project approval, adopted in order to mitigate or avoid significant effects
on the environment. The reporting or monitoring program shall be designed to ensure compliance
during project implementation.

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The monitoring program must be adopted when a public agency makes its findings under CEQA so that the program can be made a condition of project approval in order to mitigate significant effects on the environment. The program must be designed to ensure compliance with mitigation measures during project implementation to mitigate or avoid significant environmental effects.

Intent of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program: The MMRP is intended to satisfy the requirements of CEQA as they relate to the project. It will be used by PID staff, participating agencies, project contractors, and mitigation monitoring personnel during implementation of the project. The primary objective of the MMRP is to ensure the effective implementation and enforcement of adopted mitigation measures and permit conditions. The MMRP will provide for monitoring of construction activities as needed, onsite identification and resolution of environmental problems, and proper reporting to lead agency staff.

**Development and Approval Process:** The timing elements for implementing mitigation measures and the definition of the approval process are provided in detail throughout this MMRP to assist PID staff by providing the most usable monitoring document possible.

**Authorities and Responsibilities:** PID, functioning as the CEQA Lead Agency, will have the primary responsibility for the execution and proper implementation of the MMRP and will be responsible for the following activities:

- coordination of monitoring activities
- maintenance of records concerning the status of all approved mitigation measures

PID, as implementing agency, is responsible for implementing the mitigation measures by incorporating them into the project specifications (contract documents) and enforcing the conditions of the contract in the field during construction. Some pre- and post-construction activities may be implemented directly by PID.

Resolution of Noncompliance Complaints: Any person or agency may file a complaint that alleges noncompliance with the mitigation measure(s) adopted as part of the approval process for the proposed project. The complaint shall be directed to PID, Mr. Jim Passanisi, 6332 Clark Road, Paradise, California 95969, in written form describing the purported violation in detail. PID shall conduct an investigation and determine the validity of the complaint. If noncompliance with a mitigation measure is verified, PID shall take the necessary action(s) to remedy the violation. Complaints shall be responded to in writing including descriptions of PID's investigation findings and the corrective action(s) taken, if applicable.

**Summary of Monitoring Requirements:** Following this discussion are the mitigation measures and associated monitoring requirements for the proposed project. The mitigation measures are organized by environmental issue area (i.e., Air Quality, Biological Resources, etc.) and consist of the following:

Mitigation Measure(s): lists the mitigation measure(s) identified for each potentially significant
impact discussed in the IS/MND. The same mitigation numbering system used in the IS/MND is
carried forward in this MMRP.

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- Timing/Implementation: Indicates at what point in time or project phase the mitigation measure will need to be implemented.
- Enforcement: Indicates which agency or entity is responsible for enforcement of the mitigation measure(s).
- Monitoring: Indicates which agency or entity is responsible for implementing and monitoring each mitigation measure.
- Verification: Provides a space to be signed and dated by the individual responsible for verifying compliance with each mitigation measure.

### 5.1 CONSERVATION MEASURES

PID is committed to implementing the following conservation measures during construction of the Reservoir B:

#### Conservation Measure #1—Air Pollution and Dust Control

Air pollution control would conform to all applicable air pollution control rules, regulations, ordinances, and statutes. Dust would be controlled during construction activities and subsequent operation of the project. Dust controls may include, but would not be limited to the following elements, as appropriate:

- Pursuant to California Vehicle Code (Section 23114) (California Legislative Information 2021), all
  trucks hauling soil and other loose material to and from the construction site shall be covered or
  shall maintain at least 6 inches of freeboard (i.e., minimum vertical distance between top of load
  and the trailer).
- Any soils that are removed during construction shall be stored onsite in piles not to exceed 4 feet in height. These spoil piles shall be clearly marked and flagged. Spoil piles that will not be immediately returned to use shall be revegetated with a non-persistent erosion control mixture.
- Equipment and manual watering shall be conducted on all stockpiles, dirt/gravel roads, and exposed or disturbed soil surfaces, as necessary, to reduce airborne dust.
- PID or its contractor shall designate a person to monitor dust control and to order increased watering as necessary to prevent transport of dust offsite. This person shall also respond to any citizen complaints.

