

City of SACRAMENTO

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
SERVICES

300 Richards Boulevard
Third Floor
Sacramento, CA 95811

REVISED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

The City of Sacramento, California, a municipal corporation, does hereby prepare, declare, and publish this Negative Declaration for the following described project:

Dry Creek Estates Project (P20-040) The proposed project consists of a request to construct approximately 135 single-family homes, associated utility service connections, and multiple private roads on the undeveloped site consisting of two vacant parcels totaling 28.78 acres. In addition, as part of the development project, a maintenance district may be formed to maintain a segment of the Sacramento Northern Bike Trail. The project entitlements include a request for a Rezone of two parcels from Agriculture (A) to Single-Unit or Duplex Dwelling (R-1A); and a Tentative Subdivision Map to subdivide 29.56 gross acres into 135 residential lots and 3 open space/detention parcels.

The Lead Agency is the City of Sacramento. The City of Sacramento, Community Development Department, has reviewed the proposed project and, on the basis of the whole record before it, has determined that there is no substantial evidence that the project, as identified in the attached Initial Study, will have a significant effect on the environment. This Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the lead agency's independent judgment and analysis. An Environmental Impact Report is not required pursuant to the Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (Sections 21000, et seq., Public Resources Code of the State of California).

This Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.), CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, Sections 15000 et seq. of the California Code of Regulations), the Sacramento Local Environmental Regulations (Resolution 91-892) adopted by the City of Sacramento, and the Sacramento City Code.

A copy of this document and all supportive is available on the City's EIR Webpage at:
<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Community-Development/Planning/Environmental/Impact-Reports>

Due to the COVID 19 crises and the current public counter closures, the document is not available for review in printed form. If you need assistance in reviewing the document please contact Ron Bess, Associate Planner at (916) 808-8272 or Rbess@cityofsacramento.org.

Environmental Services Manager, City of Sacramento,
California, a municipal corporation

By: Scott Johnson
Date: November 29, 2022



DRY CREEK ESTATES PROJECT [(P20-040)]

**INITIAL STUDY/ MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR ANTICIPATED SUBSEQUENT
PROJECTS UNDER THE 2035 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR**

This Initial Study has been prepared by the City of Sacramento, Community Development Department, 300 Richards Boulevard, Third Floor, Sacramento, CA 95811, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Sections 21000 *et seq.*), CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, Section 15000 *et seq.* of the California Code of Regulations) and the Sacramento Local Environmental Regulations (Resolution 91-892) adopted by the City of Sacramento.

ORGANIZATION OF THE INITIAL STUDY

This Initial Study is organized into the following sections:

SECTION I - BACKGROUND: Provides summary background information about the project name, location, sponsor, and the date this Initial Study was completed.

SECTION II - PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Includes a detailed description of the proposed project.

SECTION III - ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST AND DISCUSSION: Reviews proposed project and states whether the project would have additional significant environmental effects (project-specific effects) that were not evaluated in the Master EIR for the 2035 General Plan.

SECTION IV - ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: Identifies which environmental factors were determined to have additional significant environmental effects.

SECTION V - DETERMINATION: States whether environmental effects associated with development of the proposed project are significant, and what, if any, added environmental documentation may be required.

REFERENCES CITED: Identifies source materials that have been consulted in the preparation of the Initial Study.

APPENDIX A: Air Quality Emissions Model – CalEEMod.2016.3.1

APPENDIX B: Biological Resources Technical Report.

APPENDIX C: Noise Study Report

APPENDIX D: Vehicle Miles Traveled Memorandum

Revisions have been made based upon comments received during the public review process. Revisions consisting of additions to the discussion are shown in underline text and any deletions are shown in strikethrough text. All revisions made, have been made based upon comments received that merely clarify, amplify, or make insignificant modifications and do not require recirculation pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15073.5(c).

SECTION I - BACKGROUND

Project Name and File Number: Dry Creek Estates (P20-040)

Project Location: 853 Main Ave. & 901 Main Ave.
Sacramento, CA 95838

Project Applicant: The True Life Companies
110 Blue Ravine Rd. #209
Folsom, CA 95630

Project Planner: Jose Quintanilla, Associate Planner
(916) 808-5879
jquintanilla@cityofsacramento.org

Environmental Planner: Scott Johnson, Senior Planner
(916) 808-5842
srjohnson@cityofsacramento.org

Date Initial Study Completed: October 2022

Public Circulation Dates: 8/15/2022 - 9/15/2022

This Initial Study was prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Sections 1500 *et seq.*). The Lead Agency is the City of Sacramento.

The City of Sacramento (City), Community Development Department, has reviewed the proposed project and, on the basis of the whole record before it, has determined that the proposed project is an anticipated subsequent project identified and described in the 2035 General Plan Master EIR and is consistent with the land use designation and the permissible densities and intensities of use for the project site as set forth in the 2035 General Plan. See CEQA Guidelines Section 15176 (b) and (d).

The City has prepared the attached Initial Study to review the discussions of cumulative impacts, growth inducing impacts, and irreversible significant effects in the 2035 General Plan Master EIR to determine their adequacy for the project (see CEQA Guidelines Section 15178(b),(c)) and identify any potential new or additional project-specific significant environmental effects that were not analyzed in the Master EIR and any mitigation measures or alternatives that may avoid or mitigate the identified effects to a level of insignificance, if any.

As part of the Master EIR process, the City is required to incorporate all feasible mitigation measures or feasible alternatives appropriate to the project as set forth in the Master EIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15177(d)) Policies included in the 2035 General Plan that reduce significant impacts identified in the Master EIR are identified and discussed. See also the Master EIR for the 2035 General Plan. The mitigation monitoring plan for the 2035 General Plan, which provides references to applicable General Plan policies that reduce the environmental effects of development that may occur consistent with the General Plan, is included in the adopting resolution for the Master EIR. See City Council Resolution No. 2015-0060, beginning on page 60. The resolution is available at

<http://portal.cityofsacramento.org/Community-Development/Planning/Environmental/Impact-Reports.aspx>.

This analysis incorporates by reference the general discussion portions of the 2035 General Plan Master EIR. (CEQA Guidelines Section 15150(a)). The Master EIR is available for public review at the City of Sacramento's web site at:

<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Community-Development/Planning/Environmental/Impact-Reports.aspx>

The City is soliciting views of interested persons and agencies on the content of the environmental information presented in this document. Written comments should be sent at the earliest possible date, but no later than the 30-day review period ending September 15, 2022.

Please send written responses to:

Scott Johnson, Senior Planner
Community Development Department
City of Sacramento
300 Richards Blvd, 3rd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95811
Direct Line: (916) 808-5842
srjohnson@cityofsacramento.org

SECTION II - PROJECT DESCRIPTION

INTRODUCTION

The True Life Companies (TTLC) proposes to construct approximately 135 single-family homes, associated utilities service connections, and multiple local roadways on undeveloped land in the Robla Neighborhood of North Sacramento as part of the Dry Creek Estates project (project). Additionally, the project proposes a roadway gap closure that would connect Main Avenue with a roadway north of the project area. The residential community would be located on approximately 30 acres.

PROJECT LOCATION

The project is located primarily on two vacant parcels totaling 28.78 acres in size (APNs 237-0051-012 & 237-0051-013) in the Robla Neighborhood of North Sacramento. The parcels are located on the east side of Rio Linda Boulevard south of the Main Avenue intersection and bordered by Futures High School to the south and Sunset Lawn Funeral Home and Cemetery to the east (Figure 1. Project Location). In addition, the project proposes an extension of Main Avenue that would require construction on the parcels located directly north of the residential developments (APNs 226-0250-005, 226-0260-017, and 226-0260-018).

The project site is located within the North Sacramento Community Plan Area. The 2035 General Plan identifies the land use designation within the project area as Suburban Neighborhood, Low Density and Parks and Recreation. The entire project area is currently undeveloped vacant land.

Surrounding land uses include single-family homes to the west and north, a cemetery to the east, and a high school to the south. Rio Linda Boulevard, an arterial roadway, and the Sacramento Northern Bike Trail border the western edge of the project area (Figure 2. Land Use and Zoning).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City of Sacramento is evaluating the environmental impact of rezoning the project area and allowing for residential development. The proposed project would include construction of approximately 135 single-family homes, associated utilities service connections, and multiple local roadways on the undeveloped site. In addition, as part of the development project, a maintenance district may be formed to maintain a segment of the Sacramento Northern Bike Trail. A discussion of the project components, including residential units, site access and circulation, utility infrastructure, open space preservation, and the maintenance district are discussed in greater detail below.

Residential Units

The proposed project would build approximately 135 single-family homes on the property. Lot sizes range between approximately 5,000 ft² and 3,800 ft² with a total density of 4.70 dwelling units per acre. Homes will be built in two clusters on either side of the wetland open space corridor with 74 homes on the north side of the open space and 61 on the south side of the open space (Figure 3. Site Plan).

Site Access and Circulation

The project area is bordered by Rio Linda Boulevard on the west side and Grace Avenue on the South Side. As a component of this project, Main Avenue will be extended by approximately 1,100 feet along the north side of the project area from its current terminus at Rio Linda Boulevard at the northwestern corner of the project area to the existing section of Main Avenue at the northeastern corner of the project area. This roadway gap closure would involve building a bridge over Magpie Creek just east of Rio Linda Boulevard, reconfiguring the existing intersection, and paving approximately 1,100 linear feet of two-lane roadway.

Roadway access to individual properties within the development will be provided by a network of new private roads. The large roads will be 38 feet wide, accommodating two travel lanes, curb, gutter, sidewalk,

and limited on street parking in designated parking locations throughout the development. Small streets will be 21 feet wide and will primarily provide access between residential units south of the wetland swale.

Utility Infrastructure

The development will connect to existing water, power, sewer, and storm drain utility infrastructure provided by the City, County, and the Sacramento Municipal Utility District. The number of new homes is not anticipated to require an expansion of the utility grid. Local distribution lines will be placed underneath the new local roadways.

Water

Municipal water will be supplied by the City of Sacramento Department of Utilities. The City uses surface water from the American and Sacramento rivers as well as groundwater north of the American River to meet the City's water needs. The project would connect to existing water mains along Rio Linda Boulevard and Grace Avenue. The local distribution network will be constructed in accordance with the City of Sacramento Development Standards.

Sewer

Sewer services will be supplied by the City of Sacramento Department of Utilities and is within the G302 sewer basin. Ultimate conveyance of wastewater from the City collection system to the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (SRWTP) for treatment and disposal will be provided by the Regional San interceptor system. Sewer connections and new sewer infrastructure within the project area will operate under gravity flow conditions as outlined in the City's design standards and guidelines for new developments.

Stormwater

The project will connect to existing stormwater drainage infrastructure operated by the City of Sacramento Department of Utilities. The project is within Drainage Basin 157 which drains to the Natomas East Main Drainage Canal, and eventually the American River.

In addition, the ground elevation on the north side of the project is below the Magpie Creek local 100-year flood elevation. To raise future homes above the 100-year floodplain, approximately 25,000 cubic yards of clean fill will be imported to the site to build up housing pads on the north side of the project.

Open Space Preservation

The Project Area is diagonally bisected by a wetland swale. The swale is not a jurisdictional water of the United States but does provide some habitat for local wildlife and scenic value to the property and it will not be developed. The project will preserve this feature as an open space corridor separating the housing development into two halves. The area is currently open grassland with no shrub or tree cover.

Parking spaces will be provided to allow for easy resident access to the open space area.

Public Facilities and Improvements Maintenance District

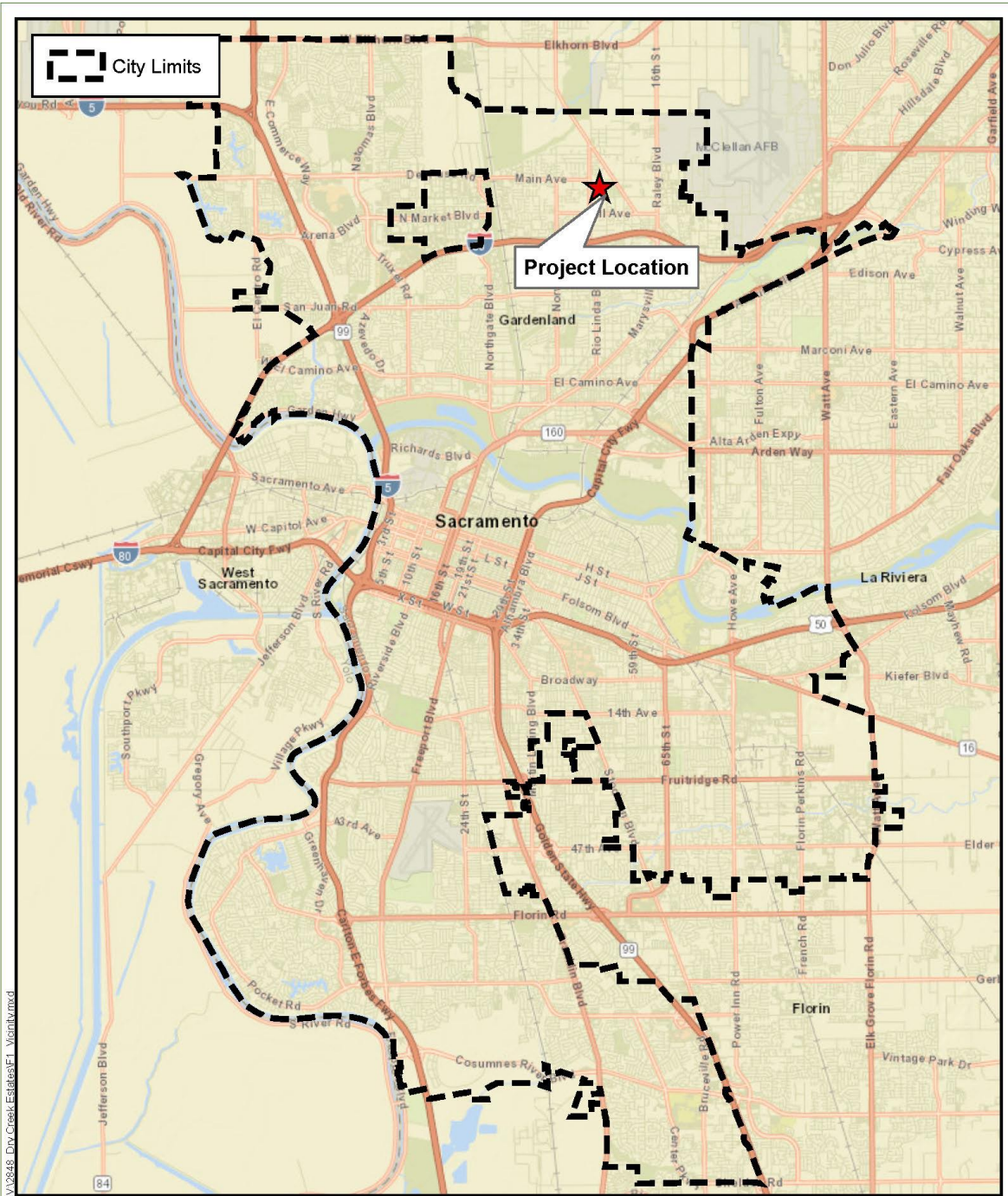
As a component of this project, the land developer will initiate and complete formation of a maintenance district or annex the project into an existing maintenance district to fund maintenance and repairs of public facilities and improvements. This maintenance district would levy fees or property taxes to fund maintenance activities in perpetuity. The district will fund maintenance of a segment of the Sacramento Northern Bike Trail on the west side of the project, two new residential parks, and the open space corridor.

Figures and Maps

Figure 1 - Project Location

Figure 3 - Site Plan

Figure 2 - Land Use and Zoning



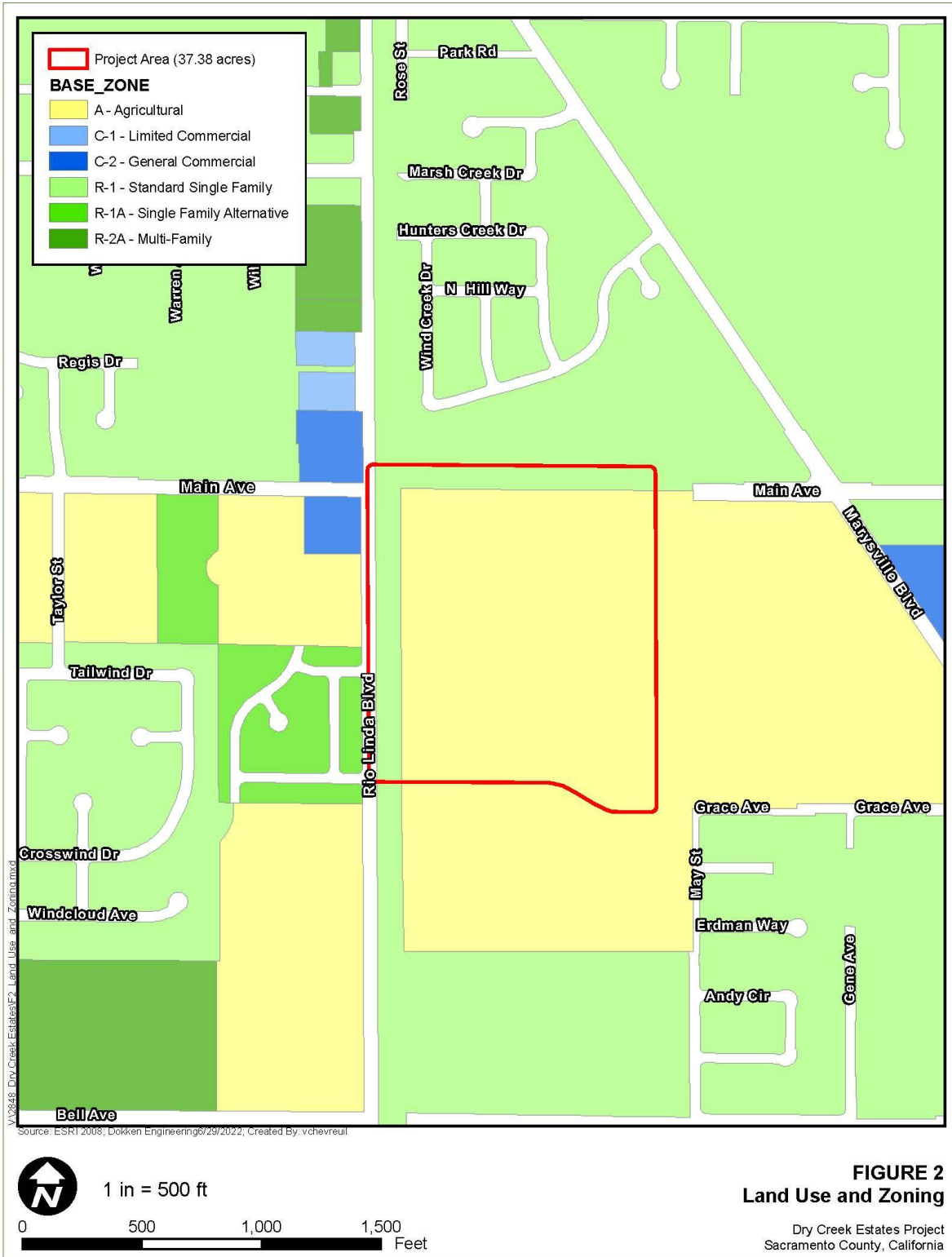
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Source: ESRI 2008; Dokken Engineering 11/30/2021; Created By: vchevreul



FIGURE 1
Project Vicinity

Dry Creek Estates Project
Sacramento County, California



SECTION III – ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST AND DISCUSSION

LAND USE, POPULATION AND HOUSING, AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

Introduction

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires the Lead Agency to examine the effects of a project on the physical conditions that exist within the area that would be affected by the project. CEQA also requires a discussion of any inconsistency between the proposed project and applicable General Plans and regional plans.

An inconsistency between the proposed project and an adopted plan for land use development in a community would not constitute a physical change in the environment. When a project diverges from an adopted plan, however, it may affect planning in the community regarding infrastructure and services, and the new demands generated by the project may result in later physical changes in response to the project.

In the same manner, the fact that a project brings new people or demand for housing to a community does not, by itself, change the physical conditions. An increase in population may, however, generate changes in retail demand or demand for governmental services, and the demand for housing may generate new activity in residential development. Physical environmental impacts that could result from implementing the proposed project are discussed in the appropriate technical sections.

This section of the initial study identifies the applicable land use designations, plans and policies, and permissible densities and intensities of use, and discusses any inconsistencies between these plans and the proposed project. This section also discusses agricultural resources and the effect of the project on these resources.

Discussion

Land Use

The project site has been designated as a “Suburban Neighborhood Low” and “Parks and Recreation” in the 2035 General Plan and is zoned A - Agriculture.

The project site is located in an urbanized portion of the community. Adjacent parcels include residential communities, public parks, and local suburban centers. Recent local development includes the realignment of the Main Avenue/Rio Linda Boulevard intersection, the construction of Futures High School directly south of the project area, and the connection of Grace Avenue to Rio Linda Boulevard. Additionally, the project is located in the vicinity of a large low-rise employment center located to the east. Development of the project site as proposed would alter the existing landscape, but the project site has been designated for urban development in the 2035 General Plan and the Planning and Development Code, and the proposed development is consistent with these planning designations.

As outlined in the Sacramento City Code Title 17.200 of the Planning and Development Code Division II Zoning Districts and Land Use Regulations, minimum parcel size for A zone land is 5 acres. As part of this project, TTLC is working with the City to rezone the development area as R-1A which specifies a minimum lot size of 2,900 square feet per dwelling unit.

The proposed project is consistent with R-1A land use designations following rezoning. The project would increase housing opportunities in a growing area and is consistent with the neighborhood character of the surrounding residential developments. The project does not impact the City’s land use and planning objectives.

Population and Housing

The proposed project would include the construction of approximately 135 single-family homes on a previously undeveloped lot. Consequently, development would add to the population in the City. However, as previously mentioned, the proposed project is consistent with the General Plan land use and zoning designations. As such, impacts related to population and housing associated with buildout of the project site would have been analyzed as part of the Master EIR analysis. As a result, the project would not be considered to induce population beyond what was previously analyzed in the Master EIR. Implementation of the proposed project would not displace any existing housing units or people. Construction or replacement of housing elsewhere would not be required for the project.

Agricultural Resources

The Master EIR discussed the potential impact of development under the 2035 General Plan on agricultural resources. See Master EIR, Chapter 4.1. In addition to evaluating the effect of the General Plan on sites within the City, the Master EIR noted that to the extent the 2035 General Plan accommodates future growth within the City limits, the conversion of farmland outside the City limits is minimized. The Master EIR concluded that the impact of the 2035 General Plan on agricultural resources within the City was less than significant.

The project site and its proposed Main Avenue extension contain approximately 4.5 acres of San Joaquin silt loam, which is a soil categorized as Farmland of Statewide Importance (NRCS 2010). However, the Department of Conservation identifies the project area as being within Urban and Built-up Land; therefore, despite the presence of suitable soil, the site is not identified as an Important Farmland (DOC 2021). The site is zoned for agricultural uses but has not been actively farmed for several decades. In addition, future farming is unlikely to be economically feasible on the property due to the relatively small lot size and considering that most of the surrounding farmland in the Robla neighborhood has already been converted to urban uses and supporting infrastructure is not present. There are no Williamson Act contracts that affect the project site. No existing agricultural or timber-harvest uses are located on or in the vicinity of the project site. Development of the site would result in no impacts on agricultural resources.

Wildfire

The Master EIR does not identify any significant impacts related to wildfire risk. Per the CAL FIRE Fire and Resources Assessment Program (FRAP), the City of Sacramento is located within a Local Responsibility Area (LRA). The City is not located within or adjacent to a State Responsibility Area (SRA) or a designated Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ). Furthermore, the project site is located within a developed area where a substantial wildland-urban interface does not exist. Thus, the risk of wildfire at the project site is minimal. Based on the above, the proposed project would not create a substantial fire risk for existing development in the project vicinity.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
1. <u>AESTHETICS</u>			
Would the proposal:			
A) Create a source of glare that would cause a public hazard or annoyance?			X
B) Create a new source of light that would be cast onto oncoming traffic or residential uses?			X
C) Substantially degrade the existing visual character of the site or its surroundings?			X

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project is in the Robla neighborhood of North Sacramento, directly east of the recently renovated intersection between Main Avenue and Rio Linda Boulevard (Figure 1). Land use in the vicinity of the project area is characterized as low-density suburban neighborhood featuring single and multi-unit housing developments. Low rise employment centers are concentrated past Marysville Boulevard to the east. Local topography is relatively flat.

The 30-acre project site is bordered by two public facilities – a cemetery to the east and the Sacramento Northern Bike Trail to the west. The Sacramento Northern Bike Trail is a 10 mile moderately trafficked trail that runs from Downtown Sacramento through North Sacramento, where it passes adjacent to the project site. Additionally, the project is bordered on its southern edge by Futures High School, which finished construction in 2018. Existing conditions include sidewalks and streetlamps along Rio Linda Boulevard to the west and Grace Avenue to the south; trees along the Sacramento Northern Bike Trail and in proximity to Magpie Creek; and residential developments located to the north and west of the project site. Public views of the project site include views from motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians travelling on Rio Linda Boulevard and Grace Avenue, students and faculty attending Futures High School, and from bicyclists and pedestrians traveling along the Sacramento Northern Bike Trail.

The project site does not contain any scenic resources and is not contained within an area designated as a scenic resource or vista. Additionally, no scenic roadways are within or adjacent to the project site.

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance criteria used to evaluate the project impacts to aesthetics are based on Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, thresholds of significance adopted by the City in applicable General Plans and previous environmental documents, and professional judgment. A significant impact related to aesthetics would occur if the project would:

- substantially interfere with an important scenic resource or substantially degrade the view of an existing scenic resource; or

- create a new source of substantial light or glare that is substantially greater than typical urban sources and could cause sustained annoyance or hazard for nearby sensitive receptors.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS UNDER THE 2035 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR AND APPLICABLE GENERAL PLAN POLICIES

The Master EIR described the existing visual conditions in the General Plan City of Sacramento, and the potential changes to those conditions that could result from development consistent with the 2035 General Plan. See Master EIR, Chapter 4.13, Visual Resources.

The Master EIR identified potential impacts for light and glare (Impact 4.13-1) and concluded that impacts would be less than significant.

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS - AESTHETICS

- A. Would the project create a source of glare that would cause a public hazard or annoyance?

No additional significant environmental effect. The project is located in a low-density suburban setting that includes existing streetlamps and residential community lighting. The proposed project includes the installation of landscape lighting along roadways and in parking lots within the residential complex. These lights will be directional and shielded, which would minimize the effects of glare to a less-than-significant impact. Additionally, the potential new sources of light associated with the development and operation of the proposed project would be similar to adjacent residential uses. As such, the project is not anticipated to result in significant disturbance to adjacent residential complexes or facilities.

- B. Would the project create a new source of light that would be cast onto oncoming traffic or residential uses?

No additional significant environmental effect. The project is anticipated to install new light fixtures along the street network and within parking facilities located within the proposed residential community. The proposed project would be required to comply with the lighting policies outlined in the General Plan, including the use of directional lighting (Policy ER 7.1.3) as well as specific glass requirements (Policy ER 7.1.4). project-related landscape lighting would be directional and shielded to reduce impacts to adjacent roadways and facilities. Additionally, shielding would prevent excessive light pollution resulting from the construction of the project.

Although the project proposes the introduction of new sources of light and glare to the project site, the type and intensity of the resulting light and glare would be comparable to that of the surrounding residential developments and would be consistent with the existing plan use. Due to these similarities as well as the project's compliance with policies outlined in the City's General Plan, a less-than-significant lighting impact is anticipated to occur.

- C. Would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character of the site or its surroundings?

No additional significant environmental effect. Visually sensitive public locations include vantage points where a change affecting a scenic resource or the visibility of a scenic resource would affect the general public. Visually sensitive public locations within the City of Sacramento include major natural open space features such as the American River and Sacramento River, as well as important scenic resources including the State Capitol and historic landmarks such as the Old Sacramento Waterfront.

The proposed project requires the development of an existing vacant lot within an urban location and is not located near any significant visual resources. Additionally, the project design will preserve the large wetland swale that bisects the parcel as an open area corridor, maintaining the habitat's function as well as its scenic value within the surrounding landscape.

The project will result in the construction of a residential community that is consistent with the project's location and the City's General Plan and compatible with the existing residential communities located in the immediate vicinity. Because the proposed project is consistent with the General Plan, impacts related to aesthetics have been evaluated within the General Plan EIR. With adherence to General Plan policies, the development of the project is not anticipated to substantially alter the existing visual character of the landscape.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None.

FINDINGS

The project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Aesthetics.

	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
2. AIR QUALITY			
<i>Would the proposal:</i>			
A) Result in construction emissions of NO _x above 85 pounds per day?			X
B) Result in operational emissions of NO _x or ROG above 65 pounds per day?			X
C) Violate any air quality standard or have a cumulatively considerable contribution to an existing or projected air quality violation?			X
D) Result in PM ₁₀ and PM _{2.5} concentrations that exceed SMAQMD requirements?		X	
E) Result in CO concentrations that exceed the 1-hour state ambient air quality standard (i.e., 20.0 ppm) or the 8-hour state ambient standard (i.e., 9.0 ppm)?			X
F) Result in exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			X
G) Result in TAC exposures create a risk of 10 in 1 million for stationary sources, or substantially increase the risk of exposure to TACs from mobile sources?			X
H) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?			X

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The City of Sacramento is located within the Sacramento Valley Air Basin (SVAB), which is a valley bounded by the North Coast Mountain Ranges to the west and the Northern Sierra Nevada Mountains to the east. The terrain in the valley is flat and approximately 25 feet above sea level.

Hot, dry summers and mild, rainy winters characterize the Mediterranean climate of the Sacramento Valley. Throughout the year, daily temperatures may range by 20 degrees Fahrenheit with summer highs often exceeding 100 degrees and winter lows occasionally below freezing. Average annual rainfall is about 20 inches and snowfall is very rare. Summertime temperatures are normally moderated by the presence of the "Delta breeze" that arrives through the Carquinez Strait in the evening hours.

The mountains surrounding the SVAB create a barrier to airflow, which can trap air pollutants in the valley. The highest frequency of air stagnation occurs in the autumn and early winter when large high-pressure cells lie over the valley. The lack of surface wind during these periods and the reduced vertical flow caused by less surface heating reduces the influx of outside air and allows air pollutants to become concentrated in a stable volume of air. The surface concentrations of pollutants are highest when these conditions are combined with temperature inversions that trap cooler air and pollutants near the ground.

The warmer months in the SVAB (May through October) are characterized by stagnant morning air or light winds, and the Delta breeze that arrives in the evening out of the southwest. Usually, the evening breeze transports a portion of airborne pollutants to the north and out of the Sacramento Valley. During about half of the day from July to September, however, a phenomenon called the “Schultz Eddy” prevents this from occurring. Instead of allowing the prevailing wind patterns to move north carrying the pollutants out of the valley, the Schultz Eddy causes the wind pattern to circle back south. This phenomenon exacerbates the pollution levels in the area and increases the likelihood of violating Federal or State standards. The Schultz Eddy normally dissipates around noon when the Delta breeze begins.

Criteria Air Pollutants

Concentrations of emissions from criteria air pollutants (the most prevalent air pollutants known to be harmful to human health) are used to indicate the quality of the ambient air. Criteria air pollutants include ozone, carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), respirable and fine particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}), and lead. The sources of criteria air pollutants and their respective acute and chronic health impacts are described in Table 1.

Table 1. Sources and Health Effects of Criteria Air Pollutants

Pollutant	Sources	Acute¹ Health Effects	Chronic² Health Effects
Ozone	Secondary pollutant resulting from reaction of ROG and NO _x in presence of sunlight. ROG emissions result from incomplete combustion and evaporation of chemical solvents and fuels; NO _x results from the combustion of fuels	Increased respiration and pulmonary resistance; cough, pain, shortness of breath, lung inflammation	Permeability of respiratory epithelia, possibility of permanent lung impairment
Carbon monoxide (CO)	Incomplete combustion of fuels; motor vehicle exhaust	Headache, dizziness, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, death	Permanent heart and brain damage
Nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂)	Combustion devices; e.g., boilers, gas turbines, and mobile and stationary reciprocating internal combustion engines	Coughing, difficulty breathing, vomiting, headache, eye irritation, chemical pneumonitis or pulmonary edema; breathing abnormalities, cough, cyanosis, chest pain, rapid heartbeat, death	Chronic bronchitis, decreased lung function

Pollutant	Sources	Acute¹ Health Effects	Chronic² Health Effects
Sulfur dioxide (SO ₂)	Coal and oil combustion, steel mills, refineries, and pulp and paper mills	Irritation of upper respiratory tract, increased asthma symptoms	Insufficient evidence linking SO ₂ exposure to chronic health impacts
Respirable particulate matter (PM ₁₀), Fine particulate matter (PM _{2.5})	Fugitive dust, soot, smoke, mobile and stationary sources, construction, fires and natural windblown dust, and formation in the Atmosphere by condensation and/or transformation of SO ₂ and ROG	Breathing and respiratory symptoms, aggravation of existing respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, Premature death	Alterations to the immune system, carcinogenesis
Lead	Metal processing	Reproductive/developmental effects (fetuses and children)	Numerous effects including neurological, endocrine, and cardiovascular effects

Notes: NO_x = oxides of nitrogen; ROG = reactive organic gases.

1. "Acute" refers to effects of short-term exposures to criteria air pollutants, usually at fairly high concentrations.

2. "Chronic" refers to effects of long-term exposures to criteria air pollutants, usually at lower, ambient concentrations.

Source: EPA 2018

Existing Air Quality

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been charged with implementing national air quality programs. EPA's air quality mandates are drawn primarily from the federal Clean Air Act (CAA), which was enacted in 1970 and most recently amended by Congress in 1990. The CAA required EPA to establish the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for the following criteria air pollutants: ozone, CO, NO₂, SO₂, PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, and lead. CAA also requires each State to prepare a State implementation plan (SIP) for attaining and maintaining the NAAQS. The federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (CAAA) added requirements for states with nonattainment areas to revise their SIPs to incorporate additional control measures to reduce air pollution. Individual SIPs are modified periodically to reflect the latest emissions inventories, planning documents, and rules and regulations of the air basins as reported by their jurisdictional agencies.

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is the agency responsible for coordination and oversight of State and local air pollution control programs in California and for implementing the California Clean Air Act (CCAA). The CCAA, which was adopted in 1988, required CARB to establish its own California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS). CARB has established CAAQS for sulfates, hydrogen sulfide, vinyl chloride, visibility-reducing particulate matter, and the above-mentioned criteria air pollutants. In most cases the CAAQS are more stringent than the NAAQS.

The SVAB is currently designated as nonattainment for the NAAQS 8-hour ozone standard and the CAAQS for both 1-hour and 8-hour O₃ standard. The SVAB is also currently designated as nonattainment for both NAAQS and CAAQS 24-hour PM₁₀ standards. In addition, the SVAB is currently designated as

nonattainment for the NAAQS 24-hour PM_{2.5} standard. The air basin is designated as unclassified or in attainment for the remaining criteria air pollutants (SMAQMD 2019).

Toxic Air Contaminants

According to the California Almanac of Emissions and Air Quality (CARB 2013), the majority of the estimated health risks from toxic air contaminants (TACs) can be attributed to relatively few compounds, the most important being diesel particulate matter (diesel PM). Diesel PM differs from other TACs in that it is not a single substance, but rather a complex mixture of hundreds of substances. Although diesel PM is emitted by diesel-fueled internal combustion engines, the composition of the emissions varies depending on engine type, operating conditions, fuel composition, lubricating oil, and whether an emissions control system is being used. In addition to diesel PM, the TACs for which data are available that pose the greatest existing ambient risk in California are benzene, 1,3-butadiene, acetaldehyde, carbon tetrachloride, hexavalent chromium, para-dichlorobenzene, formaldehyde, methylene chloride, and perchloroethylene.

Sensitive Receptors

Sensitive receptors are generally considered to include those land uses where exposure to pollutants could result in health-related risks to sensitive individuals, such as children or the elderly. Residential dwellings, schools, hospitals, playgrounds, and similar facilities are of primary concern because of the presence of individuals particularly sensitive to pollutants and/or the potential for increased and prolonged exposure of individuals to pollutants. The closest sensitive receptors to the project site include residential dwellings and a high school.

Greenhouse Gases

Certain gases in the earth's atmosphere, classified as greenhouse gases (GHGs), play a critical role in determining the earth's surface temperature. GHGs are responsible for "trapping" solar radiation in the earth's atmosphere, a phenomenon known as the greenhouse effect. Prominent GHGs contributing to the greenhouse effect are carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride. Human-caused emissions of these GHGs in excess of natural ambient concentrations are believed responsible for intensifying the greenhouse effect and leading to a trend of unnatural warming of the earth's climate, known as global climate change or global warming. Emissions of GHGs contributing to global climate change are attributable, in large part, to human activities associated with on-road and off-road transportation, industrial/manufacturing, electricity generation by utilities and consumption by end users, residential and commercial on-site fuel usage, and agriculture and forestry. Emissions of CO₂ are, largely, byproducts of fossil fuel combustion.

The quantity of GHGs in the atmosphere responsible for climate change is not precisely known, but it is enormous. No single project alone would measurably contribute to an incremental change in the global average temperature or to global or local climates or microclimates. From the standpoint of CEQA, GHG impacts relative to global climate change are inherently cumulative.

Several regulations currently exist related to GHG emissions, predominantly Assembly Bill (AB) 32, Executive Order S-3-05, and Senate Bill (SB) 32. AB 32 requires that Statewide GHG emissions be reduced to 1990 levels by 2020. Executive Order S-3-05 established the GHG emission reduction target for the State to reduce to the 2000 level by 2010, the 1990 level by 2020 (AB 32), 40 percent below the 1990 level by 2030, and to 80 percent below the 1990 level by 2050 (SB 32).

To meet the statewide GHG emission targets, the City adopted the City of Sacramento Climate Action Plan (CAP) on February 14, 2012 to comply with AB 32. The CAP identified how the City and the broader community could reduce Sacramento's GHG emissions and included reduction targets, strategies, and specific actions. In 2015, the City of Sacramento adopted the 2035 General Plan Update. The update

incorporated measures and actions from the CAP into Appendix B, General Plan CAP Policies and Programs, which includes citywide policies and programs that are supportive of reducing GHG emissions

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

For purposes of this Initial Study, air quality impacts may be considered significant if construction and/or implementation of the proposed project would result in the following impacts that remain significant after implementation of 2035 General Plan policies:

- Construction emissions of NOx above 85 pounds per day;
- Operational emissions of NOx or ROG above 65 pounds per day;
- Violation of any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation;
- Any increase in PM₁₀ concentrations, unless all feasible Best Available Control Technology (BACT) and Best Management Practices (BMPs) have been applied, then increases above 80 pounds per day or 14.6 tons per year;
- CO concentrations that exceed the 1-hour State ambient air quality standard (i.e., 20.0 ppm) or the 8-hour State ambient standard (i.e., 9.0 ppm); or
- Exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

Ambient air quality standards have not been established for toxic air contaminants (TAC). TAC exposure is deemed to be significant if:

- TAC exposures create a risk of 10 in 1 million for stationary sources, or substantially increase the risk of exposure to TACs from mobile sources.

A project is considered to have a significant effect relating to greenhouse gas emissions if it fails to satisfy the requirements of the City’s Climate Action Plan.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS UNDER THE 2035 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR AND APPLICABLE GENERAL PLAN POLICIES

The Master EIR addressed the potential effects of the 2035 General Plan on ambient air quality and the potential for exposure of people, especially sensitive receptors such as children or the elderly, to unhealthful pollutant concentrations. See Master EIR, Chapter 4.2.

Policies in the 2035 General Plan in Environmental Resources were identified as mitigating potential effects of development that could occur under the 2035 General Plan. For example, Policy ER 6.1.1 calls for the City to work with the California Air Resources Board and the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) to meet state and federal air quality standards; Policy ER 6.1.2 requires the City to review proposed development projects to ensure that the projects incorporate feasible measures that reduce construction and operational emissions; Policy ER 6.1.4 and ER 6.1.11 calls for coordination of City efforts with SMAQMD; and Policy ER 6.1.15 requires the City to give preference to contractors using reduced-emission equipment.

The Master EIR identified exposure to sources of toxic air contaminants (TACs) as a potential effect. Policies in the 2035 General Plan would reduce the effect to a less-than-significant level. The policies include ER 6.1.4, requiring coordination with SMAQMD in evaluating exposure of sensitive receptors to

TACs, and impose appropriate conditions on projects to protect public health and safety; as well as Policy LU 2.7.5 requiring extensive landscaping and trees along freeways fronting elevation and design elements that provide proper filtering, ventilation, and exhaust of vehicle air emissions from buildings.

The Master EIR found that greenhouse gas emissions that would be generated by development consistent with the 2035 General Plan would contribute to climate change on a cumulative basis. Policies of the General Plan identified in the Master EIR that would reduce construction related GHG emissions include: ER 6.1.2, ER 6.1.11 requiring coordination with SMAQMD to ensure feasible mitigation measures are incorporated to reduce GHG emissions, and ER 6.1.15. The 2035 General Plan incorporates the GHG reduction strategy of the 2012 Climate Action Plan (CAP), which demonstrates compliance mechanism for achieving the City’s adopted GHG reduction target of 15 percent below 2005 emissions by 2020. Policy ER 6.1.8 commits the City to assess and monitor performance of GHG emission reduction efforts beyond 2020, and progress toward meeting long-term GHG emission reduction goals, ER 6.1.9 also commits the City to evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of new GHG emissions reduction measures in view of the City’s longer-term GHG emission reductions goal. The discussion of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change in the 2035 General Plan Master EIR are incorporated by reference in this Initial Study. (CEQA Guidelines Section 15150)

The Master EIR identified numerous policies included in the 2035 General Plan that addressed greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. See Draft Master EIR, Chapter 4.14, and pages 4.14-1 et seq. The Master EIR is available for review online at

<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Community-Development/Planning/Environmental/Impact-Reports>

During construction of the proposed project, various types of equipment and vehicles would operate on the project site. Construction exhaust emissions would be generated from construction equipment, any earth-moving activities, construction workers’ commute, and material hauling for the entire construction period. These activities would involve the use of diesel- and gasoline-powered equipment that would generate emissions of criteria pollutants.

According to the CalEEMod results, the proposed project is estimated to result in maximum daily construction emissions and maximum daily operational emissions as outlined in Table 2.

Table 2. Anticipated Maximum Project Emissions

Pollutant	SMAQMD Threshold of Significance	Project Emissions
<i>Construction</i>		
NO _x	85 lbs/day 15.5 tons/year	13.12 lbs/day 2.4 tons/year
PM ₁₀	80 lbs/day 14.6 tons/year	2.01 lbs/day 0.4 tons/year
PM _{2.5}	82 lbs/day 15 tons/year	0.98 lbs/day 0.2 tons/year
GHG as CO ₂ e	1,100 metric tonsMT/year	593.8 metric tonsMT/year
<i>Operational</i>		
NO _x	65 lbs/day 11.9 tons/year	6.7 lbs/day 1.2 tons/year
ROG	65 lbs/day 11.9 tons/year	19.47 lbs/day 3.6 tons/year
PM ₁₀	80 lbs/day 14.6 tons/year	7.85 lbs/day 1.4 tons/year
PM _{2.5}	82 lbs/day 15 tons/year	2.22 lbs/day 0.4 tons/year
GHG as CO ₂ e	Demonstrate consistency with the Climate Change Scoping Plan by implementing applicable Best Management Practices (BMP), or equivalent on-site or off-site mitigation. 1,100 MT/yr	1,844.5 metric tonsMT/year*

Source: CalEEMod, ~~March~~ January 2022 (see Appendix A)

*Refer to Checklist Question H

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS – AIR QUALITY

- A. Result in construction emissions of NOx above 85 pounds per day?

No significant additional environmental effect. Construction emissions for the proposed project were estimated using CalEEMod.2016.3.1. The modelling assumptions, inputs, and output file can be found in Appendix A of this document. The results of the modelling show that construction of the project would result in up to 2.40 tons of NOx annually (or 13.1 pounds of NOx per day). Therefore, construction of the proposed project would not result in excess of 85 pounds of NOx per day.

- B. Result in operational emissions of NOx or ROG above 65 pounds per day?

No significant additional environmental effect. Operational emissions for the proposed project were estimated using CalEEMod.2016.3.1. The modelling assumptions, inputs, and output file can be found in Appendix A. The results of the modelling show that operational emissions resulting from the new homes would result in up to 1.22 tons of NOx annually (6.7 pounds per day), and 3.55 tons of ROG annually (19.47 pounds per day). Therefore, operational emissions as a result of the proposed project would not result in excess of 65 pounds per day.

- C. Violate any air quality standard or have a cumulatively considerable contribution to an existing or projected air quality violation?

No significant additional environmental effect. The Project would not violate any air quality standard or have a cumulatively considerable contribution to an existing or projected air quality violation. The Project would construct approximately 135 single-family homes and multiple local roadways on the undeveloped site. This would not significantly increase the regional population, housing, or employment growth.

The SMAQMD has adopted Community Air Monitoring and Community Emissions Reduction Programs as part of Assembly Bill 617 and has identified the Project area as being within a one-half mile buffer of a community most impacted by air pollution (SMAQMD 2018); however, the proposed project is consistent with surrounding land use and will create new housing units in a region identified by the SMAQMD as generating low VMT. In addition, no requirements have been identified by SMAQMD for projects constructed or operating within that one-half mile buffer. The Project would not violate an air quality standard or have a contribution to and air quality violation.

- D. Result in PM10 and PM2.5 concentrations that exceed SMAQMD requirements?

Effect can be mitigated to less than significant. The SMAQMD Thresholds of Significance for particulate matter (PM) includes the following and apply to both construction and operational emissions:

- PM10: Zero (0). IF all feasible BACT/BMPs are implemented, then 80 lbs/day and 14.6 tons/year
- PM2.5: Zero (0). IF all feasible BACT/BMPs are implemented, then is 82 lbs/day and 15 tons/year

Construction emissions for the proposed project were estimated using CalEEMod.2016.3.1. The modelling assumptions, inputs, and output file can be found in Appendix A. The results of the modelling show that construction of the proposed project would result in 0.37 tons annually (2.01 pounds per day) of PM10 emissions and 0.18 tons annually (0.98 pounds per day) of PM2.5

emissions. Operational emissions of the proposed project would result in 1.4 tons annually (7.85 pounds per day) of PM10 emissions and 0.4 tons annually (2.22 pounds per day) of PM2.5 emissions. With adherence to standard BMPs required with SMAQMD, as described in measure AQ-1, the proposed project would not result in PM10 or PM2.5 concentrations that exceed SMAQMD requirements.

- E. Result in CO concentrations that exceed the 1-hour state ambient air quality standard (i.e., 20.0 ppm) or the 8-hour state ambient standard (i.e., 9.0 ppm)?

No significant additional environmental effect. Localized concentrations of CO, or “hot spots,” are primarily of concern for heavily congested roadways with stop-and-go traffic, particularly in areas with limited vertical mixing such as tunnels, long underpasses, or below-grade roadways. While the proposed project would result in the construction of 135 new homes in a residential area that may generate additional traffic on adjacent roadways, the impact would not be to a significant degree such that roadways would congest and cause an exceedance of the state’s 1-hour state ambient air quality standard for CO concentrations.

- F. Result in exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

No significant additional environmental effect. Although construction of the Project would result in associated air pollutants, these increases are not concentrated and are well below significance thresholds as shown in the discussion above. Construction activities would be short-term and intermittent in nature and would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. In addition, adherence to standard dust control and construction BMPs would be required as part of the Project’s Construction Management Plan.

Homes built by this project will be consistent with current safety code and would not result in operational emissions that would expose sensitive receptors to long-term substantial pollutant concentrations as shown in the discussion above.

- G. Result in TAC exposures create a risk of 10 in 1 million for stationary sources, or substantially increase the risk of exposure to TACs from mobile sources?

No significant additional environmental effect. The primary source for TACs typically result from diesel particulate matter (DPM) emitted from off-road equipment and onroad trucks. The project would result in the construction of 135 new residences and multiple new roadways, which would not facilitate an increase in off-road equipment use or truck traffic. Therefore, the proposed project would not substantially increase the risk of exposure to TACs from mobile sources.

- H. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

To comply with AB 32 and meet the statewide GHG emission targets, the City adopted the City of Sacramento Climate Action Plan (CAP) on February 14, 2012. The CAP identified how the City and the broader community could reduce Sacramento’s GHG emissions and included reduction targets, strategies, and specific actions. In 2015, the City of Sacramento adopted the 2035 General Plan Update. The update incorporated measures and actions from the CAP into Appendix B, General Plan CAP Policies and Programs, which includes citywide policies and programs that are supportive of reducing GHG emissions. Upon adoption of the 2035 General Plan, the 2012 CAP was rescinded, and the 2035 General Plan became the City’s CAP. In updating the 2035 General Plan the City has met the State standards as a qualified plan for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions under Section 15183.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines. It should be noted that the City is currently undertaking an update to the City’s General Plan as well as a stand-alone Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP).

Operational GHG emissions for all land development projects are subject to the requirements of SMAQMD BMPs as discussed in measure AQ-2. As an in-fill development project that will place housing units close to retail and employment opportunities, resulting in per-capita VMT below the regional average, the project is consistent with the CAAP and meets the criteria for projects with de minimis mobile GHG impacts as described in the Greenhouse Gas Thresholds Guidance (SMAQMD, June 2020), which is adopted from the OPR December 2018 Technical Advisory. Under this guidance, residential projects in areas with low VMT that incorporate similar features and adhere to Tier 1 BMPs described in measure AQ-2 are assumed to have a negligible contribution toward total GHG emissions, even if the operational emissions threshold is exceeded.

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) has developed a screening map to estimate the average vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by residential units in different parts of the greater Sacramento region. SACOG's screening map is based on data contained within the latest version of its travel demand model, SACSIM19. SACSIM19 has a base year scenario that represents 2016 conditions and was used to set regional efficiency thresholds (VMT/capita or VMT/employee) for both residential and non-residential projects. The SACOG region is segmented into hexagons with an approximately half-mile diameter that are used to determine the VMT efficiency (average VMT/capita or VMT/employee) for each hexagon.

For residential projects, the regional threshold is defined as total household VMT per capita achieving a 15-percent reduction compared to the regional average. Residential VMT per capita for each hexagon is calculated by tallying the total VMT produced for all households located within the hexagon, including VMT for trips that travel outside of the region, and dividing by the total population in the hexagon. The regional daily per capita VMT is 20.82 miles. The proposed project is in hexagon DJ-129 with daily per capita VMT estimated at 17.49 miles which is less than 85% of the regional average. Therefore, the project is assumed to be a residential project in an area with low VMT, and therefore meets the criteria for a project with de minimis mobile GHG impacts.

With adherence to standard BMPs required with SMAQMD, as described in measures AQ-1 and AQ-2, and due to the project qualification as de minimis for GHG impacts, the proposed project would not conflict with existing CAP Policies and programs that intend to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and potential GHG impacts are less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURES

AQ-1: Implement SMAQMD Basic ~~and Enhanced~~ Construction Emission Control Practices to Reduce Fugitive Dust.

The implementing agency will require, as a standard or specification of their contract, the construction contractor(s) to implement basic ~~and enhanced~~ control measures to reduce construction-related fugitive dust. Although the following measures are outlined in the SMAQMD's CEQA guidelines, they are required for the entirety of the construction area. The implementing agency will ensure through contract provisions and specifications that the contractor adheres to the mitigation measures before and during construction and documents compliance with the adopted mitigation measures.

- Water all exposed surfaces two times daily. Exposed surfaces include (but are not limited to) soil piles, graded areas, unpaved parking areas, staging areas, and access roads.
- Cover or maintain at least 2 feet of freeboard space on haul trucks transporting soil, sand, or other loose material on the site. Any haul trucks that would be traveling along freeways or major roadways should be covered.

- Use wet power vacuum street sweepers to remove any visible trackout mud or dirt onto adjacent public roads at least once a day. Use of dry power sweeping is prohibited.
- Limit vehicle speeds on unpaved roads to 15 miles per hour.
- All roadway, driveway, sidewalk, and parking lot paving should be completed as soon as possible. In addition, building pads should be laid as soon as possible after grading unless seeding or soil binders are used.
- Minimize idling time either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the time of idling to 5 minutes [California Code of Regulations, Title 13, sections 2449(d)(3) and 2485]. Provide clear signage that posts this requirement for workers at the entrances to the site.
- Provide current certificate(s) of compliance for CARB's In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Regulation [California Code of Regulations, Title 13, sections 2449 and 2449.1]. For more information contact CARB at 877-593-6677, doors@arb.ca.gov, or www.arb.ca.gov/doors/compliance_cert1.html
- Maintain all construction equipment in proper working condition according to manufacturer's specifications. The equipment must be checked by a certified mechanic and determine to be running in proper condition before it is operated.

- AQ-1:** In accordance with the SMAQMD's CEQA Guidance, all land development projects are required to implement Tier 1 BMPs, which consist of the following:
- BMP 1 – projects shall be designed and constructed without natural gas infrastructure
 - BMP 2 – projects shall meet the current CalGreen Tier 2 standards, except all electric vehicle capable spaces shall instead be electric vehicle ~~nearby~~ ready.

FINDINGS

All additional significant environmental effects of the project relating to Air Quality can be mitigated to a less-than-significant level.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
2. <u>BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES</u>			
Would the proposal:			
A) Create a potential health hazard, or use, production or disposal of materials that would pose a hazard to plant or animal populations in the area affected?		X	
B) Result in substantial degradation of the quality of the environment, reduction of the habitat, reduction of population below self-sustaining levels of threatened or endangered species of plant or animal species?			X
C) Affect other species of special concern to agencies or natural resource organizations (such as regulatory waters and wetlands)?		X	

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Prior to human development, the natural habitats within the region included perennial grasslands, riparian woodlands, oak woodlands, and a variety of wetlands including vernal pools, seasonal wetlands, freshwater marshes, ponds, streams, and rivers. Over the last 150 years, agriculture, irrigation, flood control, and urbanization have resulted in the loss or alteration of much of the natural habitat within the City limits. Non-native annual grasses have replaced the native perennial grasslands, many of the natural streams have been channelized, much of the riparian and oak woodlands have been cleared, and most of the marshes have been drained and converted to agricultural or urban uses.

The project site consists of non-native grassland, seasonal wetlands and swales, urban areas, and a small portion of Magpie Creek (Figure 4. Vegetation Communities). Additionally, the project encompasses a section of the Sacramento Northern Bike Trail, which runs parallel with Rio Linda Boulevard on the eastern border of the project area. Commercial and residential developments within and in the vicinity of the project include roadways, pedestrian walkways, single-family homes, and Futures High School.

The annual grassland habitat, which makes up most of the project area, is non-native and frequently disturbed by weed suppression activities such as mowing and plowing. Wetland features are scattered throughout the project site and provide sensitive natural habitat for local species. Despite the presence of sensitive habitat features, no special status species are anticipated to occur within the project area. The project occurs within the Sacramento Valley floristic region and USFS ecological subsection 262Af (Hardpan Terraces), which is geologically characterized by low hills and alluvial plains.

Prior to field work, literature research was conducted through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Planning Species List, California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Electronic Inventory of Rare and

Endangered Plants, and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to identify habitats and special-status species having the potential to occur within the project area. A shapefile of the Project Area was used to generate an official species list through the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) operated by USFWS. A six-quadrangle search of the USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles Carmichael (3812153), Sacramento East (3812154), Sacramento West (3812155), Citrus Heights (3812163), Rio Linda (3812164), and Taylor Monument (3812165) was used to obtain lists from the CNDDDB, CNPS, and NMFS.

Sensitive Habitats

Sensitive habitats include sensitive natural plant communities and other habitats designated and/or regulated by CDFW, USFWS, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), wetlands and other waters of the U.S. are subject to the jurisdiction of USACE. Aquatic habitats may also receive protection under California statutes including Section 1602 of the California Fish and Wildlife Code and the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act.

Special-status Species

Special-status species are plants and animals in the following categories:

- Species that are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and/or California Endangered Species Act (CESA) as rare, threatened, or endangered;
- Species considered as candidates and proposed for state or federal listing
- Wildlife designated by CDFW as species of special concern; and
- Plants ranked by CDFW as “rare, threatened, or endangered” in California.
- The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), maintained by the CDFW, is considered as the most current and reliable tool for tracking occurrences of special-status species in California.

Special Status Species Evaluation

The special status species evaluation considers those species identified as having relative scarcity and/or declining populations by the USFWS or CDFW. Special status species include those formally listed as threatened or endangered, those proposed for formal listing, candidates for federal listing, and those classified as Species of Concern by USFWS or Species of Special Concern by CDFW. Species considered to be “special animals” or “fully protected” by the CDFW or rare, threatened, or endangered in California by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) were also included in the evaluation.

Regulatory Setting

The following city, State, and federal statutes pertain to the proposed project:

- National Environmental Policy Act (42 USC 4321 et seq.)
- Federal Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1531-1543)
- Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1251-1376)
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 USC 661-6660)
- Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands (May 24, 1977)
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (USC 703-711)
- California Environmental Quality Act (PRC 21000 et seq.)
- California Endangered Species Act (CDFW Code 2050 et seq.)
- Native Plant Protection Act (CDFW Code 1900-1913)
- City of Sacramento Heritage Tree Ordinance (SCC Section 12.64.10-12.64.70)
- City of Sacramento Street Tree Ordinance (SCC Section 12.56.10-12.56.170)

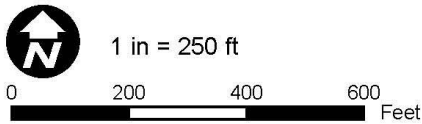
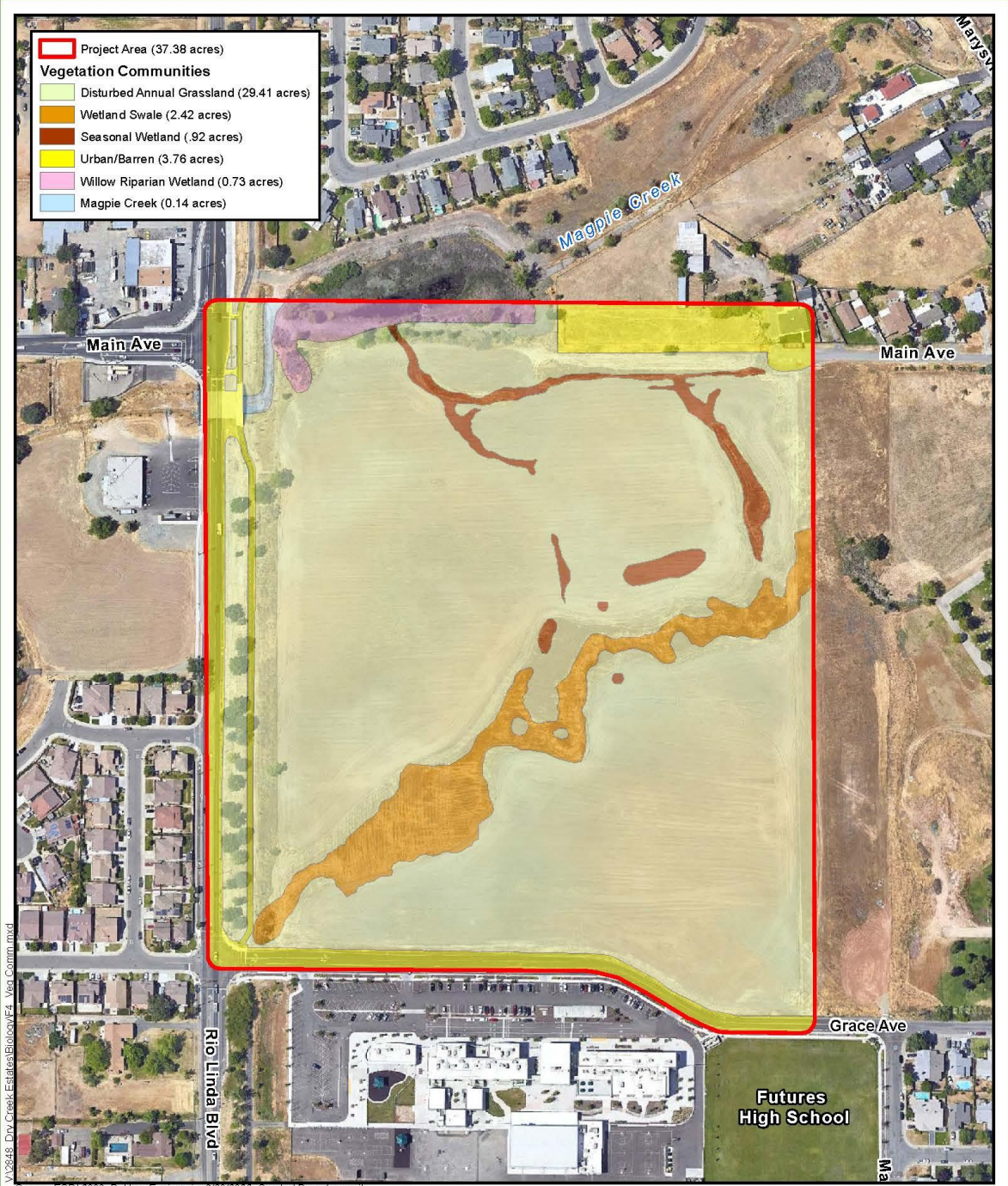


FIGURE 4
Vegetation Communities

Dry Creek Estates Project
Sacramento County, California

Federal Endangered Species Act

The Federal Endangered Species Act defines ‘take’ (Section 9) and prohibits ‘taking’ of a listed endangered or threatened species (16 USC 1532, 50 CFR 17.30). If a federally listed species could be harmed by a project, Section 7 or 10 consultations must be initiated, and an Incidental Take Permit must be obtained (16 USC 1539, 50 CFR 13).

Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Migratory birds are protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 (16 USC 703-711). The MBTA makes it unlawful to take, possess, buy, sell, purchase, or barter any migratory bird listed in 50 CFR Part 10 including feathers or other parts, nests, eggs, or products, except as allowed by implementing regulations (50 CFR 21). All migratory bird species are protected by the MBTA. Any removal of active nests during the breeding season or any disturbance that results in the abandonment of nestlings is considered a ‘take’ of the species under federal law.

Setting and Methods

Field surveys were conducted in October 2021 to document existing biological resources, detect potential jurisdictional waters of the U.S. and State, and search for suitable habitat and presence of Federal and State protected species. Potential impacts to resources were analyzed based on the proposed project design and ecological resources identified in the field surveys. Queries of the USFWS Planning Species list, CNDDDB Electronic Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants, NMFS Species List, and CNPS database queries identified several special-status species with the potential to be impacted by the proposed project. Field surveys performed by Madrone Ecological Consulting (Madrone) biologists and Dokken Engineering (Dokken) biologists determined that no special status species are anticipated to occur within the project area. For a more detailed discussion, refer to Appendix B Biological Resources Technical Report.

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

For purposes of this environmental document, an impact would be significant if any of the following conditions or potential thereof, would result with implementation of the proposed project:

- Creation of a potential health hazard, or use, production or disposal of materials that would pose a hazard to plant or animal populations in the area affected;
- Substantial degradation of the quality of the environment, reduction of the habitat, reduction of population below self-sustaining levels of threatened or endangered species of plant or animal; or
- Affect other species of special concern to agencies or natural resource organizations (such as regulatory waters and wetlands).

For the purposes of this document, “special-status” has been defined to include those species, which are:

- Listed as endangered or threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act (or formally proposed for, or candidates for, listing);
- Listed as endangered or threatened under the California Endangered Species Act (or proposed for listing);
- Designated as endangered or rare, pursuant to California Fish and Game Code (Section 1901);
- Designated as fully protected, pursuant to California Fish and Game Code (Section 3511, 4700, or 5050);

- Designated as species of concern by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), or as species of special concern to California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG);
- Plants or animals that meet the definition of rare or endangered under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS UNDER THE 2035 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR AND APPLICABLE GENERAL PLAN POLICIES

Chapter 4.3 of the Master EIR evaluated the effects of the 2035 General Plan on biological resources within the City. The Master EIR identified potential impacts in terms of degradation of the quality of the environment or reduction of habitat or population below self-sustaining levels of special-status birds, through the loss of both nesting and foraging habitat.

Policies in the 2035 General Plan were identified as mitigating the effects of development that could occur under the provisions of the 2035 General Plan. Policies ER 2.1.5 and 2.1.6 call for the City to preserve the ecological integrity of creek corridors, wetlands, and other riparian resources; Policy ER 2.1.10 requires the City to consider the potential impact on sensitive plants for each project and to require pre-construction surveys when appropriate; and Policy ER 2.1.11 requires the City to coordinate its actions with those of the California Department Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other agencies in the protection of resources.

The Master EIR discussed biological resources in Chapter 4.3. The Master EIR concluded that policies in the General Plan, combined with compliance with the California Endangered Species Act, Natomas Basin HCP (when applicable) and CEQA would minimize the impacts on special-status species to a less-than-significant level (see Impact 4.3-1), and that the General Plan policies, along with similar compliance with local, state and federal regulation would reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level for habitat for special-status invertebrates, birds, amphibians and reptiles, mammals and fish (Impacts 4.3-2-6).

In accordance with the General Plan, the City shall encourage new development to preserve on-site natural elements that contribute to the community's native plant and wildlife species value and to its aesthetic character (Policy ER 2.1.1). Additionally, the General Plan calls for the City to preserve the ecological integrity of creek corridors, canals and drainage ditches that support riparian resources (Policy ER 2.1.5) and wetlands (Policy ER 2.1.6) and requires habitat assessments and impact compensation for projects (Policy ER 2.1.10). The City has adopted a standard that requires coordination with state and federal agencies if a project has the potential to affect other species of special concern or habitats (including regulatory waters and wetlands) protected by agencies or natural resource organizations (Policy 2.1.11).

Implementation of 2035 General Plan Policy ER 2.1.5 would reduce the magnitude of potential impacts by requiring a 1:1 replacement of riparian habitat lost to development. Given the extent of urban development designated in the General Plan, the preservation and/or restoration of riparian habitat would likely occur outside of the City limits. The Master EIR concluded that the permanent loss of riparian habitat would be a less-than-significant impact (Impact 4.3-7).

Implementation of the 2035 General Plan allows for new development, which can impact or remove state or federally protected wetlands and/or waters of the U.S. through removal, filling, or hydrological interruption (Impacts 4.3-7, 12). However, with the implementation of specific policy measures (Policies ER 1.1.1, 2.1.1, 2.1.6, 2.1.11), impacts to these communities would be considered less-than-significant.

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS – BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- A) Result a potential health hazard, or use, production or disposal of materials that would pose a hazard to plant or animal populations in the area affected?

Effect can be mitigated to less than significant. Construction of the project will require the use of hazardous materials including oil and fuel to operate construction equipment, as well as the installation of concrete and asphalt fixtures. The project area consists primarily of disturbed annual grassland habitat; however, wetlands and wetland swales located on-site provide sensitive natural habitat that will be impacted by construction. Through the implementation of standard avoidance and minimization measures (BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-3, and BIO-9), unnecessary impacts to sensitive habitat communities will be avoided and the release of pollutants into sensitive areas will be minimized. The handling, storage, and use of fuel, lubricants, and other hazardous materials associated with project construction will be compliant with local, state, and federal regulations.

- B) Result in substantial degradation of the quality of the environment, reduction of the habitat, reduction of population below self-sustaining levels of threatened or endangered species of plant or animal species?

No significant additional environmental effect. The Dry Creek Estates project would not result in substantial degradation of the environment, reduction of the habitat, or reduction of population below self-sustaining levels of threatened or endangered species. Database searches identified 26 special status or sensitive wildlife species and 9 special status or sensitive plant species that have been found in the vicinity of the project site. An analysis of habitat requirements, recorded observations, and field survey results determined that Swainsons' hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) is the only special status species with the potential to occur on-site. All special status species are presumed absent from the project area; therefore, no impacts to these species are anticipated and consultation is not required.

The Project area encompasses grassland habitat that may provide marginally suitable foraging habitat for Swainson's hawk. However, the Project is an infill development project that is surrounded by suburban development and industrial centers, geographically isolating the Project area from contiguous open grassland areas better suited to the species. In addition, the Project area does not include suitable riparian nesting habitat and is regularly disturbed by agricultural activities; As such, local Swainson's hawk habitat is of low quality and is unlikely to regularly support individuals of the species.

There is a recent (2007) CNDDDB occurrence of Swainson's hawk located approximately 1.1 miles northwest of the Project area. Additional occurrences of Swainson's hawk have been documented within contiguous natural corridors in the vicinity of the Project, including Dry Creek to the north, Arcade Creek to the east, and the American River to the south. Swainson's hawk may be transient through the Project area as individuals move between these natural areas, and transient hawks may forage within the annual grassland habitat that currently exists on-site. Due to this potential for occurrence, the Project will mitigate the impacts to annual grassland habitat via the purchase of Swainson's hawk foraging habitat credits from a CDFW-approved mitigation bank or by other approved methods as outlined in BIO-11; however, due to the low quality of the habitat present on-site, impacts to annual grassland habitat will be mitigated at a 0.5:1 ratio. Furthermore, surveys for active Swainson's hawk nests will be conducted prior to project construction in accordance with the *Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson's Hawk Nesting Surveys in California's Central Valley* (Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory Committee 2000) per BIO-10. If an active Swainson's hawk nest is found during Project surveys, the project biologist will consult with CDFW and demonstrate compliance with CESA to determine appropriate avoidance measures to avoid take of the species.

~~however, it does not include any suitable riparian habitat or nesting trees. In addition, the existing field is regularly disturbed by agricultural activities, limiting the opportunity for rodents to establish large local populations for predation. Therefore, while the species may be transient within the area, there are no opportunities for this species to nest and limited foraging potential within the Project area. Due to a lack of suitable nesting habitat, this species is presumed to be absent from the Project area and consultation with CDFW is not required.~~

- C) Affect other species of special concern to agencies or natural resource organizations (such as regulatory waters and wetlands)?

Effect can be mitigated to less than significant. A biological survey performed on-site by Madrone identified the presence of seasonal wetlands, wetland swale, and willow riparian wetland within the boundaries of the project area (Figure 4). These aquatic communities provide habitat for local wildlife species and are identified as natural communities of special concern. The wetland swale that bisects the project area will be protected in place during construction and no impacts to this habitat feature are expected. Anticipated project impacts to sensitive natural habitats located on-site are outlined below (Table 3. Project Impacts to Sensitive Natural Habitats; Figure 5. Project Impacts; Figure 6. Proposed Impacts to Magpie Creek).

In addition to the residential developments, the project proposes to install an extension of Main Avenue over Magpie Creek in the northwest corner of the project area. The Project would construct a bridge over the existing alignment of Magpie Creek and would result in both temporary and permanent impacts to the creek and an adjacent wetland feature (Table 3).

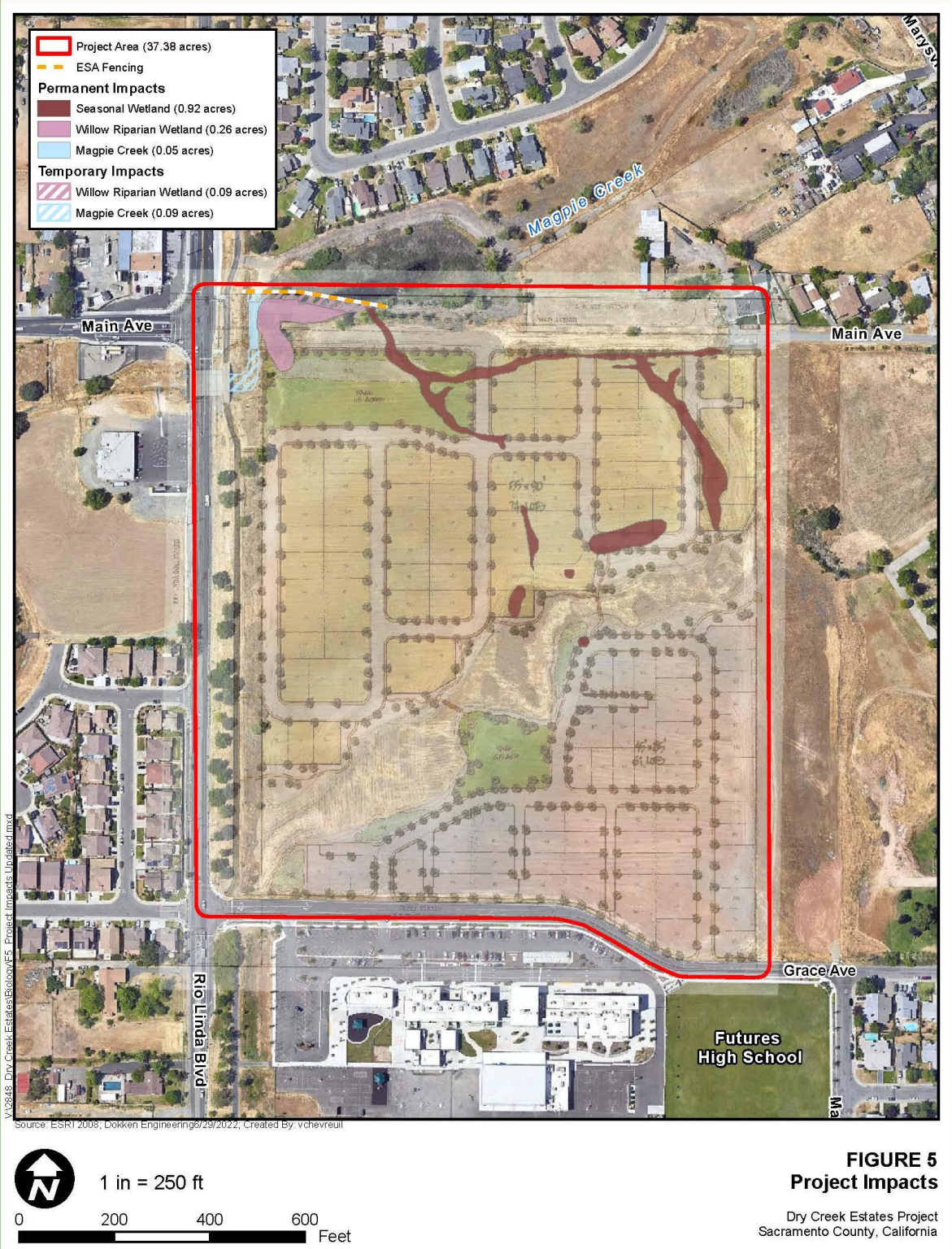
Table 3. Project Impacts to Sensitive Natural Habitats

Habitat Type	Temporary Impacts	Permanent Impacts
Wetland Swale	--	--
Seasonal Wetland	--	0.92 acres
Willow Riparian Wetland	0.09 acres	0.26 acres
Magpie Creek	0.09 acres	0.05 acres
Total	0.18 acres	1.23 acres

The applicant/developer will acquire the appropriate permits for the project, including a Section 404 Nationwide Permit from the USACE, a Section 401 Water Quality Certification from RWQCB, a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit from RWQCB, and a Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement from the CDFW. With the implementation of appropriate avoidance and minimization measures (BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-3, BIO-6, BIO-7, and BIO-9), potential impacts to local sensitive resources will be reduced. Any permanent project impacts to these resources will be mitigated in coordination with CDFW, USACE, and the local RWQCB. Therefore, the project’s effects will be mitigated to be less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURES

- BIO-1:** The construction managers and the project foreman must attend a biological awareness training session delivered by a biologist. This training program shall include information regarding the sensitive habitats and special-status species occurring or potentially occurring within the project Area, and the importance of avoiding impacts to these species and their habitat.
- BIO-2:** As a first order of work, construction limits within natural communities of special concern (wetland swale, riparian wetland, seasonal wetland, creek) will be marked with high



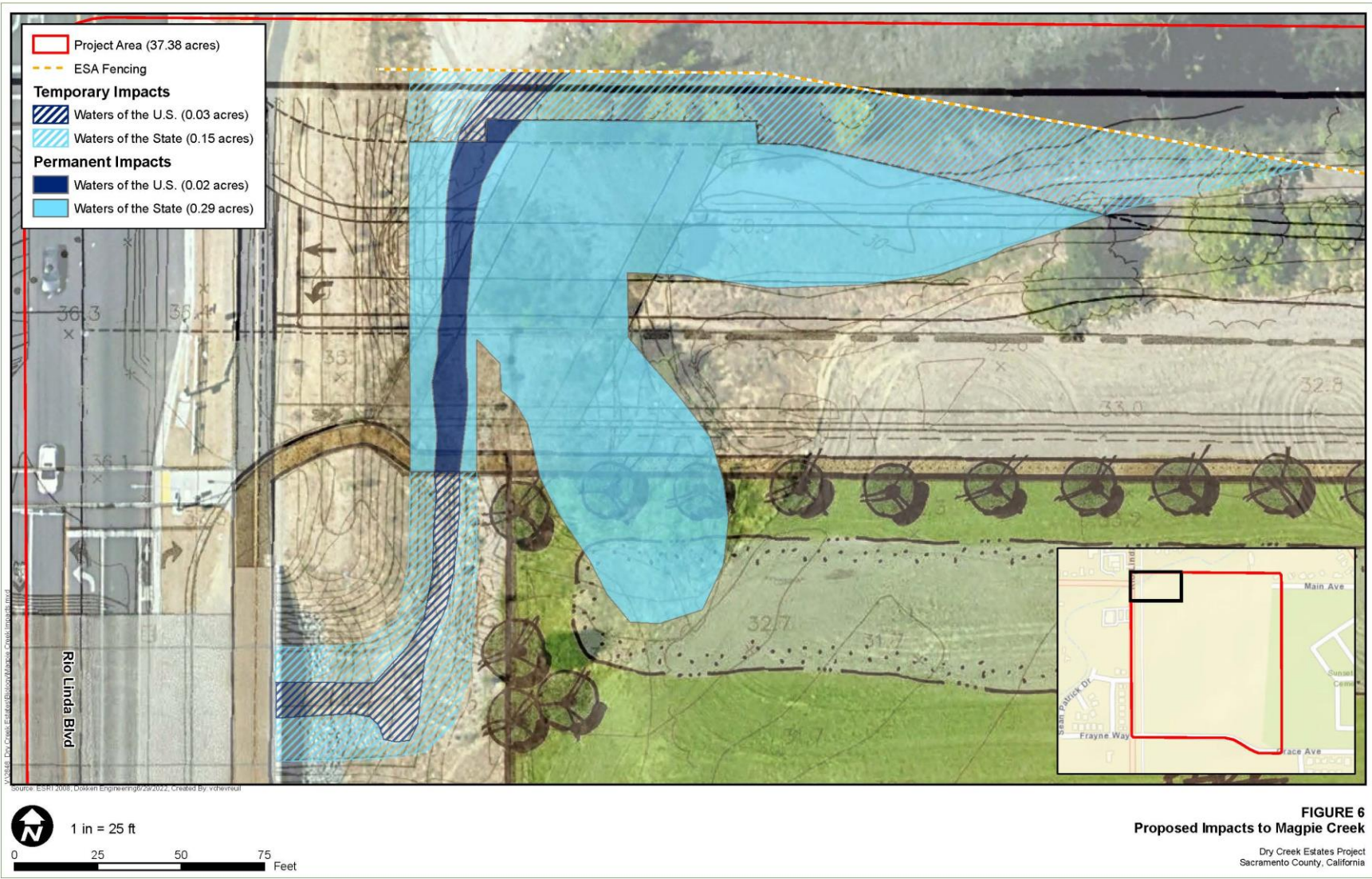


FIGURE 6
Proposed Impacts to Magpie Creek
 Dry Creek Estates Project
 Sacramento County, California

visibility Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) fencing or staking to ensure construction will not further encroach into sensitive habitat resources.

BIO-3: Water Quality BMPs will be incorporated into project design and project management to minimize impacts on the environment including erosion and the release of pollutants (e.g. oils, fuels):

- Exposed soils and material stockpiles would be stabilized, through watering or other measures, to prevent the movement of dust at the project site caused by wind and construction activities such as traffic and grading activities;
- All construction roadway areas would be properly protected to prevent excess erosion, sedimentation, and water pollution;
- All vehicle and equipment fueling/maintenance would be conducted outside of any surface waters;
- Equipment used in and around jurisdictional waters must be in good working order and free of dripping or leaking contaminants;
- Raw cement, concrete or concrete washings, asphalt, paint or other coating material, oil or other petroleum products, or any other substances that could be hazardous to aquatic life shall be prevented from contaminating the soil or entering jurisdictional waters; All erosion control measures and storm water control measures would be properly maintained until the site has returned to a pre-construction state;
- All disturbed areas would be restored to pre-construction contours and revegetated, either through hydroseeding or other means, with native or approved non-invasive exotic species;
- All construction materials would be hauled off-site after completion of construction.

BIO-4: Permanent impacts to sensitive habitat communities (wetlands, Magpie Creek) will be mitigated at a 3:1 ratio through purchase of credits at a regulatory agency-approved mitigation bank, or other approved methods, to be determined during the permitting phase of the project.

BIO-5: If construction is to occur within the nesting bird season (February 15 to September 30), then at most two weeks prior to the start of construction, a pre-construction nesting bird survey must be conducted by a qualified biologist to identify and locate any active nest within the project Area. A minimum 100-foot no-disturbance buffer will be established around any active nest of migratory birds and a minimum 300-foot no-disturbance buffer will be established around any nesting raptor species. The contractor is prohibited from conducting work within the buffer zone and from conducting activities that would disturb the birds (as determined by the project biologist) in the buffer area until a qualified biologist determines the young have fledged. A reduced buffer can be established if determined appropriate by the project biologist.

BIO-6: Prior to arrival at the project site and prior to leaving the project site, construction equipment that may contain invasive plants and/or seeds will be cleaned to reduce the spreading of noxious weeds.

- BIO-7:** Initial clearing and grubbing in the Magpie Creek Riparian corridor must be accomplished through the use of hand tools or with equipment operated at 3 miles per hour or less to allow wildlife to escape.
- BIO-8:** The contractor must dispose of all food-related trash in closed containers and must remove it from the project Area each day during construction. Construction personnel must not feed or attract wildlife to the project Area.
- BIO-9:** The contractor must not apply rodenticide or herbicide within the project Area during construction.
- BIO-10:** Prior to Project construction, surveys for active Swainson's hawk nests shall be conducted by a Qualified Biologist in accordance with the typical survey protocol: *Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson's Hawk Nesting Surveys in California's Central Valley* (Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory Committee 2000). Surveys shall be conducted at the appropriate radius (0.5 miles) and time periods listed in the survey protocol. If an active Swainson's hawk nest is found during Project surveys, the Qualified Biologist shall consult with CDFW and demonstrate compliance with CESA. If during consultation it is determined that implementation of the Project as proposed may result in take of Swainson's hawk, the Project may seek related take authorization as provided by the Fish and Game Code.
- BIO-11:** Permanent impacts to potential Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) foraging habitat will be mitigated at a 0.5:1 ratio through purchase of credits at a regulatory agency-approved mitigation bank, or other approved methods, to be determined during the permitting phase of the project.

FINDINGS

All additional significant environmental effects of the project relating to Biological Resources can be mitigated to a less-than-significant level.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
3. <u>CULTURAL RESOURCES</u>			
Would the project:			
A) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource as defined in § 15064.5?		X	
B) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource?			X
C) Disturb any human remains?		X	

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The City of Sacramento and the surrounding area are known to have been occupied by Native American groups for thousands of years prior to settlement by non-Native peoples. Archaeological materials, including human burials, have been found throughout the city. Human burials outside of formal cemeteries often occur in prehistoric contexts. Areas of high sensitivity for archaeological resources, as identified in the 2035 General Plan Background Report, are located within close proximity to the Sacramento and American rivers and other watercourses.

The Project Area Limits (PAL) is situated within the Rancho del Paso (Ranch of the Pass) Mexican Land Grant which originally consisted of 44,371-acres and was bordered on the west by the present day Northgate Boulevard, on the south by the American River, on the east by present day Manzanita Avenue and on the north by Elverta Road (Armstrong 2011). The large acreage was mainly used to raise cattle and harvest wheat. Rancho del Paso was sold to the Sacramento Valley Colonization Company in 1900. Four thousand acres of the property was later sold to the North Sacramento Land Company in 1910. This acreage was turned into subdivisions by Daniel Johnson and named the City of North Sacramento (North Sacramento Chamber of Commerce N.D).

Initially a subsidiary of Western Pacific, the Sacramento Northern Railroad Company incorporated in 1918 and began acquiring all properties owned by the Northern Electric Railway Company, The Sacramento Terminal Company, the Sacramento & Woodland Railroad Company, and the Marysville & Colusa Branch (Fickewirth 1992). By 1925 sufficient acquisitions had been made and the Sacramento Northern Railroad (SNRR) began operations. The SNRR began as an electrified line, only converting to diesel in the 1960s. The line crosses the PAL was identified as the Sacramento to Chico Branch. The SNRR discontinued passenger service in 1949 and was later absorbed by the merging of Western Pacific into the Union Pacific in 1982 (Abandoned Rails N.D.; Windmiller and Osanna 1997). Most of the mainline and branches have been abandoned and some segments, like many railroad grades in the Sacramento area, have been rebuilt for new uses, such as pedestrian and cyclist trails. In 2006, the portion of the SNRR that passes through the PAL was converted into an extension of the Sacramento Northern Bike Trail. The trail provides a regional link between the Rio Linda and Elverta communities and the American River Parkway (County of Sacramento 2006).

Based on proximity to Magpie Creek, the marsh conditions at the site, and the availability of important resources, the PAL would have been a targeted location of indigenous activities. However, geoarchaeological study by Meyer and Rosenthal (2008) indicate that the Project area is made up of older Pleistocene age soils, which are *very low* sensitivity. Cut banks, irrigation ditch walls and rodent burrows within the PAL provided an opportunity to visually inspect exposed subsurface soils for the presence of artifacts, archaeological features, and anthropogenic soils. No cultural resources were observed. Since the area has undergone extensive modification due to agriculture, any buried site within 18 inches of the surface would have been disturbed. Sensitivity of the project area is therefore considered low.

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

For purposes of this Initial Study, cultural resource impacts may be considered significant if construction and/or implementation of the proposed project would result in one or more of the following:

1. Cause a substantial change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5; or
2. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource; or
3. A substantial adverse change in the significance of such resources.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS UNDER THE 2035 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR AND APPLICABLE GENERAL PLAN POLICIES

The Master EIR evaluated the potential effects of development under the 2035 General Plan on prehistoric and historic resources. See Chapter 4.4.

General plan policies identified as reducing such effects call for identification of resources on project sites (Policy HCR 2.1.1), implementation of applicable laws and regulations (Policy HCR 2.1.2), early consultation with owners and land developers to minimize effects (Policy HCR 2.1.10) and encouragement of adaptive reuse of historic resources (Policy HCR 2.1.14). Demolition of historic resources is deemed a last resort. (Policy HCR 2.1.15)

The Master EIR concluded that implementation of the 2035 General Plan would have a significant and unavoidable effect on historic resources and archaeological resources. (Impacts 4.4-1, 2)

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS – CULTURAL RESOURCES

- A) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource as defined in § 15064.5?

Effects can be mitigated to less than significant. To identify any known cultural resources, a records search of project area was conducted via the North Central Information Center (NCIC). Additional research included searches of the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register), the Directory of Properties in the Historic Property Data File, California Historic Landmarks (1996), the California Inventory of Historic Resources (1976), and the California Points of Historical Interest listing (May 1992 and updates). Map research included a review of historic USGS topographic maps and aerial photography. Using this data, previously recorded sites and previous surveys within a one-mile radius of the project area were reviewed.

The NCIC identified one (1) previous cultural resource investigation conducted within a portion of the project area, and another 48 conducted within one mile of the project. The previous investigation within the project area did not identify any prehistoric resources within the area but did identify a Sacramento

Northern Railroad Berm. The portion of the berm in proximity to the project area has since been destroyed. Furthermore, a pedestrian survey of the project area did not identify any indigenous artifacts, archaeological features, or anthropogenic soils. No cultural resources were identified within the project area; as such, the project is not anticipated to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource as defined in § 15064.5.

The implementation of mitigation measures TCR-1a through TCR-1c will ensure the appropriate handling of cultural materials should they be discovered on-site during construction of the project.

B) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource?

No additional significant environmental effect. The proposed project is not anticipated to impact paleontological resources. The Master EIR specifies that the general Sacramento Area is not considered sensitive for paleontological resources. Furthermore, a geoarchaeological study by Meyer and Rosenthal (2008) indicate that the Project area is made up of older Pleistocene age soils, which are very low sensitivity. A review of records on file at the NCIC, archival research, Native American consultation, and a pedestrian surface survey were conducted to identify historic properties and historical resources that might be affected by the project. Cut banks, irrigation ditch walls and rodent burrows within the project area provided an opportunity to visually inspect exposed subsurface soils for the presence of artifacts, archaeological features, and anthropogenic soils. No cultural resources were observed.

The implementation of mitigation measures TCR-1a through TCR-1c will ensure the appropriate handling of cultural materials should they be discovered on-site during construction of the project.

C) Disturb any human remains?

Effects can be mitigated to less than significant. Given the disturbed nature of the project site, surface cultural resources are not likely to be found on-site during grading and construction activities. However, due to the predominant historic theme of the region as a whole, which includes thousands of years of occupation by Native American groups prior to non-Native peoples settling in the region, the possibility exists that previously unknown resources could be encountered during ground-disturbing activities associated with development of the project. If human remains are discovered during the construction of the project, the implementation of mitigation measure TCR-1c will ensure the appropriate procedures are followed to determine the nature of the remains.

MITIGATION MEASURES

CR-1a: Conduct Cultural Resources Sensitivity and Awareness Training Program Prior to Ground-Disturbing Activities.

The City shall require the applicant/contractor to provide a cultural resources and tribal cultural resources sensitivity and awareness training program (Worker Environmental Awareness Program [WEAP]) for all personnel involved in project construction, including field consultants and construction workers. The WEAP will be developed in coordination with an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for Archeology. The WEAP shall be conducted before any project-related construction activities begin at the project site. The WEAP will include relevant information regarding sensitive cultural resources, including applicable regulations, protocols for avoidance, and consequences of violating State laws and regulations.

The WEAP will also describe appropriate avoidance and impact minimization measures for cultural resources that could be located at the project site and will outline what to do and

who to contact if any potential cultural resources are encountered. The WEAP will emphasize the requirement for confidentiality and culturally appropriate treatment of any discovery of significance.

CR-1b: In the Event that Cultural Resources Are Discovered During Construction, Implement Avoidance and Minimization Measures to Avoid Significant Impacts and Procedures to Evaluate Resources.

If cultural resources (such as structural features, unusual amounts of bone or shell, artifacts, or human remains) are encountered at the project site during construction, work shall be suspended within 100 feet of the find (based on the apparent distribution of cultural materials), and the construction contractor shall immediately notify the project's City representative. Avoidance and preservation in place is the preferred manner of mitigating impacts to cultural resources. This will be accomplished, if feasible, by several alternative means, including:

- Planning construction to avoid archaeological sites and/or other cultural resources; incorporating cultural resources within parks, green-space or other open space; covering archaeological resources; deeding a cultural resource to a permanent conservation easement; or other preservation and protection methods agreeable to consulting parties and regulatory authorities with jurisdiction over the activity.
- Recommendations for avoidance of cultural resources will be reviewed by the City representative, interested culturally affiliated Native American tribes and other appropriate agencies, in light of factors such as costs, logistics, feasibility, design, technology and social, cultural and environmental considerations, and the extent to which avoidance is consistent with project objectives. Avoidance and design alternatives may include realignment within the project site to avoid cultural resources, modification of the design to eliminate or reduce impacts to cultural resources, or modification or realignment to avoid highly significant features within a cultural resource.
- If the discovered cultural resource can be avoided, the construction contractor(s), will install protective fencing outside the site boundary, including a 100-foot buffer area, before construction restarts. Use of temporary and permanent forms of protective fencing will be determined in consultation with Native American representatives from interested culturally affiliated Native American tribes.
- The construction contractor(s) will maintain the protective fencing throughout construction to avoid the site during all remaining phases of construction. The area will be demarcated as an "Environmentally Sensitive Area".

If a cultural resource cannot be avoided, the following performance standard shall be met prior to continuance of construction and associated activities that may result in damage to or destruction of cultural resources:

- Each resource will be evaluated for California Register of Historical Resources- (CRHR) eligibility through application of established eligibility criteria (California Code of Regulations 15064.636), in consultation with consulting Native American Tribes, as applicable.

If a cultural resource is determined to be eligible for listing in the CRHR, the City will avoid damaging effects to the resource in accordance with California PRC Section 21084.3, if feasible. The City shall coordinate the investigation of the find with a qualified archaeologist (meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for Archeology) approved by the City. As part of the site investigation and resource assessment, the City and the archaeologist shall assess the significance of the find, make recommendations for further evaluation and treatment as necessary and provide proper management recommendations should potential impacts to the resources be determined by the City to be significant. A written report detailing the site assessment, coordination activities, and management recommendations shall be provided to the City representative by the qualified archaeologist. These recommendations will be documented in the project record.

CR-1c: Implement Procedures in the Event of the Inadvertent Discovery of Human Remains.

If an inadvertent discovery of human remains is made at any time during project-related construction activities or project planning, the City the following performance standards shall be met prior to implementing or continuing actions such as construction, which may result in damage to or destruction of human remains. In accordance with the California Health and Safety Code (HSC), if human remains are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, the City shall immediately halt potentially damaging excavation in the area of the remains and notify the Sacramento County Coroner and a professional archaeologist to determine the nature of the remains. The Coroner is required to examine all discoveries of human remains within 48 hours of receiving notice of a discovery on private or State lands (HSC Section 7050.5[b]).

If the human remains are of historic age and are determined to be not of Native American origin, the City will follow the provisions of the HSC Section 7000 (et seq.) regarding the disinterment and removal of non-Native American human remains.

If the Coroner determines that the remains are those of a Native American, he or she must contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) by phone within 24 hours of making that determination (HSC Section 7050[c]). After the Coroner's findings have been made, the archaeologist and the NAHC-designated Most Likely Descendant (MLD), in consultation with the landowner, shall determine the ultimate treatment and disposition of the remains. The responsibilities of the City for acting upon notification of a discovery of Native American human remains are identified in California PRC Section 5097.9 et seq.

FINDINGS

All additional significant environmental effects of the project relating to Cultural Resources can be mitigated to a less-than-significant level.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
<p>4. ENERGY</p> <p>Would the project:</p> <p>A) Result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy, or wasteful use of energy resources, during project construction or operation</p>			X
<p>B) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?</p>			X

Energy

Structures built would be subject to Titles 20 and 24 of the California Code of Regulations, which reduce demand for electrical energy by implementing energy-efficient standards for residential and non-residential buildings. The 2035 General Plan includes policies (see 2035 General Plan Energy Resources Goal U 6.1.1) and related policies to encourage energy-efficient technology by offering rebates and other incentives to commercial and residential developers, coordination with local utility providers and recruitment of businesses that research and promote energy conservation and efficiency.

The Master EIR discussed energy conservation and relevant General Plan policies in section 6.3 (page 6-3). The discussion concluded that with implementation of the General Plan policies and energy regulation (e.g., Title 24) development allowed in the General Plan would not result in the inefficient, wasteful or unnecessary consumption of energy.

See also Section 12, below, discussing impacts related to energy. The Master EIR concluded that implementation of state regulation, coordination with energy providers and implementation of General Plan policies would reduce the potential impacts from construction of new energy production or transmission facilities to a less-than-significant level.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND REGULATORY SETTING

Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) is a community-owned and not-for-profit utility that provides electric services to 900 square miles, including most of Sacramento County (SMUD 2020). Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) is an inventory-owned utility that provides electric and natural gas services to approximately 16 million people within a 70,000-square-mile service area in both northern and central California (PG&E 2020). SMUD is the primary electricity supplier, and PG&E is the primary natural gas supplier for the City of Sacramento and the project area.

Energy demand related to the proposed project would include energy directly consumed for space heating and cooling and proposed electric facilities and lighting. Indirect energy consumption would be associated with the generation of electricity at power plants. Transportation-related energy consumption includes the use of fuels and electricity to power cars, trucks, and public transportation. Energy would also be consumed by equipment and vehicles used during project construction and routine maintenance activities.

Energy Policy and Conservation Act, and CAFE Standards

The Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975 established nationwide fuel economy standards to conserve oil. Under this act, the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration, is responsible for revising existing fuel economy standards and establishing new vehicle economy standards. The Corporate Average Fuel Economy program was established to determine vehicle manufacturer compliance with the government's fuel economy standards. Three Energy Policy Acts have been passed, in 1992, 2005, and 2007, to reduce dependence on foreign petroleum, provide tax incentives for alternative fuels, and support energy conservation.

Energy Policy Act of 1992 and 2005

The Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPAAct) was passed to reduce the country's dependence on foreign petroleum and improve air quality. EPAAct includes several parts intended to build an inventory of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) in large, centrally fueled fleets in metropolitan areas. EPAAct requires certain federal, state, and local government and private fleets to purchase a percentage of light-duty AFVs capable of running on alternative fuels each year. In addition, financial incentives are also included in EPAAct. Federal tax deductions are allowed for businesses and individuals to cover the incremental cost of AFVs. States are also required by the act to consider a variety of incentive programs to help promote AFVs. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 provides renewed and expanded tax credits for electricity generated by qualified energy sources, such as landfill gas; provides bond financing, tax incentives, grants, and loan guarantees for clean renewable energy and rural community electrification; and establishes a federal purchase requirement for renewable energy.

State of California Energy Efficiency Action Plan

The 2019 California Energy Efficiency Action Plan has three primary goals for the state: double energy efficiency savings by 2030 relative to a 2015 base year (per SB 350), expand energy efficiency in low-income and disadvantaged communities, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from buildings. This plan provides guiding principles and recommendations on how the state would achieve those goals. These recommendations include:

- identifying funding sources that support energy efficiency programs,
- identifying opportunities to improve energy efficiency through data analysis,
- using program designs as a way to encourage increased energy efficiency on the consumer end,
- improving energy efficiency through workforce education and training, and
- supporting rulemaking and programs that incorporate energy demand flexibility and building decarbonization. (CEC 2019)

California Green Building Standards

The energy consumption of new residential and nonresidential buildings in California is regulated by the state's Title 24, Part 6, Building Energy Efficiency Standards (California Energy Code). The California Energy Code was established by CEC in 1978 in response to a legislative mandate to create uniform building codes to reduce California's energy consumption and provide energy efficiency standards for residential and non-residential buildings. CEC updates the California Energy Code every 3 years with more stringent design requirements for reduced energy consumption, which results in the generation of fewer GHG emissions.

The 2019 California Energy Code was adopted by CEC on May 9, 2018 and applies to projects constructed after January 1, 2020. The 2019 California Energy Code is designed to move the State closer to its zero-net energy goals for new residential development. It does so by requiring all new residences to install enough renewable energy to offset all the electricity needs of each residential unit (California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 24, Part 6, Section 150.1(c)4). CEC estimates that the combination of mandatory on-site renewable energy and prescriptively required energy efficiency standards will result in a 53 percent reduction in new residential construction as compared to the 2016 California Energy Code. Non-residential buildings are anticipated to reduce energy consumption by 30 percent as compared to the 2016 California Energy Code primarily through prescriptive requirements for high-efficiency lighting (CEC 2018). The Energy Code is enforced through the local plan check and building permit process. Local government agencies may adopt and enforce additional energy standards for new buildings as reasonably necessary due to local climatologic, geologic, or topographic conditions, provided that these standards exceed those provided in the California Energy Code.

Transportation-Related Regulations

Various regulatory and planning efforts are aimed at reducing dependency on fossil fuels, increasing the use of alternative fuels, and improving California's vehicle fleet. Senate Bill (SB) 375 aligns regional transportation planning efforts, regional GHG emission reduction targets, and land use and housing allocation. CARB, in consultation with the metropolitan planning organizations, provides each affected region with reduction targets for GHGs emitted by passenger cars and light trucks in their respective regions for 2020 and 2035.

Pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB) 2076 (Chapter 936, Statutes of 2000), CEC and the CARB prepared and adopted a joint agency report in 2003, Reducing California's Petroleum Dependence. Included in this report are recommendations to increase the use of alternative fuels to 20 percent of on-road transportation fuel use by 2020 and 30 percent by 2030, significantly increase the efficiency of motor vehicles, and reduce per capita VMT (CEC and CARB 2003).

AB 1007 (Chapter 371, Statutes of 2005) required CEC to prepare the State Alternative Fuels Plan to increase the use of alternative fuels in California.

In January 2012, CARB approved the Advanced Clean Cars program which combines the control of GHG emissions and criteria air pollutants, as well as requirements for greater numbers of zero-emission vehicles, into a single package of standards for vehicle model years 2017 through 2025. The program's zero-emission vehicle regulation requires battery, fuel cell, and/or plug-in hybrid electric vehicles to account for up to 15 percent of California's new vehicle sales by 2025.

On August 2, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA and EPA proposed the Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient Vehicles Rule (SAFE Rule). Part One of the SAFE Rule revokes a waiver granted by EPA to the State of California under Section 209 of the CAA to enforce more stringent emission standards for motor vehicles than those required by EPA for the explicit purpose of GHG emission reduction, and indirectly, criteria air pollutant and ozone precursor emission reduction. On March 31, 2020, Part Two of the SAFE Rule was published and would amend existing CAFE and tailpipe CO₂ emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks and establish new standards covering model years 2021 through 2026.

GHG Reduction Regulations

Several regulatory measures such as AB 32 and the Climate Change Scoping Plan, EO B-30-15, SB 32, and AB 197 were enacted to reduce GHGs and have the co-benefit of reducing California's dependency on fossil fuels and making land use development and transportation systems more energy efficient.

Renewable Energy Regulations

SB X1-2 of 2011 requires all California utilities to generate 33 percent of their electricity from renewables by 2020. SB X1-2 also requires the renewable electricity standard to be met increasingly with renewable energy that is supplied to the California grid from sources within, or directly proximate to, California. SB X1-2 mandates that renewables from these sources make up at least 50 percent of the total renewable energy for the 2011-2013 compliance period, at least 65 percent for the 2014-2016 compliance period, and at least 75 percent for 2016 and beyond.

SB 100, signed in September 2018, requires that all California utilities, including independently-owned utilities, energy service providers, and community choice aggregators, supply 44 percent of retail sales from renewable resources by December 31, 2024, 50 percent of all electricity sold by December 31, 2026, 52 percent by December 31, 2027, and 60 percent by December 31, 2030. The law also requires that eligible renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources supply 100 percent of retail sales of electricity to California end-use customers and 100 percent of electricity procured to serve all State agencies by December 31, 2045.

Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007

The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 is designed to improve vehicle fuel economy and help reduce U.S. dependence on oil. It represents a major step forward in expanding the production of renewable fuels, reducing dependence on oil, and confronting global climate change. The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 increases the supply of alternative fuel sources by setting a mandatory Renewable Fuel Standard requiring fuel producers to use at least 36 billion gallons of biofuel in 2022, which represents a nearly five-fold increase over current levels; and reduces U.S. demand for oil by setting a national fuel economy standard of 35 miles per gallon by 2020—an increase in fuel economy standards of 40 percent.

By addressing renewable fuels and the CAFE standards, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 builds upon progress made by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 in setting out a comprehensive national energy strategy for the 21st century.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS UNDER THE 2035 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR AND APPLICABLE GENERAL PLAN POLICIES

Structures built would be subject to Titles 20 and 24 of the California Code of Regulations, which reduce demand for electrical energy by implementing energy-efficient standards for residential and non-residential buildings. The 2035 General Plan includes policies (see 2035 General Plan Energy Resources Goal U 6.1.1) and related policies to encourage energy-efficient technology by offering rebates and other incentives to commercial and residential developers, coordination with local utility providers and recruitment of businesses that research and promote energy conservation and efficiency.

The Master EIR discussed energy conservation and relevant General Plan policies in section 6.3 (page 6-3). The discussion concluded that with implementation of the General Plan policies and energy regulation (e.g., Title 24) development allowed in the General Plan would not result in the inefficient, wasteful or unnecessary consumption of energy.

See also Section 12, below, discussing impacts related to energy. The Master EIR concluded that implementation of state regulation, coordination with energy providers and implementation of General Plan policies would reduce the potential impacts from construction of new energy production or transmission facilities to a less-than-significant level.

Sacramento Climate Action Plan

The Sacramento CAP was adopted on February 14, 2012 by the Sacramento City Council and was incorporated into the 2035 General Plan. The Sacramento CAP includes GHG emission reduction targets, strategies, and implementation measures developed to help the City reach these targets. Reduction strategies address GHG emissions associated with transportation and land use, energy, water, waste management and recycling, agriculture, and open space.

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

For the purposes of this Initial Study, an impact is considered significant if the proposed project would:

- result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy, or wasteful use of energy resources, during project construction or operation; and/or
- conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS - ENERGY

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

No additional significant environmental effect. Neither federal or State law nor the State CEQA Guidelines establish thresholds that define when energy consumption is considered wasteful, inefficient and unnecessary. Compliance with CCR Title 24 Energy Efficiency Standards would result in energy-efficient buildings. However, compliance with building codes does not adequately address all potential energy impacts during construction and operation. For example, energy would be required to transport people and goods to and from the project site. Energy use is discussed by anticipated use type below.

Construction

Construction of the proposed project would involve the consumption of energy in the form of gasoline and diesel fuel in order to power construction worker vehicle trips, hauling and materials delivery truck trips, and operation of construction equipment. In addition, portable generators may be used on-site in order to produce additional electricity for temporary on-site lighting, welding, and the supply of energy where hookups to the existing electricity grid are not readily available.

Due to the necessity for different stages of construction (e.g. site preparation, grading, and building construction), the operation of construction equipment would occur at different locations and at different times within the project site. Additionally, the use of construction equipment is regulated under the CARB In-Use Off-Road Diesel Vehicle Regulation. The In-Use Off-Road Diesel Vehicle Regulation aims to reduce emissions from in-use off-road, heavy duty vehicles in California by imposing limits on idling, requiring all vehicles to be reported to CARB, restricting the addition of older vehicles to existing fleets, and requiring fleets to reduce emissions by replacing, retrofitting, or retiring older engines. The use of In-Use Off-Road Diesel Vehicle Regulation would therefore assist in improving vehicle fuel efficiency and reducing GHG emissions.

The 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan Update, prepared by CARB, outlines examples of local actions that would support the State’s climate goals, including municipal code changes, zoning changes, policy directions, and mitigation measures. The CARB Diesel Vehicle Regulation described above, with which the project must comply, would maintain the project’s consistency with the intention and recommendations of the 2017 Scoping Plan.

Despite the temporary increase in energy use occurring during construction of the proposed project, the project would not result in a significant increase in peak or base demands or require additional capacity from local or regional energy facilities. In addition, construction would be subject to all applicable regulations related to energy conservation and fuel efficiency, which would serve to reduce the temporary increase in energy demand.

Operation

The proposed project would be required to comply with all the relevant provisions outlined in the most recent update of the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC), including the Building Energy Efficiency Standards. Adherence to all applicable regulations included in the City's Climate Action Plan would ensure that the single-family homes resulting from this project would consume energy efficiently through the incorporation of features such as efficient water systems, insulated walls, and high efficacy lighting. Mandatory compliance with the CBSC ensures that building energy use resulting from the completion of this project would not be wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary. Additionally, SMUD is required to comply with the State's Renewables Portfolio Standard, mandating that investor-owned utilities, electric service providers, and community choice aggregators must meet a 33 percent total procurement of eligible renewable energy resources by 2020 and 60 percent total procurement by 2030. This ensures that a portion of the electricity consumed during project operations would be generated from renewable resources.

See Section 12, Transportation, for discussion surrounding transportation energy use and the VMT associated with the development of the proposed project. Based on the above, construction and operation of the proposed project would not result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources or conflict with or obstruct a State or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. Thus, implementation of the proposed project would have no additional significant environmental effect related to energy beyond what was previously evaluated in the Master EIR.

B. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

No additional significant environmental effect. Structures built as part of the project would be subject to Titles 20 and 24 of the California Code of Regulations, which serve to reduce demand for electrical energy by implementing energy-efficient standards for residential and non-residential buildings. The 2030 General Plan includes policies (see Policies 6.1.10 through 6.1.13) to encourage the spread of energy-efficient technology by offering rebates and other incentives to commercial and residential developers, and recruiting businesses that research and promote energy conservation and efficiency. Policies 6.1.6 through 6.1.8 focus on promoting the use of renewable resources, which would reduce the cumulative impacts associated with use of non-renewable energy sources. In addition, Policies 6.1.5 and 6.1.12 call for the City to work with utility providers and industries to promote new conservation technologies.

The Master EIR evaluated the potential impacts on energy and concluded that the effects would be less than significant (See Impacts 6.11-9 and 6.11-10). The proposed project would not result in any impacts not identified and evaluated in the Master EIR.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None.

FINDINGS

The project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Energy.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
<p>5. <u>GEOLOGY AND SOILS</u></p> <p>Would the project allow a project to be built that will either introduce geologic or seismic hazards by allowing the construction of the project on such a site without protection against those hazards?</p>			X

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Geological formations of the project vicinity include Basin deposits (Qb), Riverbank Formation (Qr) and Modesto-Riverbank Formations (Qmr) (Wagner et.al 1981).

Surface faulting or ground rupture tends to occur along lines of previous faulting. The nearest fault is the Foothill Fault System, located approximately 24 miles north east of the project area. Since previously identified fault lines are not within or near the project area, the possibility of fault rupture is negligible within the site, but in the event of an earthquake on a nearby fault, the project site could experience ground shaking. The California Geological Survey (CGS) probabilistic seismic hazards maps shows that the seismic ground-shaking hazard for the city is relatively low, and is among the lowest in the State.

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

For the purposes of this Initial Study, an impact is considered significant if it allows a project to be built that will either introduce geologic or seismic hazards by allowing the construction of the project on such a site without protection against those hazards.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS UNDER THE 2035 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR AND APPLICABLE GENERAL PLAN POLICIES

Chapter 4.5 of the Master EIR evaluated the potential effects related to seismic hazards, underlying soil characteristics, slope stability, erosion, existing mineral resources and paleontological resources in the City. Implementation of identified policies in the 2035 General Plan reduced all effects to a less-than-significant level. Policy EC 1.1.1 requires regular review of the City’s seismic and geologic safety standards, and Policy EC 1.1.2 requires geotechnical investigations for project sites to identify and respond to geologic hazards, when present.

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS – GEOLOGY AND SOILS

- A) Would the project allow a project to be built that will either introduce geologic or seismic hazards by allowing the construction of the project on such a site without protection against those hazards?

No additional significant environmental effect. The project area is located approximately 22 miles southwest of the nearest active fault and is not within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. Therefore, the change of fault rupture within the project area is very low. Since previously identified fault lines are not within or near the project site, the possibility of fault rupture is negligible within the project site, but in the event of an earthquake on a nearby fault, the project site could experience ground shaking.

General Plan Goal EC 1.1 and Policies 1.1.1 to 1.1.3 would ensure that lives and property within the project area protected from seismic hazards. These policies include regular review and enforcement of seismic and geologic safety standards, and geotechnical investigations to determine potential for hazards such as ground rupture, ground shaking, and liquefaction due to seismic events, as well as expansive soils and subsidence problems on sites where these hazards may be present. This impact is within the scope of the General Plan and was analyzed in the Master EIR. By complying with the General Plan policies and City Code, the proposed project would have a less-than-significant impact on exposing life and property to seismic hazards. The project site is relatively level, so there would be no impacts related to the possibility of landslides.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None.

FINDINGS

The project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Geology and Soils.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
<p>6. <u>HAZARDS</u></p> <p>Would the project:</p> <p>A) Expose people (e.g., residents, pedestrians, construction workers) to existing contaminated soil during construction activities?</p>		X	
<p>B) Expose people (e.g., residents, pedestrians, construction workers) to asbestos-containing materials or other hazardous materials?</p>			X
<p>C) Expose people (e.g., residents, pedestrians, construction workers) to existing contaminated groundwater during dewatering activities?</p>			X

ENVIRONMENTAL AND REGULATORY SETTING

Federal regulations and regulations adopted by the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) apply to the identification and treatment of hazardous materials during demolition and construction activities. Failure to comply with these regulations respecting asbestos may result in a Notice of Violation being issued by the AQMD and civil penalties under state and/or federal law, in addition to possible action by U.S. EPA under federal law.

Federal law covers a number of different activities involving asbestos, including demolition and renovation of structures (40 CFR § 61.145).

SMAQMD Rule 902 and Commercial Structures

The work practices and administrative requirements of Rule 902 apply to all commercial renovations and demolitions where the amount of Regulated Asbestos-Containing Material (RACM) is greater than:

- 260 lineal feet of RACM on pipes, or
- 160 square feet of RACM on other facility components, or
- 35 cubic feet of RACM that could not be measured otherwise.

The administrative requirements of Rule 902 apply to any demolition of commercial structures, regardless of the amount of RACM. To determine the amount of RACM in a structure, Rule 902 requires that a survey be conducted prior to demolition or renovation unless:

- the structure is otherwise exempt from the rule, or
- any material that has a propensity to contain asbestos (so-called "suspect material") is treated as if it is RACM.

Surveys must be done by a licensed asbestos consultant and require laboratory analysis. Asbestos consultants are listed in the phone book under "Asbestos Consultants." Large industrial facilities may use non-licensed employees if those employees are trained by the U.S. EPA. Questions regarding the use of non-licensed employees should be directed to the AQMD.

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

For the purposes of this Initial Study, an impact is considered significant if the proposed project would:

- expose people (e.g., residents, pedestrians, construction workers) to existing contaminated soil during construction activities;
- expose people (e.g., residents, pedestrians, construction workers) to asbestos-containing materials or other hazardous materials; or
- expose people (e.g., residents, pedestrians, construction workers) to existing contaminated groundwater during dewatering activities.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS UNDER THE 2035 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR AND APPLICABLE GENERAL PLAN POLICIES

The Master EIR evaluated effects of development on hazardous materials, emergency response and aircraft crash hazards. See Chapter 4.6. Implementation of the General Plan may result in the exposure of people to hazards and hazardous materials during construction activities, and exposure of people to hazards and hazardous materials during the life of the General Plan. Impacts identified related to construction activities and operations were found to be less than significant. Policies included in the 2035 general Plan, including PHS 3.1.1 (investigation of sites for contamination) and PHS 3.1.2 (preparation of hazardous materials actions plans when appropriate) were effective in reducing the identified impacts.

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS – HAZARDS

- A) Expose people (e.g., residents, pedestrians, construction workers) to existing contaminated soil during construction activities?

Effect can be mitigated to less than significant. Sections of the Right of Way (ROW) adjacent to the project area are unpaved and may contain concentrations of Aerially Deposited Lead (ADL) related to historical automotive emissions. In addition, lead and chromium have historically been used in yellow paint and thermoplastic striping similar to that used along Main Avenue, Rio Linda Boulevard, and the bike trail. A fuel leak associated with the Former Nolan's Self Serve gasoline station's Underground Storage Tank (UST) and dispensing system was reported to the Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (SCEMD) in 1992. In 1999 and 2000 seven USTs and the fuel piping and dispensing facilities were removed, and the gasoline station was closed. Results of environmental investigation conducted at the former gasoline station indicated the presence of petroleum hydrocarbons in the underlying soil and groundwater. Concentrations of total petroleum hydrocarbons are referenced to gasoline (TPHg), and diesel (TPHd), gasoline constituents, and fuel oxygenates were reported in samples collected from onsite soil at depths ranging from 3 to 65 feet. Concentrations of TPHg, benzene, and 1,2-dichloroethane (1,2-DCA) were reported in soil samples collected beneath the former gasoline station from 1999 to 2009 at concentrations up to 9,300 mg/kg, 12 mg/kg, and 0.16 mg/kg, respectively. Concentrations of these constituents reportedly extended horizontally from the location of the former onsite fuel storage and dispensing area to the Main Avenue and Rio Linda Boulevard ROWs and possibly roadways. No remediation activities (other than soil excavated from the former UST pits and piping trenches in 1999 and 2000) have been conducted to remove petroleum hydrocarbons and/or fuel oxygenates from soil beneath the former gasoline station.

With the incorporation of HAZ-1 through HAZ-3 there would be a less-than-significant impact to people in regard to exposure of existing contaminated soil and lead during construction activities.

- B) Expose people (e.g., residents, pedestrians, construction workers) to asbestos-containing materials or other hazardous materials?

No additional significant environmental effect. Review of information available through the USGS and the CGS indicated that nearest ultramafic rock formation which may be associated with naturally occurring asbestos is approximately 19 miles northeast of the project area, along the eastern banks of Folsom Lake (USGS, 2011 and CGS, 2011). Additionally, the project site remains undeveloped; therefore, analysis for lead-containing structures within the project site prior to the removal of these structures is not warranted.

- C) Expose people (e.g., residents, pedestrians, construction workers) to existing contaminated groundwater during dewatering activities?

No additional significant environmental effect. Groundwater monitoring conducted since 2003 indicates that generally, TPHg and 1,2-DCA have typically been detected in groundwater samples collected from onsite wells at the former gasoline station. Although TPHg concentrations have not been detected in samples collected from the onsite wells since August 2008, concentrations of 1,2-DCA have been reported in groundwater samples collected as recently as February 2012. Groundwater is reportedly situated at a depth of approximately 57 feet beneath the former gasoline station and flows in a generally southeastern direction, toward the proposed project site. No remediation activities have been conducted to remove TPHg or 1,2-DCA from groundwater.

Although the presence of 1,2-DCA in groundwater beneath and downgradient (southeast) of the former onsite gasoline station represents a Recognized Environmental Conditions (REC) associated with the project area, the proposed construction activities associated with the bridge replacement project are not likely to encounter groundwater, which is situated at a depth of approximately 57 feet. Therefore, assessment of groundwater conditions beneath the Site prior to design and construction of the neighborhood complex is not warranted.

MITIGATION MEASURES

HAZ-1: Prior to ground disturbing activities at the affected areas, ADL testing shall be completed within the unpaved ROW along Main Avenue and Rio Linda Boulevard. Testing shall be completed prior to the start of construction.

The City of Sacramento will perform ADL testing during final design of the project. If testing results are positive for substantial amounts of ADL (pursuant to DTSC standards) Caltrans Standard Special Provisions (SSPs) will be provided outlining proper remediation of the contaminated soils.

SSPs will be required to ensure worker protection from lead exposure and/or whether soil being excavated or disturbed will require handling or disposal as a hazardous material to comply with Federal and State regulations.

HAZ-2: Prior to roadway demolition and excavation, a preliminary investigation shall be completed to assess the potential presence of lead and chromium in the yellow paint and thermoplastic striping used along Main Avenue, Rio Linda Boulevard, and the bike trail that will be renovated as part of the proposed project. The striping investigation should be

conducted to evaluate whether Caltrans SSPs require implementation to ensure worker protection from metals exposure and/or whether the striping being removed will require handling or disposal as hazardous materials to comply with Federal and State regulations.

- HAZ-3:** Prior to construction ground disturbing activities, a preliminary investigation shall be completed to assess the potential presence of motor vehicle fuels and fuel oxygenates in soil associated with the former onsite gasoline station that will be excavated or disturbed as part of the proposed project. The preliminary soil investigation should be conducted to assess the presence of petroleum hydrocarbons and fuel oxygenates in soil beneath the Main Avenue and Rio Linda Boulevard ROWs and possibly roadways adjacent to the former onsite gasoline station to ensure worker protection from exposure to these constituents and/or whether soil being excavated or disturbed will require handling or disposal as a hazardous material to comply with Federal and State regulations.

FINDINGS

All additional significant environmental effects of the project relating to Hazards can be mitigated to a less-than-significant level.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
<p>7. <u>HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY</u></p> <p>Would the project:</p> <p>A) Substantially degrade water quality and violate any water quality objectives set by the State Water Resources Control Board, due to increases in sediments and other contaminants generated by construction and/or development of the project?</p>			X
<p>B) Substantially increase the exposure of people and/or property to the risk of injury and damage in the event of a 100-year flood ?</p>			X

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project area is within the Valley-American hydrologic unit and the Lower Sacramento River Watershed. Downstream Magpie Creek is affluent to Steelhead Creek (formerly known as Natomas East Main Drainage Canal (NEMDC)), then confluence with the greater Sacramento River. Magpie Creek is not 303(d) listed and it has no associated TMDL restrictions. (Caltrans, 2010)

The Sacramento River and its tributary channels beneficial uses are municipal and domestic supply, agriculture, industry, recreation, freshwater habitats (migration and spawning of fish), and wildlife habitat according to the Basin Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins (California Regional Water Quality Control Board, 1998).

The proposed project is not located within one of California's four sole source aquifers. The project is located in Sacramento County which does not have a sole source aquifer.

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

For purposes of this Initial Study, impacts to hydrology and water quality may be considered significant if construction and/or implementation of the Proposed project would result in the following impacts that remain significant after implementation of General Plan policies or mitigation from the General Plan MEIR:

- substantially degrade water quality and violate any water quality objectives set by the State Water Resources Control Board, due to increases in sediments and other contaminants generated by construction and/or development of the Specific Plan or
- substantially increase the exposure of people and/or property to the risk of injury and damage in the event of a 100-year flood.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS UNDER THE 2035 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR AND APPLICABLE GENERAL PLAN POLICIES

Chapter 4.7 of the Master EIR evaluates the potential effects of the 2035 General Plan as they relate to surface water, groundwater, flooding, stormwater and water quality. Potential effects include water quality degradation due to construction activities (Impacts 4.7-1, 4.7-2), and exposure of people to flood risks (Impacts 4.7-3). Policies included in the 2035 General Plan, including a directive for regional cooperation (Policies ER 1.1.2, EC 2.1.1), comprehensive flood management (Policy EC 2.1.23), and construction of adequate drainage facilities with new development (Policy ER 1.1.1 to ER 1.1.10) were identified that the Master EIR concluded would reduce all impacts to a less-than-significant level.

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS – HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

- A) Substantially degrade water quality and violate any water quality objectives set by the State Water Resources Control Board, due to increases in sediments and other contaminants generated by construction and/or development of the project?

No additional significant environmental effect. As a facet of the proposed project, Main Avenue will be extended approximately 1,100 feet along the north side of the project area from its current terminus at Rio Linda Boulevard to the existing section of Main Avenue at the northeastern corner of the project area. This roadway gap closure would involve building a bridge over Magpie Creek just east of Rio Linda Boulevard. ~~Construction activities would not substantially degrade water quality and would not violate any water quality objectives by the State Water Resources Control Board.~~ BMPs will be put in place to prevent sediment and other contaminants generated by construction from impacting Magpie Creek.

The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) permits all regulated construction activities under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity projects with more than 1 acre of ground disturbance. The project’s construction activities would be required to comply with the City’s Grading, Erosion, and Sediment Control Ordinance. Compliance under this ordinance includes preparation of an erosion and sediment control plan that identifies and implements a variety of best management practices to reduce the potential for erosion or sedimentation.

Conditional to the NPDES permit, the Project must comply with the antidegradation policies and associated water quality guidelines outlined in the Sacramento River Basin and San Joaquin River Basin Plans of the RWQCB. These policies ensure that the Project will apply appropriate preventative and treatment measures to any discharge of waste into high quality waters resulting from construction. The implementation of appropriate water quality BMPs throughout the Project will ensure that construction activities would not substantially degrade water quality and would not violate any water quality objectives by the State Water Resources Control Board. Furthermore, stormwater runoff within the Project area will be diverted into one of four water quality basins included in the site plan, serving to reduce impacts to surface and groundwater quality following construction.

- B) Substantially increase the exposure of people and/or property to the risk of injury and damage in the event of a 100-year flood?

No additional significant environmental effect. Residential lots on the north side of the project area are located within the existing 100-year floodplain of Lower Magpie Creek. The project is located within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Zone X, which represents areas of 0.2% annual chance flood; areas of 1% annual change flood with average depths of less than 1 foot or with drainage areas less than 1 square mile; and areas protected by levees from 1% annual chance flood; however, the City of Sacramento maintains a separate flood model that shows a portion of the project area within the 100-year floodplain. To meet City requirements, housing pads on the north side of the project area

will be built on approximately 3 to 5 feet of imported fill to raise the residential structures above the flood surface elevation.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None.

FINDINGS

The project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Hydrology and Water Quality.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
<p>8. NOISE</p> <p>Would the project:</p> <p>A) Result in exterior noise levels in the project area that are above the upper value of the normally acceptable category for various land uses due to the project's noise level increases?</p>			X
<p>B) Result in residential interior noise levels of 45 dBA L_{dn} or greater caused by noise level increases due to the project?</p>			X
<p>C) Result in construction noise levels that exceed the standards in the City of Sacramento General Plan or Noise Ordinance?</p>		X	
<p>D) Permit existing and/or planned residential and commercial areas to be exposed to vibration-peak-particle velocities greater than 0.5 inches per second due to project construction?</p>			X
<p>E) Permit adjacent residential and commercial areas to be exposed to vibration peak particle velocities greater than 0.5 inches per second due to highway traffic and rail operations?</p>			X
<p>F) Permit historic buildings and archaeological sites to be exposed to vibration-peak-particle velocities greater than 0.2 inches per second due to project construction and highway traffic?</p>			X

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The noise environment near the proposed project is dominated by traffic sources. Background noise levels are influenced by Rio Linda Boulevard and Main Avenue, existing surrounding residential uses, bike trail activities. Traffic remains the dominant noise source at the project site.

The vicinity of the project area is most similar to that of "normal suburban residential urban," and "normal urban residential." Normal suburban residential urban areas have a typical noise level of 50-55 dBA while Normal Urban Residential has a typical noise level of 60 dBA (Cowan 1984, Hoover and Keith 1996).

A field investigation was conducted to identify land uses that could be subject to traffic and construction noise impacts from the proposed project. Although all land uses are evaluated in this analysis, the focus is on locations of frequent human use that would benefit from a lowered noise level. Accordingly, this impact analysis focuses on locations with defined outdoor activity areas, such as residential backyards.

Short-term noise measurements were taken at outdoor frequent human use areas to capture existing noise levels within the proposed project area. Field measurements were taken at these locations to help determine proper shielding and background noise levels. The location of noise measurements and current and future sensitive noise receivers is shown on Figure 7. Noise Measurement and Receiver Locations. A detailed discussion of current and future noise is provided in Attachment C: Noise Study Report.

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

For purposes of this Initial Study, impacts due to noise may be considered significant if construction and/or implementation of the Proposed project would result in the following impacts that remain significant after implementation of General Plan policies:

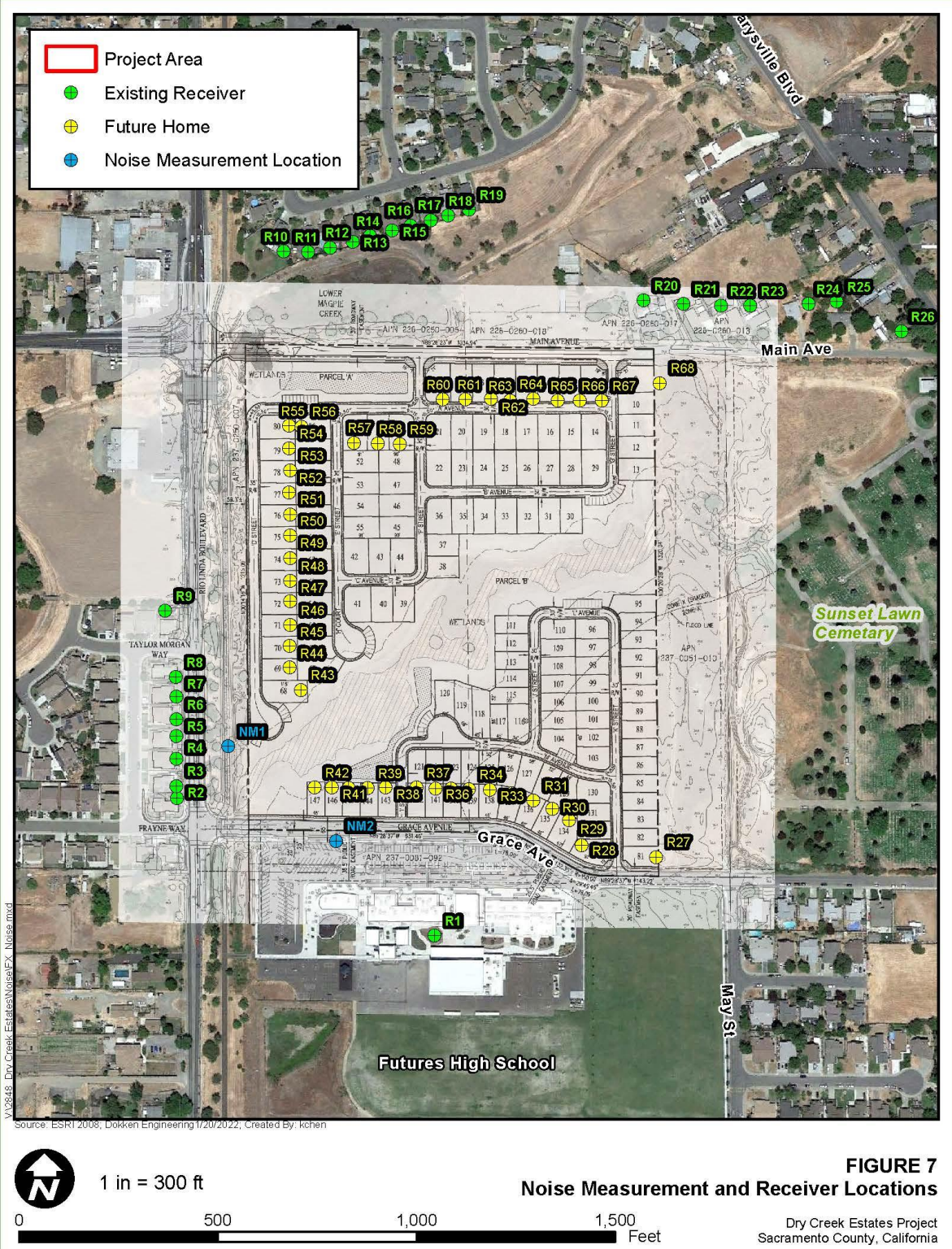
- result in exterior noise levels in the project area that are above the upper value of the normally acceptable category for various land uses due to the project's noise level increases;
- result in residential interior noise levels of 45 dBA L_{dn} or greater caused by noise level increases due to the project;
- result in construction noise levels that exceed the standards in the City of Sacramento Noise Ordinance;
- permit existing and/or planned residential and commercial areas to be exposed to vibration-peak-particle velocities greater than 0.5 inches per second due to project construction;
- permit adjacent residential and commercial areas to be exposed to vibration peak particle velocities greater than 0.5 inches per second due to highway traffic and rail operations; or
- permit historic buildings and archaeological sites to be exposed to vibration-peak-particle velocities greater than 0.2 inches per second due to project construction and highway traffic.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS UNDER THE 2035 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR AND APPLICABLE GENERAL PLAN POLICIES

The Master EIR evaluated the potential for development under the 2035 General Plan to increase noise levels in the community. New noise sources include vehicular traffic, aircraft, railways, light rail and stationary sources. The General Plan policies establish exterior (Policy EC 3.1.1) and interior (Policy EC 3.1.3) noise standards. A variety of policies provide standards for the types of development envisioned in the General Plan. See Policy EC 3.1.8, which requires new mixed-use, commercial, and industrial development to mitigate the effects of noise from operations on adjoining sensitive land use, and Policy 3.1.9, which calls for the City to limit hours of operations for parks and active recreation areas to minimize disturbance to nearby residences. Notwithstanding application of the General Plan policies, noise impacts for exterior noise levels (Impact 4.8-1) and interior noise levels (Impact 4.8-2), and vibration impacts (Impact 4.8-4) were found to be significant and unavoidable.

DRY CREEK ESTATES PROJECT (P20-040)

Initial Study



ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS - NOISE

- A) Result in exterior noise levels in the project area that are above the upper value of the normally acceptable category for various land uses due to the project's noise level increases?

No additional significant environmental effect. The future traffic noise modeling results indicate that exterior noise levels without the proposed project would range between 36.2 dBA CNEL and 63.1 dBA CNEL. Exterior noise levels at R2 through R8 would continue to be exposed to noise levels exceeding the City of Sacramento 60 dBA acceptable noise threshold.

With construction of the proposed project, future exterior noise levels would range between 38.1 dBA and 63.5 dBA CNEL in 2035. Exterior noise levels at receivers R2 through R8 would continue to be exposed to noise levels exceeding the City of Sacramento 60 dBA acceptable noise threshold. However, the project would result in a 0.4 dBA increase in noise at these receivers. Under the City of Sacramento's Exterior Incremental Noise Impact Standards for Noise-Sensitive Uses, this is not considered a significant increase in noise that would require mitigation. No other existing receivers would be exposed to unacceptable noise levels in 2035 with the project. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in noise level increases that would cause an exceedance of the normally acceptable category for land uses in the project area.

Receivers R27 through R68 represent new homes that would be constructed as part of the proposed project along the project site boundary adjacent to Main Avenue, Rio Linda Boulevard, and Grace Avenue. These receivers would be most exposed to traffic noise along these roadways. No receivers would be exposed to exterior noise levels above the upper value of the normally acceptable category for single-family homes. Therefore, impacts are less than significant.

- B) Result in residential interior noise levels of 45 dBA Ldn or greater caused by noise level increases due to the project?

No additional significant environmental effect. Standard residential design (with windows closed) will provide approximately 20 dBA of attenuation. The future interior results indicate that the future interior noise levels would range between 20.7 dBA CNEL and 43.5 dBA CNEL with the proposed project. No analyzed receivers would be exposed to residential interior noise levels of 45 dBA Ldn or greater caused by noise level increases due to the project. Impacts would be less than significant.

- C) Result in construction noise levels that exceed the standards in the City of Sacramento General Plan or Noise Ordinance?

Effect can be mitigated to less than significant. During construction of the project, noise from construction activities may intermittently dominate the noise environment in the immediate area of construction. Construction equipment is expected to generate noise levels ranging from 80 to 89 dB at a distance of 50 feet, and noise produced by construction equipment would be reduced over distance at a rate of about 6 dB per doubling of distance. In accordance with Section 8.68.080 of the City of Sacramento Noise Ordinance, Measure **NOI-1** will be required to be implemented by the contractor during construction of the proposed project (refer to Mitigation Measures).

- D) Permit existing and/or planned residential and commercial areas to be exposed to vibration-peak-particle velocities greater than 0.5 inches per second due to project construction?

No additional significant environmental effect. Operation of the proposed project would not perceptibly increase groundborne vibration or groundborne noise on the proposed project because operation of the proposed project would not involve vibration creating activities such as pile driving.

- E) Permit adjacent residential and commercial areas to be exposed to vibration peak particle velocities greater than 0.5 inches per second due to highway traffic and rail operations?

No additional significant environmental effect. There are no new highway or railway operations associated with the construction of the proposed project. In addition, the new residences that would be constructed as part of the proposed project would not be in the vicinity of adjacent highways or rail lines that would cause significant vibratory impacts. The nearest highway is U.S. 80 approximately 0.6 miles to the south, and the nearest railroad is approximately 1.4 miles to the west. There would be no impact.

- F) Permit historic buildings and archaeological sites to be exposed to vibration-peak-particle velocities greater than 0.2 inches per second due to project construction and highway traffic?

No additional significant environmental effect. No historic buildings or archaeological sites have been identified within the project area. The majority of buildings in the project vicinity that would be impacted by construction are residential structures, none of which are considered extremely fragile, fragile, or historic buildings. None of the buildings occur within 25 feet of where soil compaction would occur. Therefore, no historic buildings or archaeological sites would be exposed to vibration-peak-particle velocities greater than 0.2 inches per second due to project construction and highway traffic. There would be no impact.

MITIGATION MEASURES

NOI - 1: The following measures are required to minimize potential noise impacts during construction:

- Do not exceed 86 dBA Lmax at 50 feet from the job site activities from 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- Equip an internal combustion engine with the manufacturer recommended exhaust and intake silencers.
- Do not operate an internal combustion engine on the job site without the appropriate muffler or exhaust and intake silencer.

Findings

All additional significant environmental effects of the project relating to Noise can be mitigated to a less-than-significant level.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
<p>9. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES</u></p> <p>Would the project result in the need for new or altered services related to fire protection, police protection, school facilities, or other governmental services beyond what was anticipated in the 2035 General Plan?</p>			X

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Fire

The City of Sacramento provides fire protection services, to the project area and it is likely that the project would be served by Fire Station 17. Fire Station 17 is located at 1311 Bell Avenue approximately 0.5 miles from the proposed project site. The Fire Department operates approximately 21 stations. Fire stations are located so as to provide a maximum effective service radius of two miles (SGPU DEIR, M-1). This service radius virtually assures blanket coverage of the City. Typical response time to fire calls is four minutes (SGPU DEIR, M-1).

Police

The City of Sacramento provides police protection service approximately 1.5 miles from the project area. The William J. Kinney Police Facility is the police station that would service the project area. It is located at 3550 Marysville Boulevard.

School District

The proposed project site is within the Robla Elementary School District and the Twin Rivers Unified School District. The proposed project area is located approximately 0.5 miles from Norwood Junior High School and across the street from the recently constructed Futures High School. Rio Linda Boulevard would remain open throughout construction; no detour would be implemented due to the proposed project.

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

For the purposes of this Initial Study, an impact would be considered significant if the project resulted in the need for new or altered services related to fire protection, police protection, school facilities, or other governmental services beyond what was anticipated in the 2035 General Plan.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS UNDER THE 2035 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR AND APPLICABLE GENERAL PLAN POLICIES

The Master EIR evaluated the potential effects of the 2035 General Plan on various public services. These include police, fire protection, schools, libraries and emergency services (Chapter 4.10).

The General Plan provides that adequate staffing levels for police and fire are important for the long-term health, safety and well-being of the community (Goal PHS 1.1, PHS 2.1). The Master EIR concluded that effects of development that could occur under the General Plan would be less than significant.

General plan policies that call for the City to consider impacts of new development on schools (see, for example, Policy ERC 1.1.2 setting forth locational criteria, and Policy ERC 1.1.4 that encourages joint-use development of facilities) reduce impacts on schools to a less-than-significant level. (Impacts 4.10-3, 4) Impacts on library facilities were considered less than significant (Impact 4.10-5).

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS – PUBLIC

- A) Would the project result in the need for new or altered services related to fire protection, police protection, school facilities, or other governmental services beyond what was anticipated in the 2035 General Plan?

No additional significant environmental effect. The proposed project is consistent with 2035 General Plan land use designations and current zoning. The project would provide additional housing to the area and would result in an increase in population. However, any expected growth has been anticipated in the 2035 General Plan. As a facet of the project, a roadway gap closure will link the two existing termini of Main Avenue, north of the project area. This linkage will assist in facilitating travel for incoming residents and provide additional access routes for emergency services.

The 2035 General Plan identifies specific policies to reduce impacts on government services. As required by the California Fire Code, interior roadways within the project site would be constructed and maintained to allow for fire access, fire hydrants and fire control systems would be provided, and a water flow test would be performed. Additionally, the land developer is considering establishing a special maintenance district to fund maintenance and repairs of a section of the Sacramento Northern Bike Trail adjacent to the project area. This maintenance district would levee fees or property taxes to fund maintenance activities in perpetuity.

The project would not require the need for public facilities or governmental service beyond what has been anticipated in the 2035 General Plan. The project would result in a less-than-significant impact.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None.

FINDINGS

The project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Public Services.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
10. <u>RECREATION</u> Would the project: A) Cause or accelerate substantial physical deterioration of existing area parks or recreational facilities?		X	
B) Create a need for construction or expansion of recreational facilities beyond what was anticipated in the 2035 General Plan?			X

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The North Sacramento Community Plan area is served by a variety of recreational resources. Recreational resources include rivers, ponds, bike trails, and parks maintained by the City of Sacramento. The Sacramento Northern Bike Trail is publicly owned bikeway used as a recreational resource within the project area.

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

For purposes of this Initial Study, impacts to recreational resources are considered significant if the proposed project would do either of the following:

- cause or accelerate substantial physical deterioration of existing area parks or recreational facilities; or
- create a need for construction or expansion of recreational facilities beyond what was anticipated in the 2035 General Plan.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS UNDER THE 2035 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR AND APPLICABLE GENERAL PLAN POLICIES

Chapter 4.9 of the Master EIR considered the effects of the 2035 General Plan on the City’s existing parkland, urban forest, recreational facilities and recreational services. The General Plan identified a goal of providing an integrated park and recreation system in the City (Goal ERC 2.1). New residential development will be required to dedicate land, pay in-lieu fees or otherwise contribute a fair share to the acquisition and development of parks and recreation facilities (Policy ERC 2.2.5). Impacts were considered less than significant after application of the applicable policies (Impacts 4.9-1 and 4.9-2).

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS – RECREATION

A) Cause or accelerate substantial physical deterioration of existing area parks or recreational facilities?

Effect can be mitigated to less than significant. The project would not cause or accelerate substantial physical deterioration of existing area parks or recreational facilities. The project proposes the construction of two parks totaling approximately 2 acres to serve the needs of local residents. The two parks included in the site development plan do not qualify as public parks and the developer will

pay a pro-rated development fee to fund the creation of parks elsewhere in the City in accordance with the City's 2035 General Plan and the Quimby Act. The development fee payment will mitigate any effects to City parks that may result from the construction of this development project.

In order to install a gap closure of Main Avenue, a road crossing will be installed along the Sacramento Northern Bike Trail at the Main Avenue/Rio Linda Boulevard Intersection, requiring temporary closure of the bike trail. However, the closure will be short term and the land developer is establishing a special maintenance district to fund maintenance and repairs of a section of the Sacramento Northern Bike Trail adjacent to the project area, enhancing the functionality of the trail in perpetuity. This maintenance district would levee fees or property taxes to fund maintenance activities in perpetuity.

- B) Create a need for construction or expansion of recreational facilities beyond what was anticipated in the 2035 General Plan?

No additional significant environmental effect. The project proposes the construction of two private parks that will service local residents. The proposed project is consistent with 2035 General Plan land use designations and current zoning. Therefore, the project would not create a need for construction or expansion of recreational facilities beyond what was anticipated in the 2035 General Plan. No impact would occur.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None.

FINDINGS

The project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Recreation.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
11. <u>TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION</u>			
Would the project:			
A) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadways, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?			X
B) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?			X
C) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g. sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?			X
D) Result in inadequate emergency access?			X

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project is located east of Rio Linda boulevard and Main Avenue, and north of Grace Avenue. Additionally, the Sacramento Northern Bike trail runs parallel to the project’s western side. As a component of this project, Main Avenue will be extended by approximately 1,100 feet along the north side of the project area from its current terminus at Rio Linda Boulevard at the northwestern corner of the project area to the existing section of Main Avenue at the northeastern corner of the project area. This roadway gap closure will alleviate vehicular congestion and provide alternative pathways for travel.

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

For purposes of this Initial Study, impacts resulting from changes in transportation or circulation may be considered significant if construction and/or implementation of the Proposed project would result in the following impacts that remain significant after implementation of General Plan policies or mitigation from the General Plan Master EIR:

Freeway Facilities

Caltrans considers the following to be significant impacts.

- off-ramps with vehicle queues that extend into the ramp’s deceleration area or onto the freeway;
- project traffic increases that cause any ramp’s merge/diverge level of service to be worse than the freeway’s level of service;

- project traffic increases that cause the freeway level of service to deteriorate beyond level of service threshold defined in the Caltrans Route Concept Report for the facility;
- or the expected ramp queue is greater than the storage capacity.

Transit

Adversely affect public transit operations or fail to adequately provide for access to public transit.

Bicycle Facilities

Adversely affect bicycle travel, bicycle paths or fail to adequately provide for access by bicycle.

Pedestrian Circulation

Adversely affect pedestrian travel, pedestrian paths or fail to adequately provide for access by pedestrians.

In addition, SB 743, which enacted PRC Section 21099, required changes to the CEQA Guidelines establishing criteria for determining the significance of transportation impacts. In 2015, the City approved a 2035 General Plan Update which includes SB 743 and using VMT as a metric for evaluating transportation impacts of proposed projects under CEQA. The VMT thresholds for regional projects consider the VMT performance of residential and non-residential components of a project separately. Based on the land use anticipated by the project, efficiency metrics of VMT per capita were analyzed. For residential projects, the regional threshold is defined as total household VMT per capita achieving a 15-percent reduction compared to the regional average.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS UNDER THE 2035 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR AND APPLICABLE GENERAL PLAN POLICIES

Transportation and circulation were discussed in the Master EIR in Chapter 4.12. Various modes of travel were included in the analysis, including vehicular, transit, bicycle, pedestrian and aviation components. Provisions of the 2035 General Plan that provide substantial guidance include Mobility Goal 1.1, calling for a transportation system that is effectively planned, managed, operated and maintained, promotion of multimodal choices (Policy M 1.2.1), support for state highway expansion and management consistent with the Sacramento Area Council of Governments Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (SACOG MTP/SCS) (Policy M 1.5.6) and development that encourages walking and biking (Policy LU 4.2.1).

While the General Plan includes numerous policies that direct the development of the City's transportation system, the Master EIR concluded that the General Plan development would result in significant and unavoidable effects. See Impacts 4.12-3 (roadway segments in adjacent communities, and Impact 4.12-4 (freeway segments).

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS – TRANSPORTATION

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

No additional significant environmental effect. The proposed land use of the project is consistent with the existing land use designation in the City's General Plan as well as the North Sacramento Community Plan. As such, the Master EIR included an analysis of the increase in traffic associated with buildout of the project site. The proposed project would not increase traffic volumes from what has been

anticipated in the 2035 General Plan. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system beyond what has been anticipated by the City per the Master EIR, and a less-than-significant impact would occur.

Sacramento RT 19 services a stop at the intersection of Main Avenue and Rio Linda Boulevard and provides transit opportunities to and from the project site. The project proposes the installation of 135 single-family homes on a previously undeveloped lot; however, any demand added to the transit system could be adequately accommodated by the existing/planned transit system and has been anticipated in the 2035 General Plan and Master EIR. Additionally, the proposed project would not result in removal of any existing bicycle or pedestrian facilities or preclude the implementation of any proposed or existing off-street trails in the vicinity of the project. The proposed project is located adjacent to the Sacramento Northern Bike Trail, which encourages pedestrian and bicycle access for the future residents.

Based on the above, the proposed project would not conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy address the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would result in no additional environmental effects beyond what was analyzed in the 2035 Master EIR.

- B) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

No additional significant environmental effect. A Technical Memorandum was prepared by Kimley-Horn to assess the project's impact on Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). A copy of the memorandum is included as an appendix to this CEQA analysis.

In accordance with SB 743, the Residential VMT screening map developed by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) was used to determine whether the proposed project can be screened from a quantitative VMT analysis. SACOG's screening map is based on data contained within the latest version of its travel demand model, SACSIM19. SACSIM19 has a base year scenario that represents 2016 conditions and was used to set regional efficiency thresholds (VMT/capita or VMT/employee) for both residential and non-residential projects. The SACOG region is segmented into hexagons with an approximately half-mile diameter that are used to determine the VMT efficiency (average VMT/capita or VMT/employee) for each hexagon.

For residential projects, the regional threshold is defined as total household VMT per capita achieving a 15-percent reduction compared to the regional average. Residential VMT per capita for each hexagon is calculated by tallying the total VMT produced for all households located within the hexagon, including VMT for trips that travel outside of the region, and dividing by the total population in the hexagon.

The hexagon that covers the site of the proposed project is hexagon DJ-129, which has an average VMT per capita of 17.49. The VMT per capita regional average calculated by SACOG is 20.82, which results in a threshold of 17.7 VMT per capita (85-percent of the regional average). Thus, the proposed project is assumed to fall below the regional threshold because hexagon DJ-129 also falls below the regional threshold (17.49 versus 17.7).

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

No additional significant environmental effect. The project is anticipated to install multiple local roadways within the proposed residential complex. Additionally, Main Avenue will be extended by approximately 1,100 feet along the north side of the project area from its current terminus at Rio Linda Boulevard at the northwestern corner of the project area to the existing section of Main Avenue at the northeastern corner of the project area. The extension of Main Avenue will reconfigure the existing Rio Linda Boulevard/Main Avenue intersection to integrate the proposed two-lane roadway. Despite these

modifications, the project would not substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment), and implementation of the project would result in no additional environmental effects beyond what was analyzed in the 2035 Master EIR.

D) Result in inadequate emergency access?

No additional significant environmental effect. The proposed project would be required to comply with all building, fire, and safety codes and specific development plans would be subject to review and approval by the City's Public Works Department and the Sacramento Fire Department. Required review by the listed departments would ensure that the proposed circulation system for the project site would provide adequate emergency access. In addition, Section 12.20.030 of the City's Municipal Code requires that a construction traffic control plan be prepared and approved prior to the beginning of project construction, to the satisfaction of the City Traffic Engineer and subject to review by all affected agencies. All work performed during construction must conform to the conditions and requirements of the approved plan. The plan would ensure that safe and efficient movement of traffic through the construction work zone(s) is maintained. At a minimum, the plan must include the following:

- Time and day of street closures;
- Proper advance warning and posted signage regarding street closures;
- Provision of driveway access plan to ensure safe vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle movements;
- Safe and efficient access routes for emergency vehicles;
- Provisions for pedestrian safety;
- Use of manual traffic control when necessary;
- Number of anticipated truck trips, and time of day of arrival and departure of trucks;
- Provision of a truck circulation pattern and staging area with a limitation on the number of trucks that can be waiting and any limitations on the size and type of trucks appropriate for the surrounding transportation network; and
- The plan must be available at the site for inspection by the City representative during all work.

With implementation of the traffic control plan, local roadways and freeway facilities would continue to operate at acceptable operating conditions during construction, and the proposed project would not result in inadequate emergency access to the project site. Therefore, the implementation of the project would result in no additional environmental effects beyond what was analyzed in the 2035 Master EIR.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None.

FINDINGS

The project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Transportation and Circulation.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
<p>12. <u>TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES</u></p> <p>Would the project:</p> <p>A) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, as 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:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">i. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources code section 5020.1(k) or</p>		X	
<p style="padding-left: 40px;">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 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.</p>		X	

ENVIRONMENTAL AND REGULATORY SETTING

For thousands of years, Sacramento and the surrounding area has been known to be occupied by Native American groups. Sacramento’s indigenous people include the Nisenan people, The Southern Maidu, Valley and Plains Miwok, Patwin Wintun peoples, and the people of the Wilton Rancheria. Tribal cultural resource and archaeological materials, including human burials, have been found throughout the city. Human burials outside of formal cemeteries often occur in prehistoric contexts. Areas of high sensitivity for tribal cultural resources are located within close proximity to the Sacramento and American rivers and other watercourses.

The proposed project area is situated within the lands traditionally occupied by the Valley Nisenan, or Southern Maidu. The language of the Nisenan includes several dialects and is classified within the Maiduan family of the Penutian linguistic stock (Kroeber 1925). Valley Nisenan territory was divided into politically autonomous “triblet” areas, each including several large villages (Moratto 1984). Two important villages

were located near the project area, on the south bank of the American River, Momol, to the west of the project area, and Yalisumni, to the east (Wilson and Towne 1978:388).

Nisenan houses were domed structures covered with earth and tule or grass that measured 10–15 feet in diameter. Brush shelters were used in the summer and at temporary camps during food-gathering rounds. Larger villages often had semi-subterranean dance houses that were covered in earth and tule or brush and had a central smoke hole at the top and an east-facing entrance. Another common village structure was a granary, which was used for storing acorns (Wilson and Towne 1978).

Valley Nisenan people followed a seasonal round of food gathering, as did most California Indians. Food staples included acorns, buckeyes, pine nuts, hazelnuts, various roots, seeds, mushrooms, greens, berries, and herbs. Game was roasted, baked, or dried and included mule deer, elk, antelope, black bear, beaver, squirrels, rabbits, and other small animals and insects. Salmon, whitefish, sturgeon, and suckers, as well as freshwater shellfish, were all caught and eaten (Wilson and Towne 1978).

Euro-American contact with the Nisenan began with infrequent excursions by Spanish explorers and Hudson's Bay Company trappers traveling through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley in the early 1800s (Wilson and Towne 1978). With the coming of Russian trappers, Spanish missionaries, and Euro-American settlers, traditional lifeways were threatened by competition for land and resources, and by the introduction of new diseases. The malaria epidemic of 1833 decimated the Valley Nisenan population, killing an estimated 75 percent of the population. The influx of Euro-Americans during the Gold Rush-era further reduced the population due to forced relocations and violent retribution from the miners for real or imagined affronts.

Despite these major and devastating historical setbacks, today many Native Americans in the proposed project area are maintaining traditional cultural practices. Sometimes supported by thriving business enterprises, Tribal groups maintain governments, historic preservation programs, education programs, cultural events, and numerous other programs that sustain a vibrant culture.

Federal

There are no Federal plans, policies, or regulations related to Tribal Cultural Resources that are directly applicable to the proposed project, however Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act does require consultation with Native Americans to identify and consider certain types of cultural resources. Cultural resources of Native American origin identified as a result of the identification efforts conducted under Section 106 may also qualify as tribal cultural resources under CEQA.

State

California Environmental Quality Act — Statute and Guidelines. CEQA requires that public agencies that finance or approve public or private projects must assess the effects of the project on tribal cultural resources. Tribal cultural resources are defined in Public Resources Code (PRC) 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 that is (1) listed or determined eligible for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) or a local register, or (2) that are 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 PRC Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of PRC Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American Tribe.

California Public Resources Code Section 5024. PRC Section 5024.1 establishes the CRHR, which is the authoritative guide for identifying the State's historical resources to indicate what properties are to be protected, if feasible, from substantial adverse change. For a resource to be eligible for the CRHR, it must be more than 50 years old, retain its historic integrity, and satisfy one or more of the following criteria:

1. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage.
2. Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past.
3. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values.
4. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Data Sources/Methodology

Under PRC section 21080.3.1 and 21082.3, the City must consult with tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area that have requested formal notification and responded with a request for consultation. The parties must consult in good faith. Consultation is deemed concluded when the parties agree to measures to mitigate or avoid a significant effect on a tribal cultural resource when one is present or when a party concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached. Mitigation measures agreed on during the consultation process must be recommended for inclusion in the environmental document.

On January 23, 2018, a search of the Sacred Lands Database was requested from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). A response was received on January 31, 2018, indicating that Sacred Sites have been identified in the general vicinity (within the USGS quad, township, ranges, and sections of the project) but specific location were not provided. Two tribes were listed as points of contact regarding these sites: the Lone Band of Miwok Indians (Lone), and United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC). Three additional federally listed tribes were indicated for consultation: Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians (Buena Vista), Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians (Shingle Springs), and Wilton Rancheria (Wilton).

In response to the City's notification of the project to UAIC, UAIC conducted a records search for the identification of Tribal Cultural Resources for this project which included a review of pertinent literature and historic maps, and a records search using UAIC's Tribal Historic Information System (THRIS). UAIC's THRIS database is composed of UAIC's areas of oral history, ethnographic history, and places of cultural and religious significance, including UAIC Sacred Lands that are submitted to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). The THRIS resources shown in this region also include previously recorded indigenous resources identified through the California Historic Resources Information System Center (CHRIS) as well as historic resources and survey data.

Native American Consultation

Notification of the project and an invitation for consultation was sent out to the tribes that have previously requested to receive such notification pursuant to PRC 20180.3.1 and AB 52. Two tribes responded declining to consult (UAIC requesting to have inadvertent discoveries mitigation), one tribe didn't respond, and one tribe responded neither requesting or declining consultation, but rather describing resources near the project site and requesting tribal monitors to be present during all ground disturbing activities. Also describing that the tribes preferred method of treatment of cultural resources is preservation in place.

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

For the purposes of this Initial Study, a tribal cultural resource is considered to be a significant resource if the resource is: 1) listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources or in a local register of historical resources; or 2) the resource has been 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. For purposes of this Initial Study, impacts on tribal cultural resources may be considered significant if construction and/or implementation of the proposed project would result in the following:

- cause a substantial change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as defined in Public Resources Code 21074.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS UNDER THE 2035 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR AND APPLICABLE GENERAL PLAN POLICIES

The Master EIR evaluated the potential effects of development under the 2035 General Plan on prehistoric and historic resources (see Master EIR Chapter 4.4 and Appendix C – Background Report, B. Cultural Resources Appendix), but did not specifically address tribal cultural resources because that resource type had not yet been defined in CEQA at the time the Master EIR was adopted. The Master EIR identified significant and unavoidable effects on historic resources and archaeological resources, some of which could be tribal cultural resources as defined Public Resources Code 21074. Ground-disturbing activities resulting from implementation of development under the 2035 General Plan could affect the integrity of an archaeological site (which may be a tribal cultural resource), thereby causing a substantial change in the significance of the resource. General plan policies identified as reducing such effects on cultural resources that may also be tribal cultural resources include identification of resources on project sites (Policy HCR 2.1.1); implementation of applicable laws and regulations (Policy HCR 2.1.2); consultation with appropriate organizations and individuals including the Native American Heritage Commission and implementation of their consultation guidelines (Policy HCR 2.1.3); enforcement programs to promote the maintenance, rehabilitation, preservation, and interpretation of the City’s historic resources (Policy HCR 2.1.4); listing of qualified historic resources under appropriate national, State, and local registers (Policy HCR 2.1.5); consideration of historic and cultural resources in planning studies (Policy HCR 2.1.6); enforcement of compliance with local, State, and federal historic and cultural preservation requirements (Policy HCR 2.1.8); and early consultation with owners and land developers to minimize effects (Policy HCR 2.1.10).

Of particular relevance to this project are policies that ensure compliance with protocol that protect or mitigate impacts to archaeological resources (Policy HCR 2.1.16) and that encourage preservation and minimization of impacts on cultural resources (Policy HCR 2.1.17).

MITIGATION MEASURES FROM 2035 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR THAT APPLY TO THE PROJECT

None. As noted above, the Master EIR did not specifically address tribal cultural resources but did address archaeological resources and other cultural resources and noted that because the presence of significant archaeological resources is typically unknown until the resource is uncovered, which often occurs during ground disturbing activities, adverse effects may occur prior to discovery of the archaeological resources. Therefore, although laws and regulations combined with General Plan policy would substantially reduce impacts to these resources once they are discovered, the initial impacts that might occur prior to discovery would be considered potentially significant and that protection of all important archaeological resources from damage or destruction cannot be assured.

ANSWER TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS – TRIBE

Question A-i, ii

As described previously, the existing record searches and surveys did not identify tribal cultural resources on the project site. Through communication with local Native American tribe, resources are known within the project region and activities of tribes occurred throughout the region. As a result, there is the potential for ground disturbing activities to unearth previously unknown tribal cultural resources resulting in unanticipated discoveries. This could result in a potentially significant environmental effect. With the implementation of mitigation measures TCR-1a, 1b, 1c, and TCR-2, the impact would be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

MITIGATION MEASURES –

TCR-1a: Tribal Cultural Resources Sensitivity and Awareness Training Program Prior to Ground-Disturbing Activities

The City shall require the applicant/contractor to provide a tribal cultural resources sensitivity and awareness training program (Worker Environmental Awareness Program [WEAP]) for all personnel involved in project construction, including field consultants and construction workers. The WEAP will be developed in coordination with culturally affiliated Native American tribes. The WEAP shall be conducted before any project-related construction activities begin at the project site. The WEAP will include relevant information regarding sensitive tribal cultural resources, including applicable regulations, protocols for avoidance, and consequences of violating State laws and regulations.

The WEAP will also describe appropriate avoidance and impact minimization measures for tribal cultural resources that could be located at the project site and will outline what to do and who to contact if any potential tribal cultural resources are encountered. The WEAP will emphasize the requirement for confidentiality and culturally appropriate treatment of any discovery of significance to Native Americans and will discuss appropriate behaviors and responsive actions, consistent with Native American tribal values.

TCR-1b: In the Event that Tribal Cultural Resources Are Discovered During Construction, Implement Avoidance and Minimization Measures to Avoid Significant Impacts and Procedures to Evaluate Resources.

If tribal cultural resources (such as structural features, unusual amounts of bone or shell, artifacts, or human remains) are encountered at the project site during construction, work shall be suspended within 100 feet of the find (based on the apparent distribution of cultural materials), and the construction contractor shall immediately notify the project's City representative. Avoidance and preservation in place is the preferred manner of mitigating impacts to tribal cultural resources. This will be accomplished, if feasible, by several alternative means, including:

- Planning construction to avoid tribal cultural resources, archaeological sites and/or other cultural resources; incorporating cultural resources within parks, green-space or other open space; covering archaeological resources; deeding a cultural resource to a permanent conservation easement; or other preservation and protection methods agreeable to consulting parties and regulatory authorities with jurisdiction over the activity.

- Recommendations for avoidance of tribal cultural resources will be reviewed by the City representative, interested culturally affiliated Native American tribes and other appropriate agencies, in light of factors such as costs, logistics, feasibility, design, technology and social, cultural and environmental considerations, and the extent to which avoidance is consistent with project objectives. Avoidance and design alternatives may include realignment within the project site to avoid tribal cultural resources, modification of the design to eliminate or reduce impacts tribal cultural resources, or modification or realignment to avoid highly significant features within a tribal cultural resource.
- Native American representatives from interested culturally affiliated Native American tribes will be notified to review and comment on these analyses and shall have the opportunity to meet with the City representative and its representatives who have technical expertise to identify and recommend feasible avoidance and design alternatives, so that appropriate and feasible avoidance and design alternatives can be identified.
- If the discovered tribal cultural resource can be avoided, the construction contractor(s), will install protective fencing outside the site boundary, including a 100-foot buffer area, before construction restarts. The boundary of a tribal cultural resource will be determined in consultation with interested culturally affiliated Native American tribes and tribes will be notified to monitor the installation of fencing. Use of temporary and permanent forms of protective fencing will be determined in consultation with Native American representatives from interested culturally affiliated Native American tribes.
- The construction contractor(s) will maintain the protective fencing throughout construction to avoid the site during all remaining phases of construction. The area will be demarcated as an “Environmentally Sensitive Area”.

If a tribal cultural resource cannot be avoided, the following performance standard shall be met prior to continuance of construction and associated activities that may result in damage to or destruction of tribal cultural resources:

- Each resource will be evaluated for California Register of Historical Resources- (CRHR) eligibility through application of established eligibility criteria (California Code of Regulations 15064.636), in consultation with consulting Native American Tribes, as applicable.

If a tribal cultural resource is determined to be eligible for listing in the CRHR, the City will avoid damaging effects to the resource in accordance with California PRC Section 21084.3, if feasible. The City shall coordinate the investigation of the find with a qualified archaeologist (meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualifications Standards for Archeology) approved by the City and with interested culturally affiliated Native American tribes that respond to the City’s notification. As part of the site investigation and resource assessment, the City and the archaeologist shall consult with interested culturally affiliated Native American tribes to assess the significance of the find, make recommendations for further evaluation and treatment as necessary and provide proper

management recommendations should potential impacts to the resources be determined by the City to be significant. A written report detailing the site assessment, coordination activities, and management recommendations shall be provided to the City representative by the qualified archaeologist. These recommendations will be documented in the project record. For any recommendations made by interested culturally affiliated Native American tribes that are not implemented, a justification for why the recommendation was not followed will be provided in the project record.

Native American representatives from interested culturally affiliated Native American Tribes and the City representative will also consult to develop measures for long-term management of any discovered tribal cultural resources. Consultation will be limited to actions consistent with the jurisdiction of the City and taking into account ownership of the subject property. To the extent that the City has jurisdiction, routine operation and maintenance within tribal cultural resources retaining tribal cultural integrity shall be consistent with the avoidance and minimization standards identified in this mitigation measure.

If the City determines that the project may cause a significant impact to a tribal cultural resource, and measures are not otherwise identified in the consultation process, the following are examples of mitigation capable of avoiding or substantially lessening potential significant impacts to a tribal cultural resource or alternatives that would avoid significant impacts to the resource. These measures may be considered to avoid or minimize significant adverse impacts and constitute the standard by which an impact conclusion of less-than significant may be reached:

- Avoid and preserve resources in place, including, but not limited to, planning construction to avoid the resources and protect the cultural and natural context, or planning greenspace, parks, or other open space, to incorporate the resources with culturally appropriate protection and management criteria.
- Treat the resource with culturally appropriate dignity taking into account the Tribal cultural values and meaning of the resource, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - Protect the cultural character and integrity of the resource.
 - Protect the traditional use of the resource.
 - Protect the confidentiality of the resource.
- Establish permanent conservation easements or other interests in real property, with culturally appropriate management criteria for the purposes of preserving or using the resources or places.
- Protect the resource.

TCR-1c: Implement Procedures in the Event of the Inadvertent Discovery of Human Remains. If an inadvertent discovery of human remains is made at any time during project-related construction activities or project planning, the City the following performance standards shall be met prior to implementing or continuing actions such as construction, which may result in damage to or destruction of human remains. In accordance with the California Health and Safety Code (HSC), if human remains are encountered during ground-

disturbing activities, the City shall immediately halt potentially damaging excavation in the area of the remains and notify the Sacramento County Coroner and a professional archaeologist to determine the nature of the remains. The Coroner is required to examine all discoveries of human remains within 48 hours of receiving notice of a discovery on private or State lands (HSC Section 7050.5[b]).

If the human remains are of historic age and are determined to be not of Native American origin, the City will follow the provisions of the HSC Section 7000 (et seq.) regarding the disinterment and removal of non-Native American human remains.

If the Coroner determines that the remains are those of a Native American, he or she must contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) by phone within 24 hours of making that determination (HSC Section 7050[c]). After the Coroner's findings have been made, the archaeologist and the NAHC-designated Most Likely Descendant (MLD), in consultation with the landowner, shall determine the ultimate treatment and disposition of the remains. The responsibilities of the City for acting upon notification of a discovery of Native American human remains are identified in California PRC Section 5097.9 et seq.

TCR-2: The applicant shall contract for a Native American Tribal Monitor (monitor) at the project site. The monitor shall possess the knowledge, skills, abilities, and experience established by the NAHC's Guidelines for Native American Monitors.

The applicant shall provide 48-hour advance notice to the monitor prior to initial site excavation. Reasonable access to the project site shall be provided to the monitor during initial ground-disturbing activities and may be extended should the area be determined to require monitoring of deeper sediments. During the course of the monitoring, the applicant and monitor may adjust the frequency—from continuous to intermittent—based on the conditions and professional judgment regarding the potential to impact cultural and tribal cultural resources.

The monitor will be compensated for his/her time. The mechanism for reimbursing the tribal monitor will be at the discretion of the applicant/developer, and may include: individual monitor being hired by the applicant's contractor as a temporary/on-call worker; or the monitor being temporarily employed through a staffing agency.

FINDINGS

With the implementation of the mitigation measures listed above, impacts related to Tribal Cultural Resources would be less than significant.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
13. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS Would the project: A) Result in the determination that adequate capacity is not available to serve the project's demand in addition to existing commitments?			X
B) Require or result in either the construction of new utilities or the expansion of existing utilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts?			X

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Existing utilities within the project limits include natural gas, water, sewer, and telecommunications service. Natural gas is provided by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E). The City provides municipal water service, and wastewater collection (sewer) within the project area. Telecommunications services in the project area are provided by AT&T.

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

For the purposes of this Initial Study, an impact would be considered significant if the project resulted in the need for new or altered services related to fire protection, police protection, or school facilities beyond what was anticipated in the 2035 General Plan:

- result in the determination that adequate capacity is not available to serve the project's demand in addition to existing commitments or
- require or result in either the construction of new utilities or the expansion of existing utilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS UNDER THE 2035 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR AND APPLICABLE GENERAL PLAN POLICIES

The Master EIR evaluated the effects of development under the 2035 General Plan on water supply, sewer and storm drainage, solid waste, electricity, natural gas and telecommunications. See Chapter 4.11.

The Master EIR evaluated the impacts of increased demand for water that would occur with development under the 2035 General Plan. Policies in the General Plan would reduce the impact generally to a less-than-significant level (see Impact 4.11-1) but the Master EIR concluded that the potential increase in demand for potable water in excess of the City's existing diversion and treatment capacity, and which could require construction of new water supply facilities, would result in a significant and unavoidable effect (Impact 4.11-2). The potential need for expansion of wastewater treatment facilities was identified as having a less-than-significant effect (Impact 4.11-4). Impacts on solid waste facilities were less than significant (Impact 4.11-5). Implementation of energy efficient standards as set forth in Titles 20 and 24 of the California

Code of Regulations for residential and non-residential buildings, would reduce effects for energy to a less-than-significant level.

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS – UTILITIES

- A) Result in the determination that adequate capacity is not available to serve the project’s demand in addition to existing commitments?

No additional significant environmental effect. The project would result in the installation of 135 single-family homes that would require hookups to the City’s existing utilities and service systems. The project is consistent with the land use designation outlined in the City’s 2035 General Plan; therefore, the utilities demand required by the project would not exceed the amount anticipated for the buildout of the Planning Area evaluated in the Master EIR.

Wastewater

The proposed project will be provided wastewater collection and treatment services by the City of Sacramento. The Sacramento Area Sewer District (SASD) and the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD Regional San). ~~Wastewater produced by the proposed project would be collected in the G302 sewer basin of the SASD system and would flow into the SRCSD intercepter system~~ will provide ultimate conveyance of the wastewater collected by the City. Sewage would be conveyed to the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (SRWTP) located in Elk Grove, where wastewater is processed. The existing capacity of the SRWTP is 181 million gallons per day (mgd); according to the SRWTP’s NPDES Permit (No. CA0077682) adopted in 2016, the average dry weather flow at that time was approximately 120 mgd (RWQCB 2016). Therefore, adequate capacity exists to treat the additional production of wastewater that will be generated by the proposed project. Policy U 4.1.1 in the Master EIR requires the City to ensure that all new drainage facilities are adequately sized to accommodate stormwater runoff. The Project developer will also be required to complete a sewer study as a condition of the development plan’s approval per the City’s Design and Procedures Manual.

Water Supply

The City is responsible for the provision and maintenance of water service for the project site. The City’s 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) analyzed the water supply, water demand, and water shortage contingency planning for the City’s service area, which would include the project site. According to the 2020 UWMP, under all drought conditions, the City possesses sufficient water supply entitlements to meet the demands of the City’s customers up to the year 2035. In order to calculate population projections, an assumption of a continued growth rate consistent with the 2035 General Plan was used (UWMP 2020). Therefore, the population growth associated with the development of the project site as a residential complex was included within the growth projections evaluated in the 2020 UWMP.

As such, the proposed project is consistent with land use and zoning regulations and would not result in an increase in demand from what has already been anticipated in the City’s Master EIR. Adequate capacity to serve the proposed project’s demands.

Solid Waste

Solid waste collected at residential uses in the area is currently disposed of at the Kiefer Landfill. Kiefer Landfill, located at 12701 Kiefer Boulevard in Sloughouse, California, is the primary location for the disposal of waste by the City. According to the Master EIR, the landfill is permitted to accept up to 10,815 tons per day and the current peak and average daily disposal is substantially lower than the

permitted amount. The landfill is anticipated to be capable of adequately serving the area, including the anticipated population growth, until the year 2065. Operational waste management resulting from the proposed project is not anticipated to significantly contribute to the Kiefer Landfill's remaining daily capacity. Therefore, the proposed project's operational waste generation could be accommodated by the existing capacity of Kiefer Landfill.

- B) Require or result in either the construction of new utilities or the expansion of existing utilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts?

No additional significant environmental effect. Because adequate capacity exists to serve the project's demands in addition to existing commitments, no construction of new utilities or expansion of existing facilities would be required. Implementation of the proposed project would result in no additional environmental effects beyond what was analyzed in the 2035 Master EIR.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None.

FINDINGS

The project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Utilities and Service Systems.

MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Issues:	Effect remains significant with all identified mitigation	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
<p>14. <u>MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE</u></p> <p>A.) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?</p>		X	
<p>B.) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)</p>			X
<p>C.) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?</p>			X

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS – MANDATORY FINDINGS

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

Effect can be mitigated to less than significant. The project is anticipated to have permanent impacts to wetland habitat located within the project area; however, project design provides for the conservation of a large wetland swale as an open corridor bisecting the residential community. Additionally, the implementation of avoidance and minimization measures will reduce project impacts and protect local sensitive habitat resources. The proposed project does have the potential to impact previously undiscovered cultural resources and/or human remains, and therefore will comply with cultural resource policies outlined in the 2035 General Plan (please refer to the cultural

resources section). With implementation of the mitigation measures identified in this IS, compliance with City of Sacramento 2035 General Plan policies, and application of standard BMPs during construction, development of the proposed project would not result in any of the following: 1) degrade the quality of the environment; 2) substantially reduce or impact the habitat of fish or wildlife species; 3) cause fish or wildlife populations to drop below self-sustaining levels; 4) threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community; 5) reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal; or 6) eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. Therefore, the proposed project's impact would be mitigated to have less than significant effects and no additional significant environmental effects would occur with implementation of the proposed project.

- B. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)

No additional significant environmental effect. The proposed project is consistent with the 2035 General Plan land use designation. As such, the proposed project is anticipated by the City per the General Plan and is included in the cumulative analysis of City development that is outlined in the Master EIR. The implementation of project-specific avoidance and minimization measures identified in this Initial Study will reduce the proposed project's potential contribution to cumulative impacts. The potential impacts of the proposed project would be individually limited and would not be cumulatively considerable; additionally, any environmental impacts resulting from the project will be reduced to a less-than-significant level with mitigation. Therefore, the proposed project would not contribute to cumulative impacts in the City of Sacramento and no additional significant environmental effects would occur with implementation of the proposed project.

- C. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

No additional significant environmental effect. The project would not result in either direct or indirect substantial adverse effects on human beings. Hazards and noise can be reduced to less-than-significant levels through implementation of the mitigation measures included in this study.

SECTION IV - ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would potentially be affected by this project.

<input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Services
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy and Mineral Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Circulation
<input type="checkbox"/> Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology and Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Utilities and Service Systems
<input type="checkbox"/> None Identified	

SECTION V - DETERMINATION

On the basis of the initial study:

I find that (a) the proposed project is an anticipated subsequent project identified and described in the 2035 General Plan Master EIR; (b) the proposed project is consistent with the 2035 General Plan land use designation and the permissible densities and intensities of use for the project site; (c) that the discussions of cumulative impacts, growth inducing impacts, and irreversible significant effects in the Master EIR are adequate for the proposed project; and (d) the proposed project will have additional significant environmental effects not previously examined in the Master EIR. A Mitigated Negative Declaration will be prepared. Mitigation measures from the Master EIR will be applied to the project as appropriate, and additional feasible mitigation measures and alternatives will be incorporated to revise the proposed project before the negative declaration is circulated for public review, to avoid or mitigate the identified effects to a level of insignificance. (CEQA Guidelines Section 15178(b))

Scott Johnson

Signature

Revised November 29, 2022

Date

Scott Johnson

Printed Name

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