

**INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
VALLEY VIEW ACCESS ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

*Prepared for:*

**NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT**



**OCTOBER 2020**

*Prepared by:*



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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ARB = Air Resource Board  
CAAQS = California Ambient Air Quality Standards  
CCAA = California Clean Air Act  
CDFW = California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
CDRA = Community Development Resource Agency  
CEQA = California Environmental Quality Act  
CESA = California Endangered Species Act  
CFP = California Fully Protected  
CHRIS = California Historical Resources Information System  
CMP = corrugated metal pipe  
CNDDDB = California Natural Diversity Database  
CNPS = California Native Plant Society  
CUPA = Certified Unified Program Act  
CWA = Clean Water Act  
CWHR = California Wildlife Habitats Relationships  
dbh = diameter at breast height  
DTSC = Department of Toxic Substances Control  
EIR = Environmental Impact Report  
ESA = Endangered Species Act  
FCAA = Federal Clean Air Act  
FC = Federal Candidate  
FE = Federally Endangered  
FPD = Federally Proposed Delisted  
FPT/FPE = Federally Proposed Threatened/Endangered  
FT = Federally Threatened  
FYLF = foothill yellow-legged frog  
IS/MND = Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration  
MBTA = Migratory Bird Treaty Act  
MLD = most likely descendent  
MMRP = Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program

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MR = mineral reserve	
msl = mean sea level	
NAAQS = National Ambient Air Quality Standards	
NID = Nevada Irrigation District	
NOA = naturally occurring asbestos	
NRCS = USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	
NWI = National Wetlands Inventory	
PCAPCD = Placer County Air Pollution Control District	
PCCP = Placer County Conservation Program	
PCTPA = Placer County Transportation Planning Agency	
ppv = peak particle velocity	
ROG = reactive organic gases	
RPWs = relatively permanent waters	
RWQCB = Regional Water Quality Control Board	
SE = State Endangered	
SPCP = spill prevention and control plan	
SR = State Rare	
SSC = Species of Special Concern	
ST = State Threatened	
SVAB = Sacramento Valley Air Basin	
TAC = Toxic Air Contaminants	
TNWs = Traditional Navigable Waters	
UAIC = United Auburn Indian Community	
U.S. EPA = United States Environmental Protection Agency	
WOUS/WOS = Waters of the United States/ Waters of the State	

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Nevada Irrigation District (NID or the District) proposes to implement the Valley View Access Road Construction Project (Proposed Project or Project), which includes construction of a gravel access road segment and installation of a lockable gate to access NID's Valley View Reservoir to avoid the use of a private landowner's driveway. This work is the realignment of an existing access. This document has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq., and State CEQA Guidelines, Title 14 California Code of Regulations 15000 et seq.

### Project Summary

The Project area is located approximately 5 miles north of the City of Lincoln, Placer County, California, at an elevation of 460 feet above mean sea level (msl) (Map 1). The Project area is located on private land and for which the District has obtained a temporary construction easement for the purposes of re-routing the existing access road to Valley View Reservoir. A permanent easement has been negotiated with the landowner. The surrounding area contains several privately owned rural residential properties. The Project area is accessible via Kilaga Springs Road.

The private landowner has requested that the District construct a replacement access road segment so that the District no longer has to use their driveway to conduct maintenance activities at Valley View Reservoir. The District proposes to:

- Construct a 0.25-mile access road to bypass the private landowner's driveway;
- Construct two culverts to cross an intermittent stream and private irrigation ditch;
- Install a locked gate at the end of the access road.

Therefore, the purpose of the Project is to provide the District replacement access to Valley View Reservoir for maintenance and to maintain good working relationships with private landowners.

### CEQA Analysis and Findings

The Proposed Project is subject to approval by the District Board of Directors and is subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). As the Lead Agency, the District prepared an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND), which assesses the potential environmental impacts of the Project. In accordance with CEQA guidelines, the IS/MND will be circulated for 30 days for public review. Under CEQA guidelines, a significant effect on the environment is defined as a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the Project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance (Guidelines Section 15382). This executive summary provides an overview of the findings of the IS/MND including resources for which the Project would have no impact; (b) less than significant impacts; and (c) less than significant impacts with incorporation of mitigation measures. The mitigation measures are summarized in Table 1. Refer to Section 3 of the IS/MND for a more detailed analysis of potential effects and proposed mitigation measures.

### No Impact

The Proposed Project would have no impact on the following resources: Agriculture and Forest Resources; Land Use and Planning; Mineral Resources; Population and Housing; and Recreation.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Less Than Significant Impacts

The Proposed Project would have less than significant impacts on the following resources: Aesthetics; Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Transportation; and Utilities and Service Systems.

## Less Than Significant Impacts with Incorporation of Mitigation

With implementation of mitigation, the Proposed Project would have less than significant impacts on the following resources: Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Energy; Geology and Soils; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Water Quality; Noise; Public Services; Tribal Resources; and Wildfire.

As required by CEQA, a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) (Table 1) will be adopted at the time of Project approval. It will include those mitigation measures that would reduce environmental impacts to less than significant levels.

## Significant Unavoidable Impacts

There are no significant and unavoidable Project-specific or cumulatively considerable impacts associated with implementation of the Proposed Project.

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Introduction and Regulatory Guidance

This Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) has been prepared by the Nevada Irrigation District (the District) to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the Valley View Access Road Construction Project (Proposed Project or Project), which includes construction of a new gravel access road segment and installation of a locked gate to provide access to the District's Valley View Reservoir for ongoing maintenance. This document has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq., and State CEQA Guidelines, Title 14 California Code of Regulations 15000 et seq. A summary of permits and agency approvals required for the construction of the Proposed Project is provided in Section 2.3.7, Permits and Approvals.

This IS/MND was prepared by the District (the Lead Agency) to determine if the Proposed Project could have significant impacts on the environment. In accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines 15064(a), an environmental impact report (EIR) must be prepared if there is substantial evidence that a Project may have significant impacts on the environment. If the Lead Agency determines that there is no substantial evidence for such impacts, or if the potential impacts can be reduced through Project revisions, a mitigated negative declaration or a negative declaration, can be prepared (CEQA Guidelines 15070(b)).

## 1.2 Environmental Document

The District is the Lead Agency for the Proposed Project and has determined that an IS/MND is the appropriate document for compliance with CEQA. The purpose of this document is to present to the public the environmental consequences of implementing the Proposed Project. This document has been prepared consistent with the 20153 State CEQA Guidelines.

This disclosure document is being made available to the public for review and comment. The IS/MND is available for a 30-day public review period from October 15 to November 16 at 5:00 p.m.

Please address written comments to:

Kris Stepanian, Board Secretary  
Nevada Irrigation District Business Center  
1036 West Main Street  
Grass Valley, CA 95945

E-mail comments may be addressed to: [stepianiak@nidwater.com](mailto:stepianiak@nidwater.com).

Input may also be provided at a public meeting starting at 6:00 pm on November 10, 2020 via Zoom.

- The Zoom meeting can be accessed from a computer, tablet or smartphone at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88919399914>.
- To join as a conference call, dial (669) 900-6833 or (346) 248-7799. The Webinar ID is 889 1939 9914.

If you have questions regarding this IS/MND, please contact Adrian Schneider, (530) 273-6139. If you wish to send written comments (including via e-mail), they must be received no later than November 16, 2020 by 5:00 p.m.

Upon completion of the public review period, the District staff will provide the District Board of Directors with the public and agency comments received on the IS/MND along with a recommendation for the final action to the Board for its consideration.

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The District Board may: (1) adopt the mitigated negative declaration and approve the Proposed Project; (2) undertake additional environmental studies; or (3) abandon the Proposed Project.

This IS/MND is available for public review electronically (due to the COVID pandemic and can be accessed via the following link:

[www.nidwater.com/valley-view-access-road-project/](http://www.nidwater.com/valley-view-access-road-project/)

### 1.3 Summary of Findings

Section 3 of this document contains the analysis and discussion of potential environmental impacts resulting from implementation of the Proposed Project.

Based on the resources evaluated, it was determined that the Proposed Project would have no impact on the following resources: Agriculture and Forestry Resources; Land Use and Planning; Mineral Resources; Population and Housing; and Recreation.

Impacts of the Proposed Project were determined to be less than significant for the following resources: Aesthetics; Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Transportation; and Utilities/Service Systems.

Impacts of the Proposed Project to the following resources would be less than significant with incorporation of the mitigation measures described in Section 3 and the MND included with this document: Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Energy; Geology and Soils; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Water Quality; Noise; Public Services; Tribal Resources; and Wildfire.

As required by CEQA, a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) has been prepared and is included with this IS/MND (Table 1). It will be adopted at the time of Project approval. It will include those mitigation measures that would reduce environmental impacts to less than significant levels.

### 1.4 Document Purpose and Organization

The purpose of this document is to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the construction of the Valley View Access Road.

This document is organized in the following manner:

- **Section 1 - Introduction.** This section provides an introduction and describes the purpose, scope, and organization of this document.
- **Section 2 - Project Description.** This section describes the purpose and need of the Proposed Project, the Proposed Project objectives, and a description of the Proposed Project's characteristics.
- **Section 3 - Environmental Checklist.** This section provides the environmental setting for the Proposed Project, analyzes the environmental impacts of the Proposed Project, and recommends mitigation measures where appropriate. Resource topics appear in the order that they occur in the CEQA Environmental Checklist from Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines. Mitigation measures are incorporated and discussed, where appropriate, to reduce "potentially significant" impacts to a "less than significant" level. Mandatory Findings of Significance also are presented in this section.
- **Section 4 - Agencies and Persons Consulted.** This section identifies agencies and persons consulted regarding environmental resource topics during preparation of this document.

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- **Section 5 - List of Preparers.** This section contains a list of people that assisted in the preparation of this document.
  - **Section 6 - References.** This section identifies the references used in the preparation of this document.

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## **2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

### **2.1 Project Purpose and Objectives**

The purpose of the Project is to re-route the existing access road to Valley View Reservoir, negating the need to use the portion of the existing access road that is a private driveway, and to install a lockable gate to control access to the road. NID has negotiated a permanent easement from the landowner for this purpose.

### **2.2 Project Location**

NID's Valley View Access Road Construction Project is located approximately 5 miles northeast of the City of Lincoln, Placer County, California (Refer to Map 1). The Project lies at an elevation of 460 feet above mean sea level (msl). The Project area is surrounded by privately owned rural residential properties and is northwest of Valley View Reservoir (Refer to Map 2). Existing access to Valley View Reservoir is via Kilaga Springs Road and a private driveway (Refer to Map 3).

In addition to the 0.6-acre permanent easement, NID has also obtained a 0.8-acre temporary easement for use during construction only. Refer to Map 3 for the specific location of these easements.

### **2.3 Project Components**

This section provides a description of the Proposed Project including access and staging areas; road construction; installation of culverts; tree and vegetation removal; construction equipment to be used; and the proposed construction schedule.

#### **2.3.1 Access, Work, and Staging Areas**

Access to the Project site for construction will be from Kilaga Springs Road to approximately 75 feet of the private driveway to a temporary construction access trail (Map 3).

The work area will consist of the temporary (0.85 acre) and permanent (0.63 acre) easements.

Staging areas will be also be located within the temporary and permanent easements. Equipment staging would be restricted to pre-disturbed areas within the easements. Staging areas would not be placed within 50 feet of the irrigation ditch or intermittent stream.

#### **2.3.2 Road Construction**

At the request of the private landowner, NID proposes to re-route the existing access road and construct a new segment from Kilaga Springs Road to the existing access road at the southeastern edge of the property boundary. The new segment will be a gravel road, with a locked gate at the end of the road where it conjoins with the existing access road. The road will border the private property line and will require the removal of an existing barbed wire fence.

Graders and backhoes will be used to construct the new segment, which will be approximately 1,085 feet (0.2 mile) long and 12 feet wide. This new access road segment would cut south from Kilaga Springs Road for approximately 685 feet before curving sharply to the east for 400 feet, where it would connect to the existing access road. A gate with an NID lock would be installed at the eastern boundary (Refer to Map 3).

A maximum of 1,000 cubic yards of gravel or base material will be brought to the site via dump truck on Kilaga Springs Road. The gravel will placed on the new segment and will be smoothed and graded using a backhoe and drum roller. Ditches will be excavated on either side of the road to collect runoff and prevent erosion.

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### 2.3.3 Water Crossings

Road crossings would be constructed over the irrigation ditch and the intermittent stream during the dry season.

The crossing of the irrigation ditch would include the following steps:

- Dewater the ditch prior to implementation of work activities;
- Install one 18-inch diameter, 20-foot-long ductile iron culvert in the bed of the ditch to allow for the passage of water;
- Construct approximately 11 linear feet of road over the culvert. This would require approximately 210 cubic yards of fill, including the culvert pipe, concrete cap, rip-rap, compacted native soil, and gravel;
- Place 2 cubic yards of rock backing on the slopes of the ditch banks to prevent erosion.

The crossing of the intermittent stream would include the following steps:

- If water is present within the intermittent stream, a coffer dam constructed of sand bags would be placed upstream and downstream of the location where the culvert would be installed. Piping would then be installed to divert water from above the upstream coffer dam and through or around the work area so that water is released below the downstream coffer dam. Pumps may be used, if required, to ensure that the work area is dry prior to placement of culverts, rip rap, or other materials. Any water pumped would be released below the downstream coffer dam;
- Install two 36-inch diameter culverts in the bed of the stream to allow for the passage of water;
- Construct approximately 62 linear feet of road over the stream and the associated Valley foothill riparian. This would require approximately 475 cubic yards of fill including culverts, culvert wings, rip-rap, compacted native soil, and gravel.
- Place 20 cubic yards of rock backing on the slopes of the stream banks to prevent erosion.
- Upon completion of the installation of the water crossings, the piping, sandbags, and pumps (if used) would be removed and natural stream flows would be restored.

### 2.3.4 Vegetation and Tree Removal

Approximately 0.3 acre of annual grassland will be removed for installation of the new access road. In addition, approximately 0.02 acre of Valley foothill riparian will be removed for installation of the crossing at the intermittent drainage; and 11 native oak trees measuring between 6 and 27 inches diameter at breast height (dbh) will be removed prior to initiation of construction. Refer to Appendix A for the location of trees in relation to the work area.

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### **2.3.5 Construction Equipment**

Construction equipment that would be used for implementation of the Project would include the following:

- Delivery trucks/trailers
- Drum roller
- Dump truck
- Fuel/oil service trucks
- Pickup trucks
- Grader
- Mowers/chainsaws
- Backhoe
- Excavator
- Loader
- Sandbags
- Water diversion piping and pumps
- Portable generators
- Compacting equipment
- Water truck

### **2.3.6 Construction Schedule**

The project will be implemented during the dry season in 2021. It is estimated that the Project will be completed in approximately 40 days, barring delays due to funding, weather conditions, or other unforeseen circumstances.

### **2.3.7 Permits and Approvals**

The agencies listed below will be consulted and will participate in review of the IS/MND. Also noted are permits or other approvals that may potentially be required for the construction or operation of the Proposed Project.

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) – Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 Permit.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) – Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) Consultation.
- California Air Resources Board (ARB) – State CEQA reviewing agency.
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) – California Fish and Game Code (including Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement), State CEQA reviewing agency.
- Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) – CWA Section 401 Certification, CWA Section 402 NPDES Construction General Permit, or California Water Code Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR)
- Placer County Air Pollution Control District (PCAPCD) – Authority to Construct Permit, Permit to Operate

**Table 1. Valley View Access Road Construction Project Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

Mitigation Measure	Timing	Implementation Responsibility	Monitoring/ Reporting Responsibility
<p><b>AIR-1. Air Quality Best Management Practices.</b>                      The District will implement all applicable best management practices (BMPs) employed by the Placer County Air Pollution Control District (PCAPCD) under Rule 228 (Appendix C). These BMPs will be incorporated into construction specifications and implemented by the District and/or its contractor during construction.</p>	<p>During Construction</p>	<p>District</p>	<p>District</p>
<p><b>BIO-1. Botanical Surveys</b>                      A qualified biologist will conduct a survey in June to determine whether any special-status plant species listed in Appendix D (all wetland obligate or facultative wetland species) are present in the Project area. If these species are observed, a minimum 5-foot buffer will be established (using stakes, flagging, or other similar methods) to protect the plants during construction activities. If implementation of the buffer is not practicable, NID will consult with the resource agencies to determine appropriate avoidance and protection measure considering the plant species, site-specific habitat characteristics, and the nature of construction activities to be conducted that may disturb the plant. The avoidance and protection measure will be implemented as part of the Project.</p>	<p>Prior to/During Construction</p>	<p>District</p>	<p>District</p>

**Table 1. Valley View Access Road Construction Project Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

Mitigation Measure	Timing	Implementation Responsibility	Monitoring/ Reporting Responsibility
<p><b>BIO-2. General Construction Measures.</b>                      The District will implement the following to minimize disturbance of sensitive resources in the Project area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Construction activities will be limited to a designated work area (including the work corridor and staging area). The work area will be clearly identified on the construction drawings and will be staked and flagged where necessary prior to initiation of construction activities.</li> <li>▪ All staging areas and access routes will be located on developed roads and areas that have already been disturbed.</li> <li>▪ Construction activities, including activities within equipment staging areas, will be limited to the hours between sunrise (but no earlier than 7:00 a.m.) and sunset (but no later than 7:00 p.m.) on weekdays. Construction work on weekends and District-recognized holidays will be avoided when practical. If required, work on weekends and District-recognized holidays will be limited to the hours between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.</li> <li>▪ Vegetation removal will be limited to that which is necessary for implementation of the Project. This includes removal of a maximum of 0.3 acre of annual grassland, and up to 11 trees. No other vegetation will be removed.</li> <li>▪ The District will ensure that all equipment and vehicles will be removed from the Project site following completion of the Project.</li> </ul>	<p>During Construction</p>	<p>District</p>	<p>District</p>
<p><b>BIO-3. Environmental Awareness Training.</b>                      Construction personnel will attend an environmental awareness training prior to initiation of construction. The training will include a review of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Special-status species potentially occurring on site;</li> <li>▪ Mitigation measures and BMPs to be implemented as part of the Project;</li> <li>▪ Pertinent measures included in agency permits obtained for the Project;</li> <li>▪ Procedures for reporting the presence of special-status species on site as well as any issues related to air or water resources.</li> </ul>	<p>Prior to Construction</p>	<p>District</p>	<p>District</p>

**Table 1. Valley View Access Road Construction Project Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

Mitigation Measure	Timing	Implementation Responsibility	Monitoring/ Reporting Responsibility
<p><b>BIO-4. Frog and Turtle Monitoring.</b>                      The following measure will be implemented to avoid impacts to foothill yellow-legged frogs and western pond turtles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Construction will be conducted between June 1 and February 28, outside of the breeding season for foothill yellow-legged frogs.</li> <li>▪ The Project area will be surveyed prior to commencement of activities to ensure that no turtles or frogs are present within the irrigation ditch or intermittent stream.</li> <li>▪ If any animals are present, the animal(s) will be allowed to move out of harm’s way, or, if necessary, a qualified biologist will relocate the individual to the nearest area of suitable habitat outside of the Project area.</li> <li>▪ A record will be maintained that includes the following data for each individual rescued and relocated (or as specified in CDFW permit conditions):                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Date of capture and relocation,</li> <li>▪ Method of capture,</li> <li>▪ Species and life stage,</li> <li>▪ Location of relocation in relation to the Project area, and</li> <li>▪ Total number of individuals captured and relocated.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The frog and turtle relocation record will be provided to CDFW following completion of the Project.</p>	<p>During Construction</p>	<p>District</p>	<p>District</p>
<p><b>BIO-5. Clean Water Act Permitting and California Fish and Game Code Compliance.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The District will obtain relevant Clean Water Act permits (e.g., Sections 401 and 404), and any permits required under the California Fish and Game Code (e.g., Section 1602, Streambed Alteration Agreement). All conditions identified in the permits will be implemented as part of the Project.</li> <li>▪ If required, the District will mitigate for loss of WOUS/WOS through purchase of credits at an approved mitigation bank, and will provide written evidence of the purchase to resource agencies (e.g., USACE, RWQCB, and/or CDFW).</li> </ul>	<p>Prior to/During Construction</p>	<p>District</p>	<p>District</p>

**Table 1. Valley View Access Road Construction Project Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

Mitigation Measure	Timing	Implementation Responsibility	Monitoring/ Reporting Responsibility
<p><b>BIO-6. Protection of Special-Status Raptors or Other Bird Nests.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To avoid disturbance of raptor and bird nests, construction activities will be conducted between August 16 and February 28, outside of the nesting season for these species.</li> <li>▪ If construction activities must be conducted during the nesting season (between March 1 and August 15), a preconstruction survey will be conducted by a qualified biologist to determine if there are active nests present. Both the Project area and a 25-foot, 500-foot, and 0.5-mile buffer will be surveyed for non-raptors, raptors, and Swainson’s Hawks, respectively. The survey will be conducted no more than 30 days prior to Project initiation. If the biologist determines that the area surveyed does not contain any active nests, then Project activities can begin without any further mitigation.</li> <li>▪ If active Swainson’s hawk nests are found, construction activities will not occur within 0.5 mile of the active nest until the young have fledged, as determined by a qualified biologist, or until the District receives written authorization from the CDFW to proceed.</li> <li>▪ If other active raptor nests are found, construction will not occur within 500 feet of an active nest until the young have fledged, as determined by a qualified biologist, or until the District receives written authorization from the CDFW to proceed.</li> <li>▪ If active nests of non-raptorial birds are found, a 25-foot buffer will be established and the nest will be avoided until the young have fledged, as determined by a qualified biologist, or until the District receives written authorization from the CDFW to proceed.</li> </ul>	<p>Prior to Construction</p>	<p>District</p>	<p>District</p>

**Table 1. Valley View Access Road Construction Project Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

Mitigation Measure	Timing	Implementation Responsibility	Monitoring/ Reporting Responsibility
<p><b>BIO-7. Protection of Riparian Habitats.</b>                      The District will implement the following mitigation measures to minimize potential impacts to riparian habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Removal of Valley foothill riparian vegetation will be limited to a maximum of approximately 0.02 acre required for construction of the intermittent stream crossing. No other riparian vegetation will be removed.</li> <li>▪ Prior to implementation of staging and construction or ground disturbing activities, the District will install orange or yellow construction fencing around all other riparian areas that could potentially be affected by Project activities. These areas will be avoided throughout Project implementation.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">During Construction</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">District</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">District</p>
<p><b>BIO-8. Protection of Oak Woodlands.</b>                      The District will implement the following mitigation measures to minimize potential impacts to oak woodlands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No native oaks will be removed beyond what is required for implementation of the Project (up to 11 native oak trees).</li> <li>▪ Where necessary, the District will erect construction fencing around the of native oak trees in or adjacent to Project work and staging areas, and will prohibit use of equipment or disturbance of soil within the fencing.</li> <li>▪ NID will mitigate for removal of 11 native oaks at a 1:1 ratio, through in-kind planting either on site (if acceptable to the landowner), or at an off-site location to be determined through consultation with CDFW. Mitigation will be implemented as part of the Project consistent with the CDFW Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement to be obtained for the Project.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">During Construction</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">District</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">District</p>