### Conservation Measure #2—Water Pollution Prevention

Although the Reservoir B site contains no potential waters of the United States or State and the water system recovery footprint follows preexisting distribution lines, construction activities could affect wetland and waters features that are outside the project footprint. The following BMPs have been incorporated into the proposed project to avoid and minimize the potential for adverse indirect effects on water quality.

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- Activities that increase the erosion potential within the project area shall be restricted to the
  relatively dry summer and early fall period (approximately May 15 to October 15) to the maximum
  extent practicable to minimize the potential for rainfall events to transport sediment to surface
  water features. If construction activities must take place during the late fall, winter, or spring, then
  temporary erosion and sediment control structures must be in place and operational at the end of
  each construction day and maintained until the completion of the project.
- Within 10 days of completion of construction, weed-free mulch shall be applied to disturbed areas in order to reduce the potential for short-term erosion. Prior to a rain event or when there is greater than 50 percent possibility of rain forecasted by the National Weather Service during the next 24 hours, weed-free mulch, tarps, or geotextile fabrics shall be applied to all exposed areas upon completion of the day's activities. Soils shall not be left exposed during the rainy season.
- Suitable BMPs, such as silt fences, straw wattles, or catch basins, shall be placed below all
  construction activities at the edge of surface water features to intercept sediment before it
  reaches the waterway. These structures shall be installed prior to any clearing or grading
  activities.
- If spoil sites are used, they shall be located such that they do not drain directly into a surface
  water feature, if possible. If a spoil site drains into a surface water feature, catch basins shall be
  constructed to intercept sediment before it reaches the feature. Spoil sites shall be graded and
  vegetated to reduce the potential for erosion.
- Sediment control measures shall be in place prior to the onset of the rainy season (or no later than October 15) and will be monitored and maintained in good working condition until vegetation becomes established within the disturbed areas.
- Fueling construction equipment shall be done at a fixed fueling station to reduce the area exposed to the potential for fuel spills.
- Secondary containment, such as a drain pan or drop cloth, shall be used to catch spills or leaks when removing or changing fluids.
- Spill containment materials shall be kept onsite at all times to contain any accidental spill.
- Absorbent materials shall be used on small spills rather than hosing down or burying the spill.
   The absorbent material shall be promptly removed and disposed of properly.
- Onsite vehicles and equipment shall be regularly inspected for leaks and repaired immediately.
- If vehicle and equipment maintenance must occur onsite, it shall be done in designated areas, located away from drainage courses, to prevent the run-on of storm water and the run-off of spills.
- Equipment and materials shall be stored at least 50 feet away from surface water features.
- PID is responsible for compliance with applicable federal, state, or local laws or ordinances and shall obtain authorization from all applicable regulatory agencies.

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#### Conservation Measure #3—Greenhouse Gas Emissions

PID shall include provisions in the construction bid documents to minimize project-related GHG emissions. The following measures shall be implemented to reduce construction-related GHG emissions:

- Reuse and recycle construction and demolition waste, including, but not limited to soil, vegetation, concrete, lumber, metal, and cardboard.
- Ensure that the project enhances, and does not disrupt or create barriers to, non-motorized transportation (e.g., bicycles, pedestrians) through proper pre-construction planning.
- Protect existing trees to the extent possible and encourage the planting of new trees.

### Conservation Measure #4—Wildfire Potential

PID shall include the following measure in the construction bid documents to minimize project-related potential for wildfire ignition:

 Per the requirements of PRC Section 4442, PID shall include a note on all construction plans that internal combustion engines shall be equipped with an operational spark arrester, or the engine must be equipped for the prevention of fire.

### Conservation Measure #5—Prevention of Spread of Invasive Species

The following avoidance and minimization measures are recommended during project construction to reduce the potential spread of invasive species:

- All equipment used for construction activities off of paved surfaces will be weed-free prior to entering the project site.
- If project implementation calls for mulches or fill, they will be weed free.
- Any invasive plant species removed during construction will be properly disposed of to ensure the species does not spread to other areas.

