

# **Sump Station Facilities Improvement Project**

**Sacramento, CA**

## **Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration**

PREPARED FOR THE  
CITY OF SACRAMENTO



PREPARED BY RANEY PLANNING & MANAGEMENT, INC.  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

MAY 2021

# City of SACRAMENTO

Community Development Department

300 Richards Blvd, 3<sup>rd</sup> Flr.  
Sacramento, CA 95811

## **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

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

**Sump Station Facilities Improvement Project** – The proposed project consists of five existing sump stations within the City of Sacramento: Sump 089, Sump 151, Sump 155, Sump 058, and Sump 102. The sump stations direct treated stormwater through underground piping to stormwater outfalls along waterways within the City. Each of the sump stations are owned, operated, and maintained by the City of Sacramento Department of Utilities. As mandated by the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), sump station outfalls that penetrate and cross major levees within the City of Sacramento are inspected on a five-year cycle. The proposed project entails the complete replacement of the pump discharge pipe for three drainage sump station facilities (Sump 089, Sump 151, and Sump 155) and installation of stairs on the waterside slope for two additional drainage sump station facilities (Sump 058 and Sump 102). The proposed improvements would not alter the overall capacity of the sump station facilities relative to existing conditions. None of the sump stations are located on sites that occur on lists enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

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

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

A copy of this IS/MND and all supporting documents are available on the City's EIR Webpage at: <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Community-Development/Planning/Environmental/Impact-Reports>

Due to the COVID 19 crises and the current public counter closures, the document is not available for review in printed form. If you need assistance in reviewing the document please contact Scott Johnson, Senior Planner at (916) 808-5842 or [srjohnson@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:srjohnson@cityofsacramento.org)

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

By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
For Tom Buford, Environmental Services Manager

Date: June 22, 2021 (Initial Study Revised 5-6-2021)

# SUMP STATION FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

## SACRAMENTO, CA

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

This Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) has been prepared by the City of Sacramento, Community Development Department, 300 Richards Boulevard, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

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#### ORGANIZATION OF THE INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

This IS/MND is organized into the following sections:

**SECTION I - BACKGROUND:** Provides summary background information about the project name, location, sponsor, and the date this IS/MND was completed.

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

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

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

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

**REFERENCES CITED:** Identifies source materials that were consulted in the preparation of the IS/MND.

**APPENDICES:** Appends technical information that was referenced as attached in the preparation of the IS/MND.

## **SECTION I - BACKGROUND**

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Project Name and File Number: Sump Station Facilities Improvement Project

Project Location: Multiple sites  
Sacramento, CA 95833, 95815, 95832  
See Table 1 and Table 2 below for location details and Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs)

Project Applicant: City of Sacramento Utilities Department  
1395 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Sacramento, CA 95822  
(916) 808-7890

Lead Agency Contact: Raymond Kong  
Senior Engineer  
Department of Utilities  
(916) 808-1435  
RKong@cityofsacramento.org

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

Date Initial Study Completed: March 2021

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

The City has prepared the attached IS/MND to review the discussions of cumulative impacts, growth inducing impacts, and irreversible significant effects in the 2035 General Plan Master EIR to determine their adequacy for the project and identify any potential new or additional project-specific significant environmental effects that were not analyzed in the Master EIR and any mitigation measures or alternatives that may avoid or mitigate the identified effects to a level of insignificance (see CEQA Guidelines Sections 15177 and 15178). The IS/MND identifies new significant effects as well as mitigation measures that would reduce each such effect to a less-than-significant level. A Mitigated Negative Declaration is the appropriate CEQA document (CEQA Guidelines Section 15070).

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

**SUMP STATION FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**  
INITIAL STUDY

The analysis contained in this IS/MND incorporates by reference the general discussion portions of the 2035 General Plan Master EIR. (CEQA Guidelines Section 15150(a)). The Master EIR, including Resolution No. 2015-0060, is available on the City's web site at:

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

Due to the COVID 19 crises and the current public counter closures, the Master EIR is not available for review in printed form at City Offices. If you are seeking a hard copy please contact Scott Johnson, Senior Planner, at (916) 808-5842 or [srjohnson@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:srjohnson@cityofsacramento.org)

The City will circulate a Notice of Availability/Notice of Intent (NOA/NOI) that confirms the City's intention to adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration, and provides dates for public comment. The NOA/NOI will be available on the City's web site set forth above.

Please send written responses to:

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

## SECTION II - PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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### Introduction

The Project Description section of the IS/MND provides a description of the Sump Station Facilities Improvement Project (proposed project) and includes the project location, existing conditions, surrounding land uses, and project components.

### Project Location

The proposed project consists of five existing sump stations within the City of Sacramento: Sump 089, Sump 151, Sump 155, Sump 058, and Sump 102 (see Figure 1). The locations of the five sump stations, collectively referred to herein as the project sites, are shown in Figure 2 through Figure 4.

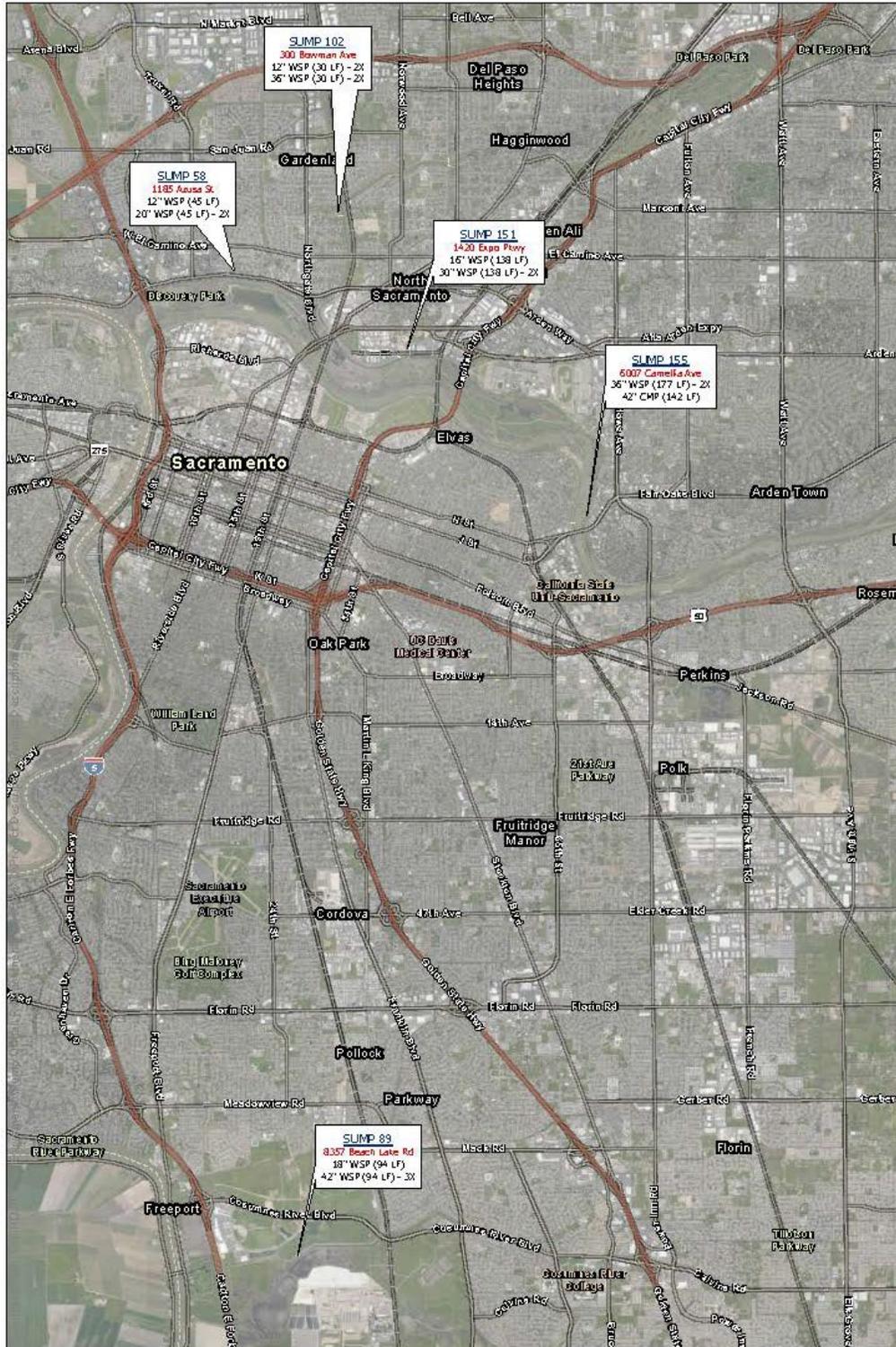
### Existing Conditions and Surrounding Land Uses

The sump stations direct treated stormwater through underground piping to stormwater outfalls along waterways within the City. Each of the sump stations are owned, operated, and maintained by the City of Sacramento Department of Utilities. The existing conditions at each of the existing sump stations is summarized in Table 1.

<b>Table 1</b>		
<b>Sump Station Locations and Existing Conditions</b>		
<b>Sump #</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Existing Conditions</b>
089	Sump 089 is located near 8357 Beach Lake Road and pumps through the levee into Morrison Creek.	The sump consists of one 18-inch and three 42-inch welded steel pipes (WSP) that penetrate the Morrison Creek levee and outfall into the creek.
151	Sump 151 is located near 1420 Expo Parkway and pumps through the levee into the American River floodplain.	The sump consists of one 54-inch WSP, one 16-inch WSP, one 42-inch high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe, one 42-inch WSP and two 30-inch WSPs that penetrate the American River levee. The sump pumps stormwater across the levee into the American River floodplain.
155	Sump 155 is located near 6007 Camellia Avenue and pumps through the levee into the American River.	The sump consists of one 42-inch one corrugated metal pipe (CMP) and two 36-inch WSPs that penetrate the American River levee and outfall into the American River.
058	Sump 058 is located at 1185 Azusa Street and pumps through the levee into Steelhead Creek.	The sump consists of one 12-inch and two 20-inch WSPs that penetrate the American River levee and outfall into the American River floodplain
102	Sump 102 is located near 300 Bowman Avenue and pumps through the levee into Natomas East Main Drainage Canal (NEMDC).	The sump consists of one 12-inch and three 36-inch WSPs that penetrate the NEMDC levee and outfall into the canal.

**SUMP STATION FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**  
INITIAL STUDY

**Figure 1**  
**Project Location**



<p><b>PETERSON, BRUSTAD, INC.</b> ENGINEERING, CONSULTING</p> <p>30 Blue Ravine Rd., Suite 200 Folsom, CA 95630 Phone: (916) 653-2312</p>		<p>February 2021</p>	<b>RANEY PLANNING &amp; MANAGEMENT</b>		<b>FIGURE</b>
			City of Sacramento Pump Outfalls Replacement Project		<b>3</b>

Figure 2  
Sump Station Site Boundaries: Sumps 058 and 089

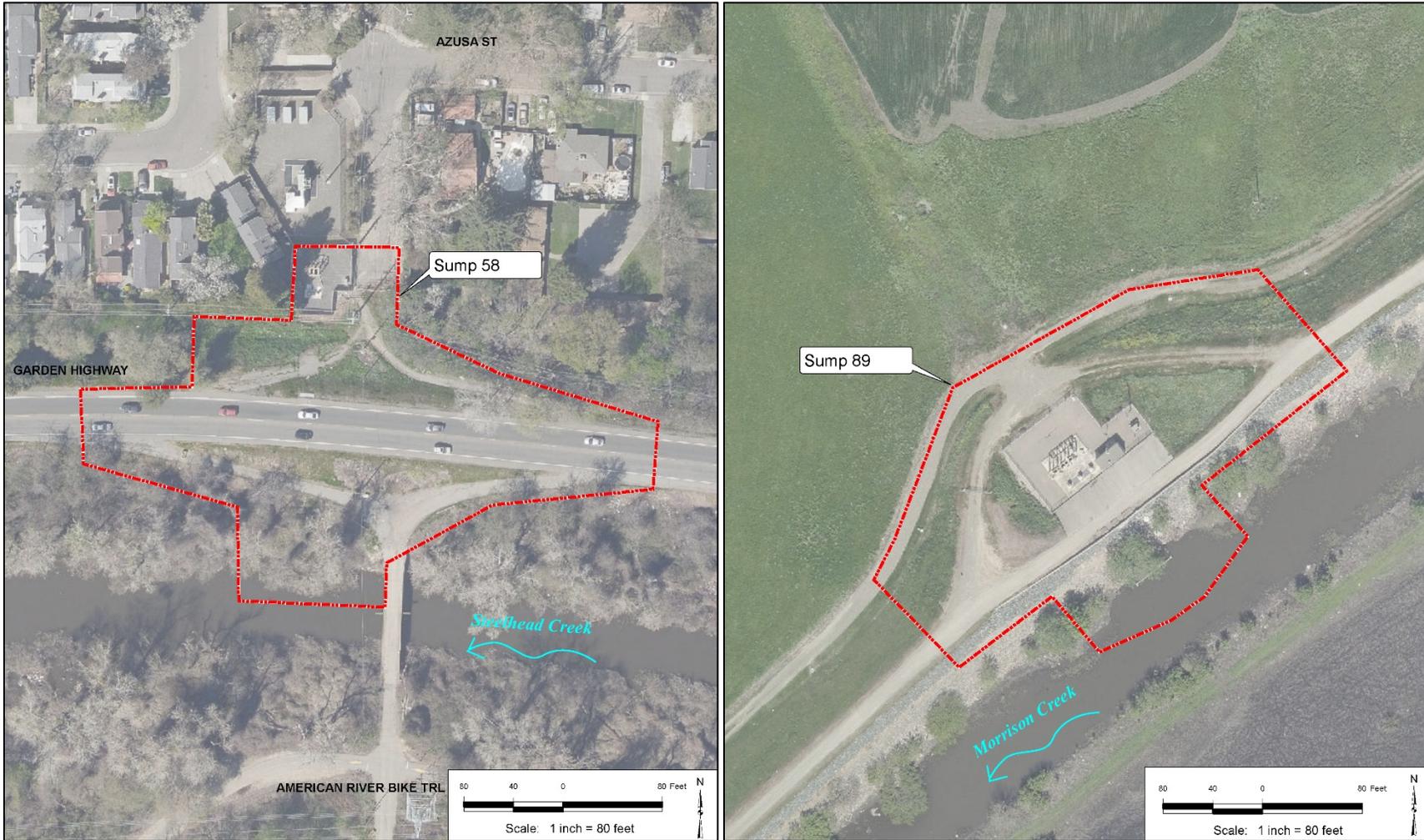


Figure 3  
Sump Station Site Boundaries: Sumps 102 and 151

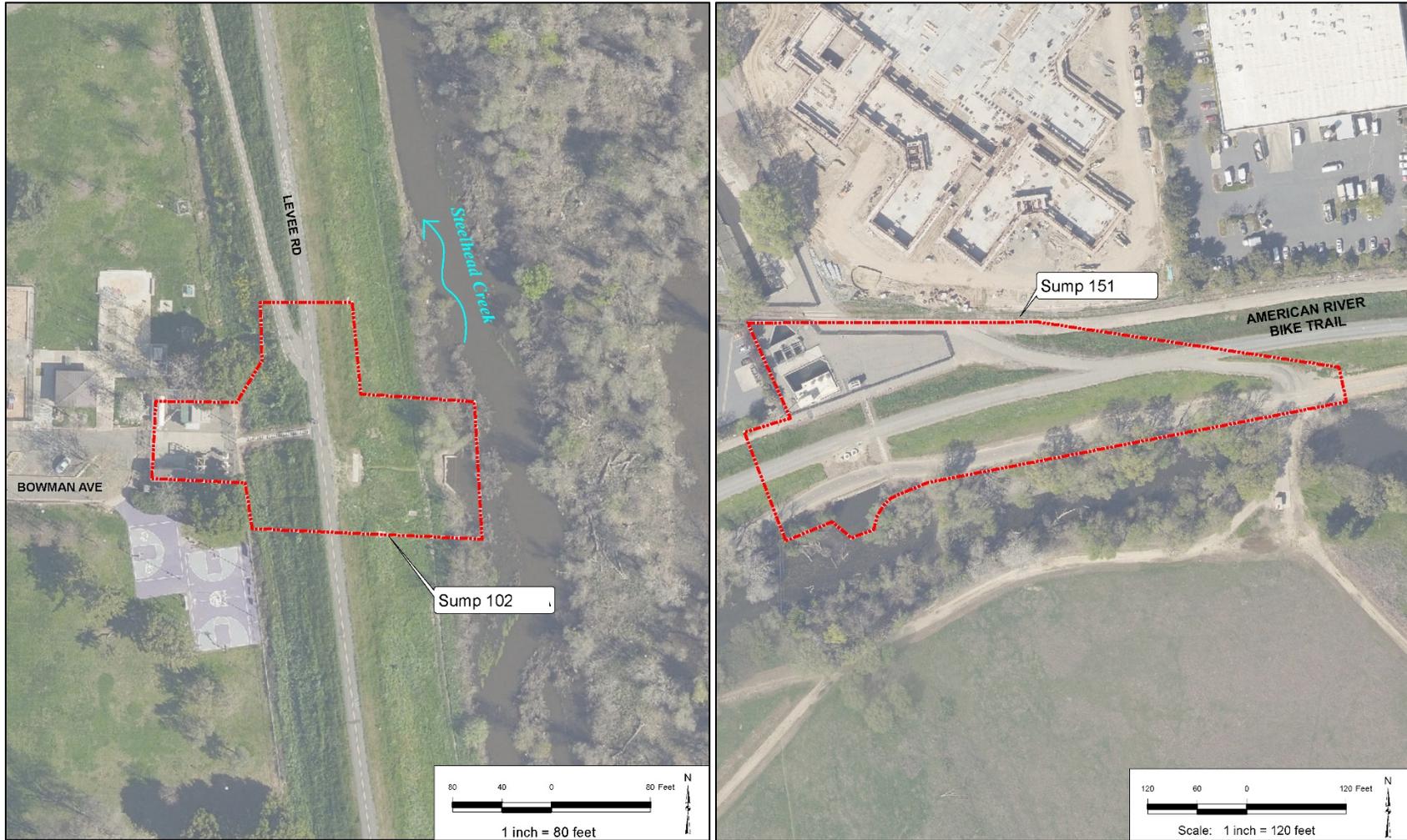
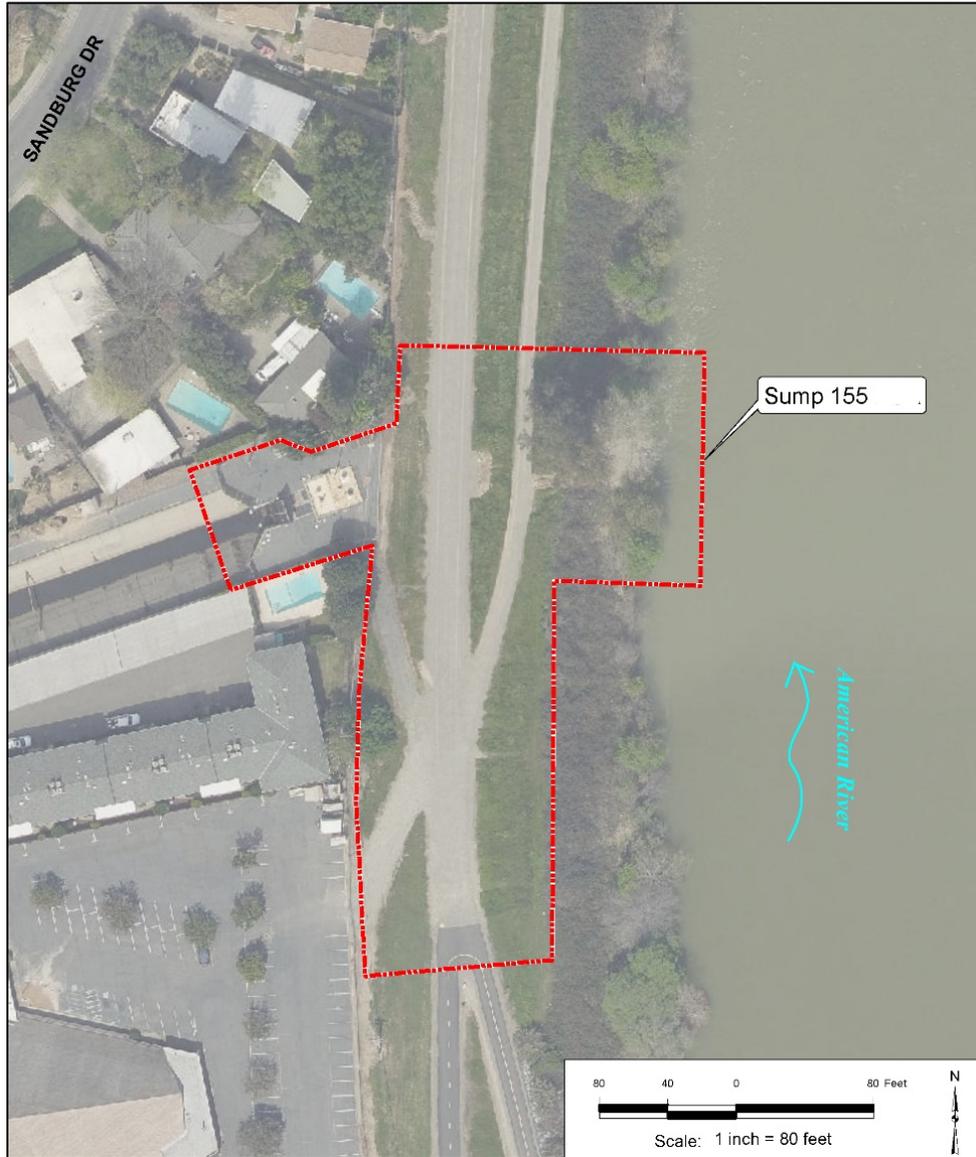


Figure 4  
Sump Station Site Boundaries: Sump 155



The acreage and Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) for each of the project sites are summarized in Table 2 below. Combined, the project sites and the staging areas total approximately nine acres.

Sump #	Total Acreage	APNs
089	1.60	119-0090-004, 119-0090-012
151	2.52	275-0260-007, 275-0260-014, 275-0260-015, 275-0260-023, 275-0270-012, 275-0270-036, and 275-0300-008
155	1.33	005-0010-005, 005-0010-024, 005-0010-025, 005-0203-005, 005-0203-006, 005-0203-014, 005-0233-003, 005-0233-004, 005-0233-005, 005-0233-006
058	1.57	274-0060-003, 274-0060-005, 274-0060-030, 274-0390-017, 274-0390-018, 274-0390-019, 274-0120-001, and 274-0120-003
102	0.72	262-0132-013, 263-0260-016
Note: The acreages listed above represent the Biological Study Area (BSA) evaluated as part of the Biological Resources Evaluation prepared for the proposed project. The BSA encompass the entire project area, including potential access and staging areas; thus, the BSA is larger than the actual disturbance limits associated with the project. The BSA does not include all areas that are disturbed or developed under existing conditions.		

### **Project Components**

As mandated by the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), sump station outfalls that penetrate and cross major levees within the City of Sacramento are inspected on a five-year cycle. The proposed project entails the complete replacement of the pump discharge pipe for three drainage sump station facilities and installation of stairs on the waterside slope for two additional drainage sump station facilities, as described in the following sections. The proposed improvements would not alter the overall capacity of the sump station facilities relative to existing conditions.

While the proposed improvements would involve ground disturbance associated with trenching for the pipe replacement, the overall area of disturbance would be limited to areas which have been previously disturbed as a result of prior sump station improvements. Upon completion of the proposed improvements, areas subject to disturbance would be revegetated as necessary. The proposed project would not alter current operations and maintenance at the sump station facilities. Ground-disturbing activities for the complete pipe replacement work would extend to a maximum anticipated depth of 10 feet.

The project includes three proposed staging areas: one on the land side of the levee at Sump 089 (Sump 089 staging area), one on La Riviera Drive just east of Howe Avenue, (La Riviera staging area) (see Figure 5), and one west of and adjacent to the southeast corner of Lathrop Way (Lathrop staging area) (see Figure 5). The Sump 089 staging area occurs on existing gravel service roads and adjacent nonnative annual grassland. The La Riviera and Lathrop staging areas occur in fenced, cleared areas that are used for staging and stockpiling of construction materials under baseline conditions.

Figure 5  
La Riviera and Lathrop Staging Areas



The La Riviera staging area is located on La Riviera Drive just east of Howe Avenue, on a graveled area adjacent to Sump 91 (not included in the proposed project). The Lathrop staging area is located west of and adjacent to the southeast corner of Lathrop Way.

For all sites, BMPs would be implemented to prevent debris from entering waterways. Standard City BMPs include the use of straw bales, sandbags, gravel traps, and filters; erosion control measures such as vegetation and physical stabilization; and sediment control measure such as fences, dams, barriers, berms, traps, and basins. City staff inspects the erosion, sediment and pollution control requirements in accordance with City codes.

### Complete Discharge Pipe Replacement

The extents of the complete discharge pipe replacements include replacement from the pump discharge across the levee to the outfall structure, including through the headwall (see Figure 6 through Figure 8). The area around the existing pipes would be excavated and the pipes would be cored out through the headwall on the waterside of the levee. The outfall structure itself would not be replaced or reconstructed as part of the proposed project. To remove pipes in the levee, trenches that are approximately twice the width of each pipe would be excavated from the landside to the waterside of the levee (for pipes that are close together, one wider trench may be used to accommodate multiple pipes) below the pipes.

The fill beneath the pipes would be built back up to the bottom of the new pipes, which may be installed at a higher elevation than the removed pipes. Except where noted below, project sites would be returned to their existing condition post-construction.

