Department of Development Services

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BUTTE COUNTY
NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
MINOR USE PERMIT MUP19-0005

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Butte County has prepared an Initial Study, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and is considering the adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project described below. The Mitigated Negative Declaration establishes that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect because required mitigation measures will address potential project effects. The County has prepared this Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration to provide an opportunity for input from public agencies, organizations, and interested parties on the environmental analysis addressing the potential effects of the proposed project. The IS/MND is available for review on the County's website at http://www.buttecounty.net/dds/Planning/CEQA.aspx.

Project Information

Project: Terry Alexander Minor Use Permit (MUP19-0005)

Location: The project site encompasses a 10-acre property located at 15081 Meridian Road, 2 miles north of State Highway 99, and 3.6 miles north from the City of Chico city limits; APN: 047-100-106.

Project Description: Request to establish a special event facility to host outdoor celebrations, wedding ceremonies and receptions, corporate functions, and other similar events. The facility will have up to 10 events per year with a maximum of 100 attendees. Events will be approximately 4 hours and be over by 10 p.m., with event breakdown and outdoor lighting off by 11:00 p.m. Most events will be held on weekends (Saturday-Sunday); however, some events may be held on weekdays (Monday-Friday).

The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) is on file for public review and comment starting **January 10, 2022** to **February 10, 2022**. All comments on the IS/MND must be submitted in writing and received no later than **5:00 pm Monday, February 10, 2022**. Written comments may be submitted to the project planner Rowland Hickel, Senior Planner, Butte County Development Services Department, Planning Division, 7 County Center Drive, Oroville, CA 95965. Phone: (530) 552-3684 Email: rhickel@buttecounty.net. The Butte County Planning Commission will consider the proposed project at a public hearing on a future date to be determined.

PAULA DANELUK, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

INITIAL STUDY AND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Title: Terry Alexander Minor Use Permit (MUP19-0005)

2. Lead Agency Name and Address: Butte County – Department of Development Services
   Planning Division
   7 County Center Drive
   Oroville, CA 95965

3. Contact Person and Phone Number: Rowland Hickel, Senior Planner
   530.552.3684
   rhickel@buttecounty.net

4. Project Location: The project site encompasses a 10-acre property located at 15081 Meridian Road, 2 miles north of State Highway 99, and 3.6 miles north from the City of Chico city limits; APN: 047-100-106.

5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address: Terry Alexander
   15081 Meridian Road
   Chico, CA 95973

6. General Plan Designation: Agriculture (AG)

7. Zoning: AG-20 (Agriculture - 20-acre minimum parcel size)

8. Description of Project: (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

   The applicants request a Minor Use Permit to establish a special event facility to host outdoor celebrations, wedding ceremonies, receptions, corporate functions, and other similar events.

   The facility will host ten or fewer events per year with a maximum of 100 onsite guests. Each event will be approximately 4 hours and be over by 10 p.m., with event breakdown and outdoor lighting off by 11:00 p.m. Most events will be held on weekends (Saturday-Sunday); however, some events may be held on weekdays (Monday-Friday).

   Outdoor events will be held on the existing lawn area adjacent to the onsite residence. Events may include the use of temporary tents and amplified music. However, no permanent onsite improvements are proposed.

   Parking for events would utilize the pasture area located onsite, adjacent to the residence. The parking area can accommodate up to 25 vehicles, and potentially more if needed.

   The event operator will provide portable bathroom and handwashing facilities to the guest. Potable facilities will be located adjacent to the event area or in the proposed parking area. Portable restrooms are self-contained units that would be rented during the events and are not permanent fixtures of the property. The event operator

may also supply potable water used during the event from an in-service well. Drinking water for events would be provided by bottled water and/or vendor-provided water.

Solid waste will be managed by the owner and vendors using temporary waste receptacles and recycling containers. The event operator will remove the event operator waste from the site after each event.

9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting: (Briefly describe the project's surroundings)

The project site and area is comprised of agricultural and residential parcels that range in size from 5 acres to 40 acres. Area agricultural uses consists primarily of dryland grazing.

Direction	General Plan Designation	Zoning	Existing Land Use(s)
North	Agriculture	AG-20	Single-Family Residential/Dryland Grazing
South	Agriculture	AG-20	Single-Family Residential/Dryland Grazing
East	Agriculture	AG-20	Single-Family Residential/Dryland Grazing
West	Agriculture	AG-20	Single-Family Residential/Dryland Grazing

The project site is developed with a single-family residence and accessory structures including a commercial kennel for up to 80 dogs approved under Conditional Use Permits UP 90-45 and UP 94-03. Water services for the existing residence is provided by a groundwater well. Sewage disposal for the existing residence is provided by an onsite septic system.

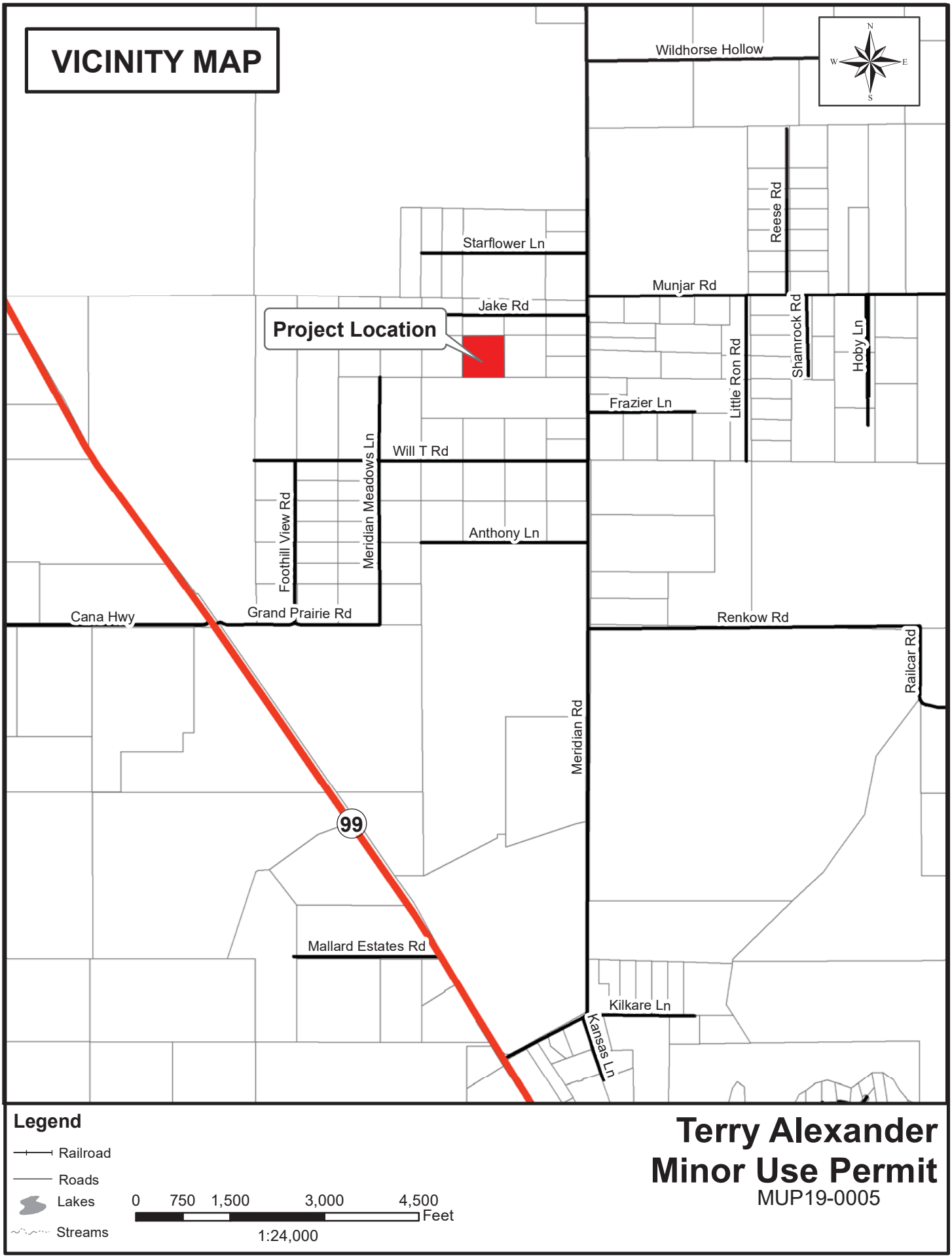
Access to the site is provided by an unnamed road off Meridian Road, a County-maintained roadway. The unnamed road is approximately 14 to 18 feet wide with a gravel surface. Meridian Road is a two-lane paved county road approximately 24 feet wide with dirt/gravel shoulders.

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

No additional public agency approvals are required for the project.

11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?

See Discussion 1.18


VICINITY MAP
Wildhorse Hollow
N
W
E
S
Reese Rd
Starflower Ln
Munjar Rd
Jake Rd
Project Location
Shamrock Rd
Hoby Ln
Little Ron Rd
Frazier Ln
Will T Rd
Meridian Meadows Ln
Foothill View Rd
Anthony Ln
Cana Hwy
Grand Prairie Rd
Renkow Rd
Railcar Rd
Meridian Rd
99
Mallard Estates Rd
Kilkare Ln
Kansas Ln
Legend
Railroad
Roads
Lakes
Streams
0 750 1,500 3,000 4,500
Feet
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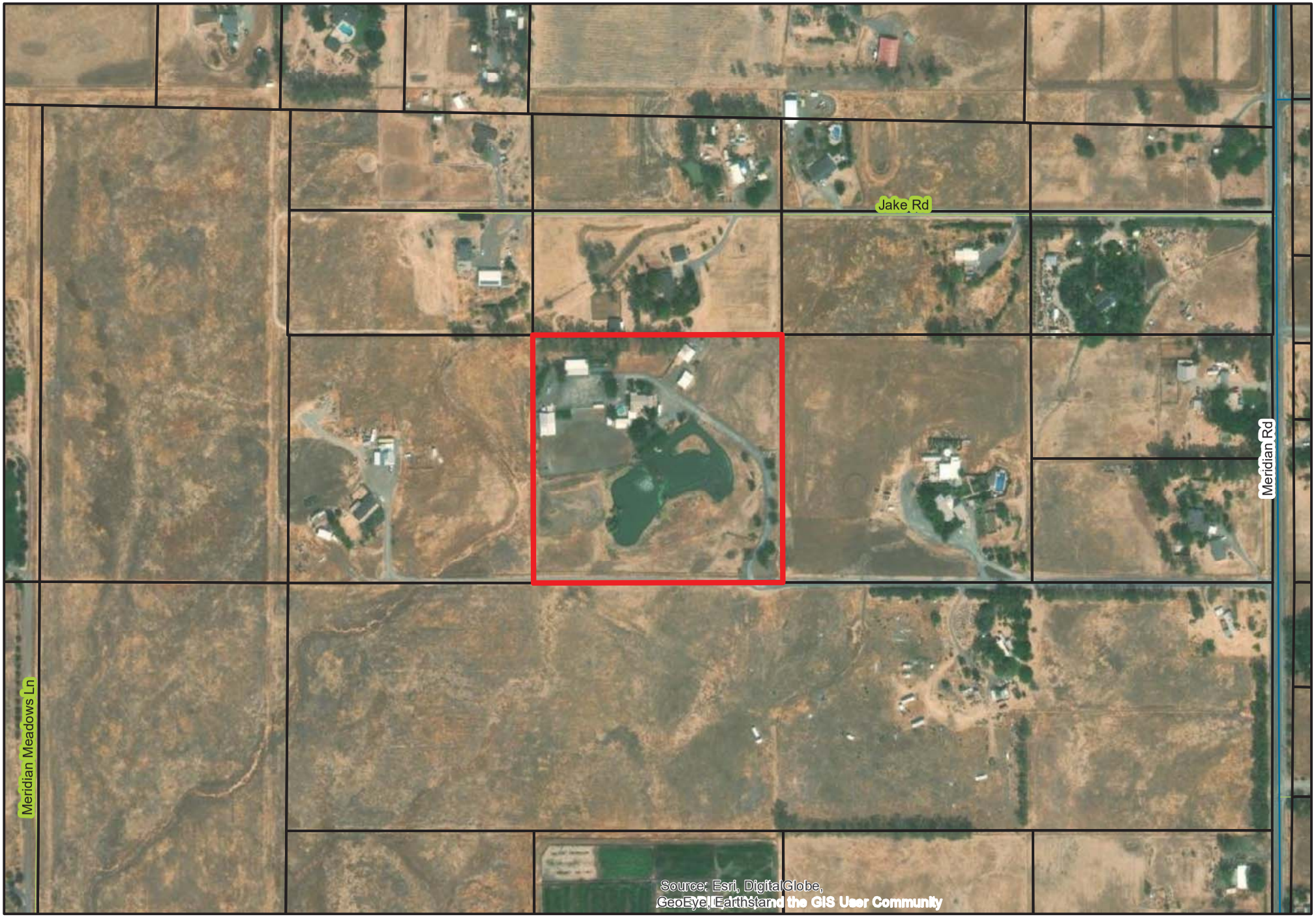
Terry Alexander
Minor Use Permit
MUP19-0005



Terry Alexander Minor Use Permit

MUP19-0005

Map created by:
Butte County
Development Services Department
7 County Center Drive, Oroville, Ca. 95965

0 105 210 420 630 840 Feet

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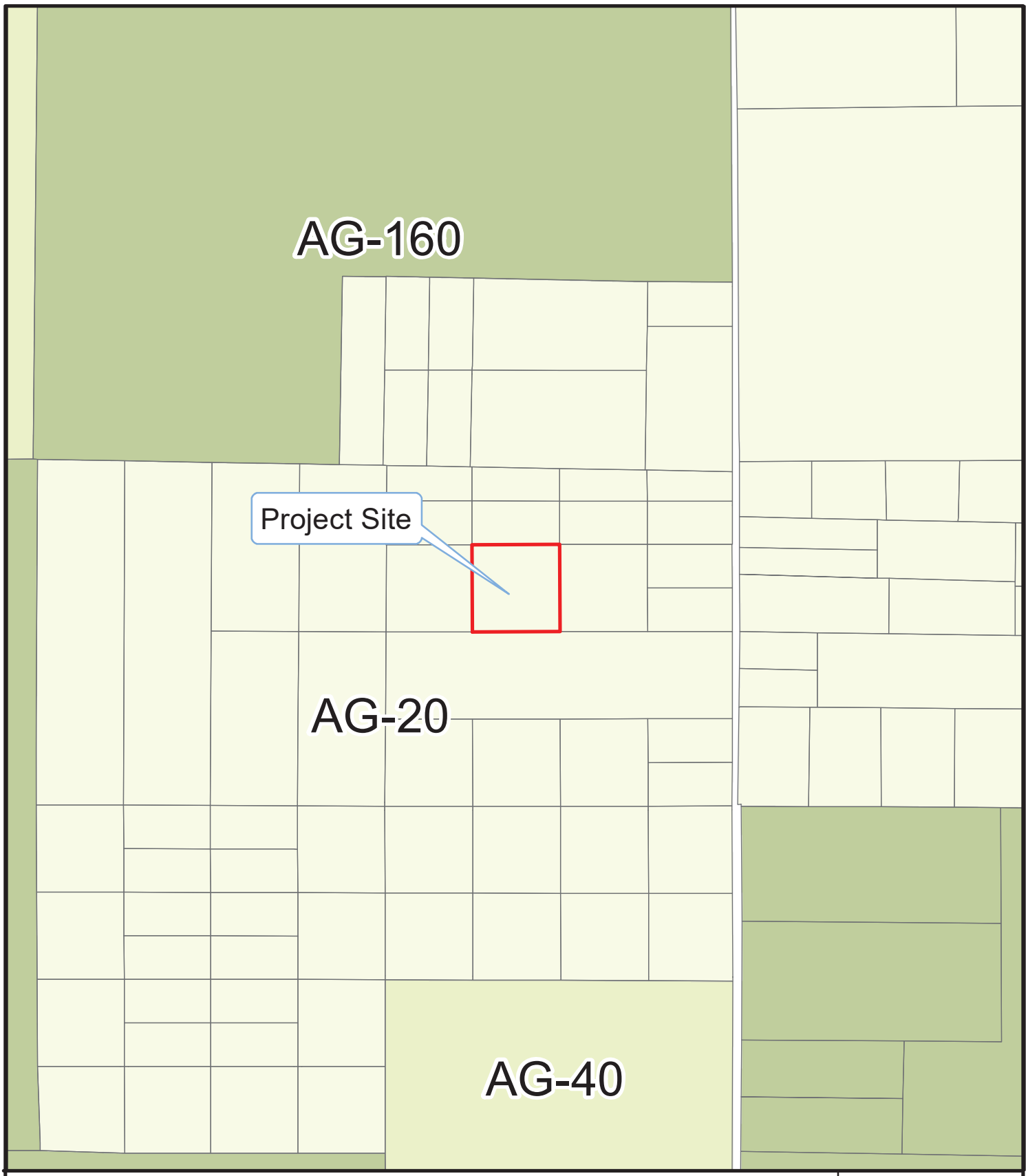

Butte County Zone Districts

0 550 1,100 2,200 3,300 4,400 5,500 Feet

N W E S

Supervisorial District #2

Applicant: Terry Alexander	**Zoning:** AG-20 (Agriculture, 20-acre)
Request: Minor Use Permit	**Assessor Parcel No:** 047-100-106

File: MUP19-0005

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages. Where checked below, the topic with a potentially significant impact will be addressed in an environmental impact report.

☐	Aesthetics	☐	Agriculture and Forest Resources	☐	Air Quality
☐	Biological Resources	☐	Cultural Resources	☐	Energy
☐	Geology / Soils	☐	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐	Hazards / Hazardous Materials
☐	Hydrology / Water Quality	☐	Land Use / Planning	☐	Mineral Resources
☐	Noise	☐	Population / Housing	☐	Public Services
☐	Recreation	☐	Transportation	☐	Tribal Cultural Resources
☐	Utilities / Service Systems	☐	Wildfire	☐	Mandatory Findings of Significance
		☐	None	☒	None with Mitigation Incorporated

DETERMINATION (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

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.

☒ 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 **EIR** or **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier **EIR** or **NEGATIVE DECLARATION**, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Rowland Hickel — 1/5/2022

Prepared by Rowland Hickel, Senior Planner — Date

Dan Breedon — 1/5/2022

Reviewed by: Dan Breedon, Planning Manager — Date

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

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

1.1 AESTHETICS

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. Aesthetics.				
Except as provided in Public Resources Code section 21099 (where aesthetic impacts shall not be considered significant for qualifying residential, mixed-use residential, and employment centers), would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage points.) 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

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

No impact. The area surrounding the project site has been modified for agricultural production and residential development. There are no unique visual features or scenic vistas in the project area. Therefore, the project will not substantially interfere with any scenic views, or otherwise, have a substantive negative aesthetic impact.

b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

No impact. The proposed project does not include new construction that would disturb features such as trees, rock outcroppings and historic buildings within a state scenic highway. Further, the project site is not adjacent to a state scenic highway and there are no scenic resources on the project site.

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 points.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

Less than significant impact. The nearest publicly accessible area to the project site is Meridian Road which is located east of the project site. The project would consists of outdoor events in the rear yard of the existing residence, and will use existing structures to accommodate temporary, intermittent gatherings of up to 100 people. The project would not cause a permanent change to the rural visual character of surrounding area.

d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

Less than significant impact. Outdoor lighting will be used on the project site during events. Any new outdoor lighting would be subject to standards in Chapter 24, Article III, General Regulations, Division 4 – Outdoor Lighting, as specified in the Butte County Zoning Code, which reduces light trespass and glare through the use of shielding and other techniques. Implementation of applicable outdoor lighting regulations provided in Article III would ensure the proposed project would not create new sources of substantial lighting or glare that would generate a significant impact. Impacts would be less than significant under this threshold.

1.2 AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
II. Agriculture and Forest Resources.				
In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997, as updated) 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:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Regulatory Setting

Williamson Act/Land Conservation Act (LCA) Contracts

The California Land Conservation Act of 1965, commonly known as the Williamson Act, was established based on numerous State legislative findings regarding the importance of agricultural lands in an urbanizing society. Policies emanating from those findings include those that discourage premature and unnecessary conversion of agricultural land to urban uses and discourage discontinuous urban development patterns, which unnecessarily increase the costs of community services to community residents. The Williamson Act authorizes each County to establish an agricultural preserve. Land that is within the agricultural preserve is eligible to be placed under a contract between the property owner and County that would restrict the use of the land to agriculture in exchange for a tax assessment that is based on the yearly production yield. The contracts have a 9-year term that is automatically renewed each year unless the property owner or county requests a non-renewal or the contract is canceled.

Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program

The California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) develops statistical data for analyzing impacts on California's agricultural resources. The FMMP program characterizes "Prime Farmland" as land with the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics that are able to sustain long-term production of agricultural crops. "Farmland of Statewide Importance" is characterized as land with a good combination of physical and chemical characteristics for agricultural production, but with less ability to store soil moisture than prime farmland. "Unique Farmland" is used for the production of the state's major crops on soils not qualifying as prime farmland or of statewide importance. The FMMP also identifies "Grazing Land", "Urban and Built-up Land", "Other Land", and "Water" that is not included in any other mapping category.

California Public Resources Code Section 4526

"Timberland" means land, other than land owned by the federal government and land designated by the board as experimental forest land, which is available for, and capable of, growing a crop of trees of a commercial species used to produce lumber and other forest products, including Christmas trees. Commercial species shall be determined by the board on a district basis.

California Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)

"Forest land" is land that can support 10-percent native tree cover of any species, including hardwoods, under natural conditions, and that allows for management of one or more forest resources, including timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, and other public benefits.

Discussion

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

No impact. The California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program designates the site as "Other" and is therefore not considered prime, unique or farmlands of statewide importance. No structures or other development is proposed with this project. Existing agricultural uses consist of horse boarding, but there is no crop cultivation or grazing currently taking place. The applicant has prepared a Weed Management Plan as part of their Agricultural Maintenance Plan to address any issues related to onsite and offsite agricultural uses. The Project would not impact prime, unique or farmland of statewide importance.

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

No impact. The project site is not encumbered by an existing Williamson Act contract. All events would be confined to the project site. The project will not conflict with existing zoning or agricultural use of a parcel under a Williamson Act contract.

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

No impact. The project site and surrounding area is not classified as forestland, as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g), or as timberland, as defined in Public Resources Code Section 4526. The project site is not zoned or designated for forest or timber resource uses.

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

No impact. The project site is located in the valley region of Butte County and does not contain trees or timber resources classified as forestland, as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g), or as timberland, as

defined in Public Resources Code Section 4526. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in the loss or conversion of forest land to a 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?

No impact. The project site is designated as "Other" under the California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. Lands within 300 feet of the project site are designated "Other". No permanent structures are proposed. Therefore, the project would not result in the conversion of Farmland to a non-agricultural use.

1.3 AIR QUALITY

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
III. Air Quality.				
Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied on to make the following determinations.				
Are significance criteria established by the applicable air district available to rely on for significance determinations?	☒ Yes		☐ No	
Would the project:				
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Environmental Setting

Butte County is located within the Sacramento Valley Air Basin (SVAB), comprising the northern half of California's 400-mile long Great Central Valley. The SVAB encompasses approximately 14,994 square miles with a largely flat valley floor (excepting the Sutter Buttes) about 200 miles long and up to 150 miles wide, bordered on its east, north and west by the Sierra Nevada, Cascade and Coast mountain ranges, respectively.

The SVAB, containing 11 counties and some two million people, is divided into two air quality planning areas based on the amount of pollutant transport from one area to the other and the level of emissions within each. Butte County is within the Northern Sacramento Valley Air Basin (NSVAB), which is composed of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Shasta, Sutter, Tehama, and Yuba Counties.

Emissions from the urbanized portion of the basin (Sacramento, Yolo, Solano, and Placer Counties) dominate the emission inventory for the Sacramento Valley Air Basin, and on-road motor vehicles are the primary source of emissions in the Sacramento metropolitan area. While pollutant concentrations have generally declined over the years, additional emission reductions will be needed to attain the State and national ambient air quality standards in the SVAB.

Seasonal weather patterns have a significant effect on regional and local air quality. The Sacramento Valley and Butte County have a Mediterranean climate, characterized by hot, dry summers and cool, wet winters. Winter weather is governed by cyclonic storms from the North Pacific, while summer weather is typically subject to a high pressure cell that deflects storms from the region.

In Butte County, winters are generally mild with daytime average temperatures in the low 50s°F and nighttime temperatures in the upper 30s°F. Temperatures range from an average January low of approximately 36°F to an average July high of approximately 96°F, although periodic lower and higher temperatures are common. Rainfall between

October and May averages about 26 inches but varies considerably year to year. Heavy snowfall often occurs in the northeastern mountainous portion of the County. Periodic rainstorms contrast with occasional stagnant weather and thick ground or "tule" fog in the moister, flatter parts of the valley. Winter winds generally come from the south, although north winds also occur.

Diminished air quality within Butte County largely results from local air pollution sources, transport of pollutants into the area from the south, the NSVAB topography, prevailing wind patterns, and certain inversion conditions that differ with the season. During the summer, sinking air forms a "lid" over the region, confining pollution within a shallow layer near the ground that leads to photochemical smog and visibility problems. During winter nights, air near the ground cools while the air above remains relatively warm, resulting in little air movement and localized pollution "hot spots" near emission sources. Carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, particulate matters and lead particulate concentrations tend to elevate during winter inversion conditions when little air movement may persist for weeks.

As a result, high levels of particulate matter (primarily fine particulates or PM2.5) and ground-level ozone are the pollutants of most concern to the NSVAB Districts. Ground-level ozone, the principal component of smog, forms when reactive organic gases (ROG) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) – together known as ozone precursor pollutants – react in strong sunlight. Ozone levels tend to be highest in Butte County during late spring through early fall, when sunlight is strong and constant, and emissions of the precursor pollutants are highest (Butte County CEQA Air Quality Handbook 2014).

Air Quality Attainment Status

Local monitoring data from the BCAQMD is used to designate areas a nonattainment, maintenance, attainment, or unclassified for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS). The four designations are further defined as follows:

Nonattainment – assigned to areas where monitored pollutant concentrations consistently violate the standard in question.

Maintenance – assigned to areas where monitored pollutant concentrations exceeded the standard in question in the past but are no longer in violation of that standard.

Attainment – assigned to areas where pollutant concentrations meet the standard in question over a designated period of time.

Unclassified – assigned to areas were data are insufficient to determine whether a pollutant is violating the standard in question.

Table 1.3-1. Federal and State Attainment Status of Butte County

POLLUTANT	STATE DESIGNATION	FEDERAL DESIGNATION
1-hour ozone	Nonattainment	-
8-hour ozone	Nonattainment	Nonattainment
Carbon monoxide	Attainment	Attainment
Nitrogen Dioxide	Attainment	Attainment
Sulfur Dioxide	Attainment	Attainment
24-Hour PM10	Nonattainment	Attainment
24-Hour PM2.5	No Standard	Attainment
Annual PM10	Attainment	No Standard
Annual PM2.5	Nonattainment	Attainment

Source: Butte County AQMD, 2018

Sensitive Receptors

Sensitive receptors are frequently occupied locations where people who might be especially sensitive to air pollution are expected to live, work, or recreate. These types of receptors include residences, schools, churches, health care facilities, convalescent homes, and daycare centers. The project site is located in a rural area with residential uses on parcel sizes between 5 and 200 acres. Table 1.3-2 lists sensitive receptors that were identified in the project vicinity and the distances from the project site.

Table 1.3-2. Sensitive Receptors in the Project Vicinity

SENSITIVE RECEPTORS	DISTANCE FROM EVENT AREA TO RECEPTOR
Residence (4921 Jake Rd)	215 feet north
Residence (4961 Jake Rd)	608 feet northwest
Residence (15085 Meridian Rd)	697 feet west
Residence (15077 Meridian Rd)	726 feet east
Residence (15069 Meridian Rd)	1,030 feet southeast

Source: Butte County Geographical Information System/Google Earth imagery

Butte County Air Quality Management District

The Butte County Air Quality Management District (BCAQMD) is the local agency with primary responsibility for compliance with both the federal and state standards and for ensuring that air quality conditions are maintained. They do this through a comprehensive program of planning, regulation, enforcement, technical innovation, and promotion of the understanding of air quality issues.

Activities of the BCAQMD include the preparation of plans for the attainment of ambient air quality standards, adoption and enforcement of rules and regulations concerning sources of air pollution, issuance of permits for stationary sources of air pollution, inspection of stationary sources of air pollution and response to citizen complaints, monitoring of ambient air quality and meteorological conditions, and implementation of programs and regulations required by the FCAA and CCAA.

According to the State CEQA Guidelines, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied on to make significance determinations for potential impacts on environmental resources. BCAQMD is responsible for ensuring that state and federal ambient air quality standards are not violated within Butte County. Analysis requirements for construction and operation-related pollutant emissions are contained in BCAQMD's *CEQA Air Quality Handbook: Guidelines for Assessing Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Impacts for Projects Subject to CEQA Review*. Established with these guidelines are screening criteria to determine whether or not additional modeling for criteria air pollutants is necessary for a project. The CEQA Air Quality Handbook also contains thresholds of significance for construction-related and operation-related emissions: ROG, NOx and PM10. The screening criteria listed in Table 1.3-4 were created using CalEEMod version 2013.2.2 for the given land use types. To determine if a proposed project meets the screening criteria, the size and metric for the land use type (units or square footage) should be compared with that of the proposed project. If a project is less than the applicable screening criteria, then further quantification of criteria air pollutants is not necessary, and it may be assumed that the project would have a less than significant impact on criteria air pollutants. If a project exceeds the size provided by the screening criteria for a given land use type then additional modeling and quantification of criteria air pollutants should be performed (Butte County Air Quality Management District 2014).

Table 1.3-4. Screening Criteria for Criteria Air Pollutants

LAND USE TYPE	MAXIMUM SCREENING LEVELS FOR PROJECTS
Single-Family Residential	30 Units
Multi-Family (Low Rise) Residential	75 Units
Commercial	15,000 square feet
Educational	24,000 square feet
Industrial	59,000 square feet
Recreational	5,500 square feet
Retail	11,000 square feet
Source: Butte County AQMD, CEQA Air Quality Handbook, 2014	

Discussion

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

No impact. A project is deemed inconsistent with an air quality plan if it would result in population or employment growth that exceeds the growth estimates in the applicable air quality plan (i.e., generating emissions not accounted for in the applicable air quality plan emissions budget). Therefore, proposed projects need to be evaluated to determine whether they would generate population and employment growth and, if so, whether that growth would exceed the growth rate included in the applicable air quality plan.

The proposed project would not result in population growth in the County. Special event attendees are transitory, intermittently arriving from local and regional population centers for a short duration. Employees would come from the local population and be hired for individual events. This would not cause relocation of populations or housing. Further, the project would not result in a substantial increase in criteria air pollutants that would cause significant impacts to regional air quality (see Section 1.3(b)).

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?

Less than significant impact. The proposed project has the potential to impact air quality primarily from mobile sources emissions generated by attendees traveling by motor vehicles to and from the facility, and from energy emissions associated with the operation of the special event facility. Mobile source emissions produced from motor vehicles include tailpipe and evaporative emissions. Energy use emissions associated with the operation of the facility would be generated by the use of heating and cooling systems, lighting, and powering of equipment. Overall, operational emissions generated by the project are not expected to be substantial and would not violate existing air quality standards because events are intermittent and short in duration. Further, proposed commercial activities on the property are not expected to exceed a total 15,000 square feet, the Commercial land-use type screening criteria listed above in Table 1.3-3. Thus, the project would not exceed the significance thresholds established in the BCAQMD, CEQA Air Quality Handbook.

c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Less than significant impact. Sensitive receptors in the project area and their distances from the project site area are shown in Table 1.3-2. Based on the information provided in section b.), above, the proposed project would not result in the violation of any air quality standards or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation, except for potential fugitive dust emissions during the operation of large events. The applicant will apply dust control best management practices to the unpaved access road, driveway, and parking area. Measures include posting a speed limit sign (10 mph). Implementation of dust control measures will be enforced through permit conditions, which would reduce potential cumulative fugitive dust emission impacts to less than significant level.

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

Less than significant impact. No objectionable odors would be caused by the project. Any odors generated by events would be similar to odors typically generated by residential uses. Any such odors generated by the project would be temporary and limited to the area adjacent to the event areas, thereby not impacting a substantial number of people. Since odor impacts would be temporary and limited to the area adjacent to the operations, and because the project site is located in a rural area of the county, odors would not impact a substantial number of people for an extended time.

1.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IV. Biological Resources.				
Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the 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 Wildlife or the 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

Vegetation Communities

Agricultural Land

Agricultural land is the dominant vegetation community within the project site. The site's conversion of native habitat into agricultural lands in the past has greatly diminished the land's ability to provide habitat for sensitive plant and animal species. Many species of rodents and birds have adapted to the agricultural vegetation community, but they are often controlled by fencing, trapping, and poisoning to prevent excessive crop losses. Common species observed within this community type includes mourning dove, American crow, Brewer's blackbird, Sandhill crane, various raptor species, egrets, and many species of rodents.

Special-Status Species

Many species of plants and animals within the State of California have low populations, limited distributions, or both. Such species may be considered "rare" and are vulnerable to extirpation as the state's human population grows and the habitats these species occupy are converted to agricultural and urban uses. A sizable number of native species and animals have been formally designated as threatened or endangered under State and Federal endangered species legislation. Others have been designated as "Candidates" for such listing and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) have designated others as "Species of Special Concern". The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) has developed its own lists of native plants considered rare, threatened or endangered. Collectively, these plants and animals are referred to as "special status species."

Various direct and indirect impacts to biological resources may result from the small amount of development enabled by the project, including the loss and/or alteration of existing undeveloped open space that may serve as habitat. Increased vehicle trips to and from the project site can result in wildlife mortality and disruption of movement patterns within and through the project vicinity. Disturbances such as predation by pets (e.g., cats and dogs) and human residents may also occur at the human/open space interface.

California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15065 requires a mandatory finding of significance for projects that have the potential to substantially degrade or reduce the habitat of a threatened or endangered species, and to fully disclose and mitigate impacts to special status resources. For the purposes of this Initial Study, the California Environmental Quality Act (Sections 21083 and 21087, Public Resources Code) defines mitigation as measure(s) that:

- 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 impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) was reviewed to determine if any special-status species have the potential to occur on the project site or its vicinity. Table 1.4-1 lists each special-status species identified within a two-mile radius of the project site, along with regulatory status and habitat requirements for each special-status species. A total of eight special-status species are known to inhabit areas within the vicinity of the project site.

Table 1.4-1. Special-Status Species in the vicinity of the project site

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	CNPS/DFG List	Habitat
PLANTS					
Castilleeja rubicundula	pink creamsacs	None	None	1B.2	Openings in chaparral or grasslands. On serpentine.
Eurphorbia hooveri	Hoover's spurge	Threatened	None	1B.2	Vernal pools on volcanic mudflow or clay substrate.
Limnanthes floccosa ssp. californica	Butte County meadowfoam	Endangered	Endangered	1B.1	Wet or flowing drainages & depressions; often not in discrete vernal pools; soils are usually Redding clay with rocks.
CRUSTACEANS					
Branchinecta conservatio	Conservancy fairy shrimp	Endangered	None	IUCN-EN	Inhabit astatic pools located in swales formed by old, braided alluvium; filled by winter/spring rains, last until June.
Branchinecta lynchi	vernal pool fairy shrimp	Threatened	None	IUCN-VU	Inhabit small, clear-water sandstone-depression pools and grassed swale, earth slump, or basalt-flow depression pools.

Lepidurus packardi	vernal pool tadpole shrimp	Endangered	None	IUCN-EH	Pools commonly found in grass-bottomed swales of unplowed grasslands. Some pools are mud-bottomed and highly turbid.
BIRDS					
Athene cunicularia	burrowing owl	None	None	SSC/IUCN-LC	Open, dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts, and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation.
MAMMALS					
Eumops perotis californicus	western mastiff bat	None	None	SSC	Roosts in crevices in cliff faces, high buildings, trees and tunnels.

Source: California Natural Diversity Database/RareFind 5.

SSC - Species of Special Concern in California.
1B.1 - California Native Plant Society - Seriously threatened species in California
1B.2 - California Native Plant Society - Fairly threatened species in California.
IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List.
(LC) Least Concern
(EN) Endangered
(VU) Vulnerable

Discussion

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

No impact. No construction activities or permanent improvements are proposed that would disturb any areas within the project site or surrounding area. Further, the project site has been extensively disturbed with existing development (i.e., residence, commercial dog kennels, accessory buildings, driveways, etc.). As a result, the biological features and soils of the project site do not have the necessary habitat to support sensitive wildlife and plant species identified in Table 1.4-1.

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 Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

No impact. Review of the project site and project area did not discover the presence of any riparian habitat or other sensitive habitat type. Further, no construction activities or permanent structures are proposed that would cause alterations or impacts to any riparian area or waterways.

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

No impact. No federally protected wetlands exists within the project site, as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Further, no construction activities are proposed that may lead to potential impacts to USACE jurisdictional drainages or wetland features.

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?

Less than significant Impact. The project site is not located within the Butte County migratory deer corridors. No major migratory routes or corridors have been designated through the project site, and the existing developed components of the project area (i.e. roads and fenced parcels) typically preclude use of the area as a migratory wildlife corridor for large mammals. However, the site may facilitate home range and dispersal movement of resident wildlife species, including birds, small mammals and other wildlife. With the project not proposing the construction of any new structures, it's not anticipated that proposed activities would not interfere with existing migratory wildlife populations.

e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

Less than significant impact. No trees are proposed to be removed. Proposed activities would be located in areas of the property already disturbed by existing residential uses.

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?

No impact. The Butte Regional Conservation Plan (BRCP) is a joint Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)/National Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) that is currently being prepared for the western half of the Butte County. In the event the BRCP is adopted, individual projects and development that occur in the BRCP planning area would need to be coordinated with the Butte County Association of Governments to ensure that the project does not conflict with the BRCP. As the plan has not been adopted, the proposed project will not conflict, nor interfere with, the attainment of the goals of the proposed plan.

1.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
V. Cultural Resources.				
Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?

No impact. The project site is extensively disturbed from existing uses and structures. No new construction or ground-disturbing activities are proposed that would result in impacts to historic or cultural resources. No features exist on the property, including objects, sites, or landscapes, that could be considered as having cultural value to California Native American tribes, or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historic Resources.

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?

No impact. The project site is extensively disturbed from existing uses and structures. No new construction or ground-disturbing activities are proposed that would result in impacts to historic or cultural resources. No features exist on the property, including objects, sites, or landscapes, that could be considered as having cultural value to California Native American tribes, or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historic Resources.

c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

No impact. Indications are that humans have occupied Butte County for over 10,000 years and it is not always possible to predict where human remains may occur outside of formal cemeteries. Therefore, excavation and construction activities, regardless of depth, may yield human remains that may not be interred in marked, formal burials.

Under CEQA, human remains are protected under the definition of archaeological materials as being "any evidence of human activity." Additionally, *Public Resources Code section 5097.98* has specific stop-work and notification procedures to follow in the event that human remains are inadvertently discovered during project implementation.

The Butte County Conservation Element has established two policies that address the inadvertent discovery of human remains. COS-P16.3 requires human remains discovered during construction to be treated with dignity and respect and to fully comply with the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act and

other appropriate laws. COS-P16.4 requires work to stop if human remains are found during construction until the County Coroner has been contacted, and, if the human remains are determined to be of Native American origin, the North American Heritage Commission and most likely descendant have been consulted.

No construction or ground-disturbing activities are proposed for the project that may result in the discovery of human remains on the project site. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

1.6 ENERGY

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VI. Energy.				
Would the project:				
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

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

Less than significant impact. Development of the proposed project would consume energy during future events through long-term energy consumption from electricity and propane gas consumption, energy used for water conveyance, and vehicle operations to and from the project site.

Long-term energy consumption would occur during operation of the facility. Residences and outbuildings would consume electricity for lighting, heating and well operation. Propane would likely also be used as an energy source. The project would generate additional vehicle trips by event attendees traveling to and from the site. This would result in the consumption of transportation fuel. State and federal regulatory requirements addressing fuel efficiency are expected to increase fuel efficiency over time as older, less fuel-efficient vehicles are retired. This would reduce vehicle fuel energy consumption rates over time. Therefore, energy impacts related to fuel consumption/efficiency during project operations would be less than significant.

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

Less than significant impact. Many of the state and federal regulations regarding energy efficiency are focused on increasing building efficiency and renewable energy generation, as well as reducing water consumption and Vehicles Miles Traveled. The proposed project does not include any construction activities that would require reductions in the idling time of heavy equipment or implementation of energy conservation measures for any new structures. An increase in vehicles trips to and from the project site, which would result in the consumption of transportation fuel. However, the County's Climate Action Plan does not include any greenhouse gas reduction measures for vehicles to apply to the design of the proposed project.

1.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VII.Geology and Soils.				
Would the project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? (Refer to California Geological Survey Special Publication 42.)	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994, as updated), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

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 California Geological Survey Special Publication 42.)

Less than significant impact. No known active faults are underlying, or adjacent to, the project site. The Cleveland Hill fault is the only active fault zone in Butte County identified in the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map. The Cleveland Hill fault is located east of Dunstone Drive and Miners Ranch Road, between North Honcut Creek and Mt. Ida Road, approximately 4± miles southeast of the City of Oroville. Because the nearest active fault is located a considerable distance from the project site, the likelihood of a surface rupture at the project site is very low, and would not be a design consideration for the project.

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

Less than significant impact. Ground shaking at the project site could occur due to the earthquake potential of the region's active faults. However, active faults are relatively distant from the project site and would result in low to moderate intensity ground shaking during seismic events.

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

Less than significant impact. According to Butte County General Plan 2030, areas that are at risk for liquefaction can be found on the valley floor, especially near the Sacramento and Feather Rivers, and their tributaries, which have a higher potential to contain sandy and silty soils. The project site is located in the valley region of the County; however, no new structures are proposed to be constructed that would present a risk of liquefaction to the project.

iv) Landslides?

Less than significant impact. No new construction or ground disturbing activities are proposed. Further, the project area is primarily level with 0-2% slopes. As a result, the landslide potential for the project site and surrounding area is low.

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

No impact. According to Figure 4.6-4 of Butte County General Plan 2030, the project site has a "slight" potential of soil erosion. Nevertheless, surface soil erosion and loss of topsoil have the potential to occur in any area of the county from disturbances associated with the construction-related activities. Construction activities could also result in soil compaction and wind erosion effects that could adversely affect soils and reduce the revegetation potential at the construction site and staging areas. However, no new construction activities are proposed that would result in soil erosion and loss of topsoil.

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?

Less than significant impact. According to Butte County General Plan 2030 (Figure HS-4 and HS-6), the project site is located in an area with low to no potential for landslides. To date, there have been no documented

incidents of subsidence in Butte County. No new construction activities are proposed that would result in the destabilization of natural or constructed slopes, subsidence, or liquefaction.

d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994, as updated), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

No impact. According to Figure 4.6-3 of Butte County General Plan 2030, the project site is located in an area with a moderate potential to have expansive soils, which can cause structural damage to existing structures particularly when concrete structures are in direct contact with the soils. Existing buildings were constructed under County-issued permit, and had been built structurally sound for the soil conditions of the site. No new construction of structures are proposed that would create additional risk to life or property.

e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?

No impact. Wastewater disposal for events would be provided by portable toilets and handwashing stations brought to the site for each event. Conditions for the on-site use of these facilities were provided by the Butte County Environmental Health Division as conditions of project approval. These conditions include the number of toilets and handwashing stations required on-site based on the number of people in attendance and other stipulations that must be met to ensure sanitary conditions are maintained.

f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

No impact. No paleontological resources are known to occur on the project site. No new construction or ground disturbing activities are proposed that would result in the uncovering unidentified paleontological resources.

1.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VIII. Greenhouse Gas Emissions.				
Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Environmental Setting

The Butte County Climate Action Plan (CAP) was adopted on February 25, 2014. The Butte County CAP provides goals, policies, and programs to reduce GHG emissions, address climate change adaptation, and improve the quality of life in the county. The Butte County CAP also supports statewide GHG emission-reduction goals identified in AB 32 and SB 375. Programs and actions in the CAP are intended to help the County sustain its natural resources, grow efficiently, ensure long-term resiliency to a changing environmental and economic climate, and improve transportation. The Butte County CAP also serves as a Qualified GHG Reduction Strategy under CEQA, simplifying development review for new projects that are consistent with the CAP.

A 2006 baseline GHG emission inventory was prepared for unincorporated Butte County. The inventory identified the sources and the amount of GHG emissions produced in the county. The leading contributors of GHG emissions in Butte County are agriculture (43%), transportation (29%), and residential energy (17%). The Climate Action Plan (CAP) adopted by the County provides a framework for the County to reduce GHG emissions while simplifying the review process for new development. Measures and actions identified in the CAP lay the groundwork to achieve the adopted General Plan goals related to climate change, including reducing GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.

New projects are evaluated to determine consistency with the CAP and to identify which GHG emission reduction measures would be implemented with project approval. These measures may include the expansion of renewable energy systems for new residential development by prewiring future development for photovoltaic systems; reduction of construction equipment idling time; and, installation of electric vehicle charging outlets in the garage or the exterior of the home.

Discussion

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

Less Than Significant Impact. Existing development and infrastructure is available to support the proposed project, and therefore, no new construction activities will occur as part of the proposed project. The Butte County Climate Action Plan includes several measures to off-set GHG emissions. However, recommended measures are associated with construction of new non-residential buildings and construction activities, and would not be applicable for use with the proposed project.

Operation of the facility would increase energy consumption, as well as cause an intermittent and temporary increase in motor vehicle trips to and from the project site, which would both generate additional GHG emissions. The total amount of emission generated by the project was not evaluated; however, minimal emissions are anticipated due to the intermittent use of the site as an event facility.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. The Butte County General Plan and Butte County Climate Action Plan established numerous policies relative to greenhouse gas emissions, consistent with AB 32 greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. The proposed project was reviewed in respect to the CAP's policies and relevant reduction measures to determine if measures could be applied. However, because the project does not propose new construction, established GHG reduction measures would not be applicable.

1.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IX. Hazards and Hazardous Materials.				
Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and/or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

Less than significant impact. The proposed use may involve the use of potentially hazardous materials, including paints, cleaning materials, vehicle fuels, oils, and transmission fluids. However, all potentially hazardous materials would be contained, stored, and used in accordance with manufacturers' instructions and handled in compliance with applicable standards and regulations. It is not anticipated that large quantities of hazardous materials would be permanently stored or used within the project site. It is more likely that only small quantities of publicly-available hazardous materials (e.g., paint, maintenance supplies and fuel for

maintenance equipment) may be routinely used within the project site for routine maintenance and cleaning. However, these materials would not be used in sufficient strength or quantity to create a substantial risk of fire or explosion, or otherwise pose a substantial risk to human or environmental health associated with inadvertent spills or human contact.

b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and/or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

Less than significant impact. The project would not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous materials. Small quantities of publicly-available hazardous materials (e.g., paint, maintenance supplies) would be routinely used within the project site for maintenance and cleaning, and these materials will not be used in sufficient strength or quantity to create a substantial risk of fire or explosion, or otherwise pose a substantial risk to human or environmental health. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not create a permanent significant hazard to the public or environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.

c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

No impact. No existing or proposed schools have been identified within one-quarter mile of the project site.

d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

No impact. A review of regulatory agency databases, which included lists of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to California Government Code Section 65962.5, did not identify a contamination site within one-quarter mile of the project site.

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?

Less than significant impact. No public use airports have been identified to be located within two miles of the project site. The closest public use airport is the Chico Municipal Airport, located approximately 3.6 miles southeast of the project site. The proposed project is located outside the compatibility zones for the area airports, and therefore, would not result in impacts to people residing on, or visiting, the project site.

f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

No impact. The proposed project would use existing driveways in accordance with applicable standards associated with vehicular access allowing for adequate emergency access and evacuation. Development of the project would not include any actions that physically interfere with emergency response or emergency evacuation plans. Traffic would be added to area roadway prior to and after events; however, not to the extent that operation of roadways and intersections would be adversely affected. If future construction activities require work to be performed in the roadway, implementation of a traffic control plan in conjunction with a Butte County Encroachment Permit may be required. No impact would occur under this threshold.

g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?

Less than significant impact. The project site is situated within a designated Moderate Fire Hazard Severity Zone by the State Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The project site is also within a designated State Responsibility Area (SRA), which means that the State has fiscal responsibility for preventing and suppressing wildfires. Due to the heightened risk of wildfire and increased potential for damage or loss in SRAs, projects within these areas must comply with special building requirements established in Chapter 7A of the California Building Code and Chapter 47 of the California Fire Code. SRAs are also regulated by Public Resources Code 4290 and 4291, which establish standards for access, signage, maintenance of defensible space and vegetation management. These standards will be included as conditions of approval. Implementation of these standards, as well as oversight by Butte County Fire/Cal Fire, would ensure the proposed project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk or loss, injury or death involving wildland fires.

1.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
X. Hydrology and Water Quality.				
Would the project:				
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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 on- or offsite erosion or siltation;	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

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

No impact. Butte County General Plan 2030 identifies the soil conditions in the general project as having a slight potential for erosion. However, no new construction or ground-disturbing activities are proposed that would result erosion or impacts to water quality. Wastewater disposal for events would be provided by portable self-contained toilets and handwashing stations. No new systems are proposed. However, in the event a new system is constructed, an On-Site Wastewater System Construction Permit must be approved by the Butte County Environmental Health Division, under a ministerial project application. Application for a Construction Permit will include detailed plans of the proposed wastewater system, prepared by a Certified Installer or Certified Designer, which will demonstrate compliance with County regulations and the County's On-Site Wastewater Manual, ensuring a safe, sanitary, and environmentally sound wastewater system.

b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

Less than significant impact. Domestic water to proposed uses on the subject parcel may be provided by groundwater extraction; however, bottled water would be provided to attendees as the primary source of drinking water. Water use for the proposed project is minimal, and would not substantially deplete groundwater supplies. Further, no additional improvements are proposed that would result in a reduction of groundwater infiltration rates.

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 on- or offsite erosion or siltation;

No impact. No new construction or ground-disturbing activities are proposed that would substantially alter existing drainage patterns on the site or surrounding area.

ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;

No impact. No new construction or ground-disturbing activities are proposed that would substantially alter existing drainage patterns on the site or surrounding area, or substantially increase the rate of surface runoff.

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

No impact. Stormwater drainage systems in the project area currently consists of roadside ditches and culverts that capture surface runoff, which ultimately infiltrate into the underground aquifer or conveyed to area waterways.

The project would not result in an increase of stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces because no new structures or ground-disturbing activities are proposed. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?

No impact. The project site is not located within a 100-year mapped flood zone (FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map No. 06007C0310E, January 6, 2011). As referenced, the project would not result in new construction of structures or ground-disturbing activities which may result in a change in on-site drainage patterns or impede or redirect flood flows.

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

No impact. The project site is not located within a 100-year mapped flood zone (FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map No. 06007C0310E, January 6, 2011). Additionally, per the General Plan Health and Safety Element Figure HS-4, the project site is not located in a dam inundation zone, and is not located near a large body of water. As a result, the project would not be impacted by a seiche, tsunami, or mudflows.

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

No impact. The project site is located within the Butte County Groundwater Management Plan area. Domestic water for the project would be provided through bottled drinking water and vendor-provided water. Additional water needs would be provided by the existing well serving the property.

1.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XI. Land Use and Planning.				
Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

Butte County General Plan

The General Plan represents the community's values, ideals and aspirations with respect to land use, development, transportation, public services, and conservation policy that will govern Butte County through 2030. The Land Use Element of the General Plan designates the land use of areas within the County and includes a description of the characteristics and intensity of each land use category. The land use designation for the proposed project site is *Agriculture*.

Butte County Zoning Ordinance

The Zoning Ordinance implements the goals and policies of the Butte County General Plan by regulating the uses of land and structures within the County. The zoning designation of the proposed project site and the intended uses of the site are as follows:

Agriculture, 20-acre minimum parcel size (AG-20)

The purpose of the AG zone is to support, protect, and maintain a viable, long-term agricultural sector in Butte County. Standards for the AG zone maintain the vitality of the agricultural sector by retaining parcel sizes necessary to sustain viable agricultural operations, protecting agricultural practices and activities by minimizing land-use conflicts, and protecting agricultural resources by regulating land uses and development intensities in agricultural areas. Permitted uses include crop cultivation, animal grazing, stock ponds, and agricultural processing. More intensive agricultural activities, such as animal processing, dairies, hog farms, stables, forestry and logging, and mining and oil extraction, are permitted with the approval of a Conditional Use Permit. One (1) single-family home and one (1) second unit and accessory dwelling unit is permitted on each legally established parcel within the AG zone, and residential uses for agricultural employees are permitted as an accessory use within the AG zone. The minimum permitted parcel size in the AG zone ranges from twenty (20) acres to one hundred sixty (160) acres. The AG zone implements the Agriculture land use designation in the General Plan.

Butte County Code § 24-175.2 (Special Event Facilities)

This section establishes a permit process and standards for the development and operation of special event facilities accessory to an owner's primary residence, or manager's residence if the manager is responsible for running the special events facility, in the AG (Agriculture), TM (Timber Mountain), RR (Rural Residential), FR (Foothill Residential), and VLDR (Very Low Density Residential) zones. Special Event Facilities under this section require approval of a Minor Use Permit, subject to the following findings:

A. Complies with the standards and operational limitations set-forth under this section, and,

B. Will not be incompatible with surrounding land uses:

1. The design of the special events facility in terms of its physical and operating characteristics.
2. The intensity of the use proposed and density of the surrounding area, including the size of the parcel proposed for the special event facility and the size of surrounding parcels.
3. The distance to surrounding sensitive receptors, including residences, from the special event facility.
4. The type of sound generated by the special event facility and whether the facility includes an allowance for amplified music, non-amplified music or no music, and the location where amplified and non-amplified music may take place.
5. The location of noise producing activities such as stages, party areas, speakers, temporary tents, and dance floors, including whether such activities may take place entirely within enclosed structures, partially enclosed structures, or in outdoor areas and their proximity to surrounding sensitive receptors.
6. The allowed number of events per year, frequency of events, and allowed number of guests that may occupy the site at any given time.

Butte County Code § 24-222 (Minor Use Permit - Findings)

A. The proposed use is allowed in the applicable zone.

B. The location, size, design, and operating characteristics of the proposed use will be compatible with the existing and future land uses in the vicinity of the subject property.

C. The proposed use will not be detrimental to the public health, safety, and welfare of the County.

D. The proposed use is properly located within the County and adequately served by existing or planned services and infrastructure.

E. The size, shape, and other physical characteristics of the subject property are adequate to ensure compatibility of the proposed use with the existing and future land uses in the vicinity of the subject property.

Discussion

a) Physically divide an established community?

No impact. The subject property is currently developed with a single-family residence and accessory structures including a septic system and well. Proposed events would be located on the rear yard of the residence. No structures would be removed nor would the use of neighboring parcels be affected by the project.

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?

No impact. The project is deemed consistent if the proposed uses are consistent with the applicable General Plan designation and text, the applicable General Plan is legally adequate and internally consistent, and the anticipated types of services to be provided and proposed activities are appropriate to the land use designated for the area. The proposed project does not include an amendment to the existing land use designation and would be consistent with the zoning designation provided a MUP is approved. The proposed project is a request for a MUP, consistent with Section 24-175.2 of the Butte County Zoning Ordinance, including the standards established for the operation of special event facilities. Implementation of the project would not result in a conflict with zoning ordinances because the project is a conditionally allowed use in the AG-20 zone with the approval of a MUP. The project will be designed and conditioned to be consistent with applicable zoning standards and General Plan policies.

1.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

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

Discussion

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?

No impact. The majority of Butte County's sand and gravel deposits occur in two regions, along the Sacramento River and within a band running from north to south down the center of the county. There are no known economically viable sources of rock materials in the immediate vicinity of the project site and no mining has occurred on the project site or surrounding area. Development of the project would not preclude future extraction of available mineral resources. No impact would occur under this threshold.

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?

No impact. The project site is not within or near any designated locally-important mineral resource recovery site.

1.13 NOISE

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIII. Noise.				
Would the project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or in other applicable local, state, or federal standards?	☐	☒	☐	☐
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

According to the Butte County General Plan 2030, noise is a concern throughout Butte County, but especially in rural areas and in the vicinity of noise-sensitive uses such as residences, schools, and churches. Noise is discussed in the Health and Safety Chapter of the Butte County General Plan 2030. Tables HS-2 and HS-3 in the County General Plan (included as Tables 1.13-1 and 1.13-2 below) outline the maximum allowable noise levels at sensitive receptor land uses.

Table 1.13-1. Maximum Allowable Noise Exposure Transportation Noise Sources

	Exterior Noise Level Standard for Outdoor Activity Areas[a]		Interior Noise Level Standard	
LAND USE	L_{dn}/CNEL, dB	L_{eq}, dBA[b]	L_{dn}/CNEL, dB	L_{eq}, dBA[b]
Residential	60[c]	-	45	-
Transient Lodging	60[c]	-	45	-
Hospitals, nursing homes	60[c]	-	45	-
Theaters, auditoriums, music halls	-	-	-	35
Churches, meeting halls	60[c]	-	-	40
Office Buildings	-	-	-	45
Schools, libraries, museums	-	70	-	45
Playgrounds, neighborhood parks	-	70	-	-

Source: Table HS-2, Butte County General Plan 2030

[a] Where the location of outdoor activity areas is unknown, the exterior noise-level standard shall be applied to the property line of the receiving land use.

[b] As determined for a typical worst-case hour during periods of use.

[c] Where it is not possible to reduce noise in outdoor activity areas to 60 dB Ldn/CNEL or less using a practical application of the best-available noise reduction measures, an exterior noise level of up to 65 dB Ldn/CNEL may be allowed, provided that available exterior noise-level reduction measures have been implemented and interior noise levels are in compliance with this table.

Table 1.13-2. Maximum Allowable Noise Exposure Non-Transportation Noise Sources

	Daytime 7 am - 7 pm		Evening 7 pm - 10 pm		Night 10 pm - 7 am	
NOISE LEVEL DESCRIPTION	Urban	Non-Urban	Urban	Non-Urban	Urban	Non-Urban
Hourly Leq (dB)	55	50	50	45	45	40
Maximum Level (dB)	70	60	60	55	55	50

Source: Table HS-3, Butte County General Plan 2030

Notes:

1. "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.
2. 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).
3. 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.
4. 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.

Table 1.13.1, above, identifies the maximum allowable noise exposure to a variety of land uses from transportation sources, including from roadways, rail and airports. Table 1.13-2 identifies the maximum allowable noise exposure from non-transportation sources. In the case of transportation noise sources, exterior noise level standards for residential outdoor activity areas are 60 dB (Ldn/CNEL). However, where it is not possible to reduce noise in an outdoor activity area to 60 dB Ldn /CNEL or less using a practical application of the best-available noise-reduction measures, an exterior noise level of up to 65 dB may be allowed, provided that available exterior noise-level reduction measures have been implemented and interior noise levels are in compliance with applicable standards.

Butte County Noise Ordinance

Chapter 41A, Noise Control, of the Butte County Code applies to the regulation of noise. The purpose of the noise ordinance is to protect the public welfare by limiting unnecessary, excessive, and unreasonable noise. Section 41A-7 specifies the exterior noise limits that apply to land use zones within the County, which are provided in Table 1.13-2.

The Butte County Noise Ordinance provides the County with a means of assessing complaints of alleged noise violations and to address noise level violations from stationary sources. The ordinance includes a list of activities that are exempt from the provisions of the ordinance; however, some noise-generating activities associated with future residential uses would not be considered to be exempt from the Noise Ordinance. Relevant information related to the exterior and interior noise limits set out by the Butte County Noise Ordinance are included below.

Chapter 41A-9 Exemptions

The following are exempted activities identified in Chapter 41A-9 that are applicable to the proposed project:

(f) Noise sources associated with construction, repair, remodeling, demolition, paving or grading of any real property or public works project located within one thousand (1,000) feet of residential uses, provided said activities do not take place between the following hours:

- Sunset to sunrise on weekdays and non-holidays;
- Friday commencing at 6:00 p.m. through and including 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, as well as not before 8:00 a.m. on holidays;
- Saturday commencing at 6:00 p.m. through and including 10:00 a.m. on Sunday; and,
- Sunday after the hour of 6:00 p.m.

Provided, however, when an unforeseen or unavoidable condition occurs during a construction project and the nature of the project necessitates that work in process be continued until a specific phase is completed, the contractor or owner shall be allowed to continue work into the hours delineated above and to operate machinery and equipment necessary to complete the specific work in progress until that specific work can be brought to conclusion under conditions which will not jeopardize inspection acceptance or create undue financial hardships for the contractor or owner;

(g) Noise sources associated with agricultural and timber management operations in zones permitting agricultural and timber management uses;

(h) All mechanical devices, apparatus or equipment which are utilized for the protection or salvage of agricultural crops during periods of adverse weather conditions or when the use of mobile noise sources is necessary for pest control;

(i) Noise sources associated with maintenance of residential area property, provided said activities take place between 7:00 a.m. to sunset on any day except Saturday, Sunday, or a holiday, or between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, Sunday, or a holiday; and, provided machinery is fitted with correctly functioning sound suppression equipment;

Chapter 41A-8 Butte County Interior Noise Standards

Interior noise standards discussed in Chapter 41A apply to all noise sensitive interior area within Butte County. The maximum allowable interior noise level standards for residential uses is 45 dB Ldn/CNEL, which is designed for sleep and speech protection. The typical structural attenuation of a residence from an exterior noise is 15 dBA when windows facing the noise source is open. When windows in good condition are closed, the noise attenuation factor is around 20 dBA for an older structure and 25 dBA for a newer dwelling constructed consistent with Title 24 of the California Energy Code.

Table 1.13-3. Maximum Allowable Interior Noise Standards

NOISE LEVEL DESCRIPTION	Daytime 7 am - 7 pm	Evening 7 pm - 10 pm	Nighttime 10 pm - 7 am
Hourly L_{eq} (dB)	45	40	35
Maximum Level (dB)	60	55	50
Source: Butte County Code Chapter 41A-8, Interior Noise Standards			

Table 1.13-4. Sensitive Receptors

SENSITIVE RECEPTORS	DISTANCE FROM SOUND SYSTEM TO RECEPTOR
R-1 Residence (4921 Jake Rd)	215 feet north
R-2 Residence (4961 Jake Rd)	520 feet northwest

R-3 Residence (15077 Meridian Rd)	700 feet east
R-4 Residence (15069 Meridian Rd)	1,000 feet southeast
R-5 Residence (4870 Will T Rd)	1,550 feet southeast
R-6 Residence (4944 Will T Rd)	1,400 feet south
R-7 Residence (15085 Meridian Rd)	650 feet west

Source: Butte County Geographical Information System/Google Earth imagery. Environmental Noise Assessment (July 6, 2021)-Bollard Acoustical Consultants

Discussion

a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or in other applicable local, state, or federal standards?

Less than significant impact. An environmental noise assessment was prepared for the project by Bollard Acoustical Consultants on July 6, 2021, to evaluate potential noise impacts by the project and determine compliance with County noise standards. The assessment evaluated predicted event-related noise levels at the nearest residence and compared those event-related noise levels against the applicable Butte County noise standards. The assessment analyzed the primary noise sources associated with the project, including event amplified music and speech, crowd noise, and on-site vehicle circulation.

According to the assessment, predicted noise levels in the outdoor event area could exceed the adjusted County daytime and evening hourly average and maximum noise thresholds for non-urban areas at some of the nearest residences. To address potential noise impacts, measures must be taken by event management. These measures include orientating speakers in the event area, maintaining sound system output levels, and monitoring noise levels. These measures are specified in **Mitigation Measure NOI-1**. In addition to the applicant's commitments to control amplified noise, this mitigation will be included as conditions of approval to the Minor Use Permit. While sound generated during events would likely be audible at neighboring properties, compliance with noise level standards established in the Butte County Code and the conditions of approval would ensure that potential noise impacts would be less than significant.

b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

No impact. No new construction or ground-disturbing activities are proposed that would result in excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne 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?

No impact. No public use airports have been identified to be located within the vicinity of the project site. Chico Airport is located approximately 3.6 miles southeast from the project site. The proposed project is located outside the compatibility zones for the area airports, and therefore, would be outside the 60 dBA CNEL noise contour for the airport. The proposed project would not expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels from a public use airport or private airstrip.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measure NOI-1:

The following measures are required for this project to achieve adjusted County daytime (7 am to 7 pm) and evening (7 pm to 10 pm) noise thresholds:

1. During daytime events, the overall average sound levels from music shall not exceed 67 dB at a point 50 feet in front of the speakers. During evening events, the overall average sound levels from the music shall not exceed 62 dB at a point 50 feet in front of the speakers.
2. All amplified music/speech shall conclude by 10 pm.
3. Speakers shall be positioned in the designated event area and oriented to the south.
4. A maximum of one (1) subwoofer shall be used during amplified music events.
5. Custom speaker enclosures (i.e., acoustically-lined plywood boxes open only on the side facing the audience) shall be utilized to minimize sound flanking in the northerly direction.
6. Event management shall procure a Type 2 sound level meter and periodically monitor sound levels at the 50 foot reference distance during events to ensure compliance with the daytime and evening event sound levels noted in Item 1.

All noise emissions resulting from the use shall comply with the requirements of Butte County Code Chapter 41A [Noise Control]. If complaints regarding excessive noise levels are received by the Butte County Development Services Department, the Department may investigate and assess whether the alleged noise levels exceed the noise standards, including through the preparation of an acoustical analysis. If the acoustical analysis determines that noise levels generated by the use have exceeded applicable County noise standards, the applicant shall implement noise attenuation or other measures as recommended by the acoustical professional including, but not limited to, increased setbacks, installation of sound barrier walls or noise berms, and any other changes or improvements necessary to reduce noise levels to conform to applicable County standards. Noise Investigation cost recovery shall be pursuant to Butte County Code Section 41A-19.

Plan Requirements: This measure shall be included as a condition of approval.

Timing: The mitigation shall be applicable during all event activities.

Monitoring: The developer and the Department of Development Services shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with this mitigation and shall respond to all complaints of noise.

1.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

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

Discussion

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)?

No impact. The proposed project would not result in population growth in the County. Special event attendees are transitory, arriving from local and regional population centers for a short duration. The project would not result in a substantial amount of new employees. Any new employees would likely come from the local work force; and thus, would not cause relocation of populations or the need for additional housing.

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

No impact. The special events facility located would be a stand-alone development and not require the removal or construction of any housing. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in the loss of existing housing or cause a significant increase in the local population that would displace existing residents, necessitating the construction of additional housing.

1.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

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

Discussion

a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the 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?

Less than significant impact. Fire protection services are provided by CalFire/Butte County Fire Department. The project is located within a rural area and a Local Responsibility Area for wildland fires. The nearest staffed fire station is the Butte County Fire Station #41, located at 13081 State Highway 99, Chico, California, approximately 3.6 miles south of the site. Build-out of the project may incrementally increase the demand for fire protection services. However, approval of the MUP and project would be consistent with the planned growth documented in Butte County General Plan 2030. Additionally, Butte County assessed fire protection impact fees for existing development at the site to help offset the impacts on the fire protection services. Impact fees are used to fund capital costs associated with acquiring land for new fire stations, constructing new fire stations, purchasing fire equipment, and providing for additional staff as needed. A less than significant impact would occur under this threshold.

Police protection?

Less than significant impact. The Butte County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) provides law enforcement service to the site. The BCSO also maintains a mutual aid agreement with the Chico Police Department. Municipal police departments are responsible for protecting the citizens and property within their jurisdictions. Under the terms of the mutual aid agreements, the BCSO can assume that role in these jurisdictions upon request or in the event of the inability of municipal police departments to provide law enforcement. Implementation of the proposed project could increase

service calls during events. While the project is not expected to cause a noticeable increase in demand for law enforcement services, it is presumed adequate resources are available in the area. The project would not require any new law enforcement facilities or the alteration of existing facilities to maintain acceptable performance objectives. A less than significant impact would occur under this threshold.

Schools?

No impact. The project site is located within the Chico Union School District. The project would not affect demand for school facilities in the area.

Parks?

No impact. The project would not affect demand for existing local and regional park facilities. The event facility would host temporary and periodic events. No impact would occur under this threshold.

Other public facilities?

Less than significant impact. The project does not require the extension of any public infrastructure, such as roads, water, or sewer systems. The project may increase demand for County services, such as law enforcement, fire protection and road maintenance. Other services such as schools, recreation and libraries would not be affected. Butte County collects various types of development impact fees to partially offset the cost and impacts associated with new development. With payment of fees, a less than significant impact would occur under this threshold.

1.16 RECREATION

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVI. Recreation.				
Would the project:				
a) 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) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

The project site is located within the Chico Recreation and Park District (CARD). The district covers an area of approximately 208 square miles, and includes the City of Chico. The district operates and maintains approximately 214 acres of developed parkland and facilities to serve a population of approximately 104,367 residents. This translates into a level of service of 1.85 acres of parklands for every 1,000 residents. The total park facilities operated by the district do not include Bidwell Park and parks operated by State and Federal agencies. No park facilities are located in the vicinity of the project site; however, it's anticipated that future residents of the project site would likely use facilities located in the City of Chico, as well as nearby State-operated facilities, to meet their recreational needs.

Discussion

a) 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?

No impact. Build-out of the project per the AG-20 zoning designation and approved MUP is not expected to affect demand for existing local and regional park facilities. No impact would occur under this threshold.

b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

No impact. The project would likely not include plans for recreational facilities nor would it require expansion of existing recreational facilities. The project would not result in any adverse physical effects on the environment from the expansion of recreational facilities. No impact would occur under this threshold.

1.17 TRANSPORTATION

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVII. Transportation.				
Would the project:				
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

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

Less than significant impact. The proposed project would generate varying traffic volumes based on the type of event and number of attendees. Trips rates is anticipated to generate approximately 25 vehicle trips for events having 100 attendees (based on the assumption of one vehicle per four attendees). The events would be intermittent and result in a temporary increase in area traffic prior to and after scheduled events which are expected to primarily occur during off-peak hours (i.e. weekends, evenings). Existing traffic volumes on Meridian Road are typically low as it serves primarily agricultural and rural residential areas. As a result, traffic flows along the roadway are stable with only minimal restrictions and delays for the individual driver.

It is recognized that the project would add traffic to the local roadways. The number of vehicles would be dependent on the size of the event. Smaller events would occur more frequently and have a lesser impact on traffic and the overall circulation system. Thus, traffic volumes associated with the project would contribute to periodic increases in volumes; however, this would not cause a permanent, substantial increase in vehicle trips or intersection congestion.

The applicant has provided a Traffic Control Plan as part of the project that includes measures to alleviate potential temporary traffic delays and traffic safety issues associated with event traffic volumes. The Traffic Control Plan would ensure that internal access driveways and intersections with Meridian Road are consistent with State and local design standards provided in the Butte County Improvements Standards (updated February 2020). The Plan also describes how traffic is handled during events to ensure that vehicles do not block Meridian Road or other residential driveways. This would be accomplished by maintaining temporary signage and having parking attendants' available to direct traffic.

There are no designated pedestrian or bicycle transportation facilities located near the project site, nor are such facilities proposed for the project area. Meridian Road is not identified as an existing or planned bike route in the adopted 2011 Butte County Bicycle Plan. Given the lack of existing facilities, pedestrian and bicycle traffic generally will use the unpaved and paved roadway shoulders, or the paved travel lanes. Development of the project would not have long-term impacts on alternative transportation facilities due to having no long-

term increase in population in the project area. Events may generate short-term disruption to area roadways from an anticipated increase in traffic levels that may affect alternative transportation uses. However, activities associated with the proposed project would be temporary and short in duration. If needed, additional temporary traffic control signs and devices may be added by the applicant, with review of the Butte County Public Works Department, to address temporary traffic increases.

b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

Less than significant impact. Approved by the Governor in 2013 and codified in California Public Resources Code 21099, Senate Bill 743 directs a change in transportation impact analysis conducted under CEQA, wherein transportation impacts of a project are evaluated using the metric of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) rather than the level of service (LOS). In contrast to the automobile delay and congestion measured by LOS, VMT accounts for the number of trips generated by a project, multiplied by the length in miles of each trip. The legislation intends to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from automobile use by reducing the length and/or the number of automobile trips.

Public Resources Code 21099 directs the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to develop criteria for determining the significance of transportation impacts for projects. Technical guidance offered by OPR in its Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA (December 2018) suggests that a development project would have a potentially significant VMT impact if it did not reduce VMT by 15 or more percent below the per capita average for the region in which the project is located. OPR's technical advisory provides no direct guidance for short-term projects or construction impacts. However, it does include a screening criterion of 110 new permanent vehicle trips, below which a project would not be anticipated to have a significant impact.

The proposed project would generate varying traffic volumes based on the type of event and the number of attendees. The project proposes to have up to a maximum of 10 events per year that will host up to 100 guests. Based on the limiting factors of the project, the maximum anticipated vehicle trips generated during corporate events would be 25. Traffic generated during events would be intermittent, resulting in a temporary increase in area traffic only during periods before and after scheduled events.

The project's total number of vehicle trips is far lower than the 110 vehicle trips per day screening criteria established by OPR's technical advisory. As a result, the project would not have significant transportation impacts, and additional VMT analysis is unnecessary.

c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

No impact. The proposed project would not change the configuration (alignment) of area roadways and would not introduce types of vehicles that would result in dangerous conditions on area roads. The applicant has provided a Traffic Control Plan that includes measures to alleviate potential temporary impacts associated with event traffic volumes. The Plan would ensure that internal access driveways and intersections with Meridian Road are consistent with State and local design standards. In the event that future driveway encroachment improvements are required, the work will be performed in compliance with a Butte County Encroachment Permit. Thus, no impact associated with roadway hazards resulting from geometric design features would occur.

d) Result in inadequate emergency access?

No impact. The project site would be accessed via an existing driveway off an unnamed private road that intersects with Meridian Road, a county-maintained roadway. Driveways and approach aprons (encroachments) from the project site to the road will be designed and constructed to meet all applicable local development standards, ensuring that access is adequate to provide emergency ingress and egress, and not create unsafe conditions.

1.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVIII. Tribal Cultural Resources.				
Has a California Native American Tribe requested consultation in accordance with Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1(b)?	☐ Yes		☒ No	
Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
a) 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)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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 Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

Tribal Cultural Resources are defined as a site feature, place, cultural landscape, sacred place or object, which is of cultural value to a Tribe and is either on or eligible for the California Historic Register, a local register, or a resource that the lead agency, at its discretion, chooses to treat as such (Public Resources Code Section 21074 (a)(1)).

Butte County contains a rich diversity of archaeological, prehistoric and historical resources. The General Plan 2030 EIR observes that the "archaeological sensitivity of Butte County is generally considered high, particularly in areas near water sources or on terraces along water courses" (Butte County General Plan EIR, 2010, p. 4.5-7).

A substantial adverse change upon a historically significant resource would be one wherein the resource is demolished or materially altered so that it no longer conveys its historic or cultural significance in such a way that justifies its inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources or such a local register (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5, sub. (b)(2)). Cultural resources include prehistoric and historic period archaeological sites; historical features, such as rock walls, water ditches and flumes, and cemeteries; and architectural features. Cultural resources consist of any human-made site, object (i.e., artifact), or feature that defines and illuminates our past. Often such sites are found in foothill areas, areas with high bluffs, rock outcroppings, areas overlooking deer migratory corridors, or near bodies of water.

Per Assembly Bill AB 52 (Statutes of 2014) Notification Request, Public Resources Code Section 21080.3(b), the County received two letters for notification. One was from the Torres Martinez Cahuilla Indians, located in southern California near the Salton Sea, and the other was from United Auburn Indian Community, located near the City of Auburn. It was determined through discussion with the Torres Martinez Cahuilla Indians that they do not identify lands within Butte County within their geographic area of traditional and cultural affiliation. The United Auburn Indian Community provided a map of their area of traditional and cultural affiliation, which did not include the project site.

Discussion

Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k)?

No impact. The project site is extensively disturbed from existing uses and structures. No new construction or ground-disturbing activities are proposed that would result in impacts to tribal cultural resources. No features exist on the property, including objects, sites, or landscapes, that could be considered as having cultural value to California Native American tribes, or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historic Resources.

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 Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?

No impact. The project site is extensively disturbed from existing uses and structures. No new construction or ground-disturbing activities are proposed that would result in impacts to tribal cultural resources. No features exist on the property, including objects, sites, or landscapes, that could be considered as having cultural value to California Native American tribes, or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historic Resources.

1.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIX. Utilities and Service Systems.				
Would the project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

Solid Waste

Most municipal wastes are hauled to the Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility, which is owned by Butte County and managed by the Butte County Department of Public Works. The Neal Road Facility is located at 1023 Neal Road, one mile east from State Highway 99, and seven miles southeast of Chico, on 190 acres owned by Butte County. The Neal Road Facility is permitted to accept municipal solid waste, inert industrial waste, demolition materials, special wastes containing nonfriable asbestos, and septage. Hazardous wastes, including friable asbestos, are not accepted at the Neal Road Facility or any other Butte County disposal facility, and must be transported to a Class I landfill permitted to receive untreated hazardous waste. The Facility has a design capacity of 25,271,900 cubic yards, and is permitted to accept 1,500 tons per day; however, the average daily disposal into the landfill is approximately 466 tons. As of November 2017, the remaining capacity of the Neal Road Facility is approximately 15,449,172 cubic yards, which would give the landfill a service life to the year 2048 (Neal Road Recycling & Waste Facility, 2017).

Discussion

a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?

No impact. The project site is currently served by electric power (PG&E) and wireless phone service. Wastewater disposal for the project site is provided by a permitted onsite septic system, installed in accordance with applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board regulations. Use of portable toilets during events, and potential, occasional use of the County-approved wastewater disposal septic system will be reflected as a condition of approval, and is enforceable through the terms of the condition. The project would not result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded infrastructure including water services, wastewater treatment, stormwater drainage, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities.

b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?

Less than significant impact. Domestic water to planned uses on the project site would be provided by using bottled water and/or water imported from off-site, with occasional use of the existing well also available. Existing groundwater supplies are anticipated to be available to serve the proposed project, and no additional or expanded entitlements are required for groundwater extraction and use.

c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that 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?

No impact. Wastewater disposal for the proposed project would be provided by portable facilities as conditioned by Butte County Environmental Health Department. A private, on-site septic system would also be used to manage wastewater. No wastewater treatment provider currently serves the project area.

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?

Less than significant impact. Operations would result in a minor increase of solid waste that would require disposal at the Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility. Solid waste would be removed from the property every seven days, or as needed. The Neal Road Facility has a maximum permitted throughput of 1,500 tons per day, and an estimated current daily average throughput of 466 tons per day. Therefore, the facility would have adequate capacity to accommodate solid waste generated by the project.

e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

No impact. The proposed project would comply with statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Waste generated by the proposed project would consist only of domestic refuse, which would be collected in approved trash bins and removed from the project site by a waste hauler or by the onsite applicant.

1.20 WILDFIRE

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XX.Wildfire.				
Is the project located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as high fire hazard severity zones?	☒ Yes		☐ No	
If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Require the installation 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

The project site is designated as a moderate fire hazard by the State Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The project site is located within a designated State Responsibility Area (SRA); thus, the State of California (CalFire) has fiscal responsibility for preventing and suppressing any potential wildfires.

Discussion

a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

No impact. A Traffic Control Plan approved by Butte County Department of Public Works would be implemented to ensure access for guests, vendors, employees and emergency vehicles is maintained. Temporary restrictions during events would not affect emergency access or interfere with an emergency evacuation plan. No impact would occur under this threshold.

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?

No impact. The project site is located in a rural residential area with rolling topography. The nearest fire station to the project site is Butte County Fire Station #41 located 3.6 miles south of the site. No conditions or factors have been identified in the project area that would exacerbate wildfire risks. No impact would occur under this threshold.

c) Require the installation 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?

No impact. No off-site infrastructure improvements are needed to address fire or emergency access requirements. The existing driveway is capable of accommodating emergency vehicles. No impact would occur under this threshold.

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?

No impact. The project site is has level topography with slopes between 0 to 2 percent. The project site is not located in a flood zone. Further. Figure H-6 in the Butte County General Plan indicates the site is located in an area with low to no potential for landslide (see discussion Section 1.7.a – Geology Soils). Therefore, no impacts from post-fire instability or drainage changes have been identified. No impact would occur under this threshold.

1.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XX.Mandatory Findings of Significance.				
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare, or threatened species, 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 that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

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

Less than significant impact. The proposed project's impacts on biological resources and cultural resources were analyzed in this Initial Study, and all direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts were determined to have no impact, a less than significant impact, or reduced to a less than significant impact with implementation of mitigation. No special status species were identified in the proposed project area, and the project would not cause fish or wildlife populations to drop below self-sustaining levels or restrict the movement/distribution of a rare or endangered species.

The development of the proposed project would not affect known historic, archaeological, or paleontological resources because no new development or earth-disturbing activities are proposed. Additionally, the project applicant is required to comply with *California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15064.5(e)*, *California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5*, and *Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5097.98* as a matter of policy in the event human remains are encountered at any time.

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.)

Less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated. The project would have no impact, a less than significant impact or a less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated with respect to all environmental issues pursuant to CEQA. Due to the limited scope of direct physical impacts to the environment associated with the project, potential impacts are project-specific in nature.

The proposed project site is located within an area that has been designated by the County for AG-40 uses. Short-term air quality impacts may result from operation of the site. Impacts would be reduced to less than significant levels with implementation of **Mitigation Measure AIR-1**. Potential impacts associated with lighting would be addressed with implementation of **Mitigation Measure AES-1** if needed.

The cumulative effects resulting from build out of the Butte County General Plan 2030 were previously identified in the General Plan EIR. The type, scale, and location of the type of development proposed would be consistent with the County's General Plan and zoning designation with approval of a MUP and is compatible with the pattern of development on adjacent properties. Because of this consistency, the potential cumulative environmental effects of the proposed project would fall within the impacts identified in the County's General Plan EIR. The project would be subject to required "fair share" development impact fees, which will be paid at the time of development.

c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

Less than significant impact. There have been no impacts discovered through the review of this application demonstrating that approval of the MUP application and future project operations would cause substantial adverse effects to human beings either directly or indirectly. However, the proposed project has the potential to cause both temporary and future impacts related to aesthetics and air quality. With implementation of mitigation measures included in this Initial Study, these impacts would be mitigated to less than significant.

Authority for the Environmental Checklist: Public Resources Code Sections 21083, 21083.5.

Reference: Government Code Sections 65088.4.
Public Resources Code Sections 21080, 21083.5, 21095; *Eureka Citizens for Responsible Govt. v. City of Eureka* (2007) 147 Cal.App.4th 357; *Protect the Historic Amador Waterways v. Amador Water Agency* (2004) 116 Cal.App.4th at 1109; *San Franciscans Upholding the Downtown Plan v. City and County of San Francisco* (2002) 102 Cal.App.4th 656.

Environmental Reference Materials

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2. Butte County. *Butte County Bicycle Plan*. June 14, 2011. Available at https://www.buttecounty.net/Portals/22/downloads/BikewayMastserPlan/5-23-11%20FINAL%20Draft_County_Bike_Plan%20June%2014%202011%20with%20Table%20of%20Contents.pdf

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4. Butte County. *Butte County General Plan 2030 Final Environmental Impact Report*. April 8, 2010. Available at http://www.buttegeneralplan.net/products/2010-08-30_FEIR/default.asp.

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7. Butte County. *Butte County General Plan 2030 Setting and Trends Report Public Draft*. August 2, 2007. Available at http://www.buttegeneralplan.net/products/SettingandTrends/default.asp.

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9. Butte County. *Butte County Department of Development Services GIS Data*. September 2020.

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11. Butte County Association of Governments, 2017/2018 Traffic Counts. http://www.bcag.org/documents/demographics/traffic_counts/BCAG_Traffic_Counts_2018_final_web.pdf

12. Butte County Public Works Department, Division of Waste Management. Joint Technical Document-Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility, Butte County, California. November 2017.

13. California Department of Conservation. *Fault-Rupture Hazard Zones in California. Altquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act with Index to Earthquake Fault Zone Maps*. Special Publication 42. Interim Revision. 2007.

14. California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection. *A Guide to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program*. 2004.

15. California Department of Toxic Substance Control. 2009. *Envirostor Database*. Accessed on September 2020. http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public.

16. California Department of Finance. *Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State, 2011-2018*. March 5, 2019.

Mitigation Measure NOI-1:

The following measures are required for this project to achieve adjusted County daytime (7 am to 7 pm) and evening (7 pm to 10 pm) noise thresholds:

1. During daytime events, the overall average sound levels from music shall not exceed 67 dB at a point 50 feet in front of the speakers. During evening events, the overall average sound levels from the music shall not exceed 62 dB at a point 50 feet in front of the speakers.
2. All amplified music/speech shall conclude by 10 pm.
3. Speakers shall be positioned in the designated event area and oriented to the south.
4. A maximum of one (1) subwoofer shall be used during amplified music events.
5. Custom speaker enclosures (i.e., acoustically-lined plywood boxes open only on the side facing the audience) shall be utilized to minimize sound flanking in the northerly direction.
6. Event management shall procure a Type 2 sound level meter and periodically monitor sound levels at the 50 foot reference distance during events to ensure compliance with the daytime and evening event sound levels noted in Item 1.

All noise emissions resulting from the use shall comply with the requirements of Butte County Code Chapter 41A [Noise Control]. If complaints regarding excessive noise levels are received by the Butte County Development Services Department, the Department may investigate and assess whether the alleged noise levels exceed the noise standards, including through the preparation of an acoustical analysis. If the acoustical analysis determines that noise levels generated by the use have exceeded applicable County noise standards, the applicant shall implement noise attenuation or other measures as recommended by the acoustical professional including, but not limited to, increased setbacks, installation of sound barrier walls or noise berms, and any other changes or improvements necessary to reduce noise levels to conform to applicable County standards. Noise Investigation cost recovery shall be pursuant to Butte County Code Section 41A-19.

Plan Requirements: This measure shall be included as a condition of approval.

Timing: The mitigation shall be applicable during all event activities.

Monitoring: The developer and the Department of Development Services shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with this mitigation and shall respond to all complaints of noise.

Project Sponsor(s) Incorporation of Mitigation into Proposed Project

I/We have reviewed the Initial Study for the Terry Alexander Minor Use Permit (MUP19-0005) application and particularly the mitigation measures identified herein. I/We hereby modify the applications on file with the Butte County Planning Department to include and incorporate all mitigations set forth in this Initial Study.

Project Sponsor/Project Agent	Date
Project Sponsor/Project Agent	Date

APPENDIX - A

Meridian Meadows

Special Event Facility

Terry Alexander

15081 Meridian Rd, Chico 95973

May 1, 2019

Contents

Butte County Department of Development Services

TIM SNELLINGS, DIRECTOR | PETE CALARCO, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
7 County Center Drive
Oroville, CA 95965
530.552.3701 Telephone
530.538.7785 Facsimile

BUTTE COUNTY
JUL 18 2019
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Butte County • CALIFORNIA •

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project # (Staff Use Only) MUP19 0005

APPLICANT'S NAME: (If applicant is different from owner an affidavit is required.) Terry Alexander	ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER: 047 - 100 - 106
ADDRESS: STREET, CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE 15081 Meridian Rd, Chico CA 95973	TELEPHONE: (530) 513 - 9617
E-MAIL: meridiank9resorts@me.com	FAX: ( ) -
OWNER'S NAME: same as above	TELEPHONE: ( ) -
ADDRESS: STREET, CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE: same as above	

PROPERTY INFORMATION

NAME OF PROPOSED PROJECT (if any) Meridian Meadows	SITE SIZE (in square feet or acres) 10 acres

LOCATION OF PROJECT (major cross streets and address, if any)
15081 Meridian Rd, Chico CA 95973

ZONE	GENERAL PLAN	EXISTING LAND USE	PROPOSED LAND USE
Ag	Ag-20	Residential/Commercial	Residential/Commercial

EXISTING STRUCTURES (square feet) approx 8000'	PROPOSED STRUCTURES (square feet) n/a	UNDER WILLIAMSON ACT CONTRACT ☐ Yes ■ No

(Check One)	(Check One)
☐ PROPERTY IS OR PROPOSED TO BE SEWERED	☐ PROPERTY IS OR PROPOSED TO BE ON PUBLIC WATER
☒ PROPERTY IS OR PROPOSED TO BE ON SEPTIC	☒ PROPERTY IS OR PROPOSED TO BE ON WELL WATER

APPLICATION TYPE

☐ ADMINISTRATIVE PERMIT	☐ TENTATIVE SUBDIVISION MAP
☐ LEGAL LOT DETERMINATION	☐ TENTATIVE PARCEL MAP
☐ CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT	☐ WAIVER OF PARCEL MAP
☐ MINOR USE PERMIT	☐ CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION
☐ COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY UP/MUP	☐ REZONE
☐ VARIANCE	☐ GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT
☐ MINOR VARIANCE	☐ MINING AND RECLAMATION PLAN
☐ LOT LINE ADJUSTMENT	☐ DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT
☐ CERTIFICATE OF MERGER	■ OTHER Special Event Facility

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

FULL DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT (Attach necessary sheets. If this application is for a land division, describe the number and size of parcels.)

The proposed Meridian Meadows will be available for weddings and corporate functions.
This 10-acre property is already an established dog boarding facility that has been in business for 30 years.
The events will take place at the center of the property, on a grassy area in between the pond and the residence.

OWNER CERTIFICATION

I CERTIFY THAT I AM PRESENTLY THE LEGAL OWNER OR THE AUTHORIZED AGENT OF THE OWNER OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY. FURTHER, I ACKNOWLEDGE THE FILING OF THIS APPLICATION AND CERTIFY THAT ALL OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS TRUE AND ACCURATE. (If an agent is to be authorized, execute an affidavit of authorization and include the affidavit with this application.)

DATE: 7/8/2019 SIGNATURE: _____

Please contact Planning Division Staff with any questions.

Operations Plan

The proposed Meridian Meadows will be available for weddings and corporate functions. This 10-acre property is already an established dog boarding facility that has been in business for 30 years. The property is also a residence and horse property, with barns, an arena, and man-made ponds to enhance the views. The events will take place at the center of the property, on a grassy area in between the pond and the house.

1. Estimate no more than 10 events per year
2. Maximum number of people is 100
3. Events will be approximately 4 hours long, and over by 10pm
4. Will use amplified music and microphones to enhance the event experience
5. Will not be using the well to facilitate these events. All drinking water will be supplied by the party that will be occupying the venue for the event.
6. As discussed with Doug Danz (Program Manager Environmental Health), portable toilets will be used for the first two years. We understand that we may have to install a more permanent situation in the future.

Site Plan

There are vicinity maps labeled for ease and clarity:

- **Map A**- the Master Map, includes information table, property boundaries, buildings and setbacks and natural features.
- **Map B**- depicts the traffic, circulation and lit parking areas. The arena will accommodate 100 people

Terry L. Alexander
15081 Meridian Rd

Zone - Ag

10 Acres, 422,500'

1" - 60'

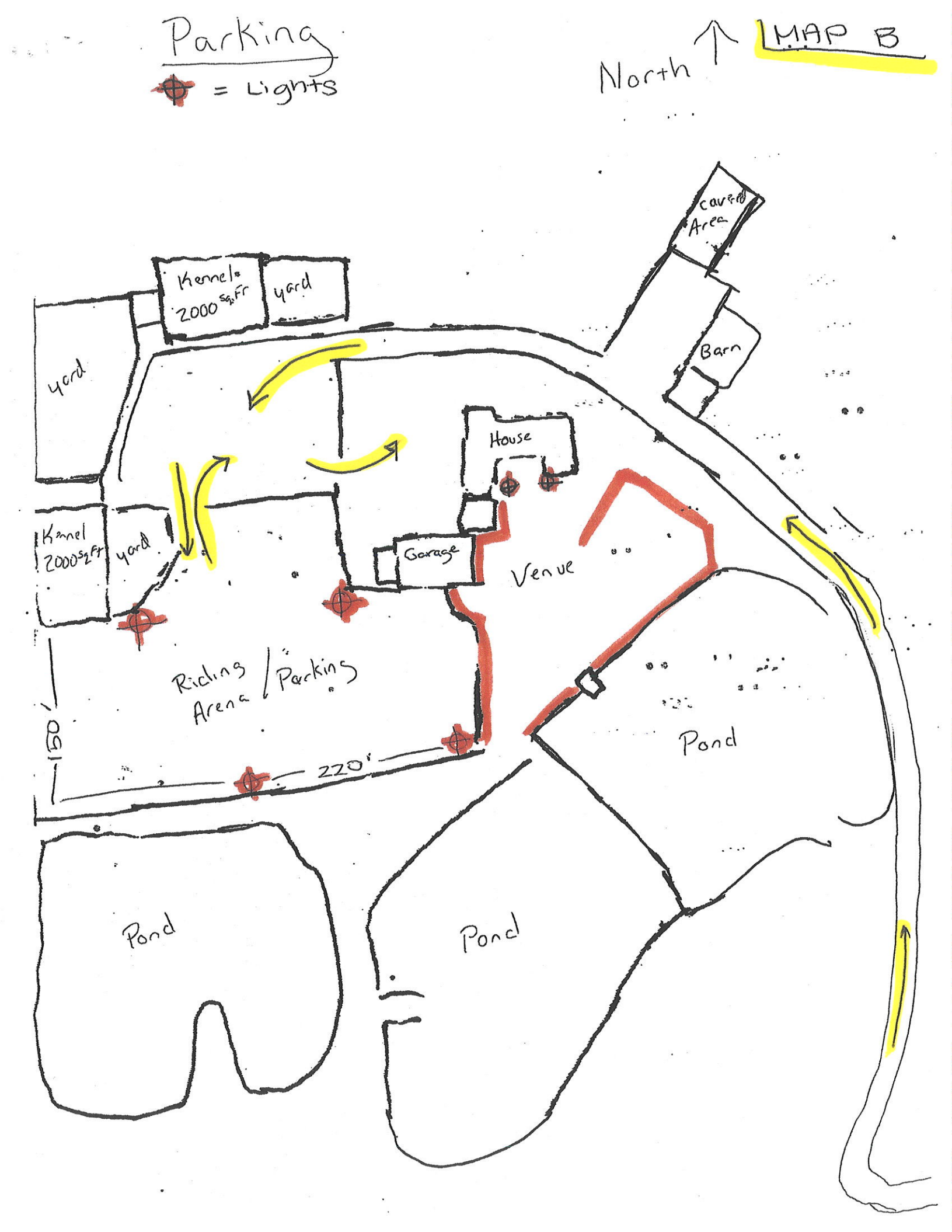
scale

Zone: Ag

General Plan: Ag-20

Parcel: 047-100-104

MAP A


Parking
= Lights
North
MAP B
Kennel 2000 Sq Ft
yard
yard
Kennel 2000 Sq Ft
yard
Barn
House
Garage
Venue
Riding Arena / Parking
220'
Pond
Pond
Pond

Other Considerations

Building Considerations

There will be no buildings that will be used for the special event. This is an outdoor venue only.

Noise Analysis

This property has housed Meridian Kennels, also known as Meridian K9 Resorts, for over 30 years. As you may imagine, a dog kennel can generate quite a bit of noise. In the duration of this business, there have not been any noise complaints.

Dust Control Plan

As mentioned above, this property has already been used for commercial purposes for many years. The speed limit on the gravel road is marked at 10 MPH. As long as this limit is observed, there are no dust issues and no complaints.

Lighting Plan

There is lighting throughout the venue. There is lighting strung along existing fencing, as well as spotlights throughout the venue and parking area. The lighting is depicted on Map B in the orange highlight.

Sign Plan

There is not a current plan for signage.

Agricultural Maintenance Plan

This is not applicable to this property.


Legend
Guest Parking
Parking entrance
parking spots
Rental area
Temporary
Parking entrance
Temporary sign-E
Temporary sign-D
Permanent sign-C
Temporary sign-B
Temporary sign-D
Temporary sign-A
Meridian Rd
Traffic Control Plan
The event traffic control plan is intended to ensure an orderly and safe arrival, parking, and departure of all vehicles attending events.
Google Earth
©2020 Google
N
300 ft

Meridian Meadows Special Event Facility: Traffic Control Plan

Map

The map shows the event facility, the parking area and the road leading to the site. The yellow border depicts the property line. The blue border depicts the parking area. The orange border depicts the rental space.

Signage

Meridian Meadows is located ¼ mile down a gravel road off of Meridian Rd. This gravel road does not have a name.

- There is a temporary sign on Meridian Rd, indicating where people should turn onto the gravel road to find Meridian Meadows. This temporary sign will be 2' by 2'. (located on map as "A")
- Halfway down this gravel road, there will be another pole sign pointing down the gravel road towards the venue. (located on map s "B")
- At the beginning of the Meridian Meadows property, there is a sharp right turn. There is a wall sign and an archway here. The wall sign is 5' by 7'. (located on map as "C")
- There are two pole signs indicating 10 MPH (located on map as "D")

Venue Renters will be allowed to place temporary signs on Meridian Rd, next to the Venue signage, as needed. They will be allowed to place the temporary sign 24 hours prior to the start of their event, and the sign will be removed no later than 24 hours after the start of the event. (located on map as "A")

There will be a temporary sign at the entrance to the parking lot. This sign will indicate the entrance to the parking area and be in place 24 hours before, and 24 hours after the event. (located on map as "E")

Parking Area

The dimensions of the parking area are 285 x 170 x 160 x 240 ft. The surface of the parking area is dirt, and is located next to the barns. 12 cars can park in each row and there is space for at least 4 rows, which would allow for 48 cars. The travel lanes are approximately 25ft wide on the gravel road and in between the parking rows.

Parking Attendants

Meridian Meadows will contractually require that the Venue Renters to provide a parking attendant for their event.

APPENDIX - B

Environmental Noise Assessment

Meridian Meadows Special Events Facility

Butte County, California

BAC Job # 2021-066

Prepared For:

Butte County Department of Development Services

Attn: Rowland Hickel
7 County Center Drive
Oroville, CA 95965

Prepared By:

Bollard Acoustical Consultants, Inc.

Dario Gotchet, Senior Consultant

July 6, 2021

BOLLARD
Acoustical Consultants

Introduction

The proposed Meridian Meadows Special Event Facility (project) is located at 15081 Meridian Road in Butte County, CA. The enlarged project vicinity and focused project area are shown on Figures 1 and 2, respectively.

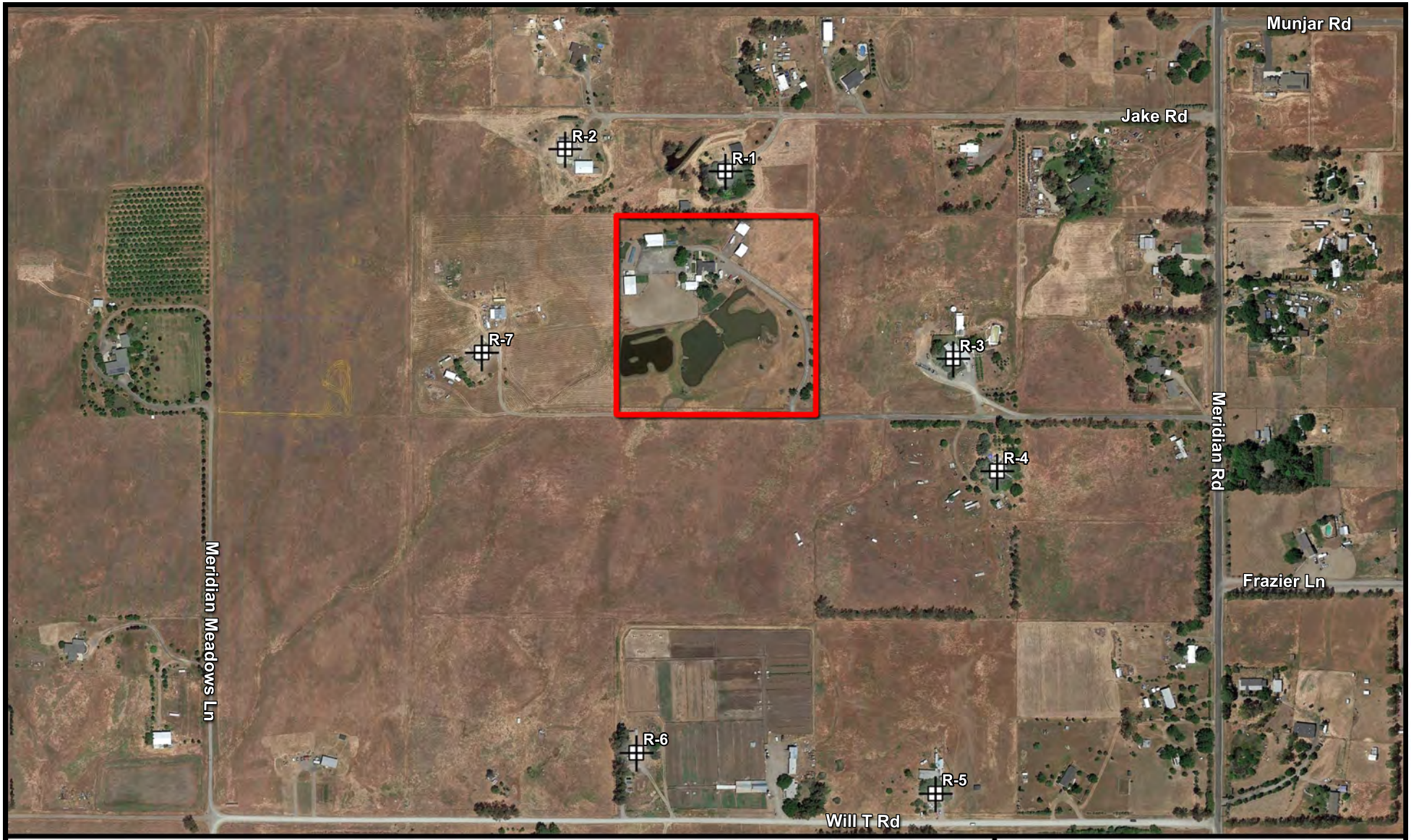
The project applicant is seeking the approval from the Butte County Department of Development Services to hold special events on the property that would include weddings and corporate functions. The project proposes up to 10 events per year, with a maximum number of 100 persons per event, and would include amplified music/speech. All events held on the property would conclude by 10:00 p.m.

Due to the potential noise generation of the events relative to nearby noise-sensitive uses (residences), the Butte County Department of Development Services has requested an environmental noise assessment to ensure that the applicable noise standards are satisfied. In response to this request, Bollard Acoustical Consultants, Inc. (BAC) was retained to prepare this noise assessment. Specifically, the purposes of this assessment are to predict event-related noise levels at the nearest residences, to compare those event-related noise levels against the applicable Butte County noise standards, and to recommend noise mitigation measures for any identified potentially significant noise impacts resulting from the project. The primary noise sources associated with the project have been identified as event amplified music and speech, crowd noise, and on-site vehicle circulation.

Noise Fundamentals and Terminology

Noise is often described as unwanted sound. Sound is defined as any pressure variation in air that the human ear can detect. If the pressure variations occur frequently enough (at least 20 times per second), they can be heard, and thus are called sound. Measuring sound directly in terms of pressure would require a very large and awkward range of numbers. To avoid this, the decibel scale was devised. The decibel scale allows a million-fold increase in pressure to be expressed as 120 dB. Another useful aspect of the decibel scale is that changes in levels (dB) correspond closely to human perception of relative loudness. Appendix A contains definitions of Acoustical Terminology. Figure 3 shows common noise levels associated with various sources.

The perceived loudness of sounds is dependent upon many factors, including sound pressure level and frequency content. However, within the usual range of environmental noise levels, perception of loudness is relatively predictable, and can be approximated by weighting the frequency response of a sound level meter by means of the standardized A-weighting network. There is a strong correlation between A-weighted sound levels (expressed as dBA) and community response to noise. For this reason, the A-weighted sound level has become the standard tool of environmental noise assessment. All noise levels reported in this section are in terms of A-weighted levels in decibels.



Legend

Project Property Boundary (Approximate)

Noise-Sensitive Receivers (Rural Residences on Agricultural Lands)

N

Scale (feet)

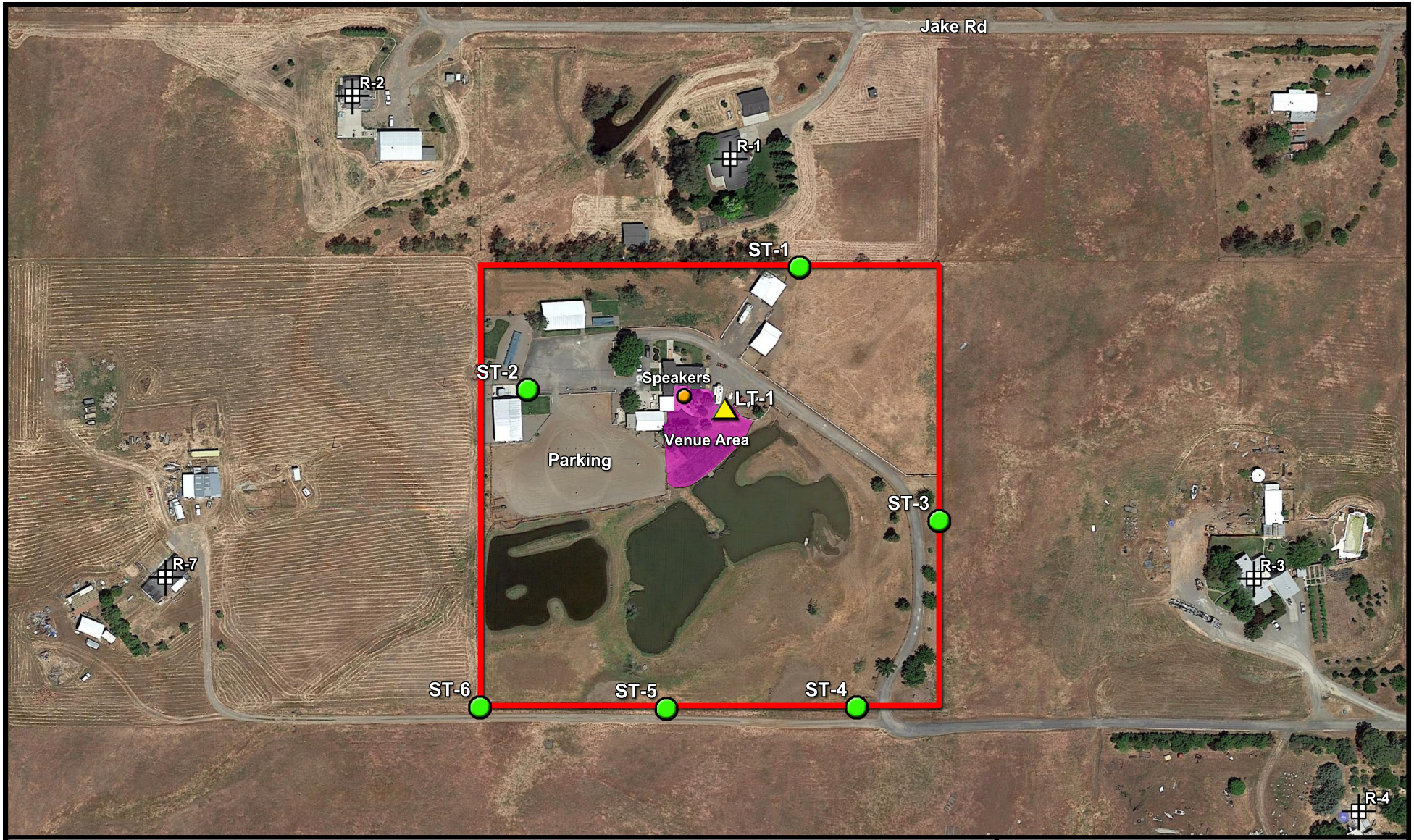
0 200 400

Meridian Meadows Special Events Facility
Butte County, California

Vicinity Map

Figure 1

BOLLARD Acoustical



Legend

- Project Property Boundary (Approximate)
- Short-Term Noise Measurement Sites (Event Music Simulation)
- Long-Term Noise Measurement Site (Ambient Conditions)
- Noise-Sensitive Receivers (Rural Residences on Agricultural Lands)

N

Scale (feet)

0 100 200

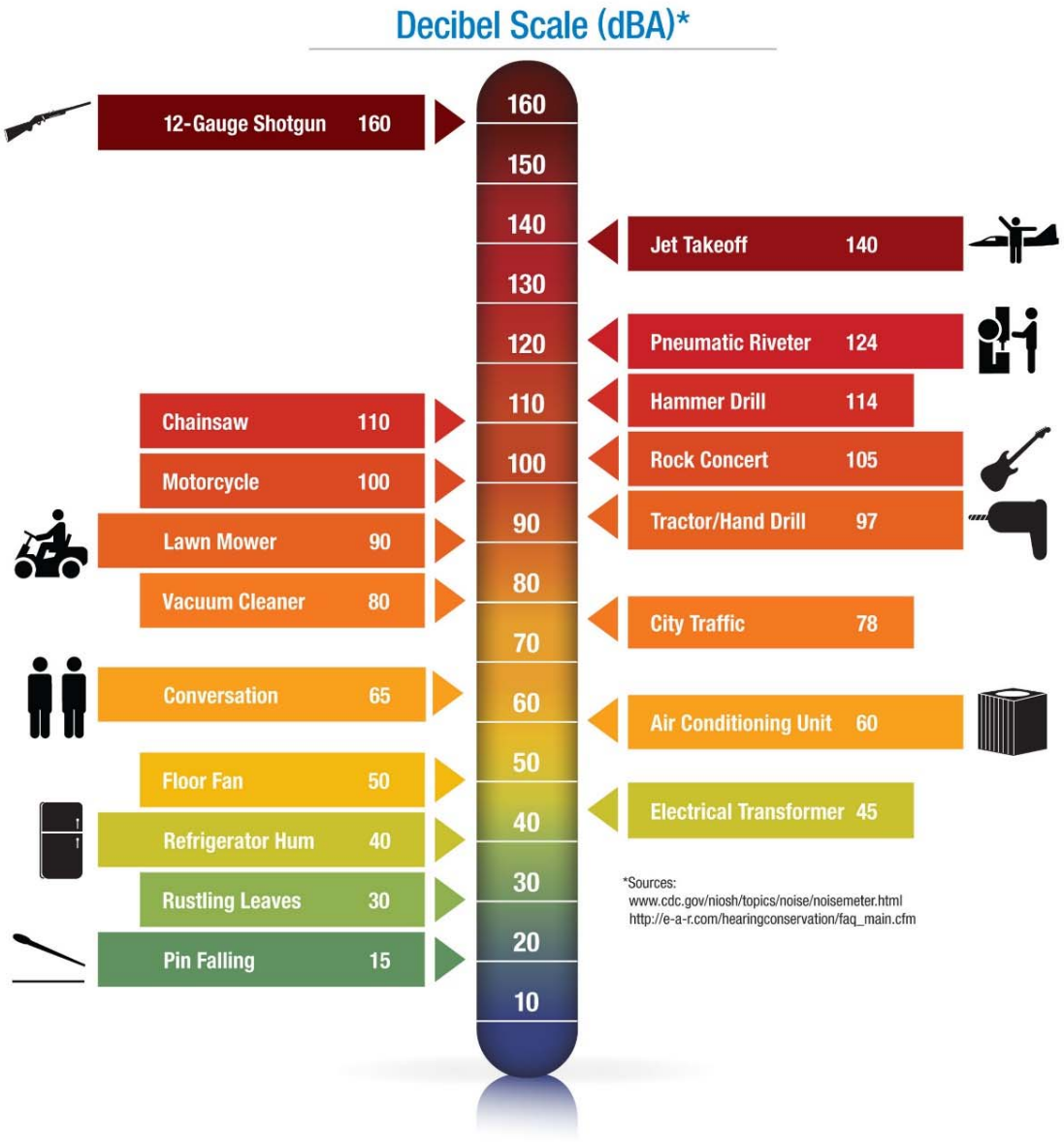
Meridian Meadows Special Events Facility
Butte County, California

Project Area

Figure 2

BOLLARD Acoustical

Figure 3
Noise Levels Associated with Common Noise Sources



Community noise is commonly described in terms of the "ambient" noise level, which is defined as the all-encompassing noise level associated with a given noise environment. A common statistical tool to measure the ambient noise level is the average, or equivalent, sound level (L_{eq}) over a given time period (usually one hour). The L_{eq} is the foundation of the Day-Night Average Level noise descriptor, L_{dn} or DNL, and shows very good correlation with community response to noise.

The Day-Night Average Level (DNL) is based upon the average noise level over a 24-hour day, with a +10-decibel weighting applied to noise occurring during nighttime (10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.) hours. The nighttime penalty is based upon the assumption that people react to nighttime noise exposures as though they were twice as loud as daytime exposures. Because DNL represents a 24-hour average, it tends to disguise short-term variations in the noise environment. DNL-based noise standards are commonly used to assess noise impacts associated with traffic, railroad, and aircraft noise sources.

Criteria for Acceptable Noise Exposure

Butte County Code of Ordinances

Chapter 41A of the Butte County Code of Ordinances provides exterior noise standards for noise-sensitive exterior areas within the County. The standards are provided in terms of hourly average (L_{eq}) and maximum (L_{max}) noise descriptors for daytime (7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.), evening (7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.) and nighttime (10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.) periods. The standards are further categorized under "Urban" and "Non-Urban" headings. According to the Butte County GIS online viewer, the project parcel and adjacent parcels which contain noise-sensitive uses (residences) are agriculturally zoned (AG-20). Pursuant to this zoning, the County's noise criteria for "non-urban" land uses would be applicable to on-site project noise sources.

(a) The following noise standards, unless otherwise specifically indicated in this chapter, shall apply to all noise sensitive exterior areas within Butte County.

Table 1
Butte County Exterior Noise Standards for Non-Urban Uses

Noise Descriptor	Day (7am – 7pm)	Evening (7pm – 10 pm)	Night (10 pm – 7 am)
Hourly average (L_{eq})	50	45	40
Maximum (L_{max})	60	55	50

[1] "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.

[2] 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).

[3] 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.

[4] 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.

Source: Butte County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 41A, Section 41A-7

It is unlawful for any person at any location within the County to create any noise which causes the noise levels on an affected property, when measured in the designated exterior location, to exceed the noise standards specified above.

(b) Each of the noise limits specified in subdivision (a) of this section shall be reduced by five (5) dBA for recurring impulsive noise, simple or pure tone noise, or for noises consisting of speech or music.

(c) Noise level standards, which are up to five (5) dBA less than those specified above, based upon determination of existing low ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project site may be imposed.

(d) In urban areas, the exterior noise level standard shall be applied to the property line of the receiving property. In non-urban areas, the exterior noise level standard shall be applied at a point one hundred (100) feet away from the residence or at the property line if the residence is closer than one hundred (100) feet. The above standards shall be measured only on property containing a noise sensitive land use.

Code of Ordinances Chapter 41A also provides interior noise standards for all noise-sensitive interior areas within the County. The specific noise standards of this section are reproduced below.

(a) The following noise standards, unless otherwise specifically indicated in this chapter, shall apply to all noise sensitive interior areas within Butte County.

Table 2
Butte County Interior Noise Standards

Noise Level Descriptor	Daytime (7am – 7pm)	Evening (7pm – 10 pm)	Nighttime (10 pm – 7 am)
Hourly average (L_{eq})	45	40	35
Maximum (L_{max})	60	55	50
Source: Butte County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 41A, Section 41A-8			

(b) It is unlawful for any person at any location within the County to create any noise which causes the noise levels on an affected property, when measured in the designated exterior location, to exceed the noise standards specified above.

(c) Each of the noise limits specified in subdivision (a) of this section shall be reduced by five (5) dBA for recurring impulsive noise, simple or pure tone noise, or for noises consisting of speech or music.

It should be noted that the Table 2 noise standards are 5 to 10 dB lower than the County's exterior noise level limits shown in Table 1. Observation of the existing residential structures in the project vicinity indicates that the exterior building facades appear to be in relatively good condition. As a result, the estimated noise reduction of the building facades would be approximately 25 dB with windows closed and 10-15 dB with windows open. Therefore, compliance with the County's exterior noise level standards shown in Table 1 would ensure compliance with the County's interior noise level standards shown in Table 2. Considering this information, the focus of this analysis is on compliance with the County's exterior noise standards at the nearby noise-sensitive land uses (residences).

Noise Standards Applied to the Project

As mentioned previously, the primary noise sources associated with the project have been identified as event amplified music/speech, crowd noise, and on-site vehicle circulation. Footnote 2 of Table 1 states that the County's exterior noise standards shall be reduced by five (5) dBA for noises consisting of primarily speech or music. According to Butte County Department of Development of Services staff, the 5 dB downward adjustment would be applicable to proposed outdoor event amplified music/speech, and not event crowd noise. In addition, all events held on the project property would conclude by 10:00 p.m. As a result, the County's daytime and evening noise level standards would be applicable to the project. Based on the project information, and pursuant to applicable criteria established in the Code of Ordinances, the following noise level standards presented in Table 3 were applied to the project noise sources.

Table 3
Butte County Code of Ordinances Non-Urban Noise Standards Applied to the Project[1]

	Unadjusted Noise Standards (dBA)				Applicable Noise Level Standards (dBA)[1]			
	Daytime		Evening		Daytime		Evening	
Noise Source	L_{eq}	L_{max}	L_{eq}	L_{max}	L_{eq}	L_{max}	L_{eq}	L_{max}
Amplified Music/Speech	50	60	45	55	45	55	40	50
Crowd Noise On-Site Vehicle Circulation	50	60	45	55	50	60	45	55

[1] The County's exterior standards applicable to event amplified music are 5 dB lower per footnote 2 of Table 1.

Source: Butte County Code of Ordinances, Section 41A-7

Pursuant to footnote 4 of Table 1, the County's noise standards shall be applied at a point 100 feet away from residences in rural areas, such as those located within the project vicinity.

Existing Ambient Noise Environment at the Project Site

The existing ambient noise environment at the project site is defined primarily by distant agricultural activities. To generally quantify the existing ambient noise environment at the project site, BAC conducted long-term (96-hour) noise level measurements from May 13th to 16th, 2021. The long-term noise survey location is identified as site LT-1 on Figure 2. Photographs of the noise level measurement location are provided in Appendix B.

A Larson-Davis Laboratories (LDL) Model 820 precision integrating sound level meter was used to complete the long-term noise measurement survey. The meter was calibrated immediately before and after use with an LDL Model CAL200 acoustical calibrator to ensure the accuracy off the measurements. The equipment used meets all pertinent specifications of the American National Standards Institute for Type 1 sound level meters (ANSI S1.4). The long-term ambient noise level survey results are summarized in Table 4. The detailed results of the ambient noise survey are contained in Appendix C in tabular format and graphically in Appendix D.

Table 4
Summary of Long-Term Noise Survey Measurement Results[1]

Site Description[2]	Date	DNL	Average Measured Hourly Noise Levels (dBA)			
			Daytime[3]		Nighttime[4]	
			L_{eq}	L_{max}	L_{eq}	L_{max}
LT-1: Approximately 50' from residence on project property	5/13/21	52	50	64	44	55
	5/14/21	51	50	67	43	54
	5/15/21	51	50	64	43	51
	5/16/21	52	49	65	44	55

[1] Detailed summaries of the noise monitoring results are provided in Appendices C and D.
[2] Long-term noise survey location is shown on Figure 2.
[3] Daytime hours: 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
[4] Nighttime hours: 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
Source: Bollard Acoustical Consultants, Inc. (2021)

As indicated in Table 4, the measured day-night average (DNL) and hourly noise levels at the project site were consistent throughout the entire monitoring period.

Evaluation of Project Noise Generation at Noise-Sensitive Uses

Existing land uses in the project vicinity include agricultural uses with and without residences in all directions. For the purposes this analysis, seven (7) of the nearest residences to the north, south, east, and west were selected to be representative of worst-case project noise exposure in those directions. The locations of the off-site residences are shown on Figure 1, identified as receivers R-1 through R-7. Analyses of event-generated amplified music/speech, crowd noise, and on-site vehicle circulation noise levels at receivers R-1 though R-7 relative to applicable Butte County noise level standards are presented in the following section.

Event Amplified Music/Speech Noise Levels

The project proposes to have amplified music/speech during events held on the property. According to the project applicant, the event sound system setup would be located on the south end of the house within the designated venue area and be oriented with speakers facing south. Figure 2 shows the approximate location of the proposed sound system setup within the proposed venue area.

To quantify the noise levels generated from amplified event music, BAC conducted short-term noise level measurements on Wednesday, May 12th, 2021, during a simulated event with amplified music. A Larson Davis Laboratories Model 831 precision integrating sound level meter was used for the noise level measurements during the event simulation. The meters were calibrated before use and placed on a tripod 5 feet above ground at six (6) locations. The measurement locations were intended to quantify event music noise exposure at the north, south, east, and west ends of the project property (in the directions of receivers R-1 through R-7). The event music simulation noise measurement locations (sites ST-1 through ST-6) are shown on

Figure 2. The nearest residences to the project are shown on (receivers R-1 through R-7) are shown on Figures 1 and 2.

The sound system was set to produce sound levels typical of what would be produced by amplified music playing at an event. The simulation utilized a reference music level of 75 dB (average) at a distance of 50 feet from the speakers. While music was being played, short-term noise level measurements were conducted at the reference position 50 feet in front of the speakers, as well as at sites ST-1 through ST-6. This reference was selected because BAC believes that it is a conservative level at which amplified music could occur during an event. The sound system placement and speaker orientation (facing south in the venue area) was based on information provided by the project applicant and is the likely speaker orientation during an event. Appendix B shows photographs of the sound system setup and measurement locations.

The simulation consisted of playing digital recordings of typical music which might be used during an event using four 1,100-Watt Yamaha DXR12 speakers and a 950-Watt Yamaha DXS15 subwoofer, all with built-in amplifiers, and an MP3 player as the music source. As mentioned previously, the sound system speakers were positioned and directionally oriented where the event music setup would typically be positioned at events. Table 5 summarizes the noise level measurement results.

Table 5
Summary of Event Music Simulation Noise Measurement Results – May 12th, 2021

Site[1]	Description	L_{eq}	L_{max}	Observations
Ref.	50 ft south of speakers	75	80	Typical levels of music at events
ST-1	260 ft north of speakers	51	66	Music audible
ST-2	235 ft west of speakers	54	63	Music audible, dogs barking
ST-3	380 ft east of speakers	45	59	Music audible
ST-4	490 ft southeast of speakers	42	60	Music audible
ST-5	420 ft south of speakers	47	63	Music audible
ST-6	500 ft southwest of speakers	40	61	Music audible

[1] Measurement locations are shown on Figure 2.
Source: Bollard Acoustical Consultants, Inc. (2021)

The event simulation results shown in Table 5 were measured at or near the project property lines in the direction of the nearest residences, receivers R-1 through R-7. To predict amplified event noise levels at those receivers, BAC extrapolated the Table 5 data to a point 100 feet from the residential receiver assuming a decrease of 6 dB per doubling of distance from the noise source (consistent with accepted sound propagation algorithms). The results of those projections relative to the applicable Butte County noise level limits are summarized in Table 6.

It should be noted that measurements taken at site ST-2 were determined to be significantly influenced by nearby dog and house construction noise. As a result, the measurement data obtained at site ST-2 was not used in the prediction of event music noise level exposure at nearby receivers.

Table 6
Predicted Amplified Event Music Noise Levels at Noise-Sensitive Receivers

Receiver[1]	Representative Measurement Location[2]	Distance from Sound System (ft)[3]	Predicted Noise Levels (dBA)[4,5]	
			L_{eq}	L_{max}
R-1	ST-1	215	48	63
R-2	ST-1	520	35	50
R-3	ST-3	700	40	54
R-4	ST-4	1,000	36	54
R-5	ST-5	1,550	36	52
R-6	ST-6	1,400	31	52
R-7	ST-6	650	33	54
Adjusted Section 41A Daytime Noise Standards (dBA)			**45**	**55**
Adjusted Section 41A Evening Noise Standards (dBA)			**40**	**50**

[1] Receiver locations are shown on Figure 1.
[2] Measurement locations are shown on Figure 2.
[3] Distances measured from the proposed sound system setup location to a point 100' feet from residences.
[4] Event music noise levels at the nearest residences were predicted utilizing the Table 5 simulation results.
[5] Predicted noise levels at receivers R-1, R-2 & R-7 include consideration of varying degrees of shielding provided by existing intervening buildings.

Source: Bollard Acoustical Consultants, Inc. (2021)

As shown in Table 6, amplified event music is projected to exceed the adjusted Code of Ordinances Section 41A daytime hourly average (L_{eq}) and maximum (L_{max}) noise level standards at the closest residence to the event venue area (receiver R-1). In addition, amplified event music is projected to exceed the adjusted Section 41A evening hourly average (L_{eq}) noise level standard at receiver R-1. Finally, the results in Table 6 indicate that amplified event music is projected to exceed the adjusted Section 41A maximum (L_{max}) noise level standard at receivers R-1 and R-3 through R-7.

Based on the results presented in Table 6, amplified music/speech from proposed events held within the outdoor venue area at Meridian Meadows could potentially exceed the adjusted Butte County Code of Ordinances Section 41A daytime and evening hourly average and maximum noise level standards at a portion of the nearest residences. As a result, additional consideration of amplified event music mitigation measures would be warranted for this project relative to the Section 41A noise level criteria.

Amplified Event Music/Speech Noise Mitigation Measures

Noise generated by amplified music could exceed the County's adjusted daytime and evening noise standards by a wide margin at the closest residential receivers. To satisfy the adjusted Section 41A daytime and evening noise level standards at the closest residential receivers, the following event music mitigation measures are recommended:

1. To comply with the Section 41A adjusted *daytime* noise level standards, the overall average sound levels from the music should not exceed 67 dB at a point 50 feet in front

of the speakers (8 dB less than the BAC event simulation reference noise level of 75 dB at 50 feet).

To comply with the Section 41A adjusted *evening* noise level standards (which would subsequently result in compliance with Section 41A's less restrictive adjusted daytime noise level criteria), the overall average sound levels from the music should not exceed 62 dB at a point 50 feet in front of the speakers (13 dB less than the BAC event simulation reference noise level of 75 dB at 50 feet).

2. All amplified music/speech must conclude by 10:00 p.m., as proposed.
3. Speakers should be oriented to the south at the location shown on Figure 2, as proposed.
4. A maximum of 1 subwoofer should be used during amplified music events.
5. Custom speaker enclosures (i.e., acoustically-lined plywood boxes open only on the side facing the audience) should be utilized to minimize sound flanking in the northerly direction.
6. Event management should procure a Type 2 sound level meter and periodically monitor sound levels at the 50 foot reference distance during events to ensure compliance with the recommended sound system reference noise levels in this report are being maintained.

Implementation of measures 1-6 is predicted to reduce amplified music sound levels to a state of compliance with the adjusted Butte County Code of Ordinances Section 41A daytime and evening hourly average and maximum noise level standards at the nearest residential receivers.

Event Crowd Noise Levels

The project proposes up to 10 events per year, with a maximum number of 100 persons per event. This analysis evaluates the noise generation potential of a worst-case large crowd of 100 guests within the outdoor event venue area shown on Figure 2.

To quantify event-generated crowd noise from the outdoor event venue area at nearby residential receivers, BAC utilized reference file data for persons speaking in normal, raised, and loud voices (normal voice = 57 dB per person at 3 feet; raised voice = 64 dB per person at 3 feet) and persons clapping (light clap = 55 dB per person at 10 feet; normal clap = 65 dB per person at 10 feet; enthusiastic clap = 75 dB per person at 10 feet). Using the provided reference file data, conservatively assuming 50% of a worst-case crowd is conversing simultaneously (50 people speaking, 50 people listening), that clapping would occur 2% of the hour, and assuming standard spherical spreading loss (-6 dB per doubling of distance), data were projected from the effective noise center of the venue area to receivers R-1 through R-7. The results of those projections relative to the applicable Butte County noise level limits are summarized in Table 7.

Table 7
Predicted Worst-Case Event Crowd Noise Levels at Noise-Sensitive Receivers

Receiver[1]	Distance from Venue Area (ft)[2]	Predicted Noise Levels (dBA)[3] L_{eq}	Predicted Noise Levels (dBA)[3] L_{max}
R-1	280	35	55
R-2	570	23	44
R-3	670	32	53
R-4	1,000	29	49
R-5	1,500	25	46
R-6	1,400	26	46
R-7	650	30	53
Section 41A Daytime Noise Standards (dBA)		**50**	**60**
Section 41A Evening Noise Standards (dBA)		**45**	**55**

[1] Receiver locations are shown on Figure 1.
[2] Distances measured from center of venue area to a point 100' feet from residences.
[3] Predicted noise levels at receivers R-1 and R-2 include consideration of a degree of shielding that would be provided by existing intervening buildings.
Source: Bollard Acoustical Consultants, Inc. (2021)

As shown in Table 7, worst-case event crowd noise exposure is predicted to satisfy the applicable Code of Ordinances Section 41A daytime and evening hourly average and maximum noise level standard at the nearest residential receivers. As a result, no further consideration of event crowd noise mitigation measures would be warranted relative to the Section 41A daytime and evening noise level criteria.

Event On-Site Traffic Circulation Noise Levels

The project site drawing provided by the project applicant indicates that event traffic will enter and exit the project property from a private roadway off Meridian Road. The Federal Highway Administration Highway Traffic Noise Prediction Model (FHWA RD-77-108) was utilized to determine worst-case on-site vehicle circulation noise generated by a 100-person event upon the nearest residential receivers. Assuming an on-site vehicle speed of less than 25 mph, 75 vehicle passbys in a worst-case hour (conservative estimate), the FHWA Model was used to predict event-generated on-site traffic noise levels at the nearest off-site residential receivers. The results of those predictions are presented in Table 8.

Table 8
Predicted Worst-Case Event On-Site Traffic Noise Levels at Noise-Sensitive Receivers

Receiver[1]	Distance from On-Site Circulation Route (ft)[2]	Predicted Noise Levels (dBA)[3,4]	
		L_{eq}	L_{max}
R-1	130	36	46
R-2	350	30	40
R-3	350	30	40
R-4	580	27	37
R-5	1,100	22	32
R-6	1,100	22	32
R-7	500	28	38
Section 41A Daytime Noise Standards (dBA)		**50**	**60**
Section 41A Evening Noise Standards (dBA)		**45**	**55**

[1] Receiver locations are shown on Figure 1.
[2] Distances measured from driveway/road on-site to a point 100' feet from residences.
[3] Predicted noise levels include consideration of building shielding where applicable.
[4] Predicted Lmax noise levels conservatively estimated to be 10 dB higher than predicted Leq noise levels.
Source: Bollard Acoustical Consultants, Inc. (2021)

As shown in Table 8, worst-case event on-site traffic noise exposure is not predicted to exceed the applicable Code of Ordinances Section 41A daytime and evening hourly average (L_{eq}) and maximum (L_{max}) noise level standards at the nearest residential receivers. As a result, no further consideration of event-generated on-site traffic noise mitigation measures would be warranted relative to the Section 41A daytime and evening noise level criteria.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Event Amplified Music/Speech Noise Levels

Based on the results presented in this analysis, noise levels generated by event amplified music could potentially exceed the Butte County Code of Ordinances Section 41A adjusted daytime and evening noise standards by a wide margin at the closest residential receivers. To satisfy the adjusted Section 41A daytime and evening noise level standards at the closest residential receivers, the following event music mitigation measures are recommended:

1. To comply with the adjusted Section 41A *daytime* noise level standards, the overall average sound levels from the music should not exceed 67 dB at a point 50 feet in front of the speakers (8 dB less than the BAC event simulation reference noise level of 75 dB at 50 feet).

   To comply with the adjusted Section 41A *evening* noise level standards (which would subsequently result in compliance with Section 41A's less restrictive adjusted daytime noise level criteria), the overall average sound levels from the music should not exceed 62 dB at a point 50 feet in front of the speakers (13 dB less than the BAC event simulation reference noise level of 75 dB at 50 feet).

2. All amplified music/speech must conclude by 10:00 p.m., as proposed.
3. Speakers should be oriented to the south at the location shown on Figure 2, as proposed.
4. A maximum of 1 subwoofer should be used during amplified music events.
5. Custom speaker enclosures (i.e., acoustically-lined plywood boxes open only on the side facing the audience) should be utilized to minimize sound flanking in the northerly direction.
6. Event management should procure a Type 2 sound level meter and periodically monitor sound levels at the 50 foot reference distance during events to ensure compliance with the recommended sound system reference noise levels in this report are being maintained.

Event Crowd Noise Levels

Based on the results presented in this analysis, noise levels generated by worst-case event crowds are predicted to satisfy the applicable Butte County Code of Ordinances Section 41A daytime and evening noise level standards at the nearest residential receivers. As a result, no further consideration of event crowd noise mitigation measures would be warranted for the project relative to the Section 41A noise level daytime and evening noise level criteria.

Event On-Site Traffic Circulation Noise Levels

Based on the results presented in this analysis, worst-case event on-site traffic noise exposure is predicted to comply with the applicable Code of Ordinances Section 41A daytime and evening noise level standards at the nearest residential receivers. As a result, no further consideration of event-generated on-site traffic noise mitigation measures would be warranted relative to the Section 41A daytime and evening noise level criteria.

This concludes BAC's environmental noise assessment for special events at the proposed Meridian Meadows Special Events Facility in Butte County, California. Please contact BAC at (916) 663-0500 or dariog@bacnoise.com with comments or questions regarding this evaluation.

Appendix A
Acoustical Terminology

Acoustics The science of sound.

Ambient Noise The distinctive acoustical characteristics of a given space consisting of all noise sources audible at that location. In many cases, the term ambient is used to describe an existing or pre-project condition such as the setting in an environmental noise study.

Attenuation The reduction of an acoustic signal.

A-Weighting A frequency-response adjustment of a sound level meter that conditions the output signal to approximate human response.

Decibel or dB Fundamental unit of sound. A Bell is defined as the logarithm of the ratio of the sound pressure squared over the reference pressure squared. A Decibel is one-tenth of a Bell.

CNEL Community Noise Equivalent Level. Defined as the 24-hour average noise level with noise occurring during evening hours (7 - 10 p.m.) weighted by a factor of three and nighttime hours weighted by a factor of 10 prior to averaging.

Frequency The measure of the rapidity of alterations of a periodic signal, expressed in cycles per second or hertz.

IIC Impact Insulation Class (IIC): A single-number representation of a floor/ceiling partition's impact generated noise insulation performance. The field-measured version of this number is the FIIC.

L_{dn} Day/Night Average Sound Level. Similar to CNEL but with no evening weighting.

L_{eq} Equivalent or energy-averaged sound level.

L_{max} The highest root-mean-square (RMS) sound level measured over a given period of time.

Loudness A subjective term for the sensation of the magnitude of sound.

Masking The amount (or the process) by which the threshold of audibility is for one sound is raised by the presence of another (masking) sound.

Noise Unwanted sound.

Peak Noise The level corresponding to the highest (not RMS) sound pressure measured over a given period of time. This term is often confused with the "Maximum" level, which is the highest RMS level.

RT_{60} The time it takes reverberant sound to decay by 60 dB once the source has been removed.

STC Sound Transmission Class (STC): A single-number representation of a partition's noise insulation performance. This number is based on laboratory-measured, 16-band (1/3-octave) transmission loss (TL) data of the subject partition. The field-measured version of this number is the FSTC.

Legend

- A Speaker Location Facing South
- B Site ST-1 Facing Residences to the North
- C Site ST-4 Facing North
- D Site LT-1 Facing North

Meridian Meadows Special Events Facility
Butte County, California

Photographs of Survey Locations

Appendix B

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Appendix C-1
Long-Term Ambient Noise Monitoring Results - Site LT-1
Meridian Meadows Special Events Facility - Butte County, California
Thursday, May 13, 2021

Hour	Leq	Lmax	L50	L90
12:00 AM	34	50	33	32
1:00 AM	34	54	33	32
2:00 AM	33	50	32	30
3:00 AM	34	49	32	30
4:00 AM	39	54	38	32
5:00 AM	48	67	46	38
6:00 AM	52	67	49	45
7:00 AM	50	67	47	43
8:00 AM	48	64	45	41
9:00 AM	51	68	48	46
10:00 AM	51	68	48	45
11:00 AM	50	62	49	47
12:00 PM	50	65	49	46
1:00 PM	50	68	48	45
2:00 PM	51	74	49	46
3:00 PM	49	62	48	47
4:00 PM	50	59	50	47
5:00 PM	50	64	48	45
6:00 PM	52	66	48	43
7:00 PM	53	69	46	41
8:00 PM	44	61	43	38
9:00 PM	39	52	37	35
10:00 PM	38	49	35	33
11:00 PM	37	51	35	33

	Statistical Summary					
	Daytime (7 a.m. - 10 p.m.)			Nighttime (10 p.m. - 7 a.m.)		
	High	Low	Average	High	Low	Average
Leq (Average)	53	39	50	52	33	44
Lmax (Maximum)	74	52	64	67	49	55
L50 (Median)	50	37	47	49	32	37
L90 (Background)	47	35	44	45	30	34

Computed DNL, dB	52
% Daytime Energy	86%
% Nighttime Energy	14%

GPS Coordinates	39°51'8.95"N
	121°55'30.50"W

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Appendix C-2
Long-Term Ambient Noise Monitoring Results - Site LT-1
Meridian Meadows Special Events Facility - Butte County, California
Friday, May 14, 2021

Hour	Leq	Lmax	L50	L90
12:00 AM	37	50	35	33
1:00 AM	34	47	33	32
2:00 AM	34	48	33	32
3:00 AM	35	55	33	32
4:00 AM	39	51	37	32
5:00 AM	48	63	47	37
6:00 AM	49	68	48	45
7:00 AM	48	62	47	44
8:00 AM	49	65	47	43
9:00 AM	50	73	47	44
10:00 AM	49	67	47	44
11:00 AM	53	73	49	46
12:00 PM	53	75	48	45
1:00 PM	49	63	48	45
2:00 PM	50	70	47	44
3:00 PM	48	64	46	42
4:00 PM	50	67	48	45
5:00 PM	48	62	48	45
6:00 PM	50	73	48	44
7:00 PM	53	74	50	47
8:00 PM	46	59	41	36
9:00 PM	39	57	38	35
10:00 PM	38	50	36	34
11:00 PM	34	50	34	32

	Statistical Summary					
	Daytime (7 a.m. - 10 p.m.)			Nighttime (10 p.m. - 7 a.m.)		
	High	Low	Average	High	Low	Average
Leq (Average)	53	39	50	49	34	43
Lmax (Maximum)	75	57	67	68	47	54
L50 (Median)	50	38	47	48	33	37
L90 (Background)	47	35	43	45	32	34

Computed DNL, dB	51
% Daytime Energy	89%
% Nighttime Energy	11%

GPS Coordinates	39°51'8.95"N
	121°55'30.50"W

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Appendix C-3
Long-Term Ambient Noise Monitoring Results - Site LT-1
Meridian Meadows Special Events Facility - Butte County, California
Saturday, May 15, 2021

Hour	Leq	Lmax	L50	L90
12:00 AM	36	50	35	33
1:00 AM	36	45	36	33
2:00 AM	33	46	32	31
3:00 AM	34	50	34	31
4:00 AM	39	50	38	33
5:00 AM	49	65	48	36
6:00 AM	49	61	48	45
7:00 AM	50	73	46	43
8:00 AM	48	65	47	43
9:00 AM	51	65	48	44
10:00 AM	47	62	45	41
11:00 AM	47	65	46	42
12:00 PM	46	61	45	41
1:00 PM	46	62	45	41
2:00 PM	49	65	46	41
3:00 PM	46	64	44	39
4:00 PM	46	64	45	40
5:00 PM	47	63	44	40
6:00 PM	45	62	43	40
7:00 PM	58	82	48	40
8:00 PM	41	61	39	35
9:00 PM	37	52	36	33
10:00 PM	37	47	36	34
11:00 PM	36	46	34	32

	Statistical Summary					
	Daytime (7 a.m. - 10 p.m.)			Nighttime (10 p.m. - 7 a.m.)		
	High	Low	Average	High	Low	Average
Leq (Average)	58	37	50	49	33	43
Lmax (Maximum)	82	52	64	65	45	51
L50 (Median)	48	36	44	48	32	38
L90 (Background)	44	33	40	45	31	34

Computed DNL, dB	51
% Daytime Energy	88%
% Nighttime Energy	12%

GPS Coordinates	39°51'8.95"N
	121°55'30.50"W

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Appendix C-4
Long-Term Ambient Noise Monitoring Results - Site LT-1
Meridian Meadows Special Events Facility - Butte County, California
Sunday, May 16, 2021

Hour	Leq	Lmax	L50	L90
12:00 AM	37	62	34	32
1:00 AM	36	51	34	32
2:00 AM	36	50	33	31
3:00 AM	33	46	32	30
4:00 AM	40	57	39	34
5:00 AM	49	60	47	36
6:00 AM	52	75	47	43
7:00 AM	51	74	46	42
8:00 AM	52	75	46	42
9:00 AM	48	65	47	43
10:00 AM	48	66	46	42
11:00 AM	48	70	46	42
12:00 PM	49	64	47	43
1:00 PM	49	68	46	42
2:00 PM	48	63	46	44
3:00 PM	49	62	48	46
4:00 PM	49	64	49	46
5:00 PM	50	69	48	45
6:00 PM	49	62	49	46
7:00 PM	46	61	45	41
8:00 PM	45	61	43	38
9:00 PM	43	54	42	39
10:00 PM	37	49	36	34
11:00 PM	35	46	35	33

	Statistical Summary					
	Daytime (7 a.m. - 10 p.m.)			Nighttime (10 p.m. - 7 a.m.)		
	High	Low	Average	High	Low	Average
Leq (Average)	52	43	49	52	33	44
Lmax (Maximum)	75	54	65	75	46	55
L50 (Median)	49	42	46	47	32	38
L90 (Background)	46	38	43	43	30	34

Computed DNL, dB	52
% Daytime Energy	82%
% Nighttime Energy	18%

GPS Coordinates	39°51'8.95"N
	121°55'30.50"W

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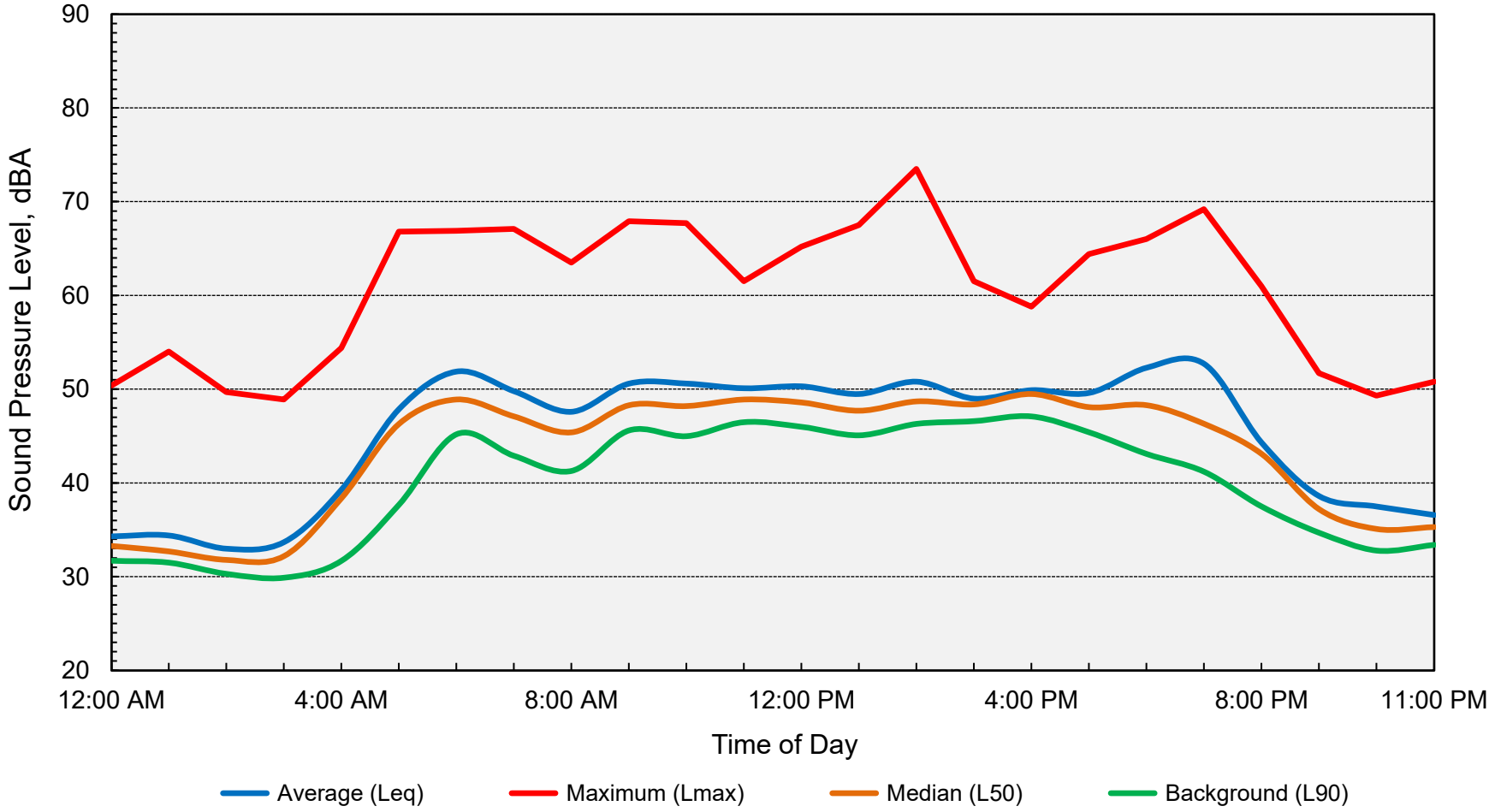
Appendix D-1
Long-Term Ambient Noise Monitoring Results - Site LT-1
Meridian Meadows Special Events Facility - Butte County, California
Thursday, May 13, 2021



Computed DNL = 52 dB

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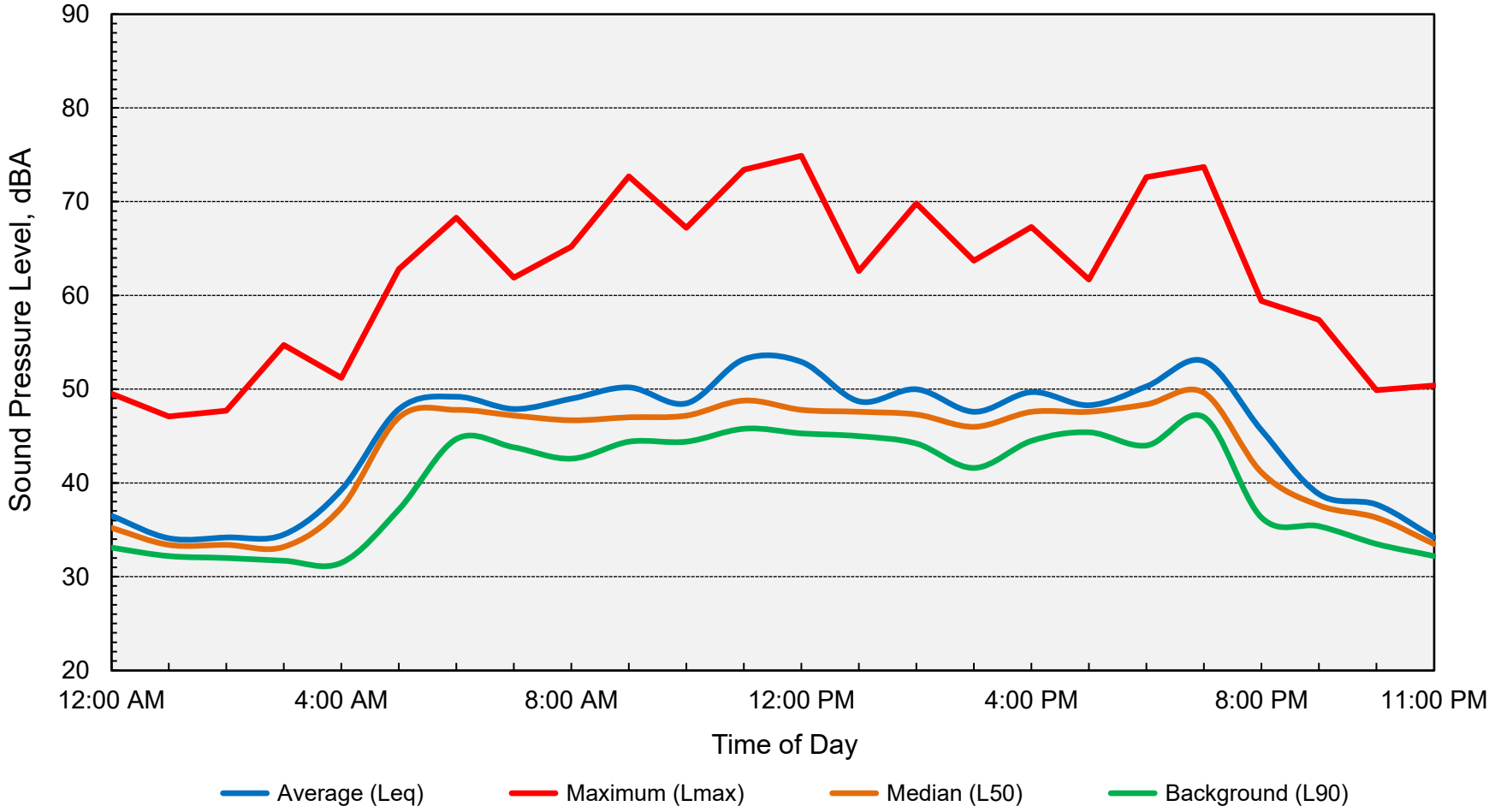
Appendix D-2
Long-Term Ambient Noise Monitoring Results - Site LT-1
Meridian Meadows Special Events Facility - Butte County, California
Friday, May 14, 2021



Computed DNL = 51 dB

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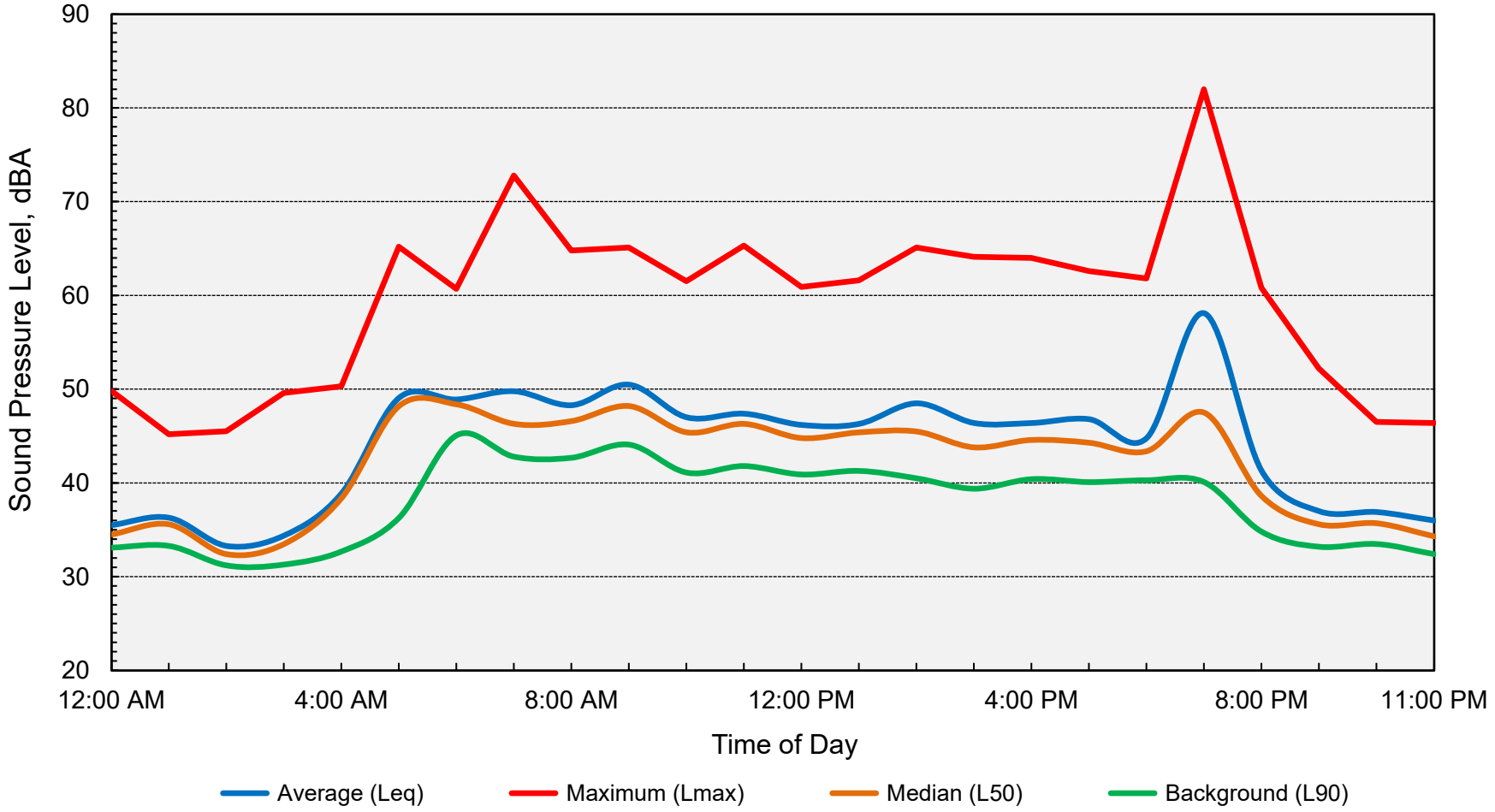
Appendix D-3
Long-Term Ambient Noise Monitoring Results - Site LT-1
Meridian Meadows Special Events Facility - Butte County, California
Saturday, May 15, 2021



Computed DNL = 51 dB

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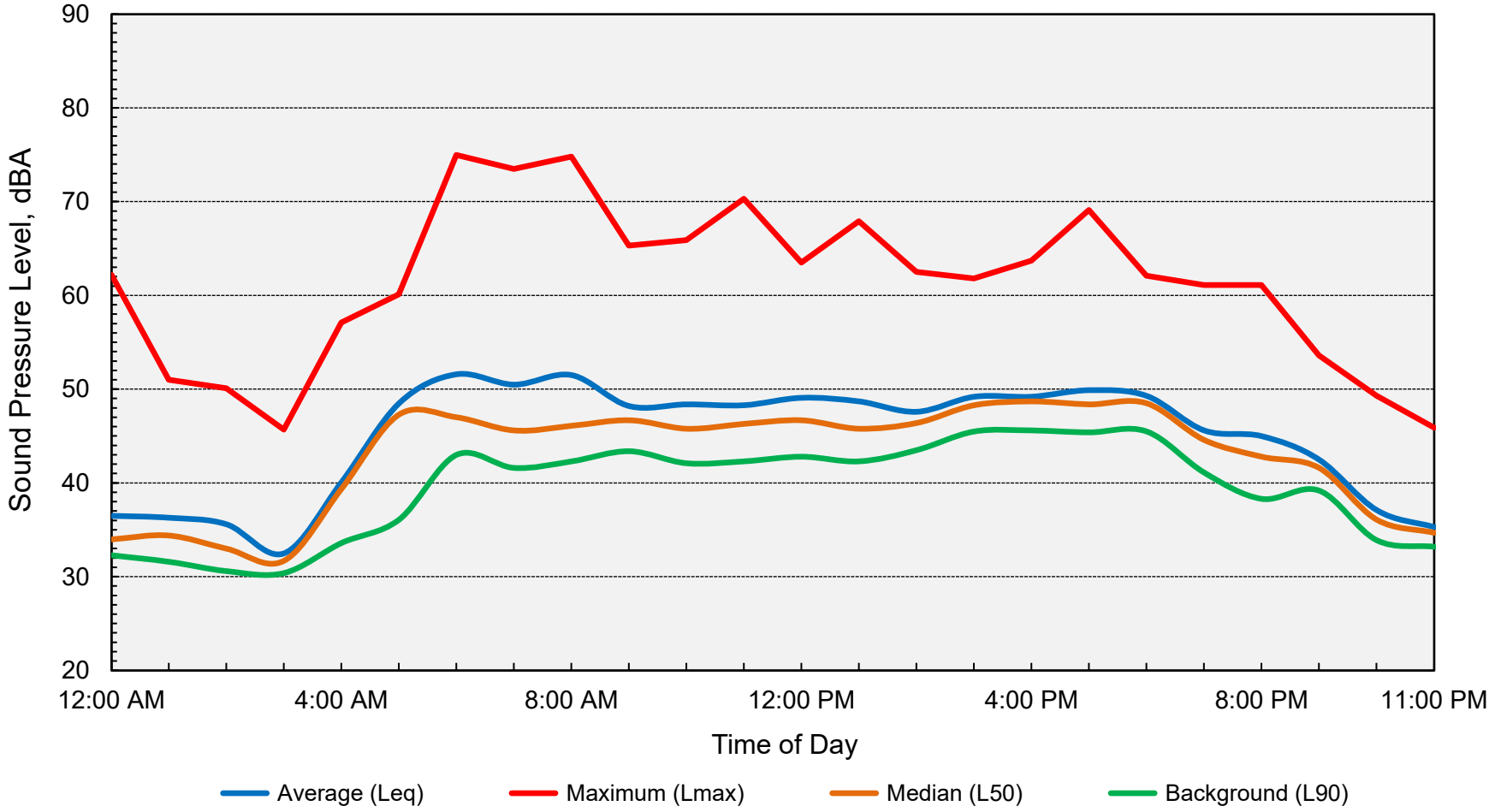
Appendix D-4
Long-Term Ambient Noise Monitoring Results - Site LT-1
Meridian Meadows Special Events Facility - Butte County, California
Sunday, May 16, 2021



Computed DNL = 52 dB

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