



**Subsequent Project within the Scope of the General  
Plan Master EIR Initial Study Checklist**

**Sutter's Landing Regional Park Site Amenities Plan  
Update**

Sacramento, California

July 2025



# **Sutter's Landing Regional Park Site Amenities Plan Update**

**Sacramento, California**

## **General Plan Master EIR Initial Study Checklist**

### **Prepared for:**

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USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation Report

## List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
BMPs	Best Management Practices
BSA	Biological Study Area
CalEEMod	California Emissions Estimator Model
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CAP	Climate Action Plan
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CGS	California Geological Survey
City	City of Sacramento
CNDDB	CDFW Natural Diversity Database
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	carbon monoxide
CPRR	Central Pacific Railroad
CSUS	California State University at Sacramento
CWA	Clean Water Act
DWR	Department of Water Resources
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
FCAA	Federal Clean Air Act
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
GHG	greenhouse gas emissions
GPS	global positioning system
HSC	Health and Safety Code
IPaC	Information, Planning, and Conservation System
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission

List of Abbreviations

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NES	Natural Environment Study
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NO2	nitrogen dioxide
OHWM	ordinary high water mark
PG&E	Pacific Gas & Electric Company
PM	particulate matter
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SASD	Sacramento Area Sewer District
SMAQMD	Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District
SMUD	Sacramento Municipal Utility District
SO2	sulfur dioxide
SR	State Route
SRCSD	Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District
SRFCP	Sacramento River Flood Control Project
SRWTP	Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant
SVAB	Sacramento Valley Air Basin
SWA	Solid Waste Authority
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
TAC	toxic air contaminants
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
WPCP	Water Pollution Control Plan
WTP	water treatment plants
YPCE	Department of Youth, Parks & Community Enrichment

## 1 Project Information

*Type of Information**Project Details*

<b>1. Project title:</b>	Sutter's Landing Regional Park Site Amenities Plan Update
<b>2. Lead agency name and address:</b>	City of Sacramento Department of Youth, Parks & Community Enrichment 915 I Street, 3rd Floor Sacramento, CA 95814
<b>3. Contact person and phone number:</b>	Dana Repan Senior Planner, Park Planning and Development Services Department of Youth, Parks & Community Enrichment (916) 808-2762 drepan@cityofsacramento.org
<b>4. Project location:</b>	Downtown Sacramento in the Central City Community Plan Area between the Central Pacific Railroad to the west, Business Route 80 to the east, the American River Parkway to the north, with access from McKinley Village Way and 28th Street to the south.
<b>5. Project sponsor's name and address:</b>	City of Sacramento Department of Youth, Parks & Community Enrichment 915 I Street, 3rd Floor Sacramento, CA 95814
<b>6. General Plan designations:</b>	Public
<b>7. Zoning:</b>	A-OS, M-2, ARP-F



<p><b>8. Description of project:</b></p>	<p>The Sutter's Landing Regional Park Site Amenities Plan Update (Update) proposes a long-term vision for the full boundary of the regional park. The 2003 Site Plan does not include 38 acres added to the park by 2022. The proposed Update is a Subsequent Project within the Scope of the 2040 General Plan Master EIR (City of Sacramento 2024a), which analyzed the current 204 acre park as a regional park. The Update proposes more active and higher intensity uses in the core of the park, and less intensive uses on the western and eastern ends of the park. Amenities would include garden/art walks, a nature play area, outdoor fitness equipment, community gathering spaces, art/signage, group picnic areas, multi-use courts, all-weather or low water turf fields, secured paved and gravel parking lots, community event space that will provide overflow parking when needed, vista points, river lookout areas, a bike pump track, resting points with seating, a small play area for children, asphalt trails, and native grasslands. The goals of this project are to address the specific challenges of developing on landfills and align with the site's environmental sensitivities while infusing the space with life and energy, reusing the existing structures and features, ensuring accessibility for all members of the community, restoring natural habitats, and preserving significant historical elements (City of Sacramento 2025).</p>
<p><b>9. Surrounding land uses and setting:</b></p>	<p>Sutter's Landing Regional Park (project area) is located in the City of Sacramento (City) at the northernmost end of 28th Street. The site is bounded by the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way (ROW) to the west and south, the American River to the north, and Business Route 80 to the south and east. McKinley Village residential neighborhoods are located to the east and south of the project area, separated from the site by Business Route 80 freeway, and the New Era Park neighborhoods are south of the park separated by the Union Pacific Railroad ROW. Industrial areas are located to the west, and SMUD's Substation E is located at the southwest corner. The Bell Marine Industrial Aggregates Concrete and Asphalt Recycling facility and a vacant industrial parcel remain surrounded by the park and the American River Parkway to the north.</p>
<p><b>10. Other public agencies whose approval is required:</b></p>	<p>City of Sacramento City Council</p>

Project Information

<b>11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?</b>	Whereas the project is adoption of a conceptual plan for amenities that have not been funded or designed, Native American consultation is premature and not required at this stage per AB42. As amenities are designed and funded, consultation will be conducted as appropriate.
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## 2 Background

### 2.1 Focus of the Environmental Review

#### 2.1.1 California Environmental Quality Act

This Initial Study was prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Sections 1500 et seq.). The Lead Agency is the City of Sacramento, Department of Youth, Parks & Community Enrichment (YPCE).

The project would approve a conceptual program for future development of Sutter's Landing Regional Park; no specific elements identified in the program are currently proposed for funding and construction. There is no proposed change in the land use designation or regional park boundaries as identified in the 2040 General Plan, and all proposed elements are consistent with a regional park use. YPCE has reviewed the proposed project and, on the basis of the whole record before it, has determined that the proposed project is an anticipated subsequent project identified and described in the 2040 General Plan Master EIR.

The City has prepared this Initial Study, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15177(b), to (a) review the discussions of cumulative impacts, growth inducing impacts, and irreversible significant effects in the 2040 General Plan Master EIR to determine their adequacy for the project and (b) 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.

As part of the Master EIR process, the City is required to incorporate all feasible mitigation measures or feasible alternatives appropriate to the project as set forth in the Master EIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15177(d)). The Master EIR mitigation measures that are identified as appropriate are set forth in the applicable technical sections below.

This analysis incorporates by reference the general discussion portions of the 2040 General Plan Master EIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15150(a)). The Master EIR is available for public review at the City of Sacramento, Community Development Department, 300 Richards Boulevard, Third Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814, and on the City's website at: <https://www.cityofsacramento.gov/community-development/planning/environmental/impact-reports>.

### 3 Project Description

#### 3.1 Introduction

YPCE proposes to update the Sutter's Landing Regional Park 2003 Site Plan (Update) to document the newly acquired 38 acres of parkland and adopt a comprehensive site facilities or amenities and facilities plan for the entire 204 acre park. The proposed Update was developed as a Subsequent Project within the Scope of the 2040 General Plan Master EIR Initial Study Checklist (City of Sacramento 2024a), which analyzed the park boundaries with the newly added properties as a regional park. While the 2040 General Plan identifies overarching goals for youth, parks, recreation, and open space within the context of other City goals and initiatives, and addresses cumulative effects, the proposed Update provides additional site-specific details regarding future development within the park. This Initial Study includes a review for consistency with policies in the 2040 General Plan that were the basis for impact evaluation in the Master EIR.

The 2040 General Plan and the City's Parks Plan 2040 provide programmatic and policy guidance for the establishment and operation of parks for the City's future. The proposed Update provides a vision for development within Sutter's Landing Regional Park specifically as funding is available in the future. As facilities or amenities are proposed, CEQA requires the City to conduct a project-specific review of potential impacts, along with a review for consistency with policies in the General Plan that were the basis for impact evaluation in the Master EIR.

#### 3.2 Project Location

Sutter's Landing Regional Park is 204 acres, including the newly added 38 acres, and is located in the Central City Community Plan Area of the City of Sacramento (Figure 1). The park is bounded by the American River to the north, Business Route 80 to the south and east, and the Union Pacific Railroad ROW to the south and west. McKinley Village residential neighborhoods are located to the east and south of the project area, separated from the park by Business Route 80, and the New Era Park neighborhood is south of the park separated by the Union Pacific Railroad ROW. Industrial areas are located to the west, and SMUD's Substation E is located at the southwest corner. The Bell Marine Industrial Aggregates Concrete and Asphalt Recycling facility and a vacant industrial parcel remain surrounded by the park and the American River to the north (Figure 2).

#### 3.3 Background

Sutter's Landing Regional Park is located at the site of Sacramento's oldest landfill. The earliest landfill operations started there in the 1800s after the City excavated soil for flood control. Closure plans were first submitted for regulatory review in June 1991 while active landfiling continued until 1994. Final closure plans were approved in 1996, and closure construction occurred from 1996 through 1997. The landfill was certified closed in February 1998.

The Department of Public Works, Recycling and Solid Waste Division manages the post closure land use action plan and daily operational activities at the site.

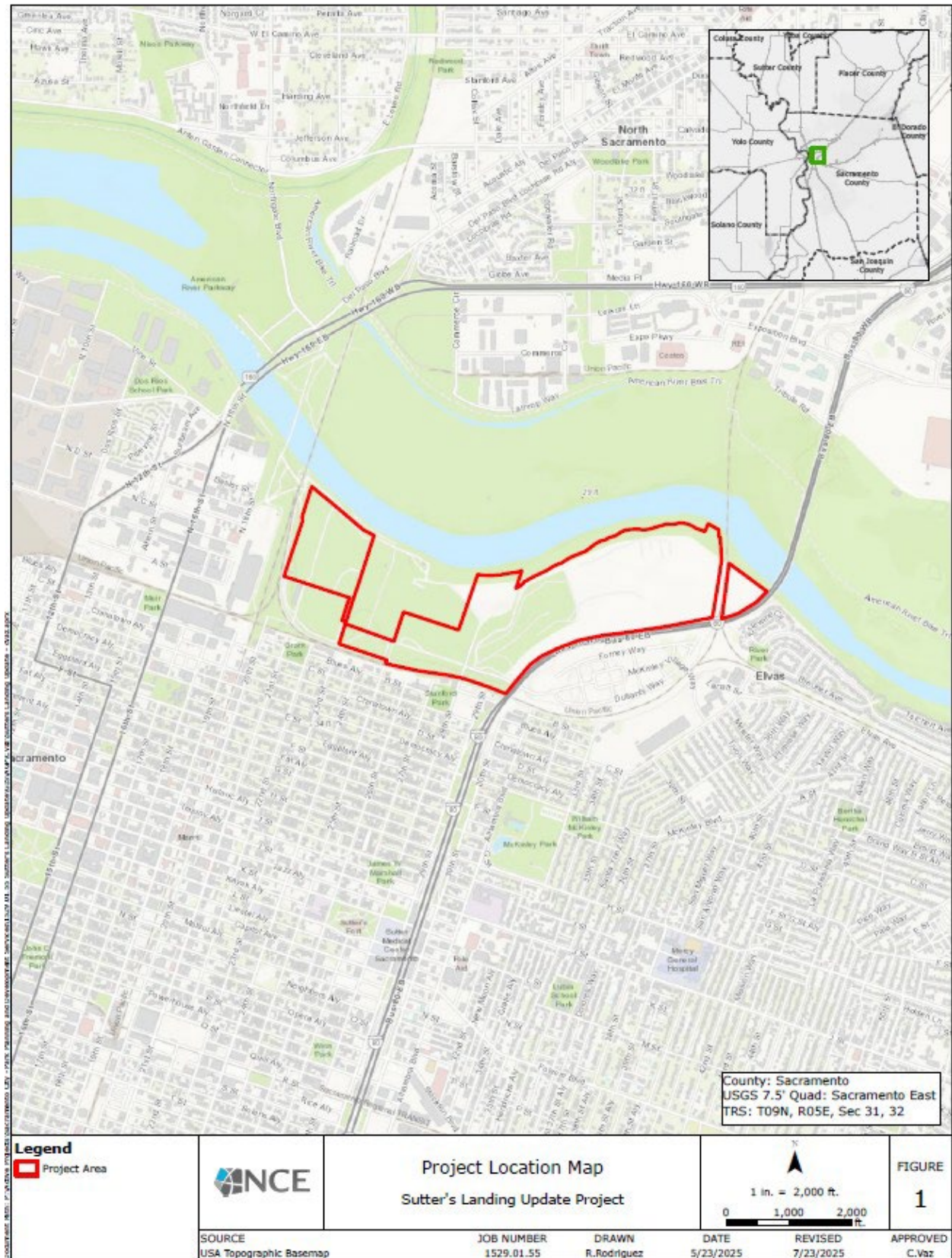


Figure 1. Project Vicinity Map



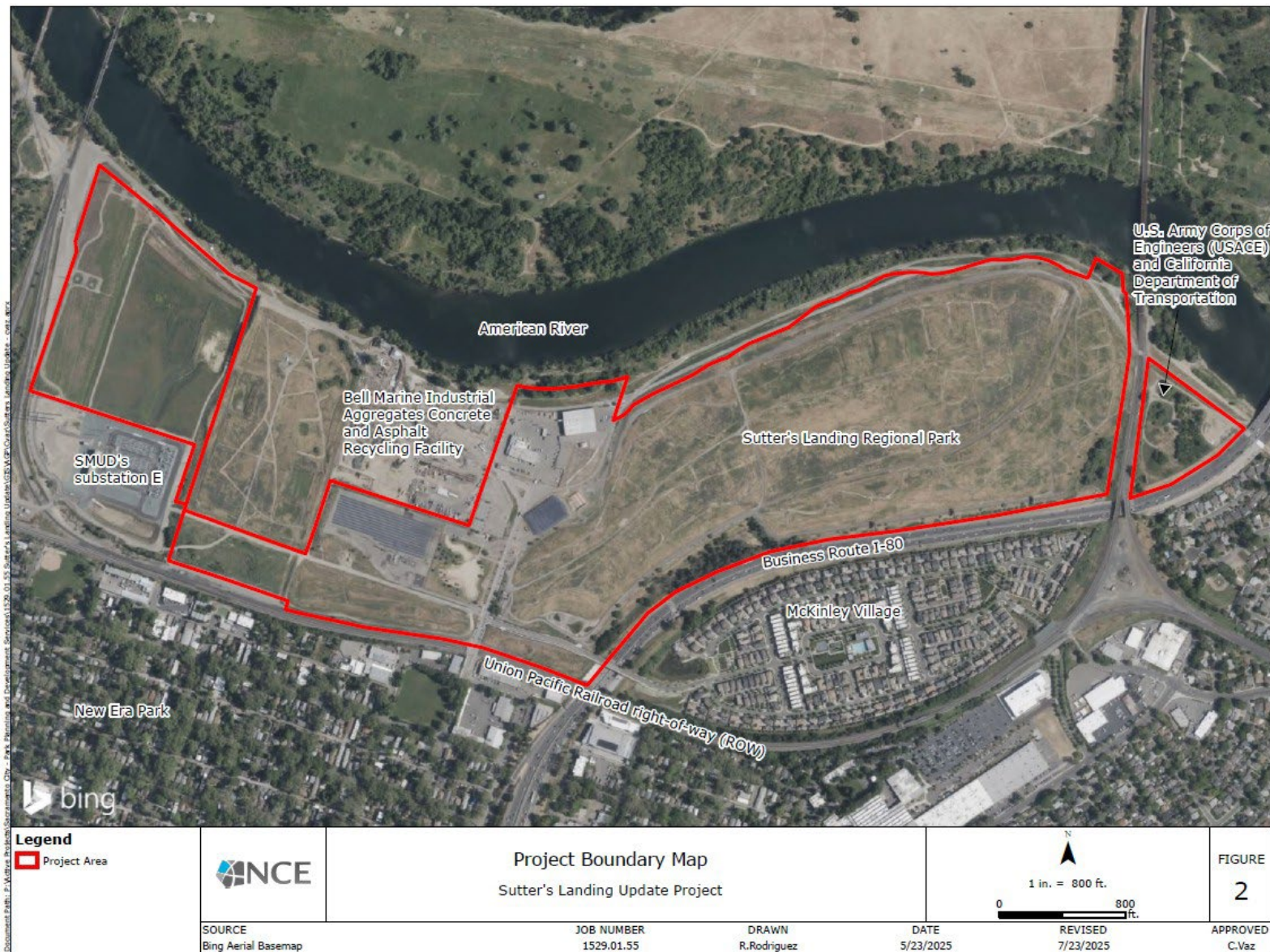


Figure 2. Project Area Map

The landfill was first identified as the site of a future regional park in the City's 1984 Master Plan for Park Facilities and Recreational Services. Initially designated as Riverfront Park, the City Council changed the name to Sutter's Landing Park in December 1989. In November 1995, the City Council changed the zoning designation for the landfill and adopted a Preliminary Master Plan (City of Sacramento Parks and Recreation Department 2005) for Sutter's Landing Park. This Preliminary Master Plan identified areas for open space and grassland, vista points, multiple sports courts, a children's play area, an interpretive center, car-top boat launch at the American River, parking lots, restrooms, and a park operations area. The Sutter's Landing Regional Park Master Plan was approved by City Council on December 9, 2003, as a conceptual plan with no specific implementation projects.

A Feasibility Report was subsequently prepared to provide a guide for park planning and design considerations related to converting the 28th Street Landfill into a regional park consistent with the 2003 Master Plan (City of Sacramento Parks and Recreation Department 2005). The guide provided an implementation and phasing strategy for park development and identified the landfill conditions that would add additional costs above and beyond those of typical parks.

Phase 1 improvements under consideration for a central 32-acre study area included additional recreation facilities or amenities: a skate park within the Baler Building, a dog park, additional passive recreation, a concession/restroom and ranger station, shade structures, container trees, surface parking lot, natural areas on "The Mound", and a protected mitigation area called "the triangle" on the east side of the railroad tracks. These improvements were analyzed in a Sutter's Landing Regional Park Phase I Improvements project Mitigated Negative Declaration in 2008 (City of Sacramento 2008a).

The park grew in 2021 through the acquisition of 18.84 acres of former landfill and riverfront access that is commonly known as the Blue Diamond property through a Proposition Grant 84 from the State of California, Wildlife Conservation Board. This acquisition became the catalyst for further park expansion through the donation of 15.54 acres of land from SMUD from their former North City substation, and the closure of 2 adjacent landfills on 4 acres called "Cannon and Scollan." The park grew by 38 acres with these additions.

In 2022, YPCE received a \$3 million grant to help fund the design and construction of the Phase I Improvements and the update to the 2003 Site Plan. The goal of the proposed Update is to document the newly acquired 38 acres of parkland and adopt a comprehensive site facilities and amenities plan for the entire 204 acre park. YPCE staff have coordinated with the Department of Public Works, Recycling and Solid Waste Division throughout the Update process to understand the landfill regulations and requirements and the landfill's impact on the planning, design, and construction of any new park improvements.

In an effort to incorporate the desires of the community into this update, the City received input from the park's users from 2023 through 2025. Through a community survey, feedback from 2 community meetings, and comments received through email, the City learned that most park users wanted options for sports fields and courts, passive recreation, nature appreciation, and habitat improvement. The Update, as now proposed, attempts to create a Multi-Use Regional Park with a revitalization of a significant public space located in Sacramento's urban core and adjacent to the protected Woodlake area of the Lower American River.

### 3.4 Project Objectives

The City identified the following objectives for the Update:

- Activation to infuse the space with life and energy
- Reuse of existing structures and features
- Accessibility to ensure all members of the community can enjoy the park for recreational and educational opportunities
- Restoration of natural habitat
- Preservation of significant historical and cultural elements

### 3.5 Existing Conditions

Sutter's Landing Regional Park is situated in an urbanized area characterized by a mix of residential and industrial land uses. The 204-acre project area, encompassing the former 28th Street Landfill and other former landfills, is designated Sutter's Landing Regional Park and is consistent with the land use designations of the City of Sacramento 2040 General Plan, and the Central City Community Plan (City of Sacramento 2024a) as Parks and Recreation (Map LUP-5).

Access is provided via 28th Street, which extends northward across the Union Pacific Railroad tracks into the central portion of the park. The public rights of way that extend east to west include McKinley Village Way, and as it crosses over 28<sup>th</sup> Street it transitions to the unimproved A Street.

The entire project area is zoned A-OS-PC-SPD (Agricultural-Open Space-American River Parkway Corridor/Special Planning District), M-2-PC-SPD (Heavy Industrial/American River Parkway Corridor/Special Planning District), ARP-F-SPD – American River parkway Floodplain/Special Planning District. The proposed Update includes 10 new parcels in the western portion of the park: SMUD (APN 001-016-0018); SMUD North City Substation (APN 001-016-0034); Parcel 31 (APN 003-003-2031); West Sutter's Landing (APNs 003-0032-024, -26, -29, -32) Cannon (APNs 003-003-2008, -09); and Scollan (APN 003-004-1003) (Figure 3). The eastern portion of the project area consists of Waste Management Units (WMU) A and B as illustrated on Figure 4 (APNs 001-0170-018, 001-0170-019, 001-0170-021, 001-0170-026, and the southeastern portion of 003-0010-001). This area is referred to as "The Mound." The furthest point east, on the eastern side of the Union Pacific Railroad ROW, and south of the American River Parkway is the parcel referred to as "The Triangle" (APN 001-0170-006). The City's Corporation Yard (northern portion of parcel 003-0010-001) is immediately west of WMU A. The landfill area known as West Site (APN 003-0042-002), and the southwestern portions (APNs 003-0050-012, 003-0050-014, 003-0050-015, 003-0050-016, is centrally located in the project area, just south and west of the Corporation Yard and the private Harbor Sand and Gravel Yard parcel.

Existing recreation and utility uses and features within the project area consist of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) temporary staging area to the east with staging and egress activities until the end of 2025 and early 2026, the 28th & B Street Skate Park, City Corporation Yard, a restroom building, bocce ball courts, basketball courts, parking lot, shade shelter, dog park, two flare stations, a mural, trails, and parking lot. Planned development consistent with the 2003 Phase 1 site plan and Mitigated Negative Declaration includes a ranger station/concession





Figure 3. Parcel Map

building and ADA-accessible trail. The adjacent Dellar Landfill is a closed, capped disposal site located immediately adjacent to the Bell Marine Industrial Aggregates operations and the western boundary of the 28th Street Landfill. Neither Dellar nor Bell Marine are part of the park, nor part of this analysis. The City holds a long-term easement agreement over the Dellar property that permits noninvasive, routine activities related to environmental monitoring and compliance with the State Water Resources Control Board Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R5-2015-0739 and Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R5-2004-0039.

The project area now encompasses multiple closed landfill sites, including the WMU A, WMU B, Cannon and Scollan Landfills, Parcel 31 and the North City Substation Landfill, and a remediated landfill at the former Blue Diamond landfill (Figure 4). These areas are primarily closed municipal disposal sites, and many are under the oversight of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board for environmental monitoring and closure compliance.

Based on the City of Sacramento's 2025 Sutter's Landing Regional Park Site Amenities Plan and an internal document for staff reference, "Feasibility Report Guidebook," the section below discusses the landfills located within the project area.

#### ***Cannon and Scollan Landfills***

The Cannon and Scollan landfill sites were transferred to the City in 2016 and 2017, respectively, following their identification as abandoned disposal sites in the City's historic fill sequence study (City of Sacramento 2025). The combined area of these properties is approximately 4.12 acres and includes APNs 003-0032-008, 003-0032-009, and 003-0041-003. Under the regulatory oversight of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, the City is actively working to cap and close both sites. Upon completion of closure, the City may pursue incorporation of the Cannon and Scollan sites into the broader 28th Street Landfill's associated post closure maintenance plans, water discharge requirements, and solid waste facility permits accordingly.

#### ***Parcel 31 and West Sutter's Landing Landfills***

Parcel 31 was deeded to the City by Blue Diamond Growers in September 2007 and includes APNs 003-0032--031 totaling 3.71 acres. The West Sutter's Landing Landfill site, or the Blue Diamond landfill, was acquired by the City in January 2021 through a Proposition 68 grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board and includes APNs 003-0032-024, 003-0032-026, 003-0032-029, and 003-0032-032 within the project area, encompassing 18.84 acres. Along the western boundary of the West Sutter's Landing site is the Dellar Encroachment, an identified remediation area.

#### ***North City Substation Landfill***

The North City Substation Landfill is a closed disposal site that served as the SMUD North City Substation from the 1950s until its decommissioning in 2022. The site includes APNs 001-0160-018, and 001-0160-034, totaling 11.83 acres. In November 2023, SMUD transferred ownership of the site to the City. The site retains 4 transmission towers, which support 2 active high-voltage power lines running in a north-south direction and terminating at SMUD's Substation E, located immediately south of the site. A cooperative easement agreement remains in place between SMUD and the City to allow continued access for utility maintenance. No structures can be placed within the easement.





Figure 4. Landfill Map

### 3.6 Project Features

Sutter's Landing Regional Park is a multi-use recreational area that currently includes a variety of facilities and infrastructure in the central area of the park but otherwise largely used for closed landfill operations. The proposed Update presents a comprehensive plan for the revitalization of the park, which is a significant public space located in Sacramento's urban core.

The proposed Update incorporates an additional 38 acres to the west of the existing park boundary, which were not identified in the original 2003 Site Plan—the full boundary of the park as now identified in the 2040 General Plan and CCCP—and conceptually identifies a new long-term set of facilities or amenities for the park.

The proposed Update divides Sutter's Landing Regional Park into 3 distinct zones to reflect community priorities and accommodate a diverse range of recreational and environmental uses. The community outreach held by City staff for over two years identified strong public interest in incorporating both nature-focused and active recreational facilities or amenities. In response, the project area has been programmed with 3 primary use areas: The Mound, The Preserve, and The Landfill (Figure 5). The programmatic layout (Figure 6) is intended to support long-term recreational development while balancing ecological preservation, community use, and compatibility with the surrounding parkland and American River Parkway. Phase I Improvements completed to date include the 28th & B Street Skate Park, the City corporation yard, a restroom building, bocce ball courts, basketball courts, parking lot, shade shelter, dog park, trails, and mural (Figure 6, features A through N). New facilities or amenities proposed within the Site Amenities Plan Update (Figure 6, features 1 through 18) would be distributed as follows:

- The Mound, located within Waste Management Units A and B, would serve as a hub for passive and nature-oriented recreation. Proposed features include garden/art walking trails, group viewing area, and native grassland. The elevated topography of the Mound offers panoramic views of the surrounding park and cityscape, enhancing the visitor experience. It would continue to operate as a closed landfill with closure operations in place. The Mound is included in the calculation of Open Space in the Site Acreage.
- The Preserve spans portions of the Parcel 31, West Sutter's Landing, and North City Substation Landfills. This area is envisioned as a nature-focused zone that would support environmental education and low-impact recreational use. Proposed features include garden/art walking trails, resting points with seating, native grassland, and the existing the detention basin and transmission tower easement. The Preserve would provide direct connectivity to the American River Parkway to create an integrated green corridor and enhanced habitat continuity. It would continue to operate under the easements and agreements that control the land use of these parcels. The Preserve is included in the calculation of Open Space in the Site Acreage.
- The Landfill, encompassing the Cannon and Scollan Landfills as well as the West Site, is designated for active recreational use. Proposed new facilities include multi-use sports fields and courts, group picnic areas, event gathering spaces, shade shelters, overflow parking lots, nature play areas, bike pump track, art installations, and a river lookout point. Landfill closure



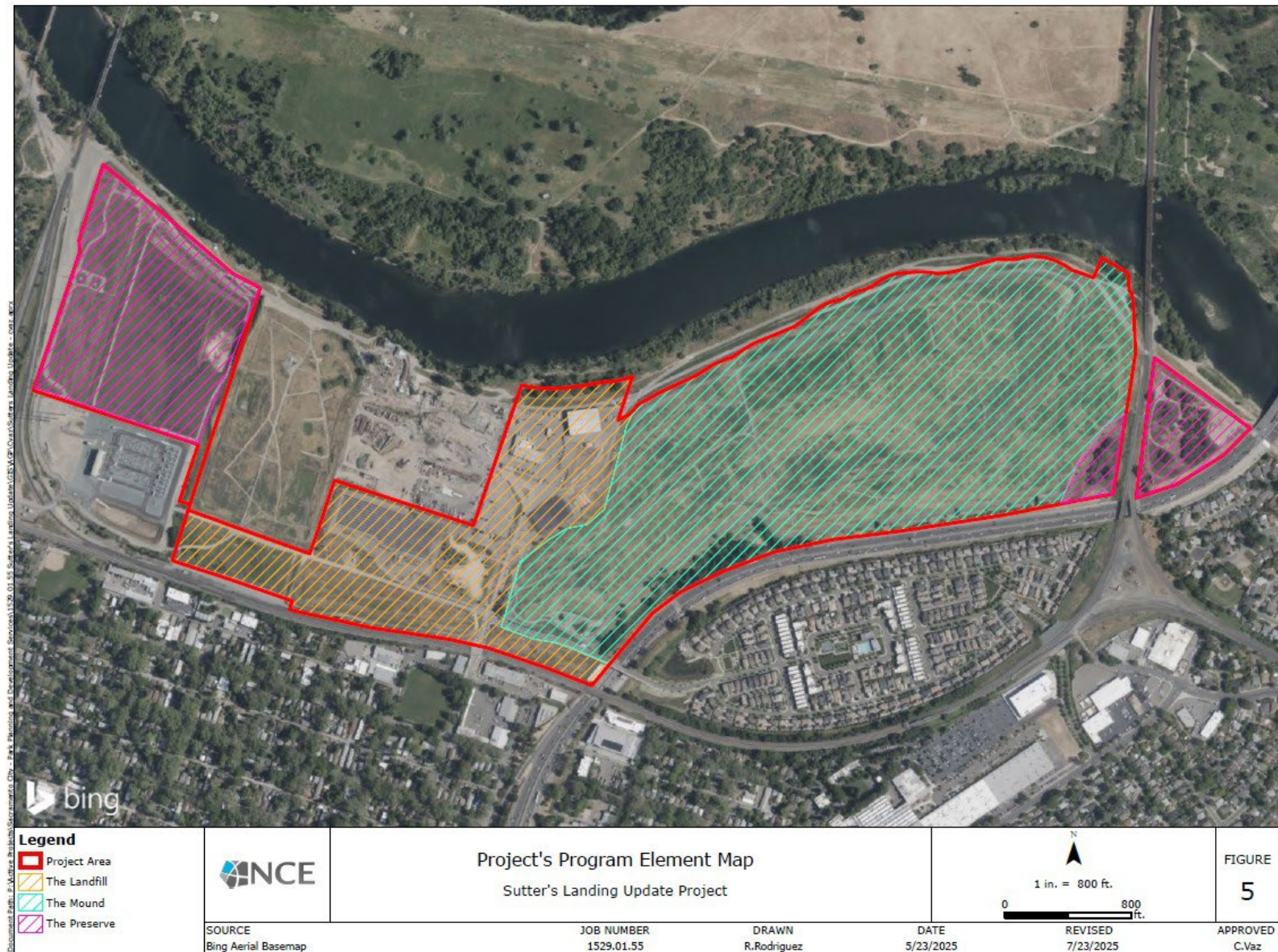
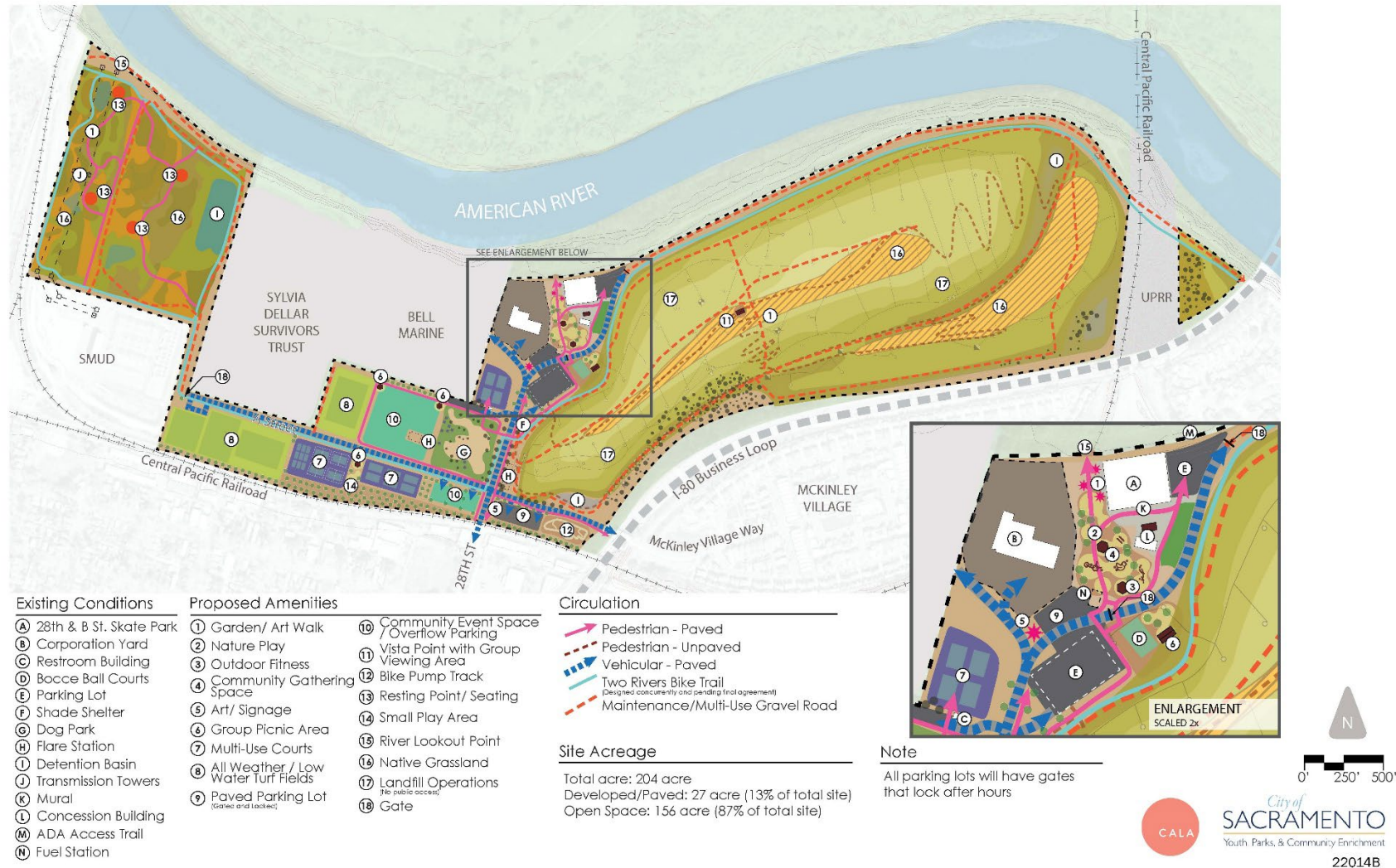


Figure 5. Project's Program Element Map



**SUTTER'S LANDING REGIONAL PARK SITE PLAN**

April 4th, 2025

**Figure 6. Site Amenities Plan (City of Sacramento 2025)**

operations are the primary operations of this zone. The Landfill is included in the calculation of Developed/Paved in Site Acreage.

## **4 Environmental Evaluation**

### **4.1 Aesthetics**

#### **4.1.1 Environmental Setting**

Sutter's Landing Regional Park is located in an urban area of Sacramento with a recent history of mixed industrial uses dating back to the 1800s. The park is bounded by the American River to the north, the Union Pacific Railroad ROW and Business Route 80 to the south and east, and industrial land uses to the west. Residential land uses are located to the east and south of the park, separated from the park by the Union Pacific Railroad tracks, and freeway infrastructure.

Adjacent uses include vacant industrial parcels and active industrial operations, such as the Bell Marine Aggregates Concrete and Asphalt Recycling facility. The surrounding industrial corridor extends approximately 2 miles to the west along the Union Pacific Railroad corridor. Primary access to the park is provided via 28th Street, which crosses the Union Pacific Railroad tracks and extends into the center of the site. McKinley Village Way accesses the park from the east to its connection at 28<sup>th</sup> Street, while the unimproved A Street right of way extends further west. Additional pedestrian and bicycle access is available from the American River Parkway.

The visual character of the park includes natural features such as the river corridor protected from development by the American River Parkway Plan, open grasslands with sporadic remediation equipment features, and recreational facilities, set against a backdrop of surrounding transportation infrastructure and industrial development. A significant amount of artificial light and glare from urban uses already exists in the project vicinity to the south, although the project area itself is largely undeveloped. The site is higher than the urban uses to the south and abuts the American River Parkway to the north, thus the natural features of the park create a refuge from the intense development of the central city.

#### **4.1.2 Regulatory Setting**

##### **American River Parkway Plan**

The American River Parkway Plan (ARPP, Sacramento County 2008) is a policy and implementation guide developed to promote the preservation of the American River's natural environment while providing limited development for human enjoyment of the parkway. The American River Parkway (Parkway) is an open space greenbelt approximately 29 miles long extending west/southwest along the north and south sides of the Lower American River from Folsom Dam to its confluence with the Sacramento River. The ARPP establishes aesthetic values for the Parkway and identifies policies to reduce visual impacts within the Parkway (Sacramento County 2008, p. 31-32, p. 7-111—115).

Between the confluence of the Sacramento and American rivers and the Capital City Freeway (Business-80) the Parkway context is the Sacramento downtown urban core for the Sacramento metropolitan region. Protection of the Parkway's aesthetic values in this reach should be accomplished within the

context of creating a vital urban area. Development immediately adjacent to the Parkway shall respect the intent of the Parkway goals by reducing visual impacts through context sensitive site planning and building design.

#### **4.1.3 Summary of Analysis Under the 2040 General Plan Master EIR, Including Cumulative Impacts, Growth Inducing Impacts, and Irreversible Significant Effects**

The Master EIR (City of Sacramento 2023) described the existing visual conditions in the general plan policy area, and the potential changes to those conditions that could result from development consistent with the 2040 General Plan. See Master EIR, Chapter 4.1, Aesthetics.

Interference with an important, existing scenic resource or substantial degradation of views of an important, existing scenic resource was identified as a potential impact (Impact 4.2-1). The Master EIR identified policies that would prevent substantial changes to existing scenic resources. In accordance with Policy LUP-8.1 (Unique Sense of Place), the City would promote the qualities and characteristics that make Sacramento desirable and memorable by requiring incorporation of these elements into architectural and landscape design of new development permitted under the 2040 General Plan. Policy LUP-8.2 is intended to guide development to maximize visual access to the Sacramento and American Rivers. This policy requires new development along the Sacramento and American Rivers to use the natural river environment as a key feature to guide the scale, design, and intensity of development, and to maximize visual and physical access to the rivers, subject to the public safety requirements of local, state, and federal agencies, including the Local Maintaining Agencies and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board.

The Master EIR also identified potential impacts for glare (Impact 4.1-1 and Impact 4.1-3) and includes policies intended to promote the planning and construction of compatible development such that potential lighting issues on sensitive land uses are avoided or minimized. For example, Policy LUP-4.6 (Compatibility with Adjoining Uses) would ensure that the introduction of higher density or more intense development is compatible with, and sensitive to, adjacent residential land uses by requiring all lighting to be shielded from view and directed downward to minimize impacts on adjacent residential uses. Under Policy LUP-8.12, public spaces would need to be completely visible from at least one street frontage and if feasible, at least 50% visible from a secondary street frontage.

The Master EIR concluded that the impact of the 2040 General Plan on aesthetic resources within the City was less than significant and no mitigation measures beyond implementation of General Plan policies are required.

#### **Standards of Significance**

A significant impact would occur if future implementation of the Update would result in any of the following:

- Glare. Glare is considered to be significant if it would be cast in such a way as to cause public hazard or annoyance for a sustained period of time.
- Light. Light is considered significant if it would be cast onto oncoming traffic or residential uses.



**4.1.4 CEQA Checklist Summary**

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:

CEQA Question	Determination
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	No additional significant effects
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	No Impact
c) In nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	No additional significant effects
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	No additional significant effects

**4.1.5 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions**

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099:

**a) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?****No additional significant effects**

The project is located within an urbanized area of the City where views are generally characterized by existing development, including residential neighborhoods and industrial buildings. The project area includes areas of green space and less-developed areas that offer scenic vistas. Amenities proposed would not block or alter public views of notable landscape features such as the American River Parkway and open space on the site. Therefore, features developed as conceptualized in the Update would not result in a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista. The proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects not evaluated in the Master EIR.

**b) Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?****No Impact**

Business Route 80 that borders and transects the eastern portion of the park is not listed as a State Scenic highway. The project would not result in the removal or degradation of any scenic resources such as mature trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings that contribute to the visual quality of a scenic highway. The proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects on scenic resources not evaluated in the Master EIR.

**c) Would the project, in non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?**

**No additional significant effects**

The proposed Update is consistent with the land use and design policies of the City's 2040 General Plan, which aim to enhance recreational spaces while preserving scenic and visual quality. The proposed project provides for 3 distinct zones to reflect community priorities and accommodate a diverse range of recreational and environmental uses. As discussed in the Project Description, the Mound (Figure 5) covering most of the eastern part of the park would serve as a hub for passive and nature-oriented recreation. The elevated topography of the Mound offers panoramic views of the surrounding park and cityscape. The Preserve is made up of the former SMUD and Blue Diamond landfills to the west, (Figure 4). These two zones are envisioned as open space with a nature-focused that would support environmental education and low-impact recreational use. The Landfill area (Figure 5), including the added Cannon and Scollan parcels, is designated for active recreational use and includes the existing facilities or amenities. Potential facilities include multi-use sports fields and courts, group picnic areas, event gathering spaces, and nature play. The project has been designed to enhance scenic vistas and primarily passive interface with the American River Parkway and would not conflict with applicable zoning or other regulations governing scenic quality. Therefore, the proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects on visual character not evaluated in the Master EIR.

**d) Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?**

**No additional significant effects**

There are no facilities or amenities proposed that would result in reflective surfaces that could be a source of glare. All adjacent residential uses are separated from the project area by the freeway or the Union Pacific Railroad ROW, which is elevated above the adjacent land uses on a levee. The closest neighbors along Blues Alley are largely behind existing industrial and commercial uses and the railroad levee. Thus, night lighting, if included for the parking areas and the more active recreational uses in the Landfill area, would not be expected to reach residential uses. Therefore, the proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects from light or glare not evaluated in the Master EIR.

## 4.2 Agricultural and Forestry Resources

### 4.2.1 Environmental Setting

The City of Sacramento is situated on some of California's most fertile soils. However, as urban development has expanded over time, much of the land previously used for agriculture has been converted to non-agricultural uses. As a result, the City is now predominantly urbanized, with only a small amount of active commercial agricultural land remaining. Additionally, certain areas identified as farmland in the California Department of Conservation's 2020 Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program have since been developed, and their agricultural designations are no longer applicable.

The project area has been highly modified since the 1800s by former landfills and remediation activities that have covered most of the project with engineered fill.

### 4.2.2 Summary of Analysis Under the 2040 General Plan Master EIR, Including Cumulative Impacts, Growth Inducing Impacts, and Irreversible Significant Effects

The Master EIR discussed the potential impact of development under the 2040 General Plan on agricultural resources. See Master EIR, Chapter 4.2. In addition to evaluating the effect of the General Plan on sites within the City, the Master EIR noted that to the extent the 2040 General Plan accommodates future growth within the City limits, the conversion of farmland outside the City limits is minimized. The Master EIR concluded that the impact of the 2040 General Plan on agricultural and forestry resources within the City was less than significant and no mitigation measures beyond implementation of General Plan policies are required.

### Standards of Significance

A significant impact would occur if future implementation of the Update would result in any of the following:

- Affect commercial agricultural operations or resources, e.g., impacts to undeveloped important farmland (Prime, Unique or Farmland of Statewide Importance).
- Result in interference or adverse impacts from non-compatible land uses, or premature conversion of Williamson Act contracts.

### CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Determination
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	No Impact
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	No Impact

c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?	No Impact
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	No Impact
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	No Impact

#### 4.2.3 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

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

###### **No Impact**

The project area does not contain Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland) as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. The project area traverses two land use zones: 1) M-2-PC-SPD - Heavy Industrial/American River Parkway Corridor/Special Planning District. This zone allows by right industrial and agricultural uses; and 2) A-OS-PC-SPD - Agriculture - Open Space/American River Parkway Corridor/Special Planning District. This zone also allows by right industrial and agricultural uses. The purpose of the A-OS zone is to ensure the long-term preservation of agricultural and open space land. This zone is intended to prevent the premature development of land to urban uses. The American River Parkway is an overlay zone with special development regulations to reduce those impacts that are incompatible with the maintenance of the American River as a natural resource. The project area is also within the Central City Special Planning District, which establishes regulations governing development within the area.

The project area is not currently in agricultural use, and there are no Williamson Act contracts that affect the project area. No existing agricultural or timber harvest uses are located on or in the vicinity of the project area. The area has been used for industrial purposes and open space uses, which will continue under the approved easements and agreements. The proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects on farmland not evaluated in the Master EIR.

##### **b) Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?**

###### **No Impact**

The project area is zoned for Manufacturing and Agricultural-Open Space, which can include industrial and agricultural uses. However, there are no Williamson Act contracts that affect the project area, no agricultural uses in the central city, and there are no agricultural activities in the project area. The

proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects not evaluated in the Master EIR.

**c) Would the project conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?**

**No Impact**

There are no forestland or timberland land uses or zoning designations in the project vicinity. Therefore, the project does not have the potential to conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production. The proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects on agricultural use not evaluated in the Master EIR.

**d) Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?**

**No Impact**

Refer to response 4.2.4(c). The project would not result in the loss of forest land or the conversion of forest land to non-forest use. The proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects on forest land not evaluated in the Master EIR.

**e) Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?**

**No Impact**

Refer to response 4.2.4(d). There is no potential for activities pursuant to the Update to result in a conversion of agricultural or forest land and there is no farmland or forestland associated with the project. The proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects on the existing environment not evaluated in the Master EIR.

## **4.3 Air Quality**

### **4.3.1 Environmental Setting**

#### **Regional and Local Climate**

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. The mountains surrounding the SVAB create a barrier to airflow, which can trap air pollutants in the valley.

#### **Regional Air Quality**

Future population growth will make attaining federal and state ambient air quality standards challenging; meteorology and topography in the Sacramento region, and effects of global climate change, add to this challenge. Regional efforts, as well as policies and planning documents adopted by the City, indicate that there is acknowledgment of the linkage between land use, transportation, and air quality.

#### **Land Use Planning and Air Quality**

Land use patterns and intensity of development affect the amount of air pollutants that are generated by communities. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective provides guidance regarding land use compatibility with toxic air contaminant (TAC) emission sources. TACs are airborne substances that, even in small quantities, can cause chronic (i.e., of long duration) and acute (i.e., severe, but of short duration) adverse effects on human health. The handbook offers advisory recommendations for the siting of sensitive receptors near uses associated with TACs, such as freeways and high-traffic roads, commercial distribution centers, rail yards, ports, refineries, dry cleaners, gasoline stations, and industrial facilities, to help keep children and other sensitive populations at a distance from pollution sources. Land uses where air-pollution-sensitive individuals are most likely to spend time include schools and schoolyards, parks and playgrounds, daycare centers, nursing homes, hospitals, and residential communities (sensitive sites or sensitive land uses) (CARB 2011). The CARB handbook recommends a minimum distance of 500 feet between high-volume roadways and sensitive receptors.

#### **Sources of Air Pollution**

Air pollution within the SVAB is generated by stationary, area, and mobile sources. Stationary sources occur at specific locations, are usually associated with manufacturing and industry, and are usually subject to a permit to operate from the local air district. Area sources generally include landscaping-related fuel combustion sources (such as lawn mowers, etc.), evaporate emissions from consumer products, natural gas and wood combustion used for space heating such as from hearths, and architectural coatings. Mobile sources refer to tailpipe and evaporative emissions from motor vehicles, both on-road and off-road, and particles from brake and tire wear. On-road mobile sources are those that are legally operated on roadways and highways, such as cars, trucks, and motorcycles.

Based on receptor modeling techniques, the CARB estimated diesel particulate matter health risk to be 360 excess cancer cases per million people in the SVAB in the year 2000. Since 1990, the health risk associated with diesel particulate matter has been reduced by 52%. Overall, levels of most TACs have decreased since 1990, as outlined in the 2040 General Plan Technical Background Report (City of Sacramento 2020). The local air quality within the project area would be impacted by topography, dominant air flows, atmospheric inversions, location, and season. Air pollutants are often transported into the SVAB from adjacent air basins such as the San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin or the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin. Transported pollutants add to the concentration of pollutants in the region; however, air pollution emissions from within the basin are the most significant sources of high pollution concentration. During the summer a "delta breeze" blows east from the San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin toward the SVAB through the Carquinez Strait. The delta breeze moves Sacramento's air pollution up toward the north end of the Sacramento Valley and east into the Sierra Nevada foothills.

Transport pollution impacts are classified using terms inconsequential, significant, and overwhelming. Inconsequential is defined as an ozone transport impact classification describing a condition that exists when upwind emissions are not transported or do not appear to contribute significantly to a violation of the state ozone standard in the downwind area, significant is defined as an ozone transport impact classification describing a condition in which the emissions from the upwind area contributed measurably to a violation of the state ozone standard in the downwind area on any given day but did not "overwhelm" the area, and overwhelming is defined as an ozone transport impact classification describing a condition which exists when emissions from an upwind area independently cause a violation of the state ozone standard in a downwind area on any given day. The most recent CARS assessment, published in March 2001, indicates that all 3 of these classifications occur in the San Francisco Bay Area/Broader Sacramento Area transport region.

### **Ambient Air Quality Standards**

Air quality in the SVAB, which includes Sacramento County and the city of Sacramento, has steadily improved over the last 2 decades. However, for the federal ambient air quality standards, some areas in the SVAB, including Sacramento County, are designated as nonattainment for the 8-hour ozone and 24-hour Fine Particulate Matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) standards. Regarding state standards, some areas in the SVAB are in nonattainment 4.3 - Air Quality Sacramento 2040 Project 11499 August 2023 4.3-3 for ozone and respirable particulate matter PM<sub>10</sub> and/or PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards. All areas in the SVAB are in attainment for all other pollutants with air quality standards.

#### **4.3.2 Regulatory Setting**

##### **Air Quality Standards**

Air quality within the SVAB is regulated by several agencies including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), CARB, and the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD). These agencies develop rules, regulations, policies, and/or plans to achieve the goals and directives imposed through legislation.

The EPA is responsible for implementing the federal Clean Air Act (1970), including establishing health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standards for air pollutants. National Ambient Air Quality Standards

established for criteria pollutants under the Clean Air Act are ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, PM<sub>10</sub>, and PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and lead. The standards set for criteria pollutants are periodically reviewed and revised as applicable.

In California, CARB is responsible for implementing the California Clean Air Act (1988) and has established California Ambient Air Quality Standards, which are to date more restrictive than the national standards. In general, the CARB works with local agencies to develop policies, guidance, and regulations related to state and federal ambient air quality standards; coordinates with local agencies on transportation plans and strategies; and aids local districts and transportation agencies to meet air quality standards established under both the federal and California clean air acts.

#### **4.3.3 Summary of Analysis Under the 2040 General Plan Master EIR, Including Cumulative Impacts, Growth Inducing Impacts, and Irreversible Significant Effects**

The Master EIR addressed the potential effects of the 2040 General Plan on ambient air quality which could conflict with or obstruct implementation of an applicable air quality plan. See Master EIR, Chapter 4.3. The growth projections used for the 2040 General Plan assume that growth in population, vehicle use, and other source categories would occur at rates that are consistent with the rates used to develop the SMAQMD attainment plans. In other words, the amount of growth predicted for the 2040 General Plan is accommodated by the SMAQMD's attainment plan. The following policies in the 2040 General Plan in Environmental Resources were identified as mitigating potential effects of development that could occur under the 2040 General Plan:

- Policy ER 6.1.1 calls for the City to work with the California Air Resources Board 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 projects incorporate feasible measures that reduce construction and operational emissions.
- Policies ER 6.1.4 and 6.1.10 call for coordination of City efforts with SMAQMD.
- Policy ER 6.1.14 requires the City to give preference to contractors using reduced-emission equipment.

The Master EIR identified exposure to sources of TAC as a potential effect. Policies in the 2040 General Plan would reduce the effect to a less than significant level. The policies include ER 6.1.1, requiring consideration of current guidance provided by the Air Resources Board and SMAQMD and ER 6.1.4, requiring development adjacent to stationary or mobile TAC sources to be designed with consideration of such exposure in design, landscaping, and filters. The Master EIR concluded that the provisions of the 2040 General Plan will avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the Master EIR and the impact is less than significant; no mitigation measures were required.

#### **Standards of Significance**

A significant impact would occur if future implementation of the Update would result in any of the following:

- Conflict with or obstruct implementation of an applicable air quality plan.



- Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard.
- Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.
- Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people.

#### 4.3.4 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Determination
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	No additional significant effects
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	No additional significant effects
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	No additional significant effects
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	No additional significant effects

#### 4.3.5 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

**a) Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?**

##### **No additional significant effects**

Adoption of the Update would not result in direct impacts to air quality. No construction or development would be approved. The Update would provide programmatic and policy guidance for future development of features within the park.

The 2040 General Plan included numerous policies to reduce operational air pollutant emissions. The Master EIR determined the 2040 General Plan was consistent with adopted air quality attainment plans and would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan. The proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and therefore would result in no new significant effects on air quality plans not evaluated in the Master EIR.

**b) Would the project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?**

**No additional significant effects**

Adoption of the Update would not result in cumulative impacts to air quality. No construction or development would be approved. The Update would provide programmatic and policy guidance for future development of features within the park. Compliance with the required 2040 general plan policies along with the implementation actions aimed at reduction of construction and operational criteria air pollutant emissions were outlined to help reduce impacts associated with buildout of the 2040 General Plan. Future projects under the 2040 General Plan would comply with applicable SMAQMD rules and regulations in order to meet SMAQMD significance thresholds, as required under Policy ERC-4.4, which are based on levels that the SVAB can accommodate without affecting the attainment date for the AAQS, that has been established to protect public health and welfare. The Master EIR determined the General Plan would not result in a cumulatively considerable new increase in criteria air pollutants. The proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and therefore would result in no new significant effects from any criteria pollutant not evaluated in the Master EIR.

**c) Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?**

**No additional significant effects**

Some members of the population are especially sensitive to emissions of air pollutants and should be given special consideration during the evaluation of a project's air quality impacts. Sensitive receptors include children, older adults, and persons with pre-existing respiratory or cardiovascular illness. Parks and playgrounds are included as sensitive receptors. Within the vicinity of Business Route 80, the Mound's pedestrian paths and viewpoint are more than 500 feet from the freeway and therefore would not be affected by transportation TACs. Where there are some pedestrian paths that could potentially utilize existing roadways are approximately 300 feet from the freeway, the freeway is below the Union Pacific Railroad levee berm and behind trees, which are known to filter pollutants.

Construction emissions could also generate TACs that could affect nearby sensitive receptors. Construction is anticipated to be limited in duration and occur over time as funding is available. While residences are located south of the project area, the largest features proposed are courts and parking lots in the Landfill area. Construction would occur behind the Union Pacific Railroad levee approximately 350 feet from sensitive receptors. Therefore, the proposed project is not expected to result in the exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations, given the short-term nature of these construction emissions and the distance of these residences to the construction areas.

The proposed Update is a planning and policy document to guide future actions. Implementation of the Site Amenities Plan will be evaluated on a project-specific basis. The proposed Update is a land use consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and therefore would result in no new significant effects not evaluated in the Master EIR.

Once construction plans are prepared for site facilities and facilities or amenities and they are brought forward for funding and approval, a project specific environmental review involving consideration of short-term and long-term emissions and TACs would need to be considered based on project specific funding and approval of features, as required by the Master EIR. However, based on the nature of the features and location, impacts are anticipated to be less than significant. Therefore, the proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects on sensitive receptors not evaluated in the Master EIR.

**d) Would the project result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?**

**No additional significant effects**

Adoption of the Update would not result in direct impacts related to odors, since it only provides programmatic and policy guidance for future development of facilities and facilities or amenities within the park. The project site is an area of multiple closed landfills. Operations currently in the area may already emit odors perceptible to residents within the vicinity. Future construction equipment and materials related to future approvals may emit additional odors perceptible to residents within a project vicinity. Future construction activities will be evaluated in accordance with CEQA Guidelines.

The 2040 General Plan contains policies that address potential land use conflicts related to odor emissions. Policy EJ-1.4 (Impact Assessment) requires the City to use SMAQMD modeling tools and guidance to identify and mitigate air quality impacts, including odors, during project review; this may need to be conducted as projects within the park are designed and presented for approval. Construction related odors would be localized to the immediate vicinity of construction operations and would be temporary, occurring only during active construction. The proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and therefore would result in no new significant effects from other emissions not evaluated in the Master EIR.

## 4.4 Biological Resources

### 4.4.1 Environmental Setting

Upland plant communities and habitats within the project area include annual grassland and urban/ruderal. Riverine habitat was previously mapped as the area below the ordinary high water mark of the American River along the northern edge of the project area. Plant communities and habitat associated with aquatic settings include valley foothill riparian and open water to the north of the project area.

The majority of the project area has been previously disturbed by various landfill operations and closures. The areas adjacent to paved areas consist of ruderal vegetation or vegetation that is subjected to ongoing or past disturbances (e.g., vehicle use, mowing). Because of the status of the site as a closed landfill in many areas of the project area, there is limited potential for vegetation to thrive. Water for irrigation of vegetation must be minimal as to not disturb the settlement and gas extraction process. Mowing is done regularly to reduce fire hazards in areas with gas extraction facilities. Ruderal vegetation occurs along roadsides and along the levee corridor and provides limited habitat. Due to the disturbance regime, assemblages of native and introduced weedy species have been established. The majority of plant species that occur in these disturbed areas are various annual grasses and forbs of Eurasian origin, many of which also occur in the grasslands. Valley foothill riparian habitat, dominated by valley oaks (*Quercus lobata*), transitions between the annual grassland community and the riverine community along the American River Parkway. Trees in the south part of the project area, near the freeway, are primarily eucalyptus and ornamental cherry, in generally poor condition.

#### American River

The Project area is located directly on the southern bank of the American River, a perennial river that flows southwest underneath the SR-160 Bridge. The Project area is also located within the American River Parkway Plan (ARPP) <sup>1</sup>overlay zone, which is subject to regulatory policies designed to protect the natural resources and ecological integrity of the river corridor. Two special status wildlife species have been determined to have a high potential to occur within the Project area: Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) and white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*). Four special status wildlife species have been determined to have a moderate potential to occur within the Project area: burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), purple martin (*Progne subis*), song sparrow ("Modesto" population) (*Melospiza melodia* pop. 1), and northwestern pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*). Lastly, four species are presumed present within the portion of the American River: chinook salmon Central Valley spring-run ESU (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* pop. 11), chinook salmon Sacramento River winter-run ESU (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* pop. 7), steelhead – Central Valley Distinct Population Segment (DPS) (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus* pop. 11), and valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*).

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<sup>1</sup> The American River Parkway is a unique regional facility which shall be managed to balance the goals of: a) preserving naturalistic open space and protecting environmental quality within the urban environment, and b) contributing to the provision of recreational opportunities in the Sacramento area. Overall guidance on the approach to preservation and management of the Parkway are embodied in both the Plan's Goals and the Concept Policies.

#### **4.4.2 Regulatory Setting**

##### **Federal**

###### **Endangered Species Act**

The federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) protects plants and wildlife that are listed as endangered or threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Section 9 of the ESA prohibits the taking of endangered wildlife, where taking is defined as “harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, or attempt to engage in such conduct” (50 CFR 17.3). This statute also governs removing, possessing, maliciously damaging, or destroying any endangered plant on federal land and removing, cutting, digging-up, damaging, or destroying any endangered plant on non-federal land in knowing violation of state law.

Under Section 7 of the ESA, federal agencies are required to consult with the USFWS and/or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration–National Marine Fisheries Service if their actions, including permit approvals or funding, could adversely affect a federally listed species (including plants) or its critical habitat.

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

The MBTA makes it unlawful at any time, by any means or in any manner, to pursue, hunt, take, capture, or kill migratory birds. The law applies to the removal of nests (such as swallow nests on bridges) occupied by migratory birds during the breeding season. California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Code (Section 3500) also prohibits the destruction of any nest, egg, or nestling.

##### **State**

###### **California Endangered Species Act**

Pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Section 2081 of the CDFG Code, an Incidental Take Permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is required for projects that could result in the “take” of a State listed threatened or endangered species. Under the California ESA (CESA), “take” is defined as an activity that would directly or indirectly kill an individual of a species proposed for listing (called “candidates” by the state). Section 2080 of the CDFG Code prohibits the taking, possession, purchase, sale, and import or export of endangered, threatened, or candidate species, unless otherwise authorized by permit or in the regulations.

###### **Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act**

The Porter-Cologne Act provides the State with very broad authority to regulate “Waters of the State” (which are defined as any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters). The State Regional Water Quality Control Board is granted ultimate authority over water quality policy in the State of California. Before allowing discharges that may affect the quality of Waters of the State, a Report of Waste Discharge must be filed with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).

###### **California Native Plant Protection Act**

The Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA) of 1977 (CDFG Code Sections 1900 – 1913) was created in order to “preserve, protect and enhance rare and endangered plants in this State.” The NPPA is administered

by CDFW. The Fish and Wildlife Commission has the authority to designate native plants as “endangered” or “rare” and to protect endangered and rare plants from take. CESA provided further protection for rare and endangered plant species, but the NPPA remains part of the CDFG Code.

## Local – Tree Removal

### 2040 General Plan Goals and Policies

Goal ERC-3: A well-maintained, resilient, healthy, expansive, and equitable urban forest for an environmentally sustainable future.

- Policy ERC-3.1: Urban Forest Plan. The City shall maintain and implement an Urban Forest Plan.
- Policy ERC-3.2: Tree Canopy Expansion. The City should strive to achieve a 25% urban tree canopy cover by 2030 and 35% by 2045. Prioritize tree planting in areas with the lowest average canopy cover and explore strategies to reduce barriers to tree planting in disadvantaged communities and improve tree health.
- Policy ERC-3.3: Tree Protection. The City shall encourage public agencies and require private development projects to consider alternatives to removals of healthy trees whenever feasible and to evaluate the longer-term consequences of the inability to meet tree canopy objectives when conducting project analyses and environmental documents. Ensure adequate protections during construction to protect existing tree roots and structure.
- Policy ERC-3.6: Urban Forest Maintenance. The City shall continue to plant, manage, and care for all trees on City property and within the public ROW to maximize their safe and useful life expectancy and continue to explore the selection of tree species that are adapted to future climate conditions.
- Policy ERC-3.7: Trees of Significance. The City shall promote stewardship of City trees and private protected trees and ensure that the design of development projects provides for the retention of these trees where possible. Where removal cannot be avoided, the City shall require replacement or appropriate remediation.
- Policy ERC-3.9: Watering and Irrigation. The City shall encourage appropriate watering practices and irrigation to minimize needed water use and support healthy tree growth; support responsible tree irrigation during droughts to minimize tree stress and loss; and convert irrigation in parks and streetscapes where needed.
- Policy ERC-3.10: Parking Lot Shading. The City shall review and amend the Parking Lot Shading Design and Maintenance Guidelines and Parking Lot Shading Ordinance as needed to promote tree health, growth, and maintenance of trees to reduce urban heat island impacts.
- Policy ERC-3.11: Planting. The City should encourage development to provide trees with appropriate irrigation methods and adequate growing space; site trees to reduce building heat and provide shade to public walkways to the extent feasible; and include appropriate soil treatment methods to promote healthy thriving trees.

#### **4.4.3 City of Sacramento Heritage Tree Ordinance**

The City of Sacramento tree ordinance also states that none of the following activities shall be performed unless a permit therefore is first applied for by the property owner or person authorized by the property owner and granted by the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department, subject to appeal provisions.

- The removal of any heritage tree.
- Pruning of any heritage tree segment greater than twelve inches in circumference or the placement of any chemical or other deleterious substance by spray or otherwise on any heritage tree.
- Disturbing the soil or placing any chemical or other deleterious substance or material on the soil within the drip line area of any heritage tree.

#### **4.4.4 Summary of Analysis Under the 2040 General Plan Master EIR, Including Cumulative Impacts, Growth Inducing Impacts, and Irreversible Significant Effects**

Chapter 4.4 of the Master EIR evaluated the effects of the 2040 General Plan on biological resources within the General Plan policy area. 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 2040 General Plan were identified as mitigating the effects of development that could occur under the provisions of the 2040 General Plan:

- Policy ERC 2.1 Conservation of Water Resources in Open Space Areas. The City shall continue to preserve, protect, and provide appropriate access to designated open space areas along the American and Sacramento Rivers, floodways, and undevelopable floodplains, provided access would not disturb sensitive habitats or species, and shall support efforts to conserve and, where feasible, create or restore areas that provide important water quality and habitat benefits such as creeks, riparian corridors, buffer zones, wetlands, open space areas, levees, and drainage canals for the purpose of protecting water resources and habitats in the City's watersheds, creeks, and the Sacramento and American Rivers.
- Policy ERC-2.2 Biological Resources. The City shall ensure that adverse impacts on sensitive biological resources, including special-status species, sensitive natural communities, sensitive habitat, and wetlands are avoided, minimized, or mitigated to the greatest extent feasible as development takes place.
- Policy ERC-2.3 Onsite Preservation. The City shall encourage new development to preserve and restore onsite natural elements that contribute to the community's native plant and wildlife species value. For sites that lack existing natural elements, encourage planting of native species in preserved areas to establish or re-establish these values and aesthetic character.
- Policy ERC-2.4 Native and Climate-Adapted Plants. The City shall promote regenerative landscape practices, including use of native/climate appropriate or climate-adapted plants, and focus education efforts to homeowners and design/construction professionals.

- Policy ERC-2.6 Wetland Protection. The City shall preserve and protect wetland resources including creeks, rivers, ponds, marshes, vernal pools, and other seasonal wetlands, to the extent feasible. If not feasible, the mitigation of all adverse impacts on wetland resources shall be required in compliance with State and Federal regulations protecting wetland resources, and if applicable, threatened or endangered species. Additionally, the City shall require either on/or off-site permanent preservation of an equivalent amount of wetland habitat to ensure no-net loss of value and/or function.
- Policy ERC-2.7 Annual Grasslands. The City shall preserve and protect native grasslands and vernal pools that provide habitat for rare and endangered species. If not feasible, the mitigation of all adverse impacts on annual grasslands shall comply with State and Federal regulations protecting foraging habitat for those species known to utilize this habitat.
- Policy ERC-2.8 Wildlife Corridors. The City shall preserve, protect, and avoid impacts to natural, undisturbed habitats that provides movement corridors for sensitive wildlife species. If corridors are adversely affected, damaged habitat shall be replaced with habitat of equivalent value or enhanced to enable the continued movement of species.
- Policy ERC-2.10 Agency Coordination. The City shall coordinate with State and Federal resource agencies (e.g., CDFW, USACE, and USFWS) to protect areas containing rare or endangered species of plants and animals.
- Policy ERC-2.14 Climate Change-related Habitat Restoration and Enhancement. The City shall support active habitat restoration and enhancement to reduce impact of climate change stressors and improve overall resilience of habitat within existing parks and open space in the City. The City shall support the efforts of Sacramento County to improve the resilience of habitat areas in the American River Parkway.

The Master EIR concluded that the cumulative effects of development that could occur under the 2040 General Plan would be significant and unavoidable as they related to effects on special-status plant species, reduction of habitat for special-status invertebrates, loss of habitat for special-status birds, loss of habitat for special-status amphibians and reptiles, loss of habitat for special-status mammals, special-status fish and, in general, loss of riparian habitat, wetlands and sensitive natural communities such as elderberry savannah.

### Standards of Significance

A significant impact would occur if future implementation of the Update would result in any of the following:

- Result in substantial degradation of the quality of the environment or reduction of habitat or population below self-sustaining levels of threatened or endangered species of plants or animals.
- Affect other species of special concern or habitats (including regulatory waters and wetlands) protected by law or regulation.
- Result in the loss or modification of riparian habitat, resulting in a substantial adverse effect.



- Have an adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands and/or waters of the United States through direct removal, filling, or hydrological interruption.
- Result in the loss of CDFW or USFWS defined sensitive natural communities such as elderberry savanna, northern claypan vernal pool, and northern hardpan vernal pool.

#### 4.4.5 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Determination
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	No additional significant effects
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	No additional significant effects
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	No additional significant effects
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	No Impact
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	No additional significant effects
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	No Impact

#### 4.4.6 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

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

**No additional significant effects**

A new USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) review (Appendix A) was conducted on May 27, 2025, to evaluate consistency with the findings of the 2008 Biological Resources Report prepared for the Sutter's Landing Project. No special status plants were identified in the project area. No park facilities or amenities are proposed in areas of sensitive habitat within the project area.

## Special-Status Plants

Based on the biological report prepared for the Phase I Project (City of Sacramento 2008b) and as updated by the IPAC report for the full project area (Appendix A), no potential habitat for special-status plant species has been identified within the project area due to the high degree of disturbance in the project area from past disturbance; the conditions in the project area and landfill maintenance requirements largely preclude establishment of special-status plant species.

However, once projects consistent with the Update are designed and proposed for approval, site specific review will be required prior to project approval to reassess whether conditions have changed. Protections for special-status plants are provided for in the 2040 General Plan policies, and native plants are further protected by the California Fish and Game Code (California Native Plant Protection Act), Chapter 10 Sections 1900 – 1913). Therefore, the proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects not evaluated in the Master EIR.

## Special-Status Fish

The proposed Update is a planning and policy document to guide future actions. Implementation of the Site Amenities Plan will be evaluated on a project-specific basis. The project area is adjacent to the American River, where suitable aquatic habitat for green sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*), delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*), Central Valley steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), Central Valley winter-run and spring-run Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), and Sacramento splittail (*Pogonichthys macrolepidotus*) is present. Although direct take is not anticipated within potential immediate construction areas due to the absence of any proposed facility located within the American River Parkway, implementation of best management practices (BMPs) and compliance with applicable environmental regulations would be necessary to avoid or minimize potential adverse effects. Therefore, the proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant not evaluated in the Master EIR.

## Northwestern Pond Turtle

The American River provides suitable habitat for northwestern pond turtles. This species will also nest in upland habitat surrounding the river. The proposed Update is a planning and policy document to guide future actions. Implementation of the Site Amenities Plan will be evaluated on a project-specific basis. For example, construction of facilities or amenities in habitat where this species would occur could directly affect individual northwestern pond turtles, a state species of concern. Direct take of this species could occur if individuals pond turtles were present during construction. Adverse effects from construction activities could result in the mortality or injury to pond turtles and disturbance/destruction of habitat constituting a significant impact. Site specific review of proposed facilities or amenities would require review to determine proximity to habitat where this species would occur and potential site specific impacts prior to project approval, as required by the Master EIR. Therefore, the proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects not evaluated in the Master EIR.

## Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle

The proposed Update is a planning and policy document to guide future actions. Implementation of the Site Amenities Plan will be evaluated on a project-specific basis. For example, construction of proposed project facilities and facilities or amenities could result in disturbance or removal of elderberry shrubs, which are the host plant for federally threatened valley elderberry longhorn beetle. These plants could be established within the project area over time. Implementation of Goals and Policies ERC-2 and NN-ERC-1 would reduce potential effects to a less than significant level.

Beyond 2040 General Plan policies, CEQA requires project-specific review by the City as lead agency of project impacts on threatened, endangered, or special-status species for those projects requiring discretionary approval. Compliance with ESA, CESA, and CEQA would minimize potential direct and indirect impacts on special-status species within the project area. Project-specific mitigation required under these existing laws and plans and the 2040 General Plan policies would also result in preservation of populations outside project sites or provide habitat to ensure that each project would not reduce special-status invertebrate species populations below self-sustaining levels. Therefore, the proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects on a protected species not evaluated in the Master EIR.