**Table 1. Valley View Access Road Construction Project Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

Mitigation Measure	Timing	Implementation Responsibility	Monitoring/ Reporting Responsibility
<p><b>CULT-1. Inadvertent Discovery of Previously Unknown Cultural, Paleontological, or Tribal Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If an inadvertent discovery of tribal cultural resources, archaeological resources, paleontological materials, or other cultural resources/materials (e.g., unusual amounts of shell, animal bone, glass, ceramics, structure/building remains, etc.) is made during Project-related construction activities, the NID Cultural Resources Policy (No. 6085.1 Discovery of Cultural Resources) will be implemented. This policy includes a stop work order, or relocation of work by the NID project manager, avoidance of the discovery by 150 feet, and coordination with a qualified archaeologist. Refer to Appendix F for the NID Policy.</li> <li>▪ As part of this policy, the archaeologist shall determine whether the resource is potentially significant per the CRHR and develop appropriate mitigation in consultation with NID, the SHPO, and Native American Tribal representatives to protect the integrity of the resource and ensure that no additional resources are impacted. Mitigation could include, but not necessarily be limited to preservation in-place, archival research, subsurface testing, or data recovery.</li> </ul>	<p>During Construction</p>	<p>District</p>	<p>District</p>

<p><b>CULT-2. Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In accordance with the California Health and Safety Code and NID Cultural Resources Policy (No. 6085.2 Discovery of Human Remains), if human remains are uncovered during ground-disturbing activities, all work within 150 feet of the area of the burial shall be halted. The NID project manager will be notified immediately, who in turn will notify the qualified archaeologist. The qualified archaeologist will contact the Placer County Sheriff/Coroner to determine the nature and extent of the remains.</li> <li>▪ The coroner is required to examine all discoveries of human remains within 48 hours of receiving notice of a discovery on private or state lands (Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5[b]). If the coroner determines that the remains are those of Native American descent, the coroner must contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) by phone within 24 hours of making that determination (Health and Safety Code Section 7050[c]). The NAHC shall identify the most likely descendant (MLD). Once given permission by NID and land owner, the MLD shall be allowed on-site. The MLD shall complete their inspection and make their recommendation to NID for means of treating or disposing of, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and any associated grave goods as provided in PRC Section 5097.98. MLD recommendations must be made within 48 hours of the NAHC notification to the MLD.</li> <li>▪ No additional work shall take place within the immediate vicinity of the find until the qualified archaeologist gives approval to resume work in that area. Refer to Appendix F for the NID policy.</li> <li>▪ A range of possible treatments for the remains, including nondestructive removal and analysis, preservation in-place, relinquishment of the remains and associated items to the descendants, or other culturally appropriate treatment, may be discussed. AB 2641 suggests that the concerned parties may extend discussions beyond the initial 48 hours to allow for the discovery of additional remains. AB 2641(e) includes a list of site protection measures and states that the landowner shall comply with one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Record the site with the NAHC or the appropriate Information Center;</li> <li>• Utilize an open space or conservation zoning designation or easement; and/or</li> <li>• Record a document with the county in which the property is located.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ The landowner or their authorized representative shall rebury the Native American human remains and associated grave goods with appropriate dignity on the property in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance if the NAHC is unable to</li> </ul>	<p>During Construction</p>	<p>District</p>	<p>District</p>
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**Table 1. Valley View Access Road Construction Project Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

Mitigation Measure	Timing	Implementation Responsibility	Monitoring/ Reporting Responsibility
<p>identify a MLD or the MLD fails to make a recommendation within 48 hours after being granted access to the site. The landowner or their authorized representative may also re-enter the remains in a location not subject to further disturbance if they reject the recommendation of the MLD, and mediation by the NAHC fails to provide measures acceptable to the landowner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>			
<p><b>HAZ-1. Standard Fire Prevention Measures.</b>            The District and/or its contractor will implement standard fire prevention measures, including but not limited to, requiring fire prevention equipment to be available at all times, identifying construction sites as non-smoking areas, and providing fire prevention training to construction personnel. Portable communication devices (i.e., radio or mobile telephones) would be made available to all construction personnel to allow for prompt notification to the District or other local authorities in case of a fire.</p>	<p>During Construction</p>	<p>District</p>	<p>District</p>

**Table 1. Valley View Access Road Construction Project Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

Mitigation Measure	Timing	Implementation Responsibility	Monitoring/ Reporting Responsibility
<p><b>HYD-1. Water Quality Best Management Practices.</b></p> <p>Prior to commencement of ground disturbing activities, the District will identify site-specific BMPs to effectively control erosion and sediment loss and to protect water quality. During the project, these BMPs for erosion and sediment control shall be implemented by the District and/or its contractor. These BMPs will include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Erosion control structures (e.g., coir rolls, plastic sheeting, rubber mats) will be placed in areas where high surface runoff is expected; around spoil piles; and at channel entrances or adjacent to drainage channels. If straw wattles or straw bales are used, all straw will be certified weed-free.</li> <li>▪ Prior to the initiation of Project activities, the District and/or its contractor will prepare a Spill Prevention and Control Plan (SPCP) that will be implemented during Project activities.</li> <li>▪ To reduce potential contamination by spills, all refueling, storage, servicing, and maintenance of equipment will be performed at designated sites and not within 50 feet of wetted areas (including the irrigation ditch and intermittent stream) or other sensitive environmental resources. Absorbent material or drip pans will be used during refueling or servicing of trucks or other equipment. Any fluids drained from the machinery during servicing will be collected in leak-proof containers and taken to an appropriate disposal or recycling facility. If such activities result in spills or accumulation of a product on the soil, the contaminated soil will be disposed of properly.</li> <li>▪ All maintenance materials (i.e., oils, grease, lubricants, antifreeze) will be stored at staging areas in appropriate storage containers. If these materials are required during Project implementation, they will be placed in a designated area away from site activities and sensitive resources.</li> </ul>	<p>During Construction</p>	<p>District</p>	<p>District</p>

**Table 1. Valley View Access Road Construction Project Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

Mitigation Measure	Timing	Implementation Responsibility	Monitoring/ Reporting Responsibility
<p><b>NZ-1. Noise Best Management Practices.</b>            To reduce noise-related impacts to occupants of nearby residential land uses, the following BMPs will be incorporated into the Proposed Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Construction activities, including activities within equipment staging areas, will be limited to the hours between sunrise (but no earlier than 7:00 a.m.) and sunset (but no later than 7:00 p.m.) on weekdays. Construction work on weekends and District-recognized holidays will be avoided when practical. If required, work on weekends and District-recognized holidays will be limited to the hours between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.</li> <li>▪ All construction equipment must have sound-control devices. No equipment will have an unmuffled exhaust system, with the exception of small tools that cannot be muffled.</li> <li>▪ Additional noise-reduction measures will be implemented as appropriate and practical, including but not limited to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Changing the location of stationary construction equipment to an area with less sensitive receptors; and</li> <li>▪ Limiting equipment (i.e., construction equipment and trucks) to five (5) or fewer minutes of idling time.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>During Construction</p>	<p>District</p>	<p>District</p>

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### 3 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Following is the environmental checklist form (CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G) that provides discussion of the environmental impacts associated with implementation of the Valley View Access Road Construction Project.

1. **Project title:** Valley View Access Road Construction Project
2. **Lead agency name and address:** Nevada Irrigation District
3. **Contact person and phone number:** Adrian Schneider, (530) 271-6839
4. **Project location:** Unincorporated Placer County, 5 miles north of the City of Lincoln
5. **Project sponsor's name and address:** Nevada Irrigation District, 1036 West Main Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945
6. **General plan designation:** Agricultural Land Use
7. **Zoning:** Agriculture and Residential Uses
8. **Description of the Project:** The project includes construction of a gravel access road on an easement on private land in order to facilitate District staff access to the Valley View Reservoir.
9. **Surrounding land uses and setting:** This area is governed by the Placer County General Plan, adopted in 1994 and updated in 2013 (Placer County 2013). The designated land use on the easement and surrounding parcels is Agriculture and Rural Residential (Placer County 2018a).
10. **Other public agencies whose approval is or may be required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):**
  - Federal:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
  - State:** California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
  - Local:** Placer County Air Pollution Control District (PCAPCD); Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley – Region 5 (CVRWQCB)

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**ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED**

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this Project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics                | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources      | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils             | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions           | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality   | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noise                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation                | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

**DETERMINATION**

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the Proposed Project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the Proposed Project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the Project have been made by or agreed to by the Project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the Proposed Project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the Proposed Project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the Proposed Project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the Proposed Project, nothing further is required.

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Signature

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Date

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Signature

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Date

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## EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to Projects like the one involved (e.g., the Project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on Project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the Project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a Project-specific screening analysis).
2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as Project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
4. "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses," as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).
5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
  - a. Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
  - b. Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
  - c. Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the Project.
6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
7. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
8. This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a Project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
9. The explanation of each issue should identify:
  - a. The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
  - b. The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

### 3.1 Aesthetics

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the Project...	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### 3.1.1 Thresholds of Significance

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

- Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista;
- Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcrops, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway;
- In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings. (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point.) If the project is in an urbanized area, conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality; or
- Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

#### 3.1.2 Setting

The Project area is located in the low western foothills of the Sierra Nevada, which are visually characterized by views of rolling hills, oak woodland, grasslands, and pastures. The Proposed Project is located within a matrix of blue oak woodland intermixed with annual grassland in a rural area approximately 5 miles north of the City of Lincoln (Placer County 2018a). This portion of Placer County is generally dominated by rural and open space with scattered development. The Project area is not located near a scenic vista nor by a designated scenic highway. A scenic vista is generally defined as an expansive view of highly valued landscape observable from a publicly accessible vantage point. Scenic highways are designated by the State of California Department of Transportation’s (Caltrans) Scenic Highway Program (Caltrans 2018).

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### 3.1.3 Discussion Item 3.1a, 3.1b, 3.1c, and 3.1d.

The Project is not located near a scenic vista nor is it near a state scenic highway (Caltrans 2018). Therefore, there would be **no impact** to (a) scenic vistas, or (b) scenic resources within a state scenic highway.

During construction, approximately 0.3 acre of grassland and woodland would be graded, and up to 11 trees would be removed. In the short term, some components of the Project, such as gravel piles and heavy equipment remaining on the site, would have a temporary impact on the visual quality of the site. However, in the long term, the vegetation removed would represent a small proportion of available scenic resources on the affected property, and remaining trees would obstruct views of the graded area from the neighboring parcels. The Project is located on a private parcel in a rural residential neighborhood; therefore, any impacts to the (c) visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings would be considered **less than significant** in the short-term, and there would be **no impact** in the long-term. All construction would take place during daylight hours and no additional lighting will be used during construction. Therefore, there would be **no impact** to (d) day and nighttime views in the area.

### 3.1.4 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts related to aesthetics would result from implementation of the Proposed Project. Therefore, no mitigation is required.

### 3.2 Agriculture and Forest Resources

Would the Project...	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)) or timberland (as defined in Public Resources Code section 4526) or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104 (g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### 3.2.1 Thresholds of Significance

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

- Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use;
- Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract;
- Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land or timberland, as defined by the Public Resources Code;
- Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use; or
- Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.

#### 3.2.2 Setting

The Proposed Project is located on land considered Farmland of Local Importance according to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency (California Department of Conservation 2018). Farmland of Local Importance is land of importance to the local economy, as defined by each county’s local advisory committee and adopted by its Board of Supervisors. In Placer

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County, Farmland of Local Importance is defined as lands zoned for agriculture by County Ordinance and the California Land Conservation Act as well as dry farmed lands, irrigated pasture lands, and other agricultural lands of significant economic importance to the County (California Department of Conservation 2018). This designation includes lands that have a potential for irrigation from Placer County water supplies (California Department of Conservation 2018). The Project area and vicinity is not zoned under a Williamson Act Contract (California Department of Conservation 2018).

The parcel on which the Proposed Project will be implemented is zoned as Farm Section 17.10.010 by Placer County, while zoning designations for the surrounding parcels are zoned the same or as Rural Residential (Placer County 2018e). The purpose of the farm zone designation is to provide land for commercial agricultural operations that can also accommodate necessary services to support agricultural uses, together with residential land uses at low population densities. Allowable agricultural activities include crop production, equestrian facilities, fisheries and game preserves, forestry, grazing, and farmworker housing (Placer County 2018e).

Additional descriptions of land use and zoning designations are provided in Section 3.10, Land Use and Planning.

### **3.2.3 Discussion**

The Project area is considered Farmland of Local Importance, and implementation of the Project would therefore have **no impact** on lands defined as (a) Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance.

Construction of a new access road segment to facilitate maintenance of an irrigation reservoir would not (b) conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use because the reservoir provides irrigation for agricultural purposes on the surrounding parcels; therefore, there would be **no impact**.

The parcel on which the Project is located is not zoned as (c) forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned, and would not (d) result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use; therefore, there would be **no impact** to forest resources.

Construction of the Project will facilitate NID's access to Valley View Reservoir, which will enable the District to maintain irrigation services for agricultural purposes in the Project area and vicinity. Therefore, the Proposed Project would be considered to have **no impact** to (e) the existing environment which could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use.

### **3.2.4 Mitigation Measures**

No significant impacts related to agriculture or forest resources would result from implementation of the Proposed Project. Therefore, no mitigation is required.

### 3.3 Air Quality

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the Project...	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### 3.3.1 Thresholds of Significance

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

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

#### 3.3.2 Setting

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

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

Placer County crosses three distinct air basins: the Sacramento Valley, Mountain Counties, and Lake Tahoe basins (Placer County 2018b). The Project area is within the Sacramento Valley Air Basin

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(SVAB) and is under the jurisdiction of the Placer County Air Pollution Control District (PCAPCD), which is the local agency for air quality planning with authority over air pollutant sources. The SVAB is designated as nonattainment for federal and state ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) standards, nonattainment for the federal particulate matter standard (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), and nonattainment state particulate matter standard (PM<sub>10</sub>) (Placer County 2017).

Natural occurrences of asbestos, which is classified as a known human carcinogen by state and federal agencies, are known to be present in some parts of Placer County. Based on a study by the California Geologic Survey, the Project area is moderately likely to contain naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) (California Department of Conservation 2006). This is based on the presence of metamorphosed mafic volcanic rocks underlying the Project area. NOA is known to be present in these rock types either in Placer County or in similar rocks in nearby counties. The most likely settings for NOA in these rocks are in fault zones and shear zones that contain slivers of serpentinite and/or high concentrations of the minerals talc and chlorite.

### **Regulatory Setting**

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

Concentrations of ozone, carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), respirable particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>), fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), and lead are used as indicators of ambient air quality conditions. Because these are the most prevalent air pollutants known to be deleterious to human health and extensive health-effects criteria documents are available, they are commonly referred to as “criteria air pollutants.” Appendix B provides a summary of criteria air pollutants, common sources, and associated effects as well as federal and state standards for the criteria pollutants and other state regulated air pollutants. As stated previously, the Project area is within an area that is designated as nonattainment for federal and state ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) standards, nonattainment for the federal particulate matter standard (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), and nonattainment for state particulate matter standard (PM<sub>10</sub>).

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

### **Federal Air Quality Regulations**

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

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## California Air Quality Regulation

The 1988 California Clean Air Act (CCAA) requires that all air districts in the state endeavor to achieve and maintain California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) for ozone, CO, sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), and nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) by the earliest practical date. The CCAA specifies that districts focus particular attention on reducing the emissions from transportation and area-wide emission sources, and the act provides districts with authority to regulate indirect sources. Each district plan is required to either: (1) achieve a 5% annual reduction, averaged over consecutive 3-year periods, in district-wide emissions of each nonattainment pollutant or its precursors, or (2) to provide for implementation of all feasible measures to reduce emissions.

## Placer County Air Pollution Control District

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

In October 2016, the PCAPCD adopted new significance thresholds criteria for reactive organic gases (ROG), nitrous oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), and PM<sub>10</sub> that are used to evaluate a Project's air quality impact (PCAPCD 2016). The PCAPCD-recommended significance thresholds are summarized in Table 2 (Placer County 2017). The PCAPCD uses these thresholds to determine the level of significance for emissions associated with a Project's construction emissions (e.g., demolishing, site preparation, earthmoving, and building) and operational emissions (e.g., space heating, motor vehicle trips, and landscaping maintenance). The threshold is also used to determine appropriate mitigation measures to offset the Project's cumulative air quality impacts.

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

Type of Emissions	Thresholds of Significance (lbs per day)		
	ROG	NO <sub>x</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>
Construction Emissions	82	82	82
Operational Emissions	55	55	82

### 3.3.3 Discussion

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

A Project would be considered to conflict with or obstruct implementation of the regional air quality plan if it were inconsistent with the emissions inventories contained in applicable plans. The most recent air quality plan for Placer County was adopted in 2017 and includes an updated emission inventory for ROG and NO<sub>x</sub>. The Proposed Project would not result in emissions beyond those accounted for in the regional emissions inventory, which assumes routine use of on-road equipment

such as trucks, as well as “other mobile source groupings” such as construction equipment (Placer County 2017). There would be no ongoing emissions resulting from the construction of the new access road segment because the same number of vehicles would be using the road to conduct daily maintenance on Valley View Reservoir as are currently using the existing access road. The Project would not conflict or obstruct implementation of any applicable air quality plan; therefore, there would be **no impact**.

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

There will be no long-term impacts to emissions resulting from implementation of the Proposed Project. However, as described above, the Proposed Project would result in temporary air-quality emissions consisting of ROG and NO<sub>x</sub> from the operation of gas and diesel-powered equipment, as well as fugitive dust resulting from earth moving activities, including transportation of sediments. However, as shown in Table 3, below, the Project is well below the PCAPCD thresholds of significance for construction emissions. In addition, implementation of air quality BMPs (Mitigation Measure AIR-1) consistent with the PCAPCD rules and guidance, would further reduce emissions to less than significant levels. Therefore, with implementation of mitigation, this impact would be **less than significant**.

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

Type of Emissions	PCAPCD Thresholds of Significance (lbs per day)			Estimated Project Emissions (lbs per day) <sup>1</sup>		
	ROG	NO <sub>x</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	ROG	NO <sub>x</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>
Construction Emissions	82	82	82	5.78	64.14	3.13
Operational Emissions	55	55	82	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Project emissions were estimated using the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District’s Roadway Construction Emissions Model, recommended for road construction projects by PCAPCD.

- c) *With implementation of mitigation, the Proposed Project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.*

Sensitive receptors are specific population groups who are most sensitive to the adverse health effects of air pollution, as well as the land uses where these groups would reside for long periods. There are several residences in the vicinity of the Proposed Project, where individuals who could be sensitive receptors reside. As discussed in (b) above, the Proposed Project may result in short-term increases in emissions. However, the temporary nature of construction, coupled with the implementation of AIR-1 (i.e., PCAPCD’s recommended mitigation measures), would not result in conditions where sensitive receptors would be exposed to substantial pollutant concentrations. Under the PCAPCD mitigation measures, the District would submit to the PCAPCD for approval an Asbestos Dust Management Plan to prevent any naturally occurring asbestos potentially present in the Project work areas from becoming airborne. Therefore, with implementation of mitigation, this impact would be **less than significant**.

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- d) *With implementation of mitigation, the Proposed Project would not result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people.*

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

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

### **3.3.4 Mitigation Measures**

#### **AIR-1. Air Quality Best Management Practices.**

The District will implement all applicable BMPs employed by the PCAPCD under Rule 228 (Appendix C). These BMPs will be incorporated into construction specifications and implemented by the District and/or its contractor during construction.

### 3.4 Biological Resources

Would the Proposed Project...	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### 3.4.1 Thresholds of Significance

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

- Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS;
- Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the CDFW or USFWS;
- Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means;

- 
- Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites;
  - Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance; or
  - Conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

### 3.4.2 Setting

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

#### Methods

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

#### **Literature Review**

Existing documents pertinent to special-status plant and wildlife species in the vicinity of the Proposed Project were compiled, reviewed, and analyzed. This included a review of the CDFW California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB 2018), the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California (CNPS 2018), the Placer County General Plan (Placer County 2013), USFWS Species List (USFWS 2018a), USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) (USFWS 2017), and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey (NRCS 2018); Aquatic Resources Delineation Report (Stantec 2019). Relevant technical information from these documents is incorporated and referenced as appropriate.

#### **Biological Resource Surveys**

The Project area was surveyed to determine the presence of biological resources that may potentially be affected by the Project. A biological resource survey, including a vegetation community/wildlife habitat ground-truthing and a wildlife reconnaissance survey, was conducted to assess habitats in the Project area. Each of these is described below.

##### *Vegetation Community/Wildlife Habitats*

Vegetation communities were identified during reconnaissance surveys conducted on March 7 and July 11, 2018; and during the aquatic resource delineation conducted on April 9, 2018 (Stantec 2018). Vegetation communities were classified based on *A Manual of California Vegetation* (Sawyer *et al.* 2009) and cross-referenced with wildlife habitat types as classified in California Statewide Wildlife Habitat Relationships System (CWHR) (Mayer and Laudenslayer 1988).

This included identification of habitats that are considered sensitive by a local, state, or federal agency, as described below.

- **Waters of the U.S. and Waters of the State, including wetlands:** Any potential wetlands or other water features that would qualify as waters of the United States (WOUS) or of California (WOS), as well as other sensitive natural communities, were documented based on a review of

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NWI layers (USFWS 2017b) and confirmed during vegetation communities/wildlife habitat surveys. A focused aquatic resource delineation was conducted on April 9, 2018 (Stantec 2018).

The USACE has regulatory authority over WOUS which include wetlands pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Jurisdictional WOUS are defined by the U.S. Supreme Court Decision in *Rapanos v. United States & Carabell v. United States*. According to the *Rapanos* Decision, the USACE exerts jurisdiction over:

- Traditional navigable waters (TNWs) and wetlands adjacent to TNWs.
- Non-navigable tributaries of TNWs called relatively permanent waters (RPWs) that flow year-round or have continuous flow at least seasonally and wetlands that directly abut such tributaries.
- In addition, the USACE may, on a case-by-case basis, exert jurisdiction over the following:
- Wetlands that are adjacent to but that do not directly abut a RPW.
- Non-navigable tributaries that are not relatively permanent and wetlands adjacent to such tributaries.

Specifically, wetlands are defined as: "...those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions" (Environmental Laboratory 1987).

- **Riparian Habitat:** Riparian habitat is defined as areas adjacent to the banks of rivers, streams, or other waterways that contain vegetation that is distinct from upland species. Typical riparian species include cottonwood (*Populus* spp.), alder (*Alnus* spp.), ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) and willow (*Salix* spp.) These habitats are important to wildlife for foraging, nesting, refuge, and as migratory corridors. Riparian habitats are protected by CDFW under Fish and Game Code 1600–1603. In addition, the Natural Resources Element of the Placer County General Plan includes several policies that protect riparian corridors (Placer County 2013).
- **Oak Woodlands:** State laws that regulate protection of oak woodlands include Professional Forester’s Law (PFL) and CEQA according to Public Resources Code Section 21083.4. Oak woodlands are defined as areas having 10% oak canopy cover or greater. The Oak Woodlands Conservation Act (SB 1334) provides funding for the conservation and protection of oak woodlands in California. Oak woodland habitats are protected under the Placer County Tree Preservation Ordinance (Article 12.16 of the Placer County Code) and the Oak Woodland Management Plan (Placer County 2013).

### *Special-Status Plants*

For the purposes of this document, a special-status plant species is defined as any species that is granted status by a federal, state, or local agency. Federally listed plant species are defined as those species granted status by the USFWS under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and include threatened (FT), endangered (FE), proposed threatened or endangered (FPT, FPE), candidate (FC), or listed species proposed for delisting (FPD). State of California listed plant species, which are granted status by CDFW under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), include rare (SR), threatened (ST), or endangered (SE) species. Under CEQA, special-status plants include species listed by CNPS as rare, threatened, or endangered in California and plants for which more information is needed (CNPS Lists 1B, 2B, and 3) (CNPS 2018).

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### *Special-Status Wildlife*

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

Wildlife reconnaissance surveys were conducted to obtain information on any special-status wildlife species and their habitats present in the Project area on March 7 and April 9, 2018 (Stantec 2018) and on July 11, 2018 (Janelle Nolan & Associated Environmental Consulting [JNA Consulting] 2018). Species were recorded as present if they were observed, if species-specific vocalizations were heard, or if diagnostic field signs (e.g., scat, tracks, pellets, nests, or den sites) were found. Some species that are known to occur in the region and/or for which suitable habitat is present within the study area were recorded as potentially occurring, but not observed. General observations of the suitability of available habitat for various special-status species were also recorded.

### **Results**

Vegetation community/wildlife habitat ground-truthing and wildlife reconnaissance surveys were conducted on March 7, April 9, and July 11, 2018. In addition, a wetland delineation was conducted on April 9, 2018. Results of these surveys, as well as the literature review, are provided below.

### **Vegetation Communities/Wildlife Habitats**

Soils underlying the Project area are primarily identified as Auburn silt loam (2 to 15 percent slopes) and Auburn-Sobrante-Rock complex (2 to 30 percent slopes) (NRCS 2018). Auburn silt loam and Auburn-Sobrante-Rock complex soils are well drained with a parent material or residuum weathered from metamorphic rock.

Vegetation communities are typical of the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada foothills. These include *Quercus wislizeni* Forest Alliance (interior live oak woodland); *Bromus* sp. Semi-Natural Herbaceous Stands (annual grasslands); and *Rubus armeniacus* Semi-Natural Shrubland Stands (Himalayan blackberry brambles). These vegetation communities are equivalent to blue oak woodland, valley-foothill riparian, and annual grasslands as classified by the CWHR system, each described briefly below. The Project area also contains an intermittent stream feature and an irrigation ditch.

#### *Blue Oak Woodland*

The blue oak woodland habitat occurs between 500 and 2,000 feet in elevation in the Sierra Nevada foothills. In the Project area, this habitat consists of mix of interior live oak (*Quercus wislizeni*) and blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*), with scattered California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*) and foothill pine (*Pinus sabiniana*). Common shrub species of this habitat include California coffeeberry, (*Frangula californica*), buckbrush (*Ceanothus cuneatus*), and poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*). Ground cover is comprised mostly of non-native annuals, such as brome grass (*Bromus* sp.), wild oats, foxtails, needlegrass, and others. Common wildlife species in this habitat include California scrub-jays, acorn woodpeckers, and western gray squirrels. Blue oak woodland occurs throughout the southern half of the Project area.

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### *Valley-Foothill Riparian*

Valley-foothill riparian habitats typically occur below 3,000 feet in elevation in the Sierra Nevada foothills. These habitats are generally associated with low velocity flows, flood plains, and gentle topography and are characterized by tree species such as cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), box elder (*Acer negundo*), and Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*). Typical understory shrub layer plants include Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), wild grape (*Vitis californica*), wild rose (*Rosa* sp.), poison oak, and willows (*Salix* spp.). In the Project area, herbaceous species include the non-natives curly dock (*Rumex crispus*), little leaf bentgrass (*Agrostis microphylla*), and western blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*); and the native willow dock (*Rumex salicifolius*). Valley-foothill riparian habitats provide food, water, migration and dispersal corridors, and escape, nesting, and thermal cover for an abundance of wildlife. Valley-foothill riparian habitat occurs in a narrow corridor along the intermittent stream feature in the Project area.

### *Annual Grassland*

Annual grassland habitats are open grasslands composed primarily of non-native, annual plant species, many of which also occur in the herbaceous layer in adjacent woodland habitats. These habitats occupy what was once native grassland in California. Species composition and structure varies depending on weather patterns and livestock grazing. Plants in this habitat tend to grow during the cool winters and spring, maturing and dying by late spring or early summer, with standing dead material remaining in the summer depending on the amount of grazing pressure. In the Project area this habitat is dominated by an assortment of both non-native grasses, including brome grass (*Bromus diandrus*), and natives, including blue wildrye (*Elymus glaucus*). Typical wildlife species include western fence lizards, California towhees, and California ground squirrels. Annual grassland occurs throughout the northern half of the Project area. All construction staging areas will be located within this habitat type.

### *Sensitive Habitats*

Sensitive habitats, including WOUS/WOS, riparian habitat, and oak woodland are present the Project area. A description of the location of these habitats is provided below.

- **WOUS/WOS, including Wetlands:** The intermittent stream and the irrigation ditch running through the Project area are considered WOUS/WOS. In addition, emergent wetland habitat, dominated by Himalayan blackberry, was identified along the intermittent stream during the aquatic resources delineation conducted in April 2018.
- **Riparian Habitat:** As described above, there is Valley-foothill riparian habitat along a narrow stretch within the Project area. Vegetation includes California live oak (*Quercus wislizeni*) in the overstory and dense thickets of Himalayan blackberry.
- **Oak Woodland:** As stated above, oak woodland (specifically blue oak woodland) is the dominant vegetation community/wildlife habitat within the Project area. Trees are patchily distributed, with an estimated average 40 to 50% canopy cover.

### **Special-Status Plants**

Nine special-status plants have been recorded in Placer County in the Lincoln and surrounding 9 7.5" topographic USGS quads. Refer to Appendix D for information on the status, life history, distribution, and potential for occurrence of these special-status plant species. Eight of the nine species are wetland obligates (Lichvar et al. 2016). The riparian zone along the intermittent stream is wholly overgrown by Himalayan blackberry and is unlikely to support other special-status plant species. In addition, focused

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aquatic resources delineations were conducted in April 2018, during the blooming season for seven of these wetland obligates. No special-status wetland obligates were observed.

### **Special-Status Wildlife**

Based on the elevation and the habitats present onsite, nine special-status wildlife species may potentially occur in the Project area. Information on the status, life history, distribution, and potential for occurrence of these species is described below and summarized in Appendix E. Refer to Map 4 for the location of special-status wildlife species known to occur within 5 miles of the Project area.

A reconnaissance-level wildlife survey was conducted in the Project area on March 7 and April 9, 2018. As described below, an individual foothill yellow-legged frog, along with its egg masses, were observed within the irrigation ditch in the Project area. No other special-status wildlife species or their sign were observed within the Project area.

#### *Special-status Amphibians and Reptiles*

- **Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog (*Rana boylei* – ST<sup>1</sup>):** The foothill yellow-legged frog (FYLF) is a highly aquatic species that inhabits rocky streams and rivers below 3,200 feet in elevation, with near-shore areas of low velocity, frequent depositional features, and cobble/boulder substrate for breeding and similar areas with gravel/sand substrate for rearing. FYLF can be found in either perennial or intermittent streams, though they are never found far from permanent water sources. Upland habitat for this species would include banks and uplands within approximately 33 feet of aquatic habitat. Breeding and egg-laying usually begins any time from mid-March to May, eggs hatch in about five days to more than 30 days and tadpoles transform in three to four months, typically from July to October. Most populations of FYLF are found in habitats that are free of introduced predators, on one or more life stage, which are believed to include the garter snakes, small mammals, non-native crayfish and various fishes including bass, catfish, and mosquito fish (Hayes et al. 2016).

The intermittent stream feature and irrigation ditch within the Project area represent marginal breeding and dispersal habitat for FYLF. The intermittent stream would be considered marginal breeding habitat because of the lack of rocky substrate and high vegetative cover that limits basking sites; the irrigation ditch would be considered marginal habitat because it lacks a rocky substrate, has limited rocks and vegetation for cover, and has intermittent flows. Despite the suboptimal habitat conditions within the Project area, a single adult FYLF and its egg masses were observed during reconnaissance surveys conducted on April 9, 2018. No FYLF of any life stage were observed during reconnaissance surveys conducted in March and July 2018.

- **Western Spadefoot (*Spea hammondi* – SSC):** The western spadefoot ranges throughout the Central Valley and adjacent foothills and is found in grasslands and occasionally valley-foothill hardwood woodlands at elevations near sea level to 4,460 feet. Spadefoots spend most of the year in underground burrows, and emerge to breed and lay eggs in shallow, temporary pools and slow-moving streams with riffles formed by heavy winter rains with high sunlight exposure. Spadefoots typically prefer to breed in pools that have little to no vegetative cover. Breeding and egg laying normally occur from late winter to the end of March, and eggs hatch within two weeks. Tadpoles transform during the late spring and disperse after spending a few hours or days near the pond or shallow stream margins.

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<sup>1</sup> On March 10, 2020, the California Fish and Game Commission issued a formal notice listing the Northeast/Northern Sierra clade of FYLF (which includes Placer County) as threatened under CESA.

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Western spadefoots were historically widespread throughout the low Sierra foothills. The closest known records, from the early 1990's, are from Pleasant Grove Creek, and in the Roseville vicinity (Placer County 2013). The intermittent stream does not represent breeding habitat because the vegetative cover is too heavy, and because the flow is too strong during the breeding season. The slow-moving, shallow irrigation ditch represents marginal breeding habitat because it is confined to a narrow channel and has higher flow during the breeding season than preferred by the species. The surrounding grasslands represent potential over-wintering habitat for adult spadefoots. Based on a review of aerial photographs, shallow breeding pools and upland habitat are present in the Project vicinity; therefore, there is some potential for western spadefoots to occur in the Project area. No western spadefoots were observed during reconnaissance surveys conducted in March, April, or July 2018.

- **Western Pond Turtle (*Emys marmorata* – SSC):** The range for western pond turtle extends from the western Washington south to central California. In the Sierra Nevada, it historically occurred in most of the major drainages along the western slope. The western pond turtle occurs in a wide variety of permanent and ephemeral aquatic habitats, including ponds, lakes, streams, and irrigation ditches, with emergent vegetation and rock outcrops or floating debris for basking. They may also be found nesting or overwintering in adjacent upland habitats within approximately 325 feet of aquatic habitats (CDFW 2006). Western pond turtles nest on land between May and July within approximately 150 feet of water in dry clay, loam, or silt soils, in open areas with sparse, low vegetation (annual grasses and herbs). Although eggs hatch by September, hatchlings overwinter in the nest site and migrate to aquatic sites in March and April 2018.

There is one CNDDDB record for this species east of the Project area within a 3-mile buffer, though the specific occurrence location has been suppressed. No turtles were observed during reconnaissance surveys conducted in March, April, or July 2018. However, suitable aquatic and upland habitat for western pond turtle is present in and within 325 feet of the intermittent stream. The irrigation ditch does not represent suitable habitat because it has shallow water, no basking sites, and no vegetation for cover. Additional aquatic habitats, including an artificial pond is present in Proposed Project vicinity. Therefore, western pond turtle could potentially occur in the Project area.

### *Special-Status Birds*

- **Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni* – BCC, ST):** The Swainson's hawk breeds in open stands of trees in juniper-sage flats, riparian areas, and in oak woodlands and savannah in the Central Valley. Swainson's hawks forage in adjacent grasslands or suitable grain and alfalfa fields or livestock pastures. In the Central Valley, it is usually found near riparian areas. Breeding occurs in late March through September 15. Incubation takes 25 – 28 days and nestlings take 17 – 22 days to fledge.

No Swainson's hawks were observed during reconnaissance surveys conducted in March, April, and July 2018. There are no known nests within the recommended CDFW buffer of 0.5 mile of the Project area (Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory Committee (SHTAC) 2000). However, there are two nesting records within 5 miles of the Project area, and the riparian corridor and open grassland areas found within the Project area and in the Project vicinity represent suitable, though not preferred, habitat. Therefore, Swainson's hawks have some potential to occur within the Project area.

- **White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus* – CFP (nesting)):** White-tailed kites require open grasslands, meadows, or marshes (for foraging) in proximity to isolated, dense-topped trees (for

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nesting and perching). Breeding season for this species extends from February to October. Incubation takes approximately 28 days, and young fledge in 35-40 days. Occasionally, white-tailed kites will raise two broods in a single year.

There are no records for the white-tailed kite in the vicinity of the Project area, and this species was not observed during reconnaissance surveys conducted in March, April, or July of 2018. However, it is a common year-round breeding resident in grassland and riparian habitats within and surrounding the Project area. Therefore, white-tailed kites have some potential to occur within the Project area.

- **Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus* – BCC, SSC (nesting)):** The loggerhead shrike is found in open habitats with sparse shrubs and trees (or other suitable perch sites) and bare ground and/or low, sparse herbaceous cover. Breeding habitat includes shrublands and open woodlands; nests are usually located in tall shrubs and trees with dense foliage. Foraging habitat includes tall shrubs and trees for hunting perches and open grassy or bare areas for hunting. Loggerhead shrike is found in lowlands and foothills throughout California. Breeding occurs from March through August; incubation lasts 14 to 15 days and young fledge in 18 to 19 days.

Suitable nesting and/or foraging habitat for loggerhead shrike is present throughout the Project area in blue oak-foothill pine woodland. No loggerhead shrikes were observed during reconnaissance surveys conducted in March, April, or July of 2018. However, because suitable habitat exists within the Project area, this species could potentially occur.

- **Tricolored Blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor* – BCC, ST, SSC):** The tricolored blackbird requires open water, a protected nesting substrate, and a foraging area with insect prey within a few kilometers of the colony. The breeding season for this species extends from April to late July. This species is highly colonial, and nesting areas must be large enough to support at least 50 pairs. Incubation lasts about 11 days and the young fledge in about 13 days.

No tricolored blackbirds were observed during reconnaissance surveys conducted in March, April, or July 2018. There are six records of tricolored blackbird within 5 miles of the Project area, and appropriate foraging and nesting habitat for the tricolored blackbird is present within the Project vicinity. Therefore, tricolored blackbirds could potentially occur within the Project area.

### *Special-Status Mammals*

- **Pallid Bat (*Antrozous pallidus* – SSC):** The pallid bat is a year-round resident in California. The pallid bat is found in arid desert areas, grasslands and oak savanna, coastal forested areas, and coniferous forests of the mountain regions of California. Day and night roost sites typically include rock outcroppings, caves, hollow trees, mines, buildings, and bridges. Pallid bats will use more open sites such as eaves, awnings, and open areas under bridges for night feeding roosts.

There are no known occurrences of pallid bat in the Project area, and no bats were observed during reconnaissance surveys conducted in March, April, or July 2018. Hollow trees in the Project area represent potential roosting habitat for this species. Open areas over the grasslands and adjacent to the ditch and/or stream represent potential foraging habitat for this species. Therefore, this species could potentially occur in the Project area.

- **Townsend's Big-eared Bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii* – CSC):** Townsend's big-eared bat is a year-round resident in California. The Townsend's big-eared bat is found primarily in rural settings, from inland deserts to coastal redwoods, oak woodland of the inner Coast Ranges and Sierra Nevada foothills, and low to mid-elevation mixed coniferous-deciduous forests. It

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typically roosts during the day in caves and mines, but may roost in buildings that offer suitable conditions. Night roosts are typically located in more open settings such as bridges.

There are no known occurrences of Townsend's big-eared bat in the Project area, and no bats were observed during reconnaissance surveys conducted in March, April, or July 2018. There are no mines, caves, or other structures in the Project area that provide roosting habitat for this species. Open areas over upland habitat represent potential foraging habitat for this species. Therefore, this species could potentially occur in the Project area.

### *Other Protected Bird Species*

In addition to the species listed above, the Project area may provide potential habitat for raptors protected under Section 3503.5 of the California Fish and Game Code or other bird species protected under the MBTA, including raptors such as the red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) and red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*); ground-nesting species such as California quail (*Callipepla californica*); and nesting songbirds such as the California scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma californica*) and California towhee (*Melospiza crissalis*).

### **3.4.3 Discussion**

- a) *With implementation of mitigation, the Proposed Project will not have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS.*

The Proposed Project vicinity represents potential habitat for nine special-status plant species and nine special-status wildlife species, as well as raptors protected under California Fish and Game Code or other bird species protected under the MBTA. The following is a discussion of potential impacts to these special-status species.

#### **Special-Status Plants**

Eight of the nine special-status plant species evaluated for occurrence in the Project area are wetland obligates (Lichvar et al. 2016). Focused aquatic resources delineations were conducted in April 2018, during the blooming season for seven of these wetland obligates. No special-status wetland obligates were observed. Mitigation Measure BIO-1 requires NID to conduct surveys in June, prior to construction, to determine whether the remaining two species (big-scale balsamroot and hispid-beaked bird's clover) not yet surveyed during the appropriate blooming period are present. If these species are observed, a minimum 5-foot buffer will be established (using stakes, flagging, or other similar methods) to protect the plants during construction activities. If implementation of the buffer is not practicable, NID will consult with the appropriate resource agencies to determine an appropriate avoidance and protection measure considering the plant species, site-specific habitat characteristics, and the nature of construction activities to be conducted that may disturb the plant. The avoidance and protection measure would be implemented as part of the Project.

With implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1, impacts to special-status plants would be considered **less than significant**.

#### **Special-Status Wildlife**

Provided below is discussion of potential impacts to special-status wildlife species, as well as raptors protected under California Fish and Game Code or other bird species protected under the MBTA.

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## Special-Status Amphibians and Reptiles

### *Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog, Western Spadefoot, and Western Pond Turtle*

#### *Direct Effects*

Construction of drainage crossings could potentially result in direct impacts to FYLF, western spadefoot, or western pond turtles, if present at the time of construction. Individuals could be stranded by the diversion of the water in the ditch and stream prior to construction of culverts, or could experience direct mortality from contact with heavy machinery during construction of the culverts. FYLF or western spadefoot egg masses or juveniles, if present, could desiccate as a direct result of dewatering. Turtles using upland habitat could also be crushed by heavy machinery during road construction. In order to prevent direct impacts to FYLF, western spadefoot, or western pond turtle, the District will implement Mitigation Measures BIO-2, BIO-3 and BIO-4.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2 requires work activities to be limited to a designated work area, and Mitigation Measures BIO-3 states that all construction personnel will attend an environmental awareness training which includes a review of special-status species potentially in the Project area and mitigation measures that must be implemented to reduce the potential for effects to these species or their habitat. Mitigation Measure BIO-4 states that construction activities will be conducted between June 1 and February 28, outside of the breeding season for FYLF. Furthermore, this measure states that the ditch and intermittent stream must be surveyed using protocol-level visual encounter surveys prior to commencement of construction activities. Any frogs or other animals present in the construction zone would be allowed to move out of harm's way, or if necessary be captured and relocated by a qualified biologist to the nearest appropriate habitat outside of the Project area. A record of all individuals relocated will be maintained and provided to CDFW.

Implementation of these measures would minimize the potential for direct effects to FYLF, western spadefoot, or western pond turtle, if present in the Project area. Therefore, with implementation of mitigation, impacts to these species are **less than significant**.

#### *Indirect Effects*

The Project would require the installation of culverts to create crossings over the intermittent stream and irrigation ditch, resulting in the permanent alteration of approximately 0.005 acre of riverine habitat (for both features combined). Furthermore, approximately 0.02 acre Valley foothill riparian vegetation (primarily Himalayan blackberry) along the intermittent stream would be removed to construct the new access road segment. The Project could also result in short-term temporary impacts to water quality downstream of the culvert installation as a result of the disruption of flows, the increased sedimentation from ground disturbance, or the runoff of hazardous materials into the ditch or stream. In order to minimize impacts to aquatic habitat and wetland habitat, the District will implement Mitigation Measures BIO-2, BIO-3, BIO-5 and HYD-1.

As described above, Mitigation Measures BIO-2 and BIO-3 limit construction to designated work areas and require construction personnel to receive environmental awareness training prior to initiation of the Project. In addition, to preserve water quality and maintain aquatic habitats in or downstream of the ditch and stream crossings during construction, the District would implement Mitigation Measure BIO-5, which requires the District to obtain relevant permits from USACE, RWQCB, and CDFW for all work conducted within WOUS/WOS and to implement all water quality and aquatic species protection measures contained in the permits. The District will mitigate for permanent alteration/loss of aquatic habitat at a one-to-one ratio through purchase of credits at an approved mitigation bank and will provide written evidence of the purchase to resource agencies (e.g., USACE, RWQCB, and/or CDFW).

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Mitigation Measure HYD-1 states that the District will identify and implement site-specific BMPs to control erosion and sediment loss to protect water quality. Specifically, the District and/or its contractors will be required to prepare a spill prevention and control plan (SPCP) that will be implemented during Project activities. All refueling, storage, servicing, and maintenance of equipment will be performed in designated areas at least 50 feet away from flagged riparian areas.

Implementation of these measures would mitigate for permanent alteration of habitat and would minimize the potential for temporary effects to water quality within and downstream of the Project area. Therefore, with implementation of mitigation, indirect effects to FYLF, western spadefoot, and western pond turtle are **less than significant**.

### **Special-Status Birds**

#### *Swainson's Hawks, Special-Status Raptors, and Other Bird Species*

##### *Direct Effects*

The Project area represents appropriate habitat for other special-status avian species including Swainson's hawks, white-tailed kite, loggerhead shrike, and tricolored blackbird. Other raptors protected under Section 3503.5 of the California Fish and Game Code or other native bird species protected by the MBTA may also occur in the Project area.

Tree-nesting birds could potentially be affected by removal of trees for the construction of the new access road segment, shrub-nesting birds could potentially be affected by the removal of blackberry bushes for the crossing of the stream, and ground-nesting birds could potentially be affected by the ground disturbance associated with grading the road. Noise and other disturbance from use of equipment and the presence of construction crews could result in short-term, temporary disturbance of birds known or potentially nesting or foraging in the Project area.

The District will implement Mitigation Measures BIO-2, BIO-3, and BIO-6 to reduce the potential for loss or disturbance of nesting or foraging birds. Mitigation Measure BIO-2 states that the District will implement general construction measures to reduce impacts to biological resources, including birds. This includes using designated access and staging areas in previously disturbed areas, limiting work to the hours between sunrise and sunset, and limiting vegetation removal to that necessary for implementation of the Project.

Mitigation Measure BIO-3 states that the District will require construction personnel to participate in training regarding sensitive biological resources (including special-status birds) in the Project area.

Mitigation Measure BIO-6 states that a qualified biologist will conduct a preconstruction survey within the 30 days prior to Project initiation to determine if active nests are present in trees, shrubs, or on the ground in the Project vicinity. The Project area and a 25-foot buffer will be surveyed for nesting non-raptorial birds. The Project area and a 500-foot buffer will be surveyed for nesting raptors. A 0.5-mile radius around the Project area will be surveyed for nesting Swainson's hawks. If active nests are found, the District would implement the appropriate no-disturbance buffer around the nest until the young have fledged, as determined by a qualified biologist, unless the District receives written authorization from CDFW to proceed.

With implementation of mitigation, potential impacts to Swainson's hawks, raptors, and other birds would be considered **less than significant**.

##### *Indirect Effects*

The Proposed Project will require the removal of 11 oak trees and approximately 0.3 acre of annual grassland vegetation to implement the Project. Removal of this vegetation would result in the loss of

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nesting and foraging habitat for special-status raptors or other birds. The District would implement Mitigation Measures BIO-2, BIO-7, and BIO-8 to minimize impacts to habitat.

Mitigation Measures BIO-2 and BIO-7 state that removal of vegetation, including riparian vegetation, will be limited to that necessary for the Project. Measure BIO-2 further states that the District will use designated access and staging areas located within previously disturbed areas, and will limit vegetation removal to that necessary for implementation of the Project. Mitigation Measure BIO-8 states that the District will not remove any native oaks beyond what is required for the project (up to 11 oak trees), and will prohibit use of equipment or disturbance of soil within the dripline of trees adjacent to the Project area. Furthermore, the trees would be mitigated at a 1:1 ratio, through replanting of 11 native oaks.

Removal of 0.3 acre of annual grassland vegetation and removal of up to 11 trees oak would not result in significant changes to the proportion of vegetation types present in the Project area, the structure of canopy layers, or the extent of canopy cover in the Project area. Therefore, with implementation of mitigation, potential impacts to foraging and or/nesting special-status avian species resulting from vegetation removal would be **less than significant**.

### **Special-Status Mammals**

#### *Special-Status Bats*

##### *Direct Effects*

Construction of the new access road segment requires the removal of 11 native oak trees, which could remove potential roosting habitat for pallid bats. However, the trees that will be removed do not have large cavities and other features that serve as suitable roosting habitat. The Project would be implemented at the end of the maternity season for pallid bats, when young bats are able to fly out of harm's way.

Furthermore, the District would implement Mitigation Measures BIO-2 and BIO-8 to minimize impacts to habitat. Mitigation Measures BIO-2 and BIO-8 state that removal of vegetation, including trees, will be limited to that necessary for the Project. Mitigation Measure BIO-8 also requires the District to erect construction fencing around the of native oak trees within the Project area that could potentially be affected by the Project and equipment use and soil disturbance within the fencing will be prohibited. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not significantly alter roosting habitat availability for the pallid bat. Therefore, with implementation of mitigation, this impact is **less than significant**.

##### *Indirect Effects*

Noise and human presence from construction activities may cause short-term, temporary disturbance of pallid bats and Townsend's big-eared bats that may forage or roost in the Project area and vicinity. However, any potential disturbance to bats would be minimal for several reasons. The Project is short-term and temporary in nature and would be implemented outside the maternal breeding season. Mitigation Measure BIO-2 requires that the District establish access routes and staging areas in previously disturbed areas and restricts construction activities to the hours between sunrise and sunset. Pallid bat and Townsend's big-eared bat are crepuscular species that typically would not be foraging in the Project area during daylight hours. Therefore, with implementation of mitigation, this impact is **less than significant**.

- b) *With implementation of mitigation, the Proposed Project will not have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the CDFW or USFWS.*

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The Project area supports oak woodland and riparian habitats which are considered sensitive by CDFW and Placer County. The Project area is dominated by oak woodlands (specifically blue oak woodland). In addition, valley-foothill riparian habitat borders the intermittent stream within the Project area. Implementation of the Project would include removal of 11 oak trees from within oak woodland habitats, and removal of approximately 0.02 acre of Valley foothill riparian habitat located along the intermittent stream.

Mitigation Measures BIO-2, BIO-5, BIO-7, BIO-8, and HYD-1 would minimize any adverse impacts to these habitats. Mitigation Measure BIO-2 construction activities take place in designated work and staging areas. Mitigation Measure BIO-5 states that NID will obtain a Streambed Alteration Agreement from CDFW; and will implement the conditions of the permit as part of the Project. In addition, if required, NID will mitigate for loss of the WOUS/WOS through purchase of credits at an approved mitigation bank, and will provide written evidence of the purchase to resource agencies (e.g., USACE, RWQCB, and/or CDFW). Mitigation Measure BIO-7 requires that no riparian vegetation be removed beyond that which is necessary for Project implementation and that construction fencing be erected around riparian areas to further limit disturbance. Mitigation Measure BIO-8 requires that no native oaks will be removed beyond what is required for Project implementation, and the District will erect construction fencing to protect the oaks to be retained in or adjacent to Project work or staging area. Furthermore, the District will mitigate for the removal of 11 native oaks by replanting 11 native oak trees, either on site (if acceptable to the landowner) or at an off-site mitigation location to be determined in consultation with CDFW.

With implementation of these Mitigation Measures, the Project would not result in significant changes to the proportion of vegetation types present in the Project area, the structure of canopy layers, or the extent of canopy cover in the Project area. Therefore, with implementation of mitigation, this impact would be considered **less than significant**.

- c) *With implementation of mitigation, the Proposed Project will not 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.*

Construction of the drainage crossings will result in loss of approximately 0.002 acre of riverine habitat within the irrigation ditch and 0.005 acre of riverine habitat within the intermittent stream. To mitigate for impacts to WOUS/WOS, the District will implement Mitigation Measure BIO-5 which requires obtaining authorization from USACE under Section 404 to implement the Project. The District will also obtain a 401 Water Quality Certification from the Regional Water Quality Control Board and a Streambed Alteration Agreement from CDFW. All conditions required in the Certification/Agreement will be implemented as part of the Project. In addition, as described above, NID will mitigate for loss of WOUS/WOS through purchase of credits at an approved mitigation bank, and will provide written evidence of the purchase to resource agencies (e.g., USACE, RWQCB, and/or CDFW). Mitigation Measures BIO-7 limits removal of riparian vegetation to the 0.02 acre of Valley foothill riparian required for construction of the intermittent stream crossing; and requires the erection of construction fencing around riparian habitats. HYD-1, which requires a SPCP and that staging areas be placed at least 50 feet away from flagged riparian areas, would further minimize potential impacts to WOUS/WOS.

Considering implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-5, BIO-7, and HYD-1, impacts to WOUS/WOS would be **less than significant**.

- d) *With implementation of mitigation, the Proposed Project would not interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory species or with established native resident or migratory*

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*wildlife corridors because the Project is not located in a known migration corridor or recognized flyway; and the Proposed Project would not impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.*

The Project area is not located in a known migration corridor or recognized flyway and would not impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. Following implementation of the Project, the new access road segment would be a small gravel road, used infrequently, and would not impede movements of wildlife. The work season of the Proposed Project is short-term and temporary, and Mitigation Measure BIO-2 states that activities would be restricted to designated work areas, access routes and staging areas; and will be restricted to the hours between sunrise and sunset. In addition, the District will clean up the site following the completion of construction. Any effects on the movement of wildlife would be temporary; therefore, with implementation of mitigation, this impact would be considered **less than significant**.

- e) *With implementation of mitigation, the Proposed Project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.*

Placer County has a several policies and ordinances that protect native and landmark trees, oak woodlands, and riparian corridors. These policies are detailed in the Natural Resources Element of the Placer County General Plan (Placer County 2013), the Tree Preservation Ordinance (Article 12.16 of the Placer County Code), and the Oak Woodland Management Plan (Placer County 2003). These policies are generally only applicable to ministerial Projects that require approval by Placer County.

The Proposed Project involves potential removal of 11 oak trees for the construction of the proposed access road. The Project incorporates mitigation measures that would minimize impacts to and protect biological resources including oak woodlands and riparian areas, including Mitigation Measures BIO-7 and BIO-8. Mitigation Measure BIO-7 limits removal of riparian vegetation and requires the erection of construction fencing around riparian habitats to limit disturbance. Mitigation Measure BIO-8 requires that no native oaks will be removed beyond what is required for Project implementation, and the District will erect construction fencing to protect the oaks in Project work and staging areas. In addition, the District will mitigate for the removal of 11 native oaks replanting 11 native oak trees, either on site (if acceptable to the landowner) or at an off-site mitigation location to be determined in consultation with CDFW. Therefore, with implementation of mitigation, this impact would be **less than significant**.

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

The Proposed Project would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan because the Proposed Project does not occur in an area covered by any of these types of plans (USFWS 2018b). The Project area falls within the geographic jurisdiction of the draft Placer County Conservation Program (PCCP). While the District is not a pre-approved permittee under the draft PCCP, they are considered a Participating Special Entity in Section 8.5 of the draft PCCP, which means that when implementation of the final PCCP has begun, the District can request coverage under the final PCCP for take authorization for eligible Projects and activities. According to Section 2.3.3 of the draft PCCP, the Proposed Project would be considered eligible for coverage, as if falls within the category of “In-Stream Projects” (Placer County 2011). If the PCCP becomes effective prior to the implementation of the Proposed Project, participation in the PCCP by the District would be optional. The District can instead decide to work directly with resource agencies to obtain all applicable authorizations and permits. Because the draft PCCP is not yet finalized, approved, and in effect, and any future participation by the District would be optional, the Proposed Project would not

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conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan. Therefore, there would be **no impact**.

### **3.4.4 Mitigation Measures**

#### **BIO-1. Botanical Surveys.**

A qualified biologist will conduct a survey in June to determine whether any special-status plant species listed in Appendix D are present in the Project area. If these species are observed, a minimum 5-foot buffer will be established (using stakes, flagging, or other similar methods) to protect the plants during construction activities. If implementation of the buffer is not practicable, NID will consult with the resource agencies to determine appropriate avoidance and protection measure considering the plant species, site-specific habitat characteristics, and the nature of construction activities to be conducted that may disturb the plant. The avoidance and protection measure will be implemented as part of the Project.

#### **BIO-2. General Construction Measures.**

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

- Construction activities will be limited to a designated work area (including the work corridor and staging area). The work area will be clearly identified on the construction drawings and will be staked and flagged where necessary prior to initiation of construction activities.
- All staging areas and access routes will be located on developed roads and areas that have already been disturbed.
- Construction activities, including activities within equipment staging areas, will be limited to the hours between sunrise (but no earlier than 7:00 a.m.) and sunset (but no later than 7:00 p.m.) on weekdays. Construction work on weekends and District-recognized holidays will be avoided when practical. If required, work on weekends and District-recognized holidays will be limited to the hours between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- Vegetation removal will be limited to that which is necessary for implementation of the Project. This includes removal of approximately 0.3 acre of annual grassland, and up to 11 native oak trees. No other vegetation will be removed.
- The District will ensure that all equipment and vehicles will be removed from the Project site following completion of the Project.

#### **BIO-3. Environmental Awareness Training.**

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

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

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#### **BIO-4. Frog and Turtle Monitoring.**

The following measure will be implemented to avoid impacts to foothill yellow-legged frogs, western spadefoots, and western pond turtles:

- Construction will be conducted outside of the breeding season for foothill yellow-legged frogs (between June 1 and February 28).
- The Project area will be surveyed prior to commencement of activities to ensure that no turtles or frogs are present within the irrigation ditch or intermittent stream.
- If any animals are present, the animal(s) will be allowed to move out of harm's way, or, if necessary, a qualified biologist will relocate the individual to the nearest area of suitable habitat outside of the Project area.
- A record will be maintained that includes the following data for each individual rescued and relocated (or as specified in CDFW permit conditions):
  - Date of capture and relocation,
  - Method of capture,
  - Species and life stage,
  - Location of relocation in relation to the Project area, and
  - Total number of individuals captured and relocated.

The frog and turtle relocation record will be provided to CDFW following completion of the Project.

#### **BIO-5. Clean Water Act Permitting and California Fish and Game Code Compliance.**

- The District will obtain relevant CWA permits (e.g., Sections 401 and 404), and any permits required under the California Fish and Game Code (e.g., Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement). All conditions identified in the permits will be implemented as part of the Project.
- If required, the District will mitigate for loss of WOUS/WOS through purchase of credits at an approved mitigation bank and will provide written evidence of the purchase to resource agencies (e.g., USACE, RWQCB, and/or CDFW).

#### **BIO-6. Protection of Special-Status Raptors or Other Bird Nests.**

- To avoid disturbance of raptor and bird nests, construction activities will be conducted between August 16 and February 28, outside of the nesting season for these species.
- If construction activities must be conducted during the nesting season (between March 1 and August 15), a preconstruction survey will be conducted by a qualified biologist to determine if there are active nests present. Both the Project area and a 25-foot, 500-foot, and 0.5-mile buffer will be surveyed for non-raptors, raptors, and Swainson's Hawks, respectively. The survey will be conducted no more than 30 days prior to Project initiation. If the biologist determines that the area surveyed does not contain any active nests, then Project activities can begin without any further mitigation.
- If active Swainson's hawk nests are found, construction activities will not occur within 0.5 miles of the active nest until the young have fledged, as determined by a qualified biologist, or until the District receives written authorization from the CDFW to proceed.

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- If other active raptor nests are found, construction will not occur within 500 feet of an active nest until the young have fledged, as determined by a qualified biologist, or until the District receives written authorization from the CDFW to proceed.
  - If active nests of non-raptorial birds are found, a 25-foot buffer will be established and the nest will be avoided until the young have fledged, as determined by a qualified biologist, or until the District receives written authorization from the CDFW to proceed.

#### **BIO-7. Protection of Riparian Habitats.**

The District will implement the following mitigation measures to minimize potential impacts to riparian habitats:

- Removal of Valley foothill riparian vegetation will be limited to a maximum of approximately 0.02 acre required for construction of the intermittent stream crossing. No other riparian vegetation will be removed.
- Prior to implementation of staging and construction or ground disturbing activities, the District will install orange or yellow construction fencing around all other riparian areas that could potentially be affected by Project activities. These areas will be avoided throughout Project implementation.

#### **BIO-8. Protection of Oak Woodlands.**

The District will implement the following mitigation measures to minimize potential impacts to oak woodlands:

- No native oaks will be removed beyond what is required for implementation of the Project (up to 11 native oak trees).
- Where necessary, the District will erect construction fencing around the native oak trees in or adjacent to Project work and staging areas, and will prohibit use of equipment or disturbance of soil within the fencing.
- NID will mitigate for removal of 11 native oaks at a 1:1 ratio, through in-kind planting either on site (if acceptable to the landowner), or at an off-site location to be determined through consultation with CDFW. Mitigation will be implemented as part of the Project consistent with the CDFW Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement to be obtained for the Project.

Refer also to Mitigation Measure HYD-1 in Section 3.9, Hydrology and Water Quality.

### 3.5 Cultural Resources

Would the Project...	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### 3.5.1 Thresholds of Significance

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

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

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

#### 3.5.2 Setting

This section provides a summary of the methods used to obtain information on cultural and historical resources in the Project area, and the resulting description of those resources.

#### Methods

##### Literature Review

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

- California Department of Conservation Geologic Map of California (California Department of Conservation 2010);
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Maps (NRCS 2018);
- Ethnographic Village Locations (Wilson and Towne 1978);
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM) General Land Office Maps (BLM 2018);
- Historic USGS Topographic Maps (USGS 2019);
- Historic aerial photographs (Historic Aerials 2018);
- National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) database (National Park Service 2018);
- California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) database (California State Parks, Office of Historic Preservation 2018).

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- California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), North Central Information Center database (CHRIS, 2019).

The sources listed above were reviewed to assess the presence of cultural resources and the potential for buried archaeological sites within the Project area. Assessing the sensitivity for an area to contain buried archaeological sites takes into consideration the potential for the presence of buried cultural deposits by examining past use of the study area; factors that support human occupations such as access to resources and water; slope; and the underlying geomorphology of the area. Generally speaking, a large proportion of archaeological sites are located within 150 meters of perennial water sources and on relatively flat ground. Portions of the Project area that have these characteristics have an increased potential to contain surficial and buried cultural resources.

### **Pedestrian Surveys**

Pedestrian surveys were conducted by a qualified archeologist on August 23, 2019 (Far Western 2019). Surveys were conducted consistent with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and CEQA. The surveyor searched for site indicators of prehistoric sites along 5-to-10-meter-wide transects throughout the Project area. All rodent backdirts, cattle wallows, cattle trails, two-track vehicle trails, and other areas of open ground were searched thoroughly. All surface cobbles and boulders were examined for signs of human modification. Site indicators may include but are not limited to ground depressions; darkened soil areas indicative of middens; fire scorched and/or cracked rock; modified obsidian, chert, or other vitreous materials; and grinding stones including manos and metates. Historic era artifacts may include but are not limited to metal objects including nails; containers or miscellaneous hardware; glass fragments; ceramic or stoneware objects or fragments; milled or split lumber; trenches; feature or structure remains such as buildings or building foundations; and trash dumps.

### **Results**

Depositions in the Project area are classified as ‘Mzv’ or metavolcanic rocks dating to the Mesozoic period (252 to 66 million years ago). The Project area is flat to gently sloping. Soils in the PSA are predominantly composed of Auburn silt loam, 2 to 15 percent slopes and Auburn-Sobrante-Rock outcrop complex, 2 to 30 percent slopes. Soils in the Auburn silt loam and Auburn-Sobrante-Rock outcrop complex are well drained with a parent material of residuum weathered from metamorphic rock. The closest ethnographic village is Bushamul, located approximately 4.5 miles northwest of Project area (Wilson and Towne 1978). A review of historic topographic maps and historic aerials noted mining features in the vicinity of but not within the Project area. No NRHP or CRHR listed properties were identified within or adjacent to the Project area.

The pedestrian survey identified a single fragment of blue transfer-print ironstone ceramic in the Project area, but no structural remains (milled lumber, window glass, nails, etc) were discovered; thus, this fragment is considered an isolate of unknown origin. No other cultural resources were identified in the Project area.

### **3.5.3 Discussion**

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

Cultural resources surveys indicate there are no unique historical resources in the Project area. Therefore, the Project will have **no impact** on a unique cultural resource as defined in Section 15064.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

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

No archaeological resources were identified within the Project area. However, while it is unlikely, the possibility remains that previously unidentified archaeological resources may be encountered during Project activities. Thus, the Proposed Project could potentially adversely affect unique archaeological resources.

Mitigation Measure CULT-1 requires subsurface cultural resources (including archeological resources) to be treated in a manner consistent with District Policy 6085. This policy requires cessation of all work within 150 feet of the resource; requires evaluation of the resource by a qualified archeologist; and states that no work that may affect the resource shall take place until approval is obtained from the archeologist and/or concurrence with State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and Native American tribal representatives.

Therefore, with implementation of mitigation, this impact would be **less than significant**.

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

Human remains were not discovered during the current field investigation. While it is unlikely, there is a possibility that buried human remains may be encountered during construction activities. Implementation of Mitigation Measure CULT-2 would minimize the potential for the Proposed Project to disturb any human remains. This measure requires cessation of all work within 150 feet of the burial area; immediate notification of the NID project manager, qualified archaeologist, and Placer County Sheriff/Coroner; and no additional work will take place until the qualified archaeologist approves work in the area. Therefore, with implementation of mitigation, this impact would be **less than significant**.

### 3.5.4 Mitigation Measures

#### **CULT-1. Inadvertent Discovery of Previously Unknown Cultural, Paleontological, or Tribal Resources**

- If an inadvertent discovery of tribal cultural resources, archaeological resources, paleontological materials, or other cultural resources/materials (e.g., unusual amounts of shell, animal bone, glass, ceramics, structure/building remains, etc.) is made during Project-related construction activities, the NID Cultural Resources Policy (No. 6085.1 Discovery of Cultural Resources) will be implemented. This policy includes a stop work order, or relocation of work by the NID project manager, avoidance of the discovery by 150 feet, and coordination with a qualified archaeologist. Refer to Appendix F for the NID Policy.
- As part of this policy, the archaeologist shall determine whether the resource is potentially significant per the CRHR and develop appropriate mitigation in consultation with NID, the SHPO, and Native American Tribal representatives to protect the integrity of the resource and ensure that no additional resources are impacted. Mitigation could include, but not necessarily be limited to preservation in-place, archival research, subsurface testing, or data recovery.

#### **CULT-2. Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains**

- In accordance with the California Health and Safety Code and NID Cultural Resources Policy (No. 6085.2 Discovery of Human Remains), if human remains are uncovered during ground-disturbing activities, all work within 150 feet of the area of the burial shall be halted. The NID project manager will be notified immediately, who in turn will notify the qualified archaeologist.

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The qualified archaeologist will contact the Placer County Sheriff/Coroner to determine the nature and extent of the remains.

- The coroner is required to examine all discoveries of human remains within 48 hours of receiving notice of a discovery on private or state lands (Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5[b]). If the coroner determines that the remains are those of Native American descent, the coroner must contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) by phone within 24 hours of making that determination (Health and Safety Code Section 7050[c]). The NAHC shall identify the most likely descendant (MLD). Once given permission by NID and land owner, the MLD shall be allowed on-site. The MLD shall complete their inspection and make their recommendation to NID for means of treating or disposing of, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and any associated grave goods as provided in PRC Section 5097.98. MLD recommendations must be made within 48 hours of the NAHC notification to the MLD.
- No additional work shall take place within the immediate vicinity of the find until the qualified archaeologist gives approval to resume work in that area. Refer to Appendix F for the NID policy.
- A range of possible treatments for the remains, including nondestructive removal and analysis, preservation in-place, relinquishment of the remains and associated items to the descendants, or other culturally appropriate treatment, may be discussed. AB 2641 suggests that the concerned parties may extend discussions beyond the initial 48 hours to allow for the discovery of additional remains. AB 2641(e) includes a list of site protection measures and states that the landowner shall comply with one or more of the following:
  - Record the site with the NAHC or the appropriate Information Center;
  - Utilize an open space or conservation zoning designation or easement; and/or
  - Record a document with the county in which the property is located.
- The landowner or their authorized representative shall rebury the Native American human remains and associated grave goods with appropriate dignity on the property in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance if the NAHC is unable to identify a MLD or the MLD fails to make a recommendation within 48 hours after being granted access to the site. The landowner or their authorized representative may also re-inter the remains in a location not subject to further disturbance if they reject the recommendation of the MLD, and mediation by the NAHC fails to provide measures acceptable to the landowner.

### 3.6 Energy

Would the Project...	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### 3.6.1 Thresholds of Significance

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

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

#### 3.6.2 Setting

##### Regulatory Setting

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

##### Relevant State and Local Regulations

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

##### State Regulations

##### Warren-Alquist Act

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

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

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

### **Assembly Bill 1007 (2007)**

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

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

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

### **State Vehicle Standards**

In response to the transportation sector accounting for more than half of California's carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions, Assembly Bill 1493 was enacted in 2002. Assembly Bill 1493 required the California ARB to set GHG emission standards for passenger vehicles, light-duty trucks, and other vehicles whose primary use is noncommercial personal transportation in the state. The bill required that ARB set GHG emission standards for motor vehicles manufactured in 2009 and all subsequent model years. The 2009-2012 standards resulted in a reduction in approximately 22% GHG emissions compared to emissions from the 2002 fleet, and the 2013-2016 standards resulted in a reduction of approximately 30%.

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

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

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### 3.6.3 Discussion

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

During the construction phase of the Project, energy use would increase relative to existing conditions. Fuel consumption would increase above the baseline due to the operation of gas and diesel-powered equipment. As described in Section 3.3 Air Quality and in Section 3.17 Transportation/Traffic, the construction equipment would be transported from the nearby towns of Lincoln (approximately 7 street miles) and Roseville (approximately 18 street miles) and would operate on-site for approximately 40 days. Workers would commute to the site daily during the construction phase.

This minor increase in energy use during construction would not be considered wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy. However, to minimize these temporary minor increases in energy consumption, the District will implement the air quality BMPs (Mitigation Measure AIR-1) outlined in Appendix C, including limiting the idling time of construction vehicles to no more than 5 consecutive minutes, and maintaining records demonstrating that heavy duty off-road equipment meets PCAPCD's recommend fleetwise average emissions. With implementation of air quality BMPs (Mitigation Measure AIR-1), these construction impacts would be **less than significant**.

Following completion of the Project, vehicle use would return to existing levels and use of the new access road segment for ongoing maintenance activities would not result in any changes in energy resource consumption; therefore, there would be **no impact** in the long-term.

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

State guidelines on renewable energy or energy efficiency do not set any specific thresholds for determining the energy efficiency of construction projects. However, as described in Section 3.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions, in October 2016 PCAPCD adopted significance thresholds for construction-related GHG emissions of 10,000 metric tons (MT) of CO<sub>2</sub>e per year. Because of the small acreage and short construction duration of the Proposed Project, GHG emission levels would fall well below this significance threshold.

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

### 3.6.4 Mitigation Measures

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

### 3.7 Geology and Soils

Would the Project...	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### 3.7.1 Thresholds of Significance

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

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

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- Landslides.
    - Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil;
    - Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the Project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse;
    - Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property;
    - Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater; or
    - Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.

### 3.7.2 Setting

The Project area and vicinity contains metavolcanic rocks composed mainly of mafic to intermediate volcanic flows, flow breccias, and tuff breccias (Loyd 1995). The soils contain volcanoclastic and volcanic-derived sediments and small glabrric intrusions, including rocks of the Smartville and Lake Combie volcanic complexes. The California Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey (2006) has mapped the Project area and vicinity as moderate for the presence of naturally occurring asbestos, which is known to be present in these rock types in Placer and nearby counties. Soils underlying the Project area include Auburn silt loam (2-15% slopes) and Auburn-Sobrante-Rock outcrop complex (2-30% slopes). These soils are well-drained with a parent material of residuum weathered from metamorphic rock (NRCS 2018). The Project site is not located in an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone (California Department of Conservation 2018). Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones are active faults, which represent the highest earthquake hazard and are those that have rupture to the ground surface during the Holocene period (about the last 11,000 years).

### 3.7.3 Discussion

The Project area is not located in the vicinity of a highly active fault and lies on mostly level ground. Therefore, there would be **no impact** from (a)(i) ground rupture at the Project area; (a)(ii) increased exposure or risk due to seismic ground shaking; (a)(iii) seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction; or (a)(iv) landslides.

Ground-disturbing activities associated with the Proposed Project could result in temporary construction-related erosion (b). To minimize the potential for erosion, the District will implement Mitigation Measure HYD-1, which requires incorporation of appropriate BMPs into the Project including the preparation of a spill prevention and control plan (SPCP), and staging of all equipment at designated sites at least 50 feet of flagged riparian areas to prevent runoff of chemicals and sediment. Therefore, with implementation of mitigation, this impact would be considered **less than significant**.

The Proposed Project is not located on a (c) geologic unit or soil that is considered unstable, and would not result in increased risks of landslides or collapse; therefore, there would be **no impact**. The Proposed Project is not located on a (d) expansive soil type and would not create substantial risks to life or property; therefore, there would be **no impact**. The Proposed Project does not (e) include the use of septic tanks or the development of wastewater treatment systems; therefore, there would be **no impact**.

No unique paleontological resources or unique geologic features are known to occur in the Project area. Ground disturbing activities have the potential to disturb (f) unknown or unidentified buried paleontological resources within the Project area. Mitigation Measure CULT-1 requires subsurface

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cultural resources (including paleontological resources) to be treated in a manner consistent with District Policy 6085. This policy requires cessation of all work within 150 feet of the resource; requires evaluation of the resource by a qualified archeologist; and states that no work that may affect the find would take place until approval is obtained from the archeologist and/or concurrence with SHPO. Therefore, with implementation of mitigation, this impact is **less than significant**.

#### **3.7.4 Mitigation Measures**

Refer to Mitigation Measure CULT-1 in Section 3.5, Cultural Resources, and to Mitigation Measure HYD-1 in Section 3.9, Hydrology and Water Quality.

### 3.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Would the Project	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### 3.8.1 Thresholds of Significance

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

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

#### 3.8.2 Setting

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

##### Executive Order S-3-05

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

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

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

In 2006, the California state legislature adopted the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32). AB 32 establishes a cap on statewide GHG emissions and sets forth the regulatory framework to achieve the corresponding reduction in statewide emission levels. Under AB 32, GHGs are defined as carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride. AB 32 requires that ARB:

- Adopt early action measures to reduce GHGs;

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

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

### **Senate Bill 97**

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

### **Senate Bill 32**

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

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

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

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

### **Actions Taken by California Attorney General's Office**

The California Attorney General (AG) has filed comment letters under CEQA about a number of Proposed Projects. The AG has also filed several complaints and obtained settlement agreements for CEQA documents covering general plans and individual programs that the AG found either failed to analyze GHG emissions or failed to provide adequate GHG mitigation. The AG's office has prepared a report that lists measures that local agencies should consider under CEQA to offset or reduce global warming impacts. The AG's office also has prepared a chart of modeling tools to estimate GHG emissions impacts of Projects and plans. Information on the AG's actions can be found on at the California Department of Justice Office of Attorney General web site (California Department of Justice 2017).

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### 3.8.3 Discussion

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

The Proposed Project would result in minor, short-term increases in GHGs associated with vehicle and equipment use. During implementation, the Proposed Project would generate intermittent and short-term carbon dioxide emissions associated with combustion of gasoline and diesel fuel resulting from the operation of the equipment identified in the Project Description, daily commutes to and from the site by workers on weekdays over a period of up to 4 work weeks, and up to an estimated maximum of approximately 25 heavy-duty truck trips between the Project site and supply stops in Lincoln (approximately 5 miles south) or Roseville (approximately 20 miles south) to move gravel or other materials onsite. Following completion of the Project, vehicle use would return to existing levels.

In addition, Placer County is designated as a non-attainment zone for ozone, which is considered a GHG. The Project would produce NO<sub>x</sub>, which is a pre-cursor for ozone. The most recent air quality plan for Placer County was adopted in 2016 and includes an updated emission inventory for NO<sub>x</sub>. The Proposed Project would not result in emissions beyond those accounted for in the regional emissions inventory, which assumes routine use of on-road equipment such as trucks, as well as “other mobile source groupings” such as construction equipment (Placer County 2016). Construction GHG emissions would be intermittent and substantially less than the lower reporting limit for major stationary sources established by the ARB. That reporting limit requires sources that generate more than 25,000 metric tons per year of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) to report GHG emissions to ARB. In 2016, PCAPCD adopted a construction phase significance threshold of 10,000 metric tons per year of CO<sub>2</sub>e (Placer County 2017), as well as a “De Minimus” category for projects emitting less than 1,100 metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e per year. Preliminary modeling using the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD)’s Road Construction Emission Model, as recommended by the PCAPCD CEQA Guidelines, indicates that the Proposed Project’s CO<sub>2</sub>e levels are approximately 81 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e.

Implementation of the Proposed Project would entail the operation of small gas or diesel-powered equipment and vehicles and would include no stationary emission sources, and Project CO<sub>2</sub>e levels fall within the “De Minimus” category as established by PCAPCD. Thus, Proposed Project operation would not have a significant impact on the environment resulting from GHG emissions. This impact would be **less than significant**.

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

State guidelines on GHG emissions do not establish any specific thresholds for determining whether those emissions are significant. However, as described previously, PCAPCD has adopted significance thresholds for criteria pollutants and GHG emissions (Placer County 2016). As described in (a) above, preliminary modeling indicates that the Proposed Project’s CO<sub>2</sub>e levels would fall well below the “De Minimus” threshold. GHG emissions associated with the Proposed Project would be negligible and temporary. The Proposed Project would not conflict with any existing GHG laws, plans, policies, or regulations adopted by the California legislature, the ARB, the California AG, the California OPR, or the PCAPCD. Therefore, this impact would be **less than significant**.

### 3.8.4 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts related to greenhouse gases and climate change would result from implementation of the Proposed Project. Therefore, no mitigation is required.

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### 3.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Would the Project...	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### 3.9.1 Thresholds of Significance

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

- Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials;
- Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment;
- Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school;
- Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, create a significant hazard to the public or the environment;

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- For a Project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the Project area;
  - Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan; or
  - Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires.

### 3.9.2 Setting

Hazardous materials and wastes are regulated by federal and state laws and are required to be recycled or properly disposed. Placer County Department of Environmental Health is the local Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) that manages programs for hazardous materials storage and hazardous waste disposal. No hazardous waste sites are located within or adjacent to the Project area (California Department of Toxic Substances Control [DTSC] 2018). The closest hazardous waste site is The Purdy Company, located approximately 6 miles southwest of the Project area, a 4.5-acre parcel with soil contaminated from lead and polychlorinated biphenyls from railroad car salvage and incineration that took place in the late 1980s.

### 3.9.3 Discussion

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

Although flammable and combustible materials such as gasoline and diesel fuel would be used during Project implementation, their use is temporary and all materials would be used in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws, including Cal-OSHA requirements and manufacturer's instructions. All materials would be temporarily stored within the Project Area during the construction period and will be removed from the site at the end of construction.

To further prevent hazards to the public or environment during transport, use, and disposal of hazardous materials, the District will implement Mitigation Measure HYD-1, which includes preparing and implementing a spill prevention and control plan (SPCP). All fuels and equipment will be stored at designated sites and not within 50 feet of the drainages or the riparian area along the intermittent stream. Absorbent material or drip pans will be used during refueling or servicing of trucks, and all fluids drained from servicing will be collected in leak-proof containers and taken to an appropriate disposal or recycling facility.

With implementation of Mitigation Measure HYD-1, this impact would be **less than significant**.

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

Although flammable and combustible materials such as gasoline and diesel fuel would be used during Project implementation, their use is temporary and all materials would be used in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws, including Cal-OSHA requirements and manufacturer's instructions. As described in Mitigation Measure HYD-1, the District and/or its contractor would prepare a SPCP for the Proposed Project that would be implemented in the case that spills occurred during construction. All equipment will be stored in staging areas at least 50 feet away from flagged riparian areas.

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With implementation of Mitigation Measure HYD-1, this impact would be **less than significant**.

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

The Project area is not located within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school. Therefore, there is **no impact**.

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

Based on a search of the DTSC EnviroStor database, the Project area is not located on, or near, any federal-, state-, or local-designated hazardous wastes site (DTSC 2018). Therefore, there would be **no impact**.

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

The Proposed Project is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport. The closest airport is the Auburn Municipal Airport, located approximately nine miles east of the Project area. Implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the Project area. Therefore, there would be **no impact**.

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

The Proposed Project is located in a low-density rural area and all activities would be restricted to the District's permanent and temporary easement on private property. No public roads will be affected by construction activity. Therefore, there would be **no impact**.

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

The Project is located in a low-density rural area with minimal development: the closest urbanized area is the city of Lincoln, approximately 5 miles to the southwest. The Project is located within a moderate fire severity hazard zone (CalFire 2012). There is some fire risk could result from refueling and operating vehicles or other construction equipment. The District would implement Mitigation Measure HAZ-1, which requires implementation of standard fire-prevention measures. With implementation of mitigation, potential construction-related fire hazard impacts would be **less than significant**.

### **3.9.4 Mitigation Measures**

#### **HAZ-1. Standard Fire Prevention Measures.**

The District and/or its contractor will implement standard fire prevention measures, including but not limited to, requiring fire prevention equipment to be available at all times, identifying construction sites as non-smoking areas, and providing fire prevention training to construction personnel. Portable communication devices (i.e., radio or mobile telephones) would be made available to all construction personnel to allow for prompt notification to the District or other local authorities in case of a fire.

Refer also to Mitigation Measures HYD-1 in Section 3.9, Hydrology and Water Quality.

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### 3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality

Would the Project...	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### 3.10.1 Thresholds of Significance

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

- Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality;
- Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin;
- Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:

- 
- result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site,
  - substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite,
  - 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
  - impede or redirect flood flows;
- In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation; or
  - Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.

### 3.10.2 Setting

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

- a) *With implementation of mitigation, the Proposed Project would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water.*

Ground-disturbing activities associated with construction of the new access road segment, including construction of the water crossings over the irrigation ditch and the intermittent stream, could potentially result in temporary and localized effects to surface and ground water quality. Use of construction equipment has the potential to cause accidental spills of fuel, and lubricating oil and contaminants could be released into the watershed and adversely affect water quality. In order to reduce the potential for these and other construction-related water quality impacts, the District will implement Mitigation Measure HYD-1 which states that water quality BMPs will be implemented by the District and/or its contractors including, but not limited to, limiting work within the dewatered drainages to dry weather conditions; securing areas of ground disturbance with straw wattles, bales, or similar; preparing and implementing an SPCP; and refueling, storing, servicing and maintaining equipment in a manner than does not impact water quality. In addition, as stated in Mitigation Measure BIO-4, all water quality conditions specified in CWA, California Water Code, and California Fish and Game Code permits will be implemented as part of the Project.

With incorporation of HYD-1 and BIO-4, potential impacts to water quality resulting from dewatering and diversion; excavation, removal, and drying of sediments; and disposal or use of excavated sediments would be **less than significant**.

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

The Project involves construction of a local graveled access road segment and will have **no impact** on groundwater or interfere with groundwater recharge.

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c) *The Proposed Project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would result in: i) substantial erosion, siltation, or flooding on- or off-site; ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite; 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 iv) impede or redirect flood flows.*

- i) Construction of the new access road segment would not substantially alter the existing drainage patterns of the site, and would not create substantial erosion, siltation, or flooding on- or offsite. The road segment itself 0.25-mile long and would affect a total area of 0.3 acre and is located on mostly level ground. The road segment is paved in gravel and would not represent a surface that is impervious to water. NID proposes to construct crossings over a small intermittent stream and an irrigation ditch, which may require dewatering of the stream or ditch channels prior to installation of culverts. Flows would be restored immediately following completion of the work. Rip-rap would be installed at the drainage crossings to minimize any potential for entry of sediment into the channels. This impact would therefore be considered **less than significant**.
- ii) The proposed access road segment will be gravel, and thus will not create any new, impervious surfaces. This small segment of road would not be expected to increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite. Therefore, there would be no **impact**.
- iii) The Proposed Project would not create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. Therefore, there would be **no impact**.
- iv) The Project area is not located within a 100-year flood hazard area. The Project does not propose new structures that could expose people to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding. Diversion of the irrigation ditch and intermittent stream will occur during the dry season when flooding risk is minimal. In periods of high flows, the culverts on the irrigation ditch and intermittent stream would not impede or redirect flood flows. Therefore, there would be **no impact**.

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

The Project area is not located in an area subject to seiche, tsunami or mudflow. The Project area is not located within a 100-year flood hazard area. Therefore, there would be **no impact** resulting from implementation of the Proposed Project.

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

Please see impact assessment (a) above.

### **3.10.3 Mitigation Measures**

#### **HYD-1. Water Quality Best Management Practices.**

Prior to commencement of ground disturbing activities, the District will identify site-specific BMPs to effectively control erosion and sediment loss and to protect water quality. During the project, these BMPs

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for erosion and sediment control shall be implemented by the District and/or its contractor. These BMPs will include, but are not limited to:

- Erosion control structures (e.g., coir rolls, plastic sheeting, rubber mats) will be placed in areas where high surface runoff is expected; around spoil piles; and at channel entrances or adjacent to drainage channels. If straw wattles or straw bales are used, all straw will be certified weed-free.
- Prior to the initiation of Project activities, the District and/or its contractor will prepare an SPCP that will be implemented during Project activities.
- To reduce potential contamination by spills, all refueling, storage, servicing, and maintenance of equipment will be performed at designated sites and not within 50 feet of wetted areas (including the irrigation ditch and intermittent stream) or other sensitive environmental resources. Absorbent material or drip pans will be used during refueling or servicing of trucks or other equipment. Any fluids drained from the machinery during servicing will be collected in leak-proof containers and taken to an appropriate disposal or recycling facility. If such activities result in spills or accumulation of a product on the soil, the contaminated soil will be disposed of properly.
- All maintenance materials (i.e., oils, grease, lubricants, antifreeze) will be stored at staging areas in appropriate storage containers. If these materials are required during Project implementation, they will be placed in a designated area away from site activities and sensitive resources.

Refer also to Mitigation Measure BIO-4 in Section 3.4, Biological Resources.

### 3.11 Land Use and Planning

Would the Project...	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### 3.11.1 Thresholds of Significance

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

- Physically divide an established community; or
- Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect.

#### 3.11.2 Discussion

The Proposed Project is located in an unincorporated area of Placer County approximately five miles north of the City of Lincoln. This area is governed by the Placer County General Plan, adopted in 1994 and updated in 2013 (Placer County 2013). According to the Placer County Community Development Resource Agency (CDRA), the designated land use in the Project area is Agriculture/Timberland and it is zoned as Farm Section 17.10.010 by Placer County (Placer County 2018). The Project area is located within the boundaries of a single property line and would not (a) physically divide an established community; therefore, there would be **no impact**.

The Project will not (b) conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation. The agricultural land-use and zoning designation applicable on Project land allows uses associated with farming and ranching, including facilities that directly support agricultural operations. The Project is designed to facilitate access to an existing irrigation reservoir, which provides irrigation for farming purposes in the Project vicinity.

The Project area falls within the geographic area covered in the Placer County Conservation Plan (PCCP) (Placer County 2011). While the District is not a pre-approved permittee under the draft PCCP, they are considered a Participating Special Entity as specific in Section 8.5 of the draft PCCP, which means that when implementation of the final PCCP has begun, the District can request coverage under the final PCCP for take authorization for eligible Projects and activities. If the PCCP becomes effective prior to the implementation of the Proposed Project, participation in the PCCP by the District would be optional. The District can work directly with resource agencies to obtain all applicable authorizations and permits. Because the draft PCCP is not yet finalized, approved, and in effect, and any future participation by the District would be optional, the Project will not conflict with the PCCP. There is **no impact**.

#### 3.11.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts related to land use or planning would result from implementation of the Proposed Project. Therefore, no mitigation is required.

### 3.12 Mineral Resources

Would the Project...	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### 3.12.1 Thresholds of Significance

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

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

#### 3.12.2 Discussion

The Placer County General Plan evaluates the relative value of potentially significant mineral deposits and the designation of these significant areas with a mineral reserve (MR) combining district (Placer County 2013). The Project area and vicinity consists of metamorphic rocks of volcanic origin, generally known to have gold-bearing quartz veins (Loyd 1995). The zoning designations in the Project area and vicinity allow for mining following the acquisition of a Conditional Use Permit from the county (Placer County 2018e). However, there are a) no areas with the MR designation in the vicinity of the Project area and no known mineral resource extraction activities occurring within the Project area (Loyd 1995; Placer County 2018a), and there are b) no important mineral resource recovery sites delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan located in the Project vicinity (Placer County 2018b). Therefore, there would be **no impact** on mineral resources.

#### 3.12.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts related to mineral resources would result from implementation of the Proposed Project. Therefore, no mitigation is required.

### 3.13 Noise

Would the Project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the Project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### 3.13.1 Thresholds of Significance

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

- Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the Project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies;
- Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels; or
- For a Project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, expose people residing or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels.

#### 3.13.2 Setting

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

#### 3.13.3 Discussion

- a) *With implementation of mitigation, the Proposed Project would not result in the generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the Project in*

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*excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies.*

Noise-generating activities associated with the Proposed Project include use of vehicles and equipment described in the Project Description. Project activities would be restricted to the hours between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on weekdays for a single construction season (approximately one month); therefore, any increase in noise would be temporary in duration. Work on weekends would be avoided, but if required would be conducted between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. As described above, noise from construction activities occurring during these hours is exempted from the County Noise Ordinance, provided that construction equipment is fitted with factory-installed muffling devices and is maintained in good working order. To ensure that construction activities are implemented consistent with the County Noise Ordinance, the District will implement Mitigation Measure NZ-1, which limits the hours of construction activities, requires muffling devices on equipment, and includes other noise-reduction measures. Operation and maintenance of the new access road segment following completion of the Proposed Project would be consistent with current conditions, and would not result in any permanent increases in ambient noise levels in the Project vicinity. With implementation of mitigation, this impact would be **less than significant**.

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

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

The Proposed Project would not involve the long-term use of any equipment or processes that would result in potentially significant levels of ground vibration. Construction activities associated with the Proposed Project would require the use of various types of equipment that might result in intermittent increases in ground vibration. Ground vibration generated by construction equipment spreads through the ground and diminishes in strength with distance. However, predicted ground vibration levels at nearby structures would not be anticipated to exceed the minimum perceptible threshold of 0.1 in/sec ppv for human annoyance, nor would ground vibration levels be anticipated to exceed the minimum threshold of 0.4 in/sec ppv for structural damage. Therefore, this impact would be **less than significant**.

- e) *The Proposed Project would not be located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport and would not expose people residing or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels.*

The Project area is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip, an airport land use plan, or within two miles of a public airport and would not expose people residing or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels. Therefore, there would be **no impact**.

### **3.13.4 Mitigation Measures**

#### **NZ-1. Noise Best Management Practices.**

To reduce noise-related impacts to occupants of nearby residential land uses, the following BMPs will be incorporated into the Proposed Project:

- 
- Construction activities, including activities within equipment staging areas, will be limited to the hours between sunrise (but no earlier than 7:00 a.m.) and sunset (but no later than 7:00 p.m.) on weekdays. Construction work on weekends and District-recognized holidays will be avoided when practical. If required, work on weekends and District-recognized holidays will be limited to the hours between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
  - All construction equipment must have sound-control devices. No equipment will have an unmuffled exhaust system, with the exception of small tools that cannot be muffled.
  - Additional noise-reduction measures will be implemented as appropriate and practical, including but not limited to:
    - Changing the location of stationary construction equipment when practical to an area with less sensitive receptors; and
    - Limiting equipment (i.e., construction equipment and trucks) to five or fewer minutes of idling time as well as rescheduling construction activity.

### 3.14 Population and Housing

Would the Project...	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial 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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### 3.14.1 Thresholds of Significance

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

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

#### 3.14.2 Discussion

The Proposed Project is located in an unincorporated area of Placer County approximately five miles north of the City of Lincoln. The area is populated by rural residential dwellings. The United States Census Bureau’s 2017 population estimate for Placer County was 386,166 (U.S. Census Bureau 2017). The 2017 population estimate for Lincoln was 47,674 (U.S. Census Bureau 2017). There are approximately 22 rural residences in the Project vicinity, including the parcel and adjacent parcels (e.g., the area shown in Map 1, off Kilaga Springs Road).

The purpose of the Proposed Project is to build a new gated access road segment for the sole purpose of providing NID staff access to Valley View Reservoir, and it will not be open to the public. Therefore, the Project will not (a) induce any new housing developments either directly or indirectly. The Project will not displace any (b) people or housing because the Project is approved by the private landowner on the parcel, and it will not intersect with any housing developments. Therefore, there will be **no impact** to population and housing in the Project vicinity.

#### 3.14.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts related to population and housing would result from implementation of the Proposed Project. Therefore, no mitigation is required.

### 3.15 Public Services

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

#### 3.15.1 Thresholds of Significance

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

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

#### 3.15.2 Discussion

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

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The Project area lies within the jurisdiction of the Western Placer Fire Protection District (Placer County 2018a). The Proposed Project would not significantly affect the response times of fire protection or other public services or increase demand for such services. Mitigation Measure HAZ-1 would reduce the likelihood of construction-related fires by requiring implementation of standard fire prevention measures including, but not limited to, equipping construction crews with fire-fighting equipment and prohibiting smoking in the work area. This impact would be considered **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

ii, iii, iv, and v) *The Proposed Project would not result in substantial adverse impacts related to the provision of police protection services, school services, park services, and other public facility services.*

Due to the limited area proposed for construction and the relatively remote setting of the project, the Proposed Project would not result in significant increase in demand for police protection, school, park, or other public facility services, relative to the existing conditions. There are no schools or parks within or adjacent to the Project area that would be affected by construction activities. Therefore, there would be **no impact** to Public Services resulting from the Project.

### **3.15.3 Mitigation Measures**

Refer to Mitigation Measure HAZ-1 in Section 3.8, Hazards and Hazardous Materials.

### 3.16 Recreation

Would the Project...	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### 3.16.1 Thresholds of Significance

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

- Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated, or
- Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse effect on the environment.

#### 3.16.2 Discussion

The Proposed Project would not induce growth beyond that included in the Placer County General Plan and would not (a) result in new development in the area that would increase the use or demand for recreational facilities. The Proposed Project would not (b) result in development of any new recreational facilities because the new road would be for District use only and would be gated to exclude the public. Therefore, there would be **no impact** to recreation in the Project vicinity.

#### 3.16.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts related to recreation would result from implementation of the Proposed Project. Therefore, no mitigation is required.

### 3.17 Transportation/Traffic

Would the Project...	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### 3.17.1 Thresholds of Significance

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

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

#### 3.17.2 Setting

The Proposed Project will be implemented on private land off the local, residential-serving Kilaga Springs Road. Kilaga Springs Road is defined as a local street. Construction traffic will be minimal and temporary and will consist of dump trucks delivering gravel and/or materials and construction workers commuting to the site. Approximately 25 heavy-duty truck trips between the Project site and supply stops in Lincoln (approximately 5 miles south) or Roseville (approximately 20 miles south) would be required over the course of construction (lasting approximately 1 month) (a total of between 250 to 500 vehicle miles for construction) to move gravel or other materials onsite. In the long-term, construction of the new access road segment would not change traffic patterns in the area. NID would cease to use the portion existing access road that is a private driveway, and would switch to long-term use of the new access road segment. Use of the realigned access road segment would be similar to existing conditions. Such use would be limited to NID maintenance vehicles and staff, likely limited to one or more truck trips per day, at maximum.

#### 3.17.3 Discussion

Local streets carry very little, if any, through traffic, and are not evaluated in the County’s Circulation Plan (a). The new access road segment will be dedicated solely for use of NID maintenance vehicles. Therefore, there would be **no impact** to the performance of the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle or pedestrian facilities.

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According to the guidelines in CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b), transportation projects that reduce, or have no impact on, vehicle miles traveled should be presumed to cause a less than significant transportation impact. In the short-term, the Proposed Project will increase vehicle miles traveled through the transport of gravel and construction equipment to the site and the worker commute miles during the construction phase of the project. However, because road construction will take place over a relatively small area (0.25 linear miles and 0.3 acre), and construction is not anticipated to require more than 4 work weeks, the short-term impact would be **less than significant**. Following completion of the Project, vehicle use would return to existing levels and there would be no increase in vehicle miles traveled. Therefore, there would be (b) **no impact** in the long-term with regard to conflicts with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b).

The Project would not (c) increase traffic hazards due to a geometric design feature; therefore, there would be **no impact**. On the contrary, while, under existing conditions, NID maintenance vehicles and private vehicles use the same access routes, the new access road segment will be dedicated solely for use of NID maintenance vehicles, reducing any potential for traffic hazards. The Project will not result in (d) inadequate emergency access to Kilaga Springs Road or surrounding communities; therefore, there would be **no impact**.

#### **3.17.4 Mitigation Measures**

No significant impacts related to transportation/traffic would result from implementation of the Proposed Project. Therefore, no mitigation is required.

### 3.18 Tribal Cultural Resources

Would the Project...	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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:				
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historic Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### 3.18.1 Thresholds of Significance

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

Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

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

#### 3.18.2 Setting

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

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

### **3.18.3 Discussion**

As described in Section 3.5, Cultural Resources, the review of cultural resources information and a pedestrian survey at the site indicate there are no cultural or archeological resources in the Project area. In addition, in accordance with the consultation requirements of Assembly Bill 52 (AB-52), NID initiated the consultation process with appropriate Native American groups with a possible interest in the Proposed Project. NID contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in Sacramento and requested a list of suitable tribal organizations and individuals. The NAHC provided contact information for the following groups and individuals from the Project vicinity:

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

NID sent letters to each of the individuals noted above to solicit information regarding sensitive cultural resources in and near the Project Site and to determine whether they or their respective tribal organizations had an interest in or concerns with, the Proposed Project.

Three responses were received from the following individuals: Pamela Cubbler of the Colfax Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe, Daniel Fonseca of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, and Gene Whitehouse of the UAIC. A summary of the correspondence is provided below:

- Pamela Cubbler of the Colfax Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe requested the presence of a tribal monitor during construction of the Project. NID responded in writing to Pamela Cubbler, confirming that NID will keep the Colfax Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe informed regarding the Project and will provide access for a tribal monitor within the permanent and temporary easement where construction activities will occur.
- Daniel Fonseca of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians requested all completed records searches and surveys that were done in and around the project area including environmental, archaeological, and cultural reports. Mr. Fonseca also indicated that if any human remains were uncovered during construction, Kara Perry should be contacted. NID responded in writing to Daniel Fonseca, confirming that NID will keep the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians

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informed regarding the Project and will provide the results of records searches and pedestrian surveys.

- Gene Whitehouse of the UAIC requested the participation of tribal representatives in all cultural resource surveys, including pedestrian surveys, and that future correspondence be addressed to Melodi McAdams. NID responded in writing to Melodi McAdams, confirming that NID will keep the UAIC informed regarding the Project and will provide access for a tribal representative during the pedestrian surveys. Notification of pedestrian surveys was sent via email to Melodi McAdams on August 7. Melodi McAdams responded indicating that a review of the results of the pedestrian survey would be sufficient, since tribal representatives were not able to participate on the survey date.

Additionally, NID provided the results of the cultural resource records searches and surveys and proposed Mitigation Measures (CULT-1 and CULT-2, further described below) to Pamela Cubbler of the Colfax Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe, Daniel Fonseca of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, and Melodi McAdams of the UAIC. One response was received from UAIC, stating that Anna Starkey (replacing Melodi McAdams) was the new contact for AB 52 correspondence. No other comments were received.

After consultation with the tribes and completion of pedestrian surveys, no tribal resources were identified in the Project vicinity. However, because this project will require grading to a maximum depth of 12 inches along the proposed road segment, there is some potential for subsurface tribal resources or human remains of Native American descent to be uncovered during these ground disturbing activities.

If any tribal resources as defined under criteria a) and b) above are identified during construction of the Project, such resources would be protected consistent with mitigation measures CULT-1 and CULT-2.

Mitigation Measure CULT-1 requires subsurface cultural resources (including archeological resources) to be treated in a manner consistent with District Policy 6085. This policy requires cessation of all work within 150 feet of the resource; requires evaluation of the resource by a qualified archeologist; and states that no work that may affect the resource shall take place until approval is obtained from the archeologist and/or concurrence with State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and Native American tribal representatives.

If human remains are uncovered, and the Placer County coroner determines that the remains are of Native American descent, Mitigation Measure CULT-2 requires the coroner to notify the NAHC within 24 hours of the determination, and the NAHC will identify the most likely descendent (MLD). Once given permission by NID and the landowner, the MLD shall be allowed on-site to determine the method for appropriate handling of the remains. No additional work will take place within 150 feet of the find until the qualified archaeologist gives approval to resume work in the area.

With implementation of mitigation measures CULT-1 and CULT-2, the Project would not result in an adverse change in the significance of the identified resources. Impacts to tribal cultural resources would be **less than significant with incorporation of mitigation.**

### **3.18.4 Mitigation Measures**

Refer to Mitigation Measure CULT-1 and CULT-2 in Section 3.5, Cultural Resources.

### 3.19 Utilities and Service Systems

Would the Project...	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the Project that it has adequate capacity to serve the Project's Projected demand in addition to the providers existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### 3.19.1 Thresholds of Significance

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

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

#### 3.19.2 Discussion

Residences in the vicinity of the Project use private onsite wastewater treatment systems (i.e., septic systems) and typically have private onsite wells for household water. No developed stormwater drainage utilities are located in the area; however, drainage ditches, culverts, and or cross drains are generally

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located along the roads in the Project area. Public water service of raw irrigation water in the Proposed Project vicinity is provided by the District.

The Proposed Project would not (a) generate any new source of wastewater or result in the creation of or relocation of new private septic systems, nor would it require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities. Small drainage ditches would be constructed along the new access road segment to guide the movement of water through the site; however, the construction these ditches would not cause significant environmental effects . Therefore, the Project would have a **less than significant** impact on stormwater drainage.

The Proposed Project does not (b) require additional water supplies than are provided from existing resources. Because it is a road construction project, the Project would not (c) alter existing private wastewater treatment systems. The nearest landfill has sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the Project's solid waste disposal needs, which are minimal (d). The Project would comply with all statutes and regulations related to solid waste (e). Therefore, the Project would have **no impact** on water supply, wastewater treatment systems, or solid waste disposal standards.

Overall, the Project would have a **less than significant** effect on utilities and service systems.

### **3.19.3 Mitigation Measures**

No significant impacts related to utilities and service systems would result from implementation of the Proposed Project. Therefore, no mitigation is required.

### 3.20 Wildfire

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the Project...	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### 3.20.1 Thresholds of Significance

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

- Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan;
- Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire;
- Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment; or
- Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes.

#### 3.20.2 Setting

California’s increasing population and expansion of development into previously undeveloped areas is creating more “wildland-urban interface” (WUI) issues with a corresponding increased risk of loss to human life, natural resources, and economic assets associated with wildland fires. Rising temperatures and increasing temporal variability of water availability is substantially increasing wildfire risk in many areas.

The analysis in this section pertains specifically to 1) State Responsibility Areas (SRAs), which are non-federal lands outside of city boundaries within which California assumes financial responsibility for preventing and suppressing fires; and 2) other non-federal areas that have been designated by California

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Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Calfire) as “very high” fire hazard severity areas. The boundaries of SRAs, which are reviewed and amended every 5 years, are further categorized by CALFIRE into fire hazard severity zones (FHSZs) with associated hazard levels classified as “moderate”, “high”, or “very high.” These ratings are based on predictions of fire behavior in response to local weather patterns, fuel availability, and surrounding terrain (Calfire 2012). While the FHSZ designations are applicable primarily in SRAs, some local responsibility areas have been designated as very high FHSZs. Local governments assume responsibility for fire prevention and suppression in these very high FHSZs.

## **Regulatory Setting**

Responsibility for fire prevention, suppression, and post-fire mitigation in California includes a nexus of policies and plans at the federal, state, and local level. Each of these levels is outlined below.

### ***Federal Level***

The federal government pays for wildland fire protection on federal lands in California, and in certain circumstances, provides federal funding for fire suppression and relief lands on non-federal lands.

#### ***Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000***

The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 enacted a number of changes to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act related to pre-disaster mitigation, streamlining the administration of disaster relief, and controlling the costs of federal disaster assistance. These changes have collectively brought greater focus on pre-disaster planning and activities as a means for reducing response and post-disaster costs. In accordance with the Act, local governments must have a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan that is reviewed by the State Mitigation Officer and then approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as this is a required condition of receiving FEMA mitigation project assistance. These Local Hazard Mitigation Plans must be revised, reviewed, and approved every five years.

Fire Safe Councils can play an important role in the development of Local Hazard Mitigation Plans. The typical Council consists of state and federal fire agencies, local fire districts, businesses, local government, and local concerned citizens. Some Councils have also combined with neighboring fire safe councils to develop countywide wildfire hazard mitigation plans.

### ***State Level***

#### ***Senate Bill 1241, Kehoe 2012***

To address the increasing risk of wildfire in the WUI, Senate Bill 1241 revised the safety element requirements for SRAs and very high FHSZs (Government Code Sections 65302 and 65302.5). SB 1241 requires that the draft element or draft amendment to the safety element of a county or a city’s general plan be submitted to the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and to every local agency that provides fire protection to territory in the city or county at least 90 days prior to either: 1) the adoption or amendment to the safety element of its general plan for each county that contains state responsibility areas; or 2) the adoption or amendment to the safety element of its general plan for each city or county that contains a very high FHSZ.

Cities and counties are required to adopt a general plan to guide major land use decisions. Each plan includes seven mandatory elements: land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise, and

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safety. SB 1241 requires cities and counties to review and update their safety elements to address fire risks on SRA lands and very high FHSZs.

A set of feasible implementation measures designed to carry out the goals, policies and objectives of the general plan must include measures designed to minimize fire risk if a project falls within a SRA or very high FHSZ, including:

- 1) Avoiding or minimizing the wildfire hazards associated with new uses of land.
- 2) Locating, whenever feasible, new essential public facilities (i.e., hospitals and health care facilities, emergency shelters, etc) outside a SRA or a very high FHSZ. If a facility must be placed within SRAs or very high FHSZs, construction and operation methods must be implemented to minimize potential damage of wildland fire.
- 3) Designing adequate infrastructure for new developments, including safe access for emergency response vehicles, visible street signs, and water supplies for structural fire suppression.
- 4) Working cooperatively with public agencies with responsibility for fire protection.

Government Code Section 66474.02, as added by SB 1241, requires that a legislative body of a county make three findings before approving a tentative map or parcel map, for an area located in a SRA or very high FHSZ. These findings must include evidence that 1) the design and location of each lot in the subdivision is consistent with any applicable regulations adopted by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection; 2) structural fire protection and suppression services will be available for the subdivision from a) the county, or b) the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection by contract; and 3) ingress and egress for the subdivision meets the regulations regarding road standards for fire equipment.

### ***Local Level***

A summary of fire hazard planning requirements for local governments, based on federal and state regulation, is provided below:

- In order to be eligible for FEMA mitigation project funding, local governments must adopt a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, and then review and revise that plan every 5 years.
- In order to influence where and how federal agencies implement fuel reduction projects on federal land, as well as how additional federal funds may be distributed for projects on non-federal lands, local governments may develop Community Wildfire Protection Plans.
- Safety elements of local general plans must be revised, upon the next update to the Housing Element to address SRAs and very high fire hazard severity zones. The revision must include information about wildfire hazards, as well as goals, policies, and objectives and feasible implementation measures for the protection of the community from the unreasonable risk of wildfire.
- Before approving a tentative subdivision map or parcel map within a state responsibility area or a very high fire hazard severity zone, a city or county must make certain findings. Those findings include that the subdivision is consistent with CAL FIRE regulations and that fire protection and suppression services are available for the subdivision.

### ***Community Wildfire Protection Plan***

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) are generally developed by local governments with assistance from state and federal agencies and other interested partners. This provides communities with an opportunity to influence where and how federal agencies implement fuel reduction projects on federal

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land, as well as how additional federal funds may be distributed for projects on non-federal lands. The minimum requirements for a CWPP are as follows:

- 1) The CWPP must be collaboratively developed. Local and state officials must meaningfully involve federal agencies and other interested parties, particularly non-governmental stakeholders that manage land in the vicinity of the community.
- 2) The CWPP must identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments on both Federal and non-Federal land and recommend the types and methods of treatment that would reduce the risk of wildland fire to the community.
- 3) The CWPP must recommend measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed by the plan.

Three signatures are required to approve a CWPP: 1) a representative from the local government; 2) the chief of the local fire department/district; and 3) the state forester/fire warden.

### **Project Setting**

The Proposed Project is located in a SRA and a “moderate” FHSZ (Calfire 2012).

The responsible fire agency for fire suppression for the Project is Placer County Fire (Placer County 2012), which covers a large service area in the rural sections of Placer County. Specifically, the Project falls under the Western Placer Fire (CSA 28 Zone 76) jurisdiction (Placer County 2018a). At the local level, the Proposed Project is located within the Greater Lincoln Fire Safe Council (Placer County 2012), which is responsible for fire prevention and education for the region. The Greater Lincoln Fire Safe Council covers the majority of non-urban areas of western Placer County, and the area is largely rural.

On average, 90 days each year have temperatures above 90 degrees (Placer County 2012). Fuels within the Greater Lincoln Fire Safe Council are dominated by grasses and agricultural crops in the western half and oak-pine woodlands interspersed with annual grassland areas in the eastern half. Mostly surface fire is predicted, but there is potential for crown fire under moderate and high weather conditions. Rates of spread are predicted to be less than 20 chains per hour under moderate weather conditions, but could be greater than 60 chains per hour under high weather conditions (Placer County 2012).

#### **3.20.3 Discussion**

The Project would not (a) substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The Project will be implemented on a private property; and construction traffic is limited to approximately 25 truck trips over the period of 4 work weeks, and will not impair evacuation ability for residences on Kilaga Springs Road; therefore, there would be **no impact**.

Use of heavy machinery in the Project area, particularly in annual grassland vegetation, could potentially ignite a wildfire. The gradual slope and prevailing mean wind speed of approximately 5 miles per hour (CalEEMod 2016) would not (b) unduly exacerbate wildfire risk and would be considered to have a lower risk of exposing residents in the surrounding area to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire than a high or very high FHSZ. To further reduce risk of wildfire, the District will implement Mitigation Measure HAZ-1, which requires the District and/or its contractor to implement standard fire prevention measures, including requiring fire prevention equipment to be available at all times, identifying construction sites as non-smoking areas, and providing fire prevention training to construction personnel. Thus, with implementation of Mitigation Measure HAZ-1, the Project would have a **less than significant** impact on wildfire risk.

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Use of the portion of the existing access road that is a private driveway by maintenance personnel would cease, and similar usage and maintenance levels would occur instead on the new access road segment. Construction of the new access road segment would not (c) require the installation of further infrastructure that could exacerbate fire risk. Therefore, the Project would have **no impact** on risk of fire from infrastructure installation or maintenance. Because the Project site is located on a gradual slope at low-elevation, the Proposed Project would not (d) expose people or structures downslope to flooding, landslides, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes; therefore, there would be **no impact**.

#### **3.20.4 Mitigation Measures**

Refer to Mitigation Measure HAZ-1 in Section 3.9, Hazards and Hazardous Materials.

### 3.21 Mandatory Findings of Significance

Would the Project...	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

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

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

The purpose of the Proposed Project is to allow NID continued access to maintain the Valley View Reservoir and to continue required maintenance to allow for efficient delivery of water in the service area. The potential for Project-specific effects of the Proposed Project to contribute considerably to significant cumulative impacts depends on the relative magnitude of the effects on the future cumulative condition. As identified in this IS/MND, the temporary construction activities could cause short-term impacts. However, Project-specific mitigation measures have been identified in this IS/MND to reduce construction-related impacts to less than significant levels (and be consistent with

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applicable adopted state and regional mitigation planning). In the long-term, NID will discontinue use of the portion of the existing access road that is a private driveway; and maintenance staff will, instead, use the new access road segment. The level of use of the new access road segment will be consistent with the existing condition. The Proposed Project would not contribute considerably to future significant cumulative impacts. Therefore, this impact would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated.**

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

Mitigation measures for potential impacts from construction-related air quality pollutant emissions (Mitigation Measure AIR-1), construction-related wildfire risks (Mitigation Measure HAZ-1), effects to water quality (Mitigation Measure HYD-1), and construction noise effects (Mitigation Measure NZ-1) would reduce these potential impacts to humans to less than significant levels. Therefore, this impact would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated.**

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#### **4 AGENCIES AND PERSONS CONSULTED**

- **Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe**, Pamela Cubbler
- **Nevada Irrigation District**, Brian Powell and Jaqueline Longshore.
- **Native American Heritage Commission** (Add details if required)
- **Placer County Air Pollution Control District**, Air Quality Engineer.
- **Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians**, Daniel Fonseca
- **Stantec Consulting, Inc.**, Andrea Williams.
- **UAIC of the Auburn Rancheria**, Gene Whitehouse and Melodi McAdams

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**5 LIST OF PREPARERS**

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**Nevada Irrigation District.**

Gary D. King, P.E. .... Engineering Manager  
Adrian Schneider, P.E. .... Senior Engineer  
Brian Powell ..... Maintenance Manager  
Jacqueline Longshore ..... Maintenance Manager

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## 6 REFERENCES

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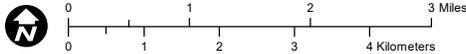
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## Maps





Project Location



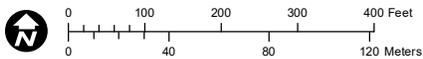
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<h2>Map 1: Project Vicinity</h2> <p>Valley View Reservoir Access Road Construction Project Placer County, CA</p>		
<p>USGS 7.5' Quads: Lincoln &amp; Gold Hill, CA T13N, R6E, Section 24</p>		
<p>Map Prepared by: K. Gabel, 1/2/2019</p>		<p>2890 Gateway Oaks Drive Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95833</p> <p>ph 916-923-1097 fx 916-923-6251</p> <p>www.cardno.com</p> <p>Map Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 10N</p>



**LEGEND**

- Proposed New Access Road Segment
- - - Existing Access Road



1:1,500



**Map 2: Project Area in the Vicinity  
of Valley View Reservoir**

Valley View Reservoir  
Access Road Construction Project  
Placer County, CA

USGS 7.5' Quads:  
Lincoln & Gold Hill, CA  
T13N, R6E, Section 24

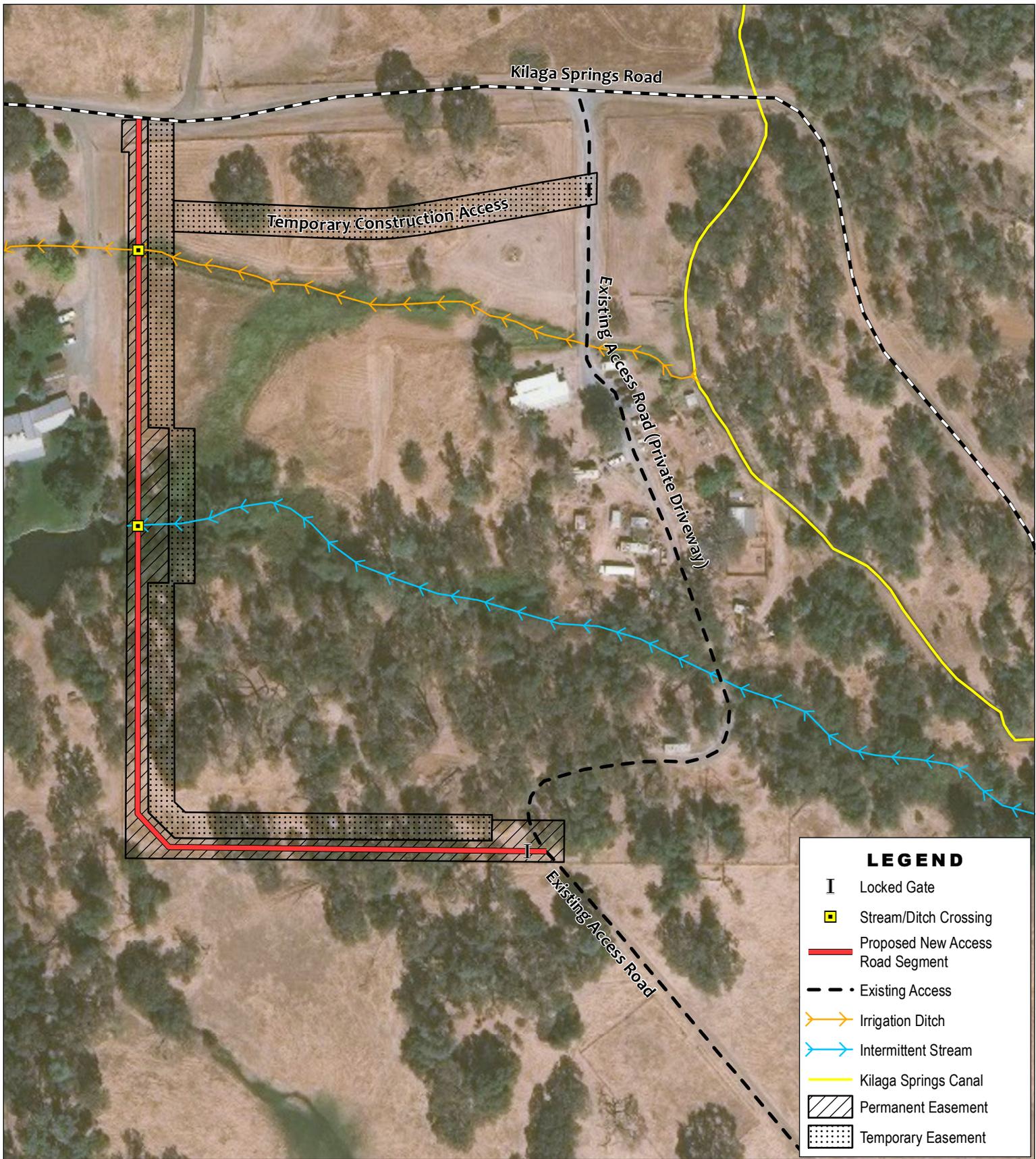
Map Prepared by:  
K. Gabel, 2/14/2019



2890 Gateway Oaks Drive ph 916-923-1097  
Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95833 fx 916-923-6251

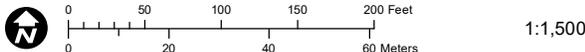
[www.cardno.com](http://www.cardno.com)

Map Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 10N



**LEGEND**

- I Locked Gate
- Stream/Ditch Crossing
- Proposed New Access Road Segment
- - - Existing Access
- Irrigation Ditch
- ↔ Intermittent Stream
- Kilaga Springs Canal
- ▨ Permanent Easement
- ⋯ Temporary Easement



**Map 3: Work and Staging Areas**  
 Valley View Reservoir  
 Access Road Construction Project  
 Placer County, CA

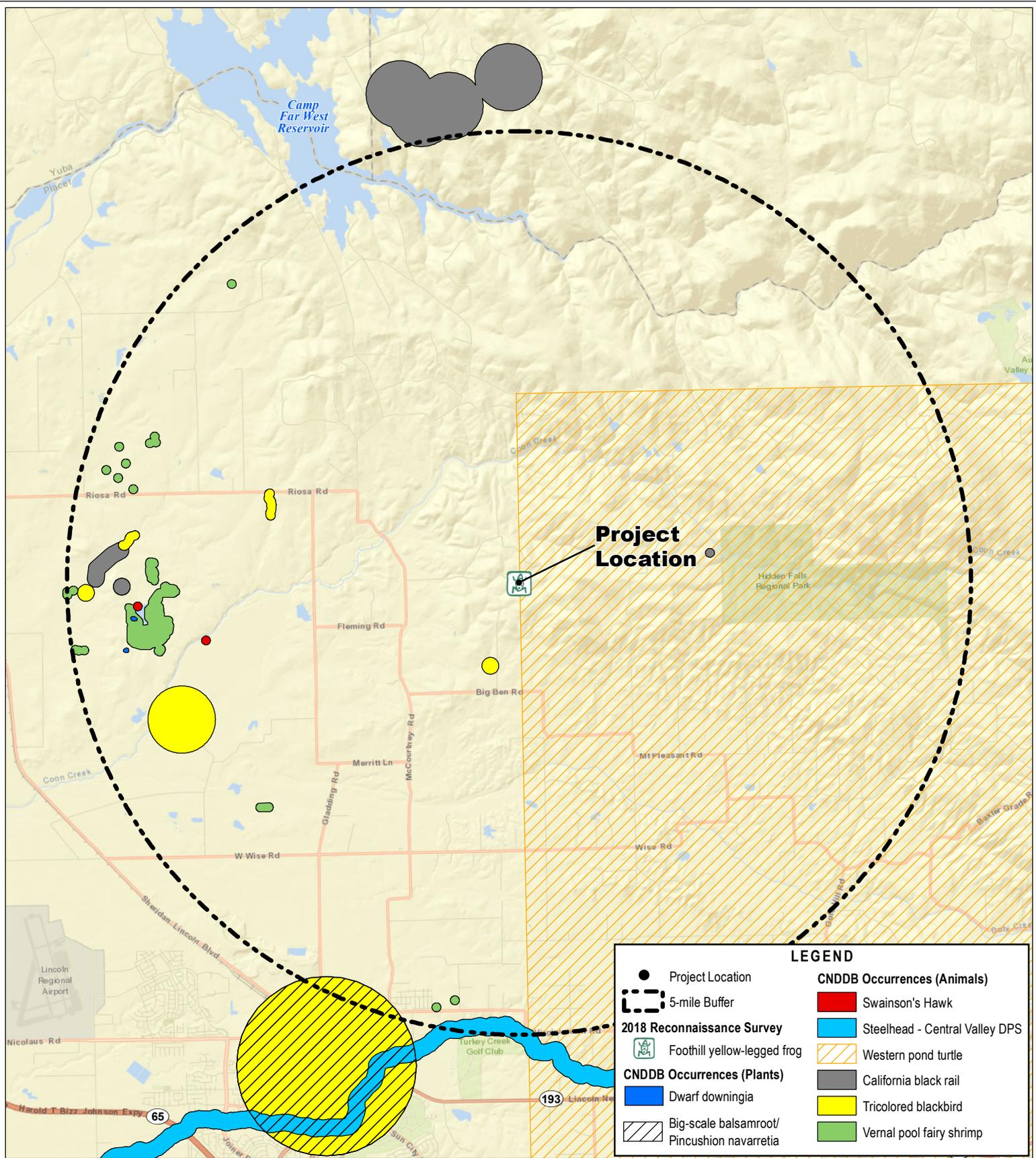
USGS 7.5' Quads:  
 Lincoln & Gold Hill, CA  
 T13N, R6E, Section 24

Map Prepared by:  
 K. Gabel, 2/14/2019

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 Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95833  
 www.cardno.com

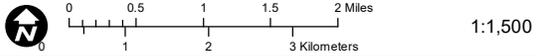
ph 916-923-1097  
 fx 916-923-6251

Map Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 10N



**LEGEND**

- Project Location
- ⋯ 5-mile Buffer
- 2018 Reconnaissance Survey
- 🐸 Foothill yellow-legged frog
- CNDB Occurrences (Plants)
- 🌿 Dwarf downingia
- 🌿 Big-scale balsamroot/Pincushion navaretia
- CNDB Occurrences (Animals)
- 🔴 Swainson's Hawk
- 🟦 Steelhead - Central Valley DPS
- 🟠 Western pond turtle
- 🟡 California black rail
- 🟡 Tricolored blackbird
- 🟢 Vernal pool fairy shrimp



**Map 4: Special-Status Wildlife and Plant Occurrences**  
 Valley View Reservoir  
 Access Road Construction Project  
 Placer County, CA

USGS 7.5' Quads:  
 Lincoln & Gold Hill, CA  
 T13N, R6E, Section 24

Map Prepared by:  
 K. Gabel, 2/13/2019

  
 2890 Gateway Oaks Drive ph 916-923-1097  
 Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95833 fx 916-923-6251  
[www.cardno.com](http://www.cardno.com)  
 Map Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 10N

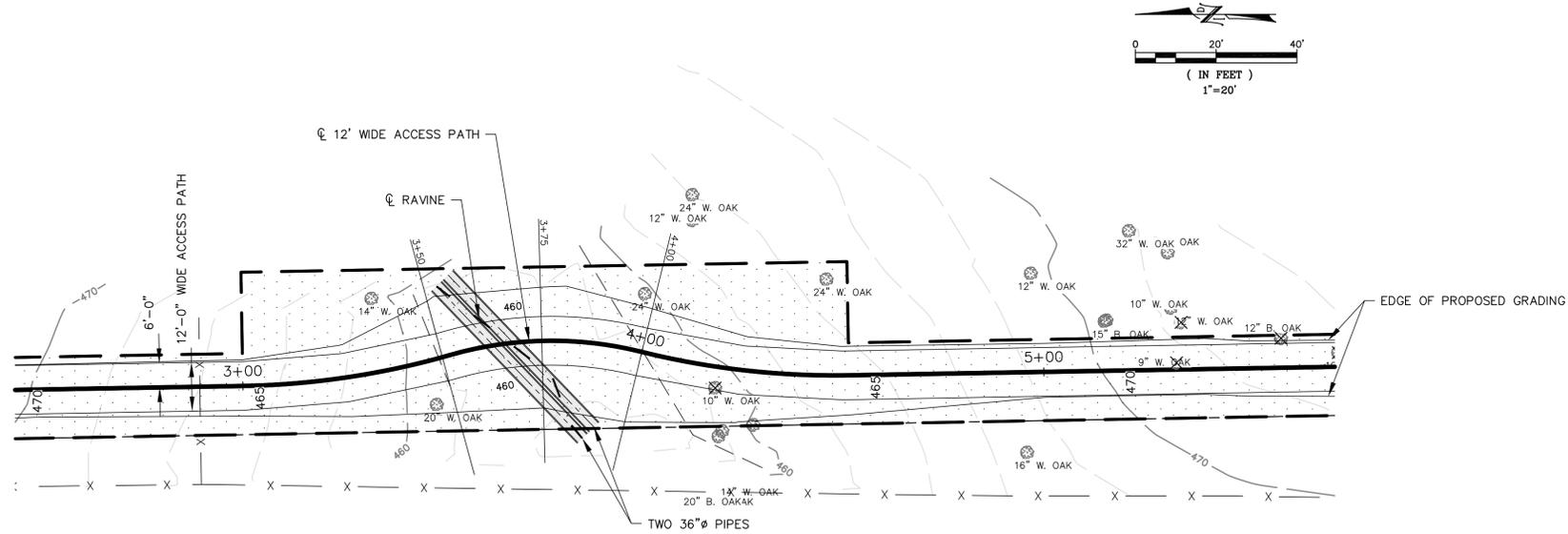
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## **Appendix A**

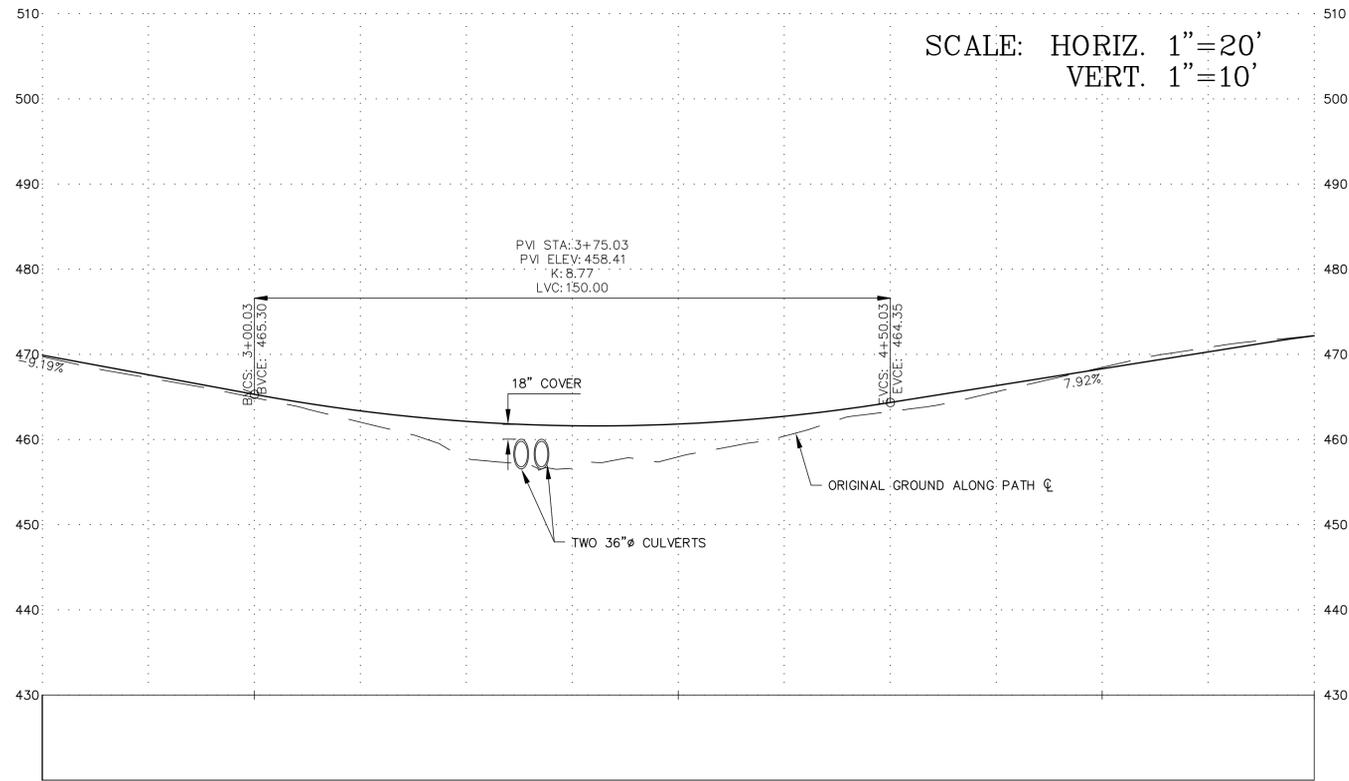
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### **Location of Trees In the Vicinity of the Project**





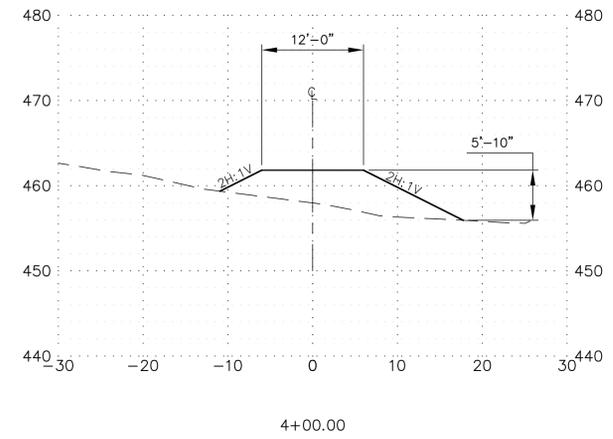
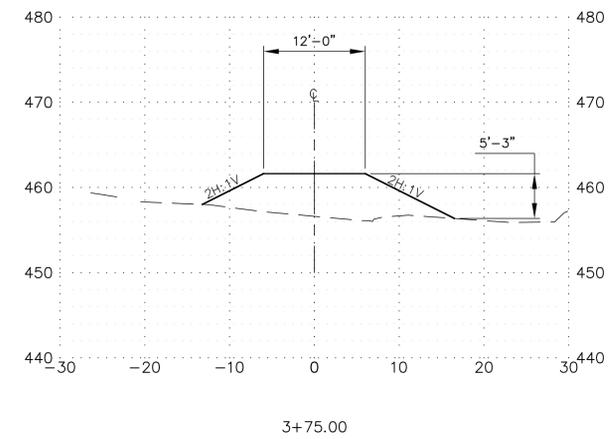
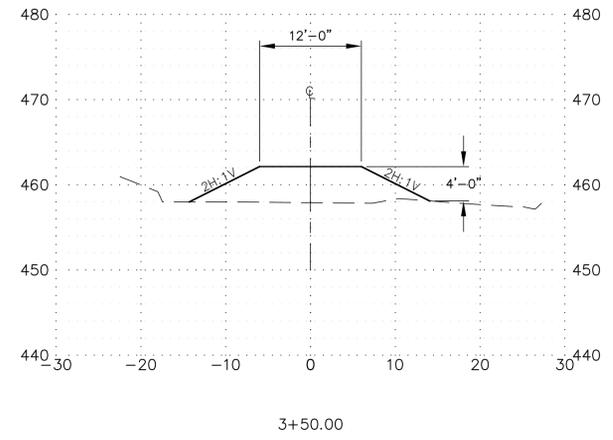
PLAN



PROFILE

SCALE: HORIZ. 1"=20'  
VERT. 1"=10'

GRADING SUMMARY:  
FILL FACTOR = NONE  
CUT = 37 CY  
FILL = 368 CY  
NET = 331 CY (FILL)



CROSS SECTIONS

SCALE: 1"=10'

INITIALS	REVISION	DATE	REV. NO.

**N.I.D.** NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
NEVADA COUNTY -- PLACER COUNTY  
GRASS VALLEY  
CALIFORNIA

VALLEY VIEW ACCESS ROAD  
GRADING  
PLAN, PROFILE AND CROSS SECTIONS

APPROVED BY:	DESIGNED:	DATE:	JOB NO. 2222
SURVEY:	DRAWN:	DATE:	DRAWING NO. ---
FACILITY NUMBER: 10469	CHECKED:	DATE:	SHEET NO. 2 of 2

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## **Appendix B**

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### **Air Pollutants Criteria: Summary of Common Sources and Effects Supporting Information, Section 3.3, Air Quality**

## Air Pollutants Criteria: Summary of Common Sources and Effects.

Pollutant	Major Man-Made Sources	Human Health & Welfare Effects
<p><i>Particulate Matter (PM)</i> Airborne solid particle and liquid particles. Grouped into 2 categories: “Coarse Particles” (PM<sub>10</sub>) – from 2.5 to 10 microns in diameter. “Fine Particles” (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) – less than 2.5 microns in diameter.</p>	<p>Power plants, steel mills, chemical plants, unpaved roads and parking lots, wood-burning stoves and fireplaces, automobiles and others.</p>	<p>Increased respiratory symptoms, such as irritation of the airways, coughing, or difficulty breathing; aggravated asthma; development of chronic bronchitis; irregular heartbeat; nonfatal heart attacks; and premature death in people with heart or lung disease. Impairs visibility (haze).</p>
<p><i>Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)</i> (Smog) A colorless or bluish gas.</p>	<p>Formed by a chemical reaction between volatile organic compounds (VOC) and nitrous oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) in the presence of sunlight. Motor vehicle exhaust, industrial emissions, gasoline storage and transport, solvents, paints and landfills.</p>	<p>Irritates and causes inflammation of the mucous membranes and lung airways; causes wheezing, coughing and pain when inhaling deeply; decreases lung capacity; aggravates lung and heart problems, damages plants; reduces crop yield, damages rubber, some textiles and dyes.</p>
<p><i>Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)</i> A colorless, nonflammable gas.</p>	<p>Formed when fuel containing sulfur, such as coal and oil, is burned; when gasoline is extracted from oil; or when metal is extracted from ore. Examples are petroleum refineries, cement manufacturing, metal processing facilities, locomotives, large ships, and fuel combustion in diesel engines.</p>	<p>Respiratory irritant. Aggravates lung and heart problems. In the presence of moisture and oxygen, sulfur dioxide converts to sulfuric acid which can damage marble, iron and steel; damage crops and natural vegetation. Impairs visibility. Precursor to acid rain.</p>
<p><i>Carbon Monoxide (CO)</i> An odorless, colorless gas.</p>	<p>Formed when carbon in fuel is not burned completely; a component of motor vehicle exhaust.</p>	<p>Reduces the ability of blood to deliver oxygen to vital tissues, affecting the cardiovascular and nervous system. Impairs vision, causes dizziness, and can lead to unconsciousness or death.</p>
<p><i>Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)</i> A reddish-brown gas.</p>	<p>Fuel combustion in motor vehicles and industrial sources. Motor vehicles; electric utilities, and other sources that burn fuel.</p>	<p>Respiratory irritant; aggravates lung and heart problems. Precursor to ozone and acid rain. Contributes to global warming, and nutrient overloading which deteriorates water quality. Causes brown discoloration of the atmosphere.</p>
<p><i>Lead</i> Metallic element.</p>	<p>Metal refineries, smelters, battery manufacturers, iron and steel producers, use of leaded fuels by racing and aircraft industries.</p>	<p>Anemia, high blood pressure, brain and kidney damage, neurological disorders, cancer, lowered IQ. Affects animals, plants, and aquatic ecosystems.</p>

Source: California Air Pollution Control Officers Association 2009.

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## **Appendix C**



### **Placer County Air Pollution Control District Best Management Practices**

## Placer County Air Pollution Control District (PCAPCD) Air Quality Best Management Practices

- Prior to the commencement of any ground disturbance an Asbestos Dust Management Plan will be submitted and approved by the PCAPCD, including the following components:
  - The applicant shall prepare an Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan pursuant to CCR Title 17 Section 93105 (“Asbestos Airborne Toxic Control Measures for Construction, Grading, Quarrying, and Surface Mining Operations”) and obtain approval by the PCAPCD. The Plan shall include all measures required by the State of California and the PCAPCD.
  - If asbestos is found in concentrations greater than 5 percent, the material shall not be used as surfacing material as stated in state regulation CCR Title 17 Section 93106 (“Asbestos Airborne Toxic Control Measure-Asbestos Containing Serpentine”). The material with naturally-occurring asbestos can be reused at the site for sub-grade material covered by other non-asbestos-containing material
- NID will maintain a comprehensive inventory (e.g., make, model, year, emission rating) of all the heavy-duty off-road equipment (50 horsepower or greater) used in construction projects. The inventory will be kept in a centralized location or at the terminal where the vehicle(s) reside. Records must be made available upon request by authorized state or PCAPCD personnel.
- NID shall maintain records demonstrating that the heavy-duty (> 50 horsepower) off-road vehicles used in their construction projects, including owned, leased and subcontractor vehicles, will achieve a project wide fleet-average of 20% of NOx and 45% of DPM reduction as compared to California ARB statewide fleet average emissions. Acceptable options for reducing emissions may include use of late model engines, low-emission diesel products, alternative fuels, engine retrofit technology, after-treatment products, and/or other options as they become available.
- NID will implement the following PCAPCD-recommended measures:
  - During construction the contractor shall utilize existing power sources (e.g., power poles) or clean fuel (e.g., gasoline, biodiesel, natural gas) generators rather than temporary diesel power generators.
  - During construction, the contractor shall minimize idling time to a maximum of 5 minutes for all diesel powered equipment.
  - Signs shall be posted in the designated queuing areas of the construction site to limit idling to a maximum of 5 minutes.
  - Idling of construction related equipment and construction related vehicles should not occur within 1,000 feet of any sensitive receptor.
- NID or its contractors will comply with PCAPCD’s Rules and Regulations. A list of PCAPCD’s Rules and Regulations can be found in the following appendix of the District’s CEQA Handbook, **Appendix B, District Rules & Regulations (Construction)**
- NID and contractors will limit idling time pursuant to County Code §10.14.0400, which requires that a driver of a vehicle must not cause or allow an engine to idle at any location for more than 5 consecutive minutes.
- Construction will comply with the BMPs set out in the PCAPCD’s Rule 228 Dust Control. Earth-moving operations will be suspended if fugitive dust exceeds Rule 228 Dust Control limitations.
  - Unpaved areas subject to vehicle traffic must be stabilized by being kept wet, treated with a chemical dust suppressant, or covered.
  - The speed of any vehicles and equipment traveling across unpaved areas must be no more than 15 miles per hour.

**Placer County Air Pollution Control District (PCAPCD)**  
**Air Quality Best Management Practices**

- Storage piles and disturbed areas not subject to vehicular traffic must be stabilized by being kept wet, treated with a chemical dust suppressant, or covered when material is not being added to or removed from the pile.
- Prior to any ground disturbance, including grading, excavating, and land clearing, sufficient water must be applied to the area to be disturbed to prevent emitting dust exceeding Ringelmann 2 (i.e. 40% opacity) and to minimize visible emissions from crossing the NID property line.
- Construction vehicles leaving the site shall be cleaned to prevent dust, silt, mud, and dirt, from being released or tracked offsite.
- When wind speeds are high enough to result in dust emissions crossing the NID property line, despite the application of dust mitigation measures, grading and earthmoving operations shall be suspended.
- No trucks are allowed to transport excavated material off-site unless the trucks are maintained such that no spillage can occur from holes or other openings in cargo compartments, and loads are either:
  - Covered with tarps; or
  - Wetted and loaded such that the material does not touch the front, back, or sides of the cargo compartment at any point less than six inches from the top and that no point of the load extends above the top of the cargo compartment.
- In geographic ultramafic rock units, or when naturally-occurring asbestos, ultramafic rock, or serpentine is disturbed, all equipment must be washed down before moving from the property onto a paved public road.
- In geographic ultramafic rock units, or when naturally-occurring asbestos, ultramafic rock, or serpentine is disturbed, upon completion of the project disturbed surfaces shall be stabilized using one or more of the following methods:
  - Establishment of a vegetative cover;
  - Placement of at least one (1.0) foot of non-asbestos-containing material;
  - Paving;
  - Any other measure deemed sufficient to prevent wind speeds of ten (10) miles per hour or greater from causing visible dust emissions.
- NID shall take action(s), such as surface stabilization, to minimize wind-driven dust from inactive disturbed surface areas.
- Signs shall be posted in the designated queuing areas of the construction site to remind off-road equipment operators that idling is limited to a maximum of 5 minutes.
- Idling of construction related equipment and construction related vehicles is not recommended within 1,000 feet of any sensitive receptor.

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## **Appendix D**

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### **Special-Status Plants Potentially Occurring in the Project Area**

**Special-Status Plants Evaluated for Occurrence in the Valley View Access Road Construction Project Area.**

Scientific Name Common Name	Blooming/Fertile Period	Federal Status	State Status	California Rare Plant Rank	Habitat and Occurrence Records	Potential for Occurrence in the Project Area
<i>Balsamorhiza macrolepis</i> big-scale balsamroot	Mar – Jun	–	–	1B.2	A perennial herb that grows in open fields and rocky slopes on serpentine soils and in foothill, woodland, chaparral, and grassland. Elevation: 150 – 5,100 ft.  A 1939 record exists from the general vicinity of the City of Lincoln (approximately 5 miles south of the Project area). The status of this occurrence is unknown.	<b>May potentially occur.</b> The Project work and staging areas are located within annual grassland habitat, and serpentine outcrops are known from the general vicinity.
<i>Chloropyron mole ssp. hispidum</i> hispid bird's beak	Jun – Sep	–	–	1B.1	This plant is a wetland obligate (Lichvar et al. 2016). A hemiparasitic annual herb that grows on alkaline soils within meadows and seeps, playas, and valley and foothill grassland. Elevation: 0 – 510 ft.	<b>Unlikely to occur.</b> The Project work and staging areas do not support wetland habitat. Furthermore, streamside riparian habitats are dominated by blackberry bramble and are unlikely to support special-status plants.
<i>Downingia pusilla</i> dwarf downingia	Mar – May	–	–	2B.2	This plant is a wetland obligate (Lichvar et al. 2016). An annual herb that occurs in shallow vernal pool complexes on alluvial soils within a matrix of valley and foothill grassland. Elevation: 0 – 1,460 ft.  A 2005 record exists about 4 miles east of the Project area in a vernal pool complex in the Redwing Preserve. A 2005 record exists about 4.5 miles southwest of the Project area in a vernal pool complex in the Redwing Preserve.	<b>Unlikely to occur.</b> The Project work and staging areas do not support wetland habitat. Furthermore, streamside riparian habitats are dominated by blackberry bramble and are unlikely to support special-status plants. Not observed during the aquatic resources delineation conducted in April 2018.
<i>Gratiola heterosepala</i> Boggs Lake hedge- hyssop	Apr – Aug	–	SE	1B.2	This plant is a wetland obligate (Lichvar et al. 2016). An annual herb that grows in clay soils in marshes, swamps, lake margins, and vernal pools. Elevation: 30 – 7,790 ft.	<b>Unlikely to occur.</b> The Project work and staging areas do not support wetland habitat. Furthermore, streamside riparian habitats are dominated by blackberry bramble and are unlikely to support special-status plants. Not observed during the aquatic resources delineation conducted in April 2018.
<i>Juncus leiospermus var. ahartii</i> Ahart's dwarf rush	Mar – May	–	–	1B.2	This plant is a wetland obligate (Lichvar et al. 2016). An annual herb that grows in vernal pool complexes with a short hydro-period that are embedded in valley and foothill grassland mesic systems. Elevation: 100 ft – 750 ft.  Only known from 10 total occurrences in California.	<b>Unlikely to occur.</b> The Project work and staging areas do not support wetland habitat. Furthermore, streamside riparian habitats are dominated by blackberry bramble and are unlikely to support special-status plants. Not observed during the aquatic resources delineation conducted in April 2018.
<i>Juncus leiospermus var. leiospermus</i> Red Bluff dwarf rush	Mar – Jun	–	–	1B.1	This plant is a wetland obligate (Lichvar et al. 2016). An annual herb that grows in vernal mesic soils in chaparral, cismontane woodland, meadows and seeps, valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pools. Prefers vernal pools and vernal pool complexes with a longer hydro-period. Elevation: 110 ft – 4,100 ft.	<b>Unlikely to occur.</b> The Project work and staging areas do not support wetland habitat. Furthermore, streamside riparian habitats are dominated by blackberry bramble and are unlikely to support special-status plants. Not observed during the aquatic resources delineation conducted in April 2018.

**Special-Status Plants Evaluated for Occurrence in the Valley View Access Road Construction Project Area.**

Scientific Name Common Name	Blooming/Fertile Period	Federal Status	State Status	California Rare Plant Rank	Habitat and Occurrence Records	Potential for Occurrence in the Project Area
<i>Legenere limosa</i> legenere	Apr – Jun	–	–	1B.1	This plant is a wetland obligate (Lichvar et al. 2016). An annual herb that grows only in vernal pools. Elevation: 0 – 2,890 ft.	<b>Unlikely to occur.</b> The Project work and staging areas do not support wetland habitat. Furthermore, streamside riparian habitats are dominated by blackberry bramble and are unlikely to support special-status plants. Not observed during the aquatic resources delineation conducted in April 2018.
<i>Navarretia myersii</i> ssp. <i>myersii</i> pincushion navarretia	Apr – May	–	–	1B.1	This plant is a wetland obligate (Lichvar et al. 2016). An annual herb that grows on acidic soils within vernal pool systems. Elevation: 70 – 1,080 ft.  A 1971 record exists approximately 5 miles south of the Project area within the city limits of Lincoln	<b>Unlikely to occur.</b> The Project work and staging areas do not support wetland habitat. Furthermore, streamside riparian habitats are dominated by blackberry bramble and are unlikely to support special-status plants. Not observed during the aquatic resources delineation conducted in April 2018.
<i>Wolffia brasiliensis</i> Brazilian watermeal	Apr, Dec	–	–	2B.3	This plant is a wetland obligate (Lichvar et al. 2016). A perennial aquatic herb that grows in marshes and swamps in shallow freshwater. Elevation: 70 – 330 ft.	<b>Unlikely to occur.</b> The Project work and staging areas do not support wetland habitat. Furthermore, streamside riparian habitats are dominated by blackberry bramble and are unlikely to support special-status plants. Not observed during the aquatic resources delineation conducted in April 2018.

Federal Status

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

State Status

SE= State Endangered  
 ST = California Threatened  
 SR = Listed by California as Rare

California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR)

1B = Rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere  
 2B = Rare in California but more common elsewhere  
 .1 = Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened/ high degree and immediacy of threat)  
 .2 = Moderately threatened in California (20 – 80% of occurrences threatened or no current threats known)  
 .3 = Not very threatened in California (<20% of occurrences threatened or no current threats known)

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## **Appendix E**

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### **Special-Status Wildlife Potentially Occurring in the Project Area**

Special-Status Wildlife Evaluated for Occurrence in the Valley View Access Road Construction Project Area.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Occurrence Notes
<b><i>Invertebrates — Crustaceans</i></b>					
<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>	Conservancy fairy shrimp	FE	—	Vernal pool ecosystems that hold water for a minimum of 19 days, but not permanently flooded emergent wetlands.	<b>Unlikely to occur.</b> Suitable habitat is not present within the Project area. Project area is outside of designated critical habitat.
<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	vernal pool fairy shrimp	FT	—	Vernal pool ecosystems that hold water for a minimum of 18 days, but not permanently flooded emergent wetlands.	<b>Unlikely to occur.</b> Suitable habitat is not present within the Project area. Project area is outside of designated critical habitat.
<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>	vernal pool tadpole shrimp	FE	—	Vernal pool ecosystems that hold water for a minimum of 41 days, but not permanently flooded emergent wetlands.	<b>Unlikely to occur.</b> Suitable habitat is not present within the Project area. Project area is outside of designated critical habitat.
<b><i>Invertebrates — Insects</i></b>					
<i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i>	valley elderberry longhorn beetle	FT	—	Central valley riparian forests and adjacent upland vegetation along river corridors, in close association with elderberry ( <i>Sambucus ssp.</i> ) plants.	<b>Unlikely to occur.</b> Suitable habitat (i.e. elderberry plants) is not present within the Project area. Project area is outside of designated critical habitat.
<b><i>Fish</i></b>					
<i>Hypomesus transpacificus</i>	delta smelt	FT	SE	Tidally influenced backwater sloughs and channel edgewaters of brackish and freshwater marshes.	<b>Unlikely to occur.</b> Suitable habitat is not present within the Project area. Project area is outside of designated critical habitat.
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i>	steelhead – Central Valley DPS	FT	—	Freshwater rivers, creeks, and streams with unobstructed outlets to the ocean. Only occurs within the Central Valley, with the northern limit being the City of Sacramento.	<b>Unlikely to occur.</b> Suitable habitat is not present within the Project area. Project area is outside of designated critical habitat.
<b><i>Amphibians</i></b>					
<i>Rana boylei</i>	foothill yellow-legged frog	—	ST, SSC	Perennial rocky (pebble or cobble) streams with cool, clear water in a variety of habitats from valley and foothill oak woodland, riparian forest, ponderosa pine, mixed conifer, coastal scrub, and mixed chaparral at elevations ranging from 0 to 6,370 ft.	<b>Known to occur.</b> An individual with egg masses was observed in the proposed Project area during initial surveys (Stantec 2018).
<i>Rana draytonii</i>	California red-legged frog	FT	SSC	Breeding habitat includes coastal lagoons, marshes, springs, permanent and semi-permanent natural ponds, backwater portions of streams, and artificial impoundments such as stock and irrigation ponds with emergent riparian vegetation. Dispersal habitat includes ephemeral and intermittent streams and adjacent upland areas. Usually occurs below 3,940 ft. USFWS has designated critical habitat for this species.	<b>Unlikely to occur.</b> Suitable dispersal habitat is present within the Project area, but Project area is outside of designated critical habitat, and is >3 miles from the closest known occurrence.

Special-Status Wildlife Evaluated for Occurrence in the Valley View Access Road Construction Project Area.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Occurrence Notes
<i>Spea hammondi</i>	western spadefoot	—	SSC	Permanent and semi-permanent aquatic habitats, such as creeks and coldwater ponds, with emergent and submergent vegetation, usually in association with riparian vegetation. Aestivates in rodent burrows or cracks during dry periods.	<b>May potentially occur.</b> Suitable habitat is present within the Project area.
<b>Reptiles</b>					
<i>Emys marmorata</i>	western pond turtle	—	SSC	Perennial wetlands and slow-moving creeks and ponds, from sea level to 6,000 ft in elevation, with overhanging vegetation and suitable basking sites such as logs and rocks above the waterline.	<b>May potentially occur.</b> Suitable habitat is present within the Project area.  One record exists within 5 miles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 2010 record approximately 1.5 miles east of the Project area in a network of blue oak woodland and ponds.</li> </ul>
<i>Thamnophis gigas</i>	giant gartersnake	FT	ST	Freshwater marshes, streams, and wetlands in the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys of California. Requires bankside basking areas with emergent vegetation and nearby upland refugia.	<b>Unlikely to occur.</b> Suitable habitat is not present within the Project area. No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
<b>Birds</b>					
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	tricolored blackbird	BCC	ST, SSC	Breeding habitat includes dense riparian vegetation with nearby accessible water and suitable foraging space for insect prey within a few kilometers of the nesting colony. Often forms large breeding colonies. Wintering habitat includes grasslands and agricultural fields with low-growing vegetation.	<b>May potentially occur.</b> Suitable habitat is present within the Project area.  Six records exist within 5 miles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 1936 record approximately 5 miles south of the Project area near the city of Lincoln;</li> <li>• A 1971 record approximately 4 miles southwest of the Project area in a cattail marsh;</li> <li>• A 2000 record approximately 3 miles northwest of the Project area in Himalayan blackberry;</li> <li>• A 2005 record approximately 5 miles west of the Project area in Himalayan blackberry;</li> <li>• A 2014 record approximately 5 miles west of the Project area near Yankee Slough;</li> <li>• A 2015 record approximately 1 mile southwest of the Project area nesting in Himalayan blackberry.</li> </ul>
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	grasshopper sparrow	—	SSC	Grassland habitats with dense escape cover and tall herbaceous plants for perches.	<b>Unlikely to occur.</b> Suitable habitat is not present within the Project area.
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	golden eagle	Eagle Act	CFP, WL	Breeding habitat includes cliffs and large trees in open areas. Foraging habitat includes rolling foothills, mountain areas, sage-juniper flats, and deserts in rugged open areas.	<b>Unlikely to occur.</b> Suitable habitat is not present within the Project area.

Special-Status Wildlife Evaluated for Occurrence in the Valley View Access Road Construction Project Area.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Occurrence Notes
<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	burrowing owl	BCC	SSC	Breeding habitat includes rodent burrows in sparse grassland, desert, and agricultural habitats. Found in lowlands throughout California.	<b>Unlikely to occur.</b> Limited suitable habitat exists within the project area.
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	Swainson's hawk	BCC	ST	Breeding habitat includes riparian woodland and trees adjacent to riparian systems. Foraging habitat includes open grasslands, agricultural fields, and pastures.	<b>May potentially occur.</b> Suitable nesting and foraging habitat is present in the Project area.  Two records exist within 5 miles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 2005 nest record approximately 4 miles east of the Project area in the Redwing Preserve;</li> <li>• A 2009 nest record approximately 3.5 miles east of the Project area near Coon Creek.</li> </ul>
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	northern harrier	—	SSC	A frequent resident of meadows, grasslands, open rangelands, and fresh or salt emergent wetlands. Rarely found in wooded areas. Nests on the ground at marshy edges, usually in shrubby vegetation.	<b>Unlikely to occur.</b> Suitable habitat is not present within the Project area.
<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	white-tailed kite	—	CFP	Low foothills or valley areas with valley or live oaks, riparian areas, and marshes near open grasslands for foraging.	<b>May potentially occur.</b> Suitable nesting and foraging habitat is present in the Project area.
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	bald eagle	BCC, FD, Eagle Act	SE, CFP	Year-round resident in ice-free regions of California. Foraging areas include regulated and unregulated rivers, reservoirs, lakes, estuaries, and coastal marine ecosystems. The majority of bald eagles in California breed near reservoirs; nests are usually located within 1 mile of foraging habitat.	<b>Unlikely to occur.</b> Suitable habitat is not present within the Project area.
<i>Icteria virens</i>	yellow-breasted chat	—	SSC	An uncommon summer resident and migrant in Coastal California and the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. Breeds in valley foothill riparian and desert riparian habitats. Requires riparian thickets of willow and brushy tangles near watercourses for cover. Found at elevations up to 4,800 ft in valley foothill riparian habitats and up to 6,500 ft in the eastern Sierra Nevada.	<b>Unlikely to occur.</b> Suitable habitat is not present within the Project area.
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	loggerhead shrike	BCC	SSC	Prefers open habitats with scattered shrubs, trees, posts, fences, utility lines, or other perches in the lowlands and foothills throughout California.	<b>May potentially occur.</b> Suitable nesting and foraging habitat is present in the Project area.

Special-Status Wildlife Evaluated for Occurrence in the Valley View Access Road Construction Project Area.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Occurrence Notes
<i>Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus</i>	California black rail	BCC	ST, CFP	Breeds in tidal emergent wetlands, brackish marshes, and freshwater marshes containing bulrushes, cattails, and saltgrass. Marshes must be at least 1 acre in size and support at least 1 inch of water. Nests are concealed in dense vegetation. Breeds in March through early June, and may winter away from breeding habitat. The California black rail is extremely secretive and tends to avoid areas of human activity.	<p><b>Unlikely to occur.</b> Suitable habitat is not present in the Project area because the perennial stream and canal do not support emergent vegetation in standing water, and wetlands in the Project vicinity don't meet the minimum size requirement.</p> <p>Three records exist within 5 miles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 2005 record approximately 2 miles northeast of the Project area near Coon Creek;</li> <li>• A 2011 record approximately 4.5 miles east of the Project area near the Yankee Slough.</li> <li>• A year unknown record approximately 5 miles north of the Project area in small marshes near Camp Far West Reservoir.</li> </ul>
<i>Melospiza melodia mailliardi</i>	Modesto song sparrow	—	SSC	Endemic to California in the north-central portion of the Central Valley. Nests in emergent freshwater marshes dominated by tules and cattails; also nests in riparian forests of valley oak.	<b>Unlikely to occur.</b> Suitable habitat is not present within the Project area.
<i>Progne subis</i>	purple martin	—	SSC	An uncommon, local summer resident in wooded, low elevation habitats. Found in valley foothill, montane hardwood, montane hardwood-conifer, and riparian habitats. Nests in tall, old trees near an open body of water, and occasionally in residential areas.	<b>Unlikely to occur.</b> Suitable habitat is not present within the Project area.
<i>Riparia riparia</i>	bank swallow	—	ST	Found in lowland and riparian habitats during spring and fall. During the breeding season, restricted to riparian, lacustrine, and coastal areas that have vertical banks, bluffs, and cliffs in which to nest. Nests colonially and almost always near open water.	<b>Unlikely to occur.</b> Suitable habitat is not present within the Project area.
<i>Setophaga petechia</i>	yellow warbler	BCC	SSC	Found in riparian deciduous habitats in summer, also breeds in montane shrubs in open conifer forests. Rare to uncommon in many lowland areas where formerly common. Found at elevations up to 8,000 ft in the Sierra Nevada.	<b>Unlikely to occur.</b> Suitable habitat is present in the Project area, but this species is rarely found at low elevation.
<b>Mammals</b>					
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	pallid bat	—	SSC	Roosts in rocky outcrops, cliffs, and crevices. Forages in open habitats in low elevations throughout California. The maternity season is April – July.	<b>May potentially occur.</b> Suitable habitat is present within the Project area.
<i>Bassariscus astutus</i>	ringtail	—	CFP	Occurs primarily in riparian vegetation, forests, and shrub habitats in lower and mid-elevations; often associated with rocky areas.	<b>Unlikely to occur.</b> Limited suitable habitat is present within the Project area.

**Special-Status Wildlife Evaluated for Occurrence in the Valley View Access Road Construction Project Area.**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Occurrence Notes
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	Townsend's big-eared bat	—	SSC	Occurs throughout California in all but subalpine and alpine habitats. Roosts in caves, mines, tunnels, and buildings; occasionally roosts in hollow trees. The maternity season is May – August.	<b>May potentially occur.</b> Suitable habitat is present within the Project area.

**Federal Status**

FE = Federal Endangered  
 FT = Federal Threatened  
 FPT = Federal Proposed Threatened  
 FC = Federal Candidate  
 BCC = Birds of Conservation Concern  
 FD = Federal Delisted

**State Status**

SE = California Endangered  
 ST = State Threatened  
 SCE/SCT = California Candidate Endangered/Threatened  
 SD = State Delisted  
 CFP = California Fully Protected  
 SSC = California Species of Special Concern  
 WL = CDFW Watchlist

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## **Appendix F**

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### **Nevada Irrigation District Cultural Resources Policy (Policy No. 6085)**

# Staff Report

for the Board of Directors of June 10, 2015

**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Gary King, Engineering Manager  
**DATE:** June 1, 2015  
**SUBJECT:** