

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 451 Seventh Street, SW Washington, DC 20410 www.hud.gov www.hud.gov/espanol

Environmental Assessment Determinations and Compliance Findings for HUDassisted 24 CFR Part 58

Project Information

Project Name: Tier I Environmental Review Record State of California 2018 Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery, Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Grant Program, Butte County

Responsible Entity (RE): State of California, Department of Housing and Community Development

Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Entity): Not Applicable

State/Local Identifier: Butte County, California under B-19-DP-06-0002

Preparer: Not Applicable

Certifying Officer Name: Janice L. Waddell, Branch Chief, Federal Programs

Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Entity): Not Applicable

Consultant (if applicable): Hagerty Consulting and Civix **Point of Contact**: Amanda Tamburro

Direct Comments to: Joseph Helo at dr-enviro@hcd.ca.gov

Project Location: Butte County, California

Description of the Proposed Project [24 CFR 50.12 & 58.32; 40 CFR 1508.25]:

The proposed projects under this Broad-Level Tiered Environmental Review will be limited to Butte County, California. 2018 was the deadliest year for wildfires in California's history. The November 2018 Camp Fire in Butte County has become California's deadliest and most destructive wildfire on record and destroyed approximately 19,000 structures, including 14,000 homes. Tragically, 85 lives were lost. Nearly the entire Town of Paradise was destroyed in this fire, which moved quickly and was fueled by high winds. Due to the destruction, Butte County was included in the presidentially declared disaster, DR-4407, and was also identified as a Most Impacted and Distressed Area. As a result of DR-4407, the federal government appropriated Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds to support the unmet recovery needs. The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is the lead and responsible agency for administering the CDBG-DR funds allocated to the State of California.

The 2018 CDBG-DR program will provide grants to owner-occupied homeowners to rehabilitate or reconstruct homes damaged or destroyed in the 2018 wildfire disaster. The Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program ("OOR" or "Program") objective is to provide decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the areas affected by the disaster. The program is designed to ensure that the housing needs of very-low, low- and moderate-income (LMI) households and vulnerable populations, including individuals that were made homeless as a result of the disaster, are addressed to the greatest extent feasible.

The program will provide rehabilitation or reconstruction assistance to eligible applicants based on the extent of damage to their primary residences. Reconstruction is defined as the rebuilding of a structure on the same site in substantially the same manner. A reconstructed property must not increase the number of dwellings on site, although the number of rooms may increase or decrease.

Eligible program activities include the following, but not limited to:

- Single family owner-occupied rehabilitation and reconstruction on the same site in substantially the same manner. In order to allow for increased flexibility during the Town of Paradise and Butte County rebuilding activities, home reconstruction in Butte County must be on the original property lot, but not within the same footprint.
 - Permitting, design, and planning;
 - Relocation assistance;
 - Demolition only;
 - Repairs to disaster damaged primary dwelling with standard grade materials;
 - Reconstruction of the disaster damaged primary dwelling with standard grade materials;
 - Replacement of fire damaged or destroyed necessary equipment, such as HVAC units or septic systems;
 - Upgrades required to meet current building code;
 - Handicap accessibility features;
 - Repair and replacement of manufactured housing units;
- Hazard mitigation;
 - Site work to meet Wildland-Urban Interface standards for homes in high risk areas;
 - Lead-based paint and asbestos abatement
- Elevation;

- Public service within the 15 percent cap (e.g., housing counseling, legal counseling, job training, mental health, and general health services); and,
- Other administrative activities associated with the recovery of impacted singlefamily housing stock.

Program grant recipients must meet the following criteria:

- Owned and occupied the damaged home as their primary residence at the time of the qualifying disaster;
- The home must have been damaged as a result of the qualifying disaster and located in an impacted county or zip code;
- Must be current on property taxes or have an approved payment plan or tax exemption;
- Must have been correctly permitted and permissible for the zoning area or local development standard; and
- The property must be a single-family dwelling, such as stick built, modular, or mobile home.

Prioritization criteria for participation in the Program will ensure that sufficient housing recovery programming will be directed toward LMI beneficiaries.

Statement of Purpose and Need for the Proposal [40 CFR 1508.9(b)]:

The purpose of the Program is to assist in the rebuild of portions of Butte County, CA destroyed by the 2018 Camp Fire. Nearly the entire Town of Paradise, including 14,000 homes, were destroyed in the Camp Fire. Some of the affected residents are attempting to stay and rebuild, others have relocated within the county to neighboring communities or further. This Program will take place under the effects of a housing crisis already impacting California, with low vacancy rates and ever-increasing costs to rebuild. Recognizing the requirement included in Federal Register Notice 85 FR 4681 to address housing needs first, HCD has determined that repairing and rebuilding owner-occupied and rental housing is the priority for CDBG-DR funding currently available to California.

The need for the proposed Program is directly related to the need for assistance from homeowners with little other means to rebuild their destroyed homes. To fully understand the impacts and to better develop a long-term recovery strategy, the State of California has completed a comprehensive needs assessment for the 2018 disaster impact areas. The assessment specifically identifies the effects, long-term unmet needs, and priorities for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) allocated CDBG-DR funding intended to aid in recovery, resiliency, and future mitigation.

Federal Register Notice 85 FR 4681 outlines the methodology HUD used to determine serious unmet needs for the major disasters. HUD's methodology typically uses Individual Assistance funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Small Business Administration SBA home loan registrations to

calculate serious unmet needs. For its part, HCD recognizes the importance of using a more granular and locally informed unmet needs methodology to build the foundation for an equitable distribution of recovery funds. To accomplish this, HCD has elected to utilize more detailed information and alternative data sources, particularly damage assessments by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, to qualify both the impacts and remaining unmet needs for disaster declared areas. HCD also takes very seriously a commitment to not just anti-discrimination of protected classes, but also to support for those individuals who may be disparately impacted. Therefore, HCD used demographic analyses to determine allocation methodologies and scoring priorities.

Existing Conditions and Trends [24 CFR 58.40(a)]: Describe the existing conditions of the project area and its surroundings, and the trends likely to continue in the absence of the project.

Nearly the entire Town of Paradise was destroyed in the Camp Fire and the Program will be implemented in the context of a Town-wide rebuild, also extending into other wildfire-damaged parts of Butte County such as the communities of Concow, Magalia, and the City of Chico. It is uncertain how many of the 14,000 houses destroyed in Paradise will be rebuilt, but the number likely well exceeds the estimated 1,000 houses to be built through the proposed Program. The wildfire removed vegetation across the burn scar, and subsequent debris removal has exposed surface soils to heavy erosion rates. The emergency response, debris removal program, and ongoing reconstruction efforts have resulted in heavy truck traffic across the County, exacerbated by limited access routes to and from the Town of Paradise, which is located atop an isolated mountainous ridge. Cumulative impacts from the proposed Program and concurrent restoration efforts are described in this Environmental Assessment.

Approximate size of the project area:

The project area is within the limits of Butte County, see Figure 1.

Length of time covered by this review:

Program activities are being evaluated through a tiered environmental review. This Tier 1 Review will be valid for five (5) program years after the issuance of the Authority to Use Grant Funds, barring any major changes in the program and/or in environmental conditions.

Maximum number of dwelling units or lots addressed by this tiered review: Up to

1,300 units, including units in other counties being analyzed separately. It is anticipated that due to the magnitude of destruction in Butte County, specifically the Town of Paradise, the majority of the dwelling units being constructed under this Program will be in Butte County.

Level of Environmental Review Determination:

Environmental Assessment in compliance with the laws and authorities at 24 CFR §58.6 and §58.5.

Funding Information

Grant Number	HUD Program	Funding Amount
B-18-DP-06-0001	CDBG-DR	\$98,451,666
B-18-DP-06-0002	CDBG-DR	\$106,655,972

Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount: \$205,107,638

Estimated Total Project Cost (HUD and non-HUD funds) [24 CFR 58.32(d)]: \$205,107,638

Compliance with 24 CFR 50.4, 58.5, and 58.6 Laws and Authorities

Record below the compliance or conformance determinations for each statute, executive order, or regulation. Provide credible, traceable, and supportive source documentation for each authority. Where applicable, complete the necessary reviews or consultations and obtain or note applicable permits of approvals. Clearly note citations, dates/names/titles of contacts, and page references. Attach additional documentation as appropriate.

Compliance Factors: Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6 STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 50.4 & 58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determinations
Airport Hazards 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	Yes No	The purpose of 24 CFR Part 51D is to promote compatible land uses around civil airports and military airfields. It is HUD policy to not provide any assistance to projects and actions in Runway Protection, Accident Potential, or Clear Zones if the project is frequently used or occupied by people. To ensure compatible land use development, the site's proximity to civil and military airports must be determined. In accordance with 24 CFR 51.301(c), civil airports are defined as commercial service airports designated by the Federal Aviation Administration's National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS). There are no commercial service airports in Butte County. Several small airports are located in the county, but none are categorized as commercial service airports. HUD regulations also include restrictions on construction and major rehabilitation in clear zones and accident potential zones associated with runways at military airfields. There are no known military clear zones or accident potential zones in Butte County. This project is in compliance with the Airport Hazards requirement.

Compliance Factors : Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determinations
Coastal Barrier Resources Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]	Yes No □ ⊠	The Coastal Barrier Resources Act applies to coastal barriers along the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, the Great Lakes, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico coasts. This project is located in a state outside of the Coastal Barrier Resource System. This project is in compliance with the Coastal Barrier Resources Act.
Flood Insurance Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]	Yes No	The Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 requires that projects receiving federal assistance be covered by flood insurance if they are located in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) as designated by FEMA. If a property is located in a SFHA on a National Flood Insurance Program map, the homeowner is required to maintain flood insurance. Butte County participates in the NFIP (See Attachment 1) and has several areas that have been designated within the 100-year floodplain provided on Figure 2 (FEMA, 2019). Compliance will be achieved at the site- specific level of environmental review.

Compliance Factors: Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6 STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determinations
REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 50.4 & 58.5		
Clean Air Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93	Yes No	The Clean Air Act is administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) which sets National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Butte County is considered a non- attainment area as viewed on the USEPA's "Counties Designated Nonattainment" map (Attachment 2). The California Air Resources Board administers and enforces air quality in accordance with the State Implementation Plan per the Clean Air Act. According to the USEPA Greenbook, Butte County was in nonattainment in 2019 for 8- hour ozone (2008 & 2015 standards) (USEPA, 2019). The USEPA predicted the average indoor radon screening level for Butte County as less than 2 pCi/L or Zone 3. Butte County is served by the Butte County Air Quality Management District. The District's legal boundaries coincide with the County boundaries. Agency feedback is provided as Attachment 2. Site-specific projects will comply with any local construction permit and/or code requirements. This project is in compliance with the
		Clean Air Act.

Compliance Factors : Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determinations
Coastal Zone Management Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)	Yes No	The Coastal Zone Management Act applies to areas of California's Coastal Zone, which is defined as the land and water area of California from the Oregon border to the border of Mexico. Butte County is an inland county and does not border the Pacific Ocean. Therefore, Butte County is not included as part of the California Coastal Commission. See Figure 1 for the location of Butte County. This project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.
Contamination and Toxic Substances 24 CFR Part 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2)	Yes No	Proposed program activities will be completed on existing residential sites and potentially proximate to contaminated sites. It is HUD's policy, as described in 24 CFR Part 50.3(i) and 24 CFR 58.5(i)(2), that all properties proposed for use in HUD programs be free of hazardous materials, contamination, toxic chemicals and gases, and radioactive substances, if a hazard could affect the health and safety of occupants or conflict with the intended utilization of the property. Attention should be given to any proposed project site in the general proximity of areas such as dumps, landfills, industrial sites, or other locations that contain or may have contained hazardous wastes. California's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) maintains EnviroStor, an online data management system for hazardous waste sites and sites with known or suspected contamination issues. In Butte County, EnviroStor returned 105 unique locations, of which 12

Compliance Factors : Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determinations
		were identified as no action required and 9 required no further action (CA DTSC, 2020).
		According to CA DTSC there are three permitted hazardous waste disposal facilities and one pending hazardous waste disposal facility permit for Butte County.
		In Butte County there are one current and two former "Superfund"/National Priorities List sites under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act. The Superfund site in Butte County is the Koppers Company Inc. located in Oroville. The two former Superfund sites include the Western Pacific Railroad and the Louisiana – Pacific Corp also located in Oroville.
		A map of solid and hazardous waste disposal facilities, contaminated sites, and large quantity hazardous waste generator locations in Butte County is provided as Figure 3.
		Program locations may include lead-based paint and materials containing asbestos. These are hazardous materials that could affect the health of residents. All activities must comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations regarding asbestos and lead-based paint.
		Compliance will be achieved at the site- specific level of environmental review.

Compliance Factors : Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determinations
Endangered Species Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402	Yes No	 The Endangered Species Act (ESA), as amended, is intended to protect and recover species in danger of extinction and the ecosystems they depend upon. HUD must ensure that any action it authorizes, funds, or carries out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species in the wild or destroy or adversely modify its critical habitat. Project locations in Butte County could potentially impact resources managed or regulated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and/or the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). In Butte County there are 16 threatened, endangered, candidate species and 9 critical habitats managed or regulated by the FWS. In addition to these federally-listed species, the CDFW has identified 17 species classified as endangered, threatened, or official candidate under the California Endangered Species Act. Since the program consists of existing single-family owner-occupied rehabilitation or reconstruction generally within the previously disturbed footprint, no habitat disturbance is expected. Figure 4 shows the Endangered Species and Critical Habitats found in Butte County. CA official species list and agency coordination. Compliance will be achieved at the sitespecific level of environmental review.

Compliance Factors : Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determinations
Explosive and Flammable Hazards 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C	Yes No	The purpose of the explosive and flammable hazards category is to establish safety standards to keep HUD-assisted projects acceptable distances from specific, stationary, hazardous operations which store, handle, or process hazardous substances. The proposed projects do not increase residential densities as they are single- family owner-occupied rehabilitation and reconstruction activities. Because the proposed projects do not increase the number of people being exposed to hazardous operations by increasing residential densities, the proposed project does not meet the definition of a HUD- assisted project per 24 CFR 51.201. The proposed projects will not include hazardous facilities, a facility that mainly stores, handles or processes flammable or combustible chemicals such as bulk fuel storage facilities and refineries. This project is in compliance with 25 CFR Part 51, Subpart C.

Compliance Factors : Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6	Are fo comp steps mitiga requir	liance or ation	Compliance determinations
Farmlands Protection Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658	Yes	No	The purpose of the Farmland Protection Policy Act is to minimize the effect of Federal programs on the unnecessary and irreversible conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses. This program will provide grants to eligible homeowners to rehabilitate or reconstruct homes damaged or destroyed in federally declared disaster areas. Reconstruction is defined as the rebuilding of a structure on the same site in substantially the same manner. Project activities do not involve farmland conversion and take place on land that was already committed to urban development. This project is in compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy.

Compliance Factors : Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determinations
Floodplain Management Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55	Yes No	 HUD regulations require compliance with Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management. Executive Order 11988 requires federal activities to avoid impacts to flood plains and to avoid direct and indirect support of floodplain development to the extent practicable. The purpose of this program is for owner- occupied homes to be rehabilitated or rebuilt on existing lots following a disaster. Any activities will take place in the disturbed area of the previously developed parcel and are not expected to result in any permanent direct or indirect impacts to the floodplain. Nevertheless, each subject property will be evaluated for its proximity to floodplain using FEMA issued Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) to evaluate flood risks and impacts. The evaluation of program activities in a floodplain are included with the 8-step process for Floodplain Management (See written strategies at the end of this document). Butte County 100- year floodplains are shown in the attached Figure 2. Compliance will be achieved at the site- specific level of environmental review.

Compliance Factors : Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determinations
Historic Preservation National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800	Yes No	The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly Sections 106 and 110, protects historic properties from possible harm by federal agency programs. Section 106 review is detailed in 36 CFR Part 800 and will be followed during Tier 1 and Tier 2 activities. Each subject property will be evaluated to determine the year-built date of structures to be rebuilt. Properties over 45 years may be considered a historic property. For potentially historic properties and buildings, consultation with the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) will be necessary to determine if the site is historic and if the undertaking will have adverse effects. Reconstruction of destroyed historic features or mitigation for loss of such features may be required. Native American tribes with potential cultural and traditional affiliations to Butte County were contacted. See Attachment 4 for letters to California SHPO and associated tribal consultation information. Compliance will be achieved at the site- specific level of environmental review.

Compliance Factors : Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determinations
Noise Abatement and Control Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B	Yes No	It is HUD's general policy to provide minimum national standards applicable to HUD programs to protect citizens against excessive noise in their communities and places of residence. For modernization projects in noise zones, HUD encourages mitigation to reduce levels to acceptable compliance standards. Each subject property will be evaluated to determine if it is within 1,000-feet of a major roadway; 3,000-feet of a railroad; or 15- miles of a military or FAA regulated civil airfield. If any proposed sites are within these distances, a HUD Noise Abatement and Control checklist will be followed to determine if the noise is at an acceptable level. All owner-occupied reconstruction and rebuilding projects will comply with applicable local, state, and federal (HUD) regulations governing noise during home construction. Compliance will be achieved at the site- specific level of environmental review.
Sole Source Aquifers Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149	Yes No □ ⊠	According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Sole Source Aquifers Protection Program, there are no Sole Source Aquifers in Butte County. This project is in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act section 1424(e).

Compliance Factors : Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation	Compliance determinations
Wetlands Protection Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5	required? Yes No ⊠ □	Executive Order 11990 protects wetlands and requires federal activities to avoid adverse impacts to wetlands. Jurisdictional wetlands are visible through the National Wetlands Inventory Map. Butte County wetlands are shown in Figure 5, National Wetlands Inventory Map. The purpose of this project is for owner- occupied homes to be rehabilitated or reconstructed on existing lots following a disaster. Any activities will take place in the disturbed area of the previously developed parcel and are not expected to result in any new permanent direct or indirect impacts to
		 Nevertheless, each subject property will be evaluated for its proximity to wetland resources. If a proposed activity is within a wetland or could potentially impact a wetland, a site-specific eight-step analysis of the long- and short-term adverse impacts must be performed to determine if there are any practicable alternative to providing CDBG-DR assistance in the wetland. The evaluation of proposed project activities on wetland resources are included with the 8-step process for Floodplain Management. Best management practices for soil erosion and stormwater management will be applied as appropriate for protection of wetlands. Compliance will be achieved at the site-specific level of environmental review.

Compliance Factors : Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determinations
Wild and Scenic Rivers Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)	Yes No	The Feather River in Butte County is designated as a Wild and Scenic River according to the Wild and Scenic River Systems Designations Map, compiled by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service (USDA Forest Service, 2016). The Feather River has outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values and the Act is intended to protect this river in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations.
		The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act charges administration of rivers in the National Wild and Scenic River System to four federal land management agencies: Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service depending on the location of the river segment. The Feather River is managed by the U.S. Forest Service.
		The Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI) is a listing of free-flowing river segments that are potential candidates for future inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System. Under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act section 5(d)(1) and related guidance, all federal agencies must seek to avoid or mitigate actions that would adversely affect an NRI segment.
		The NRI river segments located in Butte County include: Big Chico Creek, Butte Creek (Upper Segment), Fall River, and the Sacramento River (NPS, 2018).
		Each subject property will be evaluated for its proximity to the above noted Wild and Scenic and NRI river segments. Any properties within proximity will be evaluated

Compliance Factors : Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determinations
		to see if the project would pose an adverse effect on the natural, cultural, and/or recreational values of the river. Figure 6 shows the location of the Wild and Scenic and NRI river segments in Butte County. See Attachment 5 for National Park Service consultation.
		Compliance will be achieved at the site- specific level of environmental review.
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE		
Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898	Yes No	The proposed activities for Butte County are to rehabilitate and rebuild single-family homes for low- to moderate- income individuals that were impacted during November 2018 wildfires. These activities are to return individuals to their homes, essentially rebuilding the impacted neighborhoods. The rebuilding activities will improve the condition of the housing, making it more durable, energy-efficient, and safe from mold, asbestos, and lead- based paint.
		Low to moderate income households will receive significant benefits from this program. This program does not create any adverse environmental impacts disproportionate for the low-income and/or minority community.
		This project is in compliance with Executive Order 12898.

Supporting Documentation

Figure 1 – Butte County, CA Location Map
Figure 2 – Butte County, CA 100-Year Floodplain
Figure 3 – Butte County, CA Hazardous Waste Sites
Figure 4 – Butte County, CA Sensitive Species and Critical Habitat

Figure 5 – Butte County, CA National Wetlands Inventory Map

Figure 6 – Butte County, CA Wild and Scenic Rivers

Attachment 1 – Butte County, CA National Flood Insurance Program

Attachment 2 – Clean Air Act

Attachment 3 – Endangered Species

Attachment 4 – Historic Preservation

Attachment 5 – Wild and Scenic Rivers

Attachment 6 – Site Specific or Tier 2 Reviews

Environmental Assessment Factors [24 CFR 58.40; Ref. 40 CFR 1508.8 &1508.27]

Recorded below is the qualitative and quantitative significance of the effects of the proposal on the character, features and resources of the Program area. Each factor has been evaluated and documented, as appropriate and in proportion to its relevance to the proposed action. Verifiable source documentation has been provided and described in support of each determination, as appropriate. Credible, traceable and supportive source documentation for each authority has been provided. Where applicable, the necessary reviews or consultations have been completed and applicable permits of approvals have been obtained or noted. Citations, dates/names/titles of contacts, and page references are clear. Additional documentation is attached, as appropriate. All conditions, attenuation or mitigation measures have been clearly identified.

Impact Codes: Use an impact code from the following list to make the determination of impact for each factor.

- (1) Minor beneficial impact
- (2) No impact anticipated
- (3) Minor Adverse Impact May require mitigation

(4) Significant or potentially significant impact requiring avoidance or modification which may require an Environmental Impact Statement

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
Land Development		
Conformance with Plans / Compatible Land Use and Zoning / Scale and Urban Design	2	The proposed project will result in only reconstruction of damaged/destroyed single- family homes on the same lots and in accordance with local land use and zoning ordinances. Housing density will not change, will comply with local planning ordinances, and be compatible with existing developments and compatible with nearby uses surrounding the site. Construction will be performed in conformance with local comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances including the Butte County General Plan 2030 and similar plans in the County's municipalities.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
Soil Suitability/ Slope/ Erosion/ Drainage/ Storm Water Runoff	3	The soil in the Program area is suitable for its proposed use – home reconstruction – since it has previously supported the same use at the same location. For properties where houses are to be constructed outside of the original footprint, additional soil suitability analysis, potentially including a geotechnical study, will be required. Design and construction approval is to be coordinated with the local building and/or planning department.
		Surface soils were exposed across the burn scar area from the Camp Fire due to removal of burned vegetation, especially in the Town of Paradise. Truck traffic and heavy equipment from wildfire debris removal, rebuilding activities, and planned hazard tree removal projects throughout the Town of Paradise and Butte County have elevated the potential for soil erosion and slope stability issues.
		Soil erosion and potential related water quality impacts were addressed during post-disaster debris removal via the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) including deployment of straw waddles and hay bales along roadway and property lines throughout the burn scar area. Debris removal was performed under the oversight of the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery Cal Recycle and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. Mitigation measures for soil suitability, erosion, and stormwater runoff are provided starting on page 30.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
Hazards and Nuisances including Site Safety and Noise	3	The natural hazards present in the Program area will be similar to those previously, with the primary hazard being wildfire. Hazard mitigation programs are being implemented throughout the County to reduce the risk from wildfire. Depending on location, these may include requirements for defensible space (e.g. 100-feet of vegetation clearance) around houses and home "hardening" or ignition- resistant construction requirements. Design and construction approval is to be coordinated with the local building and/or planning department. The potential presence of heavy construction vehicle and truck traffic is a potential hazard/nuisance with respect to construction of the proposed Program and construction will be performed with an appropriate health and safety plan to address these hazards. Estimated future noise levels at the home rebuilding sites are expected to be similar to or less than the noise levels before the wildfire. Mitigation measures for hazard impacts are provided starting on page 30.
Energy Consumption	2	Direct energy consumption (heating, cooling, hot water) associated with the proposed project will be within range of normal residential use and will not represent an increase in energy use from the original houses being replaced. Indirect and induced energy consumption associated with proposed project construction will be minimized given that the site is well located near public utility and commercial services. Adequate capacity exists to supply the Program with electricity from Pacific Gas and Energy, and other area private and municipal utility companies. Program houses will utilize renewable energy and Energy Star rated appliances and lighting when possible.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
Socioeconomic Factors		
Employment and Income Patterns	1	Employment and income patterns of the County, specifically the Town of Paradise, will be positively affected by the proposed Program. Repopulation of the area will increase the Town of Paradise income base and employment as businesses re-open and schools increase their student population, providing corresponding employment.
Demographic Character Changes, Displacement	1	The proposed Program will support inclusive neighborhoods and not significantly alter the demographic characteristics of the community. The proposed Program will not cause direct or indirect displacement. The Program will instead allow for the return of residents who had been displaced by the fire.
Community Facilities and Service		
Educational and Cultural Facilities	1	The Program will allow for redevelopment of the burn scar area, and increase student population at nearby educational facilities. The population increase will result in increased tax base and patron support for cultural facilities such as local museums and parks.
Commercial Facilities	1	The proposed Program will allow for repopulation of the burn area and provide increased patronage to assist in re-opening of local commercial facilities.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
Health Care and Social Services	2	The proposed Program will have no impact on health care and social services. There are health care services available to County residents including three hospitals as described below under Emergency Medical. Social services are available through Butte County's Employment and Social Services Department.
Solid Waste Disposal / Recycling	2	Commercial curbside pickup of solid waste will adequately service the proposed development. Waste recycling is available in the community. Debris removal in the burn area has been completed and new construction will result in minimal waste generation. Any construction- generated waste will be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.
Waste Water / Sanitary Sewers	2	Municipal sewer service is not available through most of the Town of Paradise although a sewer system is being planned. Currently, reconstructed houses in the Town are expected to utilize existing (or restored) septic systems until sewer services become available. This will represent no change from pre-wildfire conditions.
Water Supply	3	Municipal water supply will ultimately adequately service the proposed home reconstructions; however full water service restoration has not been restored to the burn area. Homeowners may be required to provide their own water supply (i.e. via on-site water tanks) on a temporary basis, and a water supply will need to be transported to the construction sites via water trucks. Individual sites not originally served by public water may require repair and restoration of water wells.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
Public Safety - Police, Fire and Emergency Medical	2	The Project locations will be served by the same public safety, police, fire, and emergency medical services that served the area pre-fire. The Butte County Sherriff, Paradise Police Department, and other municipal police forces provides 911 dispatch assistance in addition to crime prevention and response. The Butte County Cooperative Fire Agencies provide professional services to protect lives and property within the unincorporated areas of Butte County, the Cities of Biggs and Gridley and the Town of Paradise. The Cities of Chico and Oroville maintain their own Fire Departments. Butte County offers three hospitals that provide emergency services to the proposed Project area: Oroville Hospital, Adventist Health Feather River, and Enloe Medical Center.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
Parks, Open Space and Recreation	2	The Town of Paradise is located in a mountain environment and has plentiful park space; however, park facilities also suffered severe damage in the Camp Fire. The Paradise Recreation and Park District is incorporating wildfire buffers and nature-based fire resilience into its restoration and master planning processes (Conservation Biology Institute, 2020).
Transportation and Accessibility	2	The proposed Program consists of the reconstruction of fire damaged homes and will not result in any changes to public transportation in Butte County. Some slight increases to ridership may occur on public transportation, although levels are expected to remain below pre-fire levels. Accessibility design requirements will not be applicable as the homes being reconstructed are private.
Natural Features		
Unique Natural Features, Water Resources	2	The proposed Program consists of the reconstruction of fire damaged houses and will not have impacts on unique natural features or water resources. The municipal water supply system in the Town of Paradise is currently under repair as discussed above under Water Supply.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
Vegetation and Wildlife	3	Project locations in Butte County could potentially impact vegetation managed or regulated by the FWS and/or the CDFW. In Butte County there are 16 threatened, endangered, candidate species and 9 critical habitats managed or regulated by the FWS. In addition to these federally-listed species, the CDFW has identified 17 species classified as endangered, threatened, or official candidate under the California Endangered Species Act. Since the program consists of existing single- family owner-occupied rehabilitation or reconstruction generally within the previously disturbed footprint, no habitat disturbance is expected. Site-specific pre-construction biological surveys and/or monitoring during construction may be required to prevent impacts to sensitive vegetation and wildlife species.

Additional Studies Performed:

No additional studies were performed as part of this Tier 1 environmental review. Additional studies that may be required during Tier 2 could include wetlands delineations and phase I environmental site assessments depending on the findings of site-specific environmental reviews. Pre-construction biological and/or cultural resources surveys may also be required.

Field Inspection (Date and completed by):

Field inspections will be conducted as part of the Tier 2 environmental reviews once specific OOR program sites are identified. Multiple visits to the burn scar area have however been conducted by HCD's environmental review team members since the 2018 Camp Fire.

List of Sources	, Agencies and Perso	ons Consulted [40 CFR 1508.9(b)]	:
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Sources, Agencies, Persons Consulted	Title
Janice L. Waddell	Branch Chief, California Department of Housing and Community Development
Steve Ertle	Air Pollution Control Officer, Butte County Air Quality Management District
Tina Bartlett	Regional Manager, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Nancy Gonzalez-Lopez	Native American Heritage Commission
Steve Bowes	California Project Coordinator – Wild and Scenic Rivers
Julianne Polanco	State Historic Preservation Officer
Paul Sousa	Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Rosalie del Rosario	West Coast Region Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultations Coordinator West, U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service
Native American Tribes	See Attachment 4 for the list of Native American Tribes contacted and any responses received.
Online sources and documents consulted listed under references section	

List of Permits Obtained:

Standard building permits and approvals will be obtained as required by Butte County, the Town of Paradise, and other County municipalities. The potential need for State of California and Federal government environmental permits (e.g. Clean Water Act National Pollution Discharge Elimination System [NPDES]) will be obtained if necessary for site-specific work.

Public Outreach [24 CFR 50.23 & 58.43]:

The California HCD, as the responsible entity, prepared a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) notice using the current HUD-recommended format to present a finding of no significant impact to the public. The FONSI notice is to be published concurrently with NOI/RROF required by § 58.70. The combined notice clearly indicates an intention to meet two separate procedural requirements and advises the public to specify which part of the Notice they are addressing. All comments will be considered and any necessary modifications will be made prior to completion of the environmental certification and before RROF is submitted. Outreach will include email notification to known interested individuals and groups including the appropriate Tribal, local, State and Federal agencies. The Notice will be posted concurrently with the legal notice published in the Chico Enterprise Record, and on HCD's website:

https://www.hcd.ca.gov/community-development/disaster-recovery-programs/cdbg-dr/ cdbg-dr-2018/index.shtml.

Cumulative Impact Analysis [24 CFR 58.32]:

The emergency response, debris removal program, and ongoing reconstruction efforts following the Camp Fire have resulted in heavy truck traffic across Butte County, exacerbated by limited access routes to and from the Town of Paradise, which is located atop an isolated mountainous ridge. Additionally, there are two proposed hazard tree removal programs (public and private) planned for the burn scar. Approximately 300,000 trees were severally damaged by the Camp Fire; they are still standing but expected to die and fall in the near future (estimated one year). Removal of this very large number of "hazard trees" will result in substantial additional truck trips and construction equipment in the Paradise area.

These multiple, simultaneous disaster recovery and rebuilding efforts located within a small geographic area have the potential to result in cumulative environmental impacts with respect to environmental impact categories including air quality, water quality, noise, biological resources, etc. Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), consideration of cumulative effects has generally been required; however, changes to NEPA effective in September 2020 indicate that analysis of cumulative effects is no longer required. Despite that change, which is susceptible to reversal and revision, it is difficult to perform an adequate environmental review without considering the cumulative effects of other related projects. Even without consideration of cumulative effects, the potential for reconstruction of around 1,000 houses in and near the Town of Paradise was considered to have enough potential on its own for environmental impacts to warrant the preparation of this Environmental Assessment. Other OOR Program counties were considered categorically excluded from NEPA (Subject to Section 58.5 pursuant to 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)).

Alternatives [24 CFR 58.40(e); 40 CFR 1508.9]

There is no alternative to rebuilding destroyed homes that is considered viable for analysis. The proposed Program is intended to assist homeowners in rebuilding their fire-damaged homes. The results of this Tier 1 analysis as documented sufficient evidence documented herein, indicate the proposed project merits a FONSI. Potential environmental impacts, both beneficial and adverse have been evaluated. Environmental mitigation measures will be implemented to eliminate or minimize potential adverse environmental impacts associated with construction.

No Action Alternative [24 CFR 58.40(e)]:

Without the proposed Program, some or all of the destroyed houses would not be rebuilt, leaving randomly located former home sites vacant with varied potential effects. Since a large majority of the homes that would be rebuilt under this OOR program are expected to be within the Town of Paradise, the No Action Alternative would result in a large portion of the Town remaining without recovery and vacant lots. While that could have some ecological benefits, it would have negative socioeconomic impacts. Reduced population and tax base in the Town and County would likely result in reduced levels of government services, including schools, parks, and emergency services. The CDBG-DR funds are available for rebuilding; therefore, the no action alternative is not considered viable.

Summary of Findings and Conclusions:

The project will contribute much needed assistance for disaster recovery by rebuilding homes in an area devastated by wildfire disaster. The Program will meet HUD standards upon mitigation, and no significant impact is foreseen.

Mitigation Measures and Conditions [40 CFR 1505.2(c)]

Summarize below all mitigation measures adopted by the Responsible Entity to reduce, avoid, or eliminate adverse environmental impacts and to avoid non-compliance or non-conformance with the above-listed authorities and factors. These measures/conditions must be incorporated into project contracts, development agreements, and other relevant documents. The staff responsible for implementing and monitoring mitigation measures should be clearly identified in the mitigation plan.

Site-specific environmental mitigation measures will be developed in detail contingent on the findings of site-specific Tier 2 environmental reviews. The following general Tier 1 mitigation measures will be required project-wide.

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure
Flood Insurance	Flood Insurance
Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]	The project area (Butte County) is participating in the National Flood Insurance Program.
	 Include a copy of the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for the proposed site.
	2. If the proposed site is in a special flood hazard area (SFHA), a copy of the flood insurance policy declaration or paid receipt should be obtained. Homeowners are required to maintain flood insurance if the program activity is within a SFHA.

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure
Floodplain Management	Identify if the proposed site is located in a FEMA SFHA, based upon FEMA FIRM map. If site is within a 100-year floodplain, the site-specific project must undergo the 8-Step Decision Making Process.
	8-Step Decision Making Process
	 Determine whether the action is located in a 100-year floodplain (or a 500-year floodplain for critical actions) or wetland.
	 Notify the public of a proposal and involve the affected and interested public in the decision making process.
	 Identify and evaluate practicable alternatives.
	 Identify potential direct and indirect impacts of associated with floodplain development.
	5. Where practicable, design or modify the proposed action to minimize the potential adverse impacts to lives, property, and natural values within the floodplain and to restore, and preserve the values of the floodplain.
	6. Re-evaluate the alternatives.
	7. If the re-evaluation results in a determination that there is no practicable alternative to locating the proposal in the floodplain, publish a final notice that includes the reasons why the proposal must be located in the floodplain, a list of alternatives considered, all mitigation measures to be taken to minimize the adverse impacts and give the public a minimum of 7 days for comment.
	 Implement the proposed action and ensure that the mitigating measures identified in Step 7 are implemented.

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure
Clean Water Act Section 402	Erosion Control Plan
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System	An Erosion Control Plan including the placement of best management practices (BMPs) for soil erosion prevention and storm water quality will be developed as part of Tier 2 site-specific environmental reviews and in advance of construction. Any construction sites greater than 1 acre will require permitting under NPDES through the California Regional Water Quality Control Board.
Wildfire Urban Interface Requirements	Wildfire Hazard Mitigation
California Fire Code Chapter 49 Requirements for WUI Fire Areas California Building Code	House reconstruction will follow State and Butte County requirements for construction in fire hazard areas.
Chapter 7A	
Noise Abatement and Control Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B	 Determine if the site is within 1,000-feet of a major roadway, 3,000-feet from a railroad, or 15 miles from a military or FAA-regulated civil airfield. If no, review concluded.
	 If the proposed site is within those distances, documentation is required showing the noise level is Acceptable (at or below 65 DNL); or
	 If within those distances, documentation showing that there is an effective noise barrier; or
	 If within those distances, documentation showing the noise generated by the noise source(s) is Normally Unacceptable (66 – 75 DNL) and identifying noise attenuation requirements that will bring the interior noise level to 45 DNL and/or exterior noise level to 65 DNL.

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure
Contamination and Toxic Substances 24 CFR Part 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2)	1. Identify any facilities near the proposed project location that contained hazardous materials, contamination, toxic chemicals, etc., using California's EnviroStor database. This includes sites within 3,000-feet of a solid waste landfill; a proposed location with an underground storage tank; or a hazardous waste site. If none, and
	 home was built after 1978, review complete. If yes, work with HCD to identify the mitigation needed according to applicable regulations to ensure the homeowner will not incur exposure to any toxic chemicals or contaminants. A Phase I environmental site assessment prepared in accordance with ASTM International, Inc. standards may be required.
	 3. For homes built prior to 1978: a. All exposed surfaces shall be inspected for lead-based paint and defective surfaces will be tested for lead based paint. If any lead-based paint is found, coverage, removal, or other corrective action will be taken to comply with applicable regulations. b. Homes are tested for the presence of asbestos in areas needing repair, and more broadly, if the home is demolished for reconstruction.

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure
Endangered Species Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402	 Determine if all proposed activities are occurring in the pre-existing disturbed area associated with the structure. Confirm the following:
	 a. The scope of work does not include any native tree removal.
	 b. The scope of work does not have the potential to affect any federally or state- listed species and/or designated critical habitat.
	 c. The pre-construction survey of the property/project location does not identify any nesting birds that may be protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 or adjacent to a stream.
	d. If yes to all, review concluded.
	 If proposed activities involve construction outside of pre-existing disturbed area, evaluate if any of the federally or state listed species or critical habitats are present or potentially present? Are they potentially subject to disturbance from project activities? If yes, prepare a Biological Assessment to assess if proposed activities "may affect" proposed species and designated and proposed critical habitat.
	3. Consult State and Federal wildlife agencies (National Marine Fisheries Service) if work to repair or reconstruct homes would include work in or adjacent to streams (or tributaries to such streams) that are known to contain Endangered Species Act listed fish species (salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon), their critical habitat, or essential fish habitat.

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure
Historic Preservation National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800	For potentially historic properties and buildings, consultation with the SHPO will be necessary to determine if site is historic and if the undertaking will have adverse effects. Reconstruction of destroyed historic features or mitigation for loss of such features may be required. If HCD enters into a programmatic agreement (PA) with the SHPO, HCD will follow the process described in the PA. Until a PA is finalized and as requested by the SHPO, a list of all properties including those less than 45 years old will be provided to the SHPO for review.
Wetlands Protection Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5	Verify if the project area is located in a designated wetland or within the wetland buffer zone identified on the NWI. If so, follow the 8 Step Decision Making Process under Floodplains above.
Wild and Scenic Rivers Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)	1. Determine if the site is within proximity (generally within a quarter of a mile) to the NRI listed Cache Creek.
	2. Consult with the managing federal agency to determine if the proposed project may have an adverse effect on the natural, cultural, and/or recreational values of Cache Creek and, if so, to determine the appropriate avoidance or mitigation measures.

REFERENCES

Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services. (2020). Information on services available. <u>https://www.buttecounty.net/dess/Benefits</u>.

Conservation Biology Institute (In partnership with The Nature Conservancy and Paradise Recreation & Parks District). (2020). *Paradise Nature-Based Fire Resilience Project Final Report.*

State of California Department of Toxic Substances. (2020). *Envirostor.* database. <u>https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/search</u>.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. (November 2016). *National Wild and Scenic Rivers Systems*. <u>https://www.rivers.gov/california.php</u>

U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. (2018). *Nationwide Rivers Inventory*. <u>https://irma.nps.gov/Datastore/Reference/Profile/2237082</u>

U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration. (2018). *Report to Congress, National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS), 2019-2023.*

https://www.faa.gov/airports/planning_capacity/npias/reports/media/NPIAS-Report-2019-2023-Narrative.pdf

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (December 31, 2019). *California Nonattainment/Maintenance Status for Each County by Year for All Criteria Pollutants*. Green Book.

https://www3.epa.gov/airquality/greenbook/anayo_ca.html.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (January 13, 2020). *RCRA Info Search*. <u>https://enviro.epa.gov/facts/rcrainfo/search.html</u>.

U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency. (2019). *FEMA Flood Map Service Center: Search By Address.* <u>https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home</u>.

Determination:

Finding of No Significant Impact [24 CFR 58.40(g)(1); 40 CFR 1508.27] The project will not result in a significant impact on the quality of the human environment.

Finding of Significant Impact [24 CFR 58.40(g)(2); 40 CFR 1508.27] The project may significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Preparer Signature: Signed Original on File Date:

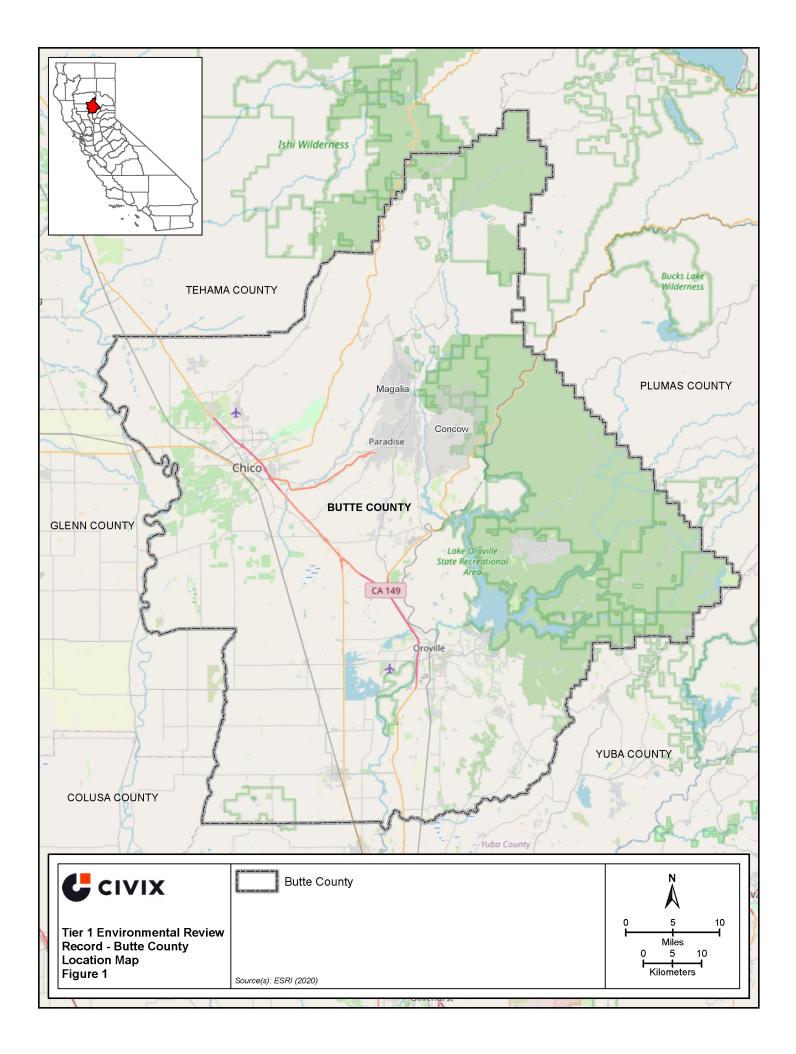
Name/Title/Organization: <u>Amanda Tamburro, Sr. Environmental Engineer</u> Hagerty Consulting

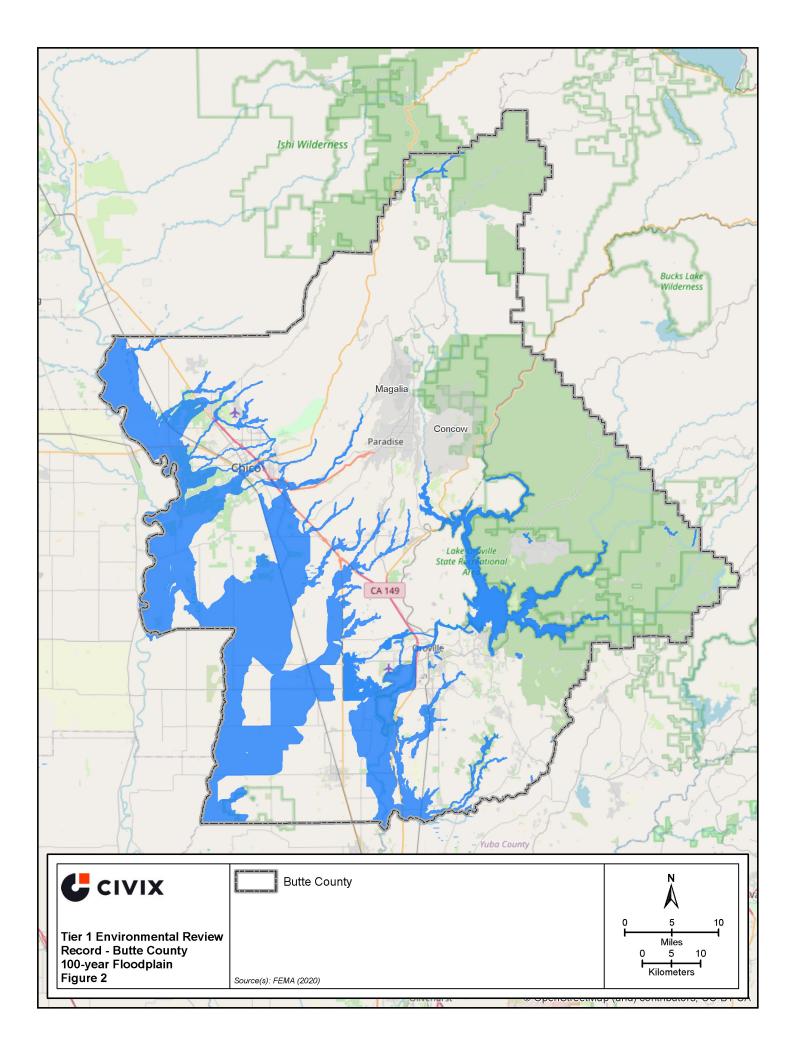
Certifying Officer Signature: Signed Original on File Date:_____

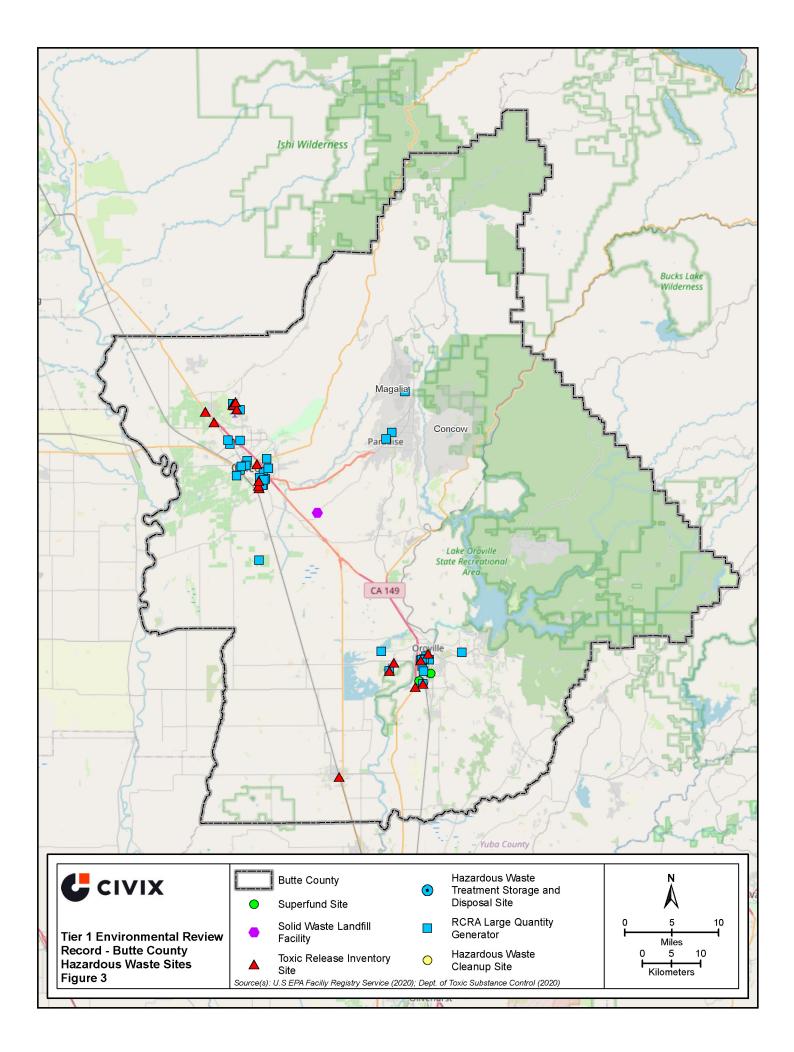
Name/Title: Janice L. Waddell, Branch Chief, Federal Programs

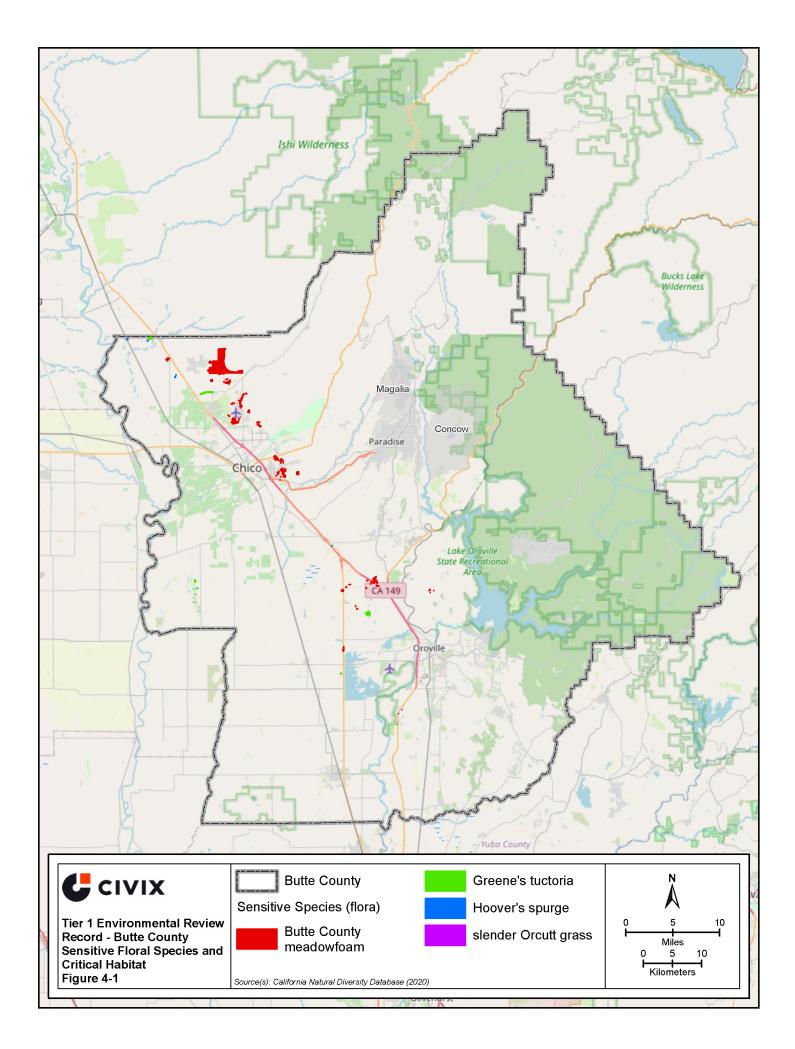
This original, signed document and related supporting material must be retained on file by the Responsible Entity in an Environmental Review Record (ERR) for the activity/project (ref: 24 CFR Part 58.38) and in accordance with recordkeeping requirements for the HUD program(s).

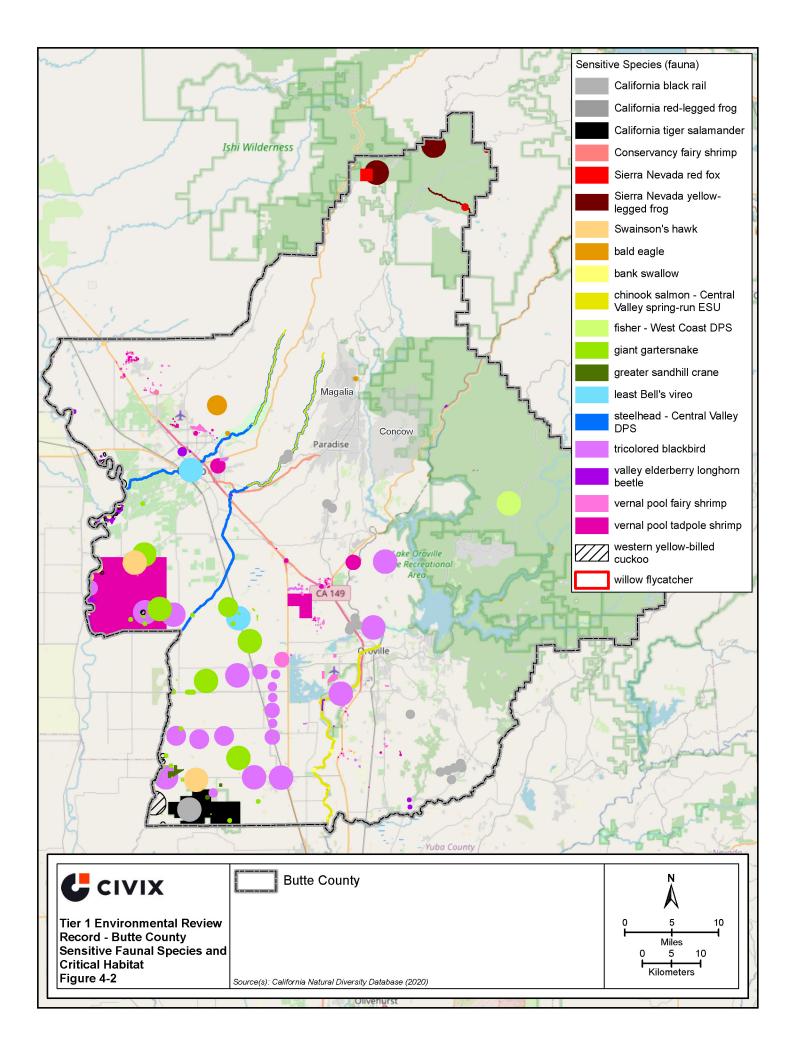
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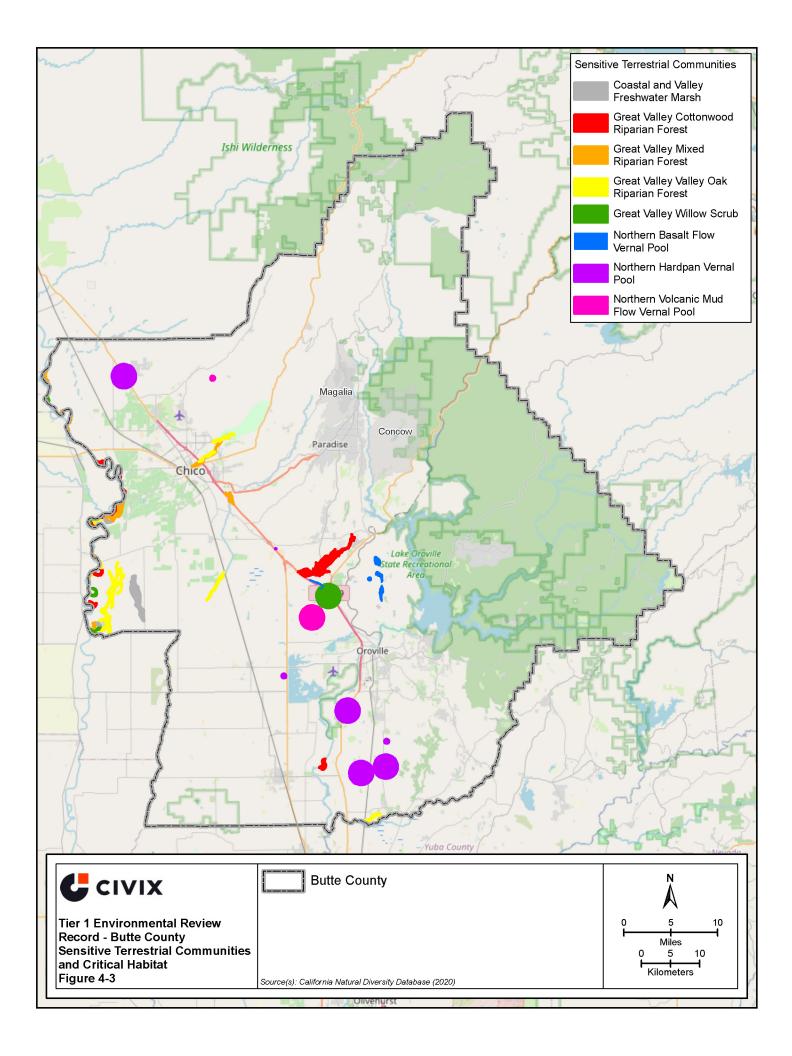


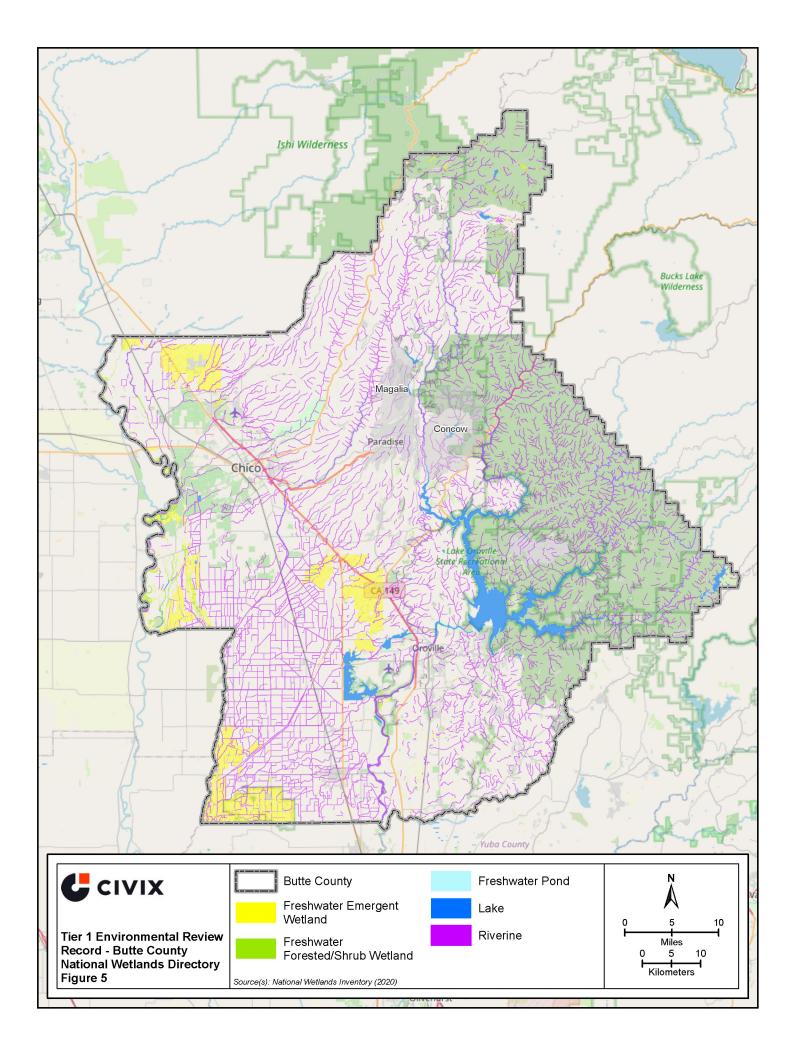


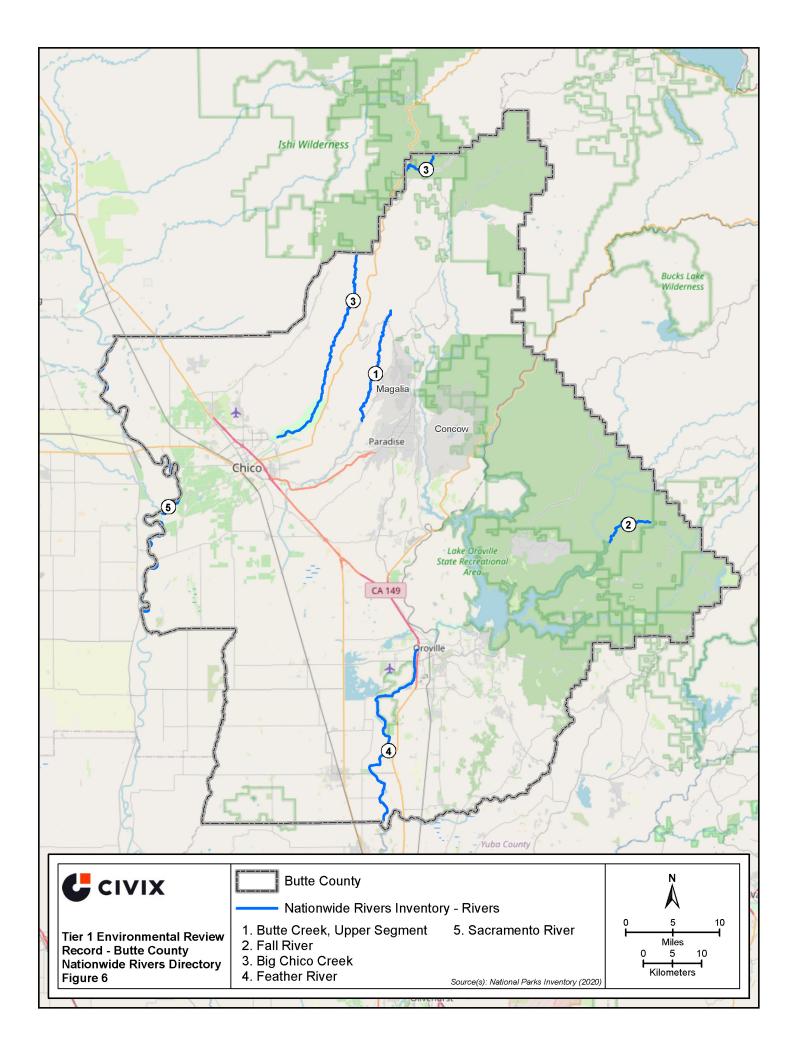












Attachment 6: Site Specific or Tier 2 Reviews

Attachment 6: Site-Specific or Tier 2 Reviews

Update this document as site-specific reviews are completed. Complete each sitespecific review according to the written strategies outlined in the broad-level review and attach it in the environmental review record.

Site-specific project name	Address or location