### 5.2 MITIGATION MEASURES

PID is committed to implementing the following mitigation measures during construction of the PID Reservoir B Replacement Project:

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### 5.2.1 Biological Resources

#### Mitigation Measure #1—Migratory Birds and Raptors

The following measures shall be implemented to avoid or minimize the potential for adverse impacts on nesting migratory birds and raptors:

- Construction activities should be scheduled to avoid the nesting season to the extent feasible.
   The typical nesting seasons in northern California extends from February 15 through September 15. Thus, if construction activities can be scheduled to occur outside of the nesting season, no impacts would be expected. If the nesting season cannot be completely avoided, the following measures shall be implemented.
- A qualified biologist shall conduct a minimum of one pre-construction survey for nesting migratory birds and raptors within the Reservoir B site and a 250-foot buffer around the site. The survey should be conducted no more than 14 days prior to the initiation of activities in any given area. The pre-construction survey should be used to ensure that no active bird nests occurring within or immediately adjacent to Reservoir B would be disturbed during construction. If an active nest is found, a qualified biologist should determine the extent of a construction-free buffer zone to be established around the nest. If it is anticipated that construction activities will encroach on the buffer, a biological monitor will be present to ensure that the nesting birds are not disturbed by the activities.
- If vegetation is to be removed during construction and all necessary approvals have been
  obtained, potential nesting substrates (e.g., trees and shrubs) to be removed should be removed
  before the onset of the nesting season, if feasible. This will help preclude nesting and
  substantially decrease the likelihood of direct impacts.

**Timing/Implementation:** Prior to and during construction

**Enforcement:** California Department of Fish and Wildlife, PID

**Monitoring:** PID and its contractor

Verification (sign and date):

#### 5.2.2 Cultural Resources

### Mitigation Measure #2—Cultural Resources

PID shall include provisions in the construction bid documents to minimize Reservoir B replacement impacts on cultural resources. The following measure shall be implemented to avoid construction-related impacts on cultural resources:

If any unanticipated archaeological finds are made in the Reservoir B site that are considered to
be significant, a number of methods may be used to mitigate potential adverse effects. Avoidance
through project redesign or some method of preservation is the preferred method. If redesign or
preservation is not an option, it is recommended that any potential adverse effects on

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Timing/Implementation:

unanticipated finds be mitigated through data recovery, although actual mitigation would be determined through consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer under the National Historic Preservation Act. It is also recommended that local Native American groups be consulted, and their input solicited and considered in all aspects of such testing and mitigation.

**During construction** 

Enforcement:	Native American Heritage Commission, PID
Monitoring:	PID and its contractor
Verification (si	gn and date):

### Mitigation Measure #3—Human Remains

PID shall include provisions in the construction bid documents to minimize Reservoir B replacement impacts on cultural resources. The following measure shall be implemented to avoid construction-related impacts on inadvertently discovered human remains:

• If human remains are found, the California Health and Safety Code requires that excavation be halted in the immediate area and that the Butte County coroner be notified to determine the nature of the remains. The coroner is required to examine all discoveries of human remains within 48 hours of receiving notice of a discovery on private or State lands (California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5[b]). If the coroner determines that the remains are those of a Native American, he or she must contact the Native American Heritage Commission by telephone within 24 hours of making that determination (California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5[c]).

Verification (sign and date):

Timing/Implementation:
Enforcement:
Native American Heritage Commission, PID
Monitoring:
PID and its contractor

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### CHAPTER 6.0 REPORT PREPARATION

### 6.1 PARADISE IRRIGATION DISTRICT - CEQA LEAD AGENCY

Tom Lando Interim District Manager

### 6.2 STANTEC - ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

Wirt Lanning Program Director
Connie MacGregor Project Manager
Sarah Tona Environmental Analyst

Tim Hanson Biologist/Wetland Delineator

Teri Mooney Geographic Information System Analyst Julie Cassidy Cultural Resources Principal Investigator

Sylvia Langford Editor

# 6.3 WATER WORKS ENGINEERS, LLC – PRELIMINARY DESIGN ENGINEERING

Sami Kader, P.E. Project Manager Sheila Magladry, EIT Project Engineer

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