Where installation of positive closure vaults at the hinge point of the levee is required, the vault area would be excavated to the bottom of the levee, then built back up from the bottom of the vault. The vault is poured, cast-in-place concrete and would be partially buried. For all sumps, work would be completed during the summer months outside the flood season for each location. Construction is anticipated to take approximately four months, during one construction season.

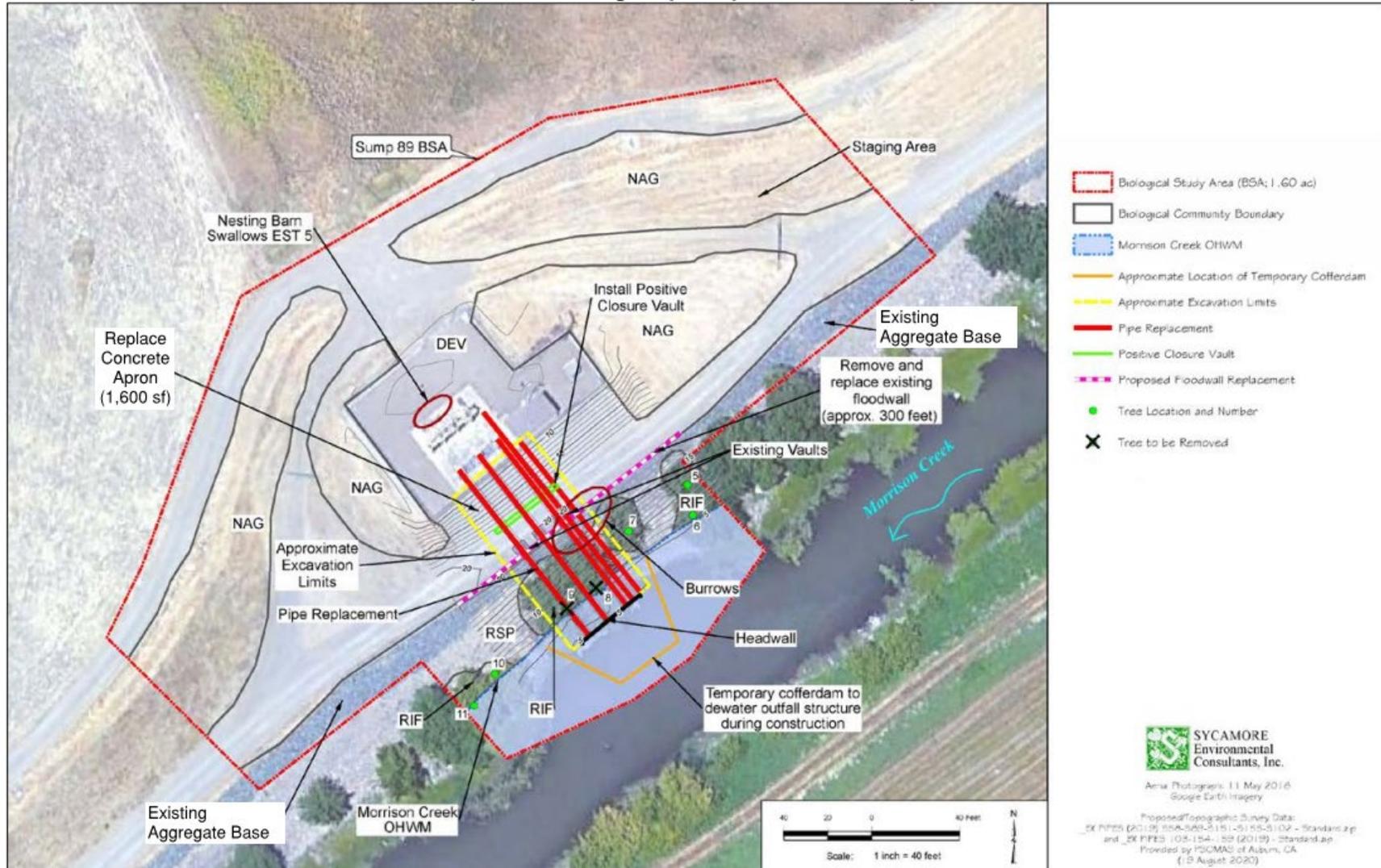
Two trees will be removed at Sump 089 to access the existing pipes. At least one and up to four trees may need to be removed at Sump 155, depending on the proximity of excavation and concrete apron removal. Riparian vegetation near the outfall structures may require minor trimming at all sump locations, with the exception of Sump 151. The below section provides a bulleted description of the key components of the sumps for which complete discharge pipe replacements would occur. The minor changes noted below reflect refinements to the design that have occurred since the preliminary design. In some cases, the scope of improvements has increased, whereas in other instances the scope has decreased. However, in all cases, the proposed improvements still occur fully within the disturbance areas already evaluated in the IS/MND released for public review and shown in Figures 6 through 8.

#### *Sump 089*

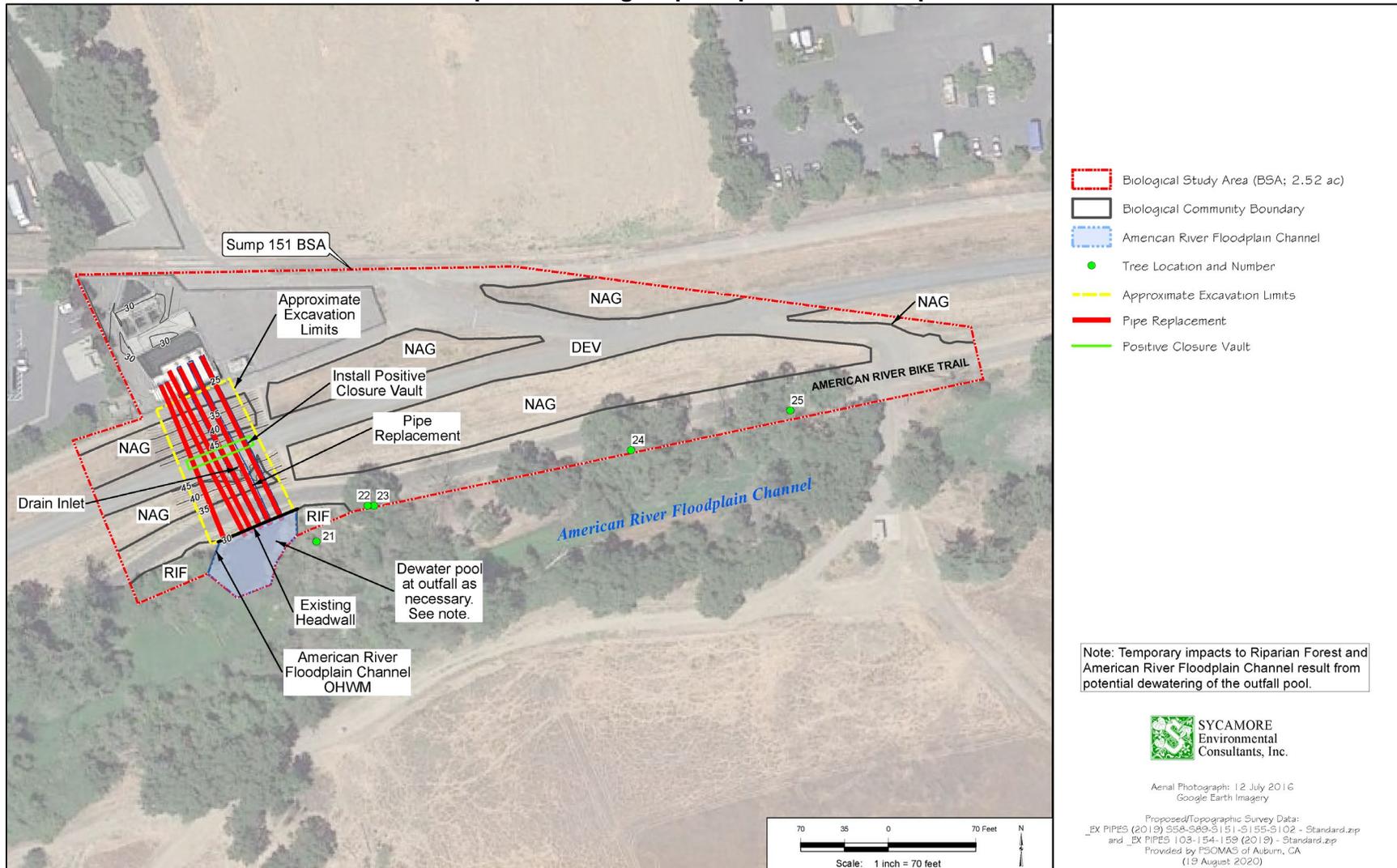
- Replacement of approximately 287-235 feet of three (3) 42-inch WSPs;
- Replacement of approximately 105-112 feet of 18-inch WSP;
- Installation of a positive closure vault at top of levee landside hinge point;
- Removal and replacement of a portion of the existing floodwall (approximately 300-260 feet);
- Replacement of approximately 4,000-1,600 square feet (sf) of existing concrete apron;
- Removal and replacement of existing fence at sump site near landside toe;

- Replacement of the level sensor conduit across levee;
- Replacement of the outfall structure higher on the levee slope;
- Rock slope protection on the waterside of the outfall structure;
- Installation of a temporary cofferdam at the outfall for dewatering during pipeline replacement; and
- Removal of two trees at the pump outfall, to allow access to the construction site.

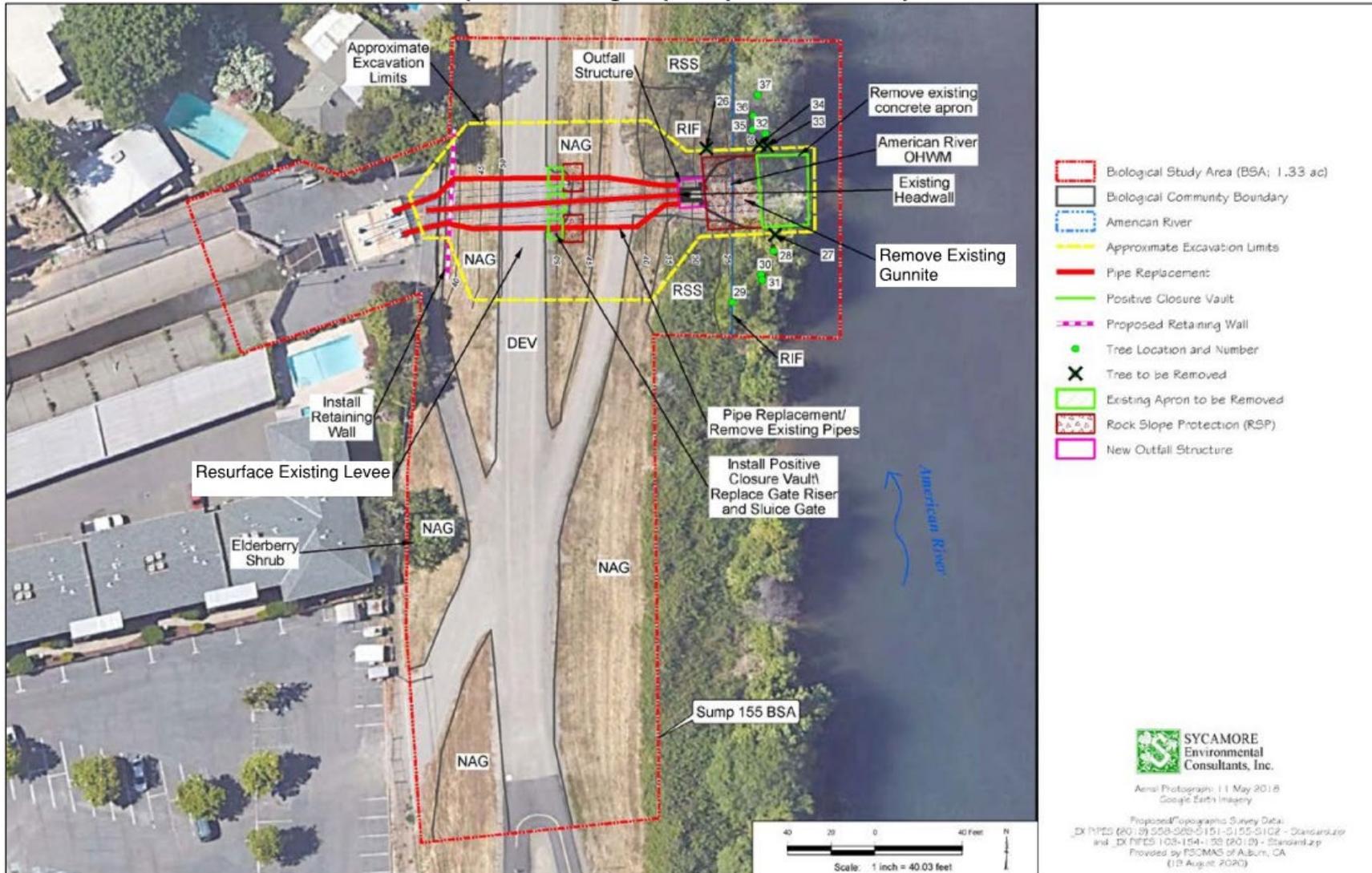
**Figure 6**  
**Complete Discharge Pipe Replacement: Sump 089**



**Figure 7**  
**Complete Discharge Pipe Replacement: Sump 151**



**Figure 8**  
**Complete Discharge Pipe Replacement: Sump 155**



*Sump 151*

- Replacement of approximately ~~146-150~~ feet of 54-inch WSP with HDPE;
- ~~Replacement-Remove, salvage, and reinstall~~ approximately ~~146-130~~ feet of 42-inch HDPE;
- Replacement of approximately ~~146-150~~ feet of 42-inch WSP with HDPE;
- Replacement of approximately ~~277-280~~ feet of two (2) 30-inch WSPs with HDPE;
- ~~Replacement of approximately 146-150 feet of 16-inch WSP with HDPE;~~
- Removal and replacement of existing fence at sump site near landside toe;
- Installation of a positive closure vault at the top of the levee waterside hinge point; and
- Replacement of approximately ~~2,250~~2,450 sf of asphalt paving at the south end of the sump station and bike path near the waterside levee toe.

*Sump 155*

- Replacement of approximately ~~351-280~~ feet of two (2) 36-inch WSPs with HDPE;
- Replacement of approximately ~~142-110~~ feet of 42-inch CMP with RCP;
- Installation of a two (2)-positive closure vaults at the top of the levee waterside hinge point; ~~(using similar methods as closure vault replacement);~~
- Installation of a gate riser structure and sluice gate;
- ~~Replacement of approximately 250 sf of asphalt paving;~~ Resurfacing of approximately 2,850 sf of existing aggregate base at the levee crown and waterside access road;
- Removal and replacement of existing fence at sump site near landside toe;
- Installation of a retaining wall at the sump station on the landside toe of the levee;
- Installation of two (2) flights of stairs on waterside slope; ~~and~~
- Removal of existing outfall structure and installation of a common outfall structure for all three discharge pipes; and
- Removal of at least one (1) and up to four (4) trees along the waterside slopes.

It should be noted that for Sump 155, two pipes are contained within a sloped, concrete apron that extends over the American River, and a third pipe extends from a typical concrete outfall structure further up the levee bank. Gunite has been placed between the top of the concrete apron and the bottom of the upper outfall structure. The lower, sloped concrete apron has been undermined by the river and would require removal as part of the proposed project.

Partial Improvements (i.e., stair installation)

Partial improvements would occur at Sumps 058 and 102 and would consist of installation of stairs on the waterside slope (see Figure 9 and Figure 10). No work within the river would occur and there would be limited ground disturbance as needed for forming the cast-in-place stairs.

Figure 9  
Partial Improvement: Sump 058



Figure 10  
Partial Improvement: Sump 102



Project Approvals

The proposed project would require the following approvals by the lead agency (i.e., the City of Sacramento):

- Adoption of the IS/MND and Mitigation Monitoring Plan; and
- Approval of 100% Issued for Bid Plans.

In addition, the proposed project would require the following approvals from responsible and trustee agencies:

- Section 404 Permit – USACE;
- Section 401 Permit – Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB);
- Routine Maintenance Agreement – California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW);
- Section 1602 Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreements (SAA) – CDFW; and
- Section 408 Encroachment Permit – Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB).

## SECTION III – ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST AND DISCUSSION

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### LAND USE, POPULATION AND HOUSING, AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY

#### Introduction

CEQA requires the Lead Agency to examine the effects of a project on the physical conditions that exist within the area that would be affected by the project. CEQA also requires a discussion of any inconsistency between the proposed project and applicable general plans and regional plans.

This section of the IS/MND discusses land use, agricultural resources, energy, and wildfire, and the effect of the proposed project on these resources.

#### Discussion

##### Land Use

The proposed project would include pipe replacement and other associated improvements at five existing stormwater sump stations within the City of Sacramento. The proposed activities would not conflict with the existing land uses designations for the areas in which the existing sump stations and stormwater outfalls are located. Furthermore, the proposed project would not physically divide any established communities that are located within the vicinity of the existing stormwater outfalls.

The proposed project would not result in impacts related to land use.

##### Population and Housing

The proposed project would not include construction of housing or other uses with the potential to create a large number of jobs or result in an influx of new residents to the project area. The proposed project would not include the removal of any existing housing. As such, the proposed project would not displace a substantial number of existing housing or people and would not necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. Furthermore, the project would not increase the capacity of the City's existing stormwater discharge system relative to existing conditions and, thus, would not eliminate any obstacles to growth.

##### Agricultural Resources

The Master EIR discussed the potential impact of development under the 2035 General Plan on agricultural resources (see Master EIR, Chapter 6.2). In addition to evaluating the effect of the General Plan on sites within the City, the Master EIR noted that to the extent the 2035 General Plan accommodates future growth within the City limits, the conversion of farmland outside the City limits is minimized. (Master EIR, page 6.2-13) The Master EIR concluded that the impact of the 2035 General Plan on agricultural resources within the City was less than significant.

The proposed project entails the complete replacement of the pump discharge pipes for three drainage sump station facilities and installation of stairs for two drainage sump station facilities. All five of the sump station facilities are located within developed areas of the City of Sacramento

that are not currently used for agricultural production. In addition, the project would not alter the land uses in the vicinity of the existing sump station facilities.

The proposed project would not result in impacts to agricultural resources.

### Energy

The Master EIR discussed energy conservation and relevant General Plan policies in Section 6.3 (page 6-3). The discussion concluded that with implementation of the General Plan policies and energy regulation (e.g., Title 24), development allowed in the 2035 General Plan would not result in the inefficient, wasteful, or unnecessary consumption of energy. The Master EIR concluded that implementation of State regulations, coordination with energy providers, and implementation of 2035 General Plan policies would reduce the potential impacts from construction of new energy production or transmission facilities to a less-than-significant level.

The proposed project would not increase energy use associated with the City's sump station facilities relative to existing conditions. While the proposed project would involve a temporary increase in energy demand associated with the proposed trenching and pipe replacement activities, such energy demand would be relatively minor and would cease upon completion of the improvements.

Consistent with the Master EIR, as well as Section VI of CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, the proposed project would not result in impacts related to energy. Specifically, the project would not result in a potentially significant impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during project construction or operation and would not conflict with or obstruct a State or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

### Wildfire

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

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

**Environmental Setting**

The existing sump station facilities are located alongside flood control levees within the City of Sacramento. In general, the visual character of the areas surrounding the sump station facilities is defined by ruderal grasses and riparian habitat associated with the waterways that receive stormwater discharge from the facilities, as well as levees, bikeways, roadways, and residential development. The existing sump station facilities do not generate light or glare; however, most of the facilities are located within the vicinity of existing light sources, including light from vehicle headlights, exterior lighting on buildings, and streetlights. The sump station facilities are not visible from any State Scenic Highways.<sup>1</sup>

**Standards of Significance**

The significance criteria used to evaluate the project impacts to aesthetics are based on Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, thresholds of significance adopted by the City in applicable general plans and previous environmental documents, and professional judgment. For purposes of this IS/MND, impacts to aesthetics 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:

- Create a new source of substantial light or glare that is substantially greater than typical urban sources and could cause sustained annoyance or hazard for nearby sensitive receptors; or
- Substantially interfere with an important scenic resource or substantially degrade the view of an existing scenic resource.

**Summary of Analysis under the 2035 General Plan Master EIR and Applicable General Plan Policies**

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

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<sup>1</sup> California Department of Transportation. *California State Scenic Highway System Map*. Available at: <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=2e921695c43643b1aaf7000dfcc19983>. Accessed August 2020.

The Master EIR identified potential impacts for light and glare (Impact 4.13-1) and concluded that impacts would be less than significant with implementation of applicable General Plan policies.

## **Answers to Checklist Questions**

### Questions A and B

According to the Master EIR, the City of Sacramento is mostly built out, and a large amount of widespread, ambient light from urban uses already exists. New development permitted under the 2035 General Plan would add sources of light that are similar to the existing urban light sources from any of the following: exterior building lighting, new street lighting, parking lot lights, and headlights of vehicular traffic. Sensitive land uses would generally be residential uses, especially single-family residential uses.

The proposed project would not result in the introduction of any new permanent sources of light or glare to the existing sump station facilities. While temporary lighting may be required during construction of the proposed facility improvements, such light sources would be typical of lighting used for other maintenance projects within the City, and any lighting would be directed at the proposed work areas, away from existing residences and other sensitive receptors. Therefore, the proposed project would have **no additional significant effects** regarding sources of light and glare.

### Question C

The City of Sacramento is primarily built out; however, new development associated with the 2035 General Plan could result in changes to important scenic resources as seen from visually sensitive locations. Important existing scenic resources include major natural open space features such as the American River and Sacramento River, including associated parkways. Another important scenic resource is the State Capitol (as defined by the Capitol View Protection Ordinance). Other potential important scenic resources include important historic structures listed on the Sacramento Register of Historic and Cultural Resources, California and/or National Registers.

Visually-sensitive public locations include viewpoints where a change to the visibility of an important scenic resource, or a visual change to the resource itself, would affect the general public. Visually-sensitive public locations include public plazas, trails, parks, parkways, or designated, publicly available and important scenic corridors (e.g., Capitol View Protection Corridor).

Policy ER 7.1.1 would guide the City to avoid or reduce substantial adverse effects of new development on views from public places to the Sacramento and American rivers and adjacent greenways and landmarks. With adherence to this policy, buildout of the 2035 General Plan would not substantially alter views of important scenic resources from visually sensitive areas. According to the Master EIR, with buildout of the 2035 General Plan, impacts related to interference with important existing scenic resources or degrading views of important existing scenic resources, as seen from a visually sensitive, public location would be less than significant.

The existing sump station facilities are located within the vicinity of public trail facilities, the American River, and other local waterways. The proposed project would include replacement of existing piping at the majority of the existing facilities. In addition, the project would include installation of temporary cofferdams at Sump 089 and Sump 151, installation of positive closure vaults at Sump 089, Sump 151, and Sump 155, installation of a retaining wall at Sump 155, replacement of asphalt paving in the vicinity of Sump 151 and Sump 155, and other minor

improvements, such as stair installation at Sumps 058 and 102. The proposed improvements would not substantially degrade the visual character or quality of the pump station facilities or their immediate surroundings. Upon completion of the proposed improvements, areas disturbed to replace existing piping would be revegetated, and the temporary cofferdams at Sump 89 and Sump 151 would be removed.

Based on the above, the proposed project would have ***no additional significant effects*** that were not evaluated in the Master EIR.

### **Mitigation Measures**

None required.

### **Findings**

The proposed project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Aesthetics. Implementation of the proposed project would have no additional significant environmental effects beyond what was previously analyzed in the Master EIR.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
<b>2. AIR QUALITY</b> <i>Would the proposal:</i>			X
A) Result in construction emissions of NO <sub>x</sub> above 85 pounds per day?			X
B) Result in operational emissions of NO <sub>x</sub> or ROG above 65 pounds per day?			X
C) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?			X
D) Result in any increase in PM <sub>10</sub> concentrations, unless all feasible Best Available Control Technology (BACT) and Best Management Practices (BMPs) have been applied, then increases above 80 pounds per day or 14.6 tons per year?		X	
E) Result in CO concentrations that exceed the 1-hour state ambient air quality standard (i.e., 20.0 ppm) or the 8-hour state ambient standard (i.e., 9.0 ppm)?			X
F) Result in exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			X
G) Result in TAC exposures create a risk of 10 in 1 million for stationary sources, or substantially increase the risk of exposure to TACs from mobile sources?			X
H) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?			X

### **Environmental Setting**

The environmental setting for the proposed project, including the existing climate and meteorological conditions, existing air quality conditions, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, is discussed below.

#### Climate and Meteorology

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

Hot, dry summers and mild, rainy winters characterize the Mediterranean climate of the Sacramento Valley. Throughout the year, daily temperatures may range by 20 degrees Fahrenheit with summer highs often exceeding 100 degrees and winter lows occasionally below freezing. Average annual rainfall is approximately 20 inches and snowfall is very rare.

Summertime temperatures are normally moderated by the presence of the “Delta breeze” that arrives through the Carquinez Strait in the evening hours.

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

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

#### Air Quality Conditions

The SVAB is under the jurisdiction of the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD). Federal and State air quality standards have been established for six common air pollutants, known as criteria pollutants, because the criteria air pollutants could be detrimental to human health and the environment. The criteria pollutants include particulate matter, ground-level ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, and lead. At the federal level, Sacramento County is designated as severe nonattainment for the 8-hour ozone standard, nonattainment for the 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard, and attainment or unclassified for all other criteria pollutants. At the State level, the area is designated as a serious nonattainment area for the 1-hour ozone standard, nonattainment for the 8-hour ozone standard, nonattainment for the particulate matter 10 microns in diameter (PM<sub>10</sub>) and particulate matter 2.5 microns in diameter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) standards, and attainment or unclassified for all other State standards.