### **b) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?**

#### **No additional significant effects**

Sensitive habitats include those that are of special concern to resource agencies and those that are protected under CEQA, Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code, or Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Riparian habitat is considered to be a sensitive natural community under CEQA. The proposed Update is a planning and policy document to guide future actions. Implementation of the Site Amenities Plan will be evaluated on a project-specific basis. For example, Project specific erosion control plans and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) requirements would minimize temporary impacts associated with the construction of any facilities located near riparian habitat or a sensitive natural community to a less than significant impact. The proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects on a riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community not evaluated in the Master EIR.

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

#### **No additional significant effects**

The proposed Update is a planning and policy document to guide future actions. Implementation of the Site Amenities Plan will be evaluated on a project-specific basis. The 2040 General Plan includes policies that would avoid and minimize potential impacts from development on state or federally protected riparian corridors within the project area. These include Policy ERC-2.1 (Conservation of Open Space Areas) which directs the City to conserve, create or restore areas that provide important water quality

benefits such as creeks, riparian corridors, wetlands, undeveloped open space areas, levees, and drainage canals for the purpose of protecting water resources in the City's watersheds, creeks, and the Sacramento and American Rivers. Policy ERC-2.2 (Biological Resources) directs the City to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts to biological resources, including riparian habitat, to the greatest extent feasible. Policy ERC-6.3 (Floodplain Capacity) directs the City to preserve urban creeks and rivers to maintain existing floodplain capacity while enhancing environmental quality.

Beyond these General Plan policies, CEQA requires project-specific review by the City as lead agency of project impacts on regulatory waters and wetlands protected by agencies or natural resource organizations. This includes riparian habitat because it is considered a sensitive resource by the CDFW. Compliance with CEQA as well as implementation of 2040 General Plan goals and policies discussed above, would limit direct and indirect impacts on riparian habitat within the project area.

Implementation of federal and state regulatory processes discussed above would require that the avoidance and mitigation measures of individual projects reduce and mitigate impacts on riparian areas, which could include the enhancement or preservation of riparian areas outside of the project area. The proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects on a state or federally protected wetland not evaluated in the Master EIR.

**d) Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?**

**No Impact**

As discussed above in Item a) the proposed Update is a planning and policy document to guide future actions. Implementation of the Site Amenities Plan will be evaluated on a project-specific basis. Within the Update, there are no planned park facilities or amenities within migratory routes or the river that would interfere with special status species movement or nursery sites.

**e) Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?**

**No additional significant effects**

The project area contains very few trees; trees on the site are located in the Triangle area, along the northern edge of Business Loop 80 where it abuts the project area. All other trees near the project area are located outside the project area, north of the Two Rivers Trail within the American River Parkway. Thus, it is not anticipated that trees would be removed for any future facilities or amenities. The proposed Update is a planning and policy document to guide future actions. Implementation of the Site Amenities Plan will be evaluated on a project-specific basis. Site specific CEQA review would require consideration of the size, species and health of trees within the project area, if any, and consistency with the General Plan policies and City tree protection ordinances. The proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects on biological resources not evaluated in the Master EIR.

**f) Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?**

**No Impact**

The project area is not within an adopted Habitat Conversation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional or State habitat conservation plan, thus approval of the proposed Update and subsequent site specific projects would not conflict with such plans.

## 4.5 Cultural Resources

### 4.5.1 Environmental Setting

The project area is in the relatively flat floodplain of the American River, located in the southern portion of the Sacramento Valley within the northern portion of California's Central Valley (also referred to as the Great Valley). It is a nearly flat alluvial plain that lies between the Sierra Nevada on the east and the Coast Ranges on the west. The American River has been confined by human-made levees since the mid-nineteenth century, just north of the project area.

Permanent non-native settlement in the Sacramento Valley began in the 1830s, when Spanish and Mexican governors issued large land grants to individuals, often in return for military or other services rendered to the government. Swiss immigrant John Augustus Sutter, Jr., upon receipt of a land grant from Mexican Governor Juan Alvarado in 1839, came up the Sacramento River and landed at the northwest corner of what would eventually become Sutter's Landing Regional Park. Shortly thereafter, Sutter established a permanent camp and later built his fort at the current site of Sutter's Fort, the first settlement within the present City limits of Sacramento. Twenty-three years later, the site on which Sutter landed was deeded by his son to the City and County of Sacramento. Soil taken from the site was used to build levees and elevate the City to prevent flooding from the adjacent river. By the mid-1800s, these excavations resulted in the formation of large pits. Over time, these pits were then filled with the garbage generated by the expanding City. The site, known then as the 28th Street Landfill, would become the City's primary landfill, and would grow to be the highest point in the City.

The Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the Phase I park improvements indicated a cultural resources survey was conducted for the 28<sup>th</sup> Street Landfill area, which identified several cultural resource sites within the general vicinity of the proposed project, and 3 were identified within the project area: the federal levee along the south bank of the American River, the Transcontinental Railroad, and the Sutter's Landing State Historical Landmark (City of Sacramento 2008a). And updated records search provided by the North Central Information Center in May 2025 confirmed the presence of these resources.

### 4.5.2 Regulatory Setting

#### Federal

The National Historic Preservation Act defined the role and responsibilities of the federal government in historic preservation and established the National Register of Historic Places. The National Historic Preservation Act directs Federal agencies to identify and manage historic properties under their control, to undertake actions that would advance the Act's provisions and avoid actions contrary to its purposes, to consult with others while carrying out historic preservation activities, and to consider the effects of their actions on historic properties.

#### State

##### California Register of Historical Resources

The California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) is a guide to cultural resources that must be considered when a government agency undertakes a discretionary action subject to CEQA. The CRHR

helps government agencies identify and evaluate California's historical resources and indicates which properties are to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change (PRC §5024.1(a)). Any resource listed in, or eligible for listing in, the CRHR must be considered during the CEQA process.

## Local

### City of Sacramento Historic Preservation Program

The City's historic preservation program began in 1975 with the enactment of the City's first historic preservation ordinance. The City earned its Certified Local Government (CLG) designation from the U.S. National Parks Service in 2001 with the adoption of the first Historic Preservation Plan, which was later incorporated into the General Plan as the City's first cultural resources chapter. Amendments to the original preservation ordinance, under Ordinance No. 2006-063, were enacted in October 2006, amending Chapter 17.134 of Title 17 of the Sacramento City Code. On September 30, 2013, these sections of the Code were included in a comprehensive update of Title 17. Under the new Title 17, the substance of the preservation sections was not materially changed, and changes related to procedures were also relatively minor. Title 17, section 17.604.210 relates to eligibility criteria for historic resources for listing on the Sacramento Register of Historic and Cultural Resources. Other preservation related matters are found under Chapter 17.604 or other sections of Title 17. The City Code provides the legal framework for the identification and evaluation of unknown but potentially eligible historic resources.

#### **4.5.3 Summary of Analysis Under the 2040 General Plan Master EIR, Including Cumulative Impacts, Growth Inducing Impacts, and Irreversible Significant Effects**

The Master EIR evaluated the potential effects of development under the 2040 General Plan on prehistoric and historic resources. See Chapter 4.5. The Master EIR identified significant and unavoidable effects on historic resources and archaeological resources.

General plan policies include but are not limited to:

- HCR-1.1 Preservation of Historic and Cultural Resources, Landscapes, and Site Features. The City will continue to promote the preservation, restoration, enhancement, and recognition of historic and cultural resources throughout the City.
- HCR-1.2 Maintenance and Preservation. The City will continue to encourage maintenance and preservation of historic and cultural resources to promote the continued vitality of its neighborhoods.
- HCR-1.6 Early Project Consultation. The City will continue to strive to minimize impacts to historic and cultural resources by consulting with property owners, land developers, tribal representatives, and the building industry early in the development review process as needed.

### Standards of Significance

A significant impact would occur if future implementation of the Update would result in the following:

- Cause a substantial change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5

#### 4.5.4 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Determination
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?	No additional significant effects
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?	No additional significant effects
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	No additional significant effects

#### 4.5.5 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

**a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?**

**No additional significant effects**

Resource P-34-000505 (CA-SAC-000478H) is the Union Pacific Railroad. One segment is located east of the project area and was visited in 2023 (Morgan 2023). It was noted that the rail line has been continuously repaired and replaced, thus removing original elements. This rail segment was recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP as an individual or as a contributing element of the larger resource. No other historic resources have been identified within the project area or within a 20-meter buffer survey area around the project area.

The estimated site of the Sutter's Landing Regional Park (NRHP reference No. 66000221) is approximately 700 feet northwest of the project area, and the plaque memorializing Sutter's Landing is approximately 600 feet south of the project area. Due to the distance from the project area boundaries, the proposed project would not have an adverse effect directly or indirectly to the State Historical Landmark.

The proposed Update is a planning and policy document to guide future actions. Implementation of the Site Amenities Plan will be evaluated on a project-specific basis. Numerous General Plan Policies were adopted to protect historic resources in the event of unanticipated discoveries of cultural resources during site specific project construction, and the City's historic preservation program establishes detailed procedures for the protection of historic resources. Subsequent proposals for development and operation of park facilities or amenities would be subject to review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. Therefore, the proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects on historical resources not evaluated in the Master EIR.



**b) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?****No additional significant effects**

Archaeological sites can consist of extensive subsurface components that would be difficult to localize without systematic excavations. The area has been heavily modified due to the presence of the landfills, as well as the capping of the primary landfill in the 1960s. The extensive erosion and redeposition associated with the flow regime of the American River tends to bury the archaeological record deeply or destroy it.

Resource P-34-000509 (CA-SAC-482H) is the Sacramento River Flood Control Project Levee Unit 118. Levee Unit 118 Part 1 is located north of the project area, paralleling the American River. The USACE found the unit not eligible for listing as a historic property on the NRHP, stating that while the levees of Unit 118 Part 1 are significant, they do not retain sufficient integrity to communicate their significance (USACE 2021). No other archaeological resources have been identified within the project area or a 20-meter radius.

The proposed Update is a planning and policy document to guide future actions. Implementation of the Site Amenities Plan will be evaluated on a project-specific basis. Subsequent proposals for development and operation of park facilities or amenities would be subject to review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. Therefore, the proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects on archaeological resources not evaluated in the Master EIR.

**c) Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?****No additional significant effects**

No human remains have been identified or observed within the project area or a 20-meter radius around the project area. The project area is highly disturbed, and the unanticipated discovery of human remains during the construction of park facilities or amenities is not anticipated.

State law requires the mitigation of unanticipated discovery of human remains. Section 5097 of the California Public Resources Code and California Health and Safety Code (Sections 7050.5, 7051, and 7054) include specific provisions for the protection and treatment of human remains; disturbing human remains can result in both the destruction of the resource and potential violation of the health code. Existing state regulations under California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 reiterated in Policy HCR-1.15 set forth the standard conditions of approval which include the notification procedures in the event human remains are discovered during excavation activities. The 2040 General Plan has adopted the following policy that reduces unanticipated discoveries to less than significant:

HCR-A.8: Conditions for Resource Discovery: The City shall establish and implement procedures for the protection of historic, archeological, and tribal cultural resources, consistent with the following:

- In the event any materials, items, or artifacts are discovered during excavation at a project site that may have historic, archeological, or tribal cultural resources, the project proponent and/or contractors shall cease all work in the vicinity of the discovery, notify the City's Preservation

Director or Manager of Environmental Planning Services, and coordinate with the City to determine the appropriate response, including further efforts for discovery and treatment of potential resources.

- In the event any human remains are discovered during excavation, the project proponent and/or contractors shall comply with State law, including notifying the Sacramento County Coroner and following all procedures required by state law, including notifying the Native American Heritage Commission in the event the remains are determined to be Native American in origin.

Unanticipated discovery of human remains is unlikely to occur as part of the construction of park facilities or amenities. The potential for such discovery as part of park development that could occur with approval of the 2040 General Plan was considered in the Master EIR. Subsequent proposals for development and operation of park facilities or amenities would be subject to review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. The proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and therefore would result in no new significant effects on human remains not evaluated in the Master EIR.

## 4.6 Energy

### 4.6.1 Environmental Setting

#### Electricity

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) is responsible for the acquisition, generation, transmission and distribution of electrical service to customers for the City and provides service the project area. SMUD operates a variety of hydroelectric, photovoltaic, geothermal and co-generation powerplants, and receives power from natural-gas-fired generators and power purchased on the wholesale market. Major electrical transmission lines are located within the western portion of the project area. The project area contains an overhead electrical line along 28<sup>th</sup> Street to the City's corporation yard, and west along A Street to the solar array site.

#### Solar Energy

Sutter's Landing Regional Park leases areas within the West Site (e.g., in a separate lease area, in the dog park, and above the surface parking lot) for solar arrays. The solar array system is a 1.5 MW generation facility that sends renewable electricity back into the electrical grid. This is a leased facility with a contract that will terminate in 2033.

#### Natural Gas

Natural gas services are supplied to the City and the project area by Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E). PG&E gas transmission pipelines are concentrated north of the City. Distribution pipelines are located throughout the City, usually underground along City and County public utility easements (PUEs).

#### Underground Service Alert (USA)

The City is a member of the USA one-call program. Under this program, a contractor is required to notify the USA 48 hours in advance of performing excavation work. The developer has the responsibility for timely removal, relocation, or protection of any existing utility services located on the site of any construction project.

### 4.6.2 Summary of Analysis Under the 2040 General Plan Master EIR, Including Cumulative Impacts, Growth Inducing Impacts, and Irreversible Significant Effects

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 regulations (e.g., Title 24), that development allowed in the general plan would not result in the inefficient, wasteful, or unnecessary consumption of energy. The 2040 General Plan would increase the City's sustainability efforts that reduce energy consumption, would reduce operational air pollutant emissions and increase energy efficiency through the implementation of various policies. The Master EIR included the following energy policy:

- YPRO-1.20: Sustainable Design. The City shall design and construct parks, public spaces and recreational facilities for flexible use, energy/water efficiency, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, adaptability for long-term use, and ease and cost of maintenance.

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

### Standards of Significance

A significant impact would occur if future implementation of the Update would result in any of the following

- **Gas Service.** A significant environmental impact would result if a project would require PG&E to secure a new gas source beyond their current supplies.
- **Electrical Services.** A significant environmental impact would occur if a project resulted in the need for a new electrical source (e.g., hydroelectric and geothermal plants).

### 4.6.3 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Determination
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	No additional significant effects
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	No additional significant effects

### 4.6.4 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

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

#### **No additional significant effects**

Electric and Natural Gas power supplies are deemed sufficient to serve the project area. The proposed Update is a planning and policy document to guide future actions. Implementation of the Site Amenities Plan will be evaluated on a project-specific basis. No additional power source would be required for anticipated power needs, such as parking lot and court lighting. Operations in the regional park once completed would not represent a significant impact on power supplies, as it is consistent with planned park uses in the 2040 General Plan. The proposed Update is therefore consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects on energy resources not evaluated in the Master EIR.

**b) Would the project conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?****No additional significant effects**

Electricity for the project area is provided by SMUD, which is subject to Senate Bill 100. SB 100 mandates that 100% of retail electricity sales come from renewable or zero-carbon sources by 2045. Currently, the park supports a leased area containing 1.5 MW of solar energy generation. Compliance with these regulations ensures that projects consistent with the Update support state and local plans for renewable energy and energy efficiency. The proposed Update is therefore consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects on renewal energy or efficiency not evaluated in the Master EIR.

## 4.7 Geology and Soils

### 4.7.1 Environmental Setting

#### Seismicity and Faulting

Within the City and the Sacramento region, there are no known active faults. The Sacramento Valley has historically experienced low levels of seismic activity and does not contain any Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones (California Geological Survey 2018). Numerous earthquakes of magnitude (M) 5.0 or greater have occurred on regional faults in the Coast Ranges, approximately 38–55 miles west of downtown Sacramento. The nearest known active (Holocene or Historic) fault trace to the project study area is the Dunnigan Hills fault, approximately 25 miles northwest of downtown Sacramento (Jennings, C.W. and Bryant, W.A. 2010).

#### Groundwater

The project area is located in the 248,000-acre South American Subbasin (Department of Water Resources (DWR) Subbasin No. 5-021.65) of the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin. The basin is not identified by DWR as being in a state of critical overdraft, however it has been identified as a high priority basin (DWR 2020).

Groundwater elevations at the landfill vary seasonally and correspond to fluctuations in water levels in the American River (Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board 2025). Groundwater elevations in monitoring wells are typically in the range of 2 to 20 feet MSL. At 20 feet MSL, groundwater elevations are up to 5 feet above the base of WMUs A and B. The City is addressing this through its compliance activities in response to Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) R5-2015-0739, issued by the RWQCB.

Groundwater gradients are south to southwesterly in the winter and during high river stages. Northerly groundwater gradients occur between the central portion of the landfill and the river during late spring, summer, and fall months when the river is low. The net hydraulic gradient is to the southwest and the net groundwater flow is 30 to 50 feet per year.

The beneficial uses of the groundwater are municipal and domestic water supply, agricultural supply, industrial service supply, and industrial process supply.

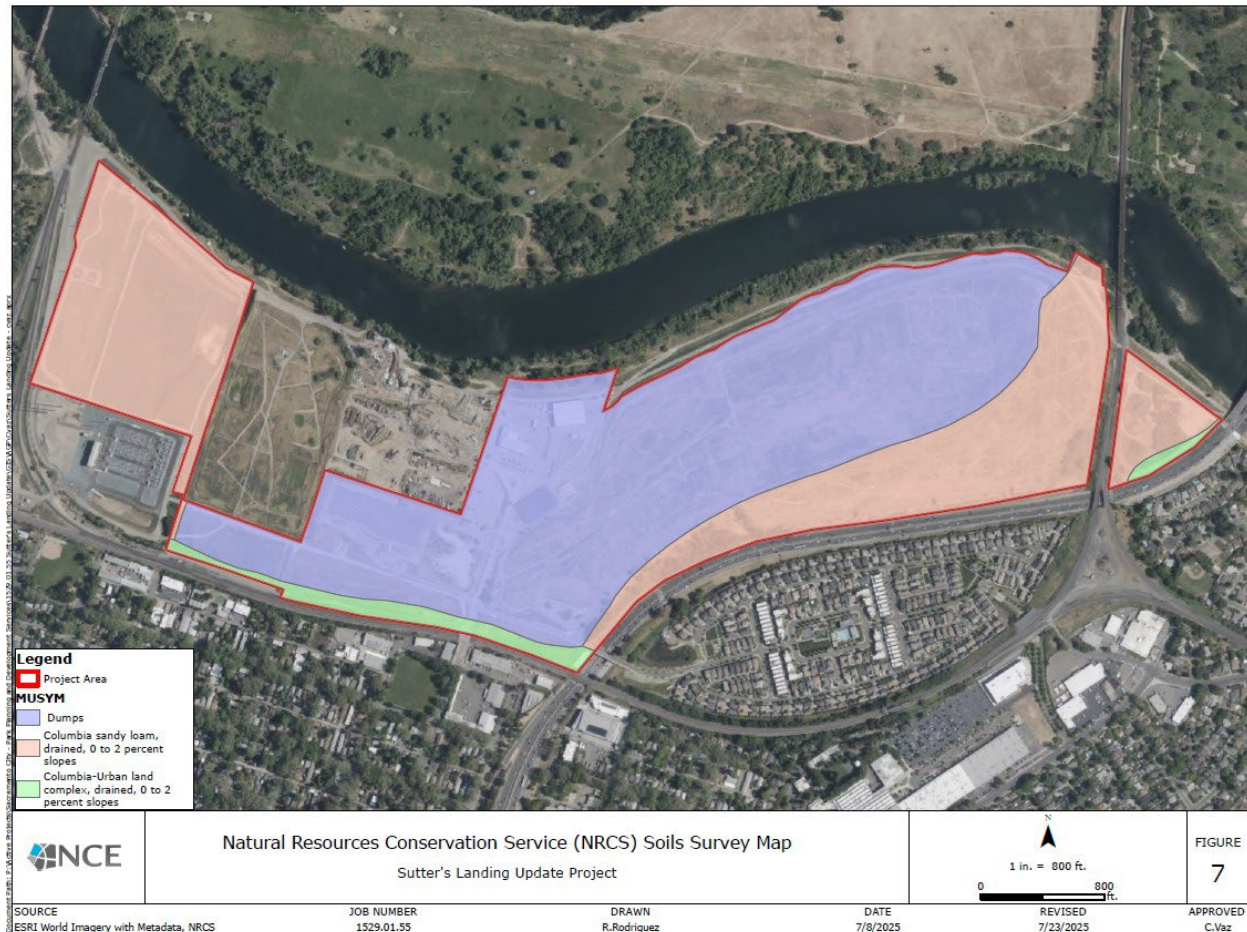
#### Soils

The project area does not contain expansive soils as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994). Figure 7 and Table 1 identify the soil types within the project area, although the surface layers have been modified by landfill and remediation activities.

Review of data from subsurface investigations indicates that landfill materials within the project area north and east of 28<sup>th</sup> Street consist of construction and demolition materials and municipal waste. A soil and mixed fill cap is present over most of the area. The depth to waste in the West Site varies from 3 to 18 feet below existing grades. The bottom depth of waste in WMU A and B is estimated to be approximately 15 feet MSL (SCS Engineers, 2024). The thickness of the fill and waste materials varies



significantly over short horizontal distances because different waste cells were constructed at different times (CH2MHILL 2002).



**Figure 7. NRCS Soils Survey Map**

**Table 1. Soils within the Project Area**

Map Unit Symbol	Name	Acres in Project Area	Percent of Project Area	National Hydric List (Y/N)
117	Columbia sandy loam, drained, 0 to 2 percent slopes	81.57	25%	Y
124	Columbia-Urban land complex, drained, 0 to 2 percent slopes	8.09	10%	N
136	Dumps	125.90	65%	N

Historical landfill activities also took place on all 4 of the newly added parcels at the former SMUD, Blue Diamond, Cannon, and Scollan properties. Refuse and burned debris remain in the subsurface at



minimum depth of 2 feet bgs. Engineered fill was used as a cap over these historical landfills. It is common to see settling of these landfill areas producing daylighting of refuse that needs to be filled in with engineered fill or additional impervious surface material.

The final cover system varies over the project area as follows:

- West Site – Combination of soil cover and asphalt cover.
- Corp Yard – Asphalt
- WMU-A – 2-foot foundation, 1-foot low permeability soil ( $1 \times 10^{-6}$  cm/sec), and 1-foot vegetative layer
- WMU-B – 2-foot foundation, 1-foot low permeability soil ( $1 \times 10^{-6}$  cm/sec), and 1-foot vegetative layer
- SMUD, Blue Diamond, Cannon, and Scollan properties - 2-foot foundation, 1-foot low permeability soil ( $1 \times 10^{-6}$  cm/sec), and 1-foot vegetative layer

### Paleontological Resources

Paleontological resources in the City include fossil remains, as well as fossil localities and rock or soil formations that have produced fossil material. The Quaternary sediments of the Great Valley are gravels laid down by large river systems. These deposits contain well-preserved vertebrate and plant fossils similar to the flora and fauna seen today.

#### **4.7.2 Summary of Analysis Under the 2040 General Plan Master EIR, Including Cumulative Impacts, Growth Inducing Impacts, and Irreversible Significant Effects**

Chapter 4.7 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 General Plan Policy Area. Implementation of identified policies in the 2040 General Plan reduced all effects to a less than significant level.

- Policy ERC-1.4: Construction Site Impacts. The City shall require new development to minimize disturbances of natural water bodies and natural drainage systems caused by development, implement measures to protect areas from erosion and sediment loss, and continue to require construction contractors to comply with the City's erosion and sediment control ordinance and stormwater management and discharge control ordinance.
- Policy ERC-7.1: Expansive Soils and Liquefaction. In areas of expansive soils and high liquefaction risk, the City shall continue to require that project proponents submit geotechnical investigation reports and demonstrate that the project conforms to all recommended mitigation measures prior to City approval.

### Standards of Significance

A significant impact would occur if future implementation of the Update would result in any of the following:

- Allow development that could result in substantial soil erosion.

- Introduce either geologic or seismic hazards by allowing the construction of the project on a site without protection against those hazards.
- Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and residents of the state.
- Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan.
- Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.

#### 4.7.3 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Determination
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including risk of loss, injury, or death involving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.</li> </ul>	No Impact
ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?	No additional significant effects
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	No additional significant effects
iv. Landslides?	No additional significant effects
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	No additional significant effects
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on/or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	No additional significant effects
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	No Impact
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	No Impact
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	No additional significant effects

#### 4.7.4 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

a) Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

**No Impact**

The project area is not within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone that designates a known active fault (a fault is active if it has ruptured or shows evidence of displacement in the Holocene or the last 11,000 years) that is susceptible to fault rupture as defined by the California Geologic Survey (formerly the California Division of Mines and Geology). Therefore, the potential for fault rupture in the project area is considered to be low.

ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?

**No additional significant effects**

The landfill is located in an area of low to moderate seismic activity. Ground motion resulting from faults in the region is expected to be low to moderate. Peak ground acceleration (PGA) would result from an earthquake on the Great Valley Fault, located approximately 30 miles from the project area (City of Sacramento, 2023). The landfill final grades are generally flat (approximately 3:1) throughout the project area, with the exception of The Mound, which experiences more elevation than the other areas of the park. The landfill slopes and the final cover system are expected to be stable under anticipated seismic conditions (SCS Engineers, 2024).

The Closure and Post Closure Maintenance Plan (CPMP) specifies that the 28<sup>th</sup> Street landfill area (defined as WMU A, WMU B, and Landfill Area) will be visually inspected within 12 hours after moderate or strong earthquake event. The inspection will assess the condition of final cover on the side slopes, benches and top deck; drainage structures; and the surface water detention basin. Areas where the vegetative surface appears compromised or refuse has day-lighted will be identified.

Necessary landfill repairs will be prioritized in accordance with other earthquake response needs at the landfill. Corrective landfill repairs will generally be made as described in Section 7.5 of the CPMP. If necessary, a remediation plan and/or corrective action construction plans and specifications will be prepared.

There are no structures identified in the Update intended for human occupancy or that will be entirely enclosed. All facilities or amenities are outdoor courts, parking areas, trails, play areas, and other facilities or amenities relatively insensitive to seismic activity. While physical damage could occur to the improvements, no substantial risk of loss, injury, or death would occur. Therefore, the proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects from strong seismic ground shaking not evaluated in the Master EIR.

**iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?****No additional significant effects**

The Great Valley Fault, located approximately 30 miles from the project area, could produce the greatest ground shaking in the project area. In addition to the slope stability effects of seismic activity, there is also the potential of liquefaction of loose, submerged soils to undergo a sudden loss of strength known as liquefaction. The effects of liquefaction at 28th Street Landfill were estimated by Callander Associates in 2005 to be settlement of up to 1 inch from a major earthquake.

The proposed project would not directly or indirectly cause substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, such as liquefaction. The closest known faults to the project area are the Dunnigan Hills Fault (approximately 20 miles to the northwest) and the Foothills Fault System (approximately 20–30 miles to the northeast). Although these faults are relatively distant and generally exhibit low seismic activity, strong ground shaking could still occur in the project area from a major seismic event on these or other regional faults. Such seismic events could produce secondary effects, including liquefaction or settlement in areas of loose alluvial soils or poorly compacted fill. However, future development would be required to comply with applicable California Building Code (CBC) seismic safety standards and City of Sacramento engineering and geotechnical requirements, which are designed to reduce risks from seismic-related hazards. Therefore, the proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects not evaluated in the Master EIR.

**iv. Landslides?****No additional significant effects**

The landfill grades are configured according to the refuse fill that was placed in the landfill. The steepest slopes are around the perimeter. The existing grades are not uniform. Areas where the solar arrays are located are generally flat with minor slopes to adjacent drainage ditches. The remainder of the project area is relatively flat.

The final landfill configuration for the landfill would provide a final site face with slopes no steeper than 3:1 (horizontal: vertical). Minimum final surface slopes of 3% will be used to provide sufficient slope for runoff after refuse settlement, except in old areas of the landfill that have paved and soil final covers (U.S. Geological Survey 2025). While a 3:1 slope is generally stable, some slope failure could occur during a major earthquake event. However, the sloped areas are located in planned open space and would not pose a substantial risk of loss, injury, or death. Therefore, the proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects not evaluated in the Master EIR.

**b) Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?****No additional significant effects**

The proposed Update is a planning and policy document to guide future actions. Implementation of the Site Amenities Plan will be evaluated on a project-specific basis. Future construction activities pursuant to the Update could involve excavating, filling, moving, grading, and temporarily stockpiling soils onsite,

which could expose site soils to erosion from wind and surface water runoff. However, any excavating will likely not be at the depth to penetrate a landfill covering. The City has adopted standard measures to control erosion and sediment during construction and all projects in the City are required to comply with the City's Standard Construction Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Control. Subject to exceptions for minor work, compliance with Chapter 15.88 of the City Code, also known as the Grading Ordinance, requires that an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan be prepared for each project within the project area prior to the commencement of grading. Future activities must comply with the City's grading ordinance (Chapter 15.88), which specifies construction standards to minimize erosion and runoff (City of Sacramento 2025). Therefore, no substantial soil erosion from future activities would be expected.

With implementation of all required regulations and preparation of Erosion and Sediment Control Plans and SWPPPs, projects developed under the 2040 General Plan were determined to have a less than significant impact related to soil erosion. The proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would therefore result in no new significant effects on significant erosion or topsoil not evaluated in the Master EIR.

**c) Would the project be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on/or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?**

**No additional significant effects**

The proposed Update is a planning and policy document to guide future actions. Implementation of the Site Amenities Plan will be evaluated on a project-specific basis. See responses to Items 4.7.4(a) above regarding future site specific activities and risks related to seismic risks. The proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would therefore result in no new significant effects related to site stability not evaluated in the Master EIR.

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

**No Impact**

The project area does not contain expansive soils as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994). The proposed Update is a planning and policy document to guide future actions. Implementation of the Site Amenities Plan will be evaluated on a project-specific basis. There are no habitable improvements proposed within the Update. Future construction activities pursuant to the Update would be required to comply with City requirements (2040 General Plan - Policy EC 1.1.2), for a geotechnical investigation of the site. The proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would therefore result in no new significant effects not evaluated in the Master EIR.

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

**No Impact**

The project area currently contains a sanitary sewer and a combined sewer and storm drain system. The proposed Update does not propose use of septic tanks and would not require use of alternative wastewater disposal services; therefore, there would be no impact from these systems.

**f) Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?**

**No additional significant effects**

There are no unique or unusual landforms that would be considered a unique geologic feature nor are there any known unique paleontological resources within the project area. Paleontological resources include fossil remains, as well as fossil localities and rock or soil formations that have produced fossil material. Refuse and burned debris remain in the subsurface at minimum depth of 2 feet bgs beneath 2 feet of fill in most places on the site, therefore future construction is unlikely to encounter native soils or fossil localities and rock or soil formations that have produced fossil material. Policy HCR-1.1 (Preservation of Historic and Cultural Resources Site Features and Landscaping) requires the City to preserve cultural resources which also includes paleontological resources. Therefore, with adherence to the regulatory requirements and Policy HCR-1.1 of the 2040 General Plan, the potential impact would be less than significant. The proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects on paleontological or unique geologic resources not evaluated in the Master EIR.

## 4.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The term greenhouse gas is used to describe atmospheric gases that absorb solar radiation and subsequently emit radiation in the thermal infrared region of the energy spectrum, trapping heat in the Earth's atmosphere. Greenhouse gases of concern include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases. Unlike emissions of criteria and toxic air pollutants, which have local or regional impacts, emissions of greenhouse gases have a broader, global impact.

Greenhouse gases differ by the amount of heat each traps in the atmosphere, known as global warming potential. Carbon dioxide is the most significant greenhouse gas, so amounts of other gases are expressed relative to carbon dioxide, using a metric called "carbon dioxide equivalent" (CO<sub>2</sub>e). The global warming potential of carbon dioxide is assigned a value of 1, and the warming potential of other gases is assessed as multiples of carbon dioxide. Generally, estimates of all greenhouse gases are summed to obtain total emissions for a project or given time period, usually expressed in metric tons or million metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e.

### 4.8.1 Environmental Setting

The climate of the City of Sacramento, which includes the entirety of the project area, is characterized as Mediterranean, which is strongly influenced by the Pacific Ocean and characterized by hot, dry summers and mild, rainy winters. Throughout the year, daily temperatures include summer highs often exceeding 100°F and winter lows near freezing. Average annual rainfall is about 20 inches and snowfall is very rare.

### 4.8.2 Regulatory Setting

#### State

The State of California has taken several legislative steps including Assembly Bills (AB) and Executive Orders (EO) to reduce increases in GHG emissions. CARB is the lead agency in the development of reduction strategies for greenhouse gases in California (CARB 2017). California's GHG reduction requirements aim to reduce vehicle miles traveled, thereby improving air quality by reducing GHG emissions from automobiles.

#### Local

#### Climate Change Adaptation

Global climate change impacts, both direct and indirect, are expected to occur despite the City's efforts to mitigate GHG emissions. The increase in average temperature is expected to have the following primary effects in the Sacramento region:

- Changes to precipitation patterns
- Increased frequency of extreme events such as heat waves, drought, and storm events.

These changes to the climate and landscape of California are expected to affect the following resource areas in the project area:

- Increased risk of flood events



- Increased extreme heat days and urban heat island effect
- Reduced snowpack
- Increased frequency of poor air quality days related to extreme heat and increased regional wildfires
- Increased energy demand
- Impacts to biological resources
- Reduced water quality

#### **4.8.3 Summary of Analysis Under the 2040 General Plan Master EIR, Including Cumulative Impacts, Growth Inducing Impacts, and Irreversible Significant Effects**

The Master EIR analysis primarily focused on the extent to which the 2040 General Plan would conflict with a plan for reduction of GHG emissions as defined by CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5. The analysis was consistent with the recommendations of the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) Guide to Air Quality Assessment in Sacramento County, Chapter 9, Program-Level Analysis of General Plans and Area Plans (SMAQMD 2020).

The 2040 General Plan would increase the City's sustainability efforts that reduce energy consumption, would reduce operational air pollutant emissions and increase energy efficiency through the implementation of various policies. The Master EIR included the following policies:

- YPRO-1.20: Sustainable Design. The City shall design and construct parks, public spaces and recreational facilities for flexible use, energy/water efficiency, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, adaptability for long-term use, and ease and cost of maintenance.
- YPRO-1.21: Climate-Resilient Design. The City shall ensure that the design of parks and open spaces balances sunlight access with trees, shade structures, drinking fountains, and cooling facilities or amenities that provide respite from higher temperatures to reduce urban heat islands and overexposure to heat.

The Master EIR found that greenhouse gas emissions that would be generated by development consistent with the 2040 General Plan would be a significant and unavoidable cumulative impact. The discussion of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change in the 2040 General Plan Master EIR are incorporated by reference in this Initial Study. (CEQA Guidelines Section 15150)

The Master EIR identified numerous policies included in the 2040 General Plan that addressed greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. See Master EIR, Chapter 4.3. Policies identified in the 2040 General Plan include directives relating to sustainable development patterns and practices, and increasing the viability of pedestrian, bicycle and public transit modes. A complete list of policies addressing climate change is included in the Master EIR in Table ES-1, page 6 et seq; the Final Master EIR included additional discussion of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change in response to written comments.

As a part of the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR, the City adopted the Climate Action & Adaptation Plan (CAAP). The CAAP is designed to reduce GHG emissions within the Planning Area equal to 63% below 1990 levels through 2030 through a series of specific measures such as electrifying transportation

and building energy systems, reducing vehicle miles traveled, reducing organic waste, increasing urban tree canopy cover, and other measures. The proposed Plan includes a qualified GHG emissions reduction strategy to make substantial progress toward zero net carbon emissions by 2045. The City's previous Climate Action Plan established a target and actions to reduce community GHG emissions by 15% by 2020, and included Policy ER 6.1.5, which encouraged the City to "strive" to reduce community emissions by 49% and 83% by 2035 and 2050, respectively; however, these targets were not requirements.

The Master EIR concluded that the 2040 General Plan would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions, thus impact would be less than significant.

### Standards of Significance

A significant impact would occur if future implementation of the Update would result in any of the following:

- Generate GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment.
- Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emission of GHGs.

#### 4.8.4 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Determination
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	No additional significant effects
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	No additional significant effects

#### 4.8.5 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

**a) Would the project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?**

**No additional significant effects**

The Environmental Resources and Constraints Element of the City's 2040 General Plan includes policies intended to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with construction activities. Policy ERC-4.5 (Construction Emissions) requires that construction and grading activities minimize short-term impacts to air quality by employing appropriate mitigation measures and best practices. These policies would promote new construction techniques and would ensure the implementation of best practices resulting in the reduction of GHG emissions from construction activities.

Land uses and activities identified in the Update are consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects related to greenhouse gas emissions not evaluated in the Master EIR.

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

**No additional significant effects**

Land uses and activities identified in the Update are not expected conflict with the city's CAAP and are consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis, and therefore the applicable plans, policies and regulations adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases as determined in the Master EIR and would result in no new significant effects on the CAAP not evaluated in the Master EIR.

## 4.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

### 4.9.1 Environmental Setting

The proposed Update includes the expansion of Sutter's Landing Regional Park onto 10 parcels to the west of the park's current location in an area that was historically developed as individually privately owned landfills. The Update includes activating the existing Landfill area with recreation activities while prioritizing the existing closed landfill operations.

The deepest landfill layers in the project area consist of decomposing waste that can continue to produce methane gas and leachate for decades. The long-term stability and performance of these landfill areas depend on proper waste placement, compaction methods, and the presence and integrity of the underlying liner system.

Four landfill types are present in the project area:

- **Unlined Landfill – No Cap:** A pre-regulation landfill with no liner system, covered only by a thick layer of low-permeability soil acting as a cap. Located within the North City Substation, Parcel 31, West Sutter's Landing, and Cannon and Scollan Landfills.
- **Unlined Landfill – Asphalt Cap:** Another pre-regulation landfill lacking a liner system, with either an asphalt or concrete cap surface.
- **Landfill – Clay Cap Cover with Soil Cover:** Includes a clay cap and low-permeability soil above the waste. Located within Waste Management Unit A.
- **Lined Landfill – Clay Lined with Soil Cover:** Includes a clay liner beneath the waste and covered by a layer of low-permeability soil. Located within the Waste Management Unit B.

### Landfill Gas

Landfill gas (LFG) is known to have been encountered in the maintenance building on several isolated occasions. LFG was also encountered in the test boring locations during the construction of Phase I improvements. These indicate that LFG is present at the West Site and may be present in other landfill areas.

### Landfill Design Constraints

Park improvements over closed landfills must address two primary hazards: landfill gas generation and differential settlement caused by renewed waste decomposition. Water infiltration is the leading trigger for additional decomposition, making the design and protection of the landfill cover critical. Low-impact improvements—such as trails, signage, benches, plazas, and parking lots—are generally feasible if they minimize disturbance to the landfill cover and prevent water intrusion. Costs for these features may be more than conventional park developments due to the added considerations for landfill cover protection, and safety precautions during construction.

Irrigated landscaping is generally discouraged unless a low-permeability barrier is incorporated between the planting area and the landfill cover. Trees require special design, such as mounding or raised planters, to prevent root intrusion into the landfill cap. Existing trees and drought-tolerant vegetation at the park are located in above ground planters and watered with drip irrigation.

More complex improvements that require excavation or foundation work—such as buildings or sports courts—pose higher risks of damaging the landfill cover. Landfill gas migration must be addressed through design strategies that prevent gas accumulation beneath structures. Additionally, foundations may need to be engineered (e.g., using thickened slabs or deep piles) to accommodate potential settlement. These requirements can make major structures cost prohibitive. Where landfills lack protective caps, only minimal, non-irrigated, and low-impact improvements are recommended to avoid exacerbating waste decomposition or triggering surface instability. Development feasibility is contingent on effectively addressing water infiltration and gas migration risks.

#### **4.9.2 Regulatory Environment**

##### **Federal Regulations**

The principal federal regulatory agency responsible for ensuring the safe use and handling of hazardous materials is EPA. Key federal legislation pertaining to hazardous waste is described below. Other applicable federal regulations are contained primarily in 29, 40, and 49 CFR.

- **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.** The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act enables EPA to administer a regulatory program that extends from the manufacture of hazardous materials to their disposal, thus regulating the generation, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste at all facilities and sites in the nation.
- **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.** The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (also known as Superfund) was passed to facilitate the cleanup of the nation's toxic waste sites. In 1986, the act was amended by the Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act Title III (community right-to-know laws). Title III states that past and present owners of land contaminated with hazardous substances can be held liable for the entire cost of the cleanup, even if the material was dumped illegally when the property was under different ownership.

##### **State Regulations**

California regulations are equal to or more stringent than federal regulations. EPA has granted California primary oversight responsibility for administering and enforcing hazardous waste management programs. State regulations require planning and management to ensure that hazardous wastes are handled, stored, and disposed of properly to reduce risks to human and environmental health. Several key laws pertaining to hazardous waste are discussed below.

- **Hazardous Materials Release Response Plans and Inventory Act of 1985.** The Hazardous Materials Release Response Plans and Inventory Act, also known as the Business Plan Act, requires businesses using hazardous materials to prepare a plan that describes their facilities, inventories, emergency response plans, and training programs. Hazardous materials are defined as raw or unused hazardous materials that are part of a process or manufacturing step. They are not considered hazardous waste. Health concerns pertaining to the release of hazardous materials, however, are similar to those relating to hazardous waste.
- **Hazardous Waste Control Act.** The Hazardous Waste Control Act created the state hazardous waste management program, which is similar to, but more stringent than, the federal Resource



Conservation and Recovery \_Act program. The act is implemented by regulations contained in 26 CCR, which describes the following required aspects for the proper management of hazardous waste:

- identification and classification
- generation and transportation
- design and permitting of recycling, treatment, storage, and disposal facilities
- treatment standards
- operation of facilities and staff training
- closure of facilities and liability requirements

These regulations list more than 800 materials that may be hazardous and establish criteria for identifying, packaging, and disposing of such waste. Under the Hazardous Waste Control Act and 26 CCR, the generator of hazardous waste must complete a manifest that accompanies the waste from generator to transporter to the ultimate disposal location. Copies of the manifest must be filed with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control.

- Emergency Services Act. Under the Emergency Services Act, the state developed an emergency response plan to coordinate emergency services provided by federal, state, and local agencies. Rapid response to incidents involving hazardous materials or hazardous waste is an important part of the plan, administered by the California Office of Emergency Services. The office coordinates the responses of other agencies, including EPA, the California Highway Patrol (CHP), RWQCBs, air quality management districts, and county disaster response offices.

#### **4.9.3 Summary of Analysis Under the 2040 General Plan Master EIR, Including Cumulative Impacts, Growth Inducing Impacts, and Irreversible Significant Effects**

Chapter 4.9 of the Master EIR evaluates the potential effects of the 2040 General Plan as they relate to Hazards and Public Safety. Potential effects include exposure of people to contaminated soil during construction activities, hazardous building materials such as asbestos and lead-based paint or other hazardous materials, or contaminated groundwater during construction activities or dewatering activities. Potential effects include water quality degradation due to construction activities and exposure of people to flood risks (Impacts 4.9-1 through 4.9-3).

To prevent potential health hazards to construction workers and the public from exposure to previously unknown contamination, 2040 General Plan Policy EJ 1.8 (Site Contamination) would require that buildings and sites under consideration for new development or redevelopment are investigated for the presence of hazardous materials prior to development activities. In the event that suspect contamination, or previously unidentified contamination is discovered during construction activities, SCEMD would be notified for and would assume regulatory oversight of characterization of suspect materials. Upon confirmation of contamination, a remediation plan pursuant to Section 25401.05(a)(1) of the California Health and Safety Code and approved by the appropriate oversight agency or authority must be implemented at the site. Adherence to these existing regulatory requirements and Policy EJ 1.8

would ensure that potential exposure of people to existing contaminated soils associated with development under the 2040 General Plan would be less than significant.

The Master EIR determined that compliance with all applicable rules and regulations, along with implementation of the 2040 General Plan policies, would reduce the potential for exposure of construction workers and the general public to unusual or excessive risks related to hazardous building materials, contaminated groundwater, and other hazardous materials or situations to a less than significant level.

### Standards of Significance

**A significant impact would occur if future implementation of the Update would result in any of the following:**

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

#### 4.9.4 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Determination
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	No additional significant effects
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	No additional significant effects
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	No additional significant effects
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	No additional significant effects
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	No impact
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	No impact

g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	No additional significant effects
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#### 4.9.5 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

##### a) Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

##### No additional significant effects

The Update includes the development of the park as mostly parkland, including turf fields (Cannon and Scollan parcels), pedestrian (paved and unpaved) and bicycle (paved) trails, benches (SMUD North City Substation and West Sutter's Landing parcels), and other surficial public facilities or amenities (Figure 4). A present-day stormwater detention basin is planned on the West Sutter's Landing parcel.

Historical landfill activities took place on all of the newly added parcels and refuse and burned debris remain in the subsurface at minimum depth of 2 feet bgs. Engineered fill was used as a cover over historical landfills.

The City is responsible for the post-closure maintenance of the landfill areas north and east of 28<sup>th</sup> Street. Closure improvements, monitoring facilities, and other improvements currently in place in various areas of the site include a clay cap and liner, leachate collection and removal facilities, a groundwater dewatering system, grading and drainage improvements, a methane control/landfill gas recovery system, groundwater quality monitoring wells, and permanent survey monuments. In order to reduce impacts from an accidental explosion, release of hazardous substances, or creation of a potential health hazard, the soil cover of the landfill cover must be protected during and after construction of any site improvements.

The proposed Update is a planning and policy document to guide future actions. Implementation of the Site Amenities Plan will be evaluated on a project-specific basis. If during construction of project amenities, landfill material including burned debris is excavated from the project area, burned debris or landfill refuse should be stockpiled, profiled for disposal according to the disposal criteria of the selected landfill, and disposed of, a soil management plan (SMP), air management plan (AMP), and health and safety plan (HASP) should be prepared to address scenarios where landfill material is encountered during construction. Implementation of an AMP would mitigate airborne hazardous materials in the event of landfill material excavations during future construction activities. These activities would be temporary during construction. Other than potential maintenance activities and materials, no routine use of hazardous materials is proposed.

The Master EIR concluded that the provisions of the 2040 General Plan will avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the MEIR and the impacts related to hazards are less than significant.

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

**No additional significant effects**

Since the newly added parcels are the locations of former privately owned landfills, and the City is following the landfill regulatory requirements for each parcel, it is unlikely that a release of hazardous materials (burned material, landfill debris) would be a concern within the project area since the public would not be exposed to subsurface conditions during construction.

Once projects consistent with the Update are designed and proposed for approval, site specific review will be required prior to project approval to assess potential hazards impacts. If landfill material including burned debris is excavated from an area during site specific construction activities, burned debris or landfill refuse should be stockpiled, profiled for disposal according to the disposal criteria of the selected landfill, and disposed of, a SMP, AMP, and HASP should be prepared to address scenarios where landfill material is encountered during construction.

Adoption of the Update, however, currently has no direct effect on the project area and future implementation has not been designed. The proposed Update is a planning and policy document to guide future actions. Implementation of the Site Amenities Plan will be evaluated on a project-specific basis. The Master EIR concluded that the provisions of the 2040 General Plan will avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the MEIR and the impact is less than significant. The proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and therefore would result in no new significant effects concerning hazards not evaluated in the Master EIR.

**c) Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?**

**No additional significant effects**

Courtyard Private School is located approximately 160 feet south of the Cannon and Scollan Parcels, which are formerly privately owned landfills, and approximately 1,000 feet southeast of the West Sutter's Landing Parcel. A minimum of 2 feet of cover material was used to cover landfill debris in this area. If future design and installation of the planned turf fields involves excavations deeper than 2 feet bgs to construct the structural section, historical landfill debris may be encountered. An AMP should be developed to assess and monitor ambient air conditions in the event that landfill debris is encountered during excavation and construction activities.

Adoption of the Update, however, currently has no direct effect on the project area and future implementation has not been designed. The proposed Update is a planning and policy document to guide future actions. Implementation of the Site Amenities Plan will be evaluated on a project-specific basis. The Master EIR concluded that the provisions of the 2040 General Plan will avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the MEIR and the impact is less than significant. The proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and therefore would result in no new significant effects from the release of hazardous emissions not evaluated in the Master EIR.

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

**No additional significant effects**

SMUD Station E Substation (SWIS #34-AA-0182) is listed in the DTSC EnviroStor database. On April 24, 2017, Sacramento County Environmental Management Department wrote a letter of concurrence with Brown and Caldwell's Construction Soil Management Plan and Postclosure Land Use Plan. Since remaining burned debris is located in the subsurface and a minimum of 2' of cover is present, the material is unlikely to pose a concern to the public, and closure of the regulatory case was granted.

The Master EIR concluded that the provisions of the 2040 General Plan will avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the MEIR and the impact is less than significant. The proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and therefore would result in no new significant effects not evaluated in the Master EIR.

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

**No Impact**

There are no airports located within 2 miles of the project area.

**f) Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?**

**No Impact**

The Update identifies no changes roadways, critical infrastructure, or site characteristics that would interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

**g) Would the project expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?**

**No additional significant effects**

The Sacramento Countywide Local Hazard Mitigation Plan recognizes the American River Parkway as a wildfire hazard area. A wildland fire that originated along the American River could spread into the park. The County of Sacramento's Metro Fire maintains and operates an air operations program to increase accessibility to these vegetated areas where vehicular City and County Fire Department equipment is limited in accessibility. In addition, all facilities would be subject to meet relevant fire suppression design criteria that is contained within the California Fire Code (Title 24, Part 9, California Code of Regulations). The proposed Update is a planning and policy document to guide future actions. Implementation of the Site Amenities Plan will be evaluated on a project-specific basis. For example, the installation of additional hardscaping and flatwork such as paved bike trails, parking areas, and sports courts, resulting in less area within the project boundary containing combustible material, which would imply that there would be less material to burn in the event of a fire. Compliance with the California Fire Code as well as



2040 General Plan policies would minimize risks associated with the exposure of people or structure to loss, injury or death due to wildland fires and the impact is less than significant.

The Master EIR concluded that the provisions of the 2040 General Plan will avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the MEIR and the impact is less than significant. The proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and therefore would result in no new significant effects not evaluated in the Master EIR.

## 4.10 Hydrology and Water Quality

### 4.10.1 Environmental Setting

The City of Sacramento is located at the confluence of the Sacramento and the American rivers in the southern portion of the Sacramento River Basin. The American River transects the project area, flowing west to join the Sacramento River roughly along the northern boundary of the Central City Specific Plan Area and Central Business District. The project area contains many natural and man-made tributary drainage features, which ultimately drain into the Sacramento River.

#### Surface Water

Ambient water quality in the Sacramento and American rivers is influenced by numerous natural and artificial sources, including soil erosion, discharges from industrial and residential wastewater plants, stormwater runoff, agriculture, recreation activities, mining, timber harvesting, and flora and fauna. The reaches of the Sacramento and American rivers that flow through the Sacramento urban area are considered impaired from mercury, an unknown toxicity, 1 PCBs (Polychlorinated biphenyls), pesticides - Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT), Dieldrin, and Chlordane, and are listed on the EPA approved 2020-2022 Section 303(d) list of water quality limited segments. Other major creeks, drainage canals, and sloughs in the City boundaries are also listed for pesticides and copper.

#### Groundwater

The project area is located in 2 subbasins of the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin (DWR Basin No. 5-021). From the American River south, the project area is in the 248,000-acre South American Subbasin (DWR Subbasin No. 5-021.65). North of the American River, the project area is within the 342,000-acre North American Subbasin (DWR Subbasin No. 5-021.64) (DWR 2020). Neither basin is identified by DWR as being in a state of critical overdraft, however both were identified as high priority basins (DWR 2020). Based on regional groundwater level monitoring wells in both subbasins, groundwater levels in the period between 2013 and 2018 have remained relatively stable, however according to Department of Water Resources the 20-year trend indicates either no trend or an increasing trend, depending on the well site (DWR 2023).

Groundwater containing elevated levels of contaminants is present within or near the project area. Groundwater quality in the project area is generally within the primary and secondary drinking water standards for municipal use, including levels of iron, manganese, arsenic, chromium, and nitrates.

#### Stormwater

In general, stormwater runoff within the City flows into either the City's combined sewer system (CSS) or into individual drainage sumps located throughout the project area. Water collected by the CSS is transported to the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District's Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, where it is treated prior to discharge into the Sacramento River. The City also operates its Combined Wastewater Treatment Plant on 35th Avenue and Pioneer Reservoir Treatment Plant on Front Street, where additional wastewater can be treated prior to discharge during precipitation events when the capacity of the Sacramento Area Sewer District's (SacSewer) interceptor may be impacted. The

underground storage vaults in the CSS provide storage s during storm events, releasing it as capacity exists.

Urbanization may increase peak flow runoff, as well as the total volume of stormwater runoff from a site. The increase is dependent upon the type of soil and its topography compared to the proposed land uses. Much of Sacramento is characterized by soils with low permeability and high runoff rates, contributing to water quality and flooding impacts.

## **Flooding**

High water levels along the Sacramento and American rivers are a common occurrence in the winter and early spring months due to increased flow from storm runoff and snowmelt. An extensive system of dams, levees, overflow weirs, drainage pumping plants, and flood control bypass channels strategically located on the Sacramento and American rivers has been established to protect the area from flooding. Much of the site lies above the 100 year flood elevation; the newly added acreage to the project area is protected by these levees (Figure 8).

There are 3 different types of flood events in the Sacramento area: flash, riverine, and urban stormwater. These floods are often the result of severe weather and heavy rainfall, either in the City or in areas upstream of the City (e.g., Sacramento River watershed in the northern portion of the valley). Flash flood describes localized floods of high volume and short duration, usually resulting from a heavy rainfall on a relatively small drainage area. There is also a chance of flash floods occurring from failure of dams, reservoirs, or levees within the project area. The most common type of flood event is localized riverine or creek flooding, which occurs when a watercourse exceeds its bank-full capacity. Urban stormwater flooding occurs when storm drains are not adequately sized or experience temporary blockage.

### **4.10.2 Regulatory Setting**

#### **Federal**

##### **Clean Water Act and NPDES Permit**

Section 402 of the Clean Water Act requires NPDES permits for stormwater discharges from municipal storm drain systems. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins (Central Valley RWQCB 2018) is the Central Valley RWQCB's planning document. The Central Valley RWQCB issues the municipal stormwater NPDES permits to address stormwater impairments and recommend actions. Stormwater discharges into the City's municipal stormwater drainage system are regulated by the Central Valley RWQCB under the Municipal Regional Stormwater NPDES Permit, Order No. R2-2015-0049.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act authorizes the EPA to assist jurisdictions in listing impaired waters and developing Total Maximum Daily Loads for these waterbodies. A Total Maximum Daily Load establishes the maximum levels of each pollutant allowed in a water body and serves as the starting point or planning tool for restoring water quality. In California, state and regional water boards assess water quality monitoring data for the state's surface waters every 2 years to determine if they contain pollutants at levels that exceed protective water quality standards. Water bodies and pollutants that



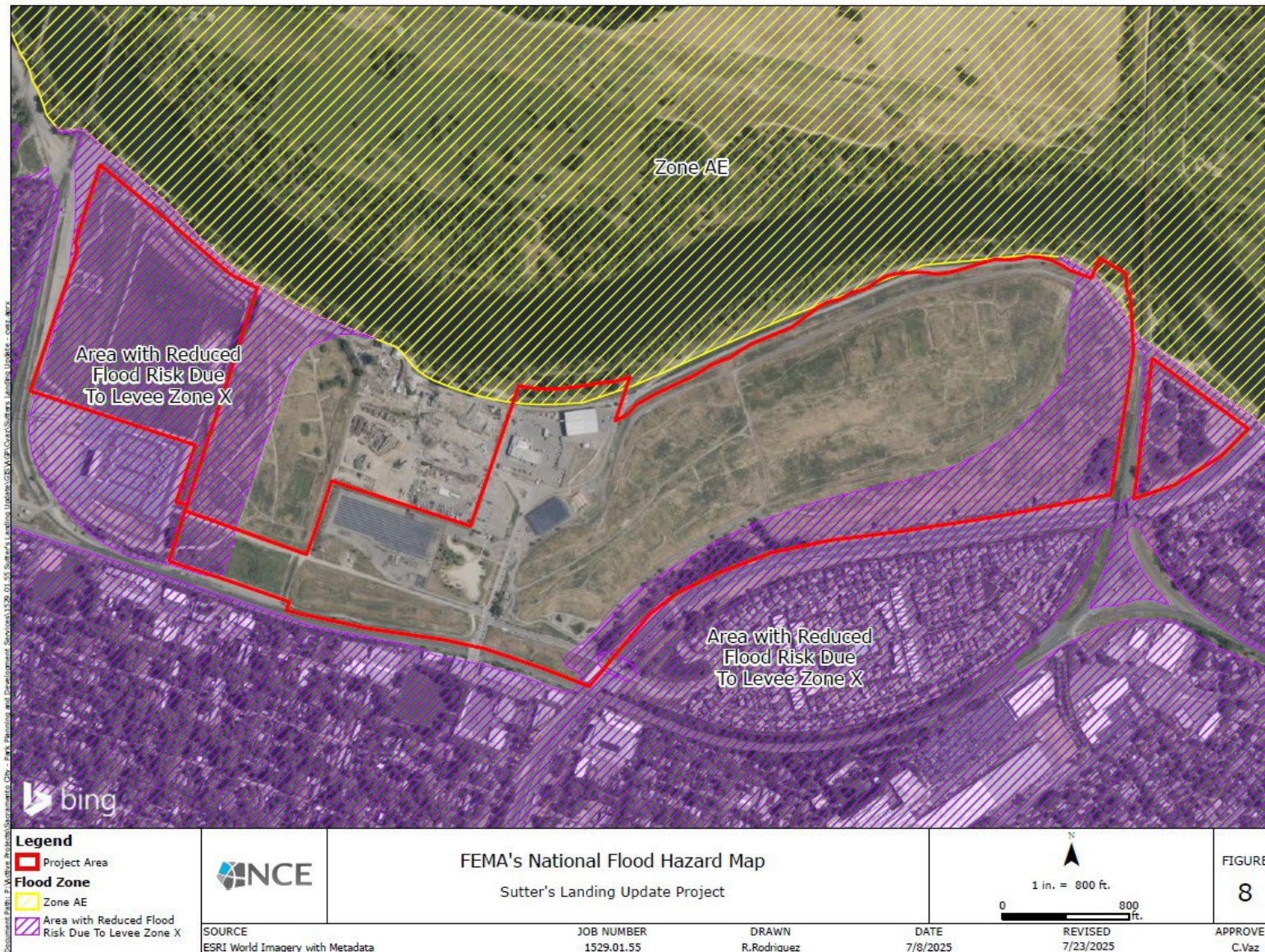


Figure 8 FEMA's National Flood Hazard Map



exceed these standards are placed on the state's 303(d) List. The determination is governed by the Water Quality Control Policy for developing California's Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List.

### **Federal Emergency Management Agency**

FEMA implements the National Flood Insurance Program. Per Section 60.3(d)(3) of the National Flood Insurance Program regulations regarding floodplain management, the placement of fill, new construction, substantial improvements, and other development within the adopted regulatory floodway cannot result in any increase in flood levels during occurrences of the base flood discharge (100-year event). The City participates in FEMA's Community Rating System program.

### **State**

#### **Statewide Construction General Permit**

If a construction project would disturb more than 1 acre, it is subject to the statewide Construction General Permit Order 2009-0009-DWQ, which regulates stormwater leaving construction sites. Under this order, site owners must notify the state and implement a SWPPP prepared by a Qualified SWPPP Developer. The SWPPP must outline measures that would protect hydrology and water quality resources, including groundwater, from negative impacts during construction through implementation of BMPs and monitoring the effectiveness of BMPs. This permit is administered by the State Water Resources Control Board and overseen by the RWQCB.

#### **4.10.3 Summary of Analysis Under the 2040 General Plan Master EIR, Including Cumulative Impacts, Growth Inducing Impacts, and Irreversible Significant Effects**

Chapter 4.10 of the Master EIR evaluates the potential effects of the 2040 General Plan as they relate to surface water, groundwater, flooding, stormwater and water quality. Potential effects include water quality degradation due to construction activities and exposure of people to flood risks (Impacts 4.10-1 through 4.10-3). Policies included in the 2040 General Plan include but are not limited to:

- Policy ERC 1.3: Runoff Contamination. The City shall protect surface water and groundwater resources from contamination from point (single location) and non-point (many diffuse locations) sources, as required by federal and State regulations.
- Policy ERC 6.1: Protection from Flood Hazards. The City shall strive to protect life, the natural environment, and property from natural hazards due to flooding.
- Policy ERC 1.4: Construction Site Impacts. The City shall require new development to minimize disturbances of natural water bodies and natural drainage systems caused by development, implement measures to protect areas from erosion and sediment loss, and continue to require construction contractors to comply with the City's erosion and sediment control ordinance and stormwater management and discharge control ordinance.
- Policy ERC 6.7: Flood Hazard Risk Evaluation. The City shall require evaluation of potential flood hazards prior to approval of development projects and shall require new development located within a Special Flood Hazard Area to be designed to meet federal and State regulations and minimize the risk of damage in the event of a flood.

The Master EIR concluded that the provisions of the 2040 General Plan will avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the Master EIR and the impacts related to soils and geology are less than significant; no mitigation measures were required.

### Standards of Significance

A significant impact would occur if future implementation of the Update would result in any of the following:

- Substantially degrade water quality and conflict with 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 operational activities.
- Substantially increase exposure of people and/or property to the risk of injury and damage in the event of a 100-year flood.

#### 4.10.4 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Determination
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	No additional significant effects
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	No Impact
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:	No additional significant effects
i. result in substantial erosion or siltation on/or off-site;	
ii. substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on/or off-site;	No additional significant effects
iii. create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	No additional significant effects
iv. impede or redirect flood flows?	No additional significant effects
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	No additional significant effects
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	No additional significant effects



#### 4.10.5 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

**a) Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?**

**No additional significant effects**

The proposed Update is a planning and policy document to guide future actions. Implementation of the Site Amenities Plan will be evaluated on a project-specific basis. However, it is not anticipated that implementation of the project will result in violations of water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. Subsequent projects must comply with the Construction General Permit, including preparation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and implementation of monitoring and reporting requirements based on project risk level. Standard best management practices (BMPs)—such as erosion control, sediment basins, soil barriers, and site contouring—would be employed to minimize runoff and prevent sediment or contaminants from entering water bodies. These BMPs would ensure compliance with the City's NPDES permit and protect surface and groundwater quality. As a result, the project is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects on groundwater or surface water not evaluated in the Master EIR.

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

**No Impact**

The amenities in the proposed Update would not involve groundwater extraction, nor the alteration of a stream or river. The City currently obtains its water supply from a combination of surface water diversions from the American and Sacramento River as well as locally extracted groundwater from the City's existing 26 groundwater wells, which places them in the general vicinity. Construction of amenities consistent with the Update are not anticipated to involve accessing below the engineered landfill cover and entering hazardous soils, thus no dewatering is anticipated during construction. Limited new areas of impervious surfaces and water uses are identified in the Update. The proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects on groundwater supply not evaluated in the Master EIR.

**c) Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:**

**i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on/or off-site?**

**No additional significant effects**

The amenities in the proposed Update would include grading and construction, primarily on previously disturbed areas, including landfills. While new impervious surfaces such as trails and courts would be added, the project would not alter the American River. Temporary construction activities could cause erosion or sediment-laden runoff. The proposed Update is a planning and policy document to guide

future actions. Implementation of the Site Amenities Plan will be evaluated on a project-specific basis which includes compliance with the City's Grading, Erosion, and Sediment Control Ordinance, NPDES permit requirements, and 2040 General Plan BMPs would minimize effects to existing drainage patterns of the area. As a result, impacts on water quality would be less than significant. The Update proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects on drainage patterns not evaluated in the Master EIR.

**ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on/or off-site?**

**No additional significant effects**

The amenities in the proposed Update would add impervious surfaces like trails, courts, and parking areas, slightly increasing runoff. However, the project would include post-construction BMPs—such as infiltration basins or pervious paving—to manage stormwater onsite. With these measures and compliance with City drainage standards, the project would not cause on/or off-site flooding. Impacts would be less than significant. The Update would approve uses anticipated in the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects on surface runoff not evaluated in the Master EIR.

**iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?**

**No additional significant effects**

Future construction activities much follow the City's Stormwater Quality Design Manual and comply with the NPDES MS4 Permit, which prohibits discharges that could harm the American River. With implementation of post-construction BMPs and adherence to stormwater standards, future amenity construction and/or operations would not overwhelm drainage systems or generate substantial polluted runoff. Therefore, the proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects on stormwater drainage systems not evaluated in the Master EIR.

**iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?**

**No additional significant effects**

Improvements to existing flood protection systems in the City would help to improve flood protection for development and redevelopment associated with the 2040 General Plan. The Sacramento area flood control agency along with the USACE have flood control projects to increase and improve flood protection in the City. USACE is planning to construct 11 miles of erosion protection along portions of the north and south banks of the American River. Therefore, the proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects on flood flows not evaluated in the Master EIR.

**d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, would the project risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?****No additional significant effects**

Sutter's Landing Regional Park is not located within a tsunami or seiche hazard zone; however, it lies adjacent to the American River and is subject to potential riverine flooding (Figure 8). While high water levels are common during winter and spring due to storm runoff and snowmelt, the area is protected by a regional flood control system that includes levees, dams, weirs, and bypass channels. Flood risks from flash, riverine, or urban stormwater events are managed through this infrastructure. Parking lots and paved trails would serve to stabilize soils capping landfill waste, thus reducing the potential for flood-related release of waste. Therefore, even in the unlikely event of inundation, the risk of pollutant release would be minimal. The proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects not evaluated in the Master EIR.

**e) Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?****No additional significant effects**

The amenities in the proposed Updates are consistent with the Sacramento–San Joaquin River Basin Plan's water quality standards and implementation programs, as well as sustainable groundwater management principles, and 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects not evaluated in the Master EIR. The project neither violates nor hinders existing water quality control efforts. The proposed Update is a planning and policy document to guide future actions. The proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects on a water quality control plan not evaluated in the Master EIR.

## 4.11 Land Use and Planning

### 4.11.1 Environmental Setting

Sutter's Landing Regional Park is located in an urbanized area characterized by a mix of residential and industrial land uses, and American River Parkway. The project area, encompassing the former 28th Street Landfill, is currently designated as Sutter's Landing Regional Park and is consistent with the land use designations of the City of Sacramento General Plan, the Parks Plan 2040 Initial Study For Subsequent Projects Under the 2040 General Plan Master EIR (City of Sacramento 2024b), the Central City Community Plan, and the American River Parkway Plan.

### 4.11.2 Summary of Analysis Under the 2040 General Plan Master EIR, Including Cumulative Impacts, Growth Inducing Impacts, and Irreversible Significant Effects

The following land use policies from the adopted 2040 General Plan are relevant to the proposed project.

- YPRO-1.3: Parkland Service Standard. The City shall evaluate, as needed, the equitable increase of public park acreage to serve the needs of the current and future residents with high-quality facilities. The City shall continue to strive to achieve a parkland service standard of 8.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, which includes neighborhood parks, community parks, regional parks, open space, and parkways.
- YPRO-1.6: Underutilized Land. As feasible, the City shall acquire, lease, or otherwise obtain rights to the use of underutilized vacant parcels for park or open space, focusing efforts first in park deficient communities.
- YPRO-1.8: Non-Conventional Park Solutions. In densely built out urban areas of the City where the provision of large park spaces is not feasible, the City shall explore creative solutions to provide neighborhood park and recreation facilities that serve the needs of local residents and employees. Such solutions may include the following:
  - Publicly accessible, privately-owned open spaces and plazas
  - Rooftop play courts and gardens
  - Freeway underpass, utility corridor, and wide landscape medians
  - Conversion of rails to trails with trails
  - Pocket parks and pedestrian areas in the public ROW
  - The provision of neighborhood and community-serving recreational facilities in regional parks
- YPRO-1.18: Integrated Parks and Recreation System. The City shall continue to provide an integrated system of parks, open space areas, and recreational facilities that are safe, connect diverse communities, acknowledge neighborhood context, protect and provide access to nature, integrate with adjacent developments, and make efficient use of land and open space.

## Standards of Significance

A significant impact would occur if future implementation of the Update would result in any of the following:

- Substantially alter an approved land use plan that would result in a physical change to the environment.

### 4.11.3 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Determination
a) Physically divide an established community?	No impact
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	No additional significant effects

### 4.11.4 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

#### a) Would the project physically divide an established community?

##### No Impact

The project area is surrounded by mixed residential and industrial uses, and the American River Parkway. The proposed Update is a planning and policy document to guide future actions. Amenities as defined in the Update would be constructed within existing parcels and would not extend roadways into surrounding areas. As proposed, the Update would include developing the public right of way, A Street, only within the project area. A Street is currently an access route for Bell Marine as well as landfill maintenance, radio tower maintenance, and solar maintenance. Construction-related activity along A Street from the proposed project may potentially disrupt the existing transportation network in the surrounding project area. Implementation of the construction traffic control plan (consistent with City Code 12.20.030) would involve measures that would further reduce the potential for impacts associated with construction traffic by designating circulation routes and waiting areas for trucks. The proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects on an established community not evaluated in the Master EIR.

#### b) Would the project cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

##### No additional significant effects

The proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan, Central City Community Plan, Parks Plan 2040, the American River Parkway Plan, and zoning for the project area, and no amendments or changes to respective plans or zoning are required. Future projects consistent with the Update would occur within areas designated for parks and open space. Future construction pursuant to the Update would

help achieve the parks and recreation goals to convert the closed landfill sites to a fully functioning regional park, while respecting the goals and policies of the aforementioned land use plans to mitigate any potential environmental effect and the proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects on any land use plan not evaluated in the Master EIR.



## 4.12 Mineral Resources

### 4.12.1 Environmental Setting

Existing mineral extraction activities in and around Sacramento include fine (sand) and coarse (gravel) construction aggregates, synthetic graphite, as well as clay. With one exception west of the Union Pacific Railroad (City of Sacramento 2020), there are no permitted mining operations or oil production areas within the City. The Bell Marine Industrial Aggregate and Concrete Recycling facility is adjacent to the park and accessed from 28<sup>th</sup> Street, but it is not a mining operation. The facility specializes in recycling concrete and asphalt into aggregates for industrial use. There are no mineral extraction zones identified in on City Zoning map.

### 4.12.2 Regulatory Setting

#### Sacramento City Code

The Surface Mining and Reclamation chapter of the City Code containing the comprehensive surface mining and reclamation policies and regulations is currently found in Chapter 17.720 of the City Code.

### 4.12.3 Summary of Analysis Under the 2040 General Plan Master EIR, Including Cumulative Impacts, Growth Inducing Impacts, and Irreversible Significant Effects

The 2040 General Plan Master EIR identified Impact 4.7-3 and Impact 4.7.4, that implementation of the 2040 General Plan could result in the loss of a known mineral resource or designated locally important mineral resource recovery sites that would be of value to the region and the state. However, Chapter 17.194 of the City Code provides comprehensive surface mining and reclamation requirements that include conservation of minerals and mineral resources. The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) further provides the regulatory framework for surface mining and reclamation policies to ensure that adverse environmental effects are prevented from mining activities but also encourages conservation of minerals through land use planning that allows a balance of resource reclamation with other land use needs. Therefore, adherence to SMARA and the City Code would promote compatibility with surrounding land uses for both future and existing mineral production activities and prevent development that would limit these activities. The provisions of the 2040 General Plan identified above will avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the Master EIR and the impact is less than significant.

#### Standards of Significance

A significant impact would occur if future implementation of the Update would result in any of the following:

- Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and residents of the state.
- Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan.

**4.12.4 CEQA Checklist Summary**

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Determination
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	No Impact
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	No Impact

**4.12.5 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions**

**a) Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?**

**No Impact**

The project area is not located within an active mineral resource extraction area. There are no active mining operations or designated MRZ-2 mineral resource zones within or near the project area. The Bell Marine is an industrial recycling facility, not a mining operation, and there are no mineral resources other than that contained in the construction waste brought to the facility for recycling. Therefore, the project would not affect any known mineral resources, and no impacts are anticipated.

**b) Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?**

**No Impact**

Within the City, projects near mining activities are required to be compatible with such activities, and buffers and setbacks are required from areas classified as MRZ-2 (mineral resource zone with significant existing or likely mineral deposits). No existing mining activities are located within the project area or vicinity. There are no areas designated as MRZ-2 within the project area or vicinity. The Bell Marine Industrial Aggregate and Concrete Recycling facility is adjacent to the park and accessed from 28<sup>th</sup> Street, but it is not a mining operation. The project would result in no impact on mineral resources.

## 4.13 Noise

Noise is defined as a sound or series of sounds that are intrusive, objectional, or disruptive to daily life. Noise levels are measured in order to regulate ambient noise and protect residents from exposure to excessive noise. Different land uses have different acceptability levels in terms of noise disturbance. For example, industrial uses have a higher noise threshold than residential uses. Noise standards provide a means of assessing exposure and compatibility based on specific uses.

### 4.13.1 Environmental Setting

#### Vehicular Traffic

Although there are many noise sources within the City of Sacramento, the primary noise source is vehicular traffic. Several major freeways traverse the project area, including Interstate 5, Interstate 80, U.S. Highway 50, State Route 99, and State Route 160. Within the project area there are also many local roads that experience high traffic volumes and contribute to traffic noise during peak hours of traffic. Existing 24-hour noise levels have been calculated for various freeways, highways, and road segments throughout the project area, based on noise emission levels for different vehicles.

#### Aircraft and Railways

Significant noise occurs from airplane traffic and railways. The project area is served by 4 public airports- Sacramento International Airport, Executive Airport, McClellan Airfield, and Mather Airport- and one private airport, Rio Linda airport. Rail lines cross through the project area in a few locations. Union Pacific Railroad rights of way traverse south of the project area running parallel to the south side of the park, on the western side of the park, the eastern side of the park, and over the American River. Aside from freight trains, Amtrak passenger trains arrive and depart from the Amtrak station located in downtown Sacramento. In addition to the noise generated by the trains themselves, noise is generated where trains intersect roadways by the warning bells used to alert motorists of a train's arrival. Light rail transit, which is a major component of the City's transit system, runs through the City along 3 routes and contributes to ambient noise.

#### Ambient Daytime Noise

To document existing ambient daytime noise levels, 10 different locations were selected to determine representative noise levels for certain sources in various portions of the project area. The locations selected and their ambient noise levels are provided in Chapter 7 of the 2040 General Plan Technical Background Report (TBR). The Project area includes areas designated as parks within the M-2 (Industrial) and A-O (Agricultural-Open) zoning districts. Although industrial zones such as M-2 allow exterior noise levels up to 75 dBA Ldn and A-O zones up to 55 dBA during the day and 50 dBA at night, parks are considered noise-sensitive land uses under CEQA. As such, applicable thresholds for parks should not exceed 70 dBA Ldn to ensure compatibility with recreational use and to protect public health and enjoyment. Noise generated by the Project should be evaluated against this standard, regardless of underlying zoning allowances. During the long-term monitoring, the primary background noise source affecting the monitoring locations was vehicular traffic on the local roadway network, including freeways. Additional noise sources experienced during the long-term noise monitoring period included

light-rail transit operations, aircraft over-flights and general community noise. Ambient noise level exposure at the monitoring locations were generally dependent on the relative exposure to nearby transportation noise sources.

### Industrial Noise

The project area contains industrial land uses that generate noise from the operation of cement and asphalt recycling equipment, and the use of large vehicles to haul the materials in and out of the site.

### Vibration

Typical outdoor sources of perceptible ground vibration are construction equipment, trains, and traffic on rough roads. Construction activities can generate groundborne vibrations, which can pose a risk to nearby structures, at distances typically less than 15 feet. Constant or transient vibrations can weaken structures, crack facades, and disturb occupants.

### Sensitive Receptors

Sensitive land uses are located within approximately 300 feet south of Sutter's Landing Park and include residential neighborhoods in the New Era Park community, Miwok Middle School located at 3150 I Street, and local child care facilities within the broader Midtown and East Sacramento area. These land uses are considered sensitive receptors under CEQA due to their potential vulnerability to environmental impacts such as noise, air quality degradation, and traffic-related effects.

#### **4.13.2 Summary of Analysis Under the 2040 General Plan Master EIR, Including Cumulative Impacts, Growth Inducing Impacts, and Irreversible Significant Effects**

The Master EIR evaluated the potential for development under the 2040 General Plan to increase noise levels in the community (Chapter 4.11). New noise sources include vehicular traffic, aircraft, railways, light rail and stationary sources. The General Plan policies establish exterior (Policy ERC 10.1) and interior (ERC 10.3) noise standards. A variety of policies provide standards for the types of development envisioned in the General Plan. See Policy ERC 10.2: Noise Source Control. The City should require noise impacts in new developments to be controlled at the noise source where feasible, as opposed to the receptor end, using techniques including but not limited to the following:

- Site design
- Building orientation
- Building design
- Hours of operation
- Policy ERC 10.4: Interior Noise Review for Multiple, Loud, Short-Term Events.

In cases where new development is proposed in areas subject to frequent, high-noise events (such as aircraft over-flights, or train and truck pass-bys), the City shall evaluate interior noise impacts at existing sensitive receptors. The evaluation shall incorporate measures necessary to meet the 45 dBA Ldn standard; and Policy ERC 10.9: Construction Noise Controls. The City shall limit the potential noise impacts of construction activities on surrounding land uses through noise regulations in the City Code

that address permitted days and hours of construction, types of work, construction equipment, and sound attenuation devices. Notwithstanding application of the General Plan policies, noise impacts for ambient noise levels (Impact 4.11-1 and Impact 4.11-2), were found to be significant and unavoidable. However, regarding excessive groundborne vibration and noise, Impact 4.11-3: Implementation of the 2040 General Plan would result in less than significant impacts.

### Standards of Significance

A significant impact would occur if future implementation of the Update would result in any of the following:

- Generate a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance.
- Generate excessive groundborne vibration or noise levels.
- Expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels if the project is located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan, or where such as plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport.

#### 4.13.3 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project result in:

CEQA Question	Determination
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	No additional significant effects
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	No additional significant effects
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	No Impact

#### 4.13.4 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

**a) Would the project result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?**

##### No additional significant effects

The proposed Update is a planning and policy document to guide future actions. Construction activities associated with implementing the proposed project may require heavy equipment for grading, paving, and construction of associated facilities. Noise levels at construction sites can vary from 65 dBA to a maximum of nearly 90 dBA when heavy equipment is used nearby. Construction noise would be

intermittent, and noise levels would vary depending on the type of construction activity. Construction noise may be audible to nearby residents and in excess of existing noise levels experienced at the park. In addition, if construction activities were to occur during more noise-sensitive hours, construction source noise levels could also result in annoyance and/or sleep disruption to occupants of existing and proposed noise-sensitive land uses. However, construction noise during the project from equipment operation and backup alarms would be temporary and must comply with Master EIR mitigation measure **NOI-1: Construction Noise**.

The proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects on ambient noise not evaluated in the Master EIR.

**b) Would the project result in generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?**

**No additional significant effects**

The proposed Update is a planning and policy document to guide future actions. Activities associated with implementing the proposed project, such as construction transportation, may result in vibration sources, which would be unlikely to expose sensitive receptors to levels exceeding recommended thresholds of significance. The proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects on groundborne vibration or noise levels not evaluated in the Master EIR.

**c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?**

**No Impact**

There are no airports within the vicinity of the project area. The project area is served by 4 public airports—Sacramento International Airport, Executive Airport, McClellan Airfield, and Mather Airport—and one private airport, Rio Linda Airport, all located approximately 9.5 to 18.6 miles from the project area. Therefore, the project would not expose construction workers to excessive aircraft noise.



## 4.14 Population and Housing

### 4.14.1 Environmental Setting

Projected buildout of the proposed 2040 General Plan would result in Sacramento's population growing to approximately 638,433 by 2040. This is an increase of 165,740 residents when compared to the estimated population of 472,693 in 2018. The proposed 2040 General Plan includes goals and policies designed to support a compact urban footprint, infill development, along with well-planned development that accommodates the growing needs of the City while also emphasizing complete neighborhoods. Proposed Goal LUP-3 would encourage development in opportunity areas, and proposed Policies LUP-3.2 through LUP-3.6 would ensure that the City regulates the levels of building intensity according to the standards and land use designations set out in the 2040 General Plan. Goal LUP-6 would emphasize the neighborhood as a planning unit, emphasizing complete neighborhoods that offer a range of residential densities and housing types.

### 4.14.2 Summary of Analysis Under the 2040 General Plan Master EIR, Including Cumulative Impacts, Growth Inducing Impacts, and Irreversible Significant Effects

The 2040 General Plan and Master EIR addressed overall population, employment, and housing for the City. The parkland service standard was established to meet the needs of the residential population as it grows over time. The issues related to population, employment and housing are addressed in the various environmental resources topics throughout the Master EIR but are not identified directly as an impact on the environment.

The following population and housing policies from the adopted 2040 General Plan are relevant to the proposed project.

- YPRO-1.3: Parkland Service Standard. The City shall evaluate, as needed, the equitable increase of public park acreage to serve the needs of the current and future residents with high-quality facilities. The City shall continue to strive to achieve a parkland service standard of 8.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, which includes neighborhood parks, community parks, regional parks, open space, and parkways.
- YPRO-1. 9: Timing of Services. The City shall monitor the pace and location of new development through the development review process and long-range planning efforts to strive to ensure that development of parks, recreation programming, and community-serving facilities and services keeps pace with growth.

### Standards of Significance

A significant impact would occur if future implementation of the Update would result in the following:

- Induce substantial growth that is inconsistent with the approved land use plan for the area or displace existing affordable housing.

#### 4.14.3 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Determination
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	No Impact
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	No Impact

#### 4.14.4 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

**a) Would the project induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?**

**No Impact**

Future implementation of the proposed Update would not induce population growth directly by adding new housing or commercial uses, or indirectly by adding new infrastructure. The addition of the western parcels adds parkland acreage to serve the needs of the current and future residents. Therefore, the project would have no impact.

**b) Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?**

**No Impact**

The project area is an existing designated regional park. There are no homes located within the regional park. The proposed project does not propose any removal of existing housing or new development or infrastructure that would result in displacement of people or housing and would therefore not require construction or replacement of housing elsewhere. Therefore, the project would have no impact.

## 4.15 Public Services

### 4.15.1 Environmental Setting

#### Fire Protection

The Sacramento Fire Department (SFD) provides fire protection and emergency medical services (EMS) to the entire City, which includes approximately 101 square miles within the existing City limits, as well as 2 contract areas that include 47.1 square miles within the unincorporated County, adjacent to the City. Fire stations are strategically located throughout the City to provide assistance to area residents and businesses. The closest fire station to the project area is SFD Station 2, located at 1229 I Street, Sacramento. Although each fire station operates within a specific response district encompassing the immediate geographical area around the station, all of the Sacramento County fire agencies (SFD, Sacramento Metro Fire District, Sacramento International Airport Fire, Cosumnes Fire District, and the Folsom Fire Department) share an automatic aid agreement so that the closest fire unit responds regardless of jurisdiction.

#### Police Protection

Police protection services are provided by the Sacramento Police Department (SPD) for areas within the City. The closest SPD station to the project area is the Central Station, officially known as the 300 Richards Facility located at 300 Richards Boulevard, Sacramento.

#### Emergency Services

The City and County both implement programs to facilitate emergency preparedness. Specifically, the City of Sacramento Multi-Hazard Emergency Plan addresses the City's planned response to extraordinary emergency situations associated with natural disasters, technological incidents, and nuclear defense operations for areas within the City's jurisdictional boundaries. It provides operational concepts related to various emergency situations, identifies components of the local emergency management organization, and describes the City's overall responsibilities for protecting life and property during an emergency. The plan also identifies possible sources of outside support (through mutual aid and specific statutory authorities) from other jurisdictions, and the private sector.

The Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, a multijurisdictional plan that aims to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people or property from natural disasters and their effects, is also applicable to the City of Sacramento and areas that are outside of the City. Both plans provide an overview of operational concepts, identify components of the County's and City's emergency management organization within the Standardized Emergency Management System, and describe the overall responsibilities of Federal, State, and local agencies for protecting life and property and assuring the overall well-being of the population.

### 4.15.2 Summary of Analysis Under the 2040 General Plan Master EIR, Including Cumulative Impacts, Growth Inducing Impacts, and Irreversible Significant Effects

The Master EIR evaluated the potential effects of the 2040 General Plan on various public services. These include parks (Chapter 4.12) and police, fire protection, schools, libraries and emergency services.

The 2040 General Plan policies include measures to accommodate for growth and increased service demands. Specifically, Policy PFS-1.9 (Equipment, Facilities, and Staffing) calls for the City to locate and maintain police and fire equipment, facilities, and staffing at locations and levels that allow for effective service delivery. Policy PFS-1.14 (Timing of Services) mandates that development of police and fire facilities and delivery of services keep pace with development and growth within the City. Policy PFS-1.10 (Co-Location of Facilities) seeks to co-locate police facilities with other City facilities, such as fire stations, to promote efficient use of space and provision of police protection services within dense, urban portions of the project area. The City would also work collaboratively with the community and other agencies to provide effective police service, in compliance with Policy PFS-1.1 (Crime and Law Enforcement).

### Standards of Significance

A significant impact would occur if future implementation of the Update would result in any of the following:

- Require, or result in, the construction of new or expanded facilities related to the provision of police or fire protection, such that a significant environmental impact could result.
- Generate students that would exceed the design capacity of existing or planned schools that would result in the need for new or physically altered school facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts.
- Require, or result in, the construction of new or expanded facilities related to the provision of library services, such that a significant environmental impact could result.
- Cause or accelerate a substantial physical deterioration of existing area parks or recreational facilities.
- Result in new facilities, the construction and operation of which could cause substantial adverse effects on the physical environment.

#### 4.15.3 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Determination
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services: i) Fire protection? ii) Police protection? iii) Schools? iv) Parks? v) Other public facilities?	No additional significant effects

**4.15.4 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions**

**a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the need and/or provision of new or physically altered governmental services and/or facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services?**

- i) Fire protection?**
- ii) Police protection?**
- iii) Schools**
- iv) Parks?**
- v) Other public facilities?**

**No additional significant effects**

The 2003 Site Plan's concession stand/ranger station will provide for additional community protection provisions within the project area and the adjacent American River Parkway. Future improvements consistent with the proposed Update would not result in a substantial increase in the need for new fire or police protection services or facilities. Construction workers and future visitors to the site were anticipated in the growth projections in the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR, and therefore the minor added demand on police, fire and emergency services was considered. No housing or commercial/industrial uses are proposed that would create a need for new school, library, or other public facilities. Therefore, the proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects on government services not evaluated in the Master EIR.

## 4.16 Recreation

### 4.16.1 Environmental Setting

The Department of Youth, Parks, and Community Enrichment (YPCE) maintains more than 4,368 acres of parkland, and manages more than 237 parks, recreation, parkway and open space sites, 571 athletic/sports facilities, 628 outdoor recreation facilities, 77 indoor/specialized facilities, 96 garden/natural facilities, 136 sites with trails, and 449 facilities or amenities.

Several facilities within the City of Sacramento are owned or operated by other jurisdictions, such as the County of Sacramento, the State of California, and Sacramento City Unified School District. The City of Sacramento Parks Plan 2040 guides park development managed by the City.

YPCE generally categorizes parks according to 5 distinct park types:

1. **Regional Parks:** YPCE's regional parks stand out because of their size. The multi-use regional parks can contain more regional attractions, such as large sports complexes or golf courses. The City's most unique regional park is a cultural attraction known as Camp Sacramento that provides nature-based recreation programs to City residents from its location in El Dorado County.
2. **Community Parks:** YPCE's community parks are located throughout the City, with a wide range of sizes, community centers, facilities or amenities, and functions including specialized sports facilities and lighted sports courts.
3. **Neighborhood Parks:** Neighborhood parks are the most common type of park, ranging from 0.09 acres to 12.61 acres in size. While they are the most prevalent park classification, they are also deficient in underserved areas of the city.
4. **Parkways:** There are multiple types of parkways across the City. All parkways contain shared use paths; some feature artwork, gardens, river/beach access, and picnic areas. A select few offer sports recreation facilities such as basketball, soccer, and volleyball.
5. **Open Space:** YPCE's open space areas located throughout the city. Hansen Ranch is the largest of the sites, covering 265.9 acres in North Sacramento, and is a nature preserve closed to the public to protect habitat.

In addition to YPCE-managed park sites, Sacramento residents are served by several other parks, recreation sites, and open spaces managed by other providers. These exist inside City boundaries, as well as on the peripheries. These include existing parks owned or managed by other public and private providers such as Sacramento County Department of Parks and Recreation's American River Parkway, and State of California's Capital Park.

Level of service (LOS) is a metric that describes the amount, magnitude, or quality of services provided. It is measured differently for land, facilities, programs, and services. Parkland level of service (LOS) is described in these terms: parkland acreage per 1,000 residents. It typically distinguishes between an existing level of service, which is based on the current acreage and population, versus a level of service that is desired in the future. The City of Sacramento's level of service at the time of drafting the 2040 General Plan was 9.16 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents, given the number of acres of all



parkland to the number of residents. The City's goal for level of service standard is 8.5 acres per 1,000 residents to maintain until 2040, which reflects a sustainable approach to acquiring and maintaining parkland.

The Parks Plan 2040 defines park amenities and facilities as follows:

- **Amenities:** Amenities are support features that facilitate the comfort, functionality, and use of parks. These include elements such as restrooms, parking lots, trash receptacles, benches, tables, barbecues, lighting, bike racks, drinking fountains, art, signage, etc.
- **Facilities:** Facilities are outdoor elements or buildings that provide recreation opportunities in parks. Facilities are classified in 5 categories: athletic and sports facilities (e.g., sports fields and courts); outdoor recreation facilities (e.g., playgrounds, picnic shelters, dog parks); major and specialized facilities (e.g., community centers, pools, and golf courses); gardens and natural features (e.g., community gardens and river access points), and trails.

Not meeting the service level goal is not considered a CEQA impact because it would not result in a physical change in the environment. It may suggest the need for new or expanded parks so that physical deterioration of existing parks and recreational facilities would not be accelerated.

#### **4.16.2 Summary of Analysis Under the 2040 General Plan Master EIR, Including Cumulative Impacts, Growth Inducing Impacts, and Irreversible Significant Effects**

Chapter 4.12 of the Master EIR considered the effects of the 2040 General Plan on the City's existing parkland, urban forest, recreational facilities and recreational services. Policy YPRO-1. 1: Range of Experiences. The City shall provide a range of parks and recreational facilities and strive to ensure an equitable distribution of high-quality facilities throughout Sacramento.

- **Policy YPRO-1.6: Underutilized Land.** As feasible, the City shall acquire, lease, or otherwise obtain rights to the use of odd-shaped or underutilized parcels for park or open space, focusing efforts first in underserved disadvantaged communities.
- **Policy YPRO-1.11: Enhancing Access to Parks.** The City shall pursue strategies that increase community access to parks and recreational facilities, including the following:
  - Expanding joint-use agreements with schools and educational institutions.
  - Removing physical barriers to access (e.g., fences); and
  - Providing a choice of legible and navigable routes to and from park areas through the installation of new or improved multi-use shared paths, wayfinding signage, and coordination with public transit.
- **Policy YPRO-1.12: Parks Programming.** The City shall continue to create high-quality, inclusive programming that encourages the use of the park facilities by a variety of users, including older adults, youth, and people with disabilities throughout the day and evenings. Programming should include the following:
  - Organized sports
  - Fitness

- Youth workforce development
- Volunteer activities, and
- Arts and cultural activities catering to the interests of the community that the park facilities serve. Opportunities should be taken to incorporate local Native American heritage and culture.

The Master EIR concluded that the provisions of the 2040 General Plan will avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the Master EIR and the impact is less than significant; no mitigation measures were required.

### Standards of Significance

A significant impact would occur if future implementation of the Update would result in any 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 2040 General Plan.

#### 4.16.3 CEQA Checklist Summary

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	No additional significant effects
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	No additional significant effects

#### 4.16.4 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

**a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?**

##### **No additional significant effects**

The provision of new facilities and facilities or amenities pursuant to the Update would increase the use at the park consistent with the anticipated growth in city population. The Update incorporates an additional 38 acres to the west of the existing park boundary, with new facilities or amenities and facilities including garden/art walks, nature play area, outdoor fitness equipment, community gathering spaces, art/signage, group picnic areas, multi-use courts, all-weather or low water turf fields, secured paved and gravel parking lots, community event space to act as overflow parking when needed, vista points, river lookout areas, bike pump track, resting points with seating, small play area for children,

asphalt trails, and native grasslands. Physical environmental effects related to construction and operation of these new facilities and amenities are analyzed within the various resource topic areas of this Initial Study. The Update enhances the park for residents, and the internal document, "Feasibility Report Guidebook" provides staff a guide for ongoing guidance and management to avoid substantial physical deterioration of the site. Because the park is also actively managed by regulatory agencies to ensure no landfill exposure occurs, this park would not be allowed to deteriorate due to public safety concerns.

The Update would have beneficial impacts on recreation for the city. The Master EIR concluded that the provisions of the 2040 General Plan will avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the Master EIR and the impact on recreation is less than significant; no mitigation measures were required.

**b) Would the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?**

**No additional significant effects**

The Update would not introduce any new residents or commercial/industrial uses which would increase the demand for recreational facilities beyond what was envisioned in the 2040 General Plan, and the project would include construction of recreational facilities as envisioned in the General Plan. The proposed project will add to the City's recreational opportunities for the region. The Master EIR concluded that the provisions of the 2040 General Plan will avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the Master EIR and the impact on recreation is less than significant; no mitigation measures were required.

## 4.17 Transportation

### 4.17.1 Environmental Setting

#### Roadways and Access

Major roadways can be used to access the project site from either Interstate 5 or Business Loop 80. The direct access to the park is at the northern end of 28<sup>th</sup> Street and from McKinley Village Way. The entrance to the park at 28<sup>th</sup> Street is at a controlled railroad crossing with crossing arms, and travels over two sets of railroad tracks. Most of this entrance has been improved as a 2 lane roadway with trees in planters spaced along the edge to the covered parking area. The roadway passes the controlled entrances to the Harbor Sand and Gravel Yard and the City's Corporation Yard up to the 28<sup>th</sup> Street Skate Park and Two Rivers Trail access parking area.

Commercial gravel trucks share this entrance along 28th Street. These large trucks carry material to the Harbor Sand and Gravel Yard, located in the west of the City's Corporation Yard. Public access to the Harbor Sand and Gravel Yard is restricted. City vehicle traffic also enters the Corporation Yard parking lot and maintenance bays through a guard post at the entrance.

Vehicle access on the levee is gated to restrict unauthorized vehicles. Vehicular access on WMU A & B is restricted by a gate near the flare station. From that point, maintenance vehicles can drive around the perimeter of WMU A and access the top of WMU A. A Street is currently an unimproved access route for Bell Marine as well as landfill maintenance, radio tower maintenance, and solar maintenance.

#### Vehicle Miles

Traveled Use of the roadway system is relevant for transportation impact analysis because the amount of vehicle miles travelled (VMT) determines how much fuel is consumed and how much air pollutant and GHG emissions are generated from vehicle use. VMT can also be used to assess safety because dense urban areas with low VMT have lower crash incidences and severity than low density auto-centric communities (Dumbaugh and Ewing 2009). This outcome is due to fewer miles being driven per person at much lower speeds in the dense urban areas. VMT generation rates for households and workers are presented in Table 4.14-1. This data compares Sacramento to the Sacramento Area Council of Governments or SACOG region performance.

#### Transit System

There are two bus routes that use Business 80 near the park site. These bus routes are #67 and #68. There are no light rail stations within proximity to the park site, although they can be accessed through the bus system.

#### Bicycle and Pedestrian

Bicycle and pedestrian traffic is limited to routes from 28<sup>th</sup> Street and McKinley Village Way, the parking lots at the 28th Street Skate Park, dog park and solar shaded parking lot, and shared use paths.

Pedestrians and bicyclists use the Two Rivers Trail and the Sutter's Landing Park Bikeway between the park and adjacent neighborhoods to the east, and to the west the Sacramento Northern Bike Trail meets

the future phase of the Two Rivers Trail. Alternately, people recreating on the American River may access the park from the beach in the Parkway.

#### **4.17.2 Summary of Analysis Under the 2040 General Plan Master EIR, Including Cumulative Impacts, Growth Inducing Impacts, and Irreversible Significant Effects**

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 2040 General Plan on the public transportation system. All impacts on Transportation were found to be less than significant with the application of the 2040 General Plan Mobility Goals and Policies.

Implementation of the 2040 General Plan would result in a 17.2% reduction in passenger vehicle VMT per capita compared to the Citywide baseline. This exceeds the 16.8% reduction established as the City's VMT impact threshold. The VMT performance is consistent with 2040 General Plan Goals M-1 and M-2 plus the supporting policies, M 1.11 (Increase Bicycling and Walking), M 1.20 (High-Frequency Transit Service), M 1.22 (Increase Transit Ridership), M 2.1 (Transportation Demand Management), M 2.2 (Wider Participation), M 2.14 (Parking Supply), M 2.17 (Parking Management Strategy), and land use Policy LUP 1.1 (Compact Urban Footprint).

The 2040 General Plan and associated CMP contain policy support for additional actions such as parking management, active mode network expansion, and transit service improvements (beyond what was modeled in the analysis) that could support higher levels of walking, bicycling, and transit if needed to achieve the 2045 target (see 2040 General Plan Policies M 2.14 and M 2.17 plus CMP measures TR-1 and TR-2).

#### **Standards of Significance**

A significant impact would occur if implementation of the Update would result in any of the following outcomes.

- Result in less than a 16.8% reduction of passenger vehicle VMT per capita compared to the Citywide baseline.
- Adversely affect existing and planned public transit facilities or services or fail to adequately provide access to transit.
- Adversely affect existing and planned bicycle facilities or fail to adequately provide access by bicycle.
- Adversely affect existing pedestrian facilities or fail to adequately provide access by pedestrians.

**4.17.3 CEQA Checklist Summary**

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Determination
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	No Impact
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	No additional significant effects
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	No Impact
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	No Impact

**4.17.4 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions**

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

**No Impact**

The Update proposes to open and extend A Street west from McKinley Village Road at 28<sup>th</sup> Street to the SMUD site, improve paved and unpaved pedestrian trails and maintenance roads in compliance with the 2040 General Plan Mobility Element goals and policies to enhance bicycle and pedestrian access. The Update would not result in a conflict with a program plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities. All proposed circulation is identified within the regional park boundaries. The proposed Update is therefore consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects not evaluated in the Master EIR.

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

**No additional significant effects**

As discussed in the Regulatory Setting section, CEQA Guidelines § 15064.3, subdivision (b) pertains to use of VMT to analyze transportation impacts. Construction equipment and worker vehicles would generate vehicle trips during future construction activities, which would be temporary and a minor addition to existing VMT during site specific construction activities. Buildout of the regional park facilities was anticipated in the Master EIR traffic analysis, therefore there are no new operational impacts not previously considered. The Master EIR concluded that the provisions of the 2040 General Plan will avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the Master EIR and the impact is less than significant; no mitigation measures were required.



**c) Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?****No Impact**

The proposed Update would add park amenities within an additional 38 acres to the west of the existing park boundary and add trails and access throughout the regional park. It does not propose new features which would increase hazards due to a design feature or incompatible uses and has been designed to be compatible with existing landfill constraints. Therefore, the proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects not evaluated in the Master EIR.

**d) Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?****No Impact**

The circulation plan outlined in the Update would not alter existing emergency access routes or change existing patterns of emergency access outside the project area, nor would construction require closures of public roads, which could inhibit access by emergency vehicles. The proposed circulation design would open and extend A Street west from McKinley Village Road at 28th Street to the SMUD site to provide access to planned facilities in this area and improve paved and unpaved pedestrian trails which would facilitate emergency access in the event of an emergency at the park. All roadways and parking lots would be required to adhere to state and local building code requirements including Fire Code requirements which include design measures for emergency access, turning radii of emergency response vehicles, as well as site ingress and egress. Therefore, the proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects not evaluated in the Master EIR.

## 4.18 Tribal Cultural Resources

### 4.18.1 Environmental Setting

Tribal cultural resources, as defined by AB 52, Statutes of 2014, in PRC Section 21074, are sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects, with cultural value to a tribe. A tribal cultural landscape is defined as a geographic area (including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife therein), associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values. The unanticipated find of Native American human remains would also be considered a tribal cultural resource.

The Project Area is located within a region historically and culturally associated with the Nisenan and Plains Miwok tribes, among other Indigenous communities such as the Patwin, Wintun, and Yokut. These tribes maintain ongoing cultural and ancestral ties to the land and its resources. Numerous archaeological sites have been recorded within the Planning Area, though much of the area remains unsurveyed. Not all archaeological resources are considered Tribal Cultural Resources (TCRs), and not all TCRs are archaeological in nature; therefore, consultation with culturally affiliated tribes is essential to their identification and protection. In accordance with Assembly Bill (AB) 52, the City of Sacramento initiated formal consultation with tribes in 2018 as part of the 2040 General Plan Update process. The United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) and Wilton Rancheria requested consultation, which remains ongoing. The City has engaged in regular meetings with tribal representatives since 2020 to gather input on cultural resources, refine the cultural context, and revise sensitive or outdated content in the Technical Background Report (TBR). The consultation process is continuing, with tribal feedback informing updates to policies and environmental documentation related to TCRs.

### 4.18.2 Regulatory Setting

#### Federal Regulations

Federal plans, policies, or regulations related to tribal cultural resources that are directly applicable to the proposed project do not exist. However, if federal funding is provided for any subsequent projects within the project area, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires consultation with Native Americans to identify and consider certain types of cultural resources. Cultural resources of Native American origin identified as a result of the identification efforts conducted under Section 106 may also qualify as tribal cultural resources under CEQA.

#### Native American Consultation

Effective January 1, 2015, CEQA was revised to include early consultation between local agencies and California Native American tribes, and to include the consideration of Tribal Cultural Resources (TCRs) in this consultation. Pursuant to AB 52 (PRC 21074[a]), a TCR means either of the following:

Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either of the following:

1. Included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources

2. Included in a local register of historical resources as defined in PRC Section 5020.1, subdivision (k)

#### **4.18.3 Summary of Analysis Under the 2040 General Plan Master EIR, Including Cumulative Impacts, Growth Inducing Impacts, and Irreversible Significant Effects**

The Master EIR (Chapter 4.15) evaluated the potential effects of development under the 2040 General Plan on prehistoric and historic resources, identifying significant and unavoidable effects on historic resources and archaeological resources, some of which could be tribal cultural resources as defined by PRC Section 21074.

Cumulative effects of construction pursuant to the 2040 General Plan has been identified and evaluated in the Master EIR. The proposed Update does not identify or approve any new physical development. Ground-disturbing activities resulting from park development consistent with the Update would result in disturbance that could potentially affect tribal cultural resources, but the effect would be site-specific.

General Plan policies identified as reducing such effects on cultural resources that may also be tribal cultural resources include identification of resources on project area, implementation of applicable laws and regulations; consultation with appropriate organizations and individuals including the NAHC and implementation of their consultation guidelines; enforcement programs to promote the maintenance, rehabilitation, preservation, and interpretation of the City's historic resources; listing of qualified historic resources under appropriate national, State, and local registers; consideration of historic and cultural resources in planning studies; enforcement of compliance with local, State, and federal historic and cultural preservation requirements; and early consultation with owners and land developers to minimize effects. See 2040 General Plan, Chapter 4, Historic and Cultural Resources.

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

#### **Standards of Significance**

A significant impact would occur if future implementation of the Update would result in any of the following:

- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 and that is listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources.
- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, as defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 that is a resource determined by the lead agency to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, including consideration of the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

**4.18.4 CEQA Checklist Summary**

CEQA Question	Determination
a) 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: i. Listed or eligible for listing in California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k), or	No Impact
ii. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	No Impact

**4.18.5 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions**

**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:**

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

**No Impact**

The records search identified a prehistoric mound within the Project area. The site, when originally recorded in 1934, was noted to be leveled or destroyed. The site was not relocated during attempts in 1973, 1974, 1983, and 1995. Flint and Bevill (1995) recorded that the location of the site has experienced extensive disturbance from the development of the adjacent landfill, construction of the Elvas Freeway and segment of the American River Levee System. Given the lack of found artifacts/features and loss of integrity at the site location, this resource would not be able convey significance for eligibility for listing in the California Register of Historic Resources. Once projects consistent with the Update are designed and proposed for approval, site specific review will be required prior to project approval. The 2040 General Plan and Master EIR recognized that unanticipated cultural resources could be uncovered during any construction activities, although the likelihood in this location is low considering the depth of the cap materials. Therefore, the proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects not evaluated in the Master EIR.

**ii. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?**

**No Impact**

As stated above, there is one recorded prehistoric mound in the project area. Given that there are no features remaining, there is nothing to attach significance to.

The park is located in an area that may have been attractive to prehistoric inhabitants based on its proximity to fresh water resources, and the presence of two previously recorded prehistoric sites in the general vicinity. Therefore, it is possible that buried resources could occur in native soils. However, none of the features or facilities or amenities identified in the Update are anticipated to penetrate the cap of the landfills, which extend six feet below the surface. It is possible that fill materials may have been imported from other prehistoric sites in the area, and therefore isolated cultural resources could be identified during construction activities. Once projects consistent with the Update are designed and proposed for approval, site specific review will be required prior to project approval to assess depths and potential effects. The 2040 General Plan and Master EIR recognized that unanticipated cultural resources could be uncovered during any construction activities, although the likelihood in this location is low considering the depth of the cap materials. Therefore, the proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects not evaluated in the Master EIR.

## 4.19 Utilities and Service Systems

### 4.19.1 Environmental Setting

#### Water Supply

The City provides water service from a combination of surface and groundwater sources. The area south of the American River is served by surface water from the American and Sacramento Rivers. Existing water utility pipes serving the administration and maintenance buildings are located below the cover layer. Below the existing cover, the top of the refuse layer ranges from 3 to 18 feet bgs. The existing utilities are located in the soil layer between the top of refuse and the bottom of the cover layer. No utilities other than the landfill gas collection system exist in WMU A&B.

#### Wastewater Treatment

Wastewater treatment within the project area is provided by the Regional County Sanitation District (Regional San). Regional San operates all regional interceptors and wastewater treatment plants serving the City except for the combined sewer and storm drain treatment facilities discussed above, which are operated by the City. Local and trunk wastewater collection in the project area is provided by SacSewer (formerly known as the Sacramento Area Sewer District) and the City. Improvements have been made to the Regional San interceptor system in anticipation of future growth and to help relieve the existing interceptor system.

#### Sewer

The Central City area is served by a system in which both sanitary sewage and storm drainage are collected and conveyed in the same system of pipelines, referred to as the Combined Sewer System. The proposed project site is within this combined sewer system maintained by the City of Sacramento, Department of Utilities. Existing sewer utility pipes serving the administration and maintenance buildings are located below the cover layer.

#### Solid Waste

The Solid Waste Removal Division within the Dept. of Public Works is responsible for collecting solid waste, recyclables, and green waste, sweeping the streets, and abating litter within the project area.

### 4.19.2 Summary of Analysis Under the 2040 General Plan Master EIR, Including Cumulative Impacts, Growth Inducing Impacts, and Irreversible Significant Effects

The Master EIR evaluated the effects of development under the 2040 General Plan on water supply, sewer and storm drainage, solid waste, electricity, natural gas and telecommunications. See Chapter 4.13.

The Master EIR evaluated the impacts of increased demand for water that would occur with development under the 2040 General Plan. The 2040 General Plan Policies PFS-4.1 through PFS-4.8, include measures to protect water rights and entitlements (Policy PFS-4.1), encourage conjunctive use of surface and groundwater supplies (Policies PFS-4.2, PFS-4.3 and PFS-4.4), continue preparing and implementing UWMPs (Policy PFS-4.5), encourages increased recycled water use (Policy PFS-4.6), as well as ensuring adequate water supply capacity prior to approving new building permits (Policy PFS-4.8). The 2040 General Plan also includes policies to that facilitate increased efficiency in water use (Policies ERC-5.1 (Active Water Conservation Program, ERC-5.3 (Water Efficiency Training), and ERC-5.4 (Municipal Energy and Water Efficiency), and publicize the availability of free or low-cost water efficiency audits, retrofit installations, rebates, and financing assistance (Policy ERC-5.5 (Publicize Voluntary Programs) that would potentially limit the future water demands of future development under the 2040 General Plan. Finally, Policy ERC-5.7 (Onsite Water Reuse) supports opportunities for onsite reuse of greywater and blackwater for certain end uses (e.g., irrigation and toilet flushing) that could reduce the demand of potable water.

The 2040 General Plan includes policies that improve sustainability, resilience and efficiency of infrastructure (Policy PFS-3.2 [Utility Sustainability]), improve water treatment capacity and infrastructure (Policy PFS-3.5 [Water Treatment Capacity and Infrastructure]), the CSS (Policy PFS-3.6 [Combined Sewer System Rehabilitation and Improvements]), and capital improvement programming (Policy PFS-3.8 [Capital Improvement Programming]) which would ensure that capacities and



functionality of existing wastewater facilities can be accommodated by future growth. Therefore, considering existing planning efforts, regulatory requirements, existing capacities, 2040 General Plan policies, and that adequate capacity is available through buildout of the General Plan, the impact is considered less than significant.

The 2040 General Plan includes Policies PFS-5.1 through PFS-5.9 that provide long-term objectives for minimizing the City's contribution to solid waste by providing increasing recycling efforts, composting efforts, and supporting programs like the Neighborhood Clean-Up Program with the goal of minimizing solid waste volumes. Many of these programs are already in place, and continue to promote waste diversion, which would help reduce waste flow to the landfill.

**Standards of Significance**

A significant impact would occur if future implementation of the Update would result in any of the following:

- Increase demand for potable water in excess of existing supplies.
- Result in inadequate capacity in the City’s water supply facilities to meet the water supply demand, so as to require the construction of new water supply facilities.
- Result in the determination that adequate capacity is not available to serve the project’s demand in addition to existing commitments.
- 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.
- Require or result in either the construction of new solid waste facilities or the expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects.

**4.19.3 CEQA Checklist Summary**

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Determination
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	No additional significant effects
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	No additional significant effects
c) Result in a determination by the waste water treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project’s projected demand in addition to the provider’s existing commitments?	No additional significant effects
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	No additional significant effects
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	No Impact

**4.19.4 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions**

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

**No additional significant effects**

The proposed Update is consistent with regional park uses identified the 2040 General Plan. Buildout of the Update would result in a minor increase in visitors accessing restroom facilities and drinking fountains. Water would be provided to tree wells, but due to the landfill restrictions, only natural vegetation and no irrigation systems are feasible. The Update involves minor park facilities or amenities

and facilities and would not exceed the capacity of existing available water supply or required new or expanded treatment and distribution facilities. A water supply test, and any additional studies or improvements, in order to ensure adequate requirements will be included during the construction phase of each project. The proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis as a regional park and would result in no new significant effects not evaluated in the Master EIR.

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

**No additional significant effects**

As noted in response 4.19.4(a), above, the Update is consistent with regional park uses identified the 2040 General Plan. Buildout of the Update would result in a minor increase in visitors accessing restroom facilities and drinking fountains. Water would be provided to tree wells, but due to the landfill restrictions, only natural vegetation and no irrigation systems are feasible. The Master EIR concluded that the provisions of the 2040 General Plan will avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the Master EIR and the impact is less than significant; no mitigation measures were required.

**c) Would the project result in a determination by the waste water treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?**

**No additional significant effects**

The proposed Update would connect to the existing combined sewer lines that lead to the City's wastewater treatment plant. Proposed improvements to the park are consistent with planned regional park uses and would not require the construction or relocation of new sewer mains, but only connections to the existing main. The agreement with the Sacramento Regional wastewater treatment plant is to treat up to 60 million gallons per day (mgd) where current dry weather sewer flows are approximately 12 mgd. The remaining capacity is used for stormwater flows and anything in excess of 60 mgd is sent to the Combined Wastewater Treatment Plant (CSS) and Pioneer Reservoir Treatment Plant for primary treatment. The City has created a Long-Term Control Plan for operation and ongoing maintenance and improvements of the CSS along with Chapter 13.08 of the City Code, which provides a funding mechanism for capital improvements. The Master EIR concluded that the provisions of the 2040 General Plan will avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the Master EIR and the impact is less than significant; no mitigation measures were required.

**d) Would the project generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?**

**No additional significant effects**

Waste generated during construction consistent with the Update would be temporary and generally limited to vegetation debris and remaining surficial waste. None of the facilities identified within the Update would attract a large number of users on a regular basis. Waste generated during operations of future uses consistent with the Update would not create significant amounts of solid waste and therefore would have a less than significant impact on local landfill capacity or solid waste reduction goals. The Master EIR concluded that the provisions of the 2040 General Plan will avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the Master EIR and the impact is less than significant; no mitigation measures were required.

**e) Would the project comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?**

**No Impact**

Proposed facilities within the Update are consistent with regional park uses and would be collected and managed by the City's Solid Waste Division. The Master EIR determined there is existing sufficient capacity at Kiefer landfill, and implementation of 2040 General Plan policies promote long-term reduction of solid-waste generation. The proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR and therefore would result in no new significant effects not evaluated in the Master EIR.

4.20 Wildfire

4.20.1 Environmental Setting

Areas within the Project area that have been identified as fairly susceptible to an urban wildfire are generally along the American River Parkway. The Multi-jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan recognizes the American River Parkway as a wildfire hazard area. A wildland fire that originated along the American or Sacramento rivers could spread into nearby neighborhoods. The County of Sacramento’s Metro Fire maintains and operates an air operations program to increase accessibility to these vegetated areas where vehicular City and County Fire Department equipment is limited in accessibility. In addition, all future facilities on the site would be subject to meet fire suppression design criteria that is contained within the California Fire Code (Title 24, Part 9, California Code of Regulations).

4.20.2 Summary of Analysis Under the 2040 General Plan Master EIR, Including Cumulative Impacts, Growth Inducing Impacts, and Irreversible Significant Effects

The 2040 General Plan includes Policies PFS 2.1 (Hazard Mitigation Planning) and PFS 1.8 (Fire Hazards) which confirm the City’s continued reliance on adopted plans that address hazardous material spills, fires, and extreme weather, among other hazards as well as continue to require private property owners and the City to remove excessive/overgrown vegetation to prevent and minimize fire risks on private and public lands. The Master EIR determined that compliance with the California Fire Code as well as 2040 General Plan policies would minimize risks associated with the exposure of people or structure to loss, injury or death due to wildland fires to less than significant.

Standards of Significance

A significant impact would occur if future implementation of the Update would result in the following:

- Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant loss, injury or death involving wildland fires.

4.20.3 CEQA Checklist Summary

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:

CEQA Question	Determination
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	No additional significant effects
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	No Impact
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	No Impact
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	No Impact

4.20.4 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

a) Would the project substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

No additional significant effects

The Multi-jurisdictional local hazard mitigation plan recognizes the American River Parkway as a wildlife hazard area, which abuts the northern edge of the project area. The City’s adopted emergency plan includes prearranged emergency response procedures. Evacuation routes would also be protected by Policy PFS 2.3 (Evacuation Routes) during emergency situations such as wildfire. Therefore, considering the temporary nature of any road closures, lane narrowing, or detours combined with compliance with

City requirements, building codes, and Policy PFS 2.3, the potential impacts related to obstruction of emergency response access and response times would be less than significant. The proposed Update is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and therefore would result in no new significant effects not evaluated in the Master EIR.

**b) Would the project, due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?**

**No Impact**

No habitable structures are proposed for the project area, only park facilities and facilities or amenities. Therefore, there would be no increase in site occupants as a result of the Update.

**c) Would the project require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?**

**No additional significant effects**

Facilities constructed pursuant to the Update would connect and/or upgrade existing utilities on-site to serve the facility. Improvements are minor infrastructure such as restrooms, parking lots, and trails which would not require associated additional infrastructure to protect them in the event of a wildfire.

**d) Would the project expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?**

**No Impact**

The project area is highly urban or vacant with very little vegetation, and even wildfires along the American River would not have enough fuel on the site to result in runoff, post-fire slope instability or drainage changes. The project therefore would not expose people or structures to significant risk, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes.

4.21 Mandatory Findings of Significance

4.21.1 CEQA Checklist Summary

CEQA Question	Determination
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	No additional significant effects
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, or the effects of probable future projects.)	No additional significant effects
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	No additional significant effects

4.21.2 Answers to CEQA Mandatory Findings of Significance Questions

No additional significant effects

Questions A to C

The Update identifies future park amenities and facilities consistent with a regional park use and all sections within this Initial Study determined that these future uses are consistent with the 2040 General Plan and the analysis presented in the Master EIR. The Master EIR identified cumulative effects, growth-inducing effects, and irreversible significant effects on the environment that could occur with approval and implementation of the 2040 General Plan.

As discussed in this Initial Study, the potential effects identified throughout this Initial Study on the environment and human beings, as well as cumulative impacts, have been identified and evaluated in the Master EIR. Adoption of the Update as a conceptual plan would have no direct effects that were not identified in the Master EIR. Subsequent projects designed and funded pursuant to the Update will require CEQA review to determine whether any project-specific significant impacts would occur and require mitigation prior to approvals.

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## **Appendix A**

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### **USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation Report**



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Sacramento Fish And Wildlife Office

Federal Building

2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605

Sacramento, CA 95825-1846

Phone: (916) 414-6600 Fax: (916) 414-6713



In Reply Refer To:

05/27/2025 18:05:46 UTC

Project Code: 2025-0101819

Project Name: Sutter's Landing Regional Park Site Plan Update

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)).

(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf>

**Migratory Birds:** In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts, see <https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do>.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures, see <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds>.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit <https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

## OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

**Sacramento Fish And Wildlife Office**

Federal Building

2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605

Sacramento, CA 95825-1846

(916) 414-6600

## PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2025-0101819

Project Name: Sutter's Landing Regional Park Site Plan Update

Project Type: Acquisition of Lands

Project Description: Existing Park amenities are currently located in the central part of the Park property. The proposed Update involves a planning document for additional amenities to be constructed in the undeveloped portions of the Park, which has expanded since the Site Plan was approved.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@38.5870307,-121.45764446411152,14z>



Counties: Sacramento County, California



## ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 6 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

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1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

## REPTILES

NAME	STATUS
Northwestern Pond Turtle <i>Actinemys marmorata</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1111">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1111</a>	Proposed Threatened

## AMPHIBIANS

NAME	STATUS
Western Spadefoot <i>Spea hammondi</i> Population: Northern DPS No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5425">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5425</a>	Proposed Threatened

## INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> There is <b>proposed</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</a>	Proposed Threatened
Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle <i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7850">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7850</a>	Threatened

## CRUSTACEANS

NAME	STATUS
Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/498">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/498</a>	Threatened
Vernal Pool Tadpole Shrimp <i>Lepidurus packardii</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2246">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2246</a>	Endangered

## CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

## IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: NCE  
Name: Catrina Vaz  
Address: 8795 Folsom Blvd.  
Address Line 2: Suite 250  
City: Sacramento  
State: CA  
Zip: 95826  
Email: cvaz@ncenet.com  
Phone: 5102153620