



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING  
SERVICES

CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
CALIFORNIA

300 Richards Boulevard  
Third Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95811

**MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

**REVISED APRIL 23, 2012**

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

**Shasta Park Reservoir (X14005400)** - The project includes the construction, operation and maintenance of a groundwater well and water reservoir on an approximately two-acre parcel east of Bruceville Road and north of Imagination Way in south Sacramento. The reservoir would have a capacity of approximately 4 million gallons. A groundwater well would be installed on the site, with a capacity of 2 million gallons per day, and an anticipated **maximum** withdrawal of approximately **2 2,200** acre-feet per year. A water treatment facility would be constructed with a capacity of 2 million gallons per day, and a pump station with a capacity of 15 million gallons per day. The pump station would pump water from the reservoir to users.

The project site is located on the north side of Imagination Parkway, approximately 1,275 **900** feet west of SR-99 and directly east of the Cosumnes River College's Bruceville Road entrance in the South Sacramento Community Plan area. The site consists of a portion of Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 117-0182-023 in the City of Sacramento, Sacramento County.

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, with mitigation measures 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 documentation may be reviewed or obtained at the City of Sacramento, Community Development Department, 300 Richards Boulevard, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Sacramento, CA 95811 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (or 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with prior arrangement). The CDD is closed the first Friday of each month.

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

By: *Ch. Bafar*

Date: *4/23/2012*

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**Shasta Park Water Reservoir Project**  
**(Z14005400)**  
**REVISED INITIAL STUDY**

**ANTICIPATED SUBSEQUENT PROJECT IN THE 2030 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR**

This Initial Study was 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.  
The Lead Agency is the City of Sacramento.

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**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 2030 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.

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## Section I - Background

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**Project Name:** Shasta Park Water Reservoir (Z14005400)

**Project Location:** The proposed project site is located approximately 4,275 900 feet west of SR-99 and directly east of the Cosumnes River College's Bruceville Road entrance in the South Sacramento Community Plan area. The site consists of a portion of Assessor's Parcel Number 117-0182-023.

**Project Proponent:** City of Sacramento

**Project Planner:** Brett Ewart, Associate Engineer, Department of Utilities; Phone: (916) 808-1725; Email: bewart@cityofsacramento.org

**Environmental Planner:** Scott Johnson, Associate Planner, Community Development Department; Phone: (916) 808-5842; Email: srjohnson@cityofsacramento.org

**Date Initial Study Completed:** April 7, 2011, Revised April 23, 2012

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 the Proposed Project is an anticipated subsequent project identified and described in the 2030 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 2030 General Plan. See CEQA Guidelines Section 15176 (b) and (d).

The City prepared the attached Initial Study to (a) review the discussions of cumulative impacts, growth inducing impacts, and irreversible significant effects in the 2030 General Plan Master EIR to determine their adequacy for the project (see CEQA Guidelines Section 15178(b),(c)) and (b) to 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)). The Master EIR mitigation measures that are identified as appropriate are set forth in the applicable technical sections below.

This analysis incorporates by reference the general discussion portions of the 2030 General Plan Master EIR. (CEQA Guidelines Section 15150(a)). The Master EIR is available for public review at the City of Sacramento, Community Development Department, 300 Richards Boulevard, Third Floor, Sacramento, CA 95811, and on the City's web site at:

[www.cityofsacramento.org/dsd/planning/environmental-review/eirs/](http://www.cityofsacramento.org/dsd/planning/environmental-review/eirs/)

The City is soliciting views of interested persons and agencies on the content of the environmental information presented in this document. Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date, but no later than the 30-day review period ending May 12, 2011. Please send written responses to:

Scott Johnson, Associate Planner  
City of Sacramento, Community Development Department  
300 Richards Blvd, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95811  
[srjohnson@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:srjohnson@cityofsacramento.org)  
Direct Line: (916) 808-5842

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## Section II - Project Description

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### Introduction

The project includes the construction, operation and maintenance of a groundwater well and water reservoir on an approximately two-acre parcel east of Bruceville Road and north of Imagination Way in south Sacramento (see Figure 1, Vicinity Map and **Revised** Figure 2, Location Map). The reservoir would be constructed of either steel or reinforced concrete and would be approximately 160 feet in diameter with a height of 35 feet.

The reservoir would have a capacity of approximately 4 million gallons. A groundwater well would be installed on the site, with a capacity of 2 million gallons per day, and an anticipated **maximum** withdrawal of approximately ~~2~~ **2,200** acre-feet per year. A water treatment facility would be constructed with a capacity of 2 million gallons per day, and a pump station with a capacity of 15 million gallons per day. The pump station would pump water from the reservoir to users.

The pumps and treatment plant would be powered with electricity, and an electrical control building would be constructed to house the electrical equipment.

The site would be improved with ~~a wall~~ **fencing** and planter ~~on~~ **along** the perimeter. See **Revised** Figure 3, Site Plan.

### Project Background

The City obtains the majority of its water supply from two surface water sources (Sacramento and American rivers), with groundwater making up the balance of supply. Most of the City's water supply comes from surface water that is diverted pursuant to the City's surface water rights and entitlements. These consist of water rights established before 1914, water rights established after 1914, and a settlement contract the City has with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation).

The City has historically constructed, expanded, and improved its water diversion, treatment, and transmission facilities as needed to accommodate increasing water supply demands. The City has planned for various system improvements to accommodate projected peak hour demands in the 2005 Water Distribution System Master Plan. Groundwater would be drawn from the Central Basin, treated and then stored on-site available for distribution as necessary. These improvements include construction of the proposed project.

The proposed project is consistent with both City and regional water planning efforts and the water rights held by the City. The goals, agreements, and implementation strategies for these efforts appear in various documents, several of which are discussed below.

### City of Sacramento 2030 General Plan

In March 2009, the City adopted the 2030 General Plan. In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the City Council certified the Master Environmental Impact Report (Master EIR) for the 2030 General Plan as part of its approval of the 2030 General Plan. The 2030 General Plan establishes policies to accommodate the increase in level of development

anticipated to occur in Sacramento by 2030, including goals for developing water supply utilities. The Master EIR identifies and assesses the potential environmental impacts of implementing the overall 2030 General Plan. The Master EIR has evaluated the cumulative effects of operations and growth associated with the general plan, and the Master EIR references the City's 2005 Distribution Master Plan in its analysis. (Master EIR Public Utilities, Water Supply, page 6.11-2)

The proposed project components are consistent with the land use designation and permissible densities and intensities of use for the proposed project, as set forth in the 2030 General Plan. Consistent with the Master EIR, the City prepared this Initial Study (IS) to (1) review the discussions of cumulative impacts, growth inducing impacts, and irreversible significant effects in the Master EIR to determine their adequacy for the proposed project (see CEQA Guidelines Sections 15177 and 15178) and (2) to identify any potential new or additional project-specific significant environmental effects not analyzed in the Master EIR, and mitigation measures or alternatives, if any, that may avoid or mitigate the identified effects to a level of insignificance.

The 2030 General Plan and Master EIR are available at <http://www.sacgp.org/>. The City's web site includes information regarding City operations, programs and departments and may be viewed at [www.cityofsacramento.org](http://www.cityofsacramento.org). This document is available on the Community Development web site at <http://www.sacgp.org/index.html>.

### **County of Sacramento Well Ordinance**

City Code section 13.04.660 provides that the County of Sacramento's well ordinance applies within the City limits. The City would obtain a permit from the County of Sacramento, Environmental Management Department pursuant to Chapter 6.28 of the County Code to construct the proposed water well. The purpose of the County's well ordinance, and state law providing for such regulation, is to protect water supplies by ensuring the proper construction, operation and abandonment of water wells. See County Code section 16.28.000 and other provisions of the well ordinance.

### **Construction:**

Construction of the well and reservoir would require approximately 9 to 14 months. Construction would occur during weekdays during normal business hours. Drilling activities for the water well may require 24-hour activities for approximately a week or two. Equipment for drilling activities would include a drilling rig, trailers (drilling equipment and monitoring trailer), and tanks to prevent drilling materials/mud from entering waterways. Construction of the proposed production well would consist of installing a conductor casing, drilling a borehole, constructing the well, development, and production testing. A conductor pipe, a large-diameter steel pipe, would be installed to about 50 feet below ground surface (bgs) to create a permanent seal into a clay layer. After the steel conductor pipe is placed in the hole, concrete would be injected around the pipe to complete the seal.

Initial earthwork would consist of clearing, grubbing, rough grading and excavation for foundation. Typical equipment used for these activities include possible use of a scraper and/or excavator, water truck for control of dust and moisture content of the soil, compaction equipment, and dump trucks.

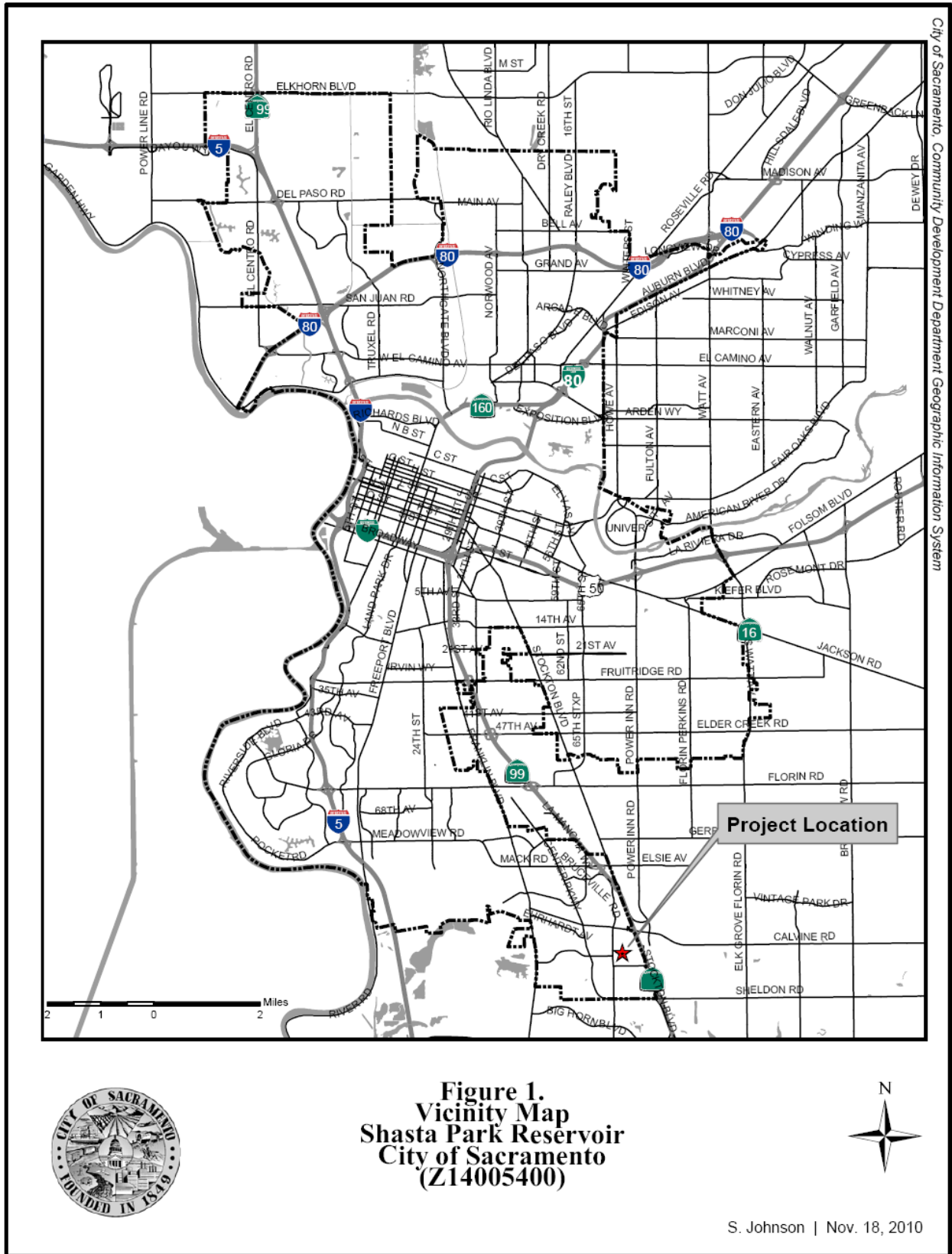
Construction of the reservoir would begin with installing potable water lines below ground at the location of the reservoir. The foundation of the reservoir would then be laid followed by reservoir wall construction. Once the walls are constructed, the reservoir will be wire wrapped (if the

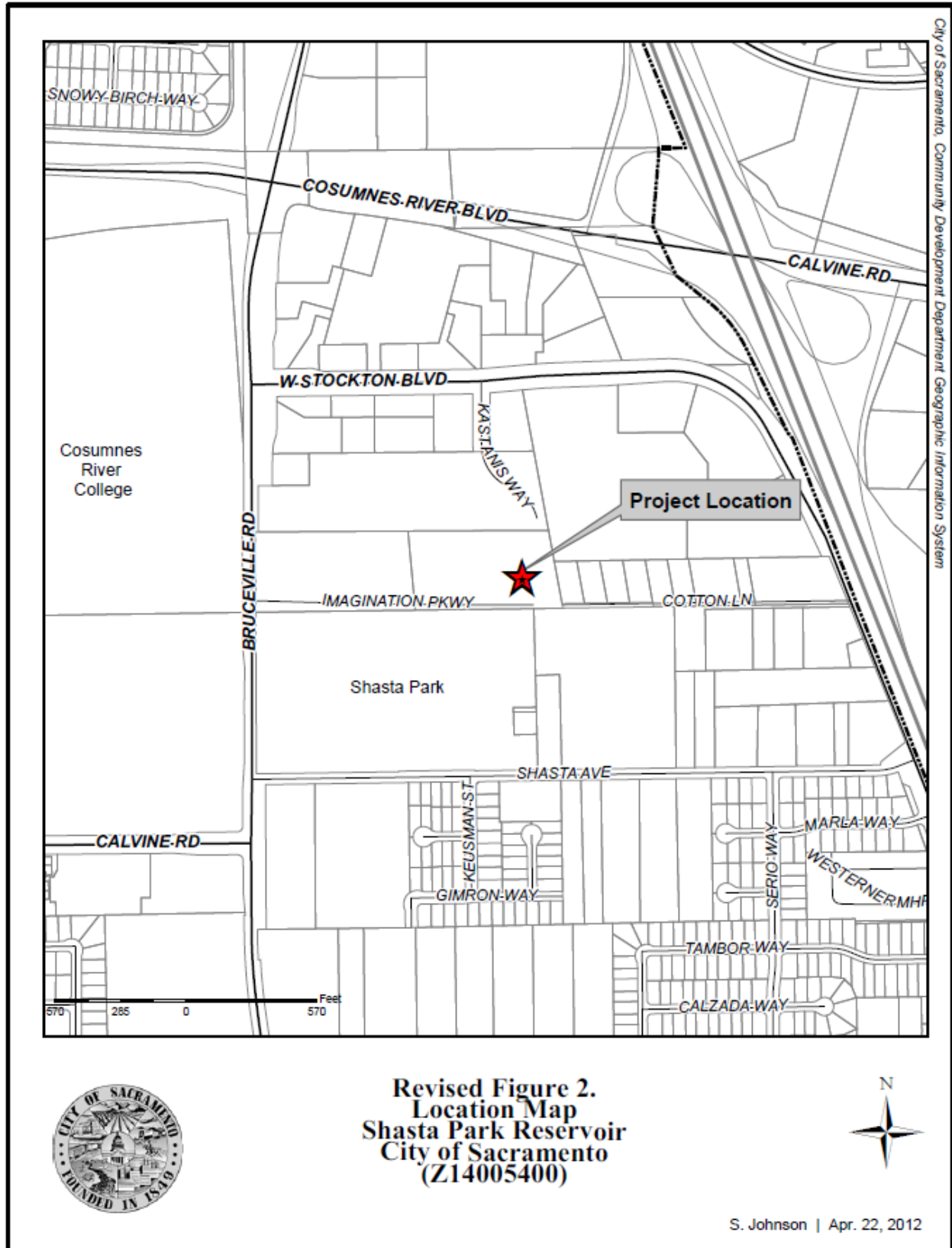


concrete construction method is used) and the roof constructed. The pump and mechanical equipment would be installed followed by the construction of the pump station and control building. After the reservoir and associated mechanical pumping equipment are constructed and installed, the remaining site piping will be installed followed by paving and finishing site work including landscaping and wall/fence construction (wall/fence construction and some site paving may occur earlier in the process as warranted).

**Operation and Maintenance:**

Operation of the site would consist of mechanical activities used for pumping and treating water within the constructed and installed equipment on site. A back-up diesel generator would be onsite for emergency uses. Maintenance of the reservoir would require minimal activity. City reservoirs are visited on a regular basis by employees who inspect the grounds and examine the reservoir structure. None of the facilities or operations would require assignment of staff to the site.





REVISED FIGURE 3  
SITE PLAN



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### Section III – Environmental Checklist and Discussion

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#### LAND USE AND AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

The General Plan of the City of Sacramento has assigned a land use designation of Medium Density Residential (MDR, 16-29 dwelling units per acre) for the subject site. The project site is located within the South Sacramento Community Plan Area, which has designated the site as Special Planning District. The Zoning Code designates a zoning of Multi-family Plan Review (R-2B-R) for the project site (Section 17.20.010). Construction and operation of City utilities would be deemed consistent with the land use designations for the project site.

The project site consists of a two-acre portion of a vacant parcel (APN: 117-0182-023). The site is primarily surrounded by vacant land that is proposed for development. There are existing rural single-family residential units to the east. The closest residence is located approximately 435 feet to the east. To the north of the site is the College Square Planned Unit Development, which is currently in the development stage of a mixture of land uses, including various commercial and medium to high density residential uses. To the south of the site is the proposed Shasta Park. The project site has historically been used for dry farming and is not currently in agricultural production.

In order to be considered as Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance, the site must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the preceding four years, and the soil must meet designated physical and chemical criteria. According to the United States Department of Agriculture definition, Unique Farmland is land other than Prime Farmland that is used for the production of specific high-value food and fiber crops. The project site has historically been pastureland that at times supported dry land farming, but there are no records indicating that the land has been used for irrigated farming within the preceding four years. Since the project site does not qualify as Prime Farmland of Statewide Importance or Unique Farmland, there would be no adverse effect on farmland.