Nearly all development projects in the Sacramento region have the potential to generate air pollutants that may increase the difficulty of attaining federal and State AAQS. Therefore, for most projects, evaluation of air quality impacts is required to comply with CEQA. In order to help public agencies in evaluating air quality impacts, the SMAQMD has developed the *Guide to Air Quality Assessment in Sacramento County*. The SMAQMD’s guide includes recommended thresholds of significance, including mass emission thresholds for construction-related and operational ozone precursors, as the area is under nonattainment for the federal and State ozone AAQS. The SMAQMD’s guide also includes screening criteria for localized carbon monoxide (CO) emissions and thresholds for new stationary sources of toxic air contaminants (TACs).

In addition to criteria air pollutants, TACs are also a category of environmental concern. TACs are present in many types of emissions with varying degrees of toxicity. Sources of TACs include industrial processes such as petroleum refining and chrome plating operations, commercial operations such as gasoline stations and dry cleaners, and motor vehicle exhaust. Cars and trucks release at least 40 different TACs. In terms of health risks, the most volatile contaminants are diesel particulate matter (DPM), benzene, formaldehyde, 1,3-butadiene and acetaldehyde. Gasoline vapors contain several TACs, including benzene, toluene, and xylenes. Public exposure to TACs

can result from emissions from normal operations as well as accidental releases. Health risks from TACs are a function of both the concentration of emissions and the duration of exposure, which typically are associated with long-term exposure and the associated risk of contracting cancer. Health effects of exposure to TACs other than cancer include birth defects, neurological damage, and death.

Naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) was identified as a TAC in 1986 by CARB. Earth disturbance activity could result in the release of NOA to the air. NOA is located in many parts of California and is commonly associated with ultramafic rocks. According to mapping prepared by the California Geological Survey, the only area within Sacramento County that is likely to contain NOA is eastern Sacramento County. The project site is not located in an area identified as likely to contain NOA.

Some land uses are considered more sensitive to air pollution than others, due to the types of population groups or activities involved. Heightened sensitivity may be caused by health problems, proximity to the emissions source, and/or duration of exposure to air pollutants. Children, pregnant women, the elderly, and those with existing health problems are especially vulnerable to the effects of air pollution. Accordingly, land uses that are typically considered to be sensitive receptors include residences, schools, childcare centers, playgrounds, retirement homes, convalescent homes, hospitals, and medical clinics. Sumps 155, 058, and 102 are located adjacent or within close proximity to existing single-family uses.

### Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions

Emissions of GHGs contributing to global climate change are attributable in large part to human activities associated with the industrial/manufacturing, utility, transportation, residential, and agricultural sectors. Therefore, the cumulative global emissions of GHGs contributing to global climate change can be attributed to every nation, region, and city, and virtually every individual on Earth. A project's GHG emissions are at a micro-scale relative to global emissions, but could result in a cumulatively considerable incremental contribution to a significant cumulative macro-scale impact.

In September 2006, Assembly Bill (AB) 32 was enacted, which requires that statewide GHG emissions be reduced to 1990 levels by the year 2020. AB 32 delegated the authority for implementation to the CARB and directs the CARB to enforce the statewide cap. In accordance with AB 32, CARB prepared the *Climate Change Scoping Plan* (Scoping Plan) for California, which was approved in 2008 and subsequently revised in 2014 and 2017. The 2017 revision to the Scoping Plan updated the plan in compliance with Senate Bill (SB) 32. SB 32 codified emissions reduction targets for the year 2030, which had previously been established by Executive Order B-30-15.

The City adopted the City of Sacramento Climate Action Plan (CAP) on February 14, 2012 to comply with AB 32. The CAP identified how the City and the broader community could reduce Sacramento's GHG emissions and included reduction targets, strategies, and specific actions. In 2015, the City of Sacramento adopted the 2035 General Plan Update. The update incorporated measures and actions from the CAP into Appendix B, General Plan CAP Policies and Programs, of the General Plan Update. Appendix B includes all citywide policies and programs that are supportive of reducing GHG emissions.

## **Standards of Significance**

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

- Construction emissions of 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;
- Any increase in PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations, unless all feasible Best Available Control Technology (BACT) and Best Management Practices (BMPs) have been applied, then increases above 80 pounds per day or 14.6 tons per year;
- CO concentrations that exceed the 1-hour State ambient air quality standard (i.e., 20.0 ppm) or the 8-hour State ambient standard (i.e., 9.0 ppm); or
- Exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

Ambient air quality standards have not been established for TACs. TAC exposure is deemed to be significant if:

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

A project is considered to have a significant effect relating to greenhouse gas emissions if the project fails to satisfy the requirements of the City's CAP.

## **Summary of Analysis under the 2035 General Plan Master EIR and Applicable General Plan Policies**

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

Policies in the 2035 General Plan Environmental Resources Element were identified as mitigating potential effects of development that could occur under the 2035 General Plan. Accordingly, Policy ER 6.1.1 calls for the City to work with the CARB and the SMAQMD to meet State and federal air quality standards; Policy ER 6.1.2 requires the City to review proposed development projects to ensure that the projects incorporate feasible measures that reduce construction and operational emissions; Policy ER 6.1.4 and ER 6.1.11 calls for coordination of City efforts with SMAQMD; and Policy ER 6.1.15 requires the City to give preference to contractors using reduced-emission equipment.

The Master EIR identified exposure to sources of TACs as a potential effect. Policies in the 2035 General Plan would reduce the effect to a less-than-significant level. The policies include ER 6.1.4, requiring coordination with SMAQMD in evaluating exposure of sensitive receptors to TACs, and impose appropriate conditions on projects to protect public health and safety, as well as Policy LU 2.7.5 requiring extensive landscaping and trees along freeways and design elements that provide proper filtering, ventilation, and exhaust of vehicle air emissions from buildings.

The Master EIR found that GHG emissions that would be generated by development consistent with the 2035 General Plan would contribute to climate change on a cumulative basis. Policies of

the General Plan identified in the Master EIR that would reduce construction-related GHG emissions include: ER 6.1.2, ER 6.1.11, and ER 6.1.15. The 2035 General Plan incorporates the GHG reduction strategy of the 2012 CAP, which demonstrates compliance mechanisms for achieving the City’s adopted GHG reduction target of 15 percent below 2005 emissions by 2020. Policy ER 6.1.9 commits the City to assess and monitor performance of GHG emission reduction efforts beyond 2020, and progress toward meeting long-term GHG emissions reduction goals. Policy ER 6.1.8 also commits the City to evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of new GHG emissions reduction measures in view of the City’s longer-term GHG emissions reductions goal. The discussion of GHG emissions and climate change in the 2035 General Plan Master EIR are incorporated by reference in this IS/MND (CEQA Guidelines Section 15150).

The Master EIR identified numerous policies included in the 2035 General Plan that addressed GHG emissions and climate change. See Draft Master EIR, Chapter 4.14, and pages 4.14-1 et seq.

**Answers to Checklist Questions**

Question A

In order to evaluate ozone and other criteria air pollutant emissions and support attainment goals for those pollutants that the area is designated nonattainment, the SMAQMD has established recommended thresholds of significance, including mass emission thresholds for construction-related and operational ozone precursors (i.e., reactive organic gases [ROG] and oxides of nitrogen [NO<sub>x</sub>]), as the area is under nonattainment for ozone. The SMAQMD’s recommended thresholds of significance for ROG and NO<sub>x</sub> are in units of pounds per day (lbs/day) and are presented in Table 3.

Table 3 <b>SMAQMD Thresholds of Significance for Ozone Precursors</b>		
Pollutant	Construction Thresholds	Operational Thresholds
NO <sub>x</sub>	85 lbs/day	65 lbs/day
ROG	-	65 lbs/day

*Source: Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District. SMAQMD Thresholds of Significance Table. Available at: <http://www.airquality.org/LandUseTransportation/Documents/CH2ThresholdsTable4-2020.pdf>. Accessed September 2020.*

Because construction equipment emits relatively low levels of ROG, and ROG emissions from other construction processes (e.g., asphalt paving, architectural coatings) are typically regulated by SMAQMD, SMAQMD has not adopted a construction emissions threshold for ROG. SMAQMD has, however, adopted a construction emissions threshold for NO<sub>x</sub>, as shown in Table 3, above.

In order to determine whether the proposed project would result in ozone emissions in excess of the applicable thresholds of significance presented above, the proposed project’s construction-related NO<sub>x</sub> emissions have been estimated using SMAQMD’s Road Construction Emissions Model (RoadMod), Version 9.0.0.

With regard to the analysis of construction-related emissions, implementation of the proposed project would involve construction activity within each of the identified sump locations. Although the exact timing of construction on each of the sump locations is not currently known, all of the proposed construction-activity is anticipated to occur over approximately four months. During the four-month construction period, construction at a maximum of two sites could occur simultaneously based on the involvement of up to two contractors and associated construction

crews. Although the ultimate schedule for project-construction is unknown, to provide a conservative approach to the estimation of project-related emissions, construction of the two sump sites with the largest anticipated area of disturbance was assumed to occur simultaneously. Assuming that construction of the two sump locations with the largest anticipated area of disturbance occurs simultaneously provides for the highest potential daily emissions. Should project construction proceed without construction work overlapping at two different sump stations, or if work at two smaller sump stations overlap, the maximum daily emissions would be less than the levels presented within this analysis.

SMAQMD’s RoadMod requires the user to input information related to the area of disturbance, the length of time a project would occur, and, for linear non-roadway projects, a list of equipment that would be used during project construction. The sump location with the largest anticipated area of disturbance (according to the Biological Resources Evaluation and Botanical Inventory Report prepared for the proposed project by Sycamore Environmental Consultants, Inc.) would be Sump 089, with a temporary disturbance area of approximately 0.65 acres, and Sump 155 with a temporary disturbance area of approximately 0.21 acres. Based on information provided by the project engineer, work at both sumps was anticipated to include the use of the following pieces of equipment: excavator, crane, grader, compactor, tractor/loader/backhoe, paving equipment, and a concrete saw.

The results of the proposed project’s emissions estimations were compared to the thresholds of significance above in order to determine the associated level of impact. All modeling results are included in Appendix A to this IS/MND.

Use of the aforementioned equipment, as well as vehicle use by construction employees, would generate emissions for the entire construction period. According to the CalEEMod results, the proposed project is estimated to result in maximum daily construction emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> as shown in Table 4.

<b>Table 4</b>		
<b>Maximum Unmitigated Project Construction NO<sub>x</sub> Emissions</b>		
<b>Sump Location</b>	<b>Project Emissions (lbs/day)</b>	<b>SMAQMD Threshold of Significance (lbs/day)</b>
089	18.11	85
155	18.11	85
<b>Total</b>	<b>36.22</b>	<b>85</b>
<i>Source: RoadMod, September 2020 (see Appendix A).</i>		

As shown in the table, the proposed project’s maximum unmitigated construction-related NO<sub>x</sub> emissions would be below the applicable SMAQMD threshold of significance of 85 lbs/day either from separate completion of work at Sump 089 and 155 or simultaneous completion of such work. It should be noted that all projects under the jurisdiction of SMAQMD are required to comply with all applicable SMAQMD rules and regulations (a complete list of current rules is available at [www.airquality.org/rules](http://www.airquality.org/rules)). Accordingly, the proposed project is required to comply with all applicable SMAQMD rules and regulations for construction, including, but not limited to, Rule 403 (Fugitive Dust), Rule 404 (Particulate Matter), Rule 442 (Architectural Coatings), and Rule 453 (Cutback and Emulsified Asphalt Paving Materials). Furthermore, all projects are required to implement the SMAQMD’s Basic Construction Emission Control Practices (BCECP). Compliance with SMAQMD rules and regulations and BCECP would help to ensure that construction emissions are minimized further from the levels presented in Table 4. Finally, because sump locations 089 and 155 represent the sumps with the largest potential area of disturbance, the total emissions presented in Table 4 provide a worst-case estimation of maximum daily emissions. In

practice, if work is completed on either of the foregoing sites simultaneously with a smaller sump site, emissions would likely be less than the maximum daily level presented above.

Given that NO<sub>x</sub> emissions associated with construction of the proposed project would be below the applicable SMAQMD threshold of significance, the project would have **no additional significant effects** that were not evaluated in the Master EIR.

Question B

The proposed project would not result in any changes in operational activity for the pumps; thus, the project would not have the potential to result in changes to existing operational emissions from any of the identified sump locations. Considering the lack of changes to operational activities of the pumps, the proposed project would have **no additional significant effects** that were not evaluated in the Master EIR.

Question C

Adopted SMAQMD rules and regulations, as well as the thresholds of significance, have been developed with the intent to ensure continued attainment of AAQS, or to work towards attainment of AAQS for which the area is currently designated nonattainment, consistent with applicable air quality plans. As future attainment of AAQS is a function of successful implementation of SMAQMD’s planning efforts, according to the SMAQMD Guide, by exceeding the SMAQMD’s project-level thresholds for construction or operational emissions, a project could contribute to the region’s nonattainment status for ozone and PM emissions and could be considered to conflict with or obstruct implementation of the SMAQMD’s air quality planning efforts.

As discussed above and below, construction of the project would not result in emissions in excess of the SMAQMD’s thresholds, and the project would not result in any changes to the level of long-term emissions associated with existing sump operations. As such, implementation of the proposed project would not contribute to the region’s nonattainment status for ozone or PM emissions and would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the SMAQMD’s air quality planning efforts. Accordingly, the proposed project would not violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation, and the project would have **no additional significant effects** that were not evaluated in the Master EIR.

Question D

As the region is designated nonattainment for PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>, the SMAQMD has adopted mass emissions thresholds of significance for PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>, which are presented in Table 5 below.

<b>Table 5</b>		
<b>SMAQMD Thresholds of Significance for PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub></b>		
<b>Pollutant</b>	<b>Construction/Operational Thresholds (lbs/day)</b>	<b>Construction/Operational Thresholds (tons/yr)</b>
PM <sub>10</sub>	80	14.6
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	82	15

*Source: SMAQMD, April 2020.*

As noted for the analysis of operational emissions of ozone precursors presented in question B above, the proposed project would not result in any changes to existing emissions related to operation of the sumps. Consequently, the proposed project would not have the potential to result

in impacts related to operational emissions of PM<sub>10</sub> or PM<sub>2.5</sub>. The analysis presented below is focused on construction-related emissions.

In order to determine whether the proposed project, would result in PM emissions in excess of the applicable thresholds of significance presented above, the proposed project's construction PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions have been estimated using RoadMod with the same assumptions discussed in question A above. The results of the RoadMod emissions estimation are presented in Table 6. As presented in the table, the estimated emissions of PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> would be below the applicable SMAQMD thresholds of significance.

<b>Table 6</b>				
<b>Maximum Unmitigated Project Emissions of PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub></b>				
<b>Sump Location</b>	<b>Project Construction Emissions (lbs/day)</b>	<b>Construction Thresholds (lbs/day)</b>	<b>Project Construction Emissions (tons/yr)</b>	<b>Construction Thresholds (tons/yr)</b>
<b>PM<sub>10</sub></b>				
089	2.98	80	0.01	14.6
155	2.98	80	0.01	14.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.96</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>14.6</b>
<b>PM<sub>2.5</sub></b>				
089	1.19	82	0.01	15
155	1.19	82	0.01	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.38</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>15</b>

*Source: RoadMod, September 2020 (see Appendix A).*

Therefore, the proposed project is not expected to result in emissions of PM<sub>10</sub> or PM<sub>2.5</sub> in excess of SMAQMD's thresholds of significance. Nonetheless, the project would be required to comply with SMAQMD's Best Available Control Technology (BACT) determinations. The BACT determinations reflect the minimum emission rate/control technology that is required by SMAQMD for various source categories within the district.<sup>2</sup> In addition, as discussed previously, the project would be required to comply with SMAQMD's BCECP, which would help to ensure that construction emissions are minimized further from the levels presented in Table 6. Compliance with SMAQMD's BACT determinations and applicable BMPs would help ensure that the project would not have **additional significant environmental effects** beyond what was evaluated in the Master EIR.

Questions E through G

Some land uses are considered more sensitive to air pollution than others, due to the types of population groups or activities involved. Heightened sensitivity may be caused by health problems, proximity to the emissions source, and/or duration of exposure to air pollutants. Children, pregnant women, the elderly, and those with existing health problems are especially vulnerable to the effects of air pollution. Accordingly, land uses that are typically considered to be sensitive receptors include residences, schools, childcare centers, playgrounds, retirement homes, convalescent homes, hospitals, and medical clinics. The major pollutant concentrations of concern are localized CO emissions and TAC emissions, which are addressed in further detail below.

<sup>2</sup> Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District. *Best Available Control Technology*. Available at: [http://www.airquality.org/businesses/permits-registration-programs/best-available-control-technology-\(bact\)](http://www.airquality.org/businesses/permits-registration-programs/best-available-control-technology-(bact)). Accessed October 2020.

### *Localized CO Emissions*

Localized concentrations of CO are related to the levels of traffic and congestion along streets and at intersections. Per the SMAQMD Guide, emissions of CO are generally of less concern than other criteria pollutants, as operational activities are not likely to generate substantial quantities of CO, and the SVAB has been in attainment for CO for multiple years.<sup>3</sup> The proposed project would not involve operational changes that could result in long-term generation of CO. The use of construction equipment at each site would result in limited generation of CO; however, the total amount of CO emitted by construction equipment would be minimal and would not have the potential to result in health risks to any nearby receptors. Consequently, the proposed project is not anticipated to result in significant impacts to air quality related to localized CO emissions.

### *TAC Emissions*

The CARB's *Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective* (Handbook)<sup>4</sup> provides recommendations for siting new sensitive land uses near sources typically associated with significant levels of TAC emissions, including, but not limited to, freeways and high traffic roads, distribution centers, rail yards, chrome platers, dry cleaners, and gasoline dispensing facilities. The CARB has identified DPM from diesel-fueled engines as a TAC; thus, high volume freeways, stationary diesel engines, and facilities attracting heavy and constant diesel vehicle traffic are identified as having the highest associated health risks from DPM. Gasoline includes multiple TACs, which are released through various processes during the operation of gasoline dispensing facilities (GDFs). Such TACs include benzene, ethyl benzene, toluene, and xylene. Health risks associated with TACs are a function of both the concentration of emissions and the duration of exposure, where the higher the concentration and/or the longer the period of time that a sensitive receptor is exposed to pollutant concentrations would correlate to a higher health risk.

During implementation of the proposed pipe replacement and associated improvements, the operation of heavy-duty diesel-powered equipment within the project sites would result in the emission of DPM. However, construction activities would be limited to an approximately four-month period and would require only limited ground-disturbing activities. Given the relatively limited scope of work at each of the sump station facilities, DPM emissions associated with the proposed project would be relatively minimal. The exposure period typically analyzed in health risk assessments is 30 years or greater, which is substantially longer than the four-month period associated with implementation of the proposed project. In addition, improvements at each of the project sites would be regulated by federal, State, and local regulations, including SMAQMD rules and regulations, and occurring intermittently throughout the course of a day. Considering the short-term nature of construction activities, the regulated and intermittent nature of the operation of construction equipment, and the highly dispersive nature of DPM, the likelihood that any one sensitive receptor would be exposed to high concentrations of DPM for any extended period of time would be low. For the aforementioned reasons, project construction would not be expected to expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

### *Conclusion*

Based on the above discussion, the proposed project would not expose any sensitive receptors to substantial concentrations of localized CO or TACs from construction or operation. Therefore,

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<sup>3</sup> Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District. *Guide to Air Quality Assessment, Chapter 4: Operational Criteria Air Pollutant and Precursor Emissions*. June 2020.

<sup>4</sup> California Air Resources Board. *Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective*. April 2005.

the proposed project would have ***no additional significant effects*** related to the exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations that were not evaluated in the Master EIR.

#### Question H

GHG emissions from completion of the construction activity at sump 089 and 155 were calculated and determined to equal 12.83 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (TCO<sub>2e</sub>). Sump 089 and 155 represent the two sites with the largest anticipated area of disturbance; thus, emissions from all other sites would likely be less than the estimated level of emissions from the two largest sumps. Nevertheless, if the conservative assumption is made that work on all sites will result in roughly equal levels of GHG emissions, the total level of emissions for project implementation would be approximately 102.64 TCO<sub>2e</sub>. For perspective, SMAQMD has concluded that construction projects resulting in GHG emissions of up to 1,100 metric tons of CO<sub>2e</sub>/yr would result in a less-than-significant impact related to GHG emissions. While SMAQMD's emissions thresholds provide a useful comparison to demonstrate the minimal nature of project-related emissions, potential impacts of the proposed project must be compared to the standards within the City's CAP and CAP for Internal Operations.

The goals and strategies that serve as CAP measures have been included in the City's 2035 General Plan Update. Most of the CAP measures are related to development projects, planning, and City operations such as municipal vehicle fleets, as these activities result in the majority of GHG emissions in the City. Due to the small proportion of citywide emissions generated by stormwater infrastructure projects, such as the proposed project, few measures within the City's CAP relate to the proposed project. Nevertheless, several measures that are indirectly related to the project are included in the City's CAP and discussed below.

In compliance with Policy LU 9.1.3, the proposed sump improvements have been designed to avoid the creation of any barriers that would disrupt existing connectivity along creek and river corridors. Thus, the project would not inhibit the continued connection of the City's open space system as called for in LU 9.1.3. Policy LU 2.6.5 encourages the reuse of existing structures within the City. Although the measure is primarily intended to relate to the reuse and renovation of buildings, the proposed project would comply with this measure through the reuse of existing sump infrastructure to the maximum extent practical. Where existing infrastructure cannot be reused the project would include replacement in-situ of such infrastructure, which would generally avoid creating new areas of disturbance. Thus, the project would be considered consistent with Policy LU 2.6.5. To comply with Policy ER 1.1.8, Clean Watershed, Mitigation Measure 3-1(b), discussed in the Biological Resources Section of this Initial Study, requires project construction to adhere to all relevant regulations related to the protection of water quality and alterations of streambeds. Implementation of Mitigation Measure 3-1(b) would ensure the project's compliance with Policy ER 1.1.8. Finally, Policy EC 2.1.28 directs the City to continue to manage climate change-related flood risks within the City. The proposed project is intended to provide continued stormwater control within the City, which would help to fulfill the intent of Policy EC 2.1.28.

The Master EIR concluded that buildout of the City's General Plan would not result in a conflict with applicable plans, policies, or regulations adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions. The proposed project would result in minor GHG emissions during project construction, but would be below SMAQMD's thresholds of significance for construction related emissions. In addition, the proposed project would comply with all relevant General Plan policies.

Considering the above, the proposed project would not conflict with the City's General Plan, policies, or regulations adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHG, and the proposed project

would have ***no additional significant effects*** related to the GHG emissions that were not evaluated in the Master EIR.

#### **MITIGATION MEASURES**

Implementation of the following mitigation measure would reduce potential impacts related to air quality to a *less-than-significant* level.

- 2-1            *The proposed project shall comply with all applicable SMAQMD Best Available Control Technology (BACT) determinations and Basic Construction Emission Control Practices (BCECP) in effect at the time of improvement plan approval.*

#### **FINDINGS**

The proposed project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to air quality and GHG emissions. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would have no additional significant environmental effects beyond what was previously analyzed in the Master EIR.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
<b>3. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES</b> Would the proposal:			
A) Create a potential health hazard, or use, production or disposal of materials that would pose a hazard to plant or animal populations in the area affected?			X
B) Result in substantial degradation of the quality of the environment, reduction of the habitat, reduction of population below self-sustaining levels of threatened or endangered species of plant or animal species?		X	
C) Affect other species of special concern to agencies or natural resource organizations (such as regulatory waters and wetlands)?		X	

**Environmental Setting**

Although the majority of the City is developed with residential, commercial, and other urban development, valuable plant and wildlife habitat still exists. The natural plant and wildlife habitats are located primarily outside the City boundaries in the northern, southern and eastern portions of the City, but also occur along river and stream corridors and on a number of undeveloped parcels. Habitats that are present in the City include annual grasslands, riparian woodlands, oak woodlands, riverine, ponds, freshwater marshes, seasonal wetlands, and vernal pools.

The following site-specific environmental setting information is based on the Biological Resources Evaluation and Botanical Inventory Report (BRE) prepared for the proposed project by Sycamore Environmental Consultants, Inc. (Sycamore).<sup>5</sup> As part of the BRE, a general biological field survey, a botanical survey, and an aquatic resource delineation were prepared by Sycamore. In addition, the BRE included a literature and database review. Biological and botanical fieldwork was conducted on July 22 and 23, 2020 by Sycamore Environmental biologists. The Lathrop Staging Area was surveyed on August 26, 2020 and the La Riviera Staging Area was surveyed on August 28, 2020. The aquatic resource delineation was prepared in accordance with standard USACE Wetland Delineation Manual methods – the results of the delineation are incorporated into the BRE.

The BRE covered the entirety of the approximately nine-acre BSA, defined herein to include the areas anticipated to be disturbed by the proposed project and a portion of the receiving waterbody at the sump outfalls. The BSA includes the La Riviera and Lathrop staging areas.

The elevation in the BSA ranges from seven to 52 feet above sea level. Land use surrounding the project sites on the land side of the levees generally consists of residential neighborhoods and commercial buildings. Sump 089 is generally more rural, and is bordered by agricultural fields. All sump sites are bordered by a receiving waterbody at the sump outfall location. Sump 058 is located along Steelhead Creek, Sump 089 is located along Morrison Creek, and Sump 102 is

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<sup>5</sup> Sycamore Environmental Consultants, Inc. *Biological Resources Evaluation and Botanical Inventory Report*. September 2020.

located along the NEMDC. Sump 151 is located along a channel on the American River floodplain and Sump 155 is located along the American River.

