Placer County Water Agency
Middle Fork Interbay Sediment Management Project

Draft
California Environmental Quality Act
Subsequent Impact Report

Placer County Water Agency
P.O. Box 6570
Auburn, CA 95604

July 2020

LIST OF TABLES

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APPENDICES

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AB	Assembly Bill
AG	Attorney General
APE	Area of Potential Effects
ARPA	Archaeological Resources Protection Act
BA	Biological Assessment
Basin Plan	Sacramento River Basin and San Joaquin River Basin Water Quality Control Plan
BE	Biological Evaluation
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	Best Management Practice
CAAQS	California ambient air quality standard
CalEEMod	California Emissions Estimator Model
Cal-EPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CAPCOA	California Air Pollution Control Officers Association
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CAT	Climate Action Team
CCAA	California Clean Air Act
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CDRA	Community Development Resource Agency
CEC	California Energy Commission
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CFP	California Fully Protected Species
CGS	California Geological Survey
CHRIS	California Historical Resources Information System
CHSC	California Health and Safety Code
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	carbon monoxide
CO_2	carbon dioxide
CO_2e	carbon dioxide equivalent

CRHR	California Register of Historical Resources
CUPA	Certified Unified Program Agency
CVRWQCB	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
CWA	Clean Water Act
CWPP	Community Wildfire Protection Plan
DOC	California Department of Conservation
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FC	Federal Candidate (Endangered Species Act)
FCAA	Federal Clean Air Act
FE	Federally Endangered (Endangered Species Act)
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FOR	Forestry
FPD	Federally Proposed for Delisting (Endangered Species Act)
FPE	Federally Proposed – Endangered (Endangered Species Act)
FPT	Federally Proposed – Threatened (Endangered Species Act)
FR	Forest Road
FT	Federally Threatened (Endangered Species Act)
GHG	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
HFRA	Healthy Forests Restoration Act
in/sec	inches per second
IPaC	Information for Planning and Conservation Species List
LCFS	Low carbon fuels standard
LHMP	Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
LSAA	Lake/Streambed Alteration Agreement
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MCAB	Mountain Counties Air Basin
MFP	Middle Fork American River Project
MMRP	Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
MND	Mitigated Negative Declaration
MR	Mineral reserve
msl	mean sea level

MT	metric tons
NAAQS	National ambient air quality standard
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Repatriation Act
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NCIC	North Central Information Center
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NNIP	non-native invasive plant
NO_X	nitrous oxides
NO_2	nitrogen dioxide
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	National Park Service
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NHRP	National Register of Historic Places
NWP	Nationwide Permit
O_3	ozone
OPR	Office of Planning and Research
OS	Open Space
PAC	protected activity center
PAD	Preliminary Application Document
PCAPCD	Placer County Air Pollution Control District
PCCP	Placer County Conservation Plan
PCP	pentachlorophenol
PCWA	Placer County Water Agency
$PM_{2.5}$	fine particulate matter
PM_{10}	respirable particulate matter
ppv	Peak particle velocity
REC	Recreation
RES	Resort
RF	Residential Forest
ROG	Reactive organic gases
RR	Rural Residential
SB	Senate Bill
SE	State Listed – Endangered (California Endangered Species Act)
SNFPA	Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment

SO_2	sulfur dioxide
SPCC	Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure
SR	State Listed – Rare (California Endangered Species Act)
SRA	State Responsibility Area
SSC	species of special concern
ST	State Listed – Threatened (California Endangered Species Act)
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
T	Timberland
TAC	toxic air contaminant
TCR	Tribal Cultural Resource
TNF	Tahoe National Forest
TPZ	Timberland Production Zone
UAIC	United Auburn Indian Community
U.S.	United States
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Services
WUI	Wildland-Urban Interface

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Regulatory Guidance

Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) owns and operates the Middle Fork American River Project (MFP) under a 40-year Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license, issued on June 8, 2020 (FERC Project No. 2079). The MFP serves as a multi-purpose water supply and hydrogenation project designed to conserve and control waters of the Middle Fork American River, the Rubicon River, and several associated tributary streams. The MFP is located on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada range primarily in Placer County, California. A small component of the MFP is located in El Dorado County, California.

As part of the MFP relicensing process and in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), FERC issued a Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (FERC 2012, 2013) that evaluated the effects of continued operation and maintenance of the MFP, including sediment management activities at Middle Fork Interbay.

To support California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance and the discretionary action of PCWA's Board of Directors of accepting the new license issued by FERC, PCWA prepared a Draft and Final CEQA Supplement (PCWA 2012, 2013a). Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines[1], the CEQA Supplement augmented the analysis completed in FERC's NEPA document.

On May 16, 2013, PCWA's Board of Directors approved the Final CEQA Supplement for the MFP and a Notice of Determination was filed with the Placer County and El Dorado County clerks on May 17, 2013 (PCWA 2013b, 2013c).

Continued operation and maintenance activities associated with the MFP include sediment management at Middle Fork Interbay. Sediment management activities are documented in the Sediment Management Plan contained in PCWA's Application for New License (PCWA 2011a, Exhibit E, Supporting Document A). FERC's EIS and PCWA's CEQA Supplement for the MFP relicensing fully analyzed sediment management activities to be implemented at MFP reservoirs, including Middle Fork Interbay.

The Sediment Management Plan identifies the disposal area for Middle Fork Interbay as the Middle Fork Interbay Sediment Disposal Area located 2.8 miles from Middle Fork Interbay on lands owned by the U.S. Forest Service. Recently, PCWA determined that it will not be able to use this location due to the limited quantity of material the site is able to accept. Instead, PCWA will dispose of removed sediment at the EBRL Sediment Disposal Area, which is located 6.5 miles northwest of Middle Fork Interbay on private property.

Use of the EBRL Sediment Disposal Area was not considered in the CEQA Supplement for the MFP relicensing. Therefore, PCWA has prepared this Subsequent Impact Report to evaluate the potential

[1] When a project action requires compliance with both CEQA and NEPA, and when NEPA will be completed first, state and local agencies are encouraged to use the NEPA document to comply with CEQA rather than preparing an independent CEQA document. However, if the NEPA document does not fully meet all the requirements of CEQA (i.e., noticing, distribution, and analysis), in order to rely on the EIS, the CEQA lead agency must complete the necessary actions to fulfill these requirements. CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14 § 15221(a), 15221(b).

environmental effects of sediment disposal activities at the EBRL Sediment Disposal Area associated with the Middle Fork Interbay Sediment Management Project.

1.2 Environmental Permitting

Environmental permitting for the Middle Fork Interbay Sediment Removal Project was initiated in 2017. Below is a summary of the status of each permit:

- On November 27, 2017, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) issued PCWA a verification letter (SPK-2000-00195) confirming coverage under Nationwide Permit (NWP) 3, Maintenance, for impacts to Waters of the U.S.
- On May 10, 2018, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB) issued a Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Order (WDID#5A31CR00472) for impacts to Waters of the State.
- PCWA requested a Lake/Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) (Notification No. 1600-2017-0201-R2), however, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) did not act prior to the deadline of January 17, 2018 to issue a draft LSAA or inform PCWA that an LSAA is not required. CDFW issued an Op Law letter on January 26, 2018.

PCWA contacted USACE, CVRWQCB, and CDFW to inform them of PCWA's intent to use the EBRL Sediment Disposal Area and obtain approval for this change.

In addition to any mitigation measures identified in this document, sediment disposal activities will be implemented in accordance with all permits obtained for the Middle Fork Interbay Sediment Management Project.

1.3 Environmental Document

PCWA is the Lead Agency for the Middle Fork Interbay Sediment Management Project. As stated above, use of the EBRL Sediment Disposal Area was not considered in the CEQA Supplement for the MFP relicensing. Therefore, PCWA has prepared this Subsequent Impact Report to evaluate the potential environmental effects of sediment disposal activities at the EBRL Sediment Disposal Area associated with the Middle Fork Interbay Sediment Management Project. The document is structured in the form of an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and has been prepared in accordance with CEQA, Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq., and State CEQA Guidelines, Title 14 California Code of Regulations 15000 et seq.

This Subsequent Impact Report is being made available to the public for review and comment during a 30-day public review period from July 20, 2020 to August 18, 2020.

Please address written comments to:

Heather Trejo, Environmental Scientist
Placer County Water Agency
P.O. Box 6570, 144 Ferguson Road
Auburn, CA 95604
htrejo@pcwa.net

(530) 823-4905

If you have questions regarding this Subsequent Impact Report or would like a copy mailed to you, please call Heather Trejo at (530) 823-4905. If you wish to send written comments (including via e-mail), they must be received no later than August 18, 2020, by 5:00 p.m.

Upon completion of the public review period, PCWA staff will provide the PCWA Board of Directors with the public and agency comments received on the Subsequent Impact Report along with a recommendation for the final action to the Board for its consideration, the tentative date is August 20, 2020.

The PCWA Board may: (1) adopt the Subsequent Impact Report and approve the sediment disposal activities described in this document; (2) undertake additional environmental studies; or (3) abandon use of the EBRL Sediment Disposal Area.

Due to the public library being closed due to the COVID-19, this Subsequent Impact Report can be mailed upon request. Please see contact information above to make this request.

This document can also be downloaded from the PCWA website at: http://www.pcwa.net.

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Project Location and Setting

The EBRL Sediment Disposal Area is located on private property approximately 9.5 road miles east of Foresthill and 6.5 road miles northwest of Middle Fork Interbay in Placer County, California. The disposal area is located on U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Michigan Bluff 7.5-minute quadrangle in Section 16, Township 14N, and Range 12E. Refer to **Figure 1** for the Project Location.

The EBRL property is a 31.8-1 parcel that has historically been logged and is heavily disturbed. Sediment disposal activities for this project will occur on an approximately 5-acre portion in the northwest corner of the property (**Figure 2**). The disposal area is not visible from Mosquito Ridge Road (Forest Road [FR] 96) and currently has approximately 500,000 cubic yards of storage capacity available.

2.2 Disposal Activities

Prior to implementation of sediment disposal activities, the property owner will log the 5-acre disposal area. There is the potential that a few trees will remain that were not fit for harvesting. If this occurs, the construction contractor will remove the trees to facilitate disposal activities and allow grading and contouring of the site.

It is anticipated that 65,000 cubic yards of sediment will be removed from Middle Fork Interbay. Removed sediment will be hauled from the existing access ramp located on the north (right) abutment of the Middle Fork Interbay Dam to the EBRL Sediment Disposal Area by articulated 25- to 35-ton haulers (e.g., Volvo A35-C) or off-highway rock haulers (e.g., CAT 769C). Traffic patterns will be optimized to most efficiently and safely handle sediment loads. Bulldozers will be used to place, spread, and compact the sediment at the disposal area.

Sediment placed at the disposal area will be graded and contoured to a natural grade, and erosion control measures implemented in accordance with regulatory permit conditions and the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) developed for the Middle Fork Interbay Sediment Management Project. Sediment disposal will not result in return water as water will drain out during the excavation and loading process at the removal site.

Upon completion of placement of the sediment stockpiles at the disposal area, PCWA will conduct finish grading, seeding, and SWPPP maintenance for the winter. Upon completion of sediment disposal activities, stockpiled sediment will become the property of the landowner. PCWA intends to utilize the 5-acre EBRL Sediment Disposal Area over the term of the new license for future sediment disposal activities as a result of sediment removal at other MFP facilities.

2.3 Equipment

Construction equipment to be used for sediment disposal activities includes, but is not limited to the following:

Construction Vehicle/Equipment	Quantity
Construction Vehicles	
Medium Backhoes or Excavators	2
Front Loader	1
Bulldozer	2
Trucks	
Truck, Water	1
Truck, Dump	10
Truck, Pick-up	4
Other Construction Equipment	
Fuel Tank or truck bed-mounted fuel tank	1

2.4 Transport and Disposal Area Access

Sediment removed from Middle Fork Interbay will be transported to the EBRL Sediment Disposal Area via Middle Fork Interbay Dam Road, Mosquito Ridge Road (FR 96), and private access roads (**Figure 3**). During hauling activities, the sediment disposal route along Middle Fork Interbay Dam Road will be closed to the public. The route along Mosquito Ridge Road will remain open to the public. From Mosquito Ridge Road, existing private roads will be used to access the disposal area.

2.5 Work Schedule

Sediment disposal activities at the EBRL Sediment Disposal Area will coincide with sediment removal activities at Middle Fork Interbay. Sediment disposal activities would occur between September 16, 2020 and November 20, 2020. This includes site preparation; sediment disposal; and finish grading, seeding, and SWPPP maintenance for the winter. During the work period, crews would work six days per week, 12 hours per day (7:00 am to 7:00 pm).

Table 1. Summary of Mitigation Measures.

Mitigation Measure	Timing	Implementation Responsibility	Monitoring/ Reporting Responsibility
AIR-1. Air Quality Best Management Practices. PCWA will implement all applicable BMPs employed by the PCAPCD under Rule 228, including Rule 401, Minimum Dust Control Requirements, which requires stabilizing unpaved areas subject to vehicle traffic by being kept wet, and limiting vehicles travelling across unpaved surfaces to no more than 15 miles per hour (Appendix B). These BMPs will be incorporated into construction specifications and implemented by the contractor during construction.	During Construction	PCWA	PCWA
BIO-1. General Construction Measures. PCWA will implement the following to minimize disturbance of sensitive resources in the Project area: ▪ Sediment disposal activities will be limited to a designated work area (including the work corridor and staging area). The work area will be clearly identified on the construction drawings and will be staked and flagged where necessary prior to initiation of sediment disposal activities. ▪ All staging areas and access routes will be located on developed roads and areas that have already been disturbed. ▪ Sediment disposal activities, including activities within equipment staging areas, will be limited to the hours between sunrise (but no earlier than 7:00 a.m.) and sunset (but no later than 7:00 p.m.) on weekdays. Work on weekends and PCWA-recognized holidays will be avoided when practical. If required, work on weekends and PCWA-recognized holidays will be limited to the hours between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. ▪ Drivers will respect all posted speed limits. ▪ Vegetation removal will be limited to that which is necessary for implementation of the Project. ▪ PCWA will ensure that all equipment and vehicles will be removed from the Project site following completion of the Project.	During Construction	PCWA	PCWA
BIO-2. Non-Native Invasive Plants. ▪ Contractors will avoid driving off-road in noxious weed infested areas. Vehicle and foot travel will be restricted to established roads and trails whenever possible.	During Construction	PCWA	PCWA

Mitigation Measure	Timing	Implementation Responsibility	Monitoring/ Reporting Responsibility
▪ All field vehicles and equipment previously used on non-paved surfaces outside of the watershed will be thoroughly cleaned and inspected by PCWA or its designee before entering the work area. ▪ Off-road vehicles and heavy equipment will be free of material that may contain seeds of noxious weeds prior to leaving an area infested with weeds. All off-road vehicles and heavy equipment will be inspected for weed seeds stuck in tire treads or mud on the vehicle. Appropriate cleaning sites will be designated, and all such equipment will be cleaned (power or high-pressure cleaning) before entering weed-free areas and/or National Forest Lands. ▪ Workers will inspect, remove, and properly dispose of readily observable weed seeds and plant parts found on their clothing and equipment. Proper disposal includes bagging the seeds and plant parts prior to disposal. ▪ Certified weed-free hay, mulch, or straw will be used for erosion control. If certified weed-free straw is not available, certified weed-free rice straw will be used. If weed-free material is not available, PCWA will consult with USFS botanist regarding other options (e.g., sterilized straw pellets). ▪ PCWA will consult with TNF to determine the appropriate seed mix for use when reseeding the sediment disposal site.			
BIO-3. Environmental Awareness Training. Construction personnel will attend an environmental awareness training prior to initiation of construction. The training will include a review of: ▪ Special-status species potentially occurring on site; ▪ Mitigation measures and BMPs to be implemented as part of the Project; ▪ Pertinent measures included in agency permits obtained for the Project; ▪ Procedures for reporting the presence of special-status species on site as well as any issues related to air or water resources.	Prior to Construction	PCWA	PCWA
CUL-1. Inadvertent Discovery of Previously Unknown Cultural Resources. In the unlikely event that prehistoric or historic subsurface cultural resources are inadvertently discovered during ground-disturbing or other construction activities, work within 50 feet of the discovery shall be halted immediately. PCWA will then immediately notify the appropriate land	During Construction	PCWA	PCWA

Mitigation Measure	Timing	Implementation Responsibility	Monitoring/ Reporting Responsibility
management agency and a qualified archaeologist will be retained to determine the significance of the discovery and, if appropriate, recommend management measures. If the resource is a potential Tribal Cultural Resource (TCR), then measure TCR-1 shall be followed (Section 3.18, Tribal Cultural Resources). Project activity shall not resume within 50 feet of the discovery until the significance of the discovery has been determined. If it is determined in consultation with the appropriate land manager that the discovery is not significant, Project activity may resume within 50 feet of the discovery. If it is determined that the discovery is significant, PCWA will consult with the appropriate land manager, and/or local Native American Tribal representative, as appropriate, and implement management measures that are deemed feasible and appropriate for the discovery. Such measures may include avoidance, preservation in place, excavation, further evaluation, documentation, curation, data recovery, or other appropriate measures.			
CUL-2. Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains. In the unlikely event that human remains are uncovered during ground-disturbing or other construction activities, they will be treated in accordance with the appropriate guidelines (e.g., Native American Graves Repatriation Act [NAGPRA] guidelines, USFS NAGPRA plans, and California Health and Safety Code [CHSC] Section 7050.5[b]). If, during the course of construction activities, human remains are discovered, all work in the vicinity shall immediately stop. PCWA will immediately notify the Placer County Coroner, the appropriate land manager, and a qualified archaeologist will be secured to evaluate the find. If it is determined that the human remains are Native American, PCWA expects that the land manager and qualified archeologist will provide PCWA with guidance regarding treatment of the remains per NAGPRA, ARPA (Archaeological Resources Protection Act), and/or other applicable law. In addition, PCWA expects that the land manager will contact the appropriate local Native American Tribal representatives within 48 hours of the determination, as required under NAGPRA. If the determination is that the remains are not Native American, the remains will be treated following CHSC Section 7050.5.	During Construction	PCWA	PCWA
GEO-1. Erosion and Water Quality Best Management Practices.	During Construction	PCWA	PCWA

Mitigation Measure	Timing	Implementation Responsibility	Monitoring/ Reporting Responsibility
PCWA has identified site-specific BMPs to effectively control erosion, sediment loss, and potential pollutant spills to protect water quality. During the project, these BMPs for erosion and sediment control shall be implemented by the project contractor. These BMPs will include, but are not limited to: ▪ Equipment will not be operated when ground conditions are such that excessive rutting and soil compaction could result ▪ Construction of drainage facilities or other work to control erosion or sedimentation will be required in conjunction with earthwork ▪ Bioengineering and other techniques will be implemented to prevent or minimize erosion, including vegetative or mechanical measures to improve surface of soil stability ▪ Revegetation including seedling of grasses, shrubs, or trees will be used as necessary to prevent or minimize erosion. A combination of woody and fibrous root systems usually produces the best results. All revegetation and seeding will be implemented in accordance with applicable U.S. Forest Service (USFS) policies. ▪ Mechanical measures including, but not limited to, wattles, erosion nets, terraces, mats, riprapping, mulch, soil seals, or coir rolls, may be used as necessary. ▪ Silt fend and/or straw bales will be installed around the sediment storage sites, where turbid runoff could occur during rain storms. ▪ Slopes of the sediment piles at disposal areas will not exceed a 2:1 ratio. ▪ PCWA will develop a SPCC Plan that describes the emergency response to spills or discovery of hazardous materials. ▪ Temporary fuel tanks will have adequate local containment consisting of berms and plastic sheeting to protect against accidental spills or leaks. ▪ A spill response kit will be maintained at each site. ▪ If any accidental releases of sediment, fuels, or oil occur, immediate containment and cleanup will be implemented, and the resource agencies notified in accordance with project permits. ▪ Hazardous waste products such as grease cartridges and oil absorbents will be placed in proper containers and transported from the job site to an authorized Hazardous Waste Collections Site.			

Mitigation Measure	Timing	Implementation Responsibility	Monitoring/ Reporting Responsibility
▪ All equipment will be thoroughly cleaned of dirt, grease, etc., prior to entering the National Forest, and will be inspected to ensure that they are in proper functioning condition. All suspect hoses and hydraulic lines will be replaced prior to entering the National Forest ▪ USFS requires preparation of an SPCC Plan if total storage of fuel at the sites exceeds 660 gallons in a single container, or if total storage exceeds 1,320 gallons. ▪ SPCC Plans must be compatible with appropriate County SPCC Plans and California State Guidelines.			
GEO-2. Inadvertent Discovery of Previously Unknown Paleontological Resources. In the unlikely event that paleontological resources are encountered during ground-disturbing or other construction activities, PCWA will immediately cease work in the vicinity of the find. PCWA will then immediately notify the appropriate land management agency and a qualified paleontologist will be secured to evaluate the find. If it is determined that the paleontological find is significant, PCWA will consult with the appropriate land manager and a qualified paleontologist to identify additional measures regarding treatment of the find.	During Construction	PCWA	PCWA
HAZ-1. Hazardous Materials Handling Measures. PCWA's construction specifications will require implementation of the following hazardous materials handling measures to prevent construction-related impacts: ▪ Avoid as much as possible the on-site storage of pollutant materials such as fuel, oil, concrete, paint, fertilizer, etc. When pollutant materials must be stored on site, store them in a secure, covered location with secondary containment provisions. ▪ Install barriers around storage areas to prevent contact with runoff. ▪ Carry out equipment hydraulic top-off, fueling, and lubricating on an approved pad with spill control and collection in place.	During Construction	PCWA	PCWA
HAZ-2. Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan. PCWA's construction specifications will require the contractor to prepare and implement a Project-specific Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan that includes: ▪ Procedures for the site handling, storage, and packaging of waste; ▪ Rules requiring the refueling of construction equipment within designated construction staging areas;	Develop plan prior to construction/ implement plan during construction	PCWA	PCWA

Mitigation Measure	Timing	Implementation Responsibility	Monitoring/ Reporting Responsibility
▪ Contingency plans in the event of a spill; and ▪ Notification requirements and contact information. The SPCC Plan will be submitted to PCWA for review and approval. After the plan has been approved, it will be incorporated into Contractor's construction plans required and approved by PCWA, and implemented as part of the construction contract.			
HAZ-3. Fire Plan. PCWA's construction specifications will require the contractor to prepare and implement a Project-specific Fire Plan that includes: ▪ Roles and responsibilities; ▪ Fire equipment, tool cache, and water suppression requirements; ▪ Fire control procedures; and ▪ Notification requirements and contact information. The Fire Plan will be submitted to PCWA for review and approval. After the plan has been approved, it will be incorporated into Contractor's construction plans required and approved by PCWA, and implemented as part of the construction contract.	Develop plan prior to construction/ implement plan during construction	PCWA	PCWA
HYD-1. General Construction Permit. PCWA will file a Notice of Intent with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to obtain coverage under the General Construction NPDES Permit. If required by State Water Board, a SWPPP will be prepared and implemented. The SWPPP will include: ▪ Pollution prevention measures (erosion and sediment control measures and measures to control non-stormwater discharges and hazardous spills); ▪ Demonstration of compliance with all applicable local and regional erosion and sediment control standards; ▪ Identification of responsible parties; and ▪ A BMP monitoring and maintenance schedule.	Prior to construction	PCWA	PCWA
NOISE-1. Noise Best Management Practices. To reduce noise-related impacts to occupants of the nearby residence, the following BMPs will be incorporated: ▪ The construction contractor shall comply with all local sound control noise level rules, regulations, and ordinances that apply to any work performed.	During Construction	PCWA	PCWA

Mitigation Measure	Timing	Implementation Responsibility	Monitoring/ Reporting Responsibility
▪ Construction equipment shall be equipped with a muffler of a type recommended by the manufacturer. No internal combustion engine shall be operated without a muffler during sediment disposal activities. ▪ Sediment disposal activities will be limited to the hours between sunrise (but no earlier than 7 a.m.) and sunset (but no later than 7 p.m.) on weekdays, and between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Saturday. Work shall not occur on Sundays or federal holidays. ▪ The use of loud sound signals shall be avoided in favor of light warnings except those required by safety laws for the protection of the construction personnel on-site during sediment management activities. ▪ The disposal area shall be designed to minimize the need for haul trucks to back up. ▪ Construction equipment and trucks shall be limited to five or fewer minutes of idling time.			
TCR-1. Tribal Cultural Resources – Unanticipated Discoveries. If any suspected TCRs are discovered during ground disturbing construction activities, all work shall cease within 100 feet of the find. A Tribal Representative from culturally affiliated tribes shall be immediately notified and shall determine if the find is a TCR (PRC §21074). The Tribal Representative will make recommendations regarding the treatment of the discovery. Preservation in place is the preferred alternative under CEQA protocols, and every effort must be made to preserve the resources in place, including through project redesign. Work at the discovery location cannot resume until all necessary investigation and evaluation of the discovery under the requirements of the CEQA, including AB 52, has been satisfied. The contractor shall implement any measures deemed by the CEQA lead agency to be necessary and feasible to preserve in place, avoid, or minimize impacts to the resource, including, but not limited to, facilitating the appropriate tribal treatment of the find, as necessary.	During Construction	PCWA	PCWA

Mitigation Measure	Timing	Implementation Responsibility	Monitoring/ Reporting Responsibility
TRA-1. Construction Traffic Control Plan. PCWA's contractor will prepare and implement a Construction Traffic Control Plan. The purpose of the plan will be to: ▪ Minimize construction-related impacts on public traffic and reduce the potential for accidents involving the public; ▪ Provide notification to administrators of police and fire stations, ambulance service providers, and recreational facility managers of the timing, location, and duration of construction activities and the locations of detours and lane closures, where applicable; ▪ Develop and implement a plan for notifications and a process for communication with affected users before the start of construction; and ▪ Enhance on-site personnel and vehicle safety. The plan will be submitted to PCWA for review and approval. After the plan has been approved, it will be incorporated into Contractor's construction plans required and approved by PCWA, and implemented as part of the construction contract.	Develop plan prior to construction/ implement plan during construction	PCWA	PCWA

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3 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Following is the environmental checklist form (CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G) that provides discussion of the environmental impacts associated with implementation of sediment disposal activities at the EBRL Sediment Disposal Area.

1. **Project title:** Middle Fork Interbay Sediment Management Project
2. **Lead agency name and address:** Placer County Water Agency, P.O. Box 6570, 144 Ferguson Road, Auburn, CA 95604
3. **Contact person and phone number:** Heather Trejo, Environmental Scientist, (530) 823-4905, htrejo@pcwa.net
4. **Project location:** Unincorporated Placer County; Tahoe National Forest; approximately 9.5 miles east of Foresthill
5. **Project sponsor's name and address:** Placer County Water Agency, P.O. Box 6570, 144 Ferguson Road, Auburn, CA 95604
6. **General plan designation:** Timberland
7. **Zoning:** Residential Forest and Resort
8. **Description of the Project:** This Project includes the disposal of sediments from Middle Fork Interbay at the EBRL Sediment Disposal Area.
9. **Surrounding land uses and setting:** This area is governed by the Placer County General Plan, adopted in 1994 and updated in 2013 (Placer County 2013). Surrounding land uses include timberland. The landscape is generally characterized by steep canyons, and rugged terrain with dense forests and woodlands. There are rural residences adjacent to the disposal area.
10. **Other public agencies whose approval is may be required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):**

    Federal: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
    State: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, State Water Resources Control Board
    Local: Placer County Air Pollution Control District

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.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Agriculture/Forestry Resources	☐ Air Quality
☐ Biological Resources	☐ Cultural Resources	☐ Energy
☐ Geology/Soils	☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Hazards and 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

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.

Signature	Date
Signature	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.

3.1 Aesthetics

Would the Project…		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☑	☐
d)	Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☑

3.1.1 Thresholds of Significance

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, a project could have a significant impact related to aesthetics if the project would:

- Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista;
- Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcrops, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway;
- 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 experiences from publicly accessible vantage point). If the Project is in an urbanized area, would the Project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality; or
- Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

3.1.2 Setting

The EBRL Sediment Disposal Area is located in the foothills and mountainous uplands of the western slope of the central Sierra Nevada in Placer County and the Tahoe National Forest (TNF). The EBRL Sediment Disposal Area is located on a 31.8-acre, privately-owned parcel which is surrounded by Forest Service land that supports primarily pine-fir forest habitat. Sediment disposal activities will occur on an approximately 5-acre portion of the parcel in the northwest corner of the property. The parcel is heavily disturbed and has been logged. The access road to the disposal area (Forest Route [FR] 0096-012) is approximately 1.5 miles west of the intersection of Mosquito Ridge Road (FR 96) and Middle Fork Interbay Dam Road. The disposal area is not visible from Mosquito Ridge Road. There are several rural residences adjacent to the EBRL property.

3.1.3 Discussion

a) *The Project would not have a substantial adverse impact on a scenic vista.*

A scenic vista is generally defined as an expansive view of highly valued landscape observable from a publicly accessible vantage point. Transportation of the removed sediment to the EBRL Sediment Disposal Area would require hauling on public roads; however, the hauling activities would be temporary and the public roads that would be utilized do not contain publicly accessible vantage points to a highly valued landscape. Transport and placement of sediment removed from Middle Fork Interbay at the EBRL Sediment Disposal Area would not conflict with a scenic vista; therefore, there would be **no impact.**

b) *The Proposed Project would not substantially impact (damage) trees, rock outcrops, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway or other scenic resources.*

The access road to the EBRL Sediment Disposal Area (Forest Route [FR] 0096-012) is approximately 1.5 miles west of the intersection of Mosquito Ridge Road (FR 96) and Middle Fork Interbay Dam Road. According to the State of California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) Scenic Highway Program (Caltrans 2019), the access road, FR 96, and Middle Fork Interbay Dam Road are not considered an officially designated or eligible state scenic highway. No other designated scenic resources are located in the vicinity of sediment disposal activities. Therefore, there would be **no impact**.

c) *The Proposed Project is in a non-urbanized area and would not substantially impact (degrade) the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings.*

The existing EBRL property is heavily disturbed and has historically been logged. The 5-acre disposal area is not visible from Mosquito Ridge Road. Prior to implementation of sediment disposal activities, the property owner will log the 5-acre disposal area. There is the potential that a few trees will remain that were not fit for harvesting. If this occurs, the construction contractor will remove the trees to facilitate disposal activities. The logging activity and deposition of sediment stockpiles would result in a change to the existing visual character of the site. However, since the site is heavily disturbed, has historically been logged, and the sediment stockpiles would not be visible from Mosquito Ridge Road, sediment disposal activities would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. Therefore, this impact would be **less than significant.**

d) *The Proposed Project would not create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.*

Sediment disposal activities do not involve installation of any new lighting or reflective surfaces that would result in glare. Because sediment disposal activities would occur during daytime hours, no nighttime lighting would be necessary. Therefore, there would be **no impact**.

3.1.4 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts related to aesthetic resources would result from implementation of sediment disposal activities. Therefore, no mitigation is required.

3.2 Agriculture and Forest Resources

Would the Project…		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☑
b)	Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☑
c)	Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)) or timberland (as defined in 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?	☐	☐	☐	☑

3.2.1 Thresholds of Significance

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, a project could have a significant impact related to agriculture or forest resources if the project would:

- 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 nonagricultural use;
- Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract;
- Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land or timberland, as defined by the Public Resources Code;
- Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use; or
- 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.

3.2.2 Setting

The Community Development Resource Agency (CDRA) produced a Placer County Land Information Map (Placer County 2020a), which displays zoning designations for areas in Placer County. Land use designations are defined in the Placer County General Plan (Placer County 2013).

Results from the map show zoning designations for the EBRL Sediment Disposal Area as Residential Forest (RF) and Resort (RES) (Placer County 2020a), which according to the Placer County General Plan (Placer County 2013) has land uses designations as Rural Residential (RR) and Resorts and Recreation (REC). The sediment disposal area is surrounded by Forestry (FOR) and Timberland Production Zones (TPZ), with land use designation as Greenbelt and Open Space (OS) and Timberland (T). Additional descriptions of land use and zoning designations are provided in Section 3.11, Land Use and Planning.

3.2.3 Discussion

a) *The Proposed Project would not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to non-agricultural uses.*

There are no lands designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance in the vicinity of sediment disposal activities (California Department of Conservation 2020). Therefore, there would be **no impact.**

b) *The Proposed Project would not involve any activity that would conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract*.

There are no lands zoned for agricultural use or under a Williamson Act contract in the vicinity of sediment disposal activities (Placer County 2020a). Therefore, there would be **no impact**.

c), d) *The Proposed Project would not result in any changes to existing zoning, or cause rezoning, of forest land or timberland*.

The Proposed Project would not result in the direct loss of any forest lands.

Sediment disposal activities will take place on private property zoned as Residential Forest (RF) and Resort (RES). The sediment disposal area is surrounded by land zoned as Forestry (FOR) and Timberland Production Zones (TPZ). Implementation of sediment disposal activities will not result in any changes to existing zoning, or cause rezoning, of forest land or timberland, or result in the direct loss of any forest lands. Therefore, there would be **no impact**.

e) *The Proposed Project would not involve 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 impact.*

There are no state-designated Farmlands in the vicinity of sediment disposal activities (Placer County 2013, 2020a). In addition, sediment disposal activities will not result in the conversion of land uses, including conversion of forest land to non-forest use. Therefore, there is **no impact.**

3.2.4 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts related to agriculture and forest resources would result from implementation of sediment disposal activities. Therefore, no mitigation is required.

3.3 Air Quality

Would the Project…		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☑
b)	Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	☐	☑	☐	☐
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?	☐	☑	☐	☐

3.3.1 Thresholds of Significance

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, a project could have a significant impact on the environment related to air resources if the project would:

- Substantially conflict with or substantially obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan;
- 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;
- Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations; or
- Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people.

3.3.2 Setting

Placer County exhibits large variations in terrain and consequently exhibits large variations in climate, both of which affect air quality. The western portions of the County slopes gradually with deep river canyons running from southwest to northeast towards the crest of the Sierra Nevada. The warmest areas are found at the lower elevations along the west side of the County, while the coldest average temperatures are found at the highest elevations.

The prevailing wind direction over the County is westerly. However, the terrain of the area has a great influence on local winds, resulting in a wide variability in wind direction. Afternoon winds are generally channeled up-canyon, while nighttime winds generally flow down-canyon. Winds are, in general, stronger in spring and summer and weaker in fall and winter. Periods of calm winds and clear skies in fall and winter often result in strong, ground-based inversions forming in mountain valleys. These layers of very stable air restrict the dispersal of pollutants, trapping these pollutants near the ground, representing the worst conditions for local air pollution occurring in the County (Placer County 2007).

Placer County crosses three distinct air basins: Sacramento Valley, Mountain Counties, and Lake Tahoe basins. The Project area is within the Mountain Counties Air Basin (MCAB) and is under the jurisdiction of the Placer County Air Pollution Control District (PCAPCD), which is the local agency for air quality planning with authority over air pollutant sources. The MCAB is designated as nonattainment for federal and state ozone (O_3) standards and nonattainment for state particulate matter standard (PM_{10}) (PCAPCD 2017).

Regulatory Setting

Air quality within Placer County is regulated by several jurisdictions, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the California Air Resources Board (CARB), and the PCAPCD. Each of these jurisdictions develops rules, regulations, and policies to attain the goals or directives imposed upon them through legislation. Although USEPA regulations may not be superseded, both state and local regulations may be more stringent.

Concentrations of ozone, carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), respirable particulate matter (PM_{10}), fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$), and lead are used as indicators of ambient air quality conditions. Because these are the most prevalent air pollutants known to be deleterious to human health and extensive health-effects, they are commonly referred to as "criteria air pollutants." **Appendix A** provides a summary of criteria air pollutants, common sources, and associated effects as well as federal and state standards for the criteria pollutants and other state regulated air pollutants. As stated previously, the Project area is within an area that is designated as nonattainment for federal and state ozone (O_3) standards and state particulate matter standard (PM_{10}).

One of the most important reasons for air quality standards is the protection of those members of the population who are most sensitive to the adverse health effects of air pollution, termed "sensitive receptors." The term "sensitive receptors" refers to specific population groups, as well as the land uses where they would reside for long periods. Commonly identified sensitive population groups are children, the elderly, the acutely ill, and the chronically ill. Commonly identified sensitive land uses are residences, schools, playgrounds, childcare centers, retirement homes or convalescent homes, hospitals, and clinics. Toxic air contaminants (TAC) and odors are also factors that influence air quality and potential Project affects to air quality.

Federal Air Quality Regulations

At the federal level, the USEPA has been charged with implementing national air quality programs. The USEPA's air quality mandates are drawn primarily from the Federal Clean Air Act (FCAA), which was signed into law in 1970. Congress substantially amended the FCAA in 1977 and again in 1990. The FCAA required the USEPA to establish National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and also set deadlines for their attainment. Two types of NAAQS have been established: primary standards, which protect public health, and secondary standards, which protect public welfare from non-health-related adverse effects, such as visibility restrictions.

California Air Quality Regulation

The 1988 California Clean Air Act (CCAA) requires that all air districts in the state endeavor to achieve and maintain California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) for ozone, CO, sulfur dioxide (SO_2), and nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) by the earliest practical date. The CCAA specifies that districts focus

particular attention on reducing the emissions from transportation and area-wide emission sources, and the act provides districts with authority to regulate indirect sources. Each district plan is required to either: (1) achieve a 5% annual reduction, averaged over consecutive 3-year periods, in district-wide emissions of each nonattainment pollutant or its precursors, or (2) to provide for implementation of all feasible measures to reduce emissions.

Placer County Air Pollution Control District

The PCAPCD is the agency primarily responsible for ensuring that NAAQS and CAAQS are not exceeded and that air quality conditions within its District are maintained. Responsibilities of the PCAPCD include, but are not limited to, preparing plans for the attainment of ambient air quality standards, adopting and enforcing rules and regulations concerning sources of air pollution, issuing permits for stationary sources of air pollution, inspecting stationary sources of air pollution and responding to citizen complaints, monitoring ambient air quality and meteorological conditions, and implementing programs and regulations required by the FCAA and the CCAA.

In October 2016, the PCAPCD adopted new significance thresholds for reactive organic gases (ROG), nitrous oxides (NO_X), and PM_{10} that are used to evaluate a project's air quality impact (PCAPCD 2016). The PCAPCD-recommended significance thresholds are summarized in Table 2 (PCAPCD 2017). The PCAPCD uses these thresholds to determine the level of significance for emissions associated with a Project's construction emissions (e.g., demolishing, site preparation, earthmoving, and building) and operational emissions (e.g., space heating, motor vehicle trips, and landscaping maintenance). The thresholds are also used to determine appropriate mitigation measures to offset a project's cumulative air quality impacts.

Table 2. PCAPCD Recommended Project-Level Thresholds of Significance.

Type of Emissions	Thresholds of Significance (lbs per day)		
	ROG	NO_X	PM_{10}
Construction Emissions	82	82	82
Operational Emissions	55	55	82

3.3.3 Discussion

a) *The Proposed Project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable (i.e., PCAPCD) air quality plan.*

A project would be considered to conflict with or obstruct implementation of the regional air quality plan if it were inconsistent with the emissions inventories contained in applicable plans. The most recent air quality plan for Placer County was adopted in 2017 and includes an updated emission inventory for ROG and NO_X. Sediment disposal activities would not result in emissions beyond those accounted for in the regional emissions inventory, which assumes routine use of on-road equipment such as trucks, as well as "other mobile source groupings" such as construction equipment (PCAPCD 2017). There would be no ongoing emissions resulting from use of the EBRL Property Sediment Disposal Area. Sediment disposal activities would not conflict or obstruct implementation of any applicable air quality plan; therefore, there would be **no impact**.

b) *The Proposed Project would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant of which the Project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard with implementation of mitigation.*

There will be no long-term operational impacts to emissions resulting from implementation of sediment disposal activities at the EBRL Property. However, sediment disposal activities would result in temporary air-quality emissions as a result of earth moving activities and transportation of sediments removed from Middle Fork Interbay to the disposal site. Construction-related emissions are generally short-term in duration, but may still contribute to localized changes in ambient air quality under certain atmospheric conditions.

The California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) Version 2016.3.2 was used to quantify construction-related emissions associated with sediment disposal activities. Data sources include the Project-specific equipment list, Project schedule, and Project-calculated haul trips and unpaved road travel percentages. The model-assumed emissions factors and equipment engine ratings were used for this analysis. The daily emissions output generated from CalEEMod were then compared to PCAPCD CEQA thresholds to determine significance. As shown in Table 3, criteria pollutant emissions associated with sediment disposal activities would be below PCAPCD's emissions thresholds with mitigation.

PCWA would implement sediment disposal activities in accordance with applicable PCAPD rules and regulations and would obtain an Authority to Construct Permit from PCAPCD prior to any construction activities. Further, PCWA will implement Mitigation Measure AIR-1, which states that all required PCAPCD Best Management Practices (BMP), including preparation of a dust control plan, compliance with applicable rules/regulations, and proper maintenance of construction equipment, will be implemented. With implementation of Mitigation Measure AIR-1, sediment disposal activities would not exceed PCAPCD's thresholds of significance. Therefore, this impact would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

Table 3. PCAPCD Thresholds of Significance and Estimated Project Emissions.

Construction Emissions (lbs per day)[1]	ROG	NOx	PM10
PCAPCD Thresholds of Significance	82	82	82
Unmitigated Construction	5.6	78.5	201.5
Mitigated Construction	5.6	78.5	58.5

[1] Project emissions were estimated using the California Emissions Estimator Model, Version 2016.3.2.

c) *The Proposed Project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations with implementation of mitigation*.

Sensitive receptors are specific population groups who are most sensitive to the adverse health effects of air pollution, as well as the land uses where these groups would reside for long periods. The sediment disposal area is located in a remote area within Tahoe National Forest, however, there are residences in the vicinity of the sediment disposal area where individuals who could be sensitive receptors reside. As discussed in (b) above, the sediment disposal activities may result in short-term increases in emissions. However, the temporary nature of construction, coupled with the

implementation of AIR-1, would not result in conditions where sensitive receptors would be exposed to substantial pollutant concentrations. Therefore, this impact would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated.**

d) *The Proposed Project would not result in other emissions, such as those leading to odors, adversely affecting a substantial number of people.*

Sediment disposal activities would involve the use of a variety of gasoline or diesel-powered equipment that would emit exhaust fumes. Exhaust fumes, particularly diesel-exhaust, may adversely affect some people. However, construction-generated emissions would occur intermittently throughout the workday and would dissipate rapidly within increasing distance from source. The Proposed Project would not result in the installation of any equipment or processes that would be considered odor-emission sources, and once sediment disposal activities are complete, emissions would return to pre-Project levels.

Furthermore, with implementation of Mitigation Measure AIR-1, PCWA will implement all applicable BMPs to reduce adverse emissions such as odors, including limiting idling time of diesel vehicles. This measure would reduce adverse emissions such as odors resulting from exhaust fumes; therefore, this impact would be considered **less than significant with mitigation incorporated.**

3.3.4 Mitigation Measures

AIR-1. Air Quality Best Management Practices.

PCWA will implement all applicable BMPs employed by the PCAPCD under Rule 228, including Rule 401, Minimum Dust Control Requirements, which requires stabilizing unpaved areas subject to vehicle traffic by being kept wet, and limiting vehicles travelling across unpaved surfaces to no more than 15 miles per hour (**Appendix B**). These BMPs will be incorporated into construction specifications and implemented by the contractor during construction.

3.4 Biological Resources

Would the Proposed Project…	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☑	☐	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☑
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☐	☑
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?	☐	☐	☐	☑

3.4.1 Thresholds of Significance

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, a project could have a significant impact on the environment related to biological resources if the project would:

- 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 CDFW or USFWS (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service);
- Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the CDFW or USFWS;
- Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the CWA (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means;
- 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;

- Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance; or
- Conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

3.4.2 Setting

This section describes the biological setting in the vicinity of sediment disposal activities, including aquatic and terrestrial vegetation communities/wildlife habitats and special-status plants and wildlife. Provided below is a summary of the methods used to obtain information on biological resources in the Project area, and the resulting description of those resources.

Methods

This section summarizes the methods and results of the literature review and biological resource surveys completed to determine the presence of special-status plant and wildlife species or their habitat in the vicinity of sediment disposal activities.

Literature Review

This analysis relies primarily on extensive technical studies conducted by the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) as part of the relicensing of the Middle Fork American River Project (MFP), as documented in the following reports:

- TERR 1 – Vegetation Communities and Wildlife Habitat (PCWA 2011b);
- TERR 2 – Special-Status Plant Populations (PCWA 2011c); and
- TERR 4 – Special-Status Wildlife (PCWA 2011d).

Additional information was obtained from the following sources:

- Preliminary Application Document (PAD) for the MFP (PCWA 2007);
- Biological Assessment/Biological Evaluation (BA/BE) developed for the relicensing of the MFP (PCWA 2011f);
- CDFW California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB 2020);
- US Department of Agriculture-Forest Service (USFS) Region 5 Forester's List of Sensitive Plant and Wildlife Species, by Forest (USFS 2013);
- Tahoe National Forest's (TNF) Threatened, Endangered, and Forest Service Sensitive Botanical Species (TNF 2016);
- TNF Invasive Plants of Management Concern (TNF 2016);
- Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (USFS 2004);
- USFWS Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) Species List (**Appendix C**); and
- California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Electronic Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (CNPS 2020).

Biological Resource Surveys

Botanical Surveys

Botanical resource surveys were conducted by qualified botanists on May 26, 2020 and June 18, 2020, in order to best capture varying plant phenology and optimal bloom periods. The survey area included the access road and 5-acre disposal area, plus a 100-foot buffer. Botanical surveys followed the *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special-Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities* (CDFW 2018).

Wildlife Reconnaissance and Nesting Bird Surveys

Wildlife reconnaissance surveys were conducted on May 26, 2020 to obtain information on any special-status wildlife species or their habitats, as well as any active bird nests, present in the vicinity of sediment disposal activities. The survey area included the access road and 5-acre disposal area, plus an 0.25-mile buffer. In addition, nest searches were conducted within 0.25 mile for northern goshawk and California spotted owl; 660 feet for bald eagle; 500 feet for all other raptors; and 250 feet for passerines. Species were recorded as present if they were observed, if species-specific vocalizations were heard, or if diagnostic field signs (e.g., scat, tracks, pellets, nests, or den sites) were found. Biologist scanned trees, shrubs, and other appropriate habitat for the presence of active nests with the assistance of binoculars and/or a spotting scope. General observations of the suitability of available habitat for various special-status species were also recorded.

Results

This section provides a description of botanical and wildlife resources in the Project area based on the literature review and biological resource surveys.

Vegetation Community/Wildlife Habitats

The elevation of the sediment disposal area is 4,260 feet above mean sea level (msl). The Project area is dominated by Sierran mixed conifer forest. *Pinus ponderosa* (ponderosa pine) and *Calocedrus decurrens* (cedar) were co-dominants in the tree canopy, and *Abies concolor* (white fir) and *Quercus kelloggii* (black oak) were subdominants. The understory was generally sparse, but dominant shrubs included *Ceanothus integerrimus* (deer brush), *Pteridium aquilinum* (bracken fern), *Chamaebatia foliolosa* (mountain misery), and *Ribes roezlii* (Sierra gooseberry). Understory graminoids were limited, but were dominated by *Agrostis* spp., *Carex* spp., and *Poa* spp. Dominant forbs included *Viola* spp., *Iris hartwegii* (Hertweg's iris), *Trifolium* spp., *Claytonia* spp., and *Hieracium albiflorum* (white hawkweed).

Roadside vegetation along the access roads was typical of forest roads in this area, and influenced by disturbed shoulders and roadway drainage. Vegetation was adapted to drier conditions and patchier overstory compared to the surrounding habitat, and in additional to the species described above, also included more drought tolerant species such as *Eriodictyon californicum* (yerba santa), *Ceanothus prostrates* (pinemat), *Apocynum androsaemifolium* (spreading dogbane), and limited individuals of common species, including *Rumex crispus* (curly dock), *Hordeum murinum* (foxtail barley), and *Taraxacum officinale* (common dandelion).

Special-Status Plants

For the purposes of this document, a special-status plant species is defined as any species that is granted status by a federal, state, or local agency. Federally listed plant species are defined as those species granted status by the USFWS under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and include threatened (FT), endangered (FE), proposed threatened or endangered (FPT, FPE), candidate (FC), or listed species proposed for delisting (FPD). State of California listed plant species, which are granted status by CDFW under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), include rare (SR), threatened (ST), or endangered (SE) species. Under CEQA, special-status plants include species listed by CNPS as rare, threatened, or endangered in California and plants for which more information is needed (CNPS Lists 1B, 2B, and 3) (CNPS 2020).

Twelve special-status plants were identified as potentially occurring in the vicinity of sediment disposal activities based on the elevation and vegetation communities present. **Appendix D** provides a list of these plants; and states whether a species is likely to occur considering the site location, elevation, and habitat characteristics. Refer to **Figure 4** for the location of known special-status plant occurrences in the Project vicinity.

Botanical surveys were conducted on May 26, 2020 and June 18, 2020. No special-status plant species and no sensitive vegetation communities were identified in the survey area.

Special-Status Wildlife

For the purposes of this document, a special-status wildlife species is defined as any species that is granted status by a federal, state, or local agency. Federally listed species are those granted status by federal agencies as FT, FE, FPT, FPE, FC, or FPD. State of California listed wildlife species are defined as those species granted status as ST, SE, California Fully Protected species (CFP), and species of special concern (SSC). In addition, this document includes raptor species protected under Section 3503.5 of the California Fish and Game Code and bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (16 USC 703–711).

Thirteen special-status wildlife species, including one insect, six birds, and six mammals, were identified as potentially occurring in the vicinity of sediment disposal activities based on the elevation and habitat present. These are:

- Western bumble bee;
- Northern goshawk;
- American peregrine falcon;
- California spotted owl;
- Vaux's swift;
- Olive-sided flycatcher;
- Purple martin;
- Pallid bat;
- Townsend's big-eared bat;

- Spotted bat;
- Fringed myotis;
- Western mastiff bat; and
- Martin.

Refer to **Appendix E** for a list of special-status wildlife species and whether the animal is known to occur or likely to occur considering the site location, elevation, and habitat characteristics. Refer to **Figure 4** for the location of known special-status wildlife occurrences in the Project vicinity.

No special-status wildlife species or their sign were observed during reconnaissance surveys; and no active bird nests were observed. Common wildlife species observed included, but are not limited to, common raven (*Corvus corax*), mountain quail (*Oreortyx pictus*), yellow-rumped warbler (*Setophaga coronata*), mountain chickadee (*Poecile gambeli*), squirrels (*Sciurus* spp.), western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*).

3.4.3 Discussion

a) With implementation of mitigation, the Proposed Project will not 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 CDFW or USFWS.

Special-Status Plants

No special-status plants were identified in the Project area during botanical surveys conducted May 26, 2020 and June 18, 2020. Therefore, the Project will not affect any special-status plant populations.

One species, *Bromus tectorum* (cheatgrass), considered to be a non-native invasive plant (NNIP) by the TNF was observed in the Project area during botanical surveys. Ingress and egress of the haul trucks and ground disturbing activities at the sediment disposal area could potentially result in the spread of cheatgrass, or introduction of new NNIPs, which could, in turn, indirectly affect special-status plants over time by altering habitat. The potential for alteration of habitat would be minimized through implementation of mitigation measures. Mitigation Measure BIO-1 states that vehicles and equipment will be restricted to designated roadways and/or staging areas and will not go off-road into areas, where NNIPs are more likely to be present. Mitigation Measure BIO-2 includes additional measures to prevent the introduction or spread of NNIPs during implementation of the Project including vehicle washing and removal of weed seeds; and use of certified weed-free materials for Project-related activities. Mitigation Measures BIO-3 states that construction personnel will attend an environmental awareness training prior to initiation of the Project. The training will include a review of sensitive biological resources potentially occurring in the Project area, and applicable mitigation measures that are required to be implemented to avoid and protect them.

Considering that the Project will not directly affect special-status plants, and with implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1, BIO-2, and BIO-3 to minimize the potential for indirect effects, the Project's impact on special-status plants would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

Western Bumble Bee

The historic range of the western bumble bee includes most of western North America. This species has general habitat requirements and is not dependent on any specific flower species for food. Placement of sediment at the site may directly impact burrows that represent potential nesting habitat

for this ground-nesting species. Removal of trees and other vegetation from the disposal site may potentially affect bees by removing flowering herbs and shrubs. However, these effects would be temporary, and limited to the defined 5-acre disposal area. Following completion of the Project, the site would be seeded with a native seed mix approved by USFS, and would be allowed to revegetate. Removal of tree canopy would result in an increase in early successional flowering herbs and shrubs, which may temporarily increase foraging habitat for western bumble bees. In addition, sediments placed at the site would be friable, providing suitable substrate for burrowing species following completion of the Project. Considering that impacts to potential nesting and foraging habitat would be temporary and limited in time and scope; and that the disposal site would continue to provide habitat for this species after completion of the Project, the Project's impact on the western bumble bee would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

Special-Status Birds

Sierran mixed conifer habitats surrounding the disposal area and access route provide habitat for six special-status birds, including northern goshawk, American peregrine falcon, California spotted owl, Vaux's swift, olive-sided flycatcher, and purple martin. The sediment disposal site is located immediately adjacent to a California spotted owl protected activity center (PAC) (refer to **Figure 4**). The nest location within the PAC is unknown.

The potential for the Project to directly affect special-status birds would be minimal for several reasons. First, sediment disposal activities would be conducted September 16 through November 15, which is outside the breeding season for all special-status birds potentially occurring in the Project area (the breeding season for northern goshawk is February 15 through September 15; the breeding season for the remaining birds is (roughly) March through August). Therefore, the Project will not affect nesting birds. Vaux's swift, olive-sided flycatcher, and purple martin are summer residents and would absent from the Project area during implementation of sediment disposal activities. Noise from haul trucks and use of equipment during placement of sediment may result in disturbance to any of the remaining bird species potentially foraging in the vicinity (i.e., northern goshawk, American peregrine falcon, or California spotted owl). However, such effects would be short-term and temporary, and limited to the period between September 16 through November 15. As described in Mitigation Measure BIO-1, sediment disposal activities would be implemented during daylight hours (7 a.m. to 7 p.m.), avoiding disturbance of California spotted owl, which forages at night. Disturbance effects would be further limited by restricting activities to a designated work area (Mitigation Measure BIO-1). Finally, Mitigation Measure BIO-3 states that environmental training will be implemented to facilitate worker awareness of special-status species potentially present at the site; and measures that must be implemented to protect these species. Considering that the Project is implemented outside of the breeding season for special-status birds, that three of the birds are migratory and will not be present in the area during implementation, and with implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-3, direct impacts to special-status birds would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

Sediment disposal activities may indirectly affect special-status birds by reducing the availability of Sierran mixed conifer habitat. This effect would be minimal considering that disposal of sediments would be limited to a designated 5-acre area (Mitigation Measure BIO-1) which will have been previously logged by the owner. Furthermore, following completion of the Project, the site would be reseeded using a TNF-approved seeding mix (Mitigation Measure BIO-2), and allowed to revegetate. Habitat quality for raptors would be reduced for a number of years as vegetation on the site grows through successional changes. Eventually, the site would be expected to return to its original condition (i.e., supporting Sierran mixed conifer habitat). Forested areas surrounding the disposal site

would be unaffected. Considering the limited size of the Project; that the disposal site would be seeded and allowed to revegetate following completion of sediment disposal activities, and with implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-2, indirect effects to special-status birds would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

Special-Status Mammals

Sierran mixed conifer habitats surrounding the disposal area and access route provide foraging habitat for five special-status bats, including pallid bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, spotted bat, fringed myotis, and western mastiff bat and for one additional mammal, the marten. Sediment disposal activities would be implemented during the fall (September 16 to November 20). Four of the five bat species— pallid bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, spotted bat, and fringed myotis—hibernate during the fall and winter (typically beginning in October) and therefore will not be actively foraging during the majority of the time that the Project is implemented. Western mastiff bat is active year-round, but forages at night. Marten are believed to be largely crepuscular, meaning they are active primarily between dusk and dawn (although this may vary depending on a number of factors including season, geographical location, and prey availability) (Feldhammer et al 2003). As stated in Mitigation Measure BIO-1, all project activities would be implemented after sunrise/before sunset, and therefore are unlikely to interfere with night-foraging or crepuscular species. The potential for direct impacts would be further reduced through implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-3, which states that environmental training will be implemented to facilitate worker awareness of special-status species potentially present at the site; and measures that must be implemented to protect these species. Considering that the Project will be implemented during seasons/times when foraging bats or martens would not be present, and with implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-3, direct impacts to special-status bats and mammals would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

Sediment disposal activities may indirectly affect special-status bats and the marten by reducing the availability of Sierran mixed conifer habitat. This effect would be minimal considering that disposal of sediments would be limited to a designated 5-acre area (Mitigation Measure BIO-1) which will have been previously logged by the owner. Furthermore, following completion of the Project, the site would be reseeded using a TNF-approved seeding mix (Mitigation Measure BIO-2), and allowed to revegetate. The more open quality of the site may benefit foraging bat species such as pallid bat, which specialize in terrestrial insects. Habitat quality for the marten would be reduced for a number of years as vegetation on the site grows through successional changes. Eventually, the site would be expected to return to its original condition (i.e., supporting Sierran mixed conifer habitat). Forested areas surrounding the disposal site would be unaffected. Considering the limited size of the Project; that the disposal site would be seeded and allowed to revegetate following completion of sediment disposal activities, and with implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-2, indirect effects to special-status bats and mammals would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

b) *The Proposed Project will have no effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the CDFW or USFWS.*

There are no riparian habitats or other sensitive natural communities in the Project area. Therefore, the Proposed Project will have no effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities

identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the CDFW or USFWS. There is **no impact**, and no mitigation is required.

c) *The Proposed Project will have no 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.*

The disposal area and associated access route are located entirely in upland habitats and does not contain any state or federally protected wetlands. The Proposed Project will have no 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. There is **no impact**, and no mitigation is required.

d) *With implementation of mitigation, the Proposed Project would not interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors because the Project is not located in a known migration corridor or recognized flyway*; *and the Proposed Project would not impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.*

The disposal area and access route are located in upland habitats, and therefore the Project would not affect movements of resident or migratory fish.

The disposal area and access route are located within the range of the Blue Canyon mule deer herd, which occupies the western slope of the Sierra Nevada north of the Rubicon River and south of Interstate 80. The herd is primarily migratory, with a subset of non-migratory deer that occupy the Foresthill Divide area. The disposal area and access route are located within the herd's winter range, lower elevation habitat that provides forage and cover. The sediment disposal activities would be implemented during the mid-to-late fall, when mule deer are expected to be moving from the higher elevation summer ranges to the lower elevation winter range. Increased truck trips during hauling of sediment could therefore potentially interfere with movement of mule deer to their winter range. Such effects would be temporary (limited to the time required to dispose of sediment) and minimal for several reasons. As described in Mitigation Measure BIO-2, haul trucks would remain within the existing road or within the defined limits of the 5-acre disposal area. Construction activities would be limited to daylight hours, when mule deer attempting to cross the access road would be visible to truck drivers. Truck drivers would be required to drive within the speed limit, further reducing the potential for collisions with deer. Finally, the disposal area itself would be temporarily denuded of vegetation and therefore would not provide cover or forage during implementation of the Project, reducing the potential for presence of mule deer. Considering the temporary nature of the Project, and with implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-2, effects to migrating mule deer would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

e) *The Proposed Project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.*

As described in Section 2.2, prior to implementation, several trees will be removed to facilitate disposal activities and allow grading and contouring of the site. Article 12.16 of the Placer County Code (Tree Preservation Ordinance) describes requirements related to removal of native and landmark trees (defined as or grove of trees designated by resolution of the board of supervisors to be of historical or cultural value, an outstanding specimen, an unusual species and/or of significant community benefit). The Proposed Project does not conflict with the ordinance for several reasons.

First, there are no designated landmark trees in the Project area. In addition, the ordinance applies only to projects that require discretionary (non-ministerial) approval by the County (Code 12.16.030 E). The Proposed Action is not subject to discretionary approval by the County. Considering that the Project will not affect landmark trees, and that the Project is non-ministerial, the Proposed Project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. There is **no impact**, and no mitigation is required.

f) The Proposed Project will not conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

The disposal area and associated access route are not under the jurisdiction of any local, regional, or state conservation plan such as a Habitat Conservation Plan or Natural Community Conservation Plan. Placer County is in the process of approving the Placer County Conservation Plan (PCCP), which includes a joint Natural Community Conservation Plan and Habitat Conservation Plan. PCWA is a signatory to the PCCP. However, the PCCP applies only to those portions of Placer County east and downslope of Auburn/Highway 49 (excluding the cities of Auburn, Loomis, Rocklin, and Roseville). In addition, the Proposed Project would not result in impacts to special-status species covered under the PCCP. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not conflict with the provisions of the PCCP. There is **no impact**, and no mitigation is required.

3.4.4 Mitigation Measures

BIO-1. General Construction Measures.

PCWA will implement the following to minimize disturbance of sensitive resources in the Project area:

- Sediment disposal activities will be limited to a designated work area (including the work corridor and staging area). The work area will be clearly identified on the construction drawings and will be staked and flagged where necessary prior to initiation of sediment disposal activities.
- All staging areas and access routes will be located on developed roads and areas that have already been disturbed.
- Sediment disposal activities, including activities within equipment staging areas, will be limited to the hours between sunrise (but no earlier than 7:00 a.m.) and sunset (but no later than 7:00 p.m.) on weekdays. Work on weekends and PCWA-recognized holidays will be avoided when practical. If required, work on weekends and PCWA-recognized holidays will be limited to the hours between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- Drivers will respect all posted speed limits.
- Vegetation removal will be limited to that which is necessary for implementation of the Project.
- PCWA will ensure that all equipment and vehicles will be removed from the Project site following completion of the Project.

BIO-2. Non-Native Invasive Plants.

- Contractors will avoid driving off-road in noxious weed infested areas. Vehicle and foot travel will be restricted to established roads and trails whenever possible.
- All field vehicles and equipment previously used on non-paved surfaces outside of the watershed will be thoroughly cleaned and inspected by PCWA or its designee before entering the work area.

- Off-road vehicles and heavy equipment will be free of material that may contain seeds of noxious weeds prior to leaving an area infested with weeds. All off-road vehicles and heavy equipment will be inspected for weed seeds stuck in tire treads or mud on the vehicle. Appropriate cleaning sites will be designated, and all such equipment will be cleaned (power or high-pressure cleaning) before entering weed-free areas and/or National Forest Lands.
- Workers will inspect, remove, and properly dispose of readily observable weed seeds and plant parts found on their clothing and equipment. Proper disposal includes bagging the seeds and plant parts prior to disposal.
- Certified weed-free hay, mulch, or straw will be used for erosion control. If certified weed-free straw is not available, certified weed-free rice straw will be used. If weed-free material is not available, PCWA will consult with USFS botanist regarding other options (e.g., sterilized straw pellets).
- PCWA will consult with TNF to determine the appropriate seed mix for use when reseeding the sediment disposal site.

BIO-3. Environmental Awareness Training.

Construction personnel will attend an environmental awareness training prior to initiation of construction. The training will include a review of:

- Special-status species potentially occurring on site;
- Mitigation measures and BMPs to be implemented as part of the Project;
- Pertinent measures included in agency permits obtained for the Project;
- Procedures for reporting the presence of special-status species on site as well as any issues related to air or water resources.

3.5 Cultural Resources

Would the Project…		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in 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 formal cemeteries?	☐	☑	☐	☐

3.5.1 Thresholds of Significance

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, a project could have a significant impact on the environment related to cultural resources if the project would:

- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a unique archaeological resource or a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines, respectively; or
- Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

Section 15064.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines defines "substantial adverse change" as physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings.

3.5.2 Setting

This section provides a summary of the methods used to obtain information on cultural and historical resources in the vicinity of sediment disposal activities, and the resulting description of those resources. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) associated with sediment disposal activities is limited to: (1) access roads (portion of Mosquito Ridge Road and private drives), and (2) the sediment disposal area identified on **Figure 2**.

Methods

Literature Review

A preliminary review of the below-listed sources was conducted to identify cultural resources recorded within or adjacent to the Project area:

- California Geological Survey Map of California (CGS 2020a)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Maps (NRCS 2020);
- Ethnographic Village Locations (Wilson and Towne 1978);
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM) General Land Office Maps (BLM 2020);
- Historic USGS Topographic Maps (USGS 2020);
- Historic aerial photographs (Historic Aerials 2020);

- National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) database (National Park Service 2020);
- California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) database (California State Parks, Office of Historic Preservation 2020); and
- California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), North Central Information Center database (CHRIS 2020).

The sources listed above were reviewed to assess the presence of cultural resources and the potential for buried archaeological sites within the Project area. Assessing the sensitivity for an area to contain buried archaeological sites takes into consideration the potential for the presence of buried cultural deposits by examining past use of the study area; factors that support human occupations such as access to resources and water; slope; and the underlying geomorphology of the area. Generally speaking, a large proportion of archaeological sites are located within 150 meters of perennial water sources and on relatively flat ground. Portions of the Project area that have these characteristics have an increased potential to contain surficial and buried cultural resources. A review of aerial photographs and topographic maps depict that the area is relatively flat, and while there is currently a small reservoir depicted on the recent topographic maps, there was no depiction of any perennial or intermittent water flow within 400 meters of the APE.

Pedestrian Surveys

Pedestrian surveys were conducted by a qualified archeologist on May 26, 2020. Surveys were conducted consistent with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and CEQA. The surveyor searched for site indicators of prehistoric sites along 5-to-10-meter-wide transects throughout the Project area. All rodent backdirts, deer trails, two-track vehicle trails, and other areas of open ground were searched thoroughly. All surface cobbles and boulders were examined for signs of human modification. Site indicators may include but are not limited to ground depressions; darkened soil areas indicative of middens; fire scorched and/or cracked rock; modified obsidian, chert, or other vitreous materials; and grinding stones including manos and metates. Historic era artifacts may include but are not limited to metal objects including nails; containers or miscellaneous hardware; glass fragments; ceramic or stoneware objects or fragments; milled or split lumber; trenches; feature or structure remains such as buildings or building foundations; and trash dumps.

Results

Depositions in the Project area are classified as ‘Pz’ or Paleozoic marine rocks dating to the Paleozoic period (542 to 251 million years ago). The Project area is flat to gently sloping. Soils in the PSA are predominantly composed of Cohasset-Aiken-Crozier complex (2 to 30 percent slopes). These soils are well drained with a parent material of mudflow deposits derived from andesite.

The closest ethnographic village is Hempamyan, located approximately 6.2 miles west-southwest of Project area (Wilson and Towne 1978). A review of historic topographic maps and historic aerials noted mining features in the vicinity of but not within the Project area. To the east of the Project area was the location of the former Cedar Springs Flight Strip, but no elements of that strip occurred within the Project area. No structures were depicted on any of the topographic maps. No NRHP or CRHR listed properties were identified within or adjacent to the Project area.

A record search was conducted at the North Central Information Center (NCIC) on May 28, 2020 and found that there were no documented cultural resources within the Project area, nor were there any documented resources within ½ mile; however, there were five cultural resources within one mile of the

APE. Additionally, the Project area had undergone two previous archaeological surveys in 1990 and 2000 with negative results.

The pedestrian survey revealed a large amount of modern refuse consisting of cars, trailers, and other garbage. Structural remains of two structures were found within the Project area. The remains of the structures did not reveal any information regarding the age of the remains. One structure was a small house that had been burned by fire leaving only the concrete foundation and metal pipes, the other structure was a wooden barn with a metal roof constructed with a tin roof and wire nails. Based on aerial photographs and topographic maps, as well as the material remains, there were no indicators that would suggest that these structures were more than 50 years old.

The surface visibility surrounding the modern refuse was between 50 and 90 percent, while the roadways exhibited 100 percent visibility. Within the wooded portions of the APE, visibility dropped to near zero. Periodic boot/trowel scrapes did not reveal any cultural material.

No cultural resources were identified in the Project area.

3.5.3 Discussion

a) *The Proposed Project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a unique historical as defined in Section 15064.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines.*

Based on the results of records searches and field surveys there are no unique historical resources in the vicinity of sediment disposal activities. Therefore, there would be **no impact** on a unique cultural resource as defined in Section 15064.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

b) *With implementation of mitigation, the Proposed Project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a unique archaeological resource as defined in Section 15064.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines.*

Although systematic surface investigations were conducted and yielded no archeological resources within the vicinity of sediment disposal activities, it is possible that buried or concealed archaeological resources could be present and may be detected during ground-disturbance.

In the unlikely event that archaeological resources are discovered during sediment disposal activities, PCWA will implement Mitigation Measure CUL-1, which describes the protocol for reporting, evaluating, and protecting previously undiscovered cultural resources. Therefore, this impact would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated.**

c) *The Proposed Project would not disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries with implementation of mitigation.*

Human remains were not discovered during the current field investigation. In addition, there are no known human burials or remains within the areas of proposed disturbance, however, the remote possibility for encountering human remains during sediment disposal activities does exist. In the unlikely event that human remains are discovered during ground-disturbing or other sediment disposal activities, PCWA will implement Mitigation Measure CUL-2, which describes the protocol for reporting, evaluating, and protecting human remains uncovered during sediment disposal activities. Therefore, this impact would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

3.5.4 Mitigation Measures

CUL-1. Inadvertent Discovery of Previously Unknown Cultural Resources

In the unlikely event that prehistoric or historic subsurface cultural resources are inadvertently discovered during ground-disturbing or other construction activities, work within 50 feet of the discovery shall be halted immediately. PCWA will then immediately notify the appropriate land management agency and a qualified archaeologist will be retained to determine the significance of the discovery and, if appropriate, recommend management measures. If the resource is a potential Tribal Cultural Resource (TCR), then measure TCR-1 shall be followed (Section 3.18, Tribal Cultural Resources).

Project activity shall not resume within 50 feet of the discovery until the significance of the discovery has been determined. If it is determined in consultation with the appropriate land manager that the discovery is not significant, Project activity may resume within 50 feet of the discovery. If it is determined that the discovery is significant, PCWA will consult with the appropriate land manager, and/or local Native American Tribal representative, as appropriate, and implement management measures that are deemed feasible and appropriate for the discovery. Such measures may include avoidance, preservation in place, excavation, further evaluation, documentation, curation, data recovery, or other appropriate measures.

CUL-2. Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains

In the unlikely event that human remains are uncovered during ground-disturbing or other construction activities, they will be treated in accordance with the appropriate guidelines (e.g., Native American Graves Repatriation Act [NAGPRA] guidelines, USFS NAGPRA plans, and California Health and Safety Code [CHSC] Section 7050.5[b]). If, during the course of construction activities, human remains are discovered, all work in the vicinity shall immediately stop. PCWA will immediately notify the Placer County Coroner, the appropriate land manager, and a qualified archaeologist will be secured to evaluate the find. If it is determined that the human remains are Native American, PCWA expects that the land manager and qualified archeologist will provide PCWA with guidance regarding treatment of the remains per NAGPRA, ARPA (Archaeological Resources Protection Act), and/or other applicable law. In addition, PCWA expects that the land manager will contact the appropriate local Native American Tribal representatives within 48 hours of the determination, as required under NAGPRA. If the determination is that the remains are not Native American, the remains will be treated following CHSC Section 7050.5.

3.6 Energy

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

3.6.1 Thresholds of Significance

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, a project could have a significant impact on the environment related to cultural resources if the project would:

- Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during Project construction or operation; or
- Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

3.6.2 Setting

Regulatory Setting

In January 2018, the Governor of California's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) transmitted its proposal for the comprehensive updates to the CEQA guidelines to the California Natural Resources Agency. This included an update to Section 15126.2(a) in response to the California Supreme Court's decision in California Building Industry Association v. Bay Area Air Quality Management District (2015) 62 Cal.4th 369. In late 2018, the Natural Resources Agency finalized the updates to the CEQA guidelines, including an addition of an Energy Section into the sample environmental checklist in Appendix G of the CEQA guidelines, in addition to the stand-alone Appendix E, to better integrate the energy analysis with the rest of CEQA. These updated Guidelines became effective on December 28, 2018.

Relevant State and Local Regulations

State and local agencies regulate energy use and consumption through various means and programs. Relevant state and local energy-related regulations are summarized below.

State Regulations

Warren-Alquist Act

The California Legislature passed the Warren-Alquist Act in 1974. The Warren-Alquist Act created the California Energy Commission (CEC). The Act also incorporated the following key provisions designed to address energy demand:

- It directed the CEC to formulate and adopt the nation's first energy conservation standards for buildings constructed and appliances sold in California;

- The act removed the responsibility of electricity demand forecasting from the utilities, which had a financial interest in high demand projects, and transferred it to the CEC; and
- The CEC was directed to embark on a research and development program, focused on fostering non-conventional energy sources.

Assembly Bill 1007 (2007)

Assembly Bill (AB) 1007, passed in 2005, required the CEC to prepare a statewide plan to increase the use of alternative fuels in California (State Alternative Fuels Plan). The CEC prepared the plan in partnership with the CARB and in consultation with other state, federal, and local agencies. The plan assessed various alternative fuels and developed fuel portfolios to meet California's goals to reduce petroleum consumption, increase alternative fuels use, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and increase in-state production of biofuels without causing a significant degradation of public health and environmental quality.

Assembly Bill 32 (2006) and Senate Bill 32 (2016)

In 2006, the Legislature enacted Assembly Bill 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. Assembly Bill 32 requires California to reduce its GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. In 2016, the Legislature enacted Senate Bill (SB) 32, which extended the horizon year of the state's codified GHG reduction planning targets from 2020 to 2030, requiring California to reduce its GHG emissions to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030. In accordance with Assembly Bill and Senate Bill 32, CARB prepares scoping plans to guide the development of statewide policies and regulations for the reduction of GHG emissions. Many of the of the policy and regulatory concepts identified in the scoping plans focus on increasing energy efficiencies and the use of renewable resources, as well as reducing the consumption of petroleum-based fuels such as gasoline and diesel.

State Vehicle Standards

In response to the transportation sector accounting for more than half of California's carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions, Assembly Bill 1493 was enacted in 2002. Assembly Bill 1493 required the CARB to set GHG emission standards for passenger vehicles, light-duty trucks, and other vehicles whose primary use is noncommercial personal transportation in the state. The bill required that ARB set GHG emission standards for motor vehicles manufactured in 2009 and all subsequent model years. The 2009-2012 standards resulted in a reduction in approximately 22% GHG emissions compared to emissions from the 2002 fleet, and the 2013-2016 standards resulted in a reduction of approximately 30%.

In 2012, ARB approved a new emissions-control program for model years 2017 through 2025. The program combines the control of smog, soot, and global warming gases and requirements for greater numbers of zero-emission vehicles into a single package of standards called Advanced Clean Cars. By 2025, when the rules would be fully implemented, new automobiles would emit 34% fewer global warming gases and 75% fewer smog-forming emissions (CARB 2011).

Although the focus of the state's vehicle standards is on the reduction of air pollutants and GHG emissions, one co-benefit of implementation of these standards is a reduced demand for petroleum-based fuels.

3.6.3 Discussion

a) With implementation of mitigation, the Project would not result in potentially significant environmental impacts due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during Project construction or operation.

During sediment management activities, energy use would increase relative to existing conditions. Fuel consumption would increase above the baseline due to the operation of gas and diesel-powered equipment. As described in Section 3.3 Air Quality and in Section 3.17 Transportation/Traffic, the construction equipment would be transported from the nearby towns of Foresthill (approximately 20 road miles) and Auburn (approximately 40 road miles) and would operate on-site for approximately 10 weeks. Workers are expected to stay onsite to provide equipment security.

This minor increase in energy use during construction would not be considered wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy. However, to minimize these temporary minor increases in energy consumption, PCWA will implement the air quality BMPs (Mitigation Measure AIR-1) outlined in **Appendix B**, including limiting the idling time of construction vehicles to no more than 5 consecutive minutes, and maintaining records demonstrating that heavy duty off-road equipment meets PCAPCD's recommended fleetwise average emissions. Following completion of sediment management activities, vehicle use would return to existing levels. With implementation of air quality BMPs (Mitigation Measure AIR-1), impacts associated with energy consumption would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

b) The Project would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

State guidelines on renewable energy or energy efficiency do not set any specific thresholds for determining the energy efficiency of construction projects. However, as described in Section 3.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions, in October 2016 PCAPCD adopted significance thresholds for construction-related GHG emissions of 10,000 metric tons (MT) of CO_2 equivalent (CO_2e) per year. Because of the small acreage and short duration of sediment disposal activities, GHG emission levels would fall well below this significance threshold.

Furthermore, implementation of PCACPD suggested air quality BMPs (Mitigation Measure AIR-1) would reduce the amount of construction-related emissions and would be considered consistent with state and local renewable energy and energy efficiency plans; therefore, there would be **no impact**.

3.6.4 Mitigation Measures

Refer to Mitigation Measure AIR-1 in Section 3.3, Air Quality.

3.7 Geology, Soils, and Seismicity

Would the Project…	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☐	☑
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	☑
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), creating substantial risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	☑
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	☐	☐	☐	☑
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☑	☐	☐

3.7.1 Thresholds of Significance

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, a project could have a significant impact on the environment related to geology, soils, or seismicity if the project would:

- Direct or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:
  - Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault;
  - Strong seismic ground shaking;
  - Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction; or
  - Landslides.
- Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil;

- 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;
- Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property;
- Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater; or
- Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or a unique geologic feature.

3.7.2 Setting

The sediment disposal area is situated approximately 27 miles west of Lake Tahoe in eastern Placer County in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Originally beneath the ocean, the Sierra Nevada range was formed when the Pacific plate was subducted beneath the North American plate more than 200 million years ago (Mesozoic Era). This massive pressure resulted in the uplift of the range and formed large intrusions of molten granitic rock (the granitic batholith). The range was later subject to additional faulting and volcanic activity during the Tertiary Period (approximately 50 million years ago), and repeated glaciations during the Pleistocene ice ages.

Eastern Placer County is underlain by a variety of Mesozoic metamorphic and plutonic igneous rocks, overlain by Cenozoic volcanic and sedimentary rocks. Soils underlying the sediment disposal area include the Cohasset-Aiken-Crozier complex (2-30% slope). These are deep, well-drained soils that formed in material weathered from volcanic rock (NRCS 2020).

The sediment disposal area is not located in an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone as identified by the California Geologic Survey (CGS 2020a, 2020b).

3.7.3 Discussion

a) *The Proposed Project would not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving*:

i) *The Proposed Project would not result in impacts due to ground 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?*

The CGS defines an "Active Fault Zones", for the purposes of the Alquist-Priolo Act, as one that has ruptured in the last 11,000 years. According to the CGS, no active fault hazard zones have been identified in the immediate vicinity of sediment disposal activities (CGS 2020b; 2020c). Therefore, ground rupture at the site resulting from seismic activity is unlikely. Therefore, there would be **no impact**.

ii) *The Proposed Project would not result in increased exposure or risk to people or property due to seismic ground-shaking*.

Sediment disposal activities will occur on land that is located in a rural, forested area with few residents. The disposal area may be subject to ground shaking associated with distant seismic

activity. Given the rural and sparsely populated vicinity of the EBRL Sediment Disposal Area, if seismic activity centered outside the disposal area were to result in ground shaking, sediment disposal activities would not contribute to the risk of injury or death related to such ground shaking. Therefore, there would be **no impact.**

iii) The Proposed Project would not result in seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction.

Liquefaction occurs when water-saturated soil temporarily loses its strength and liquefies when subjected to intense and prolonged ground shaking. This most often occurs in areas of loose, sandy soils. Sediment disposal activities include transport and placement of removed sediment at the disposal area which is located in an upland area, not underlain with water-saturated or unstable soils. Therefore, implementation of sediment disposal activities would not increase the likelihood of seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction. Thus, there would be **no impact.**

iv) *The Proposed Project would not result in landslides.*

The EBRL Sediment Disposal Area is characterized by low to moderate slopes and does not support unstable soils that pose a risk for landslide. Excavated sediments would be stockpiled at the disposal area. Sediment disposal activities would not occur on steep slopes or increase the potential risk of landslides. Therefore, there would be **no impact.**

b) *The Proposed Project would not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil.*

Prior to implementation of sediment disposal activities, the disposal area would be logged, graded, and contoured consistent with the natural terrain. These activities could result in minor soil erosion. While PCWA is exempt from obtaining a grading permit for sediment disposal activities under Placer County Code Section 15.48.070 B), which states that such a permit is not required for "grading done by or under supervision or construction control of a public agency that assumes full responsibility for the work", to minimize the potential for erosion, PCWA will implement Mitigation Measure GEO-1 which requires incorporation of appropriate BMPs including, but not limited to, securing stockpiled sediments or areas where high surface runoff is expected with silt fences, straw wattles, or similar measures. Therefore, this impact would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated.**

c) *The Proposed Project would not be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the Project, and would not result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse.*

Sediment disposal activities would not occur on a geologic unit or soil that is considered unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the implementation of these activities. As described for item a.iii and a.iv above, sediment disposal activities would not result in an increased risk for landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, collapse, or other seismic-related ground failure. Therefore, there would be **no impact**.

d) *The Proposed Project would not be located on expansive soil, creating substantial risks to life or property*.

Expansive soils are typically fine-grained, clay soils that swell when they absorb water and shrink as they dry. Soils underlying the sediment disposal area generally consist of well-drained, sandy to silty loams (NRCS 2020). Therefore, sediment disposal activities would not be located on expansive soils and would not create substantial risks to life or property. Therefore, there is **no impact**.

e) *The Proposed Project would not be located on soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater.*

Sediment disposal activities do not include use of septic tanks or the development of wastewater treatment systems. Therefore, there would be **no impact.**

f) *The Proposed Project would not directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature with implementation of mitigation.*

No unique paleontological resources or unique geologic features are known to occur in the vicinity of the disposal area. Ground disturbing activities have the potential to uncover unknown or unidentified buried paleontological resources within the EBRL Sediment Disposal Area. Implementation of Mitigation Measures GEO-2 would minimize the potential of sediment disposal activities to directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature. Therefore, this impact is **less than significant with mitigation incorporated.**

3.7.4 Mitigation Measures

GEO-1. Erosion and Water Quality Best Management Practices.

PCWA has identified site-specific BMPs to effectively control erosion, sediment loss, and potential pollutant spills to protect water quality. During the project, these BMPs for erosion and sediment control shall be implemented by the project contractor. These BMPs will include, but are not limited to:

- Equipment will not be operated when ground conditions are such that excessive rutting and soil compaction could result
- Construction of drainage facilities or other work to control erosion or sedimentation will be required in conjunction with earthwork
- Bioengineering and other techniques will be implemented to prevent or minimize erosion, including vegetative or mechanical measures to improve surface of soil stability
- Revegetation including seedling of grasses, shrubs, or trees will be used as necessary to prevent or minimize erosion. A combination of woody and fibrous root systems usually produces the best results. All revegetation and seeding will be implemented in accordance with applicable U.S. Forest Service (USFS) policies.
- Mechanical measures including, but not limited to, wattles, erosion nets, terraces, mats, riprapping, mulch, soil seals, or coir rolls, may be used as necessary.
- Silt fend and/or straw bales will be installed around the sediment storage sites, where turbid runoff could occur during rain storms.
- Slopes of the sediment piles at disposal areas will not exceed a 2:1 ratio.
- PCWA will develop a SPCC Plan that describes the emergency response to spills or discovery of hazardous materials.
- Temporary fuel tanks will have adequate local containment consisting of berms and plastic sheeting to protect against accidental spills or leaks.
- A spill response kit will be maintained at each site.

- If any accidental releases of sediment, fuels, or oil occur, immediate containment and cleanup will be implemented, and the resource agencies notified in accordance with project permits.
- Hazardous waste products such as grease cartridges and oil absorbents will be placed in proper containers and transported from the job site to an authorized Hazardous Waste Collections Site.
- All equipment will be thoroughly cleaned of dirt, grease, etc., prior to entering the National Forest, and will be inspected to ensure that they are in proper functioning condition. All suspect hoses and hydraulic lines will be replaced prior to entering the National Forest
- USFS requires preparation of an SPCC Plan if total storage of fuel at the sites exceeds 660 gallons in a single container, or if total storage exceeds 1,320 gallons.
- SPCC Plans must be compatible with appropriate County SPCC Plans and California State Guidelines.

GEO-2. Inadvertent Discovery of Previously Unknown Paleontological Resources.

In the unlikely event that paleontological resources are encountered during ground-disturbing or other construction activities, PCWA will immediately cease work in the vicinity of the find. PCWA will then immediately notify the appropriate land management agency and a qualified paleontologist will be secured to evaluate the find. If it is determined that the paleontological find is significant, PCWA will consult with the appropriate land manager and a qualified paleontologist to identify additional measures regarding treatment of the find.

3.8 Greenhouse Gases Emissions

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

3.8.1 Thresholds of Significance

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, a project could have a significant impact on the environment related to GHG and climate change if the project would:

- Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment; or
- Conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

3.8.2 Setting

Several state and local actions have been taken to limit GHG emissions implicated in global warming. Those actions are described below.

Executive Order S-3-05

On June 1, 2005, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger issued Executive Order S-3-05. It included the following GHG emission reduction targets: by 2010, reduce GHG emissions to 2000 levels; by 2020, reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels; by 2050, reduce GHG emissions to 80% below 1990 levels. To meet the targets, the governor directed several state agencies to cooperate in the development of a climate action plan. The secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal-EPA) leads the Climate Action Team (CAT), whose goal is to implement global warming emission reduction programs identified in the climate action plan and to report on the progress made toward meeting the emission reduction targets established in the executive order.

The first report to the governor and the legislature was released in March 2006, to be issued bi-annually thereafter. The CAT report to the governor contains recommendations and strategies to help ensure the targets in Executive Order S-3-05 are met (Cal-EPA 2010).

California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Assembly Bill 32)

In 2006, the California state legislature adopted the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32). AB 32 establishes a cap on statewide GHG emissions and sets forth the regulatory framework to achieve the corresponding reduction in statewide emission levels. Under AB 32, GHGs are defined as

carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride. AB 32 requires that CARB:

- Adopt early action measures to reduce GHGs;
- Establish a statewide GHG emissions cap for 2020 based on 1990 emissions;
- Adopt mandatory report rules for significant GHG sources;
- Adopt a scoping plan indicating how emission reductions will be achieved via regulations, market mechanisms, and other actions; and
- Adopt regulations needed to achieve the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective reductions in GHGs.

On April 23, 2009, the CARB adopted a low carbon fuel standard (LCFS). This standard requires that all fuels sold in California must have a reduced carbon content that will lower emissions by 10% by 2020.

Senate Bill 97

Senate Bill (SB) 97, signed in August 2007, acknowledges that climate change is an important environmental issue that requires analysis under CEQA. The bill directed the OPR to prepare, develop, and transmit to the California Resources Agency guidelines for the feasible mitigation of GHG emissions or the effects of GHG emissions, by July 1, 2009. The California Resources Agency adopted those guidelines on December 30, 2009 and they became effective on March 18, 2010.

Senate Bill 32

SB 32 was signed on September 8, 2016 to establish a California GHG reduction target of 40% below 1990 levels by 2030. California is on track to meet or exceed this current target, as established in AB 32. This new emission reduction target will make it possible to reach the ultimate goal of reducing emissions 80% under 1990 levels by 2050.

Actions Taken by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research

In June 2008, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research issued a Technical Advisory on CEQA and Climate Change (OPR 2008). This document recommends that, for Projects subject to CEQA, emissions be calculated, and mitigation measures be identified to reduce those emissions. The OPR report does not identify emission thresholds for GHGs, but instead recommends that each lead agency develop its own thresholds.

On April 13, 2009, OPR submitted to the Secretary for Natural Resources its proposed amendments to the state CEQA Guidelines for GHG emissions, as required by Senate Bill 97 (Chapter 185, 2007). These Guideline amendments provide guidance to public agencies regarding the analysis and mitigation of the effects of GHG emissions in draft CEQA documents. The Natural Resources Agency conducted formal rulemaking in 2009, prior to certifying and adopting the amendments, as required by SB 97. On February 16, 2010, the Office of Administrative Law approved the Amendments, and filed them with the Secretary of State for inclusion in the California Code of Regulations. The Amendments became effective on March 18, 2010.

Actions Taken by California Attorney General's Office

The California Attorney General (AG) has filed comment letters under CEQA about a number of Proposed Projects. The AG has also filed several complaints and obtained settlement agreements for CEQA documents covering general plans and individual programs that the AG found either failed to analyze GHG emissions or failed to provide adequate GHG mitigation. The AG's office has prepared a report that lists measures that local agencies should consider under CEQA to offset or reduce global warming impacts. The AG's office also has prepared a chart of modeling tools to estimate GHG emissions impacts of Projects and plans. Information on the AG's actions can be found on at the California Department of Justice Office of Attorney General web site (California Department of Justice 2020).

3.8.3 Discussion

a) *The Proposed Project would not generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment.*

Sediment disposal activities would result in minor, short-term increases in GHG emissions and generate intermittent, short-term carbon dioxide emissions associated with combustion of gasoline and diesel fuel resulting from the operation of the equipment identified in the Project Description, and from transport of sediment removed from Middle Fork Interbay to the disposal area. Following completion of sediment disposal activities, vehicle and equipment use would return to existing levels.

In 2016, PCAPCD adopted a construction phase significance threshold of 10,000 metric tons per year of CO_2 equivalent (CO_2e) (PCAPCD 2017), as well as a "De Minimus" category for projects emitting less than 1,100 metric tons CO_2e per year. Estimated construction-related GHG emissions associated with sediment disposal activities were quantified using CalEEMod, Version 2016.3.2. Data sources include the Project-specific equipment list, Project schedule, and Project-calculated haul trips and unpaved road travel percentages. The CalEEMod default emissions factors were used where project-specific inputs were not available. The estimated annual GHG emissions for sediment disposal activities are approximately 355 MT CO_2e.

Implementation of the sediment disposal activities would entail the operation of gas or diesel-powered equipment and vehicles and would include no stationary emission sources, and CO_2e levels fall within the "De Minimus" category as established by PCAPCD. Thus, sediment disposal activities would not have a significant impact on the environment resulting from GHG emissions. This impact would be **less than significant.**

b) *The Proposed Project would not conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.*

State guidelines on GHG emissions do not establish any specific thresholds for determining whether those emissions are significant. However, as described previously, PCAPCD has adopted significance thresholds for GHG emissions (PCAPCD 2016). As described in (a) above, preliminary modeling indicates that the Proposed Project's CO_2e levels would fall well below the "De Minimus" threshold. GHG emissions associated with the Proposed Project would be negligible and temporary. The Proposed Project would not conflict with any existing GHG laws, plans, policies, or regulations adopted by the California legislature, the CARB, the California AG, the California OPR, or the PCAPCD. Therefore, this impact would be **less than significant**.

3.8.4 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts related to greenhouse gases and climate change would result from implementation of sediment disposal activities. Therefore, no mitigation is required.

3.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

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

3.9.1 Thresholds of Significance

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, a project could have a significant impact related to hazards and hazardous materials if the project would:

- Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials;
- Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment;
- Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school;
- 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, create a significant hazard to the public or the environment;

- 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, result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the Project area;
- Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan; or
- Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires.

3.9.2 Setting

Hazardous materials and wastes are regulated by federal and state laws and are required to be recycled or properly disposed. Placer County Department of Environmental Health is the local Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) that manages programs for hazardous materials storage and hazardous waste disposal. No hazardous waste sites are located within or adjacent to the sediment disposal area (California Department of Toxic Substances Control [DTSC] 2020). The closest site reported on the DTSC EnviroStor database is the American Forest Products location in Foresthill approximately 10.5 miles west of the sediment disposal area. American Forest Products owned and operated a lumber mill at the Foresthill site. During this period, lumber products were treated with a pentachlorophenol (PCP) substance. As a result of poor operations, soils were contaminated with PCP. The site was remediated and certified in April 1988.

3.9.3 Discussion

a) *The Proposed Project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials*.

b) *The Proposed Project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment*.

Sediment disposal activities would not include the routine transportation, use, or disposal of hazardous materials that could create a significant hazard to the public. Although flammable and combustible materials such as gasoline and diesel fuel would be used during sediment disposal activities, this would be temporary and all materials would be used in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws, including Cal-OSHA requirements and manufacturer's instructions. All materials temporarily stored within the sediment disposal area will be removed from the site at the end of sediment disposal activities.

To further prevent hazards to the public or the environment, PCWA will implement Mitigation Measure HAZ-1, which commits PCWA to the implementation of hazardous materials handling measures to prevent construction-related impacts. In addition, to reduce the potential for an accidental or inadvertent release of hazardous materials into the environment, PCWA will implement Mitigation Measure HAZ-2 requiring PCWA's contractor to prepare and implement a Project-specific Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan (SPCC Plan) that includes procedures for the site handling, storage, and packaging of waste; rules requiring the refueling of construction equipment within designated construction and staging areas; contingency plans in the event of a spill; and

notification requirements and contact information. With incorporation of Mitigation Measures HAZ-1 and HAZ-2, this impact would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

c) *The Proposed Project would not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school*.

Sediment disposal activities would not be conducted within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. Therefore, there is **no impact.**

d) *The Proposed Project is not located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites and would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment*.

Based on a search of the DTSC EnviroStor Database, the sediment disposal area is not located on, or near, any federal-, state-, or local-designated hazardous wastes site (DTSC 2020). Therefore, there would be **no impact.**

e) *The Proposed Project is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport and would not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the Project area*.

The sediment disposal area is not located within an airport land use plan or within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport. Therefore, there would be **no impact**.

f) *The Proposed Project would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan*.

The sediment disposal area and sediment disposal route are located in a remote, forested area of Tahoe National Forest. Implementation of sediment disposal activities would require the movement of trucks on USFS roads. These trips have the potential to cause delays in emergency response times. To minimize impacts on public traffic, reduce the potential for accidents involving the public, and ensure emergency response times are maintained, PCWA will implement Mitigation Measure TRA-1 requiring the contractor to prepare and implement a Construction Traffic Control Plan that defines standard construction traffic, access, and transportation controls; and identifies procedures for notifying the public and emergency responder of project activities prior to implementation. Therefore, this impact is **less than significant with mitigation incorporated.**

g) *The Proposed Project would not expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands with implementation of mitigation*.

The sediment disposal area and sediment disposal route are located in a remote, forested area of Tahoe National Forest. The use of fuels and other equipment could potentially result in fires that, if not contained, could spread to surrounding forest lands and other structures in the vicinity. To reduce the potential for wildland fires resulting from sediment disposal activities, PCWA will implement Mitigation Measure HAZ-3 requiring the contractor to prepare and implement a Project-specific Fire Plan that details roles and responsibilities; fire equipment, tool cache, and water suppression requirements; fire control procedures; and notification requirements and contact information. Therefore, this impact is **less than significant with mitigation incorporated.**

3.9.4 Mitigation Measures

HAZ-1. Hazardous Materials Handling Measures.

PCWA's construction specifications will require implementation of the following hazardous materials handling measures to prevent construction-related impacts:

- Avoid as much as possible the on-site storage of pollutant materials such as fuel, oil, concrete, paint, fertilizer, etc. When pollutant materials must be stored on site, store them in a secure, covered location with secondary containment provisions.
- Install barriers around storage areas to prevent contact with runoff.
- Carry out equipment hydraulic top-off, fueling, and lubricating on an approved pad with spill control and collection in place.

HAZ-2. Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan.

PCWA's construction specifications will require the contractor to prepare and implement a Project-specific Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan that includes:

- Procedures for the site handling, storage, and packaging of waste;
- Rules requiring the refueling of construction equipment within designated construction staging areas;
- Contingency plans in the event of a spill; and
- Notification requirements and contact information.

The SPCC Plan will be submitted to PCWA for review and approval. After the plan has been approved, it will be incorporated into Contractor's construction plans required and approved by PCWA, and implemented as part of the construction contract.

HAZ-3. Fire Plan.

PCWA's construction specifications will require the contractor to prepare and implement a Project-specific Fire Plan that includes:

- Roles and responsibilities;
- Fire equipment, tool cache, and water suppression requirements;
- Fire control procedures; and
- Notification requirements and contact information.

The Fire Plan will be submitted to PCWA for review and approval. After the plan has been approved, it will be incorporated into Contractor's construction plans required and approved by PCWA, and implemented as part of the construction contract.

Refer also to Mitigation Measures TRA-1 in Section 3.17, Transportation/Traffic.

3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality

Would the Project…	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	☐	☑	☐	☐
b) Substantially deplete 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 through the addition of impervious surfaces in a manner which would:				
i) Result in a substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	☐	☑	☐	☐
ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff which would result in flooding on- or off-site;	☐	☑	☐	☐
iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater discharge systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	☐	☑	☐	☐
iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	☑
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☐	☑
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☑	☐	☐

3.10.1 Thresholds of Significance

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, a project could have a significant impact related to hydrology and water quality if the project would:

- Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality;
- Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the Project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin;
- 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:
    - Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;
    - Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;

- Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or
- Impede or redirect flood flows.

- In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to Project inundation.; or
- Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.

3.10.2 Setting

The EBRL Sediment Disposal Area is located in the Upper American River watershed. Existing water quality objectives for the physical, chemical, and bacterial constituents are established in the "Sacramento River Basin and San Joaquin River Basin Water Quality Control Plan" (Basin Plan) (CVRWQCB, Fifth Edition revised May 2018), "Water Quality Standards: Establishment of Numeric Criteria for Priority Toxic Pollutants for the State of California" (Federal Register, 65 FR 31682, EPA 2000), and the "Water Quality Standards: Establishment of Numeric Criteria for Priority Toxic Pollutants" (Federal Register, 57 FR 60848, EPA 1992). The Basin Plan includes water quality objectives established by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board for waters in the Upper American River Watershed.

3.10.3 Discussion

a) *The Proposed Project would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality with implementation of mitigation.*

There are no water bodies located in or adjacent to the EBRL Sediment Disposal Area. Heavy trucks (25- to 35-ton haulers) will transport sediment from Middle Fork Interbay to the sediment disposal area. Sediment transport has the potential to result in accidental spills of fuel, lubricants, or other hazardous material which could be released into Middle Fork Interbay and lead to impacts on water quality. To reduce the potential for degradation of water quality in Middle Fork Interbay, PCWA will implement Mitigation Measure HYD-1, which requires PCWA to obtain coverage under the General Construction National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit, including preparation and implementation of a SWPPP. Therefore, potential impacts to water quality resulting from sediment disposal activities would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated.**

b) *The Proposed Project would not decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the Project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin.*

Sediment disposal activities would not require use of or interfere with groundwater supplies or recharge. Therefore, there would be **no impact**.

c) *The Proposed Project would not 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:*

i) *The Proposed Project would not result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site.*

ii) *The Proposed Project would not substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site.*

iii) *The Proposed Project would not 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.*

Sediment disposal activities include placement of up to 65,000 cubic yards of sediment at the EBRL Sediment Disposal Area. While this does not include the alteration of a course of a stream or river, or result in the introduction of impervious surfaces that could alter the existing drainage pattern of the 5-acre disposal area, the placement of sediment stockpiles does introduce new materials to the site which has the potential to erode.

During sediment disposal activities, PCWA will continually grade and contour the site to maintain the existing slopes and drainage pattern as new sediment is delivered. To further minimize the potential for erosion and surface runoff, PCWA will implement Mitigation Measure GEO-1 which includes erosion and sediment control measures. At the completion of sediment disposal activities, PCWA will conduct finish grading, seeding, and secure erosion control measures at the site.

Sediment disposal activities would not create or contribute runoff water which would result in flooding or exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. However, to minimize the potential for project-induced polluted runoff, PCWA will implement Mitigation Measure HAZ-1, which commits PCWA to the implementation of hazardous materials handling measures to prevent construction-related impacts. In addition, to reduce the potential for an accidental or inadvertent release of hazardous materials into the environment, PCWA will implement Mitigation Measure HAZ-2 requiring PCWA's contractor to prepare and implement a Project-specific SPCC Plan that includes procedures for the site handling, storage, and packaging of waste; rules requiring the refueling of construction equipment within designated construction and staging areas; contingency plans in the event of a spill; and notification requirements and contact information.

With implementation of Mitigation Measure GEO-1, HAZ-1, and HAZ-2 sediment disposal activities would not alter the existing drainage pattern of the site in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation, flooding, or substantial sources of polluted runoff. Therefore, the impact would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

iv) *The Proposed Project would not impede or redirect flood flows.*

The EBRL Sediment Disposal Area is labeled Zone X (unshaded) on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FEMA 2020a). Zone X (unshaded) is determined to be outside of the 500-year flood and protected by levee from the 100-year flood (FEMA 2020b). Sediment disposal activities would not impede or redirect flood flows. Therefore, there would be **no impact**.

d) *The Proposed Project would not risk release of pollutants due to inundation because the Project area is not in a flood hazard, tsunami or seiche zone.*

The EBRL Sediment Disposal Area is not located in a flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zone (FEMA 2020a, Placer County 2020a). Therefore, there would be no impact associated with release of pollutants due to inundation. There would be **no impact.**

e) *The Proposed Project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable ground water management plan with implementation of mitigation.*

Refer to item a) and b) above.

3.10.4 Mitigation Measure

HYD-1. General Construction Permit.

PCWA will file a Notice of Intent with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to obtain coverage under the General Construction NPDES Permit. If required by State Water Board, a SWPPP will be prepared and implemented. The SWPPP will include:

- Pollution prevention measures (erosion and sediment control measures and measures to control non-stormwater discharges and hazardous spills);
- Demonstration of compliance with all applicable local and regional erosion and sediment control standards;
- Identification of responsible parties; and
- A BMP monitoring and maintenance schedule.

Refer also to Mitigation Measures GEO-1 in Section 3.7, Geology, Soils, and Seismicity, and HAZ-1 and HAZ-2 in Section 3.9, Hazards and Hazardous Materials.

3.11 Land Use and Planning

Would the Project…		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☑

3.11.1 Thresholds of Significance

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, a project could have a significant impact related to land use and planning if the project would:

- Physically divide an established community;
- 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.

3.11.2 Setting

The EBRL Sediment Disposal Area is located on privately owned property in an unincorporated area of Placer County. This area is governed by the Placer County General Plan, adopted in 1994 and updated in 2013 (Placer County 2013). The Placer County Community Development Resource Agency (CDRA) regulates land use and development in the unincorporated areas of Placer County (Placer County 2020c). The Planning Services Division of the CDRA provides information on land development and zoning, reviews and makes recommendation on land development applications, assists the Placer County Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission in planning for growth, and enforces the Placer County Zoning Ordinance.

Zoning designations for the area are defined in the Placer County Land Information Map (Placer County 2020a), while land use designations are defined in the Placer County General Plan (Placer County 2013). The zoning designations at the EBRL Sediment Disposal Area, as mentioned in Section 3.2 Agriculture and Forest Resources, are Residential Forest (RF) and Resort (RES). Land uses for the disposal area are Rural Residential (RR) and Resorts and Recreation (REC). The zoning designations for parcels surrounding the disposal area are Forestry (FOR) and Timberland Production Zones (TPZ). Land use designations for these parcels are Greenbelt and Open Space (OS) and Timberland (T).

The Rural Residential designation is applied to areas generally located away from cities and unincorporated community centers, in hilly, mountainous, and/or forested terrain and as a buffer zone where dispersed residential development on larger parcels would be appropriate. Typical land uses allowed within Rural Residential designation include: detached single-family dwellings and secondary dwellings; resource extraction; and necessary public utility and safety facilities. The Resorts and Recreation designation is applied to mountain, water-oriented, and other areas of existing and potential public and commercial recreation use, where such use can occur without conflict with surrounding rural

and/or agricultural uses. Typical land uses in this designation are parks, camping facilities, and necessary public utility and safety facilities.

The Greenbelt and Open Space designation is intended to identify and protect important open space lands within Placer County, including sites or portions of sites with natural features such as unique topography, vegetation, habitat, or stream courses. Typical land uses allowed within Greenbelt and Open Space areas are limited to low-intensity agricultural and public recreational uses, with structural development being restricted to accessory structures necessary to support the primary allowed uses, and necessary public utility and safety facilities. Timberland designation applies to mountainous areas of Placer County where the primary land uses relate to the growing and harvesting of timber. Typical land uses allowed in this designation are mineral and other resource extraction operations, all commercial timber production operations and facilities, and necessary public utility and safety facilities (Placer County 2013).

3.11.3 Discussion

c) *The Proposed Project would not physically divide an established community*.

The sediment disposal area is located within the boundaries of a single property line and sediment would be transported via existing roadways. Sediment disposal activities would not include any actions that would contribute to the physical division of an established community. Therefore, there would be **no impact**.

d) *The Proposed Project would not 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.*

Implementation of sediment disposal activities would not result in a change or conflict with the land use designation or zoning of the disposal site. In addition, sediment disposal activities would not conflict with the provisions contained in any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purposes of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. Therefore, there would be **no impact.**

3.11.4 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts related to land use and planning would result from implementation of sediment disposal activities. Therefore, no mitigation is required.

3.12 Mineral Resources

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

3.12.1 Thresholds of Significance

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, a project could have a significant impact related to land use and planning if the project would:

- 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; or
- 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.

3.12.2 Setting

Precious metals and commercially valuable rock and minerals have played an important role in the history of Placer County. Placer County General Plan policies serve to balance compatible mineral resources development and other land uses. General Plan policies are implemented by the County, in consultation with the California Division of Mines and Geology, through the evaluation of the relative value of identified potentially-significant mineral deposits and the designation of these significant areas with a mineral reserve (MR) combining district (Placer County 2013, USGS 2020). There are no areas with the MR designation in the vicinity of sediment disposal activities and no known mineral resource extraction activities occurring within the area (USGS 2020).

3.12.3 Discussion

a) *The Proposed Project would not 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.*

Sediment disposal activities do not involve mining nor are they located near active mining facilities or known mineral resources. Implementation of sediment disposal activities would not result in the loss of any known mineral resources that are of value to the region or residents of the state, or result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource. Therefore, there is **no impact**.

b) *The Proposed Project would not 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.*

There are no locally important mineral resource recovery sites delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan located in the vicinity of the sediment disposal activities (Placer County 2013, USGS 2020). Therefore, there is **no impact.**

3.12.4 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts related to mineral resources would result from implementation of sediment disposal activities. Therefore, no mitigation is required.

3.13 Noise

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

3.13.1 Thresholds of Significance

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, a project could have a significant impact related to noise if the project would result in:

- Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies;
- Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels; or
- 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, expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels.

3.13.2 Setting

Sound is mechanical energy transmitted through a medium (air) in the form of a wave from a disturbance or vibration. Noise, however, is generally defined as sound that is loud, unpleasant, unexpected, or disagreeable. Placer County has established policies and regulations concerning the generation and control of noise that could adversely affect its citizens and noise-sensitive land uses. The County Noise Ordinance is the primary enforcement tool for operation of locally regulated noise sources such as mechanical equipment and construction activity. The County Noise Ordinance is set forth in Article 9.36 of the County Code. Noise associated with construction activities occurring between 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday is exempted from the provisions of the County Noise Ordinance. Provided, however, that all construction equipment is fitted with factory-installed muffling devices and is maintained in good working order. The Noise Ordinance does not define quantifiable noise levels for construction-related activities within the above-listed allowable time periods.

Noise-sensitive land uses generally include those for which exposure would result in adverse effects (e.g., sleep disturbance, annoyance), as well those for which quiet is an essential element of their intended

purpose. Residences are of primary concern because of the potential for increased and prolonged exposure of individuals to both interior and exterior noise levels. Other land uses typically considered sensitive to noise include hospitals, convalescent facilities, parks, auditoriums, amphitheaters, public meeting rooms, motels, hotels, churches, schools, libraries, and other uses where low interior noise levels are essential.

The sediment disposal area and sediment disposal route are located in a remote, forested area. There is one rural residence approximately 600 feet (0.11 mile) east of the disposal area/access route. The area between the residence and the disposal area/access route is heavily forested.

3.13.3 Discussion

e) *The Proposed Project would not result in generation of a temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the Project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies through implementation of mitigation.*

Noise-generating activities associated with sediment disposal activities include use of vehicles and equipment described in the Project Description. As described above, noise from construction activities occurring between 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. weekdays, and 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday is exempted from the County Noise Ordinance, provided that construction equipment is fitted with factory-installed muffling devices and is maintained in good working order. To ensure that construction activities are implemented consistent with the County Noise Ordinance, PCWA will implement Mitigation Measure NOISE-1 which limits the hours of construction activities, requires muffling devices on equipment, and includes other noise-reduction measures.

Sediment disposal activities would be short-term and would occur over a 10-week period. No stationary equipment would be used or permanently installed at the sediment disposal area. Upon completion of sediment disposal activities, ambient noise levels would be consistent with current conditions, and would not result in any permanent increases in ambient noise levels in the vicinity.

As described above, equipment and vehicle use would result in temporary increases in noise levels in the vicinity of sediment disposal activities. However, implementation of Mitigation Measure NOISE-1 would reduce this potential impact to a less-than-significant level. Therefore, this impact would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated.**

f) *The Proposed Project would not result in generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels.*

There are no federal, state, or local regulatory standards for vibration. However, various criteria have been established to assist in the evaluation of vibration impacts. For instance, Caltrans has developed vibration criteria based on human perception and structural damage risks. Based on this analysis, vibrations of a peak particle velocity (ppv) of greater than 0.1 inch per second (in/sec) are the minimum level perceptible level for ground vibration; short periods of ground vibration in excess of 0.2 in/sec can be expected to result in increased levels of annoyance to people within buildings; and ppv levels greater than 0.4 in/sec may potentially cause structural damage (Caltrans 2002).

Sediment disposal activities would not involve the long-term use of any equipment or processes that would result in potentially significant levels of ground vibration. Sediment disposal activities would require the use of various types of equipment that might result in intermittent increases in ground

vibration. Ground vibration generated by construction equipment spreads through the ground and diminishes in strength with distance. As a result, predicted ground vibration levels at nearby structures would not be anticipated to exceed the minimum perceptible threshold of 0.1 in/sec ppv for human annoyance, nor would ground vibration levels be anticipated to exceed the minimum threshold of 0.4 in/sec ppv for structural damage. Therefore, this impact would be **less than significant.**

g) *The Proposed Project would not be 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 and would not expose people residing or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels.*

Sediment disposal activities are not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport. Therefore, there would be **no impact.**

3.13.4 Mitigation Measures

NOISE-1. Noise Best Management Practices.

To reduce noise-related impacts to occupants of the nearby residence, the following BMPs will be incorporated:

- The construction contractor shall comply with all local sound control noise level rules, regulations, and ordinances that apply to any work performed.
- Construction equipment shall be equipped with a muffler of a type recommended by the manufacturer. No internal combustion engine shall be operated without a muffler during sediment disposal activities.
- Sediment disposal activities will be limited to the hours between sunrise (but no earlier than 7 a.m.) and sunset (but no later than 7 p.m.) on weekdays, and between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Saturday. Work shall not occur on Sundays or federal holidays.
- The use of loud sound signals shall be avoided in favor of light warnings except those required by safety laws for the protection of the construction personnel on-site during sediment management activities.
- The disposal area shall be designed to minimize the need for haul trucks to back up.
- Construction equipment and trucks shall be limited to five or fewer minutes of idling time.

3.14 Population and Housing

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

3.14.1 Thresholds of Significance

Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines states that a Project could have a significant impact related to population and housing if the Project would:

- Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly or indirectly;
- Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere

3.14.2 Setting

The 5-acre EBRL Sediment Disposal Area is located on a privately owned parcel located 9.5 road miles east of Foresthill and 6.5 road miles northwest of Middle Fork Interbay in Placer County, California. The disposal area is located on USGS Michigan Bluff 7.5-minute quadrangle in Section 16, Township 14N, and Range 12E. There are several rural residences adjacent to the EBRL property. According to USGS, Michigan Bluff is a populated place that is not a census designated or incorporated place having an officially federally recognized name (USGS 2020).

3.14.3 Discussion

a) *The Proposed Project would not directly or indirectly induce substantial population growth in the area.*

Sediment disposal activities do not include and would not induce the construction of new homes or businesses. No new roads would be constructed or enhancement to the area that would indirectly induce population growth. Therefore, there would be **no impact**.

b) *The Proposed Project would not displace substantial numbers of people or existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.*

Sediment disposal activities would occur on a 5-acre portion of private property that does not include any structures, including residences. Sediment disposal activities would not result in the displacement of people or removal of any existing housing. Therefore, there would be **no impact.**

3.14.4 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts related to population and housing would result from implementation of sediment disposal activities. Therefore, no mitigation is required.

3.15 Public Services

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

3.15.1 Thresholds of Significance

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, a project could have a significant impact related to public services if the project would:

- Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:
- (i) fire protection,
- (ii) police protection,
- (iii) schools,
- (iv) parks, or
- (v) other public facilities.

3.15.2 Setting

Fire protection in the vicinity of the EBRL Sediment Disposal Area is provided by CAL FIRE (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection)/USFS. Police protection services are provided by the Placer County Sheriff. There are no schools located near the disposal area; however, it is within the Foresthill Union School District and Placer Union High School District. No parks or other public facilities are located in the vicinity of sediment disposal activities (Placer County 2020a).

3.15.3 Discussion

a) *The Proposed Project would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services.*

i) *The Proposed Project would not result in substantial adverse impacts related to the provision of fire protection services.*

ii) *The Proposed Project would not result in substantial adverse impacts related to the provision of police protection services.*

Implementation of sediment disposal activities would not provide new or physically altered government facilities or result in the need for such facilities; and would not impact the ability of CAL FIRE/USFS fire crews or the Placer County Sheriff law enforcement personnel to maintain current levels of service and response times. Sediment disposal activities at the EBRL Sediment Disposal Area would not change the type or intensity of land uses in the area; resulting in the demand for fire and police protection services to be the same as currently provided.

Sediment removed from Middle Fork Interbay will be transported to the EBRL Sediment Disposal Area via Middle Fork Interbay Dam Road, Mosquito Ridge Road (FR 96), and private access roads. During hauling activities, the sediment disposal route along Middle Fork Interbay Dam Road would be closed to the public. The route along Mosquito Ridge Road would remain open to the public. While transportation of the sediment is occurring, it will not prevent road access or passage for emergency service vehicles.

The implementation of Mitigation Measures HAZ-3 will further minimize impacts to fire protection services as these measures call for preparation and implementation of a Fire Plan. Implementation of Mitigation Measure TRA-1 will ensure use of roadways for sediment disposal activities would not impact emergency or evacuation plans. The sediment disposal activities and use of the EBRL Sediment Disposal Area would not result in an increased demand for fire or police protection or other security services, nor would it significantly affect response times. The impacts would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated.**

iii) *The Proposed Project would not result in substantial adverse impacts related to the provision of school services.*

iv) *The Proposed Project would not result in substantial adverse impacts related to the provision of park services.*

v) *The Proposed Project would not result in substantial adverse impacts related to the provision of other public facility services.*

There would not be any impacts related to the provision of school services, park services, or other public facility services as the sediment disposal activities would not result in significant increase in demand for these services, relative to existing conditions. There are no schools or parks within or adjacent to the EBRL property or along the sediment hauling route that would be affected by sediment disposal activities. Therefore, there would be **no impact.**

3.15.4 Mitigation Measures

Refer to Mitigation Measure HAZ-3 in Section 3.9, Hazards and Hazardous Materials and TRA-1 in Section 3.17, Transportation/Traffic.

3.16 Recreation

Would the Project…	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☑

3.16.1 Thresholds of Significance

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, a project could have a significant impact related to recreation if the project would:

- 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, or
- Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse effect on the environment.

3.16.2 Setting

The EBRL Sediment Disposal Area is located in the mountainous uplands of the western slope of the central Sierra Nevada in the Tahoe National Forest. The landscape is generally characterized by steep canyons, and rugged terrain with dense forests and woodlands. The disposal area is not located near existing neighborhood parks, regional parks, or other recreational facilities.

3.16.3 Discussion

a) *The Proposed Project would not 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) *The Proposed Project would not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse effect on the environment.*

There are no existing neighborhood or regional parks or other recreation facilities in the vicinity of sediment disposal activities. In addition, sediment disposal activities do involve construction or expansion of recreation facilities. Therefore, there would be **no impact.**

3.16.4 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts related to recreation would result from implementation of the sediment disposal activities. Therefore, no mitigation is required.

3.17 Transportation/Traffic

Would the Project…		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Conflict with a program, plan ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☑
b)	Conflict with or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines 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?	☐	☑	☐	☐

3.17.1 Thresholds of Significance

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, a project could have a significant impact related to transportation or traffic if the project would:

- Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities;
- Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines 15064.3, subdivision (b);
- Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature or incompatible uses; or
- Result in inadequate emergency access.

3.17.2 Setting

Sediment removed from Middle Fork Interbay will be transported 7.5 miles to the EBRL Sediment Disposal Area via Middle Fork Interbay Dam Road, Mosquito Ridge Road (FR 96), and private access roads (**Figure 3**). This route includes 7 miles of paved and 0.5 mile of unpaved roadways.

During sediment hauling activities, Middle Fork Interbay Dam Road will be closed to the public. The route along Mosquito Ridge Road will remain open to the public. From Mosquito Ridge Road, existing private roads will be used to access the disposal area.

Sediment transport will occur between October 1, 2020 and October 30, 2020. There will be approximately 120 truck trips per day (10 trucks, 1 trip per hour, 12 hour days) 6 days a week from Middle Fork Interbay to the EBRL Sediment Disposal Area during this period. There are no designated bicycle or pedestrian facilities near the EBRL Sediment Disposal Area and public transit does not serve this area.

3.17.3 Discussion

a) *The Proposed Project would not conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities*.

Sediment disposal activities will take place in a remote region of the Tahoe National Forest that is not evaluated in the County's Circulation Plan (Placer County 2013) and does not support public transit services or bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Further, sediment disposal activities do not include construction or rehabilitation of any new roads. Therefore, implementation of sediment disposal activities would not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding the local circulation system. Thus, there would be **no impact**.

b) *The Proposed Project would not conflict with or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines 15064.3 subdivision (b).*

Vehicle miles traveled refers to the amount and distance of automobile travel attributable to a project. According to the guidelines in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b), transportation projects that reduce, or have no impact on, vehicle miles traveled should be presumed to cause a less than significant transportation impact. In the short-term, sediment disposal activities will increase vehicle miles traveled due to the transportation of sediment from Middle Fork Interbay to the EBRL Sediment Disposal Area and return trips by empty trucks to retrieve more sediment. However, because of the relatively short length of the hauling route (15 miles round trip) and because sediment hauling activities will take place over a limited timeframe (approximately 4 weeks), the short-term impacts would be **less than significant**. Following completion of the sediment disposal activities, vehicle use would return to existing levels and there would be no increase in vehicle miles traveled. Therefore, implementation of sediment disposal activities would have **no impact** in the long-term with regard to conflicts with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 subdivision (b).

c) *The Proposed Project would not substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature or incompatible uses.*

Sediment disposal activities would not increase any hazards due to a design feature or incompatible use. Therefore, there would be **no impact.**

d) *The Proposed Project would not result in inadequate emergency access.*

The sediment disposal area and sediment disposal route are located in a remote, forested area of Tahoe National Forest. Implementation of sediment disposal activities would require the movement of trucks on USFS roads. These trips have the potential to cause delays in emergency response times. To minimize impacts on public traffic, reduce the potential for accidents involving the public, and ensure emergency response times are maintained, PCWA will implement Mitigation Measure TRA-1 requiring the contractor to prepare and implement a Construction Traffic Control Plan that defines standard construction traffic, access, and transportation controls; and identifies procedures for notifying the public and emergency responder of project activities prior to implementation. Therefore, this impact is **less than significant with mitigation incorporated.**

3.17.4 Mitigation Measures

TRA-1. Construction Traffic Control Plan.

PCWA's contractor will prepare and implement a Construction Traffic Control Plan. The purpose of the plan will be to:

- Minimize construction-related impacts on public traffic and reduce the potential for accidents involving the public;
- Provide notification to administrators of police and fire stations, ambulance service providers, and recreational facility managers of the timing, location, and duration of construction activities and the locations of detours and lane closures, where applicable;
- Develop and implement a plan for notifications and a process for communication with affected users before the start of construction; and
- Enhance on-site personnel and vehicle safety.

The plan will be submitted to PCWA for review and approval. After the plan has been approved, it will be incorporated into Contractor's construction plans required and approved by PCWA, and implemented as part of the construction contract.

3.18 Tribal Cultural Resources

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

3.18.1 Thresholds of Significance

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, a project could have a significant impact related to tribal cultural resources if the project would:

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:

- Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historic Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or
- A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

3.18.2 Setting

Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) created a new category of environmental resources that must be considered under CEQA: "tribal cultural resources." Tribal cultural resources are defined as either (1) "sites, features, places cultural landscapes, sacred places and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe" that are included in the state register of historical resources or a local register of historical resources, or that are determined to be eligible for inclusion in the state register; or (2) resources

determined by the lead agency, in its discretion, to be significant based on the criteria for listing in the state register.

Recognizing that tribes may have expertise with regard to their tribal history and practices, AB 52 requires lead agencies to provide notice to tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of a proposed project, and if they have requested notice of projects proposed within that area. If the tribe requests consultation within 30 days upon receipt of the notice, the lead agency must consult with the tribe. Consultation may include discussing the type of environmental review necessary, the significance of tribal cultural resources, the significance of the project's impacts on the tribal cultural resources, and alternatives and mitigation measures recommended by the tribe. The parties must consult in good faith, and consultation is deemed concluded when either the parties agree to measures to mitigate or avoid a significant effect on a tribal cultural resource (if such a significant effect exists) or when a party concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached.

3.18.3 Discussion

i, ii) The Proposed Project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource.

In accordance with the consultation requirements of AB 52, PCWA initiated the consultation process with appropriate Native American groups with a possible interest in sediment management activities. On April 20, 2020, PCWA contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in Sacramento to request a Sacred Lands Search and a list of suitable tribal organizations and individuals. The NAHC response stated that a Sacred Lands File was completed for the project and the results were negative. They also provided contact information for the following groups and individuals that might have knowledge of cultural resources in the vicinity of sediment management activities:

- Regina Cuellar, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians
- Grayson Coney, Tsi Akim Maidu
- Gene Whitehouse, United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) of the Auburn Rancheria
- Darrel Cruz, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
- Clyde Prout, Colfax Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe
- Raymond Hitchcock, Wilton Rancheria

PCWA sent letters on April 13, 2020 to the tribes that had requested AB 52 notification from the PCWA (Wilton Rancheria and UAIC) and on April 24, 2020 to the remaining tribes included in the list provided by the NAHC to solicit information regarding sensitive cultural resources in and near the sediment disposal area and to determine whether they or their respective tribal organizations had an interest in or concerns with the activities to be implemented.

Responses from two tribes, the UAIC and the Wilton Rancheria were received on April 29, 2020 and May 4, 2020. Both tribes requested formal consultation through AB 52. Correspondence between the PCWA and the tribes is currently ongoing.

Anna Starkey replied via email on behalf of Chairperson Whitehouse on April 29, 2020. Ms. Starkey stated that while there were no known tribal cultural resources in the Project area, the UAIC would like to request AB 52 consultation for the Project. Ms. Starkey requested draft copies of cultural resources

reports and project area photographs. Upon review of those documents, the UAIC will provide comments as appropriate. On May 5, 2020, a response was emailed to Ms. Starkey, acknowledging consultation, and stating that the documents will be sent to the UAIC once approved by the PCWA. A draft version of the report was emailed to Ms. Starkey on June 11, 2020 and she replied on June 15, 2020, stating that only members of culturally affiliated tribes can determine if a resource is a TCR and provided a recommended mitigation measure.

Mariah Mayberry replied on behalf of Chairperson Hitchcock on May 4, 2020. Ms. Mayberry stated that the Wilton Rancheria requested AB 52 consultation on the project. Additionally, she requested all existing cultural documentation and results from record searches. Furthermore, she requested that Wilton Rancheria tribal representatives be allowed to participate in initial pedestrian surveys. Lastly, Ms. Mayberry provided recommended mitigation measures for the treatment of TCRs. On May 5, 2020, a response was emailed to Ms. Mayberry acknowledging the consultation and stating that documents will be sent once obtained. Due to Covid19 concerns, a phone meeting was requested. On May 21, 2020, an email was sent to Ms. Mayberry informing her that the pedestrian survey would be conducted on May 26, 2020 and that tribal representatives were welcome. Another email was sent to Ms. Mayberry on June 2, 2020 that provided the results from the record search and the negative results of the survey. Ms. Mayberry replied on June 4, 2020, requesting the survey report once complete. A copy of the draft survey report was emailed to Ms. Mayberry on June 11, 2020. There has been no response to date.

The Project will implement Mitigation Measure TCR-1 to address unanticipated discoveries of potential TCRs. The impacts on tribal cultural resources would be **less than significant with mitigation measures incorporated**.

3.18.4 Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation measure is intended to address the evaluation and treatment of inadvertent/ unanticipated discoveries of potential TCRs during a project's ground disturbing activities.

TCR-1. Tribal Cultural Resources – Unanticipated Discoveries

If any suspected TCRs are discovered during ground disturbing construction activities, all work shall cease within 100 feet of the find. A Tribal Representative from culturally affiliated tribes shall be immediately notified and shall determine if the find is a TCR (PRC §21074). The Tribal Representative will make recommendations regarding the treatment of the discovery. Preservation in place is the preferred alternative under CEQA protocols, and every effort must be made to preserve the resources in place, including through project redesign.

Work at the discovery location cannot resume until all necessary investigation and evaluation of the discovery under the requirements of the CEQA, including AB 52, has been satisfied.

The contractor shall implement any measures deemed by the CEQA lead agency to be necessary and feasible to preserve in place, avoid, or minimize impacts to the resource, including, but not limited to, facilitating the appropriate tribal treatment of the find, as necessary.

3.19 Utilities and Service Systems

Would the Project…		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which would 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?	☐	☐	☐	☑
d)	Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the Project that it has adequate capacity to serve the Project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☑
d)	Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☐	☑
e)	Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☑

3.19.1 Thresholds of Significance

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, a project could have a significant impact related to utilities or service systems if the project would:

- Require or result in the relocation or construction of new water or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects;
- Have insufficient water supplies available to serve the Project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years;
- Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the Project that it has adequate capacity to serve the Project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments;
- 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; or
- Fail to comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

3.19.2 Setting

There are no wastewater treatment, utilities, or stormwater drainage facilities in the vicinity of the sediment disposal area (Placer County 2020a). Solid waste generated by work crews at the sediment disposal area will be packed out to trash collection bins located at PCWA facilities for collection by a local disposal service (Recology Auburn Placer).

3.19.3 Discussion

a) *The Proposed Project would not require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects.*

Sediment disposal activities would not require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities. Therefore, there would be **no impact.**

b) *The Proposed Project would have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years.*

Sediment disposal activities would not require a long-term water supply. A water truck will be utilized to control fugitive dust during sediment disposal activities. No water will be needed to serve the disposal area once sediment disposal activities have been completed. Therefore, there would be **no impact.**

c) *The Proposed Project would not result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the Project that it has adequate capacity to serve the Project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments*.

The EBRL property and parcels in the vicinity of the property are outside of existing wastewater treatment service areas. Residences in the vicinity use existing onsite private septic systems. Implementation of sediment disposal activities at the EBRL Sediment Disposal Area would not alter the existing private wastewater treatment systems. Therefore, there would be **no impact**.

d,e) *The Proposed Project would not generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capability of local infrastructure or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals and would comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste*.

Solid waste generated by work crews at the sediment disposal area will be packed out to trash collection bins located at PCWA facilities for collection by a local disposal service. Upon completion of sediment disposal activities landfill service would not be required and thus would not affect landfill capacity. Sediment management activities would comply with all relevant Federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to the generation and disposal of solid waste. Therefore, there would be **no impact**.

3.19.4 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts related to utilities and service systems would result from implementation of sediment disposal activities. Therefore, no mitigation is required.

3.20 Wildfire

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the Project…	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☑	☐	☐
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose Project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☐	☑	☐	☐
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risks 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?	☐	☐	☐	☑

3.20.1 Thresholds of Significance

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, a project could have a significant impact if located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones if the project would:

- Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan;
- 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;
- Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment; or
- 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.

3.20.2 Setting

Fire protection in the vicinity of the EBRL Sediment Disposal Area is provided by CAL FIRE/USFS. State Responsibility Areas (SRAs) are nonfederal lands outside of city boundaries within which California assumes financial responsibility for preventing and suppressing fires. The EBRL Sediment Disposal Area and surrounding areas are considered SRAs with “very high” fire hazard severity as defined by CAL FIRE (Placer County 2020a). CAL FIRE defines the severity of fire hazard zones based on predictions of fire behavior in response to local weather patterns, fuel availability, and surrounding terrain (CAL FIRE 2012).

Placer County developed a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) to make the County and its residents less vulnerable to future hazards. The plan was prepared pursuant to the requirements of the Disaster

Mitigation Act of 2000 so that Placer County would be eligible for FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation and Hazard Mitigation Grant programs (Placer County 2016). One of the goals provided in the LHMP is to improve preparedness for all hazards by educating the general public on evacuation planning and sheltering options

The Placer County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is the result of a community-wide planning effort that included extensive field data gathering, compilation of existing documents and geographic information system data, and scientific analyses and recommendations designed to reduce the threat of wildfire-related damages to values at risk. Values at risk include people, property, ecological elements, and other human and intrinsic values within the project area. This document provides a comprehensive analysis of wildfire-related hazards and risks in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) areas. It strives to follow standards that have been established by the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) (Placer County 2012). According to the Placer County CWPP, the EBRL Sediment Disposal Area is not located in a WUI.

3.20.3 Discussion

a) *The Proposed Project would not substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?*

   Sediment disposal activities would not substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. During implementation of sediment management activities, all hauling routes and access roads will remain open with the exception of Middle Fork Interbay Dam Road which will be closed to the public for the duration of the Project. However, this road is generally not heavily travelled by the public as its primary purpose is to provide access to conduct operation and maintenance activities at MFP facilities. To ensure emergency access is maintained, PCWA will implement TRA-1 which requires development of a Construction Traffic Control Plan. The Plan will include a requirement to provide notification to administrators of police and fire stations, ambulance service providers, and recreational facility managers of the timing, location, and duration of construction activities and the locations of detours and lane closures, where applicable. Therefore, there would be **less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated**.

b) *The Proposed Project would not exacerbate wildfire risks due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors.*

c) *The Proposed Project would not require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure that may exacerbate fire risks or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment.*

   The sediment disposal area and sediment disposal route are located in a remote, forested area of Tahoe National Forest characterized as having a "very high" fire hazard severity as defined by CAL FIRE. Sediment disposal activities would not exacerbate wildfire risks due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, nor would they require installation or maintenance of infrastructure that may exacerbate fire risk. However, the use of fuels and other equipment could potentially result in fires that, if not contained, could spread to surrounding forest lands and other structures in the vicinity. To reduce the potential for wildland fires resulting from sediment disposal activities, PCWA will implement Mitigation Measure HAZ-3 requiring the contractor to prepare and implement a Project-specific Fire Plan that details roles and responsibilities; fire equipment, tool cache, and water

suppression requirements; fire control procedures; and notification requirements and contact information. Therefore, this impact is **less than significant with mitigation incorporated.**

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?

The EBRL Sediment Disposal Area is located on land with a gradual slope and would not expose people or structures downslope to flooding, landslides, post-fire instability, or drainage changes. Therefore, there would be **no impact**.

3.20.4 Mitigation Measures

Refer to Mitigation Measures HAZ-3 in Section 3.9, Hazards and Hazardous Materials and TRA-1 in Section 3.17, Transportation/Traffic.

3.21 Mandatory Findings of Significance

Does the Project…	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) 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 a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☑	☐	☐
b) 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) Have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☑	☐	☐

3.21.1 Discussion

a) *The Proposed Project would not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory with implementation of mitigation.*

Sediment disposal activities would have no effect on the following resources: Agriculture and Forest Resources; Land Use and Planning; Mineral Resources; Population and Housing; Recreation; and Utilities and Service Systems. Sediment disposal activities would have less than significant impacts on the following resources: Aesthetics; and Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Sediment disposal activities would have potentially significant impacts on the following resources: Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Energy; Geology and Soils; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Water Quality; Noise; Public Services; Transportation; Tribal Cultural Resources; and Wildfire. However, the implementation of the specific mitigation measures identified for each of these resource topics (see Table 1, or refer to individual sections), would reduce the potential impacts in the Project area to less than significant for all potential impacts identified in the analyses. Therefore, this impact would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

b) *The Proposed Project would not have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable with implementation of mitigation.*

The potential for specific effects of sediment disposal activities to contribute considerably to significant cumulative impacts depends on the relative magnitude of the effects on the future cumulative condition. As identified in this document, the temporary sediment disposal activities could cause short-term impacts. However, mitigation measures have been identified in this document to

reduce impacts to less than significant levels (and be consistent with applicable adopted state and regional mitigation planning). Sediment disposal activities would not contribute considerably to future significant cumulative impacts. Therefore, this impact would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated.**

c) *The Proposed Project would not have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly with implementation of mitigation.*

Mitigation measures included in this document that would reduce potential impacts to human beings as a result of implementation of sediment disposal activities, include: AIR-1, Air Quality Best Management Practices; HAZ-1, Hazardous Materials Handling Measures; HAZ-2, Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan; HAZ-3, Fire Plan; NOISE-1, Noise Best Management Practices; and TRA-1, Construction Traffic Control Plan. Implementation of these measures would reduce potential impacts to human beings to less-than-significant levels. Therefore, this impact would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated.**

4 LIST OF PREPARERS

Cardno, Inc.

Julie Smith ..... Senior Consultant
Jessica Holmes ..... Environmental Scientist
Elizabeth Shepherd ..... Air Quality Specialist
Brian Marks ..... Senior Archaeologist
Rick Evans ..... Wildlife Biologist
Michelle Hochrein ..... Botanist
Eric Lee ..... GIS Specialist

Janelle Nolan and Associates Environmental Consulting, Inc.

Janelle Nolan ..... Project Director
Sara Reece ..... Senior Analyst/Biologist
Robyn Smith ..... Senior Biologist

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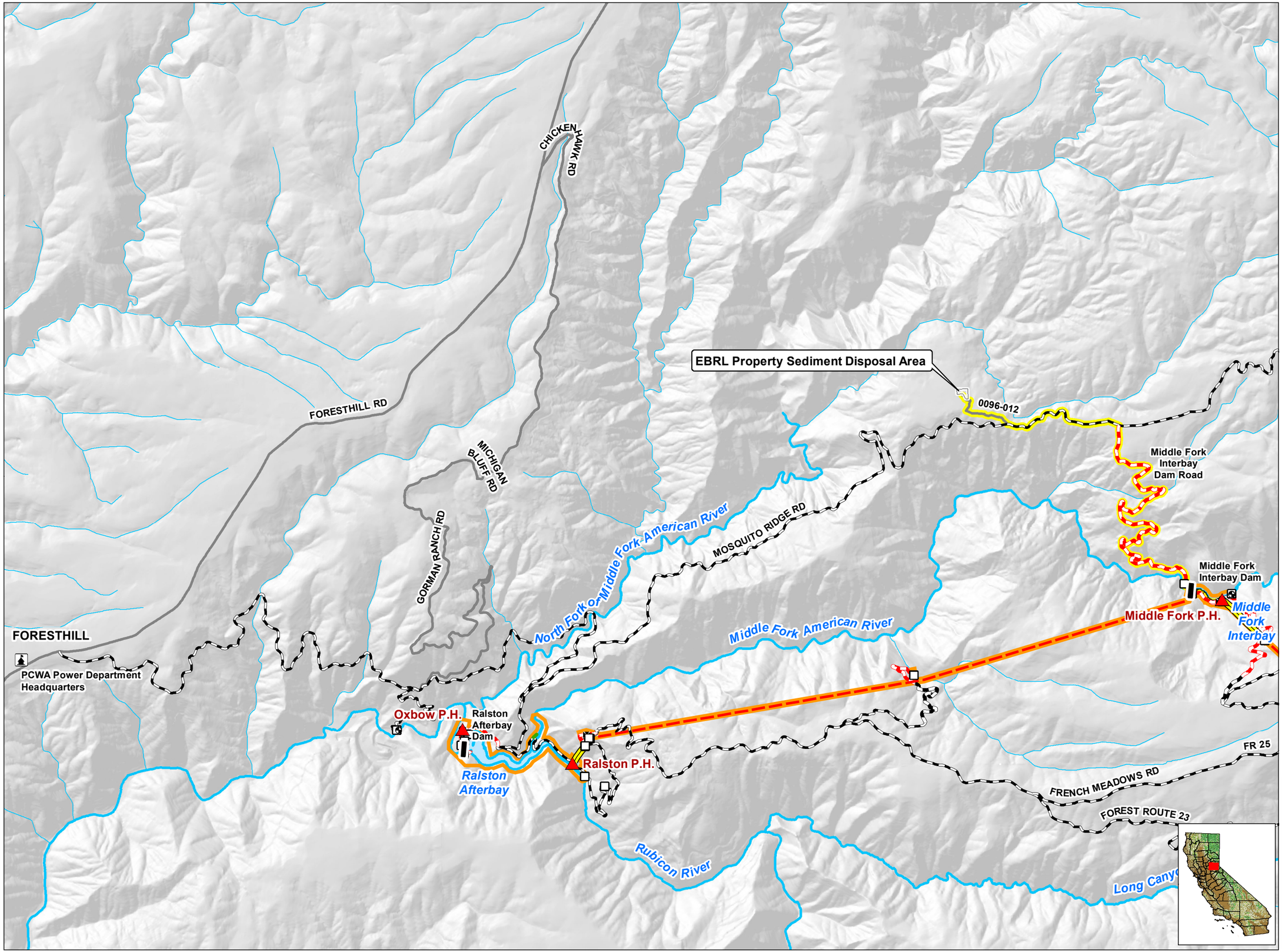

PCWA Facilities and Features

- Dam
- Ancillary and Other Facilities
- Powerhouse
- Gage
- Penstock
- Tunnel
- FERC Boundary

Transportation

- Project Road
- Non-Project General Access Road
- Other Road

Sediment Management: Related Features

- Sediment Disposal Route
- Sediment Disposal Area

PCWA

Placer County Water Agency
Middle Fork American River Project

Figure 1

Project Location Map

0 0.5 1 Miles

Projection: Ca. Stateplane, Zone 2
Datum: NAD 83

Date: 5/6/2020

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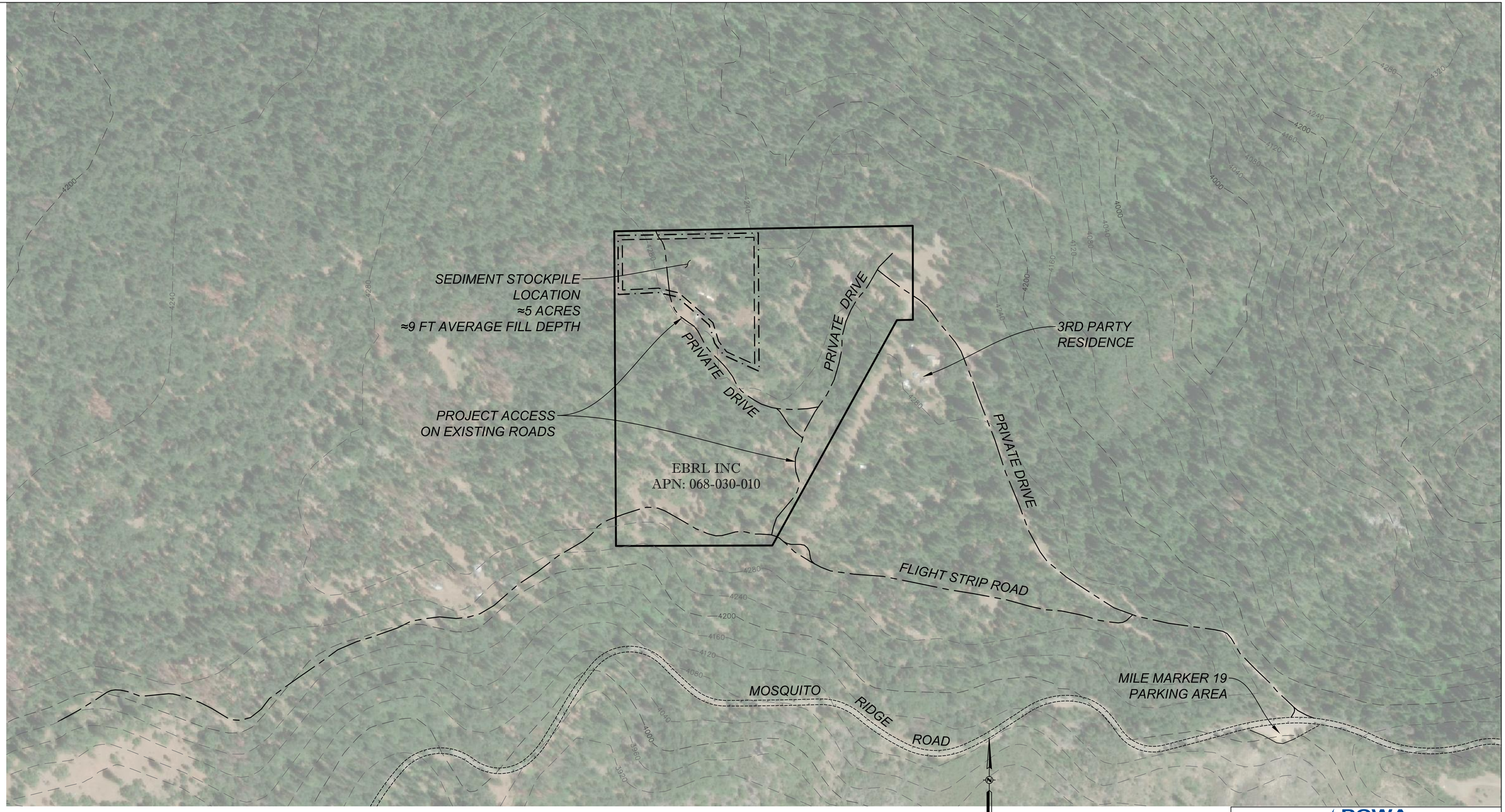

GRADING GENERAL NOTES

1. MATERIALS SHALL BE PLACED AND COMPACTED PER THE PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS.
2. FILL SLOPE PARAMETERS FOR THIS SITE SHALL BE AS SPECIFIED FOR PERMANENT FILL SITES IN THE PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS
3. SUBGRADE AREAS THAT ARE TO RECEIVE FILL SHALL BE PREPARED PER PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS
4. VEGETATION, WOODY PRODUCTS, AND OTHER DEBRIS REMOVED FROM SUBGRADE SHALL BE REMOVED AND DISPOSED OF PER ALL APPLICABLE LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL STANDARDS AND THE PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS.
5. SEE PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS FOR HANDLING OF SELECT CLAY MATERIAL, IF ENCOUNTERED, DURING SITE PREPARATION.
6. BASED ON THE BASE MAP PROVIDED AND THE PROPOSED GRADING SHOWN ON THIS PLAN, ESTIMATED AVAILABLE FILL QUANTITY FOR THIS SITE IS 65,000 CY.

RFE ENGINEERING, INC
Civil Engineers • Planners • Surveyors
2260 Douglas Blvd, Suite 160, Roseville, CA 95661
Ph: 916-772-7800 Fax: 916-772-7804
www.RFEngineering.com

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER
SHAWN B. SOMERS
No. C 80625
Exp. 3-31-21
CIVIL
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

NUMBER	DATE	REVISION DESCRIPTION	DSN/DRN	CHKD	APVD
7					
6					
5					
4					
3					
2					
1					

NUMBER	DATE	REVISION DESCRIPTION	DSN/DRN	CHKD	APVD
7					
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3					
2					
1					

PCWA
water • energy • stewardship
PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
AUBURN, CA

POWER SYSTEM DEPARTMENT
MIDDLE FORK AMERICAN RIVER PROJECT
INTERBAY SEDIMENT REMOVAL PROJECT

STOCKPILE PLAN - SEDIMENT DISPOSAL AREA 1

CIVIL

DSN BY: SBS	DISP: CIVIL	DATE: APR 30, 2020
DWN BY: TEE/PGC	DRAWING NO. PCWA #	REV: 0
CHKD BY: SBS		DWG, SHEET XX OF 12
APVD BY: SBS		

PLOT DATE: FILE: Z:\2019 Projects\19022 PCWA Task 2019-01\WORKING CAD\Stockpile Plan.dwg

PLAN SET PAGE XX OF 12 , INTERBAY SEDIMENT REMOVAL PROJECT, PCWA CONTRACT No. 2020-02

EBRL Property Sediment Disposal Area

0096-012

FR 96

Middle Fork Interbay Dam Road

Middle Fork American River

Middle Fork Interbay

Middle Fork Interbay Dam

Middle Fork-Ralston Tunnel

Middle Fork Powerhouse

Access Ramps

PCWA Facilities and Features

- Dam
- Ancillary and Other Facilities
- Powerhouse
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- Penstock
- Tunnel
- FERC Boundary

Transportation

- Project Road
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Sediment Management: Related Features

- Access Ramps
- Sediment Disposal Routes
- Sediment Disposal Area

PCWA

Placer County Water Agency
Middle Fork American River Project

Figure 3

Sediment Disposal Route

0 500 1,000 Feet

Date: 5/6/2020

Projection: Ca. Stateplane, Zone 2
Datum: NAD 83

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5-Mile Study Area Buffer

EBRL Property Sediment Disposal Area

0096-012

Stebbins' phacelia

Sierra marten

Sierra Nevada red fox

black swift

Sierra blue grass

felt-leaved violet

FR 96

Duncan Creek

FR 22

saw-toothed lewisia

California wolverine

Big Tree Forest

Middle Fork American River

California red-legged frog

foothill yellow-legged frog

North Fork of Middle Fork American River

Stebbins' Phacelia

Middle Fork Interbay

Middle Fork Interbay Dam

Pallid / Western Red Bat

Western Red Bat

14N56 (spur)

14N56

14N55

14N31

14N30

14N08N

14N16A

14N16

FR 2 - ELEVEN PINES ROAD

North Fork Long Canyon

South Fork Long Canyon

FR 23 - BLACKSMITH FLAT ROAD

FR 25

96-06

Ralston Afterbay Dam

Rubicon River

Red Hills soaproot

northern goshawk

Long Canyon

PCWA Facilities and Features

- Dam
- Ancillary and Other Facilities
- Powerhouse
- Gage
- Penstock
- Tunnel
- FERC Boundary

Transportation

- Project Road
- Non-Project General Access Road
- Other Road

Sediment Management: Related Features

- Sediment Disposal Routes
- Sediment Disposal Area

Resource Data*

- Bat Detection
- CA Spotted Owl Nest
- CA Spotted Owl PAC
- CA Spotted Owl HRCA
- Northern Goshawk Nest
- Northern Goshawk PAC
- Special-status Plant Population

* SOURCES:
USDA-FS & Cardno, Inc.

PCWA

Placer County Water Agency
Middle Fork American River Project

Figure 4

Special-status Plants and Wildlife within a 5-Mile Radius

0 0.5 1 Miles

Date: 5/8/2020

Projection: Ca. Stateplane, Zone 2
Datum: NAD 83

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Appendix A
Criteria Air Pollutants: Summary of Common Sources and Effects

Appendix A. Criteria Air Pollutants: Summary of Common Sources and Effects.

Pollutant	Major Man-Made Sources	Human Health & Welfare Effects
Particulate Matter (PM) Airborne solid particle and liquid particles. Grouped into 2 categories: "Coarse Particles" (PM_{10}) – from 2.5 to 10 microns in diameter. "Fine Particles" ($PM_{2.5}$) – less than 2.5 microns in diameter.	Power plants, steel mills, chemical plants, unpaved roads and parking lots, wood-burning stoves and fireplaces, automobiles and others.	Increased respiratory symptoms, such as irritation of the airways, coughing, or difficulty breathing; aggravated asthma; development of chronic bronchitis; irregular heartbeat; nonfatal heart attacks; and premature death in people with heart or lung disease. Impairs visibility (haze).
Ozone (O_3) (Smog) A colorless or bluish gas.	Formed by a chemical reaction between volatile organic compounds (VOC) and nitrous oxides (NOx) in the presence of sunlight. Motor vehicle exhaust, industrial emissions, gasoline storage and transport, solvents, paints and landfills.	Irritates and causes inflammation of the mucous membranes and lung airways; causes wheezing, coughing and pain when inhaling deeply; decreases lung capacity; aggravates lung and heart problems, damages plants; reduces crop yield, damages rubber, some textiles and dyes.
Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2) A colorless, nonflammable gas.	Formed when fuel containing sulfur, such as coal and oil, is burned; when gasoline is extracted from oil; or when metal is extracted from ore. Examples are petroleum refineries, cement manufacturing, metal processing facilities, locomotives, large ships, and fuel combustion in diesel engines.	Respiratory irritant. Aggravates lung and heart problems. In the presence of moisture and oxygen, sulfur dioxide converts to sulfuric acid which can damage marble, iron and steel; damage crops and natural vegetation. Impairs visibility. Precursor to acid rain.
Carbon Monoxide (CO) An odorless, colorless gas.	Formed when carbon in fuel is not burned completely;' a component of motor vehicle exhaust.	Reduces the ability of blood to deliver oxygen to vital tissues, effecting the cardiovascular and nervous system. Impairs vision, causes dizziness, and can lead to unconsciousness or death.
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2) A reddish-brown gas.	Fuel combustion in motor vehicles and industrial sources. Motor vehicles; electric utilities, and other sources that burn fuel.	Respiratory irritant; aggravates lung and heart problems. Precursor to ozone and acid rain. Contributes to global warming, and nutrient overloading which deteriorates water quality. Causes brown discoloration of the atmosphere.
Lead Metallic element.	Metal refineries, smelters, battery manufacturers, iron and steel producers, use of leaded fuels by racing and aircraft industries.	Anemia, high blood pressure, brain and kidney damage, neurological disorders, cancer, lowered IQ. Affects animals, plants, and aquatic ecosystems.

Source: California Air Pollution Control Officers Association 2020.

Appendix B

Placer County Air Pollution Control District Best Management Practices

RULE 228 FUGITIVE DUST

Adopted 06-19-79
(Amended 10-19-93, 04-10-03)

100 GENERAL

101 PURPOSE: To reduce the amount of particulate matter entrained in the ambient air, or discharged into the ambient air, as a result of anthropogenic (man-made) fugitive dust sources by requiring actions to prevent, reduce, or mitigate fugitive dust emissions.

102 APPLICABILITY: The provisions of this rule shall apply to any activity or man-made condition capable of generating fugitive dust. The provisions of this rule apply to all of Placer County.

103 EXEMPTIONS: The provisions of this rule shall not apply to:

103.1 Agricultural activities conducted and maintained for commercial agricultural purposes. If there is a question regarding whether an activity is an agricultural activity or a commercial agricultural activity, the APCO shall consult with the Agricultural Commissioner.

103.2 Active operations conducted during emergency life-threatening situations, or in conjunction with any officially declared disaster or state of emergency, or to attend to uncontrolled fires.

103.3 Active operations conducted by essential service utilities to provide electricity, natural gas, telephone, water and sewer during periods of service outages and emergency disruptions.

103.4 Active operations conducted at solid waste landfills.

103.5 Active operations within State or Federal lands.

103.6 Active operations complying with California Forest Practice Rules.

103.7 Any contractor subsequent to the time the contract ends, provided that such contractor implemented the required control measures during the contractual period.

103.8 Weed abatement operations, fire hazard abatement, or vegetation clearing for fire defense purposes ordered or conducted by a county agricultural commissioner, or any state, county, or municipal fire department, or that is required by a local ordinance. The provisions of this clause do not exempt the owner of any property from controlling fugitive dust emissions emanating from disturbed surface areas and inactive disturbed surface areas created as a result of the exempt activity.

103.9 Public unpaved roads that have the sole purpose of providing access to fire breaks or defensible spaces.

103.10 Unpaved roads, unless such roads:

103.10.1 Are within and part of a property undergoing development or construction; or

103.10.2 Are public unpaved roads being constructed or undergoing a maintenance activity.

103.11 To any active operation, open storage pile, or disturbed surface area for which necessary fugitive dust preventive or mitigating actions are in conflict with the California or federal Endangered Species Acts.

103.12 Non-routine or emergency maintenance of flood control or irrigation channels, canals, and water spreading basins.

103.13 To blasting operations that have been permitted by the California Division of Industrial Safety.

103.14 Quarrying and surface mining operations, or to sand and gravel mining, rock crushing, and aggregate and sand processing operations, provided that a permit has been issued by the District in accordance with Rule 501, General Permit Requirements, for such operations.

104 PARTIAL EXEMPTIONS:

104.1 Earth Covering of Paved Roadways: The provisions of Section 304 shall not apply to earth coverings of public paved roadways where such coverings are approved by a government agency for the protection of the roadway, and where such coverings are used as roadway crossings for haul vehicles.

104.2 Permitted Facilities: The provisions of Section 400, with the exception of Section 405, Reasonable Precautions, shall not apply to any facility permitted by the District in accordance with Rule 501, General Permit Requirements.

104.3 Permitted Facilities With Non-Fugitive Emissions: The provisions of Section 303 shall not apply to any facility having non-fugitive particulate matter emissions that are permitted by the District in accordance with Rule 501, General Permit Requirements.

200 DEFINITIONS: Except as defined below for the purposes of this Rule the terms used are as defined in Rule 102, Definitions.

201 ACTIVE OPERATIONS: Any activity capable of generating fugitive dust, including, but not limited to, earth-moving activities, construction/demolition activities, or heavy- and light-duty vehicular movement on disturbed surface areas, including inactive disturbed surface areas, and unpaved roads within a construction or a development project.

202 AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY: Any activity, operation, facility, or appurtenances thereof, including, but not limited to, the cultivation and tillage of the soil, dairying, the production, cultivation, growing, and harvesting of any agricultural commodity including timber, viticulture, apiculture, or horticultural, the raising of livestock, fur bearing animals, fish, or poultry, and game birds, and any practices performed by a farmer or on a farm incident to or in conjunction with those farming operations, including preparation for market, delivery to storage or to market, or delivery to carriers for transportation to market.

203 ASBESTOS: Asbestiforms of the following minerals: chrysotile (fibrous serpentine), crocidolite (fibrous riebeckite), amosite (fibrous ummingtonite--grunerite), fibrous tremolite, fibrous actinolite, and fibrous anthophyllite.

204 ASBESTOS AIRBORNE TOXIC CONTROL MEASURE FOR CONSTRUCTION, GRADING, QUARRYING, AND SURFACE MINING OPERATIONS: A regulation adopted as Section 93105, Title 17, California Code of Regulations (CCR) by the California Air Resources Board per Health and Safety Code Section 39666 which requires the adoption of regulations to reduce emissions of identified airborne toxics to the lowest level achievable.

205 BOUNDARY LINE: The boundaries of an area in which either a person causing the emission or a person allowing the emission has the legal use or possession. This may include all or portions of a legal parcel or parcels as defined by the Placer County Assessor.

206 BULK MATERIAL: Any material which can emit dust when stored, disturbed, or handled, and is generally un-packaged, including sand, gravel, soil, aggregate material

less than two inches in length or diameter, and other organic or inorganic particulate matter.

207 CHEMICAL STABILIZERS: A non-toxic chemical dust suppressant which must not be used if prohibited for use by the Regional Water Quality Control Boards, the California Air Resources Board, the Environmental Protection Agency, or any applicable law, rule or regulation; and should meet any specifications, criteria, or tests required by any federal, state, or local water agency. Unless otherwise indicated, the use of a non-toxic chemical stabilizer shall be of sufficient concentration and application frequency to maintain a stabilized surface.

208 CONSTRUCTION/DEMOLITION ACTIVITIES: Any on-site mechanical activities preparatory to or related to the building, alteration, rehabilitation, demolition or improvement of property, including, but not limited to the following activities; grading, excavation, loading, crushing, cutting, planing, shaping or ground breaking.

209 CONTRACTOR: Any person or licensed contractor, who has a contractual arrangement to conduct an active operation subject to this Rule for another person.

210 DISTURBED SURFACE AREA: A portion of the earth's surface that has been physically moved, uncovered, destabilized, or otherwise modified from its undisturbed natural soil condition, thereby increasing the potential for emissions of fugitive dust. This definition excludes those areas that have:

210.1 Been restored to a natural state, such that the vegetative ground cover and soil characteristics are similar to adjacent or nearby natural conditions;

210.2 Been paved or otherwise covered by a permanent structure; or

210.3 Sustained a vegetative ground cover over at least 95 percent of an area for a period of at least 6 months.

211 DUST SUPPRESSANTS: Water, hygroscopic materials, or non-toxic chemical stabilizers used as a treatment material to reduce fugitive dust emissions.

212 EARTH-MOVING ACTIVITIES: Include, but are not limited to, grading, earth cutting and filling operations, loading or unloading of dirt or bulk materials, adding to or removing from open storage piles of bulk materials, or soil mulching.

213 FUGITIVE DUST: Any solid particulate matter that becomes airborne, without first passing through a stack or duct, directly or indirectly as a result of the activities of man (i.e. anthropogenic), including the raising and/or keeping of animals.

214 GEOGRAPHIC ULTRAMAFIC ROCK UNIT: A geographic area that is designated as an ultramafic rock unit or ultrabasic rock unit on maps identified in the California Air Resources Board's Asbestos Airborne Toxic Control Measure or Construction, Grading, Quarrying, and Surface Mining Operations.

215 INACTIVE DISTURBED SURFACE AREA: Any disturbed surface area upon which active operations have not occurred or are not expected to occur for a period of seven (7) consecutive days.

216 NATURALLY-OCCURRING ASBESTOS: Asbestos that has not been processed in an asbestos mill.

217 NON-ROUTINE: Any non-periodic active operation that occurs no more than three (3) times per year, lasts less than 30 cumulative days per year, and is scheduled less than 30 days in advance.

218 OPEN STORAGE PILE: Any accumulation of bulk material with five (5) percent or greater silt content which is not fully enclosed, covered or chemically stabilized, and which attains a height of three (3) feet or more and a total surface area of 150 or more square feet. Silt content level is assumed to be five (5) percent or greater unless a person can show, by sampling and analysis in accordance with ASTM Method C-136 or other equivalent method approved in writing by the Executive Officer of the California Air Resources Board, that the silt content is less than five (5) percent.

219 PARTICULATE MATTER: Any material, except uncombined water, which exists in a finely divided form as a liquid or solid at standard conditions.

220 PAVED ROAD: An improved street, highway, alley, public way, or easement that is covered by typical roadway materials excluding access roadways that connect a facility with a public paved roadway and are not open to through traffic. Public paved roads are those open to public access and that are under the jurisdiction of any federal, state, county, municipal or any other governmental or quasi-governmental agencies. Private paved roads are any paved roads not defined as public.

221 PM10: Is particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter smaller than or equal to a nominal 10 microns as measured by an applicable reference test method or methods found in Article 2, Subchapter 6, Title 17, California Code of Regulations (commencing with Section 94100).

222 ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE: Activities undertaken to build roads, highways, railroads, bridges, culverts, drains and other works incidental to road or highway construction, and maintenance activities that involve grading or excavation.

223 SERPENTINE: Any form of the following hydrous magnesium silicate minerals: antigorite, lizardite, and chrysotile.

224 SILT: Any aggregate material with a particle size less than 74 micrometers in diameter that passes through a No. 200 Sieve.

225 SIMULTANEOUS SAMPLING: The operation of two PM10 samplers in such a manner that one sampler is started within five (5) minutes of the other, and each sampler is operated for a consecutive period which must be not less than 290 minutes and not more than 310 minutes.

226 STABILIZED SURFACE means:

226.1 Any disturbed surface area or open storage pile that is treated so it will be resistant to wind-driven fugitive dust;

226.2 Any unpaved road surface in which any fugitive dust plume emanating from vehicular traffic does not exceed 20 percent opacity.

227 TRACK-OUT/CARRY-OUT: Any and all bulk materials that adhere to and agglomerate on the exterior surfaces of motor vehicles and/or equipment (including tires) that may then fall onto a paved road.

228 ULTRAMAFIC ROCK: An igneous rock composed of 90 percent or greater of one or a combination of the following iron/magnesium-rich, dark-colored silicate minerals: olivine, pyroxene, or more rarely amphibole. For the purposes of this section, "ultramafic rock" includes the following rock types: dunite, pyroxenite, and peridotite; and their metamorphic derivatives.

229 UNPAVED ROADS: Any unsealed or unpaved roads, equipment paths, or travel ways that are not covered by one of the following: concrete, asphaltic concrete, recycled asphalt, or asphalt. Public unpaved roads are any unpaved roadway under the jurisdiction of any federal, state, county, municipal or other governmental or quasi-

governmental agencies. Private unpaved roads are all other unpaved roadways not defined as public.

230 VISIBLE EMISSIONS: Visible emissions means any particulate matter that is visually detectable without the aid of instruments other than corrective lenses.

231 VISIBLE ROADWAY DUST: Any sand, soil, dirt, or other solid particulate matter which is visible upon paved road surfaces and which can be removed by a vacuum sweeper, or a wet sweeper under normal operating conditions.

232 WIND-DRIVEN FUGITIVE DUST: Visible emissions from any surface area that is generated by wind action alone.

300 STANDARDS

301 VISIBLE EMISSIONS NOT ALLOWED BEYOND BOUNDARY LINE: A person shall not cause or allow the emissions of fugitive dust from any active operation, open storage pile, or disturbed surface area (including disturbance as a result of the raising and/or keeping of animals or by vehicle use), such that the presence of such dust remains visible in the atmosphere beyond the boundary line of the emission source.

302 VISIBLE EMISSIONS FROM ACTIVE OPERATIONS: In addition to the requirements of Rule 202, Visible Emissions, a person shall not cause or allow fugitive dust generated by active operations, an open storage pile, or a disturbed surface area, such that the fugitive dust is of such opacity as to obscure an observer's view to a degree equal to or greater than does smoke as dark or darker in shade as that designated as No. 2 on the Ringelmann Chart (i.e. 40% opacity), as published by the United States Bureau of Mines.

303 CONCENTRATION LIMIT: A person shall not cause or allow PM10 levels to exceed 50 micrograms per cubic meter, 24 hour average, when determined, by simultaneous sampling, as the difference between upwind and downwind samples collected on high-volume particulate matter samplers or other EPA-approved equivalent method for PM10 monitoring. Sampling shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures specified in Section 500.

304 TRACK-OUT ON TO PAVED PUBLIC ROADWAYS: Visible roadway dust as a result of active operations, spillage from transport trucks, and the track-out of bulk material onto public paved roadways shall be minimized and removed.

304.1 The track-out of bulk material onto public paved roadways as a result of operations, or erosion, shall be minimized by the use of track-out and erosion control, minimization, and preventative measures, and removed within one hour from adjacent streets such material anytime track-out extends for a cumulative distance of greater than 50 feet onto any paved public road during active operations.

304.2 All visible roadway dust tracked-out upon public paved roadways as a result of active operations shall be removed at the conclusion of each work day when active operations cease, or every twenty-four (24) hours for continuous operations. Wet sweeping or a HEPA filter equipped vacuum device shall be used for roadway dust removal.

304.3 Any material tracked-out, or carried by erosion, and clean-up water, shall be prevented from entering waterways or storm water inlets as required to comply water quality control requirements.

304.4 Track-out control in geographic ultramafic rock units or in identified naturally-occurring asbestos, serpentine, or ultramafic rock areas, shall comply with the requirements of the California Air Resources Board's Asbestos Airborne Toxic

Control Measure or Construction, Grading, Quarrying, and Surface Mining Operations.

400 ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

401 MINIMUM DUST CONTROL REQUIREMENTS: The following dust mitigation measures are to be initiated at the start and maintained throughout the duration of the construction or grading activity, including any construction or grading for road construction or maintenance.

401.1 Unpaved areas subject to vehicle traffic must be stabilized by being kept wet, treated with a chemical dust suppressant, or covered. In geographic ultramafic rock units, or when naturally-occurring asbestos, ultramafic rock, or serpentine is to be disturbed, the cover material shall contain less than 0.25 percent asbestos as determined using the bulk sampling method for asbestos in Section 502.

401.2 The speed of any vehicles and equipment traveling across unpaved areas must be no more than 15 miles per hour unless the road surface and surrounding area is sufficiently stabilized to prevent vehicles and equipment traveling more than 15 miles per hour from emitting dust exceeding Ringelmann 2 or visible emissions from crossing the project boundary line.

401.3 Storage piles and disturbed areas not subject to vehicular traffic must be stabilized by being kept wet, treated with a chemical dust suppressant, or covered when material is not being added to or removed from the pile.

401.4 Prior to any ground disturbance, including grading, excavating, and land clearing, sufficient water must be applied to the area to be disturbed to prevent emitting dust exceeding Ringelmann 2 and to minimize visible emissions from crossing the boundary line.

401.5 Construction vehicles leaving the site shall be cleaned to prevent dust, silt, mud, and dirt, from being released or tracked offsite.

401.6 When wind speeds are high enough to result in dust emissions crossing the boundary line, despite the application of dust mitigation measures, grading and earthmoving operations shall be suspended.

401.7 No trucks are allowed to transport excavated material off-site unless the trucks are maintained such that no spillage can occur from holes or other openings in cargo compartments, and loads are either:

401.7.1 Covered with tarps; or

401.7.2 Wetted and loaded such that the material does not touch the front, back, or sides of the cargo compartment at any point less than six inches from the top and that no point of the load extends above the top of the cargo compartment.

401.8 In geographic ultramafic rock units, or when naturally-occurring asbestos, ultramafic rock, or serpentine is disturbed, all equipment must be washed down before moving from the property onto a paved public road.

401.9 In geographic ultramafic rock units, or when naturally-occurring asbestos, ultramafic rock, or serpentine is disturbed, upon completion of the project disturbed surfaces shall be stabilized using one or more of the following methods:

401.9.1 Establishment of a vegetative cover;

401.9.2 Placement of at least one (1.0) foot of non-asbestos-containing material;

401.9.3 Paving;

401.9.4 Any other measure deemed sufficient to prevent wind speeds of ten (10) miles per hour or greater from causing visible dust emissions.

402 WIND-DRIVEN FUGITIVE DUST CONTROL: A person shall take action(s), such as surface stabilization, establishment of a vegetative cover, or paving, to minimize wind-driven dust from inactive disturbed surface areas.

403 REQUIREMENTS FOR NATURALLY OCCURRING ASBESTOS AREAS: No person shall engage in any road construction or maintenance operations or construction or grading operations where the area to be disturbed is greater than one (1.0) acre without complying with the requirements of the State's Asbestos Airborne Toxic Control Measure for Construction, Grading, Quarrying, and Surface Mining Operations where:

403.1 Any portion of the area to be disturbed is located in a geographic ultramafic rock unit; or

403.2 Any portion of the area to be disturbed has naturally-occurring asbestos, serpentine, or ultramafic rock as determined by the person, owner/operator, or the Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO); or

403.3 Naturally-occurring asbestos, serpentine, or ultramafic rock is discovered by the owner/operator, a registered geologist, or the APCO, in the area to be disturbed after the start of any construction or grading operation.

404 COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS: Any person conducting active operations, or who is responsible for the man-made condition of open storage piles, disturbed surface areas (including disturbance as result of the raising and/or keeping of animals or by vehicle use), and inactive disturbed surface areas, shall take the measures necessary to comply with Section 300**.** The property owner, contractors, and any person, that conducts active operations that result in conditions generating fugitive dust is responsible for complying with the provisions of this rule.

405 REASONABLE PRECAUTIONS: The APCO in determining compliance with Section 300 will take into consideration causative factors, the fugitive dust control measures taken to comply with Section 300, the extent that all reasonable fugitive dust control measures are implemented prior to a violation, and the timeliness and extent of corrective actions taken. If both preventative and corrective measures were taken and were reasonable under the circumstances, as determined by the APCO, the APCO may find that enforcement action is not warranted.

500 MONITORING AND RECORDKEEPING

501 MONITORING:

501.1 Sampling to determine compliance with the particulate matter concentration limit of Section 303 is only required when deemed necessary by the APCO.

501.2 The conduct of sampling to demonstrate compliance with Section 303 may be required, with reasonable notice, of the person discharging emissions, or sampling may be conducted by the District with the costs of sampling, not to exceed actual costs, borne by the person discharging emissions.

501.3 Samplers shall be operated, maintained, and calibrated in accordance with 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 50, Appendix J, or appropriate EPA-published documents for EPA-approved equivalent method(s) for PM10.

501.4 Samplers shall be placed upwind and downwind of key activity areas and as close to the boundary line as feasible, such that other sources of fugitive dust between the sampler and the boundary line are minimized.

501.5 Procedures for the conduct of simultaneous sampling to determine compliance with Section 303, and the reporting of results, shall be approved by the APCO.

502 TEST METHODS

502.1 Ultramafic Rock: The ultramafic rock composition of any material shall be determined using standard analysis techniques including, but not limited to, color index assessment, microscopic examination, petrographic analysis or rock thin sections, or chemical analysis techniques, such as X-ray fluorescence spectrometry or inductively coupled plasma analysis.

502.2 Bulk Sampling Methods: ARB Test Method 435, or an alternative asbestos bulk test method approved in writing by the Executive Officer of the California Air Resources Board, shall be used to determine the asbestos content of a bulk sample. For the purposes of determining compliance with this section, references in ARB Test Method 435 to "serpentine aggregate" shall mean “gravel” or other “bulk materials” to be tested for asbestos content.

503 RECORDKEEPING

503.1 Record of Control Implementation: Any contractor engaged in any active operation subject to this rule shall maintain records of actions to stabilize surface areas sufficient to establish location, type and date of treatment. Records shall be maintained and be readily accessible for two (2) years after the date of each entry and shall be provided to the District upon request and shall be open for inspection during unscheduled audits during normal business hours.

503.2 Sampling Recordkeeping Requirements: Any person subject to this rule shall maintain for at least two (2) years all of the following records and such additional records required by the State’s Asbestos Airborne Toxic Control Measure or Construction, Grading, Quarrying, and Surface Mining Operations when this regulation applies. Results of any air sampling or air monitoring conducted at the request of the APCO.

503.3 The results of any asbestos bulk sampling that meets any of the following conditions:

503.3.1 The asbestos bulk sampling was conducted by the owner/operator to document that cover material in geographic ultramafic rock units, or when naturally-occurring asbestos, ultramafic rock, or serpentine is to disturbed, contains less than 0.25 percent asbestos.

503.3.2 The asbestos bulk sampling was done at the request of the APCO.

Appendix C

USFWS Information for Planning and Conservation Species List

IPaC Information for Planning and Consultation **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

IPaC resource list

This report is an automatically generated list of species and other resources such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as *trust resources*) under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the project area referenced below. The list may also include trust resources that occur outside of the project area, but that could potentially be directly or indirectly affected by activities in the project area. However, determining the likelihood and extent of effects a project may have on trust resources typically requires gathering additional site-specific (e.g., vegetation/species surveys) and project-specific (e.g., magnitude and timing of proposed activities) information.

Below is a summary of the project information you provided and contact information for the USFWS office(s) with jurisdiction in the defined project area. Please read the introduction to each section that follows (Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, USFWS Facilities, and NWI Wetlands) for additional information applicable to the trust resources addressed in that section.

Location

Placer County, California

Local office

Sacramento Fish And Wildlife Office

(916) 414-6600
(916) 414-6713

Federal Building
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605
Sacramento, CA 95825-1846

Endangered species

This resource list is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an analysis of project level impacts.

The primary information used to generate this list is the known or expected range of each species. Additional areas of influence (AOI) for species are also considered. An AOI includes areas outside of the species range if the species could be indirectly affected by activities in that area (e.g., placing a dam upstream of a fish population, even if that fish does not occur at the dam site, may indirectly impact the species by reducing or eliminating water flow downstream). Because species can move, and site conditions can change, the species on this list are not guaranteed to be found on or near the project area. To fully determine any potential effects to species, additional site-specific and project-specific information is often required.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act **requires** Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency. A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can **only** be obtained by requesting an official species list from either the Regulatory Review section in IPaC (see directions below) or from the local field office directly.

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list by doing the following:

1. Draw the project location and click CONTINUE.
2. Click DEFINE PROJECT.
3. Log in (if directed to do so).
4. Provide a name and description for your project.
5. Click REQUEST SPECIES LIST.

Listed species[1] and their critical habitats are managed by the Ecological Services Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries[2]).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact NOAA Fisheries for species under their jurisdiction.

1. Species listed under the Endangered Species Act are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the listing status page for more information.
2. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

Amphibians

NAME	STATUS
California Red-legged Frog Rana draytonii There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2891	Threatened
Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frog Rana sierrae There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9529	Endangered

Fishes

NAME	STATUS
Delta Smelt Hypomesus transpacificus There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/321	Threatened

Critical habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS AT THIS LOCATION.

Migratory birds

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act[1] and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act[2].

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described below.

1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Birds of Conservation Concern http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/birds-of-conservation-concern.php
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/project-assessment-tools-and-guidance/conservation-measures.php
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/management/nationwidestandardconservationmeasures.pdf

The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) list or warrant special attention in your project location. To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this list is generated, see the FAQ below. This is not a list of every bird you may find in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have sighted birds in and around your project area, visit the E-bird data mapping tool (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur off the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found below.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON (IF A BREEDING SEASON IS INDICATED FOR A BIRD ON YOUR LIST, THE BIRD MAY BREED IN YOUR PROJECT AREA SOMETIME WITHIN THE TIMEFRAME SPECIFIED, WHICH IS A VERY LIBERAL ESTIMATE OF THE DATES INSIDE WHICH THE BIRD BREEDS ACROSS ITS ENTIRE RANGE. "BREEDS ELSEWHERE" INDICATES THAT THE BIRD DOES NOT LIKELY BREED IN YOUR PROJECT AREA.)
Black Swift *Cypseloides niger* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8878	Breeds Jun 15 to Sep 10
California Spotted Owl *Strix occidentalis occidentalis* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7266	Breeds Mar 10 to Jun 15
Cassin's Finch *Carpodacus cassinii* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9462	Breeds May 15 to Jul 15
Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31

Olive-sided Flycatcher Contopus cooperi — Breeds May 20 to Aug 31

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3914

Probability of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read and understand the FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

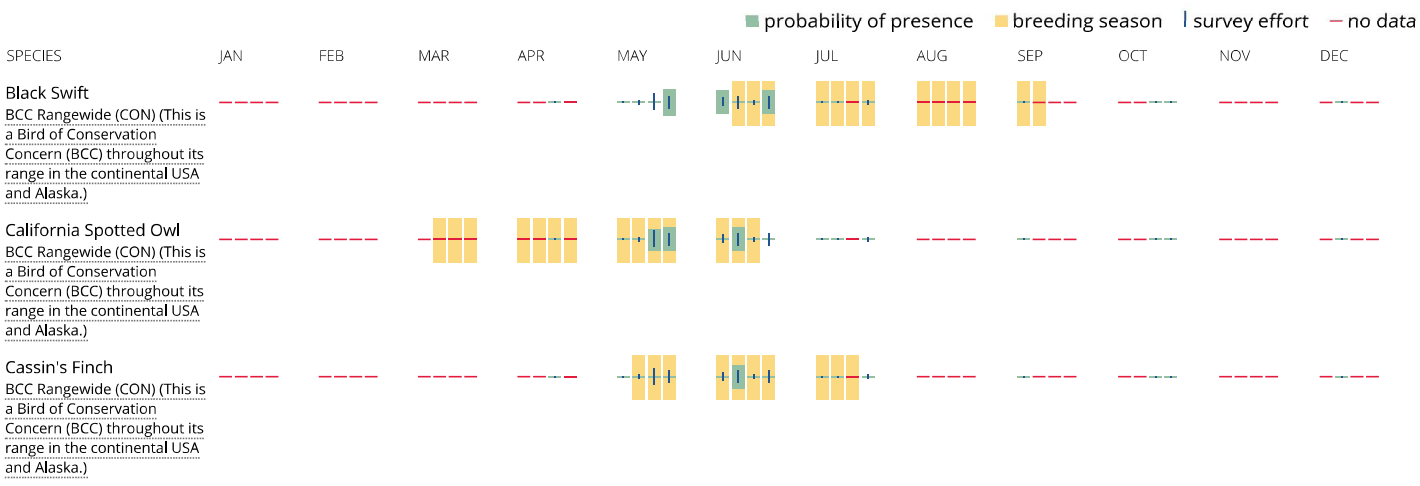
Breeding Season (■)
Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort (|)
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

No Data (–)
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe
Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.



Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

Nationwide Conservation Measures describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the *locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction* is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. Additional measures and/or permits may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (Eagle Act requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the AKN Phenology Tool.

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). This data is derived from a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets .

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering, migrating or present year-round in my project area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may refer to the following resources: The Cornell Lab of Ornithology All About Birds Bird Guide, or (if you are unsuccessful in locating the bird of interest there), the Cornell Lab of Ornithology Neotropical Birds guide. If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the Eagle Act requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the Northeast Ocean Data Portal. The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf project webpage.

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the Diving Bird Study and the nanotag studies or contact Caleb Spiegel or Pam Loring.

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to obtain a permit to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated, and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please also look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal bar). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds" at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.

Facilities

National Wildlife Refuge lands

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the National Wildlife Refuge system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS AT THIS LOCATION.

Fish hatcheries

THERE ARE NO FISH HATCHERIES AT THIS LOCATION.

Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory

Impacts to NWI wetlands and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District.

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

This location overlaps the following wetlands:

FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND
- PSSC

RIVERINE
- R3UBH
- R4SBC
- R5UBFx
- R5UBF

A full description for each wetland code can be found at the National Wetlands Inventory website

Data limitations

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This location overlaps the following wetlands:

FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND
- PSSC

RIVERINE
- R3UBH
- R4SBC
- R5UBFx
- R5UBF

A full description for each wetland code can be found at the National Wetlands Inventory website

Data limitations

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

Data exclusions

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tuberficid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

Data precautions

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

Data exclusions

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tuberficid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

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Appendix D
Special-Status Plants Potentially Occurring in the Project Area

Scientific Name	Common Name	USDA-FS Status	Federal or State Status	CNPS Rank	Blooming Period/Fertile	Habitat	Likelihood for Occurrence
Astragalus webberi	Webber's milk-vetch	FSS	–	1B.2	May–July	Lower montane coniferous forest. From 2,400 to 4,100 feet in elevation.	**May potentially occur.** Not observed during botanical surveys in the Project area.
Cypripedium fasciculatum	Clustered lady's-slipper	FSS	–	4.2	March–August	Lower montane coniferous forest, serpentine seeps and streambanks. From 500 to 7,200 feet in elevation.	**May potentially occur.** Not observed during botanical surveys in the Project area.
Cypripedium montanum	Mountain lady's slipper	FSS	–	4.2	March–August	1,500-6,500ft in CA; mesic to wet, mid- to late- succession conifer or conifer-hardwood forests; north aspects; often found under montane dogwood	**May potentially occur.** Not observed during botanical surveys in the Project area.
Fritillaria eastwoodiae	Butte County fritillary	FSS	–	3.2	March–May	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest (openings), wet and dry slopes red clay or sandy loam. From 100 to 5,000 feet in elevation.	**May potentially occur.** Not observed during botanical surveys in the Project area.
Lewisia cantelovii	Cantelow's lewisia	FSS	–	1B.2	May–October	Broadleaf upland, chaparral, cismontane woodlands, and lower montane coniferous forests. From 1,000 to 4,500 feet in elevation	**May potentially occur.** Not observed during botanical surveys in the Project area.
Lewisia serrata	Saw-toothed lewisia	FSS	–	1B.1	May–June	Broad-leaved upland forest, lower montane coniferous forest, and riparian forest on mesic steep, nearly vertical cliffs and inner gorges. From 2,800 to 4,800 feet in elevation.	**May potentially occur.** Not observed during botanical surveys in the Project area.
Mielichhoferia elongata	Elongate copper-moss	FSS	–	2B.2	N/A	Cismontane woodland, rock with copper/heavy metals. From 1,500 and 4,300 feet in elevation	**May potentially occur.** Not observed during botanical surveys in the Project area.
Monardella follettii	Follett's mountainbalm	FSS	–	1B.2	June–September	Lower montane coniferous forests in rocky, serpentine soils. From 1,650 to 6,550 feet in elevation.	**May potentially occur.** Not observed during botanical surveys in the Project area.
Packera layneae (Senecio layneae)	Layne's ragwort	FSS (ENF)	FT, SR	1B.2	April–July	Chaparral and cismontane woodland on rocky, gabbroic, serpentine or ultramafic soils. From 650 to 3,400 feet in elevation.	**May potentially occur.** Not observed during botanical surveys in the Project area.
Phacelia stebbinsii	Stebbins' phacelia	FSS	–	1B.2	June–July	Cismontane woodland and lower montane coniferous forest, and meadows and seeps. Found on dry, open rocky sites (bedrock outcrops, rubble, or talus) on ledges and moderate or steep slopes as well as inner gorges and near seeps on ENF and TNF. From 2,000 to 7,050 feet in elevation.	**May potentially occur.** Not observed during botanical surveys in the Project area.
Poa sierrae	Sierra blue grass	FSS	–	1B.3	April–June	Mixed conifer forest, 1,150-5,000 feet	**May potentially occur.** Not observed during botanical surveys in the Project area.
Pyrrocoma lucida	Sticky goldenweed	FSS	–	1B.2	July–October	Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, and meadows and seeps. May grow in alkaline clays. Below 6,000 feet in elevation.	**May potentially occur.** Not observed during botanical surveys in the Project area.
Juncus luciensis	Santa Lucia dwarf rush	FSS	–	1B.2	April–August	925-6,235 feet, wetlands, riparian	Unlikely to occur. Project area does not support habitat for this species.
Peltigera gowardii (Hydrothyria venosa)	Veined water lichen	FSS	–	–	N/A	Aquatic, in spring-fed streams with clear, cold water. From 1,150 to 7,000 feet in elevation.	Unlikely to occur. The Project area does not contain suitable habitat for this species.
Astragalus lemmonii	Lemmon's milkvetch	FSS	–	1B.2	May–July	Sagebrush scrub and wet areas, 4,265 to 7,220 feet in elevation.	Unlikely to occur. The Project area is outside the geographic or elevational range of this species.

Scientific Name	Common Name	USDA-FS Status	Federal or State Status	CNPS Rank	Blooming Period/Fertile	Habitat	Likelihood for Occurrence
Astragalus pulsiferae var. coronensis	Modoc Plateau milkvetch	FSS	–	4.2	May–August	Great Basin scrub, 4,265 to 5,910 feet in elevation.	Unlikely to occur. The Project area is outside the geographic or elevational range of this species.
Boechera rigidissima (Arabis rigidissima var. demota)	Galena Creek rock cress	FSS		1B.3	July–August	Above 7,500ft; east of Sierra crest; known only in Placer County, California and Washoe County, Nevada; mesic areas (sometimes rocky) at red fir forest to aspen/meadow transitions.	Unlikely to occur. The Project area is outside the geographic or elevational range of this species.
Botrychium ascendens	Upswept moonwort	FSS	–	2B.3	Fertile July–August	Lower montane coniferous forests near streams, grassy fields, meadows and seeps. 4,000 feet in elevation or greater.	Unlikely to occur. The Project area is outside the geographic or elevational range of this species.
Botrychium crenulatum	Scalloped moonwort	FSS	–	2B.2	Fertile June–July	Lower and upper montane coniferous forests, bogs, fens, and moist meadows. 4,000 feet in elevation or greater.	Unlikely to occur. The Project area is outside the geographic or elevational range of this species.
Botrychium lunaria	Common moonwort	FSS	–	2B.3	August	Meadows and seeps, moist riparian areas, subalpine coniferous forest and upper montane coniferous forest. 4,000 feet in elevation or greater.	Unlikely to occur. The Project area is outside the geographic or elevational range of this species.
Botrychium minganense	Mingan moonwort	FSS	–	2B.2	July–September	Mesic areas in lower and upper montane coniferous forest, moist riparian areas, and meadows and seeps. 4,000 feet in elevation or greater.	Unlikely to occur. The Project area is outside the geographic or elevational range of this species.
Botrychium montanum	Mountain moonwort	FSS	–	2B.1	July–September	Lower and upper montane coniferous forests, and meadows and seeps. 4,000 feet in elevation or greater.	Unlikely to occur. The Project area is outside the geographic or elevational range of this species.
Bruchia bolanderi	Bolander's bruchia	FSS	–	2B.2	N/A	Lower and upper montane coniferous forest, meadows, seeps, and fens in damp soils. From 3,800 to 9,500 feet in elevation.	Unlikely to occur. The Project area is outside the geographic or elevational range of this species.
Erigeron miser	Starved fleabane	FSS	–	1B.3	June–October	Upper montane coniferous forest, rocky soils. From 6,000 to 8,600 feet in elevation.	Unlikely to occur. The Project area is outside the geographic or elevational range of this species.
Eriogonum umbellatum var. *torreyanum*	Donner Pass buckwheat	FSS	–	1B.2	July–September	Upper montane coniferous forests, chaparral, and meadows. Volcanic and rocky soils. From 6,000 to 8,000 feet in elevation.	Unlikely to occur. The Project area is outside the geographic or elevational range of this species.
Helodium blandowii	Blandow's bog-moss	FSS	–	2B.3	N/A	Meadows, seeps, fens, and subalpine coniferous forest; damp soil. Above 6,100 feet in elevation.	Unlikely to occur. The Project area is outside the geographic or elevational range of this species.
Ivesia aperta var. *aperta*	Sierra Valley mousetail	FSS	–	1B.2	June—September	Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, pinyon and juniper woodland, vernal pools - vernally mesic, usually volcanic. From 4,500 to 7,500 feet in elevation.	Unlikely to occur. The Project area is outside the geographic or elevational range of this species.
Ivesia aperta var. *canina*	Dog Valley mousetail	FSS	–	1B.1	June–August	Openings in lower montane coniferous forests and in meadows and seeps. Volcanic and rocky soils. From 4,500 to 7,500 feet in elevation.	Unlikely to occur. The Project area is outside the geographic or elevational range of this species.

Scientific Name	Common Name	USDA-FS Status	Federal or State Status	CNPS Rank	Blooming Period/Fertile	Habitat	Likelihood for Occurrence
Ivesia sericoleuca	Plumas mousetail	FSS	–	1B.2	May–September	Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, and vernal pools. From 4,500 to 7,500 feet in elevation.	Unlikely to occur. The Project area is outside the geographic or elevational range of this species.
Ivesia webberi	Webber's mousetail	–	FT	1B.1	May–July	Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, in sandy or gravelly soils. From 4,500 to 7,500 feet in elevation.	Unlikely to occur. The Project area is outside the geographic or elevational range of this species.
Lewisia kelloggii ssp. *hutchisonii*	Hutchison's lewisia (subspecies *hutchisonii*)	FSS	–	3.3	July–August	Decomposed granite and slate soils (volcanic soils), at the north sides of passes and ridge-tops from 4,800 to 7,000 feet in elevation.	Unlikely to occur. The Project area is outside the geographic or elevational range of this species.
Lewisia kelloggii ssp. *kelloggii*	Hutchison's lewisia (subspecies *kelloggii*)	FSS	–	–	July–August	Upper montane coniferous forest, rocky open ridges and granitic and volcanic balds. From 5,000 to 9,000 feet in elevation.	Unlikely to occur. The Project area is outside the geographic or elevational range of this species.
Lewisia longipetala	Long-petaled lewisia	FSS	–	1B.3	July–August	Restricted to subalpine & alpine slopes or basins with deep snow accumulations, above 8,200 feet.	Unlikely to occur. The Project area is outside the geographic or elevational range of this species.
Meesia uliginosa	Broad-nerved hump moss	FSS	–	2B.2	N/A	Bogs, fens, and rock fissures, upper montane and subalpine coniferous forests, meadows and seeps in damp soil. From 4,200 to 9,500 feet in elevation.	Unlikely to occur. The Project area is outside the geographic or elevational range of this species.
Penstemon personatus	Close-throated beardtongue	FSS	–	1B.2	June–September	Chaparral and upper and lower montane coniferous forests. From 3,400 to 7,000 feet in elevation.	Unlikely to occur. The Project area is outside the geographic or elevational range of this species.
Pinus albicaulis	Whitebark pine	FSS	FC	–	–	Red fir/lodgepole/subalpine, above 6,500 feet.	Unlikely to occur. The Project area is outside the geographic or elevational range of this species.
Tauschia howelli	Howell's tauschia	FSS	–	1B.3	June–August	Subalpine /upper montane coniferous forest, granitic, gravelly soils. From 5,500 to 8,500 feet in elevation.	Unlikely to occur. The Project area is outside the geographic or elevational range of this species.

LEGEND:

Forest Service Status
FSS = Forest Service Sensitive

Other Federal Status
FT = Federal Threatened
FE = Federal Endangered
FC = Federal Candidate

State Status
SR = listed by California as Rare
ST = California Threatened
SE = California Endangered

CNPS Rare Plant Rank (California Native Plant Society)
1B = rare, threatened or endangered in California and elsewhere.
2B = rare in California but more common elsewhere.

_.1 = Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened/high degree and immediacy of threat)
_.2 = Moderately threatened in California (20-80% occurrences threatened)
_.3 = Not very threatened in California (<20% of occurrences threatened or no current threats known)

Appendix E
Special-Status Wildlife Potentially Occurring in the Project Area

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Occurrence Notes
Invertebrates					
Bombus occidentalis	western bumble bee	FSS	CCE	The historical range of the western bumble bee includes most of western North America. This species is dependent on continuous access to meadows with floral resources from spring through late summer within 0.3 to 0.5 mile of burrowing nests.	**May potentially occur.** Suitable foraging habitat is present within the Project area. Not observed during wildlife reconnaissance surveys conducted in 2020.
Fish					
Hypomesus transpacificus	Delta smelt	FT	CE	The historical range of the delta smelt includes most of the Central Valley and associated watersheds. Breeds on tidally-influenced backwater sloughs and channel edgewaters of the San Francisco Estuary.	Unlikely to occur**.** The Project area is above several dams, which delta smelt are unable to pass. The Project area is not within the current geographic range for this species and is not within designated critical habitat.
Amphibians					
Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum	southern long-toed salamander	—	SSC	Breeds in alpine meadows, high mountain ponds, and lakes in upper montane and subalpine coniferous forests. Typically found above 6,000 feet in elevation.	Unlikely to occur. The Project area does not contain suitable habitat and is outside the elevation range for this species.
Rana boylii	foothill yellow-legged frog	FSS	ST (central Sierra population)	Perennial rocky (pebble or cobble) streams with cool, clear water in a variety of habitats from valley and foothill oak woodland, riparian forest, ponderosa pine, mixed conifer, coastal scrub, and mixed chaparral at elevations ranging from 0 to 6,370 feet.	Unlikely to occur. The Project area does not contain suitable perennial stream habitat for this species.
Rana draytonii	California red-legged frog	FT	SSC	Breeding habitat includes coastal lagoons, marshes, springs, permanent and semi-permanent natural ponds, and ponded and backwater portions of streams. Also known from artificial impoundments, including stock ponds, irrigation ponds, and siltation ponds. Prefers dense, shrubby, or riparian vegetation near still or slow-moving water. Upland dispersal habitat includes areas within 1 mile of aquatic breeding habitat with no impassible dispersal barriers. Typically found from sea level to 5,000 feet.	Unlikely to occur. The Project area does not contain suitable aquatic breeding habitat and is >1 mile from the nearest known occupied breeding habitat. The North Fork American River canyon lies between the Project area and the nearest known occurrences, presenting a significant dispersal barrier. The nearest Critical Habitat (PLA=1) is 4 miles west of the Project area near Michigan Bluff. There are three known occurrences from this area from 2001, 2006, and an unknown date (CNDDB 2020).

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Occurrence Notes
Rana sierrae	Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog	FE, FSS	ST	Streams, lakes, and ponds in montane riparian, lodgepole pine, subalpine conifer, and wet meadow habitats. Breeds in shallow water in low gradient perennial streams and lakes at elevations ranging from 4,500 to 12,000 feet.	Unlikely to occur. The Project area does not contain suitable aquatic breeding habitat and is at the lower end of the species known elevation range. There are now known occurrences within 5 miles of the Project area (CNDDB 2020). The nearest known occurrences of this species on the Tahoe National Forest are approximately 16 miles east of the Project area at much higher elevations near McKinistry Meadow.
Reptiles					
Emys marmorata	western pond turtle	FSS	SSC	Perennial wetlands and slow-moving creeks, ponds, and lakes, from sea level to 4,690 ft in elevation, with overhanging vegetation and suitable basking sites such as logs and rocks above the waterline. Nests and overwinters in upland habitats up to 325 feet from suitable aquatic habitat.	Unlikely to occur. The Project area is located near the top of a ridgeline and is >325 from the nearest suitable aquatic habitat.
Birds					
Accipiter gentilis	northern goshawk	FSS	SSC	Nests and forages in middle to high elevation, mature, dense conifer forests. Winters in foothills, northern deserts in pinyon-juniper woodland, and low elevation riparian habitats. Typically found at elevations of 1,000 to 10,800 feet.	**May potentially occur.** Suitable foraging habitat is present within the Project area. Not observed during wildlife reconnaissance surveys conducted in 2020. Forests within the Project area have open canopy conditions that are unsuitable for nesting for this species.
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	bald eagle	Eagle Act, FSS	CE, CFP	Year-round resident in ice-free regions of California. Foraging areas include regulated and unregulated rivers, reservoirs, lakes, estuaries, and coastal marine ecosystems. Majority of bald eagles in California breed near reservoirs and nests are usually located within 1 mile of foraging habitat.	Unlikely to occur. The Project does not contain suitable aquatic foraging habitat for this species and > 1 mile from suitable aquatic habitat.
Falco peregrinus anatum	American peregrine falcon	—	CFP	Very uncommon breeding resident and uncommon as a migrant. Breeds in woodlands, forests, coastal habitats, and riparian areas near wetlands, lakes, rivers, or other water on high cliffs, banks, dunes, or mounds. Active nesting sites are known along the coast, in the Sierra Nevada, and in the mountains of northern California. Migrants occur along the coast and the western Sierra Nevada in spring and fall.	**May potentially occur.** Suitable habitat is present within the Project area.
Antigone canadensis tabida	greater sandhill crane	FSS	CT	Nests in undisturbed wetland ecosystems in long valleys. Winters in the Central and San Joaquin Valleys in wetlands and agricultural fields. Nesting is known from mountainous regions in Modoc, Lassen, Siskiyou, Plumas, Shasta, and Sierra counties.	Unlikely to occur. The Project area is outside the known geographic range of this species and does not contain suitable nesting or wintering habitat.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Occurrence Notes
Strix nebulosa	great gray owl	FSS	CE	Nests in old-growth coniferous forests and forages in montane meadows. Distribution includes high elevations of the Sierra Nevada and Cascade ranges, from 4,500 to 7,500 ft in elevation.	Unlikely to occur. The Project area does not contain suitable meadow foraging habitat for this species and forests within the Project area have open canopy conditions that are unsuitable for nesting for this species.
Strix occidentalis occidentalis	California spotted owl	FSS	SSC	Nests in old-growth, dense, coniferous forests. Forages in multi-layered mixed conifer, redwood, Douglas fir, and oak woodland habitats, from sea level to elevations of approximately 7,600 feet.	**May potentially occur.** Suitable foraging habitat is present within the Project area. Not observed during wildlife reconnaissance surveys conducted in 2020. Forests within the Project area have open canopy conditions that are unsuitable for nesting for this species.
Chaetura vauxi	Vaux's swift	—	SSC	Fairly common in the coast ranges north of Sonoma County, in the Sierra Nevada, and Cascade range. Nests in redwood and Douglas-fir habitats in large hollow trees and snags. Forages in open areas and over water.	**May potentially occur.** Suitable nesting and foraging habitat is present within the Project area. Not observed during wildlife reconnaissance surveys conducted in 2020.
Cypseloides niger	black swift	—	SSC	Nests in moist crevices or caves, or on cliffs near waterfalls in deep canyons at elevations ranging from 6,000 to 11,000 feet. Forages widely over many habitats; seems to avoid arid regions.	Unlikely to occur. Suitable nesting habitat (aquatic features) are not present in the Project area.
Contopus cooperi	olive-sided flycatcher	—	SSC	Uncommon to common summer resident in a wide variety of forest and woodland habitats. Nesting habitats include mixed conifer, montane hardwood-conifer, Douglas-fir, redwood, red fir, and lodgepole pine forests from 3,000 to 7,000 feet in elevation.	**May potentially occur.** Suitable nesting and foraging habitat is present within the Project area. Not observed during wildlife reconnaissance surveys conducted in 2020.
Empidonax traillii	willow flycatcher	FSS	CE	Nests in wet meadow and montane riparian habitats at elevations ranging from 2,000 to 8,000 ft. Most often occurs in broad, open river valleys or large mountain meadows with lush growth of shrubby willows. Meadows must be at least 1 acre in size to support a breeding pair (Green et al. 2003).	Unlikely to occur. Suitable meadow nesting habitat is not present in the Project area.
Progne subis	purple martin	—	SSC	An uncommon, local summer resident in wooded low-to-mid elevation habitats. Found in valley foothill, montane hardwood, montane hardwood-conifer, and riparian habitats. Nests in tall, old trees near an open body of water, and occasionally in residential areas.	**May potentially occur.** Suitable foraging habitat is present within the Project area. Not observed during wildlife reconnaissance surveys conducted in 2020.
Mammals					
Antrozous pallidus	pallid bat	FSS	SSC	Inhabits variety of habitats, including coniferous forests. Rock outcroppings, caves, buildings, bridges, and sometimes hollow trees are used for roost sites. Pallid bats are year-round residents that hibernate during the winter months.	**May potentially occur.** Suitable foraging habitat is present within the Project area. Not observed during wildlife reconnaissance surveys conducted in 2020.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Occurrence Notes
Corynorhinus townsendii	Townsend's big-eared bat	FSS	SSC	Found in all but alpine and subalpine habitats; most abundant in mesic habitats. Year- round residents that hibernate from October through April. Requires caves, mines, or man-made structures for roosting. This species is extremely sensitive to disturbance and may abandon a roost if disturbed.	**May potentially occur.** Suitable foraging habitat is present within the Project area. Not observed during wildlife reconnaissance surveys conducted in 2020.
Euderma maculatum	spotted bat	—	SSC	Ranges from arid deserts and grasslands through mixed conifer forests up to elevations of 10,600 feet in southern California. Prefers sites with adequate roosting habitat, such as cliffs. Often limited by the availability of cliff habitat. Feeds over water and along marshes.	**May potentially occur.** Suitable foraging habitat is present within the Project area. Not observed during wildlife reconnaissance surveys conducted in 2020.
Myotis thysanodes	fringed myotis	FSS	—	Optimal habitats are pinyon-juniper, valley foothill hardwood and hardwood-conifer, generally at 4,000 to 7,000 ft. in elevation. Roosts in caves, mines, buildings, crevices, and under tree bark. Separate day and night roosts may be used. Uses open habitats, early successional stages, streams, lakes, and ponds as foraging areas. This species is migratory, making relatively short, local movements to suitable hibernacula.	**May potentially occur.** Suitable foraging habitat is present within the Project area. Not observed during wildlife reconnaissance surveys conducted in 2020.
Eumops perotis californicus	western mastiff bat	—	SSC	Found in variety of habitats including desert scrub, chaparral, oak woodland, ponderosa pine, meadows, and mixed conifer forests up to 4,600 feet in elevation. Distribution is likely limited by availability of significant rock features offering suitable roosting habitat.	**May potentially occur.** Suitable foraging habitat is present within the Project area. Not observed during wildlife reconnaissance surveys conducted in 2020.
Lepus americanus tahoensis	Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare	—	SSC	Found at upper elevations in the Cascades, northern Sierra Nevada, and the Warner Mountains in Modoc County. Prefers montane riparian habitats with alder/willow thickets and the edges of young stands of conifers.	Unlikely to occur. Suitable riparian thicket habitat is not present in the Project area.
Aplodontia rufa californica	Sierra Nevada mountain beaver	—	SSC	Found in the Sierra Nevada within dense montane riparian-deciduous habitats and open, brushy stages of most forest types. Frequents open areas near water.	Unlikely to occur. Project area does not support dense montane riparian or brushy habitat near water.
Vulpes vulpes necator	Sierra Nevada red fox	FC	ST	Occurs throughout the Sierra Nevada at elevations above 7,000 ft. in forests interspersed with meadows or alpine forests. Open areas are used for hunting, forested habitats for cover and reproduction.	Unlikely to occur. Project area is not within the geographic and/or elevation range of this species. Only known from 2 distinct populations, one located south of the Project area on the Stanislaus National Forest and one located north of the Project area on the Lassen National Forest (FS 2010).
Gulo gulo	California wolverine	FPT, FSS	ST, CFP	Mixed conifer, red fir, and lodgepole habitats, and probably sub-alpine conifer, alpine dwarf shrub, wet meadow, and montane riparian habitats. Occurs in the Sierra Nevada from 4,300 to 10,800 ft. Majority of recorded sightings are found above 8,000 ft. elevation. Denning habitat consists of caves, cliffs, hollow logs, and other cavities located in rocky areas free of human disturbance.	Unlikely to occur. This species typically occurs above 8,000 ft. in elevation, which is outside the elevation range of the Project area.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Occurrence Notes
Martes sierrae	Sierra marten	FSS	—	Optimal habitats are various mixed evergreen forests with more than 40 percent crown closure and large trees and snags for den sites. Most commonly found in red fir and lodgepole pine forests from elevations of 4,000 to 10,600 ft.	**May potentially occur.** Suitable foraging habitat is present within the Project area. Not observed during wildlife reconnaissance surveys conducted in 2020. Forests within the Project area have open canopy conditions that are unsuitable for denning for this species.
Pekania pennanti	fisher – Southern Sierra Nevada Distinct Population Segment	FE, FSS	ST	Large areas of mature and dense forest red fir, lodgepole pine, ponderosa pine, mixed conifer, and Jeffery pine forests with snags and greater than 40 percent canopy closure. Known from elevations of 4,000 to 8,000 ft.	Unlikely to occur. Though there are historical records of fisher in the Project vicinity, the most current information on fisher distribution in California indicates that fisher have been extirpated from the Sierra Nevada north of the Merced River drainage (USFWS 2020).

Federal Status
FC = Candidate Species
FE = Federal Endangered
FT = Federal Threatened
FPT = Federally Proposed Threatened
Eagle Act = Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
FSS = Forest Service Sensitive on Tahoe National Forest

State Status
CFP = California Fully Protected
CSC = California Species of Special Concern
CE = California Endangered
CT = California Threatened
CCE = California Candidate Endangered