The construction and operation of a reservoir and groundwater well are uses consistent with the designation of the site in the 2030 General Plan (mixed uses) and the City's long-range plans for public safety and public services.

#### ENERGY

Once constructed, the operation of the well would consume approximately 950K KWH per year and the operation of the well would 710K KWH per year for a total energy consumption of 1.66 M KWH per year for the facility.

| 1. AIR QUALITY   | Effect will be studied in the EIR | Effect can be mitigated to less than significant | No additional significant environmental effect |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Would the Proposed Project:  |                                   |  | X  |
| A) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?  |                                   |  |  |
| B) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)? |                                   |  | X  |
| C) Exposure sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?   |                                   |  | X  |
| D) Interfere with or impede the City's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?   |                                   |  | X  |

### Thresholds 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 General Plan policies or mitigation from the General Plan MEIR:

- Construction emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> above 85 pounds per day;
- Operational emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> or ROG above 65 pounds per day;
- Violation of any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation;
- PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations equal to or greater than five percent of the State ambient air quality standard (i.e., 50 micrograms/cubic meter for 24 hours) in areas where there is evidence of existing or projected violations of this standard. However, if project emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> and ROG are below the emission thresholds given above, then the project would not result in violations of the PM<sub>10</sub> ambient air quality standards;
- 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.

## **Answers to Checklist Questions**

### **Question A and B**

The proposed project would not generate air pollutants, such as smoke or dust, as part of normal operation. The small amount of traffic generated by construction or maintenance employees would not result in significant regional air quality impacts or “hot spots” at nearby intersections. Local roadways are not significantly impacted by vehicular traffic. The project is not expected to generate through traffic to significantly impact the air quality at roadway intersections in the area.

Air emissions during construction result from activities consisting of grading and excavation and the actual construction of the structures and improvements. Construction activities may cause the air quality to temporarily degrade during construction due to emissions from heavy construction equipment and ground disturbing activities. Emissions in the grading and excavation phase of construction are primarily associated with exhaust of heavy equipment and the dust that is generated through grading activities. Emissions from the described construction activity were calculated using the URBEMIS 2007, Version 9.2.4 program, and following the guidelines of the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD). It is estimated that site activities would generate approximately 54.10 pounds of NO<sub>x</sub> per day. These emissions fall below the threshold of significance for construction emissions. The SMAQMD Guidelines provide that if a project’s NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from heavy-duty mobile sources are less than significant, as here, then the lead agency may assume that exhaust emissions of other pollutants from operation of equipment and worker commute vehicles are also less than significant.

Daily operation of the Shasta Reservoir and associated pump station and well will not create significant operational emissions.

Based on the analysis of site activities associated with construction of the Shasta Reservoir, both construction and operational emissions are less than significant.

### **Question C**

Construction of the Shasta Reservoir will not create significant construction or operational emissions. The nearest residents are located approximately 435 feet to the east and there is a park to the south of the site. Water reservoirs and wells do not generate substantial emissions and will not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. This impact would be less than significant.

### **Question D**

The City Council approved the 2030 General Plan on March 3, 2009. As part of its action, the City Council certified the Master Environmental Impact Report (Master EIR) that evaluated the environmental effects of development that is reasonably anticipated under the new general plan. The Master EIR includes extensive discussion of the potential effects of greenhouse gas emissions. The Master EIR discussions regarding climate change are incorporated here by reference. See, for example:



Draft EIR: 6.1 Air Quality (Page 6.1-1)  
Final EIR: City Climate Change master Response (Page 4-1)  
Errata No. 2: Climate Change (Page 12)

These documents are available at: [www.cityofsacramento.org/dsd/planning/environmental-review/eirs/](http://www.cityofsacramento.org/dsd/planning/environmental-review/eirs/) and at the offices of the Community Development Department at 300 Richards Boulevard, Third Floor, Sacramento, California.

The proposed project is consistent with the land use designation for the project site. The project would result in the generation of greenhouse gases during construction and operation, as discussed below.

#### Short-term Construction Emissions

During construction of the project greenhouse gas emissions would be emitted from the operation of construction equipment and from worker and building supply vendor vehicles. The project area source and construction CO<sub>2</sub> emissions generated by the project would be approximately 110.8 metric tons per year, as modeled with the URBEMIS 2007, Version 9.2.4 program. These emissions would equate to approximately 0.000023 percent of the estimated GHG emissions for all sources in California (483 million metric tons) (CARB 2009). Construction would not exceed two years.

#### Long-term Operational Emissions

The major source of greenhouse gas emissions associated with the proposed project would be from energy use. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions make up the primary greenhouse gas. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions during operation of the project at full build-out would be approximately 444.5 metric tons, as estimated using the CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Calculator for Electricity and Natural Gas by AECOM, which is based upon the California Climate Action Registry General Reporting Protocol Version 2.2, March 2007. These estimated emissions, which utilize SMUD's 2009 emission factors, equate to about 0.000092 percent of California's total emissions.

Buildings constructed as part of the project would be required to comply with current California building codes that enforce energy efficiency.

#### Ongoing Activities

The 2030 General Plan included direction to staff to prepare a Climate Action Plan for the City. Staff has continued work on this plan since adoption of the 2030 General Plan. The Climate Action Plan will provide additional guidance for the City's ongoing efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Climate Action Plan is scheduled for completion in 2011.

Action continues at the state and federal level to combat climate change. In December 2009 the Environmental Protection Agency listed greenhouse gases as harmful emissions under the Clean Air Act. This action could eventually result in regulations that would have as their purpose the reduction of such emissions.

The Master EIR concluded that greenhouse gas emissions that could be emitted by development that is consistent with the 2030 General Plan would be cumulatively considerable and unavoidable (Errata No. 2, Page 12). The Master EIR includes a full analysis of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change, and adequately addresses these issues.



The project is consistent with the City's goals as set forth in the 2030 General Plan and MEIR relating to reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The project would not impede the City's efforts to comply with AB32 requirements. The project would not have any significant additional environmental effects relating to greenhouse gas emissions or climate change.

### **Finding**

The proposed project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to air quality.

| <b>2. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES</b>   | <b>Effect will be studied in the EIR</b> | <b>Effect can be mitigated to less than significant</b> | <b>No additional significant environmental effect</b> |
|--|--|---|---|
| Would the Proposed Project:  |  |   |   |
| A) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? |  | X   |   |
| B) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?   |  |   | X   |
| C) Have substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?  |  |   | X   |
| D) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?   |  |   | X   |
| E) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?   |  |   | X   |
| F) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?   |  |   | X   |

## **Background**

A Biological Resource Assessment of the Parkway at Cosumnes project site, including the proposed reservoir site, was performed in 2004 to determine whether any special status plant or wildlife species were present on the site. This was followed up by a Preliminary Biological Constraints Analysis for a ±10.6-acre Bruceville Road Parcels (APN: 117-0182-022 and 117-0182-023) by Foothill Associates in January 2007. The purpose of this analysis was to update the initial 2004 report and to determine whether any special status plants or wildlife species or sensitive habitats, such as wetlands, are located on the subject site.

The project site consists of disturbed non-native annual grassland. The site is bordered by annual grassland and new commercial construction to the north, single-family residential areas and annual grassland to the east, the recently developed Shasta Park to the south, and Bruceville Road and Cosumnes River College to the west. The site is regularly disked for weed/fire suppression. The site's elevation is approximately 25 feet above mean sea level.

### **Special Status Species Evaluation**

The special status species evaluation considers those species identified as having relative scarcity and/or declining populations by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). 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 CDFG. Species considered to be "special animals" or "fully protected" by the CDFG 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)
- Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (33 USC 401 et seq.)
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 USC 661-666)
- Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands (May 24, 1977)
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (16 USC 703-711)
- California Environmental Quality Act (PRC 21000 et seq.)
- California Endangered Species Act (California Fish and Game Code 2050 et seq.)
- Native Plant Protection Act (California Fish and Game 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)

### **Federal Endangered Species Act**

The Federal Endangered Species Act defines 'take' (Section 9) and prohibits 'taking' of a listed endangered or threatened species (16 U.S.C. 1532, 50 CFR 17.3). 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 U.S.C. 1539, 50 CFR 13).

### **Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act**

Migratory birds are protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 (16 U.S.C. 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.

## Thresholds of Significance

For the purposes of this Initial Study, an impact is considered significant if construction and/or implementation of the project would result in the following impacts that remain significant after implementation of General Plan policies or mitigation from the General Plan MEIR:

- 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).

“Special-status” is defined as species that 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).

## Answers to Checklist Questions

### Question A, D-F

A number of special status raptors including Swainson's hawk and burrowing owl would have a reasonable potential for occurring in the study area based on the presence of suitable foraging habitat. There are no trees located on the subject site and therefore, nesting of raptors species is very unlikely.

The proposed project site consists of approximately 2 acres of vacant land dominated by annual grassland species. As stated above the project area has been recently disked and was disturbed during the construction of Shasta Park and Imagination Way. The site is undeveloped and was historically farmland. The site is now fallow and plant species include non-native grassland species.

During the site visit in January of 2007 by Foothill Associates, no wildlife was observed at the site. However, review of the California Department of Fish & Game (DFG) California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) also identified historic occurrences of burrowing owls (*Athene cunicularia*)

northwest of the site at the Cosumnes River College Campus. Based, on the historic documentation of burrowing owls in the area, the project site could provide habitat for burrowing owls. Even though no owls were observed at the site during the site visit, owls could inhabit the area prior to development of the site, which could result in potential impacts to this species. The mitigation measures listed below will ensure that potential impacts to burrowing owls are less-than-significant.

Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) is a tree-nesting species known to nest in the area. Swainson's nesting activity has been documented within approximately two to three miles of the study area during the 2002 breeding season according to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB). Although some of the nest trees might have since been displaced by development or are no longer active, it is reasonable to assume that Swainson's hawks are actively nesting in the region.

Development of the proposed project site would remove potential foraging habitat for Swainson's hawk and foraging/nesting habitat of burrowing owl. The City of Sacramento requires mitigation for impacts to Swainson's hawk foraging habitat within ten miles of an active nest. Loss of foraging habitat is considered a potentially significant impact unless mitigated.

Construction and operation of the proposed facilities would not interfere with the movement of any protected species. No trees would be removed, and no habitat conservation plan or other conservation plan affects the project site.

### Question B & C

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency regulate the discharge of dredge and fill material into "waters of the United States" under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Wetlands are defined for regulatory purposes as "those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions." Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas (33 CFR 328.3, 40 CFR 230.3). Wetlands also include less conspicuous wetland types such as vernal pools and other seasonal wetlands. The Corps will typically take jurisdiction over the portion of a project study area that contains waters of the United States and adjacent wetlands.

The site does not contain any wetland features. There are scattered weak wetland indicator plant species throughout the site vicinity such as curly dock (*Rumex crispus*), English plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), and Mediterranean barley (*Hordeum marinum*). However, these plants species are not associated with any wetland hydrology such as depressions or riverine features with a defined bed and bank. The site has been repeatedly tilled and leveled and this process has removed any significant topography that would support significant ponding of water. Based on these observations, there are no waters of the U.S. or other wetland features on the site that would be subject to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers jurisdiction. No riparian habitat occurs on the project site.

## Mitigation Measures

Implementation of the following measures would reduce the impact to a less-than-significant level.

BR-1a) If construction or grading is scheduled during February to September, a pre-construction survey shall be conducted and prepared by a qualified biologist within thirty (30) days prior to the start of any grading or construction activities to determine the presence of any special status species or species of special concern (nesting burrowing owls).

b) If an adults-only active burrowing owl burrow(s) nest is discovered during the pre-construction survey the monitoring biologist shall install a one-way door on the burrow(s) and monitor and inspect per DFG guidelines. If an active nest with chicks is encountered, one-way doors shall not be used unless authorized by DFG in writing. No construction shall occur near the nest until the monitoring biologist has consulted with the DFG on allowing construction to proceed. The monitoring biologist shall, through consultations with DFG, determine an appropriate buffer between the nest and any construction activity allowed to proceed on the project site prior to the fledging of the chicks. No construction or grading activities shall begin until the monitoring biologist has submitted a written clearance to the Department of Development Services that the burrowing owl(s) have vacated or been safely relocated by the monitoring biologist. After active burrows are vacated, the burrow must be destroyed completely by the monitoring biologist prior to grading or construction activity.

BR-2) Prior to the issuance of grading permits, the project applicant shall preserve an equal amount of suitable raptor foraging habitat, at a 1:1 ratio. Suitable foraging habitat includes fallow land, alfalfa or other low growing crops. Preservation shall occur through the purchase of credits at a CDFG-approved mitigation bank which has the project within its service area, or through the purchase of conservation easements or fee title of lands with suitable foraging habitat no further than a ten (10) mile radius of the perimeter of the project site, or through any combination of the foregoing. Any habitat identified by the applicant shall be evaluated using the following five criteria in consultation with the CDFG:

- i. Does the mitigation parcel provide suitable foraging habitat?
- ii. Is the parcel located in close proximity to the impacted foraging habitat?
- iii. Is the parcel adjacent to other protected habitat thereby contributing to a larger habitat preserve?
- iv. Is the parcel outside of areas identified for urban growth?

A mitigation plan shall be established and submitted to the City for approval prior to the issuance of grading permits and, at a minimum, shall include confirmation of title and encumbrances, details on mitigation site location, development, maintenance and monitoring. Any easements shall be in compliance with Government Code Section 65965. Land and easements shall be approved by the City in consultation with CDFG.

## Finding

With implementation of the identified mitigation measures any additional significant environmental effects would be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

| 3. CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES   | Effect will be studied in the EIR | Effect can be mitigated to less than significant | No additional significant environmental effect |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Would the Proposed Project:  |                                   |  |  |
| A) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?    |                                   |  | X  |
| B) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5? |                                   | X  |  |
| C) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?              |                                   |  | X  |

## Background

The project site is not in an area identified as having high sensitivity for archaeological resources. (Master EIR, Figure 6.4-1) High sensitivity areas are those most sensitive to urban development due to the potential presence of cultural resources. These areas include areas along the Sacramento and American Rivers, North Natomas, portions of North Sacramento which lie north of I-80 along drainage courses, the American River floodplain, the southwest portion of South Natomas, the Florin Road vicinity, and the unsurveyed drainage ditches of South Sacramento.

## Summary of Analysis under the 2030 General Plan Master EIR, Including Cumulative Impacts, Growth Inducing Impacts, and Irreversible Significant Effects

**Impacts 6.4-2 and 6.4-4** in the Master EIR identified cumulative effects on archaeological resources resulting from implementation of the 2030 General Plan as significant and unavoidable. The Master EIR identified development in high sensitivity areas, especially along the rivers and downtown, as areas in which such impacts would predominate.

**Policies HCR 2.2 and HCR 23.1.15** in the 2030 General Plan are in place to protect archaeological resources by requiring surveys, research and testing prior to excavation in high sensitivity areas and the proper handling of discovered resources and enforcement of applicable laws and regulations. The project site is not in an identified highly sensitive area.

The Master EIR references the requirements of California Health and Safety Code section 7050.5(b) relating to procedures to be followed in the event human remains are discovered.

## Thresholds of Significance

For purposes of this Initial Study, impacts to cultural and/or historic resources 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:

- Cause a substantial change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 or
- Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource

## Answers to Checklist Questions

### Questions A-E

There are no structures located on the project site. While the project site is not located in a high sensitivity area for cultural or historical resources, construction of the project could result in the discovery of previously unidentified cultural or historical resources. The City has committed to limiting potential impacts by incorporating specific mitigation measures. Without mitigation, the impact would be considered potentially significant.

Because unknown archaeological or historic resources may be discovered as part of any excavation, there is a project-specific impact. The mitigation identified below establishes procedures for responding to such discoveries during construction. Implementation would reduce any project-specific effects to a less-than-significant level.

### Mitigation Measures

Implementation of the following mitigation measures during construction would ensure that the impact would be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

CR-1a) In the event that any prehistoric subsurface archeological features or deposits, including locally darkened soil ("midden"), that could conceal cultural deposits, animal bone, obsidian and/or mortars are discovered during construction-related earth-moving activities, all work within 50 meters of the resources shall be halted, and the City shall consult with a qualified archeologist to assess the significance of the find. Archeological test excavations shall be conducted by a qualified archeologist to aid in determining the nature and integrity of the find. If the find is determined to be significant by the qualified archeologist, representatives of the City and the qualified archeologist shall coordinate to determine the appropriate course of action. All significant cultural materials recovered shall be subject to scientific analysis and professional museum curation. In addition, a report shall be prepared by the qualified archeologist according to current professional standards.

- b) If a Native American site is discovered, the evaluation process shall include consultation with the appropriate Native American representatives.

If Native American archeological, ethnographic, or spiritual resources are involved, all identification and treatment shall be conducted by qualified archeologists, who are certified by the Society of Professional Archeologists (SOPA) and/or meet the federal standards as stated in the Code of Federal Regulations (36 CFR 61), and Native American representatives, who are approved by the local Native American community as scholars of the cultural traditions.

In the event that no such Native American is available, persons who represent tribal governments and/or organizations in the locale in which resources could be affected shall be consulted. If historic archeological sites are involved, all identified treatment is



to be carried out by qualified historical archeologists, who shall meet either Register of Professional Archeologists (RPA), or 36 CFR 61 requirements.

- CR-2 If a human bone or bone of unknown origin is found during construction, all work shall stop in the vicinity of the find and the County Coroner shall be contacted immediately. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission, who shall notify the person most likely believed to be a descendant. The most likely descendant shall work with the contractor to develop a program for re-internment of the human remains and any associated artifacts. No additional work is to take place within the immediate vicinity of the find until the identified appropriate actions have taken place.

### **Finding**

The proposed project would have project-specific additional significant environmental effects for cultural resources not previously examined in the Master EIR. The identified mitigation measures would reduce any project-specific effects to a less-than-significant level.

| <b>4.GEOLOGY AND SOILS</b>   | <b>Effect will be studied in the EIR</b> | <b>Effect can be mitigated to less than significant</b> | <b>No additional significant environmental effect</b> |
|--|--|---|---|
| Would the Proposed Project:  |  |   |   |
| A) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking or seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?           |  |   | X   |
| B) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?  |  |   | X   |
| C) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse? |  |   | X   |
| D) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?   |  |   | X   |

### **Thresholds of Significance**

For purposes of this Initial Study, impacts from geologic or soil conditions may be considered significant if construction and/or implementation of the Proposed Project would result in the following impact that remains significant after implementation of General Plan policies or mitigation from the General Plan MEIR:

A project 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.

### **Answers to Checklist Questions**

#### **Question A**

Cities in California are required to consider seismic safety as part of the General Plan Health and Safety element. The inclusion of seismic considerations in the General Plan serves to establish policies that help protect lives and property from seismic and geologic activity or unstable soil conditions. As part of the process of complying with Uniform Building Code (UBC) requirements, geotechnical engineering reports are required to assess site-specific conditions. The application of regulatory requirements minimizes the potential for significant geologic, soils, or seismic impacts.

A geotechnical investigation report for the project site was prepared on December 22, 2006 by Soil Search Engineering (SSE). Review of the 1997 UBC indicates that the site is located within Seismic Zone 3 and a site coefficient of  $S_D$  would be appropriate for seismic analysis of the site." The site is not within a current Alquist-Priolo Special Study Zone. Because the project is required to comply with regulatory requirements, seismic hazards are less than significant.

### **Question B-D**

Preliminary findings of the SSE report detailed potential issues with plasticity and soil expansion potential, and pavement subgrade quality. While issues have been identified on the project site, the report suggests the site is suitable for the proposed project as long as proper engineering practices are followed for preparation of the soil (excavation and removing of the existing soil and importing and proper use of engineered fill). Regulatory building requirements would ensure further geotechnical investigation and adherence to appropriate construction standards; therefore, the impact is less than significant.

The SSE report indicated that no free groundwater was encountered below the existing ground elevation in the exploratory test holes at the time of drilling. State regulations and standards related to geotechnical considerations are reflected in the Sacramento City Code. Construction and design would be required to comply with the latest City-adopted code at the time of construction, including the Uniform Building Code. The code would require construction and design of buildings to meet standards that would reduce risks associated with subsidence or liquefaction. Any dewatering activities associated with the proposed project must comply with application requirements established by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) to ensure that such activities would not result in substantial changes in groundwater flow or quality. Compliance with the RWQCB requirements would ensure a less than significant impact and no mitigation is required.

### **Finding**

The proposed project would not have any project-specific additional significant environmental effects for geology and soils not previously examined in the Master EIR, and no new mitigation measures or alternatives are required.

| <b>5. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS</b>   | <b>Effect will be studied in the EIR</b> | <b>Effect can be mitigated to less than significant</b> | <b>No additional significant environmental effect</b> |
|---|--|---|---|
| Would the Proposed Project:   |  |   |   |
| A) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?   |  |   | X   |
| B) Create a significant hazard to the public or environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?   |  |   | X   |
| C) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?   |  |   | X   |
| D) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?                  |  |   | X   |
| E) Result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area, for a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport, or public use airport? |  |   | X   |

## **Background**

The site is currently vacant. The property has been periodically disked for weed abatement. Based on a review of aerial photos, it appears that historically there was a structure located on the southwestern corner of the site, but the structure had been removed years ago. No odoriferous soils or stressed vegetation were observed on the surface of the property and no evidence of hazardous materials contamination was found on the project site during a site visit.

Goals and policies have been developed by the County of Sacramento concerning the management of hazardous substances to protect human health and the environment (Sacramento County Hazardous Waste Management Plan, 1988; 1986 to 2006 General Plan for Sacramento, 1987). These goals and policies are in conformance with the Cal/OSHA, Cal EPA, and Office of Emergency Services requirements and apply to the proposed project.

## **Thresholds of Significance**

For purposes of this Initial Study, impacts due to hazards or hazardous materials 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:

- 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.

## **Answers to Checklist Questions**

### **Question A**

The site is not listed on the most current County of Sacramento Toxic Site Cleanup Report, which lists sites where unauthorized releases of potentially hazardous materials have occurred.

### **Question B**

The proposed site plan would be reviewed for adequacy by the Fire Department. Recommendations by the department would be incorporated into site design. Construction traffic from the development of the proposed project would not be anticipated to block roads or interfere with emergency plans due to the implementation of a traffic control plan during construction. In addition, project operational traffic would not interfere with any emergency routes or evacuation plans. The impact would be considered less than significant.

### **Question C**

The project would construct and operate a water reservoir, groundwater well and treatment facility, and booster pumping station. None of these require storage of hazardous materials. If needed, groundwater treatment facilities which may include treatment for Iron, Manganese, Arsenic and/or gasses. The project would not result in the creation or exposure of any health hazard or potential health hazard. The impact would be considered less than significant.

### **Question D**

The subject property is presently vacant and shows no evidence of having contained aboveground or underground motor fuel storage tanks, oil/water separators, repair garages, hydraulic lifts or dry cleaning facilities; and no known regional hazardous material impairments to ground water quality beneath or within one-quarter mile of the subject property were identified. Any septic system and associated leach fields and/or dry wells would be abandoned in accordance with local ordinances and the recommendations of a qualified geotechnical engineer and if necessary, wells be properly destroyed – this procedure requires a well abandonment permit from the Sacramento County Department of Environmental Management. If necessary, removal of any septic system and/or well would necessitate permits, essentially ensuring that appropriate measures would be implemented. Since these practices would be enforced through existing laws and regulations and the subject site has no record or evidence of containing hazardous materials, the impact would be considered less than significant.

### **Question E**

The majority of the site consists of disturbed grassland. Absent development, the fire hazard would increase due to continuing vegetative growth on the vacant parcels. Development of the project site would eliminate the growth of on-site fire-prone vegetation, thereby reducing the fire hazard. In addition, fire extinguishers would be required onsite during all construction activities. Since development would serve to decrease the fire hazard, impacts associated with fire hazards would be considered less than significant.

### **Finding**

The proposed project would not have any project-specific additional significant environmental effects for hazards not previously examined in the Master EIR, and no new mitigation measures or alternatives are required.

| <b>6. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY</b>   | <b>Effect will be studied in the EIR</b> | <b>Effect can be mitigated to less than significant</b> | <b>No additional significant environmental effect</b> |
|---|--|---|---|
| Would the Proposed Project:   |  |   |   |
| A) Violate any water quality standards or waste or discharge requirements?  |  |   | X   |
| B) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)? |  |   | X   |
| C) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?   |  |   | X   |
| D) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?   |  |   | X   |
| E) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?   |  |   | X   |
| G) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?   |  |   | X   |
| H) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?  |  |   | X   |

## Background

The City obtains the majority of its water supply from two surface water sources (the Sacramento and American rivers), with groundwater making up the balance of supply. Most of the City's water supply comes from surface water that is diverted pursuant to the City's surface water rights and entitlements. These consist of water rights established before 1914, water rights established after 1914, and a settlement contract the City has with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

The groundwater basin underlying Sacramento County is divided into three subbasins: North American, Central, and South American. The North American Subbasin lies south of the Bear River, east of the Feather River, and north of the American River. The general direction of drainage in the sub-basin is west-southwest. The Central Basin lies south of the American River and is part of the South American Subbasin, which is bounded on the west by the Sacramento River, on the north by the American River, on the south by the Cosumnes and Mokelumne rivers, and on the east by the Sierra Nevada Range. These rivers act as major sources of recharge for the groundwater basins in the county.

Surface water and groundwater has been the subject of much ongoing discussion and planning in Sacramento County. The Water Forum, which began with discussions in 1993 and adoption of the Water Forum Agreement in 2000, was a consensus process that included agreements among the various stakeholders on water issues regarding water use and facilities. The Water Forum Agreement included planning for both surface water and groundwater supplies. The Water Forum documents, including the Water Forum Agreement and environmental impact report, are available online at <http://www.waterforum.org/documents.cfm>.

One of the seven elements in the Water Forum Agreement is groundwater management. Implementation of this element includes adherence to long-term average annual pumping limits that are tied to sustainable yields for each of the three basins: 131,000 acre-feet for the North American Subbasin, 273,000 acre-feet for the Central Basin, and 115,000 acre-feet for the South American Subbasin.

The Water Forum Agreement also included commitment to the Water Forum Successor Effort; the formation of two groundwater management agencies was one of the results. The Central Sacramento County Groundwater Management Plan was completed in 2006, and a joint powers authority was formed by the cities of Elk Grove, Folsom, Rancho Cordova, and Sacramento, and the County of Sacramento, to implement the plan. A Board of Directors meets monthly as part of the implementation process. (See <http://www.scgah2o.org/> for information regarding the plan.) The Water Forum also led to the establishment of the Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA), which adopted a groundwater management plan for the North American Subbasin. (See <http://www.sgah2o.org/sga/programs/groundwater/> for information regarding the implementation effort.)

The City maintains 27 groundwater wells for potable use; 25 wells in the North American Subbasin and 2 wells in the South American Subbasin. Total capacity of the wells is 20 million gallons per day (mgd), or up to 22,400 acre-feet per year. The wells pump primarily from the North American Subbasin, with two active drinking water wells pumping from the South American Subbasin. As described in the project description, the Shasta Park Reservoir Project is located in the southern portion of the City of Sacramento, in the South American Subbasin. The Laguna Formation is one of the fresh-water-bearing aquifers in the region and consists of interbedded layers of sand, gravel, silt, and clay. California Department of Water Resources (DWR) reported that the specific yield of older alluvium, such as the Laguna Formation, is approximately 7 percent. Previous reports indicate that alluvial fan sediments of the Laguna Formation have been the interval through which nearby production wells in this area are drawing groundwater.

Groundwater levels in the South American Subbasin generally experienced declines from the mid-1960s to about 1980 and from 1987 through 1995. Groundwater levels partially or fully recovered between these drought periods and generally recovered to higher levels by 2000 than after the prior drought period. The most recent groundwater elevation maps available through the County of Sacramento's Web site indicate that the groundwater elevations in the vicinity of the proposed location for the new production well ranged between 20 and 30 feet below mean sea level (msl) in spring 2007 and between 30 and 40 feet below msl in fall 2007. In a previous report, Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA) wells with well casing perforations or a screened interval in the Laguna Formation experienced groundwater elevations ranging between 30 feet to more than 70 feet below msl or depths to groundwater ranging from 78 to 108 feet below ground surface (Luhdorff and Scalmanini Consulting Engineers, 1998).



## City of Sacramento 2030 General Plan

The 2030 General Plan was adopted in March 2009, and included the following policies directly relevant to the proposed project:

### UTILITIES (U)

#### Citywide Utilities

Goal U 1.1 High-Quality Infrastructure and Services. Provide and maintain efficient, high-quality public infrastructure facilities and services throughout the city.

### **POLICIES**

U 1.1.1 Provision of Adequate Utilities. The City shall continue to provide and maintain adequate water, wastewater, and stormwater drainage utility services to areas in the city currently receiving these services from the City, and shall provide and maintain adequate water, wastewater, and stormwater drainage utility services to areas in the City that do not currently receive these City services upon funding and construction of the infrastructure necessary to provide these City services.

U 1.1.3 Sustainable Facilities and Services. The City shall continue to provide sustainable utility services and infrastructure in a cost-efficient manner.

U 1.1.12 Impacts to Environmentally Sensitive Lands. The City shall locate and design utilities to avoid or minimize impacts to environmentally sensitive areas and habitats.

### **WATER SYSTEMS**

Goal U 2.1 High-Quality and Reliable Water Supply. Provide water supply facilities to meet future growth within the City's Place of Use and assure a high-quality and reliable supply of water to existing and future residents.

### **POLICIES**

U 2.1.2 Optimize Capacity. The City shall optimize storage, treatment, and distribution capacity of its water system.

U 2.1.3 Water Treatment Capacity and Infrastructure. The City shall plan, secure funding for, and procure sufficient water treatment capacity and infrastructure to meet projected water demands.

The City has historically constructed, expanded, and improved its water diversion, treatment, and transmission facilities, as needed, to accommodate increasing water supply demands. The City has planned for system improvements in the 2005 Water Distribution System Master Plan that would accommodate the City's peak hour demands. These improvements include construction of the proposed project.

### **Groundwater Quality**

Previous reports indicate that groundwater quality in the vicinity of the new production well is potentially impaired with concentrations of arsenic and manganese increasing with depth. The

Laguna and Riverbank formations have been described as the most widely targeted formations in the region because they are largely above the oxidized-reduced boundary, and generally avoid water quality problems associated with the iron and manganese at greater depths (Luhdorff and Scalmanini Consulting Engineers, 1998). In a more recent report, geologic cross-sections drawn through the vicinity of the new production well site indicate that arsenic concentrations were greatest at one of California American Water Company's Wells, approximately 1 to 1.5 miles northeast (Wood Rogers, 2010). The City's two production wells, located approximately one to one and a half miles to the northwest have acceptable concentrations of arsenic.

A previous report indicated that manganese concentrations in some wells in the western portion Sacramento County Water Agency's (SCWA) Laguna well field, more than 2 miles south of the City's new production well site, exceeded maximum contaminant levels for secondary drinking water standards (Luhdorff and Scalmanini Consulting Engineers, 1998). A geologic cross-section drawn through the vicinity of the new production well site indicates that manganese concentrations were acceptable in nearby production wells, approximately 1 mile from the new production well site, at depths less than approximately 250 to 300 feet below msl (Wood Rogers, 2010).

### **Thresholds 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.

### **Answers to Checklist Questions**

#### **Question A**

The proposed project site is level and would be developed with impervious surfaces and landscaping. The proposed project would result in the covering of approximately 2 acres of vacant land with utility infrastructure uses. Development with impervious surfaces would increase runoff and absorption rates. Runoff from the project site would be directed to the existing storm drain system. The additional flows to the existing system would not be substantial when compared to existing flows, and the storm drain system would be adequate to handle the anticipated flows.

The proposed project would not violate any waste discharge practices and would be consistent with the goal of NPDES stormwater regulations is to improve the quality of stormwater discharged to receiving waters to the "maximum extent practicable" through the use of structural and non-structural Best Management Practices (BMPs). With adequate infrastructure to handle the relatively small increase in surface runoff and the implementation of BMPs, the impact would be considered less than significant.

## Question B

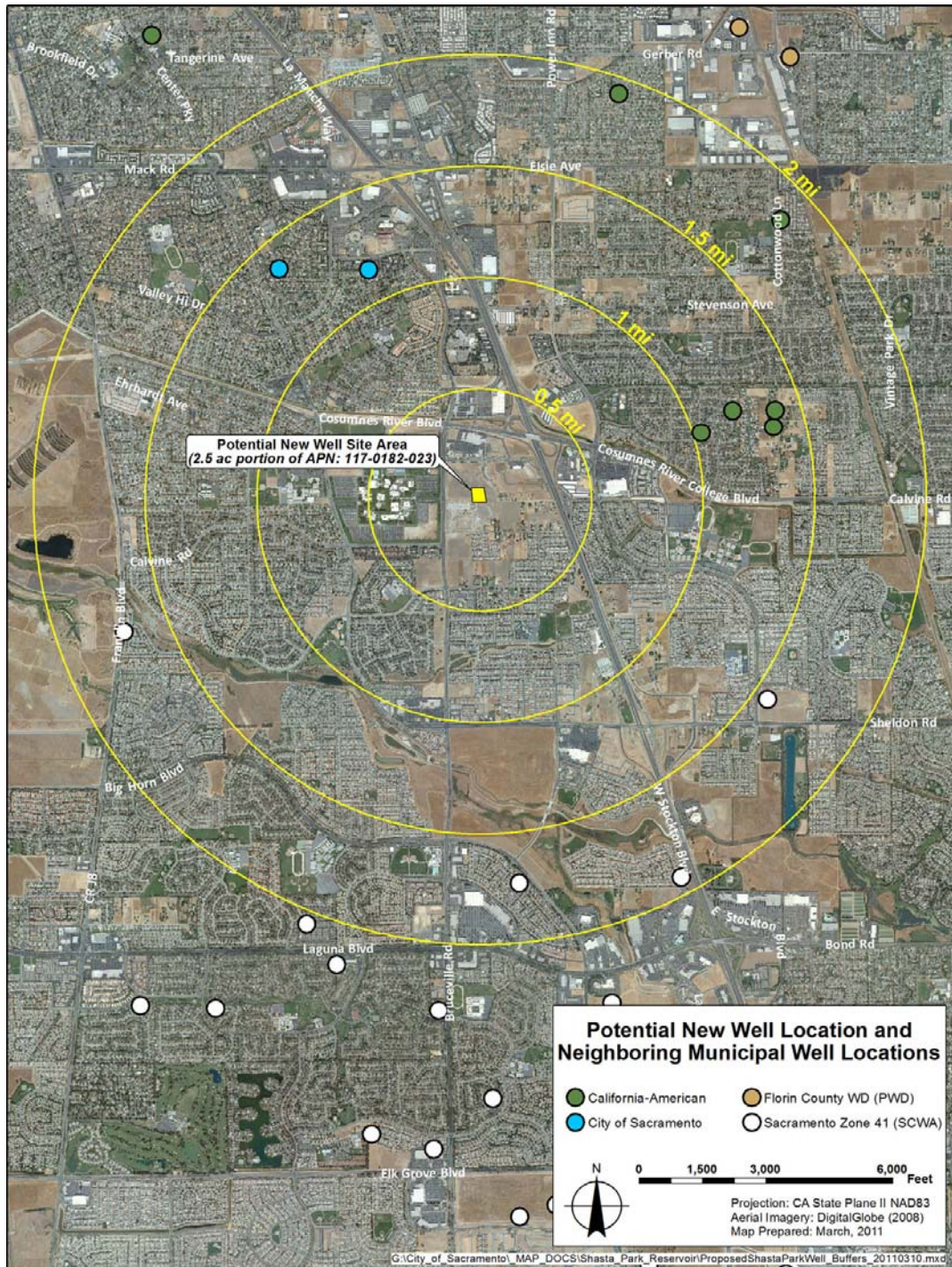
The potential for groundwater levels to be substantially depleted as a result of implementation of the project was evaluated using the “Theis equation,” utilizing appropriate assumptions about the aquifer characteristics in the vicinity of the new production well. Pumping a well causes a cone of depression, or drawdown, of the water table of an unconfined aquifer or of the piezometric surface for a confined aquifer. The Theis equation was developed to predict groundwater drawdown at any given radius from a well after a fixed period of pumping. The equation may be used alone on a well-by-well basis or in a numerical groundwater model to predict aquifer response to multiple wells, each operating independently. The Theis equation uses the flow yield, which is usually a result of pumping the well. The equation takes into account the transmissivity and storativity of the underlying formation. An assumption the model makes is that the well resides in a confined aquifer, that the aquifer is uniform, and that it extends infinitely. The Theis equation is most often applied to water wells.

Previous pump tests conducted at the two nearest City production wells (Well 83 and Well 107) approximately 1.5 miles northwest of the project site indicated that the specific capacities of these wells ranged between 60 and 127 gallons per minute per foot (gpm/ft). Previous reports indicated that the specific capacity of Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA) wells (L46, L65, L41, L52, and L47) with total depths ranging between 238 and 295 feet, located approximately 2 to 3 miles south of the new production well, had specific capacities ranging between 17.6 and 26 gpm/ft (Luhdorff and Scalmanini Consulting Engineers, 1998). Although the Laguna Formation is reported to be an unconfined aquifer, a previous study reported that short-term aquifer tests indicated semiconfined or confined conditions (Luhdorff and Scalmanini Consulting Engineers, 1998). Therefore, because the new production well site has not been constructed or tested, aquifer properties, including storage coefficients and transmissivity values were estimated in the analysis based upon previous reports.

For the purpose of the analysis, it was assumed that the proposed production well would be pumping continuously at a rate of 2,000 gallons per minute (gpm). The results of the analysis indicate that other production wells located within 1 mile of the proposed production well, and perforated or screened in the same aquifer zone, could experience up to 9.7 feet of additional drawdown after 100 days of continuous pumping, which is considered a “worst case” scenario because production wells such as the one proposed operate intermittently as needed as opposed to continuously.

This analysis considered water-level impacts up to 2 miles from the proposed production well, where production wells screened in the same aquifer zone could have approximately 7 feet of additional drawdown. The potential for drawdown could be minimized by increasing the screen length within the proposed production well to increase the portion of the aquifer being accessed. However, increasing the total screen length could require pumping from zones of the underlying aquifer with less desirable water quality, potentially resulting in the need for wellhead treatment at the new production well. The final screen length would be determined following drilling of exploratory borings and collection of groundwater samples from a monitoring well to be constructed at the new production well location. Figure 1 shows that the majority of other wells near the production well site are other City of Sacramento wells, and most of these are beyond 1 mile. Beyond 2 miles from the proposed production well, it is believed that the impact of pumping would be less than the potential impact at 1 mile and would be difficult to measure or quantify relative to other factors such as ongoing pumping from other wells, aquifer variability, and seasonal and long-term variability in hydrologic conditions. The potential impacts would be considered less than significant.

Not included on the map are the locations of privately owned shallow domestic wells. Because these wells tend to be screened in the shallow unconfined aquifer zones, it is believed that pumping from the proposed production well in the deeper confined system would have negligible effects on groundwater levels in these wells.



**Figure 4.**  
**Wells Within a 2-Mile Radius of the Proposed Production Well Site**

## Questions C - E

Construction, operation and abandonment of water wells are subject to the County of Sacramento Well Ordinance. See County Code Chapter 6.28, Wells and Pumps; City Code section 13.04.660. The City would obtain the required well permit from Sacramento County, and the construction and operation of the well would be subject to the County's oversight and regulation.

Unregulated runoff from the project site could affect water quality. Fuel, oil, grease, solvents, concrete wash, and other chemicals and wastes used in construction activities have the potential of creating toxic problems if allowed to enter waterways. Construction activities would include drilling the well, trenching for utilities, grading, construction of the reservoir and associated buildings, and paving of the driveways. These activities could potentially cause the release of sediments or materials into waterways. The degree of construction related impacts to water quality is partially determined by the duration of the various construction activities, timing of construction, and rainfall distribution. The proposed project would be required to comply with the City of Sacramento Code, Ordinance 15.88.250, Erosion and Sediment Control, effectively minimizing any potential runoff. Requirements will include treating their onsite and offsite drainage as well as the street drainage.

The project would be required to construct and implement both source control and on-site treatment controls. Off-site and on-site drainage as well as the street drainage would be treated prior to the discharge into the public drainage system. The proposed project is greater than one acre and would have to comply with the NPDES and obtain a General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activity. The NPDES permit requires the applicant to file a Notice of Intent and prepare a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan prior to construction. Post-construction stormwater quality control measures would be incorporated into the development to minimize the increase of urban runoff pollution caused by development of the area. In addition, the developer/builder would be required to employ BMPs before, during, and after construction. Compliance with BMP provisions would ensure that development and use of the site would result in a less-than-significant impact to surface waters and surface water quality. The project would also be required to comply with RWQCB permit requirements to ensure that groundwater is not impacted.

Compliance with these regulatory requirements would reduce any impacts to a less-than-significant level.



## **Questions F - H**

The proposed project is located in Zone X. FEMA does not have building regulations for development in areas designated Zone X and would not require mandatory flood insurance for structures in Zone X. Flood Zone X shaded consists of areas of 500-year flood - areas of 100-year flood with average depths of less than 1 foot or with drainage areas less than 1 square mile; and areas protected by levees from 100-year flood. Because the project site would be located in a low-risk flood zone, impacts associated with water related hazards would be considered less than significant.

The proposed project would not involve substantial excavation or trenching that would impact groundwater. In the event that dewatering activities are required, these could result in a short-term change in the quantity of groundwater and/or direction of rate of flow, and groundwater quality. Any dewatering activities associated with the proposed project must comply with application requirements established by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board to ensure that such activities would not result in substantial changes in groundwater flow or quality. Development of the project would not intercept an aquifer and would not result in substantial loss of groundwater recharge capability. While development would include impermeable surfaces, the project site is only ten acres in size. Due to the estimated depth of groundwater, absence of an aquifer, and relatively small loss of groundwater recharge capability, issues associated with these impacts would be considered less than significant.

## **Mitigation Measures**

None required.

## **Findings**

The proposed project would not have any project-specific additional significant environmental effects for hydrology and water quality not previously examined in the Master EIR, and no new mitigation measures or alternatives are required.

| 7. LIGHT AND GLARE   | Effect will be studied in the EIR | Effect can be mitigated to less than significant | No additional significant environmental effect |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Would the Proposed Project:<br><br>A. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area? |                                   |  | X  |

### Thresholds of Significance

For purposes of this Initial Study, impacts due to light and glare 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:

A project with glare that causes public hazard or annoyance for a sustained period of time or casts light onto oncoming traffic or residential uses.

### Answers to Checklist Questions

#### Question A

The proposed facilities would include lighting for security at the site. Such lighting would, consistent with the requirements of City Code, be directed away from any nearby residences. (City Code section 17.68.030) Any project-specific effect would be less than significant.

### Finding

The proposed project would not have any project-specific additional significant environmental effects for light and glare not previously examined in the Master EIR, and no new mitigation measures or alternatives are required.

| CITY OF SACRAMENTO (Z14005400)  |                                   | REVISED APRIL 23, 2012                           |  |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| 8. NOISE  | Effect will be studied in the EIR | Effect can be mitigated to less than significant | No additional significant environmental effect |
| Would the Proposed Project result in:   |                                   |  |  |
| A) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies? |                                   | X  |  |
| B) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?   |                                   | X  |  |
| C) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?  |                                   |  | X  |
| D) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?  |                                   | X  |  |

## Background

The proposed project area for the production well includes vacant land to the north, east and west, and Shasta Park to the south. Further east are some residential uses and across Bruceville Road to the west is Cosumnes River College (approximately ~~1500~~ **1880** feet to nearest building). There are four residential units to the east of the site on Cotton Lane with the nearest residence located approximately ~~435~~ **55** feet to the east of the proposed construction area.

The Sacramento City Code, Chapter 8.68, states that the following activities shall be exempted from provisions of the Noise Ordinance:

Noise sources due to the erection (including excavation), demolition, drilling, alteration or repair of any building or structure between the hours of seven a.m. and six p.m., on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and between nine a.m. and six p.m. on Sunday; provided, however, that the operation of an internal combustion engine shall not be exempt pursuant to this subsection if such engine is not equipped with suitable exhaust and intake silencers which are in good working order. The director of building inspections, may permit work to be done during the hours not exempt by this subsection in the case of urgent necessity and in the interest of public health and welfare for a period not to exceed three days. Application for this exemption may be made in conjunction with the application for the work permit or during progress of the work.

The primary source of noise in the project area is vehicle traffic on State Highway 99 to the east and Bruceville Road to the west.

## Thresholds 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 or mitigation from the General Plan MEIR:



- 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.

## Answers to Checklist Questions

### Questions A – D

The project location is in an urbanized area with substantial existing noise sources. The primary source of noise is vehicle traffic, but construction activities are common and serve to increase ambient noise levels. The ambient noise level in the project vicinity is 60 dBA CNEL. (Master EIR, Figure 6.8-1)

Operation of the groundwater well and reservoir would not include the type of work or equipment that would create or cause excessive noise or vibration. Electrical equipment used to operate the facilities would be enclosed within the control building and the well pumps would be similar to existing exterior water well pumps throughout the city. Operation of the facility would comply with the City's noise ordinance that restricts emission of noise at the project boundaries.

Construction of the proposed project would occur during normal business hours with the exception of well drilling, which requires continuation of drilling operations on a 24-hour basis until well completion. The period of time required for well drilling varies with ground conditions, and is not certain, but drilling can last from a few hours to several weeks. See Water Well Design and Construction, University of California, [http://groundwater.ucdavis.edu/Publications/Harter\\_FWQFS\\_8086.pdf](http://groundwater.ucdavis.edu/Publications/Harter_FWQFS_8086.pdf).

Some short-term temporary noise impacts would occur due to the well-drilling activities. Well drilling activities can result in noise levels of approximately 85 dBA at a distance of 50 feet. ~~With a noise attenuation rate of approximately 7.5 dBA for every doubling of distance,~~ Drilling noise levels at the nearest residential structure, approximately ~~400~~ 55 feet from the drilling site, would be approximately ~~62.5~~ 85 dBA. This would result in significant nighttime noise levels **during well drilling construction activities.**

The mitigation measures identified below would require the City to perform a site-specific analysis to determine the level of noise reduction needed to ensure that the noise emitted by project construction would not exceed 50 dBA at the property line of the existing residences in the area.

(See City Code section 8.68.060) Mitigation measures ensure that there will be advance notification to affected residences, and use of sound walls during 24-hour drilling that reduce impacts to an acceptable level. The mitigation measures below would reduce impacts related to noise and vibration to a less than significant level.

### **Mitigation Measures**

- N-1) Prior to commencement of drilling operations that will include 24-hour drilling, the City shall perform a site-specific analysis to determine the Sound Transmissivity Classification (STC) level for noise reduction to achieve construction noise levels of 50 dBA or less at the residences closest to the site to the east.
- N-2) During well drilling activities or any other construction activities requiring 24-hour construction, the Department of Utilities shall include in construction specification requirements that contractors install and maintain an engineered sound wall or utilize other noise attenuation mechanism/techniques during 24-hour activities. Sound wall specifications shall include use of materials with a STC classification of 18, or greater if identified by the analysis required in Mitigation Measure N-1, and shall be installed to a height that intercepts the line of sight between the drill rig and sensitive receptors. The minimum height of the sound wall shall be fifteen (15) feet. The performance standard for the noise mitigation measure shall be reduction of noise levels within 400 feet of the drill rig to 50 dBA.
- N-3) All residences and other sensitive receptors within 1,000 feet of the drilling site shall be notified four weeks in advance. The information distributed shall include the following:
- A brief description of the drilling and testing operations, the necessity for 24-hour drilling, and the proposed schedule for drilling and testing activities; and
  - A contact person and 24-hour contact telephone number for noise complaints.

### **Finding**

With the implementation of the mitigation measures above, project impacts from noise would be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

| 9. PUBLIC SERVICES  | Effect will be studied in the EIR | Effect can be mitigated to less than significant | No additional significant environmental effect |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Would the Proposed Project result in:<br><br>A. A substantial adverse physical impact associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services: |                                   |  | X  |
| I) Fire protection?   |                                   |  | X  |
| II) Police protection?  |                                   |  | X  |
| III) Schools?   |                                   |  | X  |

### Thresholds 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 2030 General Plan.

### Answers to Checklist Questions

#### Question A (I, II and III)

The project would construct and operate water infrastructure facilities at the project site. The project is part of the City's ongoing efforts to provide water service for municipal and industrial purposes within the City. The Master EIR evaluated the cumulative effects of ongoing development and growth in the City, and the project would not have any effects not previously discussed and evaluated in the Master EIR.

### Finding

The proposed project would not have any project-specific additional significant environmental effects on public services not previously examined in the Master EIR, and no new mitigation measures or alternatives are required.

| 10. PUBLIC UTILITIES   | Effect will be studied in the EIR | Effect can be mitigated to less than significant | No additional significant environmental effect |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Would the Proposed Project:  |                                   |  |  |
| A) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?  |                                   |  | X  |
| B) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? |                                   |  | X  |
| C) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?          |                                   |  | X  |
| D) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?   |                                   |  | X  |
| E) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?                         |                                   |  | X  |

### Thresholds 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 water supply, treatment, and distribution systems; sewer systems; and drainage systems beyond what was anticipated in the 2030 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.

### Answers to Checklist Questions

#### Question A, B, E

The project would construct and operate a groundwater well with associated treatment facility and water reservoir on the site. The project would have no effect on wastewater demand or facilities.

#### Questions C, D

The project would construct and operate a water reservoir, groundwater well with associated

treatment facility and booster pump station. The facilities would not consume water, and would not require construction of new storm drainage facilities.

### **Finding**

The proposed project will not have any project-specific additional significant environmental effects on public utilities not previously examined in the Master EIR, and no new mitigation measures or alternatives are required.

| 11. RECREATION   | Effect will be studied in the EIR | Effect can be mitigated to less than significant | No additional significant environmental effect |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Would the Proposed Project:  |                                   |  |  |
| A) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? |                                   |  | X  |
| B) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?                       |                                   |  | X  |

### Thresholds of Significance

For purposes of this Initial Study, impacts to recreational resources 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:

- 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 2030 General Plan.

### Answers to Checklist Questions

#### Questions A-B

The proposed project would construct and operate a water reservoir on approximately two acres, and a new groundwater well, booster pumping station and associated facilities. The project would not result in any increase in demand on recreational resources, and would not have any effects not identified in the Master EIR.

#### Finding

The proposed project would not have any project-specific additional significant environmental effects for recreation not previously examined in the Master EIR, and no new mitigation measures or alternatives are required.

| 12. TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION  | Effect will be studied in the EIR | Effect can be mitigated to less than significant | No additional significant environmental effect |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Would the Proposed Project:   |                                   |  |  |
| A) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections? |                                   |  | X  |
| B) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?  |                                   |  | X  |
| C) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?  |                                   |  | X  |
| D) Result in inadequate emergency access?   |                                   |  | X  |
| E) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative modes of transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?   |                                   |  | X  |

### Thresholds 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 MEIR:

#### Roadway Segments

- The traffic generated by a project degrades peak period Level of Service (LOS) from A,B,C or D (without the project) to E or F (with project) or
- The LOS (without project) is E or F, and project generated traffic increases the Volume to Capacity Ratio (V/C ratio) by 0.02 or more.

#### Intersections

- The traffic generated by a project degrades peak period level of service from A, B, C or D (without project) to E or F (with project) or
- The LOS (without project) is E or F, and project generated traffic increases the peak period average vehicle delay by five seconds or more.

### 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.

## **Answers to Checklist Questions**

### **Questions A-E**

Construction of the water reservoir and associated facilities on the project site would require importation of construction materials by truck, and use of private motor vehicles by construction personnel. Access to the project site is via Bruceville Road, a divided roadway of sufficient width to accommodate construction equipment. Disruption to traffic on Bruceville Road would be intermittent and of brief duration, and any effects would be less than significant. No additional significant environmental effects would occur.

### **Finding**

The proposed project would not have any project-specific additional significant environmental effects for transportation not previously examined in the Master EIR, and no new mitigation measures or alternatives are required.



| <b>13. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>  | <b>Effect will be studied in the EIR</b> | <b>Effect can be mitigated to less than significant</b> | <b>No additional significant environmental effect</b> |
|--|--|---|---|
| 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? |  |   | X   |
| 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.)   |  |   | X   |
| C) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?  |  |   | X   |

## **Answers to Checklist Questions**

### **Question A**

The proposed project is consistent with the City's approach to conjunctive use. Groundwater extraction would be within the agreed-upon limits for the groundwater basin, and there would be no significant effect on other groundwater users or the environment. Mitigation measures will be implemented to ensure that the project will not 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.

### **Question B**

Construction of the reservoir, pumping station, well, treatment facility, and construction associated pipelines would result in temporary impacts for noise, but no cumulative effects would occur.

### **Question C**

Installation and construction operations would have temporary effects but would not have any substantial adverse effects on human beings.

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### Section IV - Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

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

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <input 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 and Historic Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology and Soils                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards and Hazardous Materials            | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation and Circulation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology and Water Quality                | <input type="checkbox"/> None Identified                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Light and Glare                            |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  |   |

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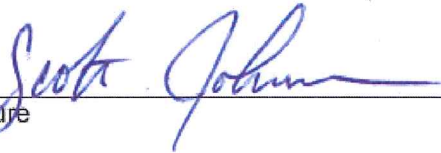
Section V - Determination

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On the basis of the Initial Study:

I find that (a) the Proposed Project is an anticipated subsequent project identified and described in the 2030 General Plan Master EIR; (b) the Proposed Project is consistent with the 2030 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))

Signature



Date

4-7-11

Scott Johnson, Associate Planner

Signature



REVISED Date

4-23-2012

Scott Johnson, Associate Planner

## **References**

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- Soil Search Engineering, 2006. Geotechnical Investigation Bruceville Road Subdivision, 8395 Bruceville Road, Elk Grove, California, December 22, 2006.
- University of California, Water Well Design and Construction, [http://groundwater.ucdavis.edu/Publications/Harter\\_FWQFS\\_8086.pdf](http://groundwater.ucdavis.edu/Publications/Harter_FWQFS_8086.pdf)
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