### **Standards of Significance**

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

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

### **Summary of Analysis under the 2035 General Plan Master EIR and Applicable General Plan Policies**

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

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

The Master EIR concluded that policies in the General Plan, combined with compliance with the California Endangered Species Act, Natomas Basin HCP (when applicable) and CEQA would minimize the impacts on special-status species to a less-than-significant level (see Impact 4.3-1), and that the General Plan policies, along with similar compliance with local, state and federal regulations would reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level for habitat for special-status invertebrates, birds, amphibians and reptiles, mammals and fish (Impacts 4.3-3-6).

Given the prevalence of rivers and streams in the incorporated area, impacts to riparian habitat is a common concern. Riparian habitats are known to exist throughout the City, especially along the Sacramento and American rivers and their tributaries. The Master EIR discussed impacts of development adjacent to riparian habitat that could disturb wildlife species that rely on these areas for shelter and food, and could also result in the degradation of these areas through the introduction of feral animals and contaminants that are typical of urban uses. The CDFW regulates potential impacts on lakes, streams, and associated riparian (streamside or lakeside) vegetation through the issuance of LSAAs (per Fish and Game Code Section 1602), and provides guidance to the City as a resource agency. While there are no federal regulations that specifically mandate the protection of riparian vegetation, federal regulations set forth in Section 404 of the Clean Water Act address areas that potentially contain riparian-type vegetation, such as wetlands.

The General Plan calls for the City to preserve the ecological integrity of creek corridors, canals and drainage ditches that support riparian resources (Policy ER 2.1.5) and wetlands (Policy ER 2.1.6), and requires habitat assessments and impact compensation for projects (Policy ER 2.1.10). The City has adopted a standard that requires coordination with state and federal agencies if a project has the potential to affect other species of special concern or habitats (including regulatory waters and wetlands) protected by agencies or natural resource organizations (Policy 2.1.11).

Implementation of 2035 General Plan Policy ER 2.1.5 would reduce the magnitude of potential impacts by requiring a 1:1 replacement of riparian habitat lost to development. While this would help mitigate impacts on riparian habitat, large open areas of riparian habitat used by wildlife could be lost and/or degraded directly and indirectly through development under the 2035 General Plan. Given the extent of urban development designated in the General Plan, the preservation and/or restoration of riparian habitat would likely occur outside of the City limits. The Master EIR concluded that the permanent loss of riparian habitat would be a less-than-significant impact (Impact 4.3-7).

### **Answers to Checklist Questions**

#### Question A

The use, handling, and storage of hazardous materials is regulated by both the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Fed/OSHA) and the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal/OSHA). Cal/OSHA is responsible for developing and enforcing workplace safety regulations.

The proposed discharge pipe replacements and associated improvements would not involve the routine transport, use, disposal, or generation of substantial amounts of hazardous materials. While limited amounts of hazardous materials (i.e., paints, adhesives, sealants) could potentially be used during implementation of the proposed improvements, such materials would be used in accordance with established protocols and would not be likely to result in hazards to plant and animal populations. Therefore, the proposed project would have ***no additional significant effects*** that were not evaluated in the Master EIR.

#### Question B

As mandated by the SAFCA and the USACE, sump station outfalls that penetrate and cross major levees are inspected on a five-year cycle. The project entails the complete replacement of the pump discharge pipes for three drainage sump station facilities (Sumps 089, 151, and 155) and installation of stairs on the waterside slope for two drainage sump station facilities (Sumps 058 and 102). The following sections provide an analysis of potential impacts to sensitive natural communities, special-status species, and trees.

#### *Sensitive Natural Communities*

The BRE included an evaluation of sensitive natural communities within the BSA, based on the definitions provided in the Manual of California Vegetation, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, and the most recent CDFW California Natural Communities List. Natural communities, including those that are sensitive, and their acreages, are summarized in Table 7 below. Habitat mapping for the biological study area of each sump is shown on Figure 4 of the BRE, which is included as Appendix B to this IS/MND.

**Table 7**  
**Natural Communities within the BSA**

Natural Community	Vegetation Alliances/Associations (CDFW Code/Rarity Rank) <sup>1</sup>	Sensitive? <sup>2</sup>	Area in BSA (Acres) <sup>3</sup>	Temp. Impact (Acres) <sup>3</sup>	Permanent Impacts (Acres)
<b>Upland Communities</b>					
Nonnative Annual Grassland	<i>Avena</i> spp. – <i>Bromus</i> spp. Semi-Natural Alliance (42.027.00/No Rank)	No	2.19	0.76	<0.01 (187 cubic feet)
Developed/ Disturbed	None recognized	No	5.19	--	--
Riparian Forest	<i>Quercus lobata</i> Alliance (71.040.00/G3 S3) <i>Salix exigua</i> Alliance (61.209.00/G5 S4) <i>Salix gooddingii</i> – <i>Salix laevigata</i> Alliance (61.216.00/G4 S3) <i>Populus fremontii</i> / <i>Vitus californica</i> Association (61.130.13/G4 S3)	Yes (Riparian)	0.5	0.08	<0.01 (67 cubic feet)
Riparian Scrub Shrub	<i>Rubus armeniacus</i> Alliance (63.906.01/No Rank)	Yes (Riparian)	0.05	0.02	<0.01 (38 cubic feet)
Temporarily Disturbed	None recognized	No	0.41	--	--
Existing RSP	None recognized	No	0.14	0.02	--
<b>Aquatic Communities</b>					
Steelhead Creek	None recognized	Yes (Water)	0.11	0	--
American River Floodplain Channel	None recognized	Yes (Water)	0.06	0.06	--
American River	None recognized	Yes (Water)	0.15	0.05	--
Morrison Creek	None recognized	Yes (Water)	0.14	0.07	--
Sump 058 Outfall Channel	None recognized	Yes (Water)	0.01	0	--
<b>Total:</b>			<b>8.95</b>	<b>1.06</b>	<b>0.01</b>

<sup>1</sup> Vegetation alliances based on descriptions and classification methods in Sawyer et al. (2009) and A Manual of California Vegetation, Online Version (CNPS 2020b). Alliance codes and ranks are from CDFW (2019d). Rarity ranks of State (S) 1 – 3 are considered imperiled. Communities may lack recognized alliances if they lack vegetation, occupy a small area, or are dominated by nonnatives.

<sup>2</sup> Sensitive natural communities include wetlands, waters, riparian vegetation, and vegetation alliances ranked S1 – S3. Waters listed here are potentially jurisdictional under the Clean Water Act, per the aquatic resources delineation report (Sycamore Environmental 2020).

<sup>3</sup> Acreages were calculated using AutoCAD or ArcMap functions. Temporary impacts are summed across all sump sites. Impacts are not calculated for disturbed/developed areas.

**Source: Sycamore Environmental Consultants, Inc., 2020.**

Sensitive natural communities within the BSA that could be temporarily impacted by the proposed project are described further below. Other sensitive natural communities within the BSA that will not be impacted during project activities include Arcade Creek, Steelhead Creek, and Sump 058 Outfall Channel.

### Riparian Forest

A total of 0.5-acre of riparian forest occurs in the BSA, at seven sumps. At Sump 058, the riparian forest community is dominated by Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*),

northern California black walnut (*Juglans hindsii*), and box elder (*Acer negundo*). At Sump 089, the community is dominated by northern California black walnut and box elder. At Sump 102, the community is dominated by Goodding's black willow (*Salix gooddingii*), northern California black walnut, and Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*). At Sump 103, the community is dominated by valley oak (*Quercus lobata*), Oregon ash, Goodding's black willow, and willowherb (*Epilobium ciliatum*). At Sump 151, the community is dominated by Hinds' willow (*Salix exigua*). At Sump 155, the community is dominated by white alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*), Fremont cottonwood, and box elder. During implementation of the proposed project, approximately 0.08-acre of riparian forest could be temporarily impacted.

#### Riparian Scrub Shrub

A total of 0.05-acre of riparian scrub shrub occurs in the BSA, exclusively at Sump 155. The community is dominated by Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*) that occurs adjacent to the riparian forest community along the American River. During implementation of the proposed project, approximately 0.02-acre of riparian scrub shrub could be temporarily impacted.

#### American River Floodplain Channel

A total of 0.06-acre of the American River floodplain channel occurs in the BSA. Only Sump 151 outfalls into the American River Floodplain Channel. The American River Floodplain Channel generally flows east along the levee toe approximately 0.4-mile, then southward another 0.4-mile where the Channel drains into the American River. The American River floodplain, including the Floodplain Channel, is classified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as "AE", or areas subject to one percent annual chance flood. During such flood events, the American River floodplain (including the American River Floodplain Channel) would become inundated, and flows would then travel westward with the American River (including the floodplain channel) during those events. The American River Floodplain Channel is an intermittent channel and sensitive natural community.

At Sump 151, the banks of the American River floodplain channel consist of the concrete headwall, rock slope protection, emergent wetland vegetation and riparian forest. Vegetation on the banks consist of Himalayan blackberry, Hinds' willow, California wild grape, and cherry plum (*Prunus cerasifera*). The channel bed consists of a scour pool lined with boulders, cobble and mud. The portion of the channel bed at the sump outfall lacks vegetation. Vegetation on the channel bed adjacent to the BSA consists of smartweed (*Persicaria* sp.), barnyard grass (*Echinochloa* sp.), California button willow (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), and yellow bristle grass (*Setaria pumila* ssp. *pumila*). At the time of field work conducted by Sycamore, the portion of the American River Floodplain Channel within the BSA was stagnant and contained up to three feet of water. During implementation of the proposed project, approximately 0.06-acre of the American River Floodplain Channel could be temporarily impacted.

Potential impacts to the American River Floodplain Channel are discussed further under Question 'C' below.

### American River

A total of 0.15-acre of the American River occurs in the BSA. Sump 155 outfalls into the American River. The American River is a large, fast-flowing river that enters the City of Sacramento from the east and flows west until it joins the Sacramento River. The Sacramento River flows south into the San Francisco Bay Delta and eventually into the Pacific Ocean. The American River is a perennial channel and sensitive natural community.

At Sump 155, the earthen banks of the American River are vegetated with grassland, riparian shrubs, and riparian forest. Vegetation on the banks consists of white alder, Fremont cottonwood, northern California black walnut, box elder, Himalayan blackberry, summer mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), Italian thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus* ssp. *pycnocephalus*), riggut grass (*Bromus diandrus*), goose grass (*Galium aparine*), mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*), and wild oat (*Avena fatua*). The portion of the riverbed in the BSA consists of boulders and cobble rocks. Gravel substrate is not present on the riverbed in the BSA, and the riverbed lacks vegetation. The portion of the river adjacent to Sump 155 is relatively shallow and fast-flowing. At the time of field work conducted by Sycamore, the portion of the American River within the BSA contained up to two feet of water, with deeper portions of the river outside the BSA estimated to be up to five feet in depth. During implementation of the proposed project, approximately 0.02-acre of the American River channel could be temporarily impacted.

Potential impacts to the American River channel are discussed further under Question 'C' below.

### Morrison Creek

A total of 0.14-acre of Morrison Creek occurs in the BSA. Sump 089 outfalls into Morrison Creek. Morrison Creek flows south and west. Morrison Creek is generally pumped into the Sacramento River at another City sump approximately 1.7 miles southwest of Sump 089. In some years, large precipitation events may cause Morrison Creek to overflow into Beach Lake. Morrison Creek is a perennial channel and sensitive natural community.

At Sump 089, the banks of Morrison Creek consist of rock slope protection (RSP), dirt, and patches of riparian forest and emergent wetland vegetation. A complex of small mammal burrows occurs on the upper banks within the BSA. Vegetation on the upper banks consists of northern California black walnut, Oregon ash, radish (*Raphanus sativus*), black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), deervetch (*Acmispon americanus* var. *americanus*), box elder, and summer mustard. Vegetation at the edge of Morrison Creek consists of dallis grass (*Paspalum dilatatum*), cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*), pennyroyal (*Mentha pulegium*), nutsedge (*Cyperus eragrostis*), kickxia (*Kickxia* sp.), curly dock (*Rumex crispus*), and smartweed. The creek bed consists of mud and is patchily vegetated with false loosestrife (*Ludwigia* sp.) and common tule (*Schoenoplectus acutus* var. *occidentalis*). At the time of field work conducted by Sycamore, the portion of Morrison Creek within the BSA was flowing slowly. The deepest portions of the creek were estimated to be approximately five feet deep. During implementation of the proposed project, approximately 0.07-acre of the Morrison Creek channel could be temporarily impacted.

Potential impacts to Morrison Creek are discussed further under Question 'C' below.

### *Special-Status Species*

As part of the BRE, USFWS file data, California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB)/California Native Plant Society (CNPS) records, and field surveys were used to determine the special-status species that could occur in the BSA.

Special-status species include those plant and wildlife species that have been formally listed, are proposed as endangered or threatened, or are candidates for such listing under the federal and State Endangered Species Acts. Both acts afford protection to listed and proposed species. In addition, CDFW Species of Special Concern, which are species that face extirpation in California if current population and habitat trends continue, USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern, sensitive species included in USFWS Recovery Plans, and CDFW special-status invertebrates are all considered special-status species. Although CDFW Species of Special Concern generally do not have special legal status, they are given special consideration under CEQA. In addition to regulations for special-status species, most birds in the U.S., including non-status species, are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918. Under the MBTA, destroying active nests, eggs, and young is illegal. In addition, plant species on CNPS Lists 1 and 2 are considered special-status plant species and are protected under CEQA.

Based on the results of the USFWS file data, CNDDDB, and CNPS records review, a total of 15 special-status plant species and 27 special-status wildlife species have been documented to occur in the three USGS quadrangles that include the project sites: Florin, Sacramento East, and Rio Linda. The area encompassed by the three quadrangles is referred to hereafter as the project region. Based on the results of the field surveys conducted by Sycamore, 12 of the special-status plant species and 18 of the special-status wildlife species were eliminated from further consideration due to the disturbed nature of the BSA and the lack of suitable habitat (see Appendix B of the BRE, included as Appendix B to this IS/MND).

Special-status species for which suitable habitat is present in the BSA are listed in Table 8 below. Special-status species for which suitable habitat is not present, or whose distributional limits preclude the possibility of their occurrence in the BSA, are not discussed further in this analysis.

#### Plants

As shown in Table 9, the BSA includes potential habitat for three special-status plant species: bristly sedge, wooly rose-mallow, and Sanford's arrowhead. However, special-status plant species were not observed in the BSA during the protocol botanical survey conducted by Sycamore in July 2020, during the evident and identifiable period. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not result in substantial adverse effects to special-status plants.

#### Wildlife

As shown in Table 8, the BSA includes potential habitat for a total of nine-special-status wildlife species that have been documented to occur in the project region. In addition, the BSA includes suitable habitat for nesting birds protected by the MBTA. Such species are described in further detail below.

<b>Table 8 Special-Status Species with Potential to Occur</b>					
Special-Status Species	Common Name	Federal Status <sup>a</sup>	State Status <sup>a</sup> & other codes <sup>b</sup>	Source <sup>c</sup>	Habitat Present?/ Species Observed?
<b>Plants</b>					
<i>Carex comosa</i>	Bristly sedge	--	--/2B.1	2	Yes/No
<i>Hibiscus lasiocarpus</i> var. <i>occidentalis</i>	Woolly rose-mallow	--	--/1B.2	2	Yes/No
<i>Sagittaria sanfordii</i>	Sanford's arrowhead	--	--/1B.2	2	Yes/No
<b>Invertebrates</b>					
<i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i>	Valley elderberry longhorn beetle (VELB)	CH, T	--	1, 2	Yes/No
<b>Fish</b>					
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	California Central Valley steelhead DPS	CH, T	--	1, 2	Yes/No
<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon ESU	CH, T	T	1, 2	Yes/No
<b>Reptiles</b>					
<i>Emys marmorata</i>	Western pond turtle	--	SSC	2	Yes/No
<i>Thamnophis gigas</i>	Giant garter snake	T	T	1, 2	Yes/No
<b>Birds</b>					
<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	Burrowing owl	--	SSC	2	Yes/No
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	Swainson's hawk	--	T	2	Yes/Yes
<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	White-tailed kite	--	FP	2	Yes/No
<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Song sparrow, "Modesto Population"	--	SSC	2	Yes/No
Nesting Birds (MBTA or California Fish and Game Code regulated)		--	--	3	Yes/Yes
<p><sup>a</sup> <b>Listing Status:</b> Federal status determined from USFWS list. State status determined from CDFW (2019a,b,c). Codes used in table are: <b>E</b> = Endangered; <b>T</b> = Threatened; <b>P</b> = Proposed; <b>C</b> = Candidate; <b>R</b> = California Rare; <b>CH</b> = Critical Habitat has been designated.</p> <p><sup>b</sup> <b>Other Codes:</b> Other codes determined from USFWS letter; CDFW (2019a,b,c). Codes used in the table are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SSC</b> = CDFW Species of Special Concern; <b>FP</b> = CDFW Fully Protected; <b>Prot</b> = CDFW Protected; <b>CH</b> = Critical habitat designated.</li> <li>• <b>CNPS List</b> (plants only): <b>1A</b> = Presumed Extinct in California; <b>1B</b> = Rare or Endangered (R/E) in California and elsewhere; <b>2</b> = R/E in California and more common elsewhere; <b>3</b> = Need more information; <b>4</b> = Plants of limited distribution.</li> <li>• <b>CNPS List Decimal Extensions:</b> <b>.1</b> = Seriously endangered in California (over 80 percent of occurrences threatened/high degree and immediacy of threat); <b>.2</b> = Fairly endangered in California (20 to 80 percent of occurrences threatened); <b>.3</b> = Not very endangered in California (&lt; 20% of occurrences threatened or no current threats known).</li> </ul> <p><sup>c</sup> <b>Source:</b> <b>1</b> = USFWS letter. <b>2</b> = CNDDDB. <b>3</b> = Observed or included by Sycamore.</p>					
<b>Source: Sycamore Environmental Consultants, Inc., September 2020.</b>					

*Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle*

The VELB is a small (0.5 to 0.8-inch long) wood-boring beetle found only in association with elderberry (*Sambucus* sp.), its obligate larval host plant. Eggs are laid on living elderberry shrubs. The first larval instar bores through the center of the elderberry stem and develops for one to two years while feeding on the elderberry pith. Prior to pupation, the larva chews an 'exit hole' through the bark and plugs the hole with wood shavings. Exit holes are circular or slightly oval, and 0.28 to 0.39-inch in diameter. After creating an

exit hole, the larva crawls back into its pupal chamber, metamorphoses, and emerges as an adult. Adults emerge, mate, and lay eggs in the spring and summer (March to July), typically when elderberry shrubs are flowering.

In the Central Valley, elderberry shrubs occur most commonly in riparian forests, riparian forest margins, and grassy savannas. Elderberries also occur in oak woodland, mixed chaparral-foothill woodland, and other contexts. Healthy riparian systems supporting dense elderberry clumps are the primary habitat of VELB. Loss of riparian habitat is the primary threat to VELB. The USFWS recognizes habitat for VELB as including both riparian and non-riparian areas where elderberry shrubs are present. Riparian habitat includes all areas that are either influenced by surface or subsurface water flows along streams, rivers, and canals (including the land side of levees) and areas dominated by typically riparian species and non-native vegetation.

The USFWS Framework for Assessing Impacts to the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle outlines procedures for determining occupancy in riparian and non-riparian contexts. The USFWS considers elderberry shrubs in riparian contexts within the range of VELB to be 'suitable habitat, likely occupied' regardless whether exit holes are observed. In non-riparian contexts, the USFWS may consider elderberry shrubs to be unoccupied based on the results of exit hole surveys and an analysis of regional context, including proximity to riparian areas and known VELB populations.

A total of 13 CNDDDB records of VELB have been documented within the project region. The closest record (Occurrence #277) is from 2006, approximately 720 feet southwest of Sump 058.

Elderberry shrubs observed at Sump 155 and the Lathrop staging area provide potential habitat for VELB. The elderberry shrub at Sump 155 is located adjacent to a levee access road on the landside levee toe; the dripline is approximately six feet west of the access road. The shrub is approximately 90 feet south of the sump station fence and approximately 85 feet south of the proposed limits of excavation. The elderberry shrub at Sump 155 contained approximately 10 VELB exit holes and is assumed to be occupied. The elderberry shrubs at the Lathrop Staging Area are located behind and adjacent to the staging area's western fence. The Lathrop staging area is adjacent to USFWS-designated VELB critical habitat to the north. The elderberry shrubs behind the western fence of the Lathrop staging area are potentially occupied by VELB. The shrubs are located over 20 feet to the west of where staging would occur during project implementation.

Elderberry shrubs were not observed at the other sump sites.

Improvement activities associated with the proposed project at Sump 155 would not require trimming or cutting the elderberry shrub. However, given that the proposed project would include disturbance within the vicinity of the Sump 155 shrub, as well as storage of equipment in the vicinity of the shrubs at the edge of the Lathrop staging area, the proposed project has the potential to result in adverse effects to VELB.

#### *California Central Valley Steelhead Distinct Population Segment*

The California Central Valley steelhead distinct population segment (DPS), referred to hereafter as CCV steelhead, is a federal threatened species. The CCV steelhead DPS includes all naturally spawned anadromous populations below natural and manmade impassable barriers in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and their tributaries,

excluding steelhead from San Francisco and San Pablo Bays and their tributaries. The CCV steelhead DPS includes two artificial propagation programs: the Coleman National Fish Hatchery, and Feather River Hatchery steelhead hatchery programs. The Nimbus Fish Hatchery along the American River artificially spawns CCV steelhead; however, such individuals are not considered to be a part of the Evolutionary Significant Unit (ESU). According to redd surveys from 2002 to 2007, some CCV steelhead naturally spawn in the American River below Nimbus Dam.

A total of three CNDDDB records of CCV steelhead have been documented within the project region. The closest record (Occurrence #5) is from 2012, located in the American River adjacent to Sump 155. In addition, CCV steelhead are known to occur in Steelhead Creek. The American River, its floodplain, and Steelhead Creek within the BSA are designated critical habitat for CCV steelhead.

Suitable migration habitat occurs within the BSA at Sumps 058, 102, 155, and Sump 151 during 100-year flood events. Suitable juvenile rearing habitat also occurs at Sumps 058 and 155. Ground-disturbing activities associated with implementation of the proposed sump station improvements could result in adverse effects to the species if sediment-laden runoff from the disturbance areas is discharged to the adjacent waterways, or if in-water work results in disturbance of CCV steelhead habitat. Thus, implementation of avoidance and minimization measures to protect perennial and intermittent channels in the BSA would be necessary to reduce potential impacts to CCV steelhead to a less-than-significant level.

#### *Central Valley Spring-Run Chinook Salmon ESU*

Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon ESU, hereafter SR Chinook, is a State and federal threatened species. The SR Chinook ESU includes all naturally spawned populations of SR Chinook in the Sacramento River and its tributaries, including the Feather River, the Feather River Hatchery SR Chinook program, and unobstructed perennial tributaries to the Sacramento River. Construction of low elevation dams in the foothills of the Sierras on the San Joaquin, Mokelumne, Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced rivers, is thought to have extirpated SR Chinook salmon from these watersheds of the San Joaquin River, as well as on the American River of the Sacramento River basin.

Records of CNDDDB occurrences of SR Chinook in the creeks adjacent to the sump sites, including in the lower American River, do not exist. The closest record (Occurrence #17) is from 2004 in the Barge Canal in the Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel in West Sacramento near Jefferson Boulevard. One adult and 26 juveniles were captured on January 14, February 3 and 24, March 21, and May 25. The American River at Sump 155 within the BSA is designated critical habitat for SR Chinook. The remaining sumps are outside of this species' range and, thus, the proposed work at such sump stations is not anticipated to result in impacts to the species. Given that ground-disturbing activities and in-water work associated with implementation of the proposed sump station improvements at Sump 155, including removal of the concrete apron at the outfall structure, could result in adverse effects to the species, implementation of avoidance and minimization measures to protect perennial and intermittent channels in the BSA would be necessary to reduce potential impacts to SR Chinook to a less-than-significant level.

### *Western Pond Turtle*

Western pond turtle (WPT) is a State species of special concern. The species is associated with permanent or nearly permanent water in a wide variety of habitat types, such as ponds, lakes, streams, irrigation ditches, and permanent pools along intermittent streams. Currently, WPT occurs throughout California west of the Sierra-Cascade crest. The species is absent from desert regions, except along the Mojave River and its tributaries. Elevation range extends from near sea level to 4,690 feet. A total of five CNDDDB records of WPT exist within the project region. The closest record (Occurrence #633) is from 2004, approximately 1.3 miles southeast of Sump 089.

Suitable habitat for WPT occurs on the water side of the levees at all project sites. The species was not observed during the biological survey conducted by Sycamore. Nonetheless, given the presence of suitable habitat, ground-disturbing activities associated with implementation of the proposed sump station improvements could result in adverse effects to WPT.

### *Giant Garter Snake*

Giant garter snake (GGS) is a federal and state threatened species. Historically, GGS inhabited natural wetlands, but now it mostly inhabits agricultural wetlands and other waterways, such as irrigation and drainage canals, riceland, marshes, sloughs, ponds, small lakes, low gradient streams with silt substrates, and adjacent uplands. The current (extant) range of the GGS extends from Chico in Butte County southward to the Mendota Wildlife Area in Fresno County.

A total of 10 CNDDDB records of GGS have been documented within the project region. The closest record (Occurrence #198) is from 2005, approximately 0.7-mile southeast of Sump 089. Known GGS populations do not exist in the portion of Morrison Creek adjacent to Sump 089. Nevertheless, GGS could occur in and along Morrison Creek adjacent to Sump 089. Morrison Creek contains water with emergent vegetation and suitable prey during the GGS active season. The levee slope provides basking habitat and contains small mammal burrows suitable for winter refugia. Aerial imagery shows that there is habitat connectivity between the BSA and the CNDDDB known records within five miles south of the BSA, including Occurrence #198, approximately 0.7-mile to the southeast.

Sumps 058, 102, 151, and 155 are located in areas that have been modeled as 'low probability of GGS occurrence' based on various environmental attributes known to be correlated with occupancy, including land cover, land use, and soil type. Habitat suitability of Steelhead Creek is primarily limited by dense riparian canopy (typical for the lower portions of Steelhead Creek south of the confluence with Arcade Creek), and the assumed presence of large predatory fishes. Habitat suitability of Arcade Creek is limited by the lack of water during snake's active season (Arcade Creek was mostly dry during the July 2020 fieldwork), and by dense riparian canopy. Habitat suitability of the American River and its floodplain channels is limited by scouring flows, dense riparian vegetation, and lack of emergent vegetation, and the presence of large predatory fishes. Thus, GGS is not likely to occur in the vicinity of Sumps 058, 102, 151, or 155 or at the staging areas.

Given that Sump 089 includes suitable habitat for GGS, ground-disturbing activities associated with implementation of the proposed sump station improvements could result in an adverse effect to the species.

### *Burrowing Owl*

Burrowing owl is a state species of special concern. Nesting sites are of concern to CDFW. Burrowing owls primarily inhabit open, dry grassland and desert habitats, such as grasses, forbs, and open shrub stages of pinyon-juniper and ponderosa pine habitats. Main habitat components include burrows for roosting and nesting, and relatively short vegetation with sparse shrubs and taller vegetation. Burrowing owls most commonly use ground squirrel burrows, but they may also use badger, coyote, and fox holes or dens; or human-made structures such as culverts, piles of concrete rubble, pipes and nest boxes. Burrowing owls are a year-round resident in most of California, particularly in the Central Valley, San Francisco Bay region, Carrizo Plain, and Imperial. The species is generally absent from the humid coastal counties north of Marin County and from mountainous areas above 5,300 feet. Burrowing owls are a semi-colonial species that breed in California from March through August, though breeding can begin as early as February and extend into December.

A total of 26 CNDDDB records of burrowing owl have been documented within the project region. The nearest record (Occurrence #61) is from 1974, approximately 480 feet south of Sump 155. The record describes 16 burrows and 13 nesting colonies on the Sacramento State University campus and on the west (land) side of the adjacent levee in 1974.

The open grassland on levee slopes provide potential foraging habitat at all sump sites. However, burrowing owls, or sign of burrowing owl, were not observed within 500 feet of the BSA during the biological surveys conducted as part of the BRE. Burrows potentially suitable for nesting occur at Sump 089. Sump 089 was covered by comprehensive nesting raptor surveys conducted by Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District Bufferlands biologists between February and May 2020. The surveys did not detect burrowing owls within an approximately five square mile area around Sump 089.

Nonetheless, given that Sump 089 includes suitable nesting habitat for burrowing owl, ground-disturbing activities associated with implementation of the proposed sump station improvements could result in adverse effects to the species if the species is present within or adjacent to Sump 089 prior to initiation of ground disturbance.

### *Swainson's Hawk*

Swainson's hawk is a state threatened species. Swainson's hawks nest in open riparian habitat, in scattered trees, or in small groves in sparsely vegetated flatlands. Nesting areas are usually located near water, but are occasionally found in arid regions. Typical habitat includes open desert, grassland, or cropland containing scattered, large trees or small groves. Swainson's hawk is an uncommon breeding resident and migrant in the Central Valley, Klamath Basin, Northeastern Plateau, Lassen County, and Mojave Desert. Swainson's hawks breed and forage in California's Central Valley in spring and summer. Migrating individuals move south through the southern and central interior of California in September and October, some migrating as far as South America.

A total of 56 CNDDDB records of Swainson's hawk have been documented within the project region. The closest record (Occurrence #931) is from 2001, approximately 200 feet south of Sump 058. The next closest record (Occurrence #2213) is from 2012, approximately 550 feet south of Sump 151. According to raptor survey data collected in 2020 by the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District, two Swainson's hawk nests

were observed within 0.5-mile of Sump 089. The closest nest was located approximately 0.25-mile southwest of Sump 089. Suitable nesting habitat occurs at all sump station facilities within the BSA. In addition, Swainson's hawks were observed flying overhead the BSA at Sump 089 during the biological survey conducted by Sycamore. Given that the BSA includes suitable nesting habitat for Swainson's hawk, ground-disturbing activities associated with implementation of the proposed sump station improvements could result in adverse effects to the species if the species is present within or adjacent to the BSA prior to initiation of ground disturbance.

The areas of annual grassland within the BSA at Sumps 089, 102, 151, and 155 are suitable foraging habitat for Swainson's hawk, while smaller or more disturbed grassland patches at Sump 058 provide marginal foraging habitat. Larger expanses of suitable foraging habitat, including along the adjacent levee slopes, surround or are within less than 500 feet of the BSA at all of the sump sites.

#### *White-Tailed Kite*

White-tailed kite nest trees can be located in a variety of wooded habitats including riparian areas, oak woodlands, eucalyptus groves, and scattered isolated trees. Guidance from the Yolo Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP) notes that trees over 20 feet tall provide suitable nesting habitat. Areas with substantial groves of dense, broad-leafed deciduous trees are used for nesting and roosting. Nests are typically located from 20 to 100 feet above the ground near the top of dense oak, willow, or other tree stands, and are often located near an open foraging area with a dense population of voles. The species is rarely found away from agricultural areas. White-tailed kite forages in cultivated lands (field crops, grain and hay, and cultivated/pasture land), annual grasslands and wetland areas. The species preys mostly on voles and other small, diurnal mammals, occasionally on birds, insects, reptiles, and amphibians. White-tailed kites breed from February to October, with peak activity from May to August. White-tailed kites are a year-round resident of coastal and valley lowlands in cismontane California; the species is absent from higher elevations in the Sierra Nevada, the Modoc Plateau, and from most desert regions.

A total of 12 CNDDDB records of white-tailed kite have been documented within the project region. The closest record (Occurrence #142) is from 2009, approximately 0.5-mile southeast of Sump 151. Trees within the BSA or within 500 feet of the BSA provide nesting habitat for white-tailed kite at all sump sites. The areas of annual grassland within the BSA at Sumps 089, 102, 151, and 155 are suitable foraging habitat for white-tailed kite, while smaller or more disturbed grassland patches at Sump 058 provide marginal foraging habitat. Larger expanses of suitable foraging habitat, including along the adjacent levee slopes, surround or are within less than 500 feet of the BSA at all of the sump sites.

White-tailed kites were not observed within the BSA or flying overhead the BSA during the biological survey. Nonetheless, given that the BSA includes suitable nesting habitat for white-tailed kite, ground-disturbing activities associated with implementation of the proposed sump station improvements could result in adverse effects to the species if the species is present within or adjacent to the BSA prior to initiation of ground disturbance.

#### *Modesto Population of Song Sparrow*

The Modesto Population of song sparrow, referred to hereafter as Modesto song sparrow, is a state species of special concern. Modesto song sparrow is a year-round resident that

prefers emergent freshwater marshes dominated by tules and cattails, as well as riparian willow thickets. Modesto song sparrows also nest in riparian forests of valley oak with sufficient understory of blackberry, along vegetated irrigation canals and levees, and in recently planted valley oak restoration sites. The Modesto song sparrow thrives where extensive wetlands remain. The species may also breed in sparsely vegetated irrigation canals. The Modesto song sparrow is endemic to California, with established populations in the Sacramento Valley, Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, and northern San Joaquin Valley. The species is most abundant in the Butte Sink area of the Sacramento Valley and in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. They are almost entirely absent from the mainstem and tributaries of the Sacramento River above Sacramento.

A total of four CNDDDB records of Modesto song sparrow have been documented within the project region. The closest record (Occurrence #83) is a coarsely mapped polygon based on a siting in 1900. The record overlaps the BSA at several of the sump sites (all except for Sump 089). Suitable nesting habitat occurs within the BSA at Sumps 058, 102, and 151; the remaining sump station facilities within the BSA lack suitable habitat.

Modesto song sparrow was not observed during the biological survey conducted by Sycamore. Nonetheless, given that the BSA includes suitable nesting habitat for Modesto song sparrow, ground-disturbing activities associated with implementation of the proposed sump station improvements at Sumps 058, 102, and 151 could result in adverse effects to the species if the species is present within or adjacent to the BSA prior to initiation of ground disturbance.

#### *Other Nesting Bird Species*

The federal MBTA of 1918 protects most birds and their nests, including most non-migratory birds in California. Any disturbance that causes direct injury, death, nest abandonment, or forced fledging of migratory birds, is restricted under the federal 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.

California Fish and Game Code Section 3503 protects most birds and their nests. Fish and Game Code Section 3503.5 further protects all birds in the orders Falconiformes and Strigiformes (collectively known as birds of prey). Birds of prey include raptors, falcons, and owls. In 2019, the State of California enacted the California MBTA. The State MBTA prohibits the take or possession of any bird or any part of birds listed under the State MBTA as of January 2020. The California Fish and Game Code continues to use a broad definition of take in the application of the State MBTA, including incidental take.

The BSA provides potential nesting habitat for birds listed under the federal/State MBTA and/or regulated by the California Fish and Game Code. Depending on the species, birds may nest on trees, shrubs, in or on the ground, and on artificial structures such as buildings, poles, and signs. Furthermore, numerous birds listed under the federal/State MBTA or regulated by California Fish and Game Code were observed during the surveys. Active nests of barn swallows were observed on the sump structures at Sumps 89 and 102. Other nests could become established in the BSA during future nesting seasons. Nesting or attempted nesting by migratory birds and birds-of-prey is anticipated from 1 February to 30 September. Project disturbance occurring during the nest season could lead to active nest destruction or abandonment for birds protected by the MBTA.

### *Protected Trees*

The City of Sacramento requires a permit to perform regulated work on “City Trees” or “Private Protected Trees” (which includes trees formerly referred to as “*Heritage Trees*”). City trees include trees partially or completely located in a City park, on City-owned property, or on a public right-of-way, including any street, road, sidewalk, park strip, mow strip or alley. Private protected trees are defined as trees designated to have special historical value, special environmental value, or significant community benefit, and is located on private property. The City defines Private Protected Trees as follows:<sup>6</sup>

- All native trees 12-inch diameter at standard height (DSH) or greater. Native trees include: coast, interior, valley and blue oaks, California sycamore, and buckeye.
- All trees 32-inch DSH or greater with an existing single family or duplex dwelling.
- All trees 24-inch DSH or greater on undeveloped land or any other type of property such as commercial, industrial, and apartments.

Per the BRE, the BSA includes a total of 38 trees, all of which are considered City Trees. As part of the proposed project, a total of six trees are anticipated for removal: two trees at Sump 089 and four trees at Sump 155. Removal of trees could impact protected birds should they be nesting prior to removal.

### *Conclusion*

Based on the above, the proposed project would not result in adverse effects to special-status plants. However, the project could result in temporary impacts to 0.08-acre of riparian forest and 0.02-acre of riparian scrub shrub, both of which are sensitive natural communities regulated by CDFW. In addition, ground-disturbing activities associated with the proposed project have the potential to result in temporary impacts to VELB, CCV steelhead, SR Chinook, WPT, CGS, burrowing owl, Swainson’s hawk, white-tailed kite, Modesto song sparrow, and other nesting bird species protected by the federal/State MBTA. Thus, the proposed project could result in **additional significant environmental effects** related to substantial degradation of the quality of the environment, reduction of the habitat, or reduction of a population below self-sustaining levels for threatened or endangered species of plant or animal species beyond what was analyzed in the Master EIR. Implementation of Mitigation Measures 3-1 through 3-8 below would mitigate the potential impacts to a *less-than-significant* level.

### Question C

As noted above and shown in Table 7, 0.11-acre of Steelhead Creek, 0.06-acre of the American River Floodplain Channel, 0.15-acre of the American River, and 0.14-acre of Morrison Creek are located within the BSA. All waterways are potentially jurisdictional under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 408 of the Clean Water Act. In addition, work within the streambank of the waterways is subject to the jurisdiction of the CDFW per Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code. The proposed project would not have the potential to result in impacts to Steelhead Creek within the BSA. However, the proposed pipe replacements and associated improvements have the potential to result in temporary impacts to 0.06-acre of the American River Floodplain Channel, 0.02-acre of the American River, and 0.07-acre of Morrison Creek. Therefore, the proposed project could result in **additional significant environmental effects** to regulatory

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<sup>6</sup> City of Sacramento. *Tree Permits & Ordinances*. Available at: <https://www.cityofsacramento.org/Public-Works/Maintenance-Services/Trees/Permits-Ordinances>. Accessed July 2018.

waters or wetlands beyond what was analyzed in the Master EIR. Implementation of Mitigation Measure 3-1(b) below would mitigate the impact to a *less-than-significant* level.

### **Mitigation Measures**

Implementation of the following mitigation measures would reduce impacts related to biological resources to *less-than-significant* levels.

#### Sensitive Natural Communities

3-1(a) *The following avoidance and minimization measures shall be noted on project improvement plans and implemented within the BSA:*

- *Removal of trees and riparian vegetation shall be minimized to the extent possible.*
- *To protect avoided riparian forest, riparian scrub shrub, retained trees, and other sensitive natural communities, prior to construction, environmentally sensitive area (ESA) fencing or equivalent demarcation approved by the engineer shall be placed along the limits of construction in the BSA to exclude construction activities. Trucks and other vehicles shall not be allowed to park beyond, nor shall equipment be stored beyond, the fencing. Vegetation trimming/mowing or ground-disturbing activities shall not be permitted beyond the fencing.*
- *For all sumps, the City shall obtain a Streambed Alteration Agreement from the CDFW in compliance with Fish and Game Code Section 1602. The City and its contractor shall be required to comply with terms of the Agreement and provide any required documentation of proof of compliance to CDFW.*

3-1(b) *The following avoidance and minimization measures shall be implemented within the BSA:*

- *The project contractor shall comply with the provisions of Title 9, Chapters 9.31 through 9.35 of the City of Sacramento Code (Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance). Code compliance includes preparation of an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan.*
- *BMPs to control soil erosion, sediment transport, and runoff pollution shall be implemented during construction per the City's Administrative and Technical Procedures Manual for Grading and Erosion and Sediment Control (City of Sacramento 2013).*
- *Construction activities on the water side of the levee would not occur during the flood season, as determined by the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) – typically November 1 through April 15 or July 15 as specifically determined by the CVFPB for each sump site. The project would adhere to further work period restrictions in applicable permits and requirements from CDFW, USFWS, and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), unless the applicable permitting agencies approve work window modification.*
- *Equipment shall be refueled and serviced at designated construction staging areas. All construction material shall be stored and contained in designated areas located away from aquatic resources to prevent transport*

*of materials into adjacent waterways. Appropriate BMPs shall be installed to collect any discharge, and adequate materials for spill cleanup shall be kept on site. Construction vehicles and equipment shall be properly maintained to prevent contamination of soil or water from external grease and oil or from leaking hydraulic fluid, fuel, oil, and grease.*

- *For all sump sites, the City shall obtain a Streambed Alteration Agreement from CDFW in compliance with California Fish and Game Code Section 1602 and an Encroachment Permit permission in compliance with Section 408 of the Clean Water Act from the CVFPB. For Sumps 089 and 155, the City shall obtain approval from USACE for Project coverage under Nationwide Permits, in compliance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and a Water Quality Certification from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board in compliance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The City and its contractor shall be required to comply with terms of all permits and provide any required documentation of proof of compliance to the permitting agencies.*

Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle

3-2(a)        *Implement Mitigation Measure 3-1(a) above.*

3-2(b)        *The following avoidance and minimization measures shall be implemented at Sump 155 and the Lathrop staging area per the USFWS 2017 Framework for Assessing Impacts to the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (Desmocerus californicus dimorphus) (VELB):*

- *Activities that may damage or kill an elderberry shrub (e.g., trenching, paving, etc.) shall avoid elderberry shrubs by a minimum of 20 feet from the drip-line. Areas within 20 feet of elderberry shrubs at the Lathrop staging area and areas west of the levee access road at Sump 155 shall be designated as ESAs. Construction personnel, equipment, or material storage shall not be allowed within the ESAs. Brightly colored construction fencing shall be installed at least 20 feet from elderberry shrubs to demarcate the ESA at the Lathrop staging area and along the length of the western edge of the levee access road at Sump 155. The fencing shall include signage prohibiting entry by construction personnel. At Sump 155, signage shall prohibit vehicle or equipment parking along the access road within 20 feet of the elderberry shrub.*
- *A qualified biologist shall provide training for all contractors, work crews, and any on-site personnel on the status of the VELB, its host plant and habitat, the need to avoid damaging the elderberry shrubs, and the possible penalties for noncompliance.*

California Central Valley Steelhead and Central Valley Spring-Run Chinook

3-3            *Implement Mitigation Measure 3-1(b) above.*

Western Pond Turtle

3-4(a)        *Implement Mitigation Measure 3-1(b) above.*

3-4(b) *The following avoidance and minimization measures shall be implemented at Sump 089:*

- *A qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey for Western Pond Turtle (WPT) within 48 hours prior to the onset of vegetation removal or ground disturbance. The survey shall cover the waterside of the levee. If a WPT is located during the survey, the biologist shall be given sufficient time prior to construction to relocate the WPT to the closest suitable habitat where individuals will not be affected by construction.*
- *If WPT are found during construction, construction activities with potential to harm the individual(s) shall stop and a qualified biologist shall be notified. Construction shall resume when the biologist has either relocated the WPT out of the construction zone to nearby suitable habitat, or, after thorough inspection, determined that the WPT has moved away from the construction zone.*
- *Environmental awareness training shall be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to the onset of project work. Construction personnel shall be trained on how to identify WPT, and how to proceed if WPT is encountered. If a WPT is encountered in the work area, construction should stop and a qualified biologist shall be notified. The training shall be repeated for new personnel as they arrive at the site. Upon completion of training, employees shall sign a form stating that they attended the training and understand all the protection measures. Copies of the signed forms shall be provided to the City of Sacramento within two weeks of training completion.*

#### Giant Garter Snake

3-5 *The following measures, based on the Programmatic Biological Opinion between the USACE and USFWS for effects on Giant Garter Snake (GGS) (the Programmatic; USFWS 1997), shall be implemented at Sump 089:*

- *A USFWS-approved biologist shall conduct a preconstruction clearance survey within 24 hours prior to construction activities within identified GGS aquatic and adjacent upland habitat. If construction activities stop for a period of two weeks or more, another preconstruction clearance survey shall be conducted within 24 hours prior to resuming construction activity.*
- *All construction activity involving disturbance of GGS habitat shall be restricted to the snake's active season, May 1 through October 1. During this period, the potential for direct mortality is reduced because snakes are expected to move and avoid danger.*
- *In areas where construction is to take place, encourage giant garter snakes to leave the site on their own by dewatering all irrigation ditches, canals, or other aquatic habitat (i.e., removing giant garter snake aquatic habitat) between April 15 and September 30. Dewatered habitat must remain dry, with no water puddles remaining, for at least 15 consecutive days prior to excavating or filling of the habitat. If a site cannot be completely dewatered, netting and salvage of giant garter snake prey items may be necessary to discourage use by snakes.*
- *Conduct environmental awareness training for all construction personnel.*
- *If a live GGS is encountered during construction activities, immediately notify the project's biological monitor, USFWS, and CDFW. The monitor*

*shall stop construction in the vicinity of the snake, monitor the snake, and allow the snake to leave on its own. The monitor shall remain in the area for the remainder of the workday to ensure the snake is not harmed or, if the snake leaves the site, does not return. If the GGS does not leave on its own, the qualified biologist shall contact the USFWS for guidance.*

- *Temporary fencing exclusion fencing shall be installed around work area in GGS habitat.*

### Burrowing Owl

3-6 *A qualified biologist shall conduct Take Avoidance Surveys at Sump 089 in accordance with Appendix D of the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFW 2012). An initial Take Avoidance Survey shall be conducted no less than 14 days prior to initiating ground disturbance activities and a final survey shall be conducted within 24 hours prior to ground disturbance. The preconstruction survey for burrowing owls shall include all potential burrowing owl habitat within 500 feet of the project. Portions of the survey area located on private land shall be surveyed from all publicly accessible areas. If active burrowing owl burrows are found, the following measures shall be implemented at Sump 089:*

- *During the non-breeding season (September 1 through January 31), the biologist shall establish a 160-foot ESA around the burrow. During the breeding season (February 1 through August 31), the biologist shall establish a 300-foot ESA around the burrow in consultation with CDFW.*
- *The size of the ESA may be reduced if the biologist monitors the construction activities and determines that disturbance to the burrowing owl is not occurring. Reduction of ESA size depends on the location of the burrow relative to the proposed disturbance area, project activities during the time the burrow is active, and other project-specific factors.*
- *If the burrow is located within the construction zone and it is during the non-breeding season, the burrowing owl shall be passively excluded from the burrow using one-way doors, as described in the Exclusion Plan of Appendix E of the CDFW's 2012 Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation.*
- *If the burrow is located within the construction zone and it is during the breeding season, the burrow owl shall only be passively excluded if it has been confirmed that the owl has not begun egg laying and incubation, the clutch was unsuccessful, or juveniles from the occupied burrows are foraging independently and are capable of independent survival.*

### Swainson's Hawk

3-7(a) *Implement Mitigation Measure 3-8 below.*

3-7(b) *The following measure shall be implemented at each of the sump stations within the BSA and at the proposed staging areas:*

- *A qualified biologist shall conduct surveys of the BSA and staging areas for Swainson's hawk in accordance with the 2000 Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) guidelines in the year prior to tree removal. The survey area shall extend 0.25 miles out from the BSA/staging areas. If a Swainson's hawk nest is still active on or within 0.25-mile of the*

*BSA/staging areas at the time of project initiation, protective buffers shall be established around the nest in accordance with CDFW guidance to avoid take.*

White-Tailed Kite, Modesto Song Sparrow, and other Nesting Bird Species

3-8            *The following measure shall be implemented at each of the sump stations within the BSA and at the proposed staging areas:*

- *To minimize effects to nesting birds, trees and shrubs scheduled for removal shall be removed during the non-breeding season, between September 2 and February 14.*
- *A preconstruction survey for nesting birds shall be conducted prior to any work initiated between 15 February and 1 September. A qualified biologist shall conduct the survey within 14 days prior to initiation of construction activities. The survey shall cover areas within 250 feet of the proposed disturbance area for birds of prey and 100 feet of the disturbance area for migratory birds.*
- *If an active nest of a bird of prey, migratory bird, or other protected bird species is discovered, then construction within 250 feet of the nest shall stop until a qualified biologist confirms where work may resume without threat of nest abandonment. The biologist shall establish a minimum 250-foot ESA around nests of a bird of prey. A minimum 100-foot ESA shall be established around nests of migratory or other protected bird species. No construction activity shall be allowed in the ESA until the biologist determines the nest is no longer active or that a smaller ESA shall protect the active nest. Buffer sizes may be adjusted at the discretion of the biologist depending on the species of bird, the location of the nest relative to the proposed disturbance area, the existing level of disturbance, and other site-specific conditions.*

NBHCP Compliance

3-9            *Prior to approval of improvement plans, the City's New Growth Manager, serving as the City's HCP Designee, shall be contacted to ensure that the requirements of the Natomas Basin Habitat Conservation Plan (NBHCP) are complied with during implementation of improvements within the NBHCP area.*

**Findings**

All additional significant environmental effects of the proposed project relating to biological resources can be mitigated to less-than-significant levels. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would have no additional significant environmental effects beyond what was previously analyzed in the Master EIR.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
<b>4. CULTURAL RESOURCES</b> Would the project:			
A) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource as defined in § 15064.5?		X	
B) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource?		X	

### Environmental Setting

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

The 2035 General Plan land use diagram designates a wide swath of land along the American River as Parks, which limits development and impacts on sensitive prehistoric resources. High sensitivity areas may be found in other areas related to the ancient flows of the rivers, with differing meanders than found today; however, all such areas are outside of the immediate project vicinity. The 2035 General Plan Background Report also defines moderate sensitivity areas, which are areas such as creeks, other watercourses, and high spots near waterways where the discovery of villages is unlikely, but campsites or special use sites may have existed. Moderate areas are often disturbed by siltation, or development, however discovery of new archaeological resources is still possible.

According to a Cultural Resources Inventory prepared for the proposed project by Sycamore Environmental Consultants, Inc.,<sup>7</sup> the project vicinity is a highly developed urban area that includes open space such as agricultural and recreational lands, as well as residential, commercial, and municipal developments. Generally, the areas in the vicinity of the project sites have been subject to extensive development, including railroad lines, roadways, and commercial and residential buildings. The Area of Potential Effects (APE) evaluated in the Cultural Resources Inventory included the footprint of all five drainage sump station facilities, associated pipelines to be repaired or replaced, staging areas, and the immediate surroundings. The vertical APE includes the maximum depth of anticipated ground-disturbance of 10 feet.

The Sacred Lands File (SLF) search, California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) records search, and field survey conducted as part of the Cultural Resources Report are described below.

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<sup>7</sup> Natural Investigations Company. *Cultural Resources Inventory for the Pump Outfalls Replacement Project, Sacramento, Sacramento County, California*. August 2020. This Confidential Appendix is on file with the City of Sacramento.

### SLF Search

As part of the Cultural Resources Report, Natural Investigations contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a search of their SLF for traditional tribal cultural resources within or near the APE. The results of the search returned by the NAHC on August 5, 2020 were positive for tribal cultural resources in the project vicinity.

### CHRIS Record Search

A CHRIS record search was conducted by the North Central Information Center (NCIC) to determine whether prehistoric or historic cultural resources have been previously recorded within the project sites, the extent to which the project sites have been previously surveyed, and the number and type of cultural resources within a 0.5-mile radius of the project sites. The archival search of the archaeological and historical records, national and state databases, and historic maps included the following sources:

- National Register of Historic Places: listed properties;
- California Register of Historical Resources: listed resources;
- Historic Property Data File for Sacramento County;
- Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility;
- California Inventory of Historical Resources;
- California Historical Landmarks; and
- California Points of Historical Interest.

The CHRIS search results indicate that 18 prior cultural resources studies have been completed within the APE and seven cultural resources have been previously recorded within the APE associated with the proposed project, two of which have been re-recorded as contributing elements of an historic district. Twenty-three additional resources have been recorded outside the project limits but within the 0.5-mile search radius. The seven previously recorded resources, along with one relevant historic landscape district, are described in the following sections:

#### *P-34-000490 - Reclamation District 1000 East Levee*

The Reclamation District (RD) 1000 East Levee was constructed in 1911 by the Natomas Company. The levee runs for approximately 18 miles on the eastern bank of the Sacramento River, between Natomas Park and the southern end of Gardenland in North Sacramento. The levee is a contributing element of the RD 1000 Rural Historic Landscape District (P-34-005251) which was determined eligible for listing on the NRHP under Criterion A at the State level of significance as one of the earliest reclamation districts in the Sacramento Valley. The period of significance of the district is 1911 to 1939. The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurred with a finding that the levee is a contributing element of the district in 1994.

#### *P-34-000508 – American River North Levee*

The American River North Levee is an 11.5-mile segment (Unit 118.2) of the American River Levees (Unit 118). The levee runs eastward along the northern bank of the American River from its confluence with the Sacramento River. According to the Cultural Resources Inventory (page 32), previous evaluation of the levee completed in 2001 concluded that the levee is not eligible for listing on the NRHP. It was noted that while the levee does represent an important part of the history of early water management in the region, maintenance and improvement related impacts have been so severe and so extensive that the resource no longer retains the integrity needed to

convey the levee's significance. In 2009, the USACE obtained SHPO concurrence regarding the ineligibility of the resource for listing on the NRHP/CRHR.

*P-34-000509 - American River South Levee*

The American River South Levee is an 11.3-mile segment (Unit 118.1) of the American River Levees (Unit 118) that runs eastward along the southern bank of the American River from its confluence with the Sacramento River. The levee was included in the Sacramento River Flood Control Project (SRFCP) approved in 1914 and implemented throughout the first half of the 20th century. Upgrading of the levee to the standards of the USACE was completed in 1948. A previous evaluation of the American River South Levee concluded that the levee is significant under NRHP/CRHR Criterion A/1 within the context of regional flood management and for the levee's association with the SRFCP. The period of significance begins in 1917, when U.S. Congress approved the Flood Control Act, the first comprehensive plan for flood management in California. The period ends in 1968.

*P-34-001363 - Morrison Creek Levee*

The Morrison Creek Levee is an approximately 5.5-mile long channelized segment of Morrison and Beacon (Union House) Creeks. The levee was constructed in approximately 1961 and is within the jurisdiction of the City of Sacramento and is not a part of the USACE levee system. The levee serves as the boundary between the Delta Shores development to the north and the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District facility to the south. The resource was evaluated in 2002 and was determined to be ineligible for listing on the NRHP and the CRHR. The SHPO subsequently concurred with the ineligibility recommendation.

*P-34-005349 - West Levee of the Natomas East Main Drainage Canal*

The subject resource is a large levee forming the western bank of the 14.51-mile long Natomas East Main Drainage Canal. The canal intercepts the water from the creek and conveys the water to the Sacramento River. The canal is a contributing element of the RD 1000 Rural Historic Landscape District (P-34-005251) and the integrity of location, materials, and design of the levee have been retained in most areas.

*P-34-005227 – City of Sacramento Well 159*

The subject resource is a water facility with two components owned and operated by the City of Sacramento. The well component is comprised of a utility building, prefabricated storage shed, electrical pulley system, and chemical treatment structure. A non-historical component of the resource is Sump 102, which is comprised of a modern utility building and three pumps.

*P-35-005251 - The Reclamation District 1000 Rural Historic Landscape District*

The RD 1000 Rural Historic Landscape District is significant at the State level for the period from 1911 to 1939. The establishment of the district as part of a regional reclamation plan resulted in the social, economic, and physical transformation of the region, from the original flood plain to a distinctly different open rural landscape consisting of levees, canals and roads intersecting to form large, blocks of fields. RD 1000 was among the first and largest of the major reclamation districts in the State. The features and spatial patterns that characterized the reclamation landscape during the period of significance are characteristic of the landscape today. The district was determined eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A at the State level of significance as one of the earliest reclamation districts in the Sacramento Valley. The associated resources within

the APE are the RD 1000 East Levee (P-34-000490) and the West Levee of the Natomas East Main Drainage Canal (P-34-005349). Both are contributing elements of the district and are discussed above.

#### *P-34-005225 - Sacramento River Tribal Cultural Landscape*

This resource is an expansive Tribal Cultural Landscape (TCL) encompassing the whole of the Lower Sacramento River environment. The lands were known ethnographically as *Hoyo Sayo/Tah Sayo* by the Nisenan and as *Waka-ce/Waka-Ly* by the Plains Miwok. The primary character defining elements of the landscape are the waterways, tule habitats, fisheries, and other natural resources which would have sustained Native populations prehistorically and historically. A previous evaluation of the resource concluded that the landscape is eligible for listing on the NRHP/CRHR under Criterion A/1 for the landscape's association with the cultural practices and beliefs of the Nisenan and Plains Miwok, and the landscape's ability to help maintain the cultural identity of the living descendants and contribute to our understanding of the broader patterns of prehistory. The landscape has retained sufficient integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association to convey its significance.

#### Field Survey

An intensive pedestrian survey of the APE, including all project sites, was conducted by Natural Investigations archaeologist, Phil Hanes, on July 24, 2020. The APE was surveyed intensively using transects spaced no greater than 15-meters apart. During the survey, all visible ground surfaces were carefully examined for cultural material (e.g., flaked stone tools, tool-making debris, stone milling tools, or fire-affected rock), soil discoloration that might indicate the presence of a cultural midden, soil depressions and features indicative of the former presence of structures or buildings (e.g., postholes, foundations), and historic-era debris (e.g., metal, glass, ceramics). Ground disturbances (e.g., animal burrows, dirt roads, etc.) were also visually inspected. A digital camera was used to take photographs of the APE, a Munsell Soil Color Chart used to record soil color, and a handheld BE-3300-GPS global positioning system (GPS) unit with sub-meter accuracy was used to record locational data.

Previously unrecorded prehistoric or historic cultural resources were not identified during the field survey. The seven previously recorded historic cultural resources were revisited and existing California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 Series site forms were updated for each. Detailed results of the field survey are provided in Appendix C to this IS/MND.

#### **Standards of Significance**

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

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

Section 21083.2 of the statute and Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines provide instructions for a lead agency to consider the effects of Projects on historical resources and cultural resources. A historical resource is a resource listed in, or determined to be eligible for listing in, the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) (Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 21084.1), a

resource included in a local register of historical resources (PRC Section 15064.5[a][2]), or any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant (PRC Section 15064.5[a][3]).

To be considered eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or the CRHR, a resource must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- (1)/(A) It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history, or the cultural heritage of California or the U.S.;
- (2)/(B) It is associated with the lives of persons important to local, California, or national history;
- (3)/(C) It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master or possesses high artistic values; or
- (4)/(D) It has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California, or the nation.

In addition, the resource must retain integrity. Integrity is evaluated with regard to the retention of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The resource must be at least 50 years old, except in exceptional circumstances.

### **Summary of Analysis under the 2035 General Plan Master EIR and Applicable General Plan Policies**

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

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

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

### **Answers to Checklist Questions**

#### Question A

As noted above, the SAFCA and USACE require the inspection of sump station outfalls that penetrate and cross major levees on a five-year cycle. As a result of this mandate, all five sump station facilities that would be improved as part of the proposed project have been subject to regular maintenance repairs and replacements in the past. Correspondingly, any project-related effects on known cultural resources would generally be restricted to areas previously disturbed or altered by recent facility maintenance and modernization. The project's potential effects related to each of the seven previously recorded cultural resources and one tribal cultural landscape within the APE are described below.

#### *P-34-000490 - Reclamation District 1000 East Levee*

At the time of the field survey, the approximately 18-foot segment of the *Reclamation District 1000 East Levee (P-34-000490)* within the APE at Sump 58 and the 22-foot segment at Sump 102

were under active construction. Related ground-disturbances included vegetation removal, heavy equipment traffic, and trench excavation. Both small segments of the levee have been thoroughly modernized and are well-maintained. Project-related work would occur within an approximately 18-foot segment of the levee at Sump 058. Improvements at Sump 058 would be limited to the replacement of 90 linear feet of pipe. Improvements to Sump 102 would be limited to installation of stairs on the waterside slope. All work is expected to occur at previously disturbed locations within the footprint of existing utilities. New impacts to the resource are not expected to result from the proposed work. Given the extent of past disturbances and modernization at the two locations, the proposed project is not expected to reduce the ability of the levee to convey its significance or change the levee's status as a contributing element of the RD 1000 Rural Historic Landscape District (P-34-005251).

*P-34-000508 - American River North Levee*

The American River North Levee (P-34-000508) has been determined ineligible for listing in the NRHP/CRHR. Unlike most of the levees within the APE, the areal extent of past maintenance-related disturbances and alterations to P-34-000508 has been considerable and the resource has not retained the integrity needed to convey its significance. The approximately 62-foot segment of the levee within the APE at Sump 151 just east of Lathrop Way has been modernized and is well-maintained. In 2009, the USACE obtained SHPO concurrence regarding the ineligibility of the resource. Furthermore, the Lathrop staging area is located entirely outside the footprint of the resource, approximately 200 feet to the northeast; thus, use of the staging area would not impact the resource in any way.

*P-34-000509 - American River South Levee*

Though the American River South Levee (P-34-000509) has been subject to standard repairs, the areal extent of major improvements has been limited; thus, the overall condition has not significantly changed as a result of past maintenance work. The approximately 20-foot segment of the levee within the APE at Sump 155 near 6007 Camellia Avenue is one of the few areas along the levee that has undergone marked alterations and improvements. Project-related work would occur within an approximately 20-foot segment of the levee at Sump 155. Improvements would include the replacement of a gate riser structure and 250 square feet of existing paving, construction of a retaining wall at the existing sump station, and the installation of a total of 531 feet of replacement piping. All work is expected to occur at previously disturbed locations within the footprint of existing utilities and structures. The La Riviera staging area is located entirely outside the footprint of the resource, approximately 650 feet to the south; thus, use of the staging area would not impact the resource in any way.

Given the nature of past disturbances and alterations of the small segment of the resource within the APE, the proposed project is not expected to reduce the levee's ability to convey significance or change the levee's eligibility for listing in the NRHP/CRHR (P-34-005251).

*P-34-001363 - Morrison Creek Levee*

Though the Morrison Creek Levee (P-34-001363) has been subject to standard repairs, the levee's condition has not significantly changed since the last record update completed in 2014. The approximately 34-foot segment of the levee within the APE at Sump 89, near 8357 Beach Lake Road, has been modernized and is well-maintained. As noted previously, the resource was determined to be ineligible for listing on the NRHP and the CRHR. Thus, disturbance in the vicinity of the levee as part of the proposed project would not result in a significant impact.

*P-34-005227 - City of Sacramento Well 159*

As part of the Cultural Resources Inventory, P-34-005227 was evaluated for inclusion in the NRHP/CRHR as follows:

- Criterion A/1: Background research does not indicate that the facility is associated with any events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of national, regional, or California history and cultural heritage. The vast majority of the facility is entirely modern or has been substantially upgraded and altered, and the few remaining original components are of very late-historic construction. Known association between the facility and any historical events occurring during the period of the facility's early use does not exist. Thus, the resource is recommended as ineligible for NRHP/CRHR listing under Criterion A/1.
- Criterion B/2: The facility is not known to be associated with persons important in local, regional, or national history. Thus, the resource is recommended as ineligible for NRHP/CRHR listing under Criterion B/2.
- Criterion C/3: The facility does not appear to embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or to represent the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values. The resource represents a type of water management facility that is extremely common throughout the Central Valley. The resource has also been subject to numerous historical and modern improvements which have left very few original components intact. Thus, the resource is recommended as ineligible for NRHP/CRHR listing under Criterion C/3.
- Criterion D/4: The informational value of the resource appears to be exhausted in historical source material, including various City of Sacramento technical documents and project plans, modern geospatial data, and existing site records that thoroughly document the salient features of the resource. Thus, the resource is recommended as ineligible for NRHP/CRHR listing under Criteria D/4.
- Integrity: As discussed above, the resource has been subject to extensive historical and modern alterations and improvements. Most of the components of Well 59 have been modified or replaced, including the utility building, storage shed, and treatment structure. Additionally, all components of Sump 102 are modern. The concrete staircase formerly leading from the station to the outfall has been demolished and removed since the last recording of the facility in 2017. The extensive modifications to the original 1968 well facility, the subsequent addition of the sump station in modern times, and the deconstruction and removal of various character-defining elements together have significantly reduced the integrity of the resource. Because the resource does not appear to be eligible for listing on either the NRHP or the CRHR under any criteria, the resource is not significant for NEPA or CEQA purposes and the question of integrity does not apply.

The condition of P-34-005227 has not significantly changed since the last recording, with the exception that the concrete stairs leading from the pump station to the outfall have since been demolished and removed. Only components of the well are original; all other elements of the facility have been added and/or altered extensively over the years. The proposed project would not alter or disturb any portion of the well. Instead, the project would involve the installation of stairs on the waterside slope. As discussed above, the resource was determined to be ineligible for listing on the NRHP and the CRHR. Thus, disturbance in the vicinity of the well as part of the proposed project would not result in a significant impact.

*P-34-005349 - West Levee of the Natomas East Main Drainage Canal*

As is the case with all of the levees discussed above, P-34-005349 has been subject to regular repairs, though the areal extent of major improvements has been limited, and the overall condition has not significantly changed as a result of maintenance work. The approximately 22-foot segment of the levee within the APE at Sump 102 near 300 Bowman Avenue has been subject to extensive past disturbances and was under active construction including trenching and vegetation clearing at the time of the field survey. Project improvements at the sump location would be limited to the installation of stairs on the waterside slope. Given the intensive past improvement to the small segment of the levee, proposed project-related work is not expected to reduce the levee's ability to convey significance or change the levee's status as a contributing element of the RD 1000 Rural Historic Landscape District (P-34-005251).

*P-34-005251 - The Reclamation District 1000 Rural Historic Landscape District*

The elements of the RD 1000 Rural Historic Landscape District within the APE are the RD 1000 East Levee (P-34-000490) and West Levee of the Natomas East Main Drainage Canal (P-34-005349). Both of resources are contributing elements of the district and are discussed individually above.

*P-34-005225 - Sacramento River TCL*

Given that the proposed project is restricted to the footprint of existing features of the built environment, such as sumps, pipelines, outfalls, and levees, the project is not expected to cause any significant new impacts to the natural resources comprising the Sacramento River TCL (P-34-005225).

*Conclusion*

Based on the above, seven discrete cultural resources are known to be present within the project APE. Of the seven resources, four are either individually eligible for listing in the NRHP/CRHR or are contributing elements of a NRHP/CRHR-eligible historic landscape district (P-34-000490, -000509, -005349, and -005225). Proposed project improvements at the four locations would be restricted to areas previously disturbed or modified by past facility maintenance and modernization work. Thus, project improvements would not affect the properties in a way that would alter any of the characteristics that qualify them for inclusion in the NRHP/CRHR or diminish their integrity. For the aforementioned reasons, no effect on historic properties or historical resources is expected.

The remaining three cultural resources (P-34-000508, -001363, and -005227) have been found ineligible for listing in the NRHP/CRHR. Cultural resources that have been determined ineligible for NRHP/CRHR inclusion do not constitute historic properties as defined under NHPA Section 300308 or historical resources as defined under CEQA Section 15064.5 and so require no further consideration. As none of these resources are archaeological or indigenous, the potential designations of unique archaeological resource as defined under CEQA Section 21083.2(g) and tribal cultural resources as defined under Public Resources Code Section 21074 do not apply.

Regarding unknown cultural resources, the potential exists for unknown resources to exist below the surface of the APE. If present, such resources could be disturbed as a result of the proposed ground-disturbing activities. Therefore, the proposed project could result in **additional significant environmental effects** related to damaging or destroying prehistoric cultural resources beyond

what was analyzed in the Master EIR. Implementation of Mitigation Measures 4-1 through 4-3 would mitigate the impact to a *less-than-significant* level.

### Question B

Review of recent geologic mapping indicates the project APE is underlain by Holocene-age (11,650 years ago to the present) alluvium and basin deposits. Portions of the APE along the American River and eastern end of Arcade Creek are underlain by Late Holocene-age (4,000 years ago to the present) alluvium (Qha). Portions of the APE further west along Arcade Creek and along Steelhead Creek are underlain by slightly older Late Holocene-age basin deposits (Qhb). None of the geologic units known to contain fossils in the Central Valley are present within the APE. Holocene-age deposits (Qha and Qhb), such as those along the American River and Arcade and Steelhead Creeks, are considered to have a low paleontological resource potential. Because the fossilization processes take place over millions of years, such geologically immature deposits are unlikely to have fossilized the remains of organisms. Given that fossils or unique geologic features have not been recorded within the APE, and the underlying alluvium and basin deposits are unlikely to contain fossilized remains, the paleontological resource sensitivity within the APE based on the applicable Society for Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP) criteria is estimated to be low. Nonetheless, while unlikely, the potential exists for unknown paleontological resources to be uncovered during ground-disturbing activities associated with the proposed project. Therefore, the proposed project could result in ***additional significant environmental effects*** related to directly or indirectly destroying unique paleontological resources beyond what was analyzed in the Master EIR. Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4-4 would mitigate the impact to a *less-than-significant* level.

### **Mitigation Measures**

Implementation of the following mitigation measures would reduce potential impacts related to cultural resources to *less-than-significant* levels.

**4-1            *Conduct Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources Sensitivity and Awareness Training Program Prior to Ground-Disturbing Activities.***

*The City shall require the project contractor to provide a cultural resources and tribal cultural resources sensitivity and awareness training program (Worker Environmental Awareness Program [WEAP]) for all personnel involved in project construction, including field consultants and construction workers. The WEAP shall be developed in coordination with an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for Archeology, as well as culturally affiliated Native American tribes. The City may invite Native American representatives from interested culturally affiliated Native American tribes to participate. The WEAP shall be conducted before any project-related construction activities begin at the project site. The WEAP shall include relevant information regarding sensitive cultural resources and tribal cultural resources, including applicable regulations, protocols for avoidance, and consequences of violating State laws and regulations. The WEAP shall also describe appropriate avoidance and impact minimization measures for cultural resources and tribal cultural resources that could be located at the project sites and shall outline what to do and who to contact if any potential cultural resources or tribal cultural resources are encountered. The WEAP shall emphasize the requirement for confidentiality and culturally appropriate treatment of any discovery of*

*significance to Native Americans and will discuss appropriate behaviors and responsive actions, consistent with Native American tribal values.*

**4-2      *Archaeological and Native American Monitoring and the Discovery of Cultural Materials and/or Human Remains.***

*Prior to authorization to proceed, a Secretary of the Interior-qualified archaeologist shall prepare a Cultural Resources Monitoring Plan. Monitoring shall be required during initial ground-disturbing activities, according to a schedule outlined in the Cultural Resources Monitoring Plan. The plan shall include (but not be limited to) the following components:*

- *Person(s) responsible for conducting monitoring activities, including an archaeological monitor and a Native American monitor;*
- *Person(s) responsible for overseeing and directing the monitors;*
- *How the monitoring shall be conducted and the required format and content of monitoring reports, including schedule for submittal of monitoring reports and person(s) responsible for review and approval of monitoring reports;*
- *Protocol for notifications in case of encountering cultural resources, as well as methods of dealing with the encountered resources (e.g., collection, identification, curation);*
- *Methods to ensure security of cultural resources sites, including protocol for notifying local authorities (i.e. Sheriff, Police) should site looting and other illegal activities occur during construction.*

*During the course of the monitoring, the archaeologist and Native American monitor may adjust the frequency – from continuous to intermittent – based on the conditions and professional judgment regarding the potential to impact cultural and tribal cultural resources.*

**4-3      *In the Event that Tribal Cultural Resources Are Discovered During Construction, Implement Procedures to Evaluate Tribal Cultural Resources and Implement Avoidance and Minimization Measures to Avoid Significant Impacts.***

*If archaeological resources, or tribal cultural resources, are encountered in the project area during construction, the following performance standards shall be met prior to continuance of construction and associated activities that may result in damage to or destruction of tribal cultural resources:*

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

*If a tribal cultural resource is determined to be eligible for listing on the CRHR, the City will avoid damaging effects to the resource in accordance with California PRC Section 21084.3, if feasible. If the City determines that the project may cause a significant impact to a tribal cultural resource, and measures are not otherwise*

*identified in the consultation process, the following are examples of mitigation capable of avoiding or substantially lessening potential significant impacts to a tribal cultural resource or alternatives that would avoid significant impacts to the resource. These measures may be considered to avoid or minimize significant adverse impacts and constitute the standard by which an impact conclusion of less-than significant may be reached:*

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

*Avoidance and preservation in place is the preferred manner of mitigating impacts to tribal cultural resources and archaeological resources and will be accomplished, if feasible, by several alternative means, including:*

- Planning construction to avoid tribal cultural resources, archaeological sites and/ or other resources; incorporating sites within parks, green-space or other open space; covering archaeological sites; deeding a site to a permanent conservation easement; or other preservation and protection methods agreeable to consulting parties and regulatory authorities with jurisdiction over the activity.*
- Recommendations for avoidance of Tribal Cultural Resources and Native American archaeological sites will be reviewed by the City representative, interested culturally affiliated Native American Tribes and other appropriate agencies, in light of factors such as costs, logistics, feasibility, design, technology and social, cultural and environmental considerations, and the extent to which avoidance is consistent with project objectives. Avoidance and design alternatives may include realignment within the project area to avoid cultural resources, modification of the design to eliminate or reduce impacts to cultural resources or modification or realignment to avoid highly significant features within a cultural resource.*
- Native American Representatives from interested culturally affiliated Native American Tribes will be allowed to review and comment on these analyses and shall have the opportunity to meet with the City representative and its representatives who have technical expertise to identify and recommend feasible avoidance and design alternatives, so*

*that appropriate and feasible avoidance and design alternatives can be identified.*

- *If the discovered resource can be avoided, the construction contractor(s), will install protective fencing outside the site boundary, including a 100 foot buffer area, before construction restarts. The boundary of a Tribal Cultural Resource or a Native American archaeological site will be determined in consultation with interested culturally affiliated Native American Tribes and such Tribes will be invited to monitor the installation of fencing. Use of temporary and permanent forms of protective fencing will be determined in consultation with Native American Representatives from interested culturally affiliated Native American Tribes.*
- *The construction contractor(s) will maintain the protective fencing throughout construction to avoid the site during all remaining phases of construction. The area will be demarcated as an “Environmentally Sensitive Area”.*
- *Native American Representatives from interested culturally affiliated Native American Tribes and the City representative will also consult to develop measures for long term management of any discovered Tribal Cultural Resources. Consultation will be limited to actions consistent with the jurisdiction of the City and taking into account ownership of the subject property. To the extent that the City has jurisdiction, routine operation and maintenance within Tribal Cultural Resources retaining tribal cultural integrity shall be consistent with the avoidance and minimization standards identified in this mitigation measure.*

*To implement these avoidance and minimization standards, the following procedures shall be followed in the event of the discovery of a tribal cultural resource:*

- *If any tribal archaeological resources or Native American materials, such as structural features, unusual amounts of bone or shell, artifacts, human remains, or Native American architectural remains or articulated or disarticulated human remains are discovered on the project site, work shall be suspended within 100 feet of the find (based on the apparent distribution of cultural resources), and the construction contractor shall immediately notify the project’s City representative.*
- *The City shall coordinate the investigation of the find with a qualified (meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s Qualification Standards for Archaeology) archaeologist approved by the City and with one or more interested culturally affiliated Native American Tribes that respond to the City’s invitation. As part of the site investigation and resource assessment, the City and the archaeologist shall consult with interested culturally affiliated Native American Tribes to assess the significance of the find, make recommendations for further evaluation and treatment as necessary and provide proper management recommendations should potential impacts to the resources be determined by the City to be significant. A written report detailing the site assessment, coordination activities, and management recommendations shall be provided to the City representative by the qualified archaeologist. These recommendations will be documented in the project record. For any*

- recommendations made by interested culturally affiliated Native American Tribes which are not implemented, a justification for why the recommendation was not followed will be provided in the project record.*
- *The City shall consider management recommendations for tribal cultural resources, including Native American archaeological resources, that are deemed appropriate, including resource avoidance or, where avoidance is infeasible in light of project design or layout or is unnecessary to avoid significant effects, preservation in place or other measures. The contractor shall implement any measures deemed by the City to be necessary and feasible to avoid or minimize significant impacts to the cultural resources. These measures may include inviting an interested culturally affiliated Native American Tribe to monitor ground-disturbing activities whenever work is occurring within 100 feet of the location of a discovered Tribal Cultural Resource or Native American archaeological site.*
  - *If an adverse impact to tribal cultural resources, including Native American archaeological resources, occurs then consultation with interested culturally affiliated Tribes regarding mitigation contained in the Public Resources Code sections 21084.3(a) and (b) and CEQA Guidelines section 15370 shall occur, in order to identify mitigation for the impact.*

4-4

***Implement Procedures in the Event of the Inadvertent Discovery of Native American Human Remains.***

*If an inadvertent discovery of Native American human remains is made at any time during project-related construction activities or project planning, the City will implement the procedures listed in Mitigation Measure 4-1. The following performance standards shall be met prior to implementing or continuing actions such as construction, that may result in damage to or destruction of human remains: In accordance with the California Health and Safety Code, if human remains are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, the City shall immediately halt potentially damaging excavation in the area of the burial and notify the Sacramento County Coroner and a professional archaeologist to determine the nature of the remains. The Coroner is required to examine all discoveries of human remains within 48 hours of receiving notice of a discovery on private or State lands (California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5[b]). If the Coroner determines that the remains are those of a Native American, he or she must contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) by phone within 24 hours of making that determination (California Health and Safety Code Section 7050[c]). After the Coroner's findings have been made, the archaeologist and the NAHC-designated Most Likely Descendant (MLD), in consultation with the landowner, shall determine the ultimate treatment and disposition of the remains. The responsibilities of the City for acting upon notification of a discovery of Native American human remains are identified in California PRC Section 5097.9 et seq.*

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

- 4-5            *Should paleontological resources be identified during any phase of project implementation, the construction manager shall cease operation at the site of the discovery and immediately notify the City of Sacramento Community Development Department. A qualified paleontologist shall be retained to salvage of the resource following the standards of the Society for Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP) and curation with a certified repository such as the California Museum of Paleontology (UCMP). Work may proceed on other parts of the project site while mitigation for paleontological resources is carried out.*

**Findings**

All additional significant environmental effects of the proposed project relating to cultural resources can be mitigated to a less-than-significant level. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would have no additional significant environmental effects beyond what was previously analyzed in the Master EIR.

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

**Environmental Setting**

*Seismicity*

The Sacramento 2035 General Plan Master EIR identifies all of the City of Sacramento as being subject to potential damage from earthquake groundshaking at a maximum intensity of VII on the Modified Mercalli scale (SGP Master EIR, Table 6.5-6). The closest potentially active faults to the project area include the Foothills Fault System, located approximately 23 miles from Sacramento; the Great Valley fault, located 26 miles from Sacramento; Concord-Green Valley Fault, located approximately 38 miles from Sacramento; and the Hunting Creek-Berryessa Fault, located 38 miles from Sacramento. The Foothills Fault System is considered capable of generating an earthquake with a Richter-Scale magnitude of 6.5; the Great Valley Fault is capable of generating an earthquake with a magnitude of 6.8; the Concord-Green Valley fault is capable of generating an earthquake with a magnitude 6.9, and the Hunting Creek-Berryessa Fault could generate a 6.9 magnitude earthquake. A major earthquake on any of these faults could cause strong groundshaking in the project area.

*Topography*

Terrain in the City of Sacramento features very little relief and the potential for slope instability within the City is minor due to the relatively flat topography of the area. The primary topographical features within each of the project sites are existing levee structures.

*Regional Geology*

The City of Sacramento lies near the southern end of the Sacramento Valley portion of the Great Valley Geomorphic Province. The Great Valley is bordered to the north by the Cascade and the Klamath Ranges, to the west by the Coast Ranges, to the east by the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range, and to the south by the transverse ranges. The valley was formed by the tilting of the Sierran Block, with the western side dropping to form the valley and the eastern side being uplifted to the form the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. The valley is characterized by a thick sequence of sediments derived from erosion of the adjacent Sierra Nevada Mountain Range to the east and the Coast Range to the west. These sedimentary rocks are mainly Cretaceous in age. The depths of the sediments vary from a thin veneer at the edges of the valley to depths in excess of 50,000 feet near the western edge of the valley. In the vicinity of the City, these sediments are approximately 15,000 feet deep.

## **Standards of Significance**

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

## **Summary of Analysis under the 2035 General Plan Master EIR and Applicable General Plan Policies**

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

## **Answers to Checklist Questions**

### Question A

#### *Geologic Hazards*

The project sites are not located on or in the vicinity of an Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone; therefore, the potential for fault rupture on the project sites is considered to be low. In addition, the project sites are located in areas of the City of Sacramento that are topographically flat. Seismically-induced landslides or landslides induced by soil failure typically occur on slopes with gradients of 30 percent or higher. Thus, the potential for seismically-induced or soil failure landslides at the project sites is relatively limited, and would not be exacerbated by the proposed improvements.

Soil liquefaction is a phenomenon primarily associated with the saturated soil layers located close to the ground surface. These soils lose strength during ground shaking generated by seismic events. Due to the loss of strength, the soil acquires "mobility" sufficient to permit both horizontal and vertical movements. Soils that are most susceptible to liquefaction are clean, loose, uniformly graded, saturated, fine-grained sands that lie relatively close to the ground surface. However, loose sands that contain a significant number of fines (minute silt and clay fraction) may also liquefy. The project sites are not located within a State-Designated Seismic Hazard Zone for liquefaction. Although the project sites are not within a State-Designated Seismic Hazard Zone, areas within the Sacramento region that include unconsolidated water-saturated sediments may experience liquefaction during seismic events. Thus, the potential for liquefaction to occur at the project sites during seismic events may exist. However, the levee structures within which the proposed improvements would occur have been engineered to withstand seismic events. Given that the proposed improvements would be limited to pipe replacement and various other minor improvements at existing sump station facilities, the proposed project would not exacerbate potential soil liquefaction risks.

Consistent with the conclusions of the Master EIR, the proposed project would not result in new significant impacts related to seismic hazards.

#### *Soil Hazards*

All on-site improvements would be required to comply with CBSC regulations governing seismically-resistant construction and construction techniques to protect people and property

from hazards associated with excavation cave-ins and falling debris/construction materials. Chapter 18 of the CBC provides regulations regarding site demolition, excavations, foundations, retaining walls, and grading, including, but not limited to, requirements for seismically-resistant design, foundation investigation, stable cut and fill slopes, and excavation, shoring, and trenching. The CBC also defines different building regions in California and ranks them according to their seismic hazard potential. Seismic Zone 1 has the least seismic potential and Zone 4 has the highest seismic potential. The City of Sacramento is in Seismic Zone 3; accordingly, the proposed improvements would be required to comply with all design standards applicable to Seismic Zone 3.

Chapter 15.88 of the Municipal Code (Grading and Erosion and Sediment Control) is used to regulate grading on property within the City of Sacramento to safeguard life, limb, health, property and the public welfare; to avoid pollution of watercourses with nutrients, sediments, or other materials generated by surface runoff from construction activities; to comply with the City's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit; and, to ensure graded sites within the City comply with all applicable City standards and ordinances. Given that the proposed improvements would consist of repair and maintenance of levees for local drainage control performed by a government agency, the proposed project would qualify for an exemption from the Grading and Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance per Section 15.88.070(J) of the City's Municipal Code. Nonetheless, for all project sites, BMPs would be implemented to prevent debris from entering waterways. Standard City BMPs include the use of straw bales, sandbags, gravel traps, and filters; erosion control measures such as vegetation and physical stabilization; and sediment control measures such as fences, dams, barriers, berms, traps, and basins.

New development on the project sites would not include the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems; therefore, impacts would not occur due to inadequate soils being able to support such wastewater storage/disposal systems.

### *Levee Stability*

As mandated by the SAFCA and the USACE, sump station outfalls that penetrate and cross major levees within the City of Sacramento are inspected on a five-year cycle. The proposed project entails the complete replacement of the pump discharge for three drainage sump station facilities and partial improvements at two drainage sump station facilities. The proposed project would not alter current operations and maintenance at the sump station facilities.

The extents of the complete discharge pipe replacements include replacement from the pump discharge across the levee to the outfall structure, including through the headwall. The area around the existing pipes would be excavated and the pipes would be cored out through the headwall on the waterside of the levee. The outfall structure itself would not be replaced or reconstructed as part of the proposed project. To remove pipes in the levee, trenches that are approximately twice the width of each pipe would be excavated from the landside to the waterside of the levee (for pipes that are close together, one wider trench may be used to accommodate multiple pipes) below the pipes. The fill beneath the pipes would be built back up to the bottom of the new pipes, which may be installed at a higher elevation than the removed pipes. Where installation of positive closure vaults at the hinge point of the levee is required, the vault area would be excavated to the bottom of the levee, then built back up from the bottom of the vault. The vault is poured, cast-in-place concrete and would be partially buried.

The partial improvements at Sumps 058 and 102 exclude any improvements within the levee section. Work would be limited to installation of stairs on the waterside slopes.

The proposed project would not require import or export of soils from the project sites. Any soils from the existing levee requiring excavation as part of the proposed project would be used to backfill the excavated area upon completion of the pipe replacements. Given that the existing soils have been previously determined to be suitable for the stability of the existing levees, use of such soils as backfill material would not result in new or exacerbated soil stability issues at the levees. Based on the above, the proposed project would not adversely affect the geotechnical stability of the levees.

### *Conclusion*

Based on the above, the proposed project would provide sufficient protections to ensure that new or exacerbated geologic or seismic hazards do not occur. In addition, the project would not adversely affect the stability of the City's levee system. As such, ***no additional significant environmental effects*** would occur beyond what was analyzed in the Master EIR.

### **Mitigation Measures**

None required.

### **Findings**

The proposed project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Geology and Soils. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would have no additional significant environmental effects beyond what was previously analyzed in the Master EIR.

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

**Environmental Setting**

The City of Sacramento Fire Department is the first responder for fire, accident, and hazardous materials emergencies in the project region. The Department maintains two Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Program teams at fire stations in the project region; Truck 5 is stationed in Downtown at 8<sup>th</sup> and Broadway, and Truck 20 is stationed at Arden Way and Del Paso Boulevard. The HazMat Teams respond to hazardous materials incidents. All members of the HazMat Teams are trained in accordance with National Fire Protection Association standards and are certified by the California Specialized Training Institute as Hazardous Materials Specialists. The teams would be expected to respond to any hazardous materials release at the project sites.

The project sites, nor the proposed staging areas are not currently used for storage of any hazardous materials.

**Standards of Significance**

For the purposes of this IS/MND, an impact is considered significant if the proposed project would:

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

**Summary of Analysis under the 2035 General Plan Master EIR and Applicable General Plan Policies**

The Master EIR evaluated effects of development on hazardous materials, emergency response and aircraft crash hazards (see Chapter 4.6). Implementation of the General Plan may result in the exposure of people to hazards and hazardous materials during construction activities, and exposure of people to hazards and hazardous materials during the life of the General Plan. Impacts identified related to construction activities and operations were found to be less than significant. Policies included in the 2035 General Plan, including PHS 3.1.1 (investigation of sites

for contamination) and PHS 3.1.2 (preparation of hazardous materials actions plans when appropriate) were effective in reducing the identified impacts.

## **Answers to Checklist Questions**

### Question A

The project sites are not included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled by the County pursuant to Government Code 65962.5.<sup>8</sup> Known contaminated soils do not occur on the project sites according to the Department of Toxic Substances Control. In addition, the proposed pipe replacements and associated improvements would occur primarily within areas that have been subject to prior disturbance associated with levee maintenance and stormwater drainage improvements. Accordingly, the proposed improvements would not result in the exposure of residents, pedestrians, construction workers, or other persons in the project area to contaminated soil. **No additional significant environmental effects** would occur beyond what was analyzed in the Master EIR.

### Question B and C

Naturally-occurring asbestos (NOA) exists in many parts of California. Earth disturbing activities, such as those associated with construction activities, could release NOA into the air, if NOA is present in the area of disturbance. According to mapping prepared by the California Geological Survey, the only area within Sacramento County that is likely to contain NOA is eastern Sacramento County; thus, the project sites are not located in an area identified as likely to contain NOA.<sup>9</sup> In addition, the proposed project would not include demolition of any structures that could have been constructed with asbestos-containing materials. Therefore, the proposed project is not anticipated to result in the release of, or exposure of persons to, asbestos.

Furthermore, ground-disturbing activities associated with the proposed project are not anticipated to reach the groundwater table. While dewatering would be required during pipeline replacement at Sump 089 along Morrison Creek, only surface water would be dewatered.

Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in the exposure of residents, pedestrians, construction workers, or other persons in the project area to asbestos-containing materials, contaminated groundwater, or other hazardous waste. **No additional significant environmental effects** would occur beyond what was analyzed in the Master EIR.

## **Mitigation Measures**

None required.

## **Findings**

The proposed project would have **no additional project-specific environmental effects** relating to Hazards. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would have no additional significant environmental effects beyond what was previously analyzed in the Master EIR.

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<sup>8</sup> State Water Resources Control Board. *GeoTracker*. Available at: <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>. Accessed September 2020.

<sup>9</sup> Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey. *Relative Likelihood for the Presence of Naturally Occurring Asbestos in Eastern Sacramento County, California*. 2006.

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

**Environmental Setting**

The City of Sacramento’s Grading Ordinance requires that development projects comply with the requirements of the City’s Stormwater Quality Improvement Plan (SQIP). The SQIP outlines the priorities, key elements, strategies, and evaluation methods of the City’s Stormwater Management Program. The Program is based on the NPDES municipal stormwater discharge permit. The comprehensive Program includes pollution reduction activities for construction sites, industrial sites, illegal discharges and illicit connections, new development, and municipal operations. In addition, before the onset of any construction activities, where the disturbed area is one acre or more in size, projects are required to obtain coverage under the NPDES General Construction Permit and include erosion and sediment control plans. BMPs may consist of a wide variety of measures taken to reduce pollutants in stormwater and other non-point source runoff. Measures that reduce or eliminate post-construction-related water quality problems range from source controls, such as reduced surface disturbance, to treatment of polluted runoff, such as detention or retention basins. The City’s SQIP and the *Stormwater Quality Design Manual for the Sacramento Region* (Sacramento Stormwater Quality Partnership 2014) include BMPs to be implemented to mitigate impacts from new development and redevelopment projects.

Section 13.08.145 of the Sacramento City Municipal Code (Mitigation of drainage impacts; design and procedures manual for water, sanitary sewer, storm drainage, and water quality facilities) requires that when a property would contribute drainage to the storm drain system or combined sewer system, all stormwater and surface runoff drainage impacts resulting from the improvement or development must be fully mitigated to ensure that the improvement or development does not affect the function of the storm drain system or combined sewer system, and that an increase in flooding or in water surface elevation that adversely affects individuals, streets, structures, infrastructure, or property does not occur.

**Standards of Significance**

For purposes of this IS/MND, impacts due 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:

- 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 proposed project; or

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

### **Summary of Analysis under the 2035 General Plan Master EIR and Applicable General Plan Policies**

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

### **Answers to Checklist Questions**

#### Question A

Construction activities associated with implementation of the proposed sump station facility improvements have the potential to result in discharge of sediment or other pollutants to the waterways adjacent to the improvement areas. This potential will be lessened by the fact that, for all sumps, work would be completed during the summer months outside the flood season for each location.

The SWRCB adopted a statewide NPDES permit for storm water discharges associated with construction activity. Dischargers whose projects disturb one or more acres of soil are required to obtain coverage under the General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity Construction General Permit Order 2009-0009-DWQ. Construction activity subject to this permit includes clearing, grading, and disturbances to the ground such as stockpiling or excavation.

Because the proposed project would involve a total excavation area of less than one acre, a SWPPP would not be required as part of the proposed project. However, for all sites, BMPs would be implemented to prevent debris from entering waterways. Standard City BMPs include the use of straw bales, sandbags, gravel traps, and filters; erosion control measures such as vegetation and physical stabilization; and sediment control measures such as fences, dams, barriers, berms, traps, and basins. City staff inspects and enforces the erosion, sediment and pollution control requirements in accordance with City codes.

Implementation of BMPs would ensure that construction activities associated with the proposed project would not result in substantial degradation to water quality or violation of any water quality objectives due to increases in sediments and other contaminants. Therefore, ***no additional significant environmental effect*** would occur related to substantial degradation of water quality or violation of any water quality objectives set by the SWRCB, due to increases in sediments and other contaminants generated during implementation of the proposed sump station improvements.

#### Question B

The floodplain is the area that is inundated during a flood event and is often physically discernable as a broad, flat area created by historical floods. In addition to the FEMA, the SAFCA was formed

to address the Sacramento area's vulnerability to catastrophic flooding. As mandated by the SAFCA and the USACE, sump station outfalls that penetrate and cross major levees within the City of Sacramento are inspected on a five-year cycle.

Consistent with SAFCA and USACE requirements, the proposed project would include the complete replacement of the pump discharge pipes for three drainage sump station facilities and partial improvements at two drainage sump station facilities, in addition to other minor improvements.

The Central Valley Flood Protection Board will need to issue an encroachment permit for the completion of work related to the sumps. California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Section 15, includes a list of potential impacts that could be cause for reasons of denial of a permit from the CVFPB. The following section addresses Title 23, Section 15, in relation to the proposed sump improvements. As stated in Section 15(a), the board may deny a permit for any of the following reasons:

- (1) Jeopardize directly or indirectly the physical integrity of levees or other works;

*Permanent:* The integrity of the levees will be maintained after construction is complete. There is no permanent impact to integrity of the levees with proposed work.

*Temporary:* During construction at Sump 155 a deep levee excavation is required to replace the gravity pipe and install the gate riser structure. This work will be performed during dry season; therefore, there will be no impact to levee integrity during flood season.

- (2) Obstruct, divert, redirect, or raise the surface level of design floods or flows, or the lesser flows for which protection is provided;

~~*Permanent:* As part of the American River Common Features Project, the USACE is installing up to 11 miles of additional bank protection over the next three years. Sump 155 is within the USACE site 2-1, which is the first construction project on the Lower American River along the west bank. The erosion protection work includes 5,500 feet of stream bank protection and stabilization of the existing levee to protect critical infrastructure against the effects of erosion during large flood events. Both projects are anticipated for construction in 2022; therefore, the City's design efforts have been coordinated with the USACE erosion protection details that will be impacted by City improvements. The City has worked in collaboration with the USACE Erosion — Lower American River (LAR) Project design team to include sections of their riprap armoring plan at Sump 155. This includes a bench of riprap beneath the OHWM. The total hydraulic blockage under the 200-year WSE for Sump 155 improvements is 1.7 percent of the overall cross-section of the American River; however, USACE's LAR Project intends to mitigate this impact by reducing the fill on the waterside slope of the east bank levee so that there is an overall net zero change to the cross-section of the channel. There will be no permanent impact to the design flood elevation after USACE LAR Project.~~

Blockage calculations were prepared by Peterson Brustad Inc. to demonstrate that percentages would not exceed one percent. The calculations are shown in Table 9.

<b>Table 9 Hydraulic Blockage Summary By Sump</b>		
Sump No.	Hydraulic Blockage	Notes
S155	<del>1.87%</del> <u>0.25%</u>	<del>The City's project was developed in collaboration with the USACE Erosion Lower American River (LAR) Project design team to include sections of their riprap armoring plan at Sump 155. This includes a bench of riprap beneath the ordinary high water mark. USACE's LAR Project intends to mitigate this impact by reducing the fill on the waterside slope of the east bank levee so that there is an overall net zero change to the cross section of the channel. There will be no permanent impact to the hydraulic cross section.</del> <u>Hydraulic blockage is less than 1%</u>
S089	0.643%	Hydraulic blockage is less than 1%
S151	0%	All improvements below the 200-year WSE are below grade and do not impact the hydraulic cross section

*Source: Peterson Brustad Inc., February 2021*

*Temporary:* A temporary cofferdam will be installed at Sump 089, which will temporarily restrict flow in the waterway; however, this work will only occur during the dry season, as required by Mitigation Measure 3-1(b). There will be no impact to the design flood elevation during the flood season.

- (3) Cause significant adverse changes in water velocity or flow regimen;

*Permanent:* ~~The only potential impact (Sump 155) is being mitigated with a net zero impact (reference discussion for item 2).~~ There will be no permanent impact on flow.

*Temporary:* A temporary cofferdam will be installed at Sump 089, which will temporarily restrict flow in the waterway; however, this work will only occur during the dry season, as required by Mitigation Measure 3-1(b). There will be no impact to flow during the flood season.

- (4) Impair the inspection of floodways or project works;

*Permanent:* There will be no adverse impacts to the ability to inspect project works. With respect to Sump 089, the improvements would result in improved inspection because the outfall structure will no longer be submerged.

*Temporary:* The levee crown will only be disturbed during construction, which will be restricted to the dry season. There will be no impact to inspection abilities during flood season.

- (5) Interfere with the maintenance of floodways or project works;

*Permanent:* There will be no adverse impacts to the maintenance of floodways or project works.

*Temporary:* The levee crown will only be disturbed during construction, which will be restricted to the dry season. No impact to maintenance would occur during flood season.

- (6) Interfere with the ability to engage in flood fighting, patrolling, or other flood emergency activities;

*Permanent:* There will be no adverse impacts to the ability to flood fight or perform emergency activities.

*Temporary:* The levee crown will only be disturbed during construction, which will be restricted to dry season. No impact to flood-related activities would occur during flood season.

- (7) Increase the damaging effects of flood flows; or

*Permanent:* There will be no permanent impacts that would increase the damaging effects of flood flows.

*Temporary:* There will be no temporary impacts that would increase the damaging effects of flood flows.

- (8) Be injurious to, or interfere with, the successful execution, functioning, or operation of any adopted plan of flood control.

*Permanent:* There will be no permanent impacts that would interfere with any adopted plan of flood control.

*Temporary:* There will be no temporary impacts that would interfere with any adopted plan of flood control.

- (9) Adversely affect the State Plan of Flood Control, as defined in the Water Code.

*Permanent:* There will be no permanent impacts that would affect the State Plan of Flood Control.

*Temporary:* There will be no temporary impacts that would affect the State Plan of Flood Control.

In addition, Section 131, Vegetation, of Title 23, includes requirements for vegetation removal along levees. The majority of standards pertain to restrictions related to proposed vegetation plantings, in particular, plantings on the levee crown. The proposed project does not include any planting of vegetation. A maximum of two trees may need to be removed as a result of the proposed improvements to Sump 089 and up to four trees at Sump 155; and the removal will be done in accordance with standards set forth in Title 23, Section 131.

Based on the above, the proposed project would not result in reasons for CVFPB permit denial, set forth in CCR Title 23, Section 15, nor place housing or structures within a 100-year flood hazard area, and **no additional significant environmental effect** would occur relative to flooding impacts analyzed in the Master EIR.

### **Mitigation Measures**

None required.

## **Findings**

The proposed project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Hydrology and Water Quality. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would have no additional significant environmental effects beyond what was previously analyzed in the Master EIR.

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

## Environmental Setting

### Noise

Sound is defined as any pressure variation in air that the human ear can detect. If the pressure variations occur frequently enough (at least 20 times per second), they can be heard by the human ear. The number of pressure variations per second is called the frequency of sound, and is expressed as cycles per second, called Hertz (Hz). Discussing sound directly in terms of pressure would require a very large and awkward range of numbers. To avoid this, the decibel (dB) scale was devised. The decibel scale uses the hearing threshold (20 micropascals of pressure), as a point of reference defined as 0 dB. Other sound pressures are compared to the reference pressure and the logarithm is taken to keep the numbers in practical range. The dB scale allows a million-fold increase in pressure to be expressed as 120 dB. To better relate overall sound levels and loudness to human perception, frequency-dependent weighting networks were developed. A strong correlation exists between the way humans perceive sound and A-weighted sound levels. For this reason, the A-weighted sound level has become the standard tool of environmental noise assessment for community exposures. All sound levels expressed as dB in this section are A-weighted sound levels, unless noted otherwise.

Community noise is commonly described in terms of the “ambient” noise level, which is defined as the all-encompassing noise level associated with a given noise environment. A common statistical tool to measure the ambient noise level is the average, or equivalent, sound level (L<sub>eq</sub>), over a given

time period (usually one hour). The  $L_{eq}$  is the foundation of the composite noise descriptors, day-night average level ( $L_{dn}$ ) and the community noise equivalent level (CNEL), and shows very good correlation with community response to noise for the average person. The median noise level descriptor, denoted  $L_{50}$ , represents the noise level which is exceeded 50 percent of the hour. In other words, half of the hour ambient conditions are higher than the  $L_{50}$  and the other half are lower than the  $L_{50}$ .

The  $L_{dn}$  is based upon the average noise level over a 24-hour day, with a +10 dB weighting applied to noise occurring during nighttime (10:00 PM to 7:00 AM) hours. The nighttime penalty is based upon the assumption that people react to nighttime noise exposures as though they were twice as loud as daytime exposures. Because  $L_{dn}$  represents a 24-hour average,  $L_{dn}$  tends to disguise short-term variation in the noise environment. Where short-term noise sources are an issue, noise impacts may be assessed in terms of maximum noise levels, hourly averages, or other statistical descriptors.

Another common descriptor is the CNEL. The CNEL is similar to the  $L_{dn}$ , except CNEL has an additional weighting factor. Both average noise energy over a 24-hour period. The CNEL applies a +5 dB weighting to events that occur between 7:00 PM and 10:00 PM, in addition to the +10 dB weighting between 10:00 PM and 7:00 AM associated with  $L_{dn}$ .

### Vibration

Vibration is like noise in that vibration involves a source, a transmission path, and a receiver. While vibration is related to noise, vibration differs in that noise is generally considered to be pressure waves transmitted through air, whereas vibration usually consists of the excitation of a structure or surface. As with noise, vibration consists of an amplitude and a frequency. A person's perception to the vibration will depend on their individual sensitivity to vibration, as well as the amplitude and frequency of the source and the response of the system which is vibrating. Vibration can be measured in terms of acceleration, velocity, or displacement. Vibration magnitude is measured in vibration decibels (VdB) relative to a reference level of 1 micro-inch per second peak particle velocity (ppv), the human threshold of perception. The background vibration level in residential areas is usually 50 VdB or lower. Most perceptible indoor vibration is caused by sources within buildings such as operation of mechanical equipment, movement of people, or slamming of doors. Typical outdoor sources of perceptible ground-borne vibration are construction equipment, steel-wheeled trains, and traffic on rough roads. If the roadway is smooth, the vibration from traffic is rarely perceptible. The range of environmental interest is typically from 50 VdB to 90 VdB (or 0.12 inch per second ppv), the latter being the general threshold where structural damage can begin to occur in fragile buildings.

### Sensitive Receptors

Noise-sensitive receptors include land uses such as single-family residences, churches, or other uses which are considered particularly sensitive to noise level increases. Sump 155, Sump 58, and Sump 102 are each located within the vicinity of existing single-family residences. Sump 89 and Sump 151 are not located within the vicinity of any noise-sensitive uses.

### **Standards of Significance**

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

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

### **Summary of Analysis under the 2035 General Plan Master EIR and Applicable General Plan Policies**

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

### **Answers to Checklist Questions**

#### Questions A and B

The City of Sacramento provides noise standards and criteria applicable to new operational noise sources. Specifically, the City of Sacramento General Plan Noise Element establishes exterior noise level criteria for determining the compatibility of land uses. For residential land uses, exterior noise levels below 60 dB  $L_{dn}$  are considered "Normally Acceptable". Exterior noise levels between 60 and 70 dB  $L_{dn}$  are classified "Conditionally Acceptable" and are acceptable on the condition that all feasible noise attenuation measures have been attempted. For areas where exterior noise levels are between 70 and 75 dB  $L_{dn}$ , which is considered "Normally Unacceptable", new construction or development is discouraged. New construction or development should not be undertaken at locations where exterior noise levels exceed 75 dB  $L_{dn}$  due to traffic or stationary sources. With regards to interior noise levels, interior noise levels for residential land uses that exceed 45 dB are considered unacceptable. In addition, maximum instantaneous interior noise levels due to rail operations should not be allowed to exceed 50 dB in bedrooms and 55 dB in other habitable rooms. Table 4.8-4 of the Master EIR includes an analysis of traffic noise levels associated with various roadways within the City of Sacramento, including noise contours. The traffic noise levels presented therein are based on traffic volumes projected for buildout of the 2035 General Plan.

The proposed project would be limited to pipe replacement and other improvements at existing sump station facilities. Upon completion of the improvements, the proposed project would not result in any long-term increase in operational noise levels associated with the sump stations. Therefore, ***no additional significant environmental effect*** would occur related to operational noise.

#### Question C

Per Section 8.68.060 of the City of Sacramento Municipal Code, exterior noise levels at agricultural and residential properties shall not exceed 55 dB between 7:00 AM and 10:00 PM or exceed 50 dB between 10:00 PM and 7:00 AM. Section 8.86.060(B) sets additional criteria for cumulative exposure to intrusive sound within any given hour. Section 8.68.070 of the Municipal Code provides specific noise standards for indoor noise at apartments, condominiums, townhouses, duplexes, and multi-unit dwellings. Section 8.68.080 of the Municipal Code provides exemptions from such noise standards for noise sources due to the erection (including excavation), demolition, alteration or repair of any building or structure between the hours of 7:00 AM and 6:00 PM, Monday through Saturday, and between 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM on Sundays.

Noise impacts resulting from construction depend on the noise generated by various pieces of construction equipment, the timing and duration of noise-generating activities, and the distance between construction noise sources and noise-sensitive areas. Construction noise impacts primarily result when construction activities occur during noise-sensitive times of the day (e.g., early morning, evening, or nighttime hours), the construction occurs in areas immediately adjoining noise-sensitive land uses, or when construction lasts over extended periods of time.

Construction activities generate considerable amounts of noise, especially during earth-moving activities when heavy equipment is used. In the case of the proposed project, construction activities associated with the proposed pipe replacements and other improvements would not require extensive ground disturbance, and would be limited to a relatively short period (approximately four months). In addition, construction activity would be dispersed between the five separate sump station facilities; thus, construction noise generated at each individual site would be relatively minor. While the project would generate a limited amount of vehicle traffic associated with workers driving to and from the project sites during implementation of the improvements, construction traffic associated with the proposed project would be temporary (approximately four months) and would not result in substantially increased traffic on local roadways such that traffic noise at sensitive receptors would increase.

The City's Municipal Code regulates noise and provides that construction noise during specified hours would be exempt from the City's noise controls (Title 8 – Health and Safety, Chapter 8.68 of the Municipal Code). As noted above, construction activities that occur between 7:00 AM and 6:00 PM, Monday through Saturday, and between 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM on Sundays are exempt from the applicable noise standards. Construction activities associated with the proposed project would comply with such hourly limits and, thus, would be exempt from the City's noise standards.

Based on the above, ***no additional significant environmental effect*** would occur related to construction noise.

#### Questions D through F

For structural damage, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) uses a vibration limit of 0.5 inches/second, peak particle velocity (in/sec PPV), for buildings structurally sound and designed to modern engineering standards; 0.2 in/sec PPV for buildings that are found to be

structurally sound but where structural damage is a major concern; and a conservative limit of 0.08 in/sec PPV for ancient buildings or buildings that are documented to be structurally weakened.<sup>10</sup> Accordingly, the City uses a threshold of significance for vibration levels of 0.5 in/sec PPV for residential and commercial areas, and 0.2 in/sec PPV for historic buildings and archaeological sites.

The primary vibration-generating activities associated with implementation of the proposed project would occur during excavation of the area around the existing pipes at the sump station facilities and placement of fill after the pipes are replaced. Construction activities would be temporary, and construction equipment would operate intermittently throughout the course of a day, would be restricted to daytime hours per the City's Municipal Code, and would likely only occur over portions of the project sites at a time.

Table 10 presents typical vibration levels that could be expected from construction equipment at a distance of 25 feet. Implementation of the proposed project would not require use of vibration-generating equipment at a distance 25 feet or closer to an existing structure. The only potentially sensitive structure located within close proximity to the proposed activities is Well 159 at Sump 102, which is comprised of a utility building, prefabricated storage shed, electrical pulley system, and chemical treatment structure. The proposed improvements at this location are limited to installation of stairs on the waterside slope, which would not generate substantial vibration.

<b>Table 10</b>	
<b>Vibration Source Levels for Construction Equipment</b>	
<b>Equipment</b>	<b>PPV at 25 ft (in/sec)</b>
Large Bulldozer	0.089
Caisson drilling	0.089
Loaded trucks	0.076
Jackhammer	0.035
Small bulldozer	0.003
<i>Source: Caltrans, Transportation and Construction Vibration: Guidance Manual. September 2013.</i>	

The proposed project would primarily involve use of loaded trucks, jackhammers, excavators, tractors/backhoes/loaders, concrete saws, graders, plate compactors, paving equipment, and a crane. Typical vibration levels for excavators, concrete saws, graders, plate compactors, and cranes are not identified in the referenced Caltrans Transportation and Construction Vibration: Guidance Manual; however, use of such equipment is anticipated to result in vibration source levels equivalent to, or less than, the most vibration-intensive equipment listed in the table above. While the proposed project may involve the use of jackhammers and loaded trucks, use of other more vibration-intensive equipment such as large bulldozers and tools for caisson drilling would not be required.

Based on the vibration source levels shown in the table, construction equipment anticipated to be used at the project site would not exceed the 0.5 in/sec PPV threshold for residential and commercial areas or the 0.2 in/sec PPV threshold used for exposure to historic buildings and archaeological sites.

Based on the above, the proposed project would not expose any residential or commercial areas, or historic buildings or archaeological sites to excessive vibration levels, and **no additional significant environmental effect** would occur.

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<sup>10</sup> California Department of Transportation. *Transportation and Construction Vibration Guidance Manual*. September 2013.

**Mitigation Measures**

None required.

**Findings**

The proposed project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Noise. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would have no additional significant environmental effects beyond what was previously analyzed in the Master EIR.

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

**Environmental Setting**

The Sacramento Fire Department (SFD) provides fire protection services to the entire City and some small areas just outside the City boundaries within the County limits. Police protection services are provided by the Sacramento Police Department (SPD) for areas within the City. The SPD provides law enforcement protection to the proposed project sites from the Sacramento Police Department located at 300 Richards Boulevard. In addition to the SPD and Sheriff's Department, the California Highway Patrol and the Regional Transit Police Department provide police protection within the City of Sacramento.

**Standards of Significance**

For the purposes of this IS/MND, an impact would be considered significant if implementation of the proposed project would result in the need for new or altered services related to fire protection, police protection, school facilities, roadway maintenance, or other governmental services beyond what was anticipated in the 2035 General Plan.

**Summary of Analysis under the 2035 General Plan Master EIR and Applicable General Plan Policies**

The Master EIR evaluated the potential effects of the 2035 General Plan on various public services. These include police, fire protection, schools, libraries and emergency services (Chapter 4.10). The General Plan provides that adequate staffing levels for police and fire are important for the long-term health, safety and well-being of the community (Goal PHS 1.1, PHS 2.1). The Master EIR concluded that effects of development that could occur under the General Plan would be less than significant.

**Answers to Checklist Questions**

Question A

The proposed project would be limited to pipe replacement and associated improvements at existing sump station facilities throughout the City of Sacramento. The proposed improvements would not have the potential to induce growth or otherwise result in the need for new or altered services related to fire protection, police protection, school facilities, or other governmental services beyond what was anticipated in the 2035 General Plan. Thus, ***no additional significant environmental effects*** would occur beyond what was analyzed in the Master EIR.

**Mitigation Measures**

None required.

## **Findings**

The proposed project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Public Services. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would have no additional significant environmental effects beyond what was previously analyzed in the Master EIR.

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

### Environmental Setting

The City of Sacramento Parks and Recreation Department maintains all parks and recreational facilities within the City of Sacramento. Residential and non-residential projects that are built in the City of Sacramento are required to pay a park development impact fee per Chapter 18.56 of the Sacramento City Code. The fees collected pursuant to Chapter 18.56 are primarily used to finance the construction of neighborhood and community park facilities.

### Standards of Significance

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

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

### Summary of Analysis under the 2035 General Plan Master EIR and Applicable General Plan Policies

Chapter 4.9 of the Master EIR considered the effects of the 2035 General Plan on the City’s existing parkland, urban forest, recreational facilities and recreational services. The General Plan identified a goal of providing an integrated park and recreation system in the City (Goal ERC 2.1). Impacts were considered less than significant after application of the applicable policies (Impacts 4.9-1 and 4.9-2).

### Answers to Checklist Questions

#### Questions A and B

The proposed project would be limited to pipe replacement and associated improvements at existing sump station facilities. Thus, the project would not increase use of existing parks or demand for parks or other recreational facilities, accelerate substantial deterioration of existing parks and recreational facilities, or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities beyond what was anticipated in the 2035 General Plan. Thus, ***no additional significant environmental effects*** would occur beyond what was analyzed in the Master EIR.

**Mitigation Measures**

None Required.

**Findings**

The proposed project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Recreation. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would have no additional significant environmental effects beyond what was previously analyzed in the Master EIR.

**SUMP STATION FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**  
INITIAL STUDY

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
<b>11. TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION</b>			
Would the project:			
A) Roadway segments: degrade 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.			X
B) Intersections: degrade 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?			X
C) Freeway facilities: 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?			X
D) Transit: adversely affect public transit operations or fail to adequately provide for access to public transit?			X
E) Bicycle facilities: adversely affect bicycle travel, bicycle paths or fail to adequately provide for access by bicycle?			X
F) Pedestrian: adversely affect pedestrian travel, pedestrian paths or fail to adequately provide for access by pedestrians?			X
G) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?			X

**Environmental Setting**

Access to each of the sump station facilities is provided by multi-use paths along the tops of the adjacent levees and paved roadways in the vicinity of the facilities. Specific roadways providing access to each of the sump station facilities are noted in Table 1 of this IS/MND. Access to the sump station facilities is regularly maintained by the City of Sacramento to provide for upkeep of, and upgrades to, the facilities. Access to the La Riviera staging area is from a driveway along the north side of La Riviera Drive. Access to the Lathrop staging area is from a driveway at the west side of Lathrop Way.

## **Standards of Significance**

For purposes of this IS/MND, 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:

### Study Intersections

For intersections, a significant impact would occur under the following circumstances:

- The traffic generated by a project degrades peak period level of service from acceptable (without project) to unacceptable (with project); or
- The LOS (without project) is already, or is projected to be, unacceptable, and project generated traffic increases the peak period average vehicle delay by five seconds or more.

### Transit

Impacts to the local transit system would be considered significant if the proposed project would result in the following:

- Adversely affect public transit operations; or
- Fail to adequately provide for access to public transit.

### Bicycle Facilities

Impacts to bicycle facilities would be considered significant if the proposed project would result in the following:

- Adversely affect bicycle travel, bicycle paths; or
- Fail to adequately provide for access by bicycle.

### Pedestrian Circulation

Impacts to pedestrian facilities would be considered significant if the proposed project would result in the following:

- Adversely affect pedestrian travel, pedestrian paths; or
- Fail to adequately provide for access by pedestrians.

### Vehicle Miles Travelled

Section 15064.3 of the CEQA Guidelines provides specific considerations for evaluating a project's transportation impacts. Per Section 15064.3, analysis of vehicle miles travelled (VMT) attributable to a project is the most appropriate measure of transportation impacts. Other relevant considerations may include the effects of the project on transit and non-motorized travel. Except as provided in Section 15064.3 (b)(2) regarding roadway capacity, a project's effect on automobile delay does not constitute a significant environmental impact under CEQA. As of July 1, 2020, VMT is to be used for determination of transportation impacts. The City of Sacramento has not yet adopted a quantitative significance threshold for VMT.

## Summary of Analysis under the 2035 General Plan Master EIR and Applicable General Plan Policies

Transportation and circulation were discussed in the Master EIR in Chapter 4.12. Various modes of travel were included in the analysis, including vehicular, transit, bicycle, pedestrian and aviation components. The analysis included consideration of roadway capacity and identification of levels of service, and effects of the 2035 General Plan on the public transportation system. Provisions of the 2035 General Plan that provide substantial guidance include Mobility Goal 1.1, calling for a transportation system that is effectively planned, managed, operated and maintained, promotion of multimodal choices (Policy M 1.2.1), identification of level of service standards (Policy M 1.2.2), support for state highway expansion and management consistent with the Sacramento Area Council of Governments Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (SACOG MTP/SCS) (Policy M 1.5.6) and development that encourages walking and biking (Policy LU 4.2.1).

While the General Plan includes numerous policies that direct the development of the City's transportation system, the Master EIR concluded that General Plan development would result in significant and unavoidable effects.

### Answers to Checklist Questions

#### Questions A through C

The proposed project would be limited to pipe replacement and other improvements at existing sump station facilities. While the project would generate a limited amount of vehicle traffic associated with workers driving to and from the project sites during construction of the improvements, construction traffic associated with the proposed project would be temporary (approximately four months) and would not result in substantially increased traffic on local roadways.

Based on the above, the proposed project would not conflict with the applicable City and County minimum LOS policies. In addition, the project would not result in substantial risks related to vehicle queuing at the study intersections. Therefore, ***no additional significant environmental effects*** would occur related to intersection operations beyond what was analyzed in the Master EIR.

#### Questions D through F

The proposed project would not result in increased demand for transit services. In addition, the proposed improvements would not affect any existing pedestrian, bicycle, or transit facilities in the vicinity of the project sites and would not conflict with any facilities planned per the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plans.

Considering that the proposed project would not result in a project-specific impact related to transit services or bicycle and pedestrian facilities, ***no additional significant environmental effects*** would occur beyond what was analyzed in the Master EIR.

#### Question G

Upon completion of the proposed improvements, the proposed project would not include any operational trip generation and resultant VMT. Consequently, the project would not have the potential to substantially increase annual VMT in the project region. Thus, the project would not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b), related to VMT analysis, and ***no additional significant environmental effects*** would occur.

**Mitigation Measures**

None required.

**Findings**

The proposed project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Transportation and Circulation. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would have no additional significant environmental effects beyond what was previously analyzed in the Master EIR.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
<p><b>12. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES</b> Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American Tribe, and that is:</p> <p>A) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k)?</p>		X	
<p>B) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1? In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.</p>		X	

**Environmental Setting**

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

The 2035 General Plan land use diagram designates a wide swath of land along the American River as Parks, which limits development and impacts on sensitive prehistoric resources. High sensitivity areas may be found in other areas related to the ancient flows of the rivers, with differing meanders than found today; however, all such areas are outside of the immediate project vicinity. The 2035 General Plan Background Report also defines moderate sensitivity areas, which are areas such as creeks, other watercourses, and high spots near waterways where the discovery of villages is unlikely, but campsites or special use sites may have existed. Moderate areas are often disturbed by siltation, or development; however, discovery of new archaeological resources is still possible.

**Standards of Significance**

For purposes of this IS/MND, tribal cultural resource impacts may be considered significant if construction and/or implementation of the proposed project would result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource that is:

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

### **Summary of Analysis under the 2035 General Plan Master EIR and Applicable General Plan Policies**

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

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

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

### **Answers to Checklist Questions**

#### Questions A and B

Tribal cultural resources are generally defined by Public Resources Code 21074 as sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe. The City notified all applicable Native American tribes per the requirements of AB 52.

As noted previously, a SLF search and CHRIS search were conducted for the project APE as part of the Cultural Resources Inventory prepared for the proposed project. The CHRIS search did not identify any known tribal cultural resources in the APE. The results of the search returned by the NAHC on August 5, 2020 were positive for tribal cultural resources in the project vicinity. While the SLF search for the APE identified the potential presence of tribal cultural resources, subsequent outreach to local tribes conducted by Natural Investigations did not yield any further information confirming such resources.

It should be noted that per the Cultural Resources Inventory, the APE is located within the Sacramento River TCL (P-34-005225). The TCL encompasses the whole of the Lower Sacramento River environment. The lands were known ethnographically as *Hoyo Sayo/Tah Sayo* by the Nisenan and as *Waka-ce/Waka-Ly* by the Plains Miwok. The primary character defining elements of the landscape are the waterways, tule habitats, fisheries, and other natural resources which would have sustained Native populations prehistorically and historically.

An intensive pedestrian survey of the APE, including all project sites, was conducted by Natural Investigations on July 24, 2020 as part of the Cultural Resources Inventory. The pedestrian survey did not identify any tribal cultural resources within the APE. Thus, ground-disturbing activities associated with implementation of the proposed project would not result in disturbance of known

tribal cultural resources. In addition, given that the proposed project is restricted to the footprint of existing features of the built environment, such as sumps, pipelines, outfalls, and levees, the project is not expected to cause any significant new impacts to the natural resources comprising the Sacramento River TCL (P-34-005225). However, unknown resources below the surface could be encountered during ground disturbing activities. Therefore, the proposed project could result in **additional significant environmental effects** related to damaging or destroying tribal cultural resources beyond what was analyzed in the Master EIR. Implementation of Mitigation Measures 4-1 through 4-5 would mitigate the potential impact to a *less-than-significant* level.

### **Mitigation Measures**

Implementation of the following mitigation measure would reduce potential impacts related to tribal cultural resources to a *less-than-significant* level.

12-1            *Implement Mitigation Measures 4-1 through 4-5.*

### **Findings**

All additional significant environmental effects of the proposed project relating to tribal cultural resources can be mitigated to a less-than-significant level. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would have no additional significant environmental effects beyond what was previously analyzed in the Master EIR.

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

**Environmental Setting**

The existing sump stations are used to collect and discharge stormwater runoff into adjacent waterways. The existing sump station facilities do not currently receive water, wastewater, or natural gas service from the City of Sacramento. Electricity for the existing facilities is provided by the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District (SMUD).

The City of Sacramento does not provide commercial solid waste collection services. Rather, commercial garbage, recycling or yard waste services are provided by a franchised hauler authorized by the Sacramento Solid Waste Authority to collect commercial garbage and commingled recycling within the City. Kiefer Landfill, located at 12701 Kiefer Boulevard in Sloughhouse, California, is the primary location for the disposal of waste by the City of Sacramento. According to the Master EIR, the landfill is permitted to accept up to 10,815 tons per day and the current peak and average daily disposal is much lower than the permitted amount. The landfill is anticipated to be capable of adequately serving the area, including the anticipated population growth, until the year 2065.

**Standards of Significance**

For the purposes of this IS/MND, an impact would be considered significant if the project resulted in the following:

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

**Summary of Analysis under the 2035 General Plan Master EIR and Applicable General Plan Policies**

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

The Master EIR evaluated the impacts of increased demand for water that would occur with development under the 2035 General Plan. Policies in the General Plan would reduce the impact generally to a less-than-significant level (see Impact 4.11-1) but the Master EIR concluded that

the potential increase in demand for potable water in excess of the City's existing diversion and treatment capacity, and which could require construction of new water supply facilities, would result in a significant and unavoidable effect (Impact 4.11-2). Effects related to potential expansion of wastewater treatment facilities were identified as less than significant (Impact 4.11-4). Impacts on solid waste facilities were less than significant (Impact 4.11-5).

## **Answers to Checklist Questions**

### Questions A and B

The proposed pipe replacements and associated improvements at the existing sump station facilities would not result in an increase in demand for utilities. The environmental effects associated with construction of the proposed utility replacement and improvement are evaluated throughout this IS/MND. Upon completion of the improvements, electricity demands at the sump station facilities would not substantially increase relative to existing conditions. In addition, the project would not require the extension of new utilities or substantial expansion of existing utilities. Thus, the proposed project would result ***no additional significant environmental effects*** beyond what was analyzed in the Master EIR.

### **Mitigation Measures**

None required.

### **Findings**

The proposed project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Utilities and Service Systems. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would have no additional significant environmental effects beyond what was previously analyzed in the Master EIR.

### MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Issues:	Effect remains significant with all identified mitigation	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
<b>14. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE</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

Implementation of the proposed project would have the potential to adversely impact special-status animals and previously undiscovered cultural resources and/or human remains. However, the proposed project would implement and comply with applicable Sacramento 2035 General Plan policies, as discussed throughout this IS/MND. With implementation of the mitigation measures required by this IS/MND, compliance with City of Sacramento 2035 General Plan policies, and application of standard BMPs during construction, the proposed project would not result in any of the following: 1) degrade the quality of the environment; 2) substantially reduce or impact the habitat of fish or wildlife species; 3) cause fish or wildlife populations to drop below self-sustaining levels; 4) threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community; 5) reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal; or 6) eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. Therefore, the proposed project would result in ***no additional significant environmental effects*** beyond what was analyzed in the Master EIR.

##### Question B

The proposed project would not include any new development that would have the potential to contribute to cumulative impacts. While the proposed pipe replacements and associated

improvements to the existing sump station facilities would result in minor short-term increases in emissions of criteria pollutants and GHGs, as well as short-term noise level increases, such effects would cease upon completion of the improvements. Applicable policies from the 2035 General Plan would be implemented as part of the proposed project, as well as the project-specific mitigation measures included in this IS/MND, to reduce the proposed project's contribution to potential cumulative impacts. The potential impacts of the proposed project would be individually limited and would not be cumulatively considerable. As demonstrated in this IS/MND, all potential environmental impacts that could occur as a result of project implementation would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with implementation of project-specific mitigation measures and/or compliance with applicable 2035 General Plan policies. Given that the improvements are considered a necessary component of levee maintenance and flood prevention within the City of Sacramento, the project would not result in new growth or other cumulative effects beyond what was included in the cumulative analysis of City buildout in the Master EIR. When viewed in conjunction with other closely related past, present or reasonably foreseeable future projects, implementation of the proposed project would not contribute to cumulative impacts in the City of Sacramento, and would result in **no additional significant environmental effects** beyond what was analyzed in the Master EIR.

#### Question C

Implementation of the proposed project could result in impacts related to biological resources and cultural resources during the construction period. However, the proposed project would be required to implement the project-specific mitigation measures within this IS/MND, as well as applicable policies of the 2035 General Plan, to reduce any potential direct or indirect impacts that could occur to human beings or various resources and, as demonstrated in this IS/MND, with implementation of the identified mitigation measures, all impacts would be reduced to less-than-significant levels. Therefore, the proposed project would not have environmental effects which would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly, and **no additional significant environmental effects** would occur beyond what was analyzed in the Master EIR.

**SECTION IV - ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED**

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

	Aesthetics		Noise
	Air Quality		Public Services
X	Biological Resources		Recreation
X	Cultural Resources		Transportation/Circulation
	Geology and Soils	X	Tribal Cultural Resources
	Hydrology and Water Quality		Utilities and Service Systems
	Hazards		

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

*Scott Johnson*

Signature

May 6, 2021

Date

Scott Johnson, Senior Planner  
Printed Name

## REFERENCES CITED

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The following documents are referenced information sources used for the analysis within this IS/MND:

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## **APPENDIX A**

### **AIR QUALITY AND GREENHOUSE GAS MODELING RESULTS**

## **APPENDIX B**

### **BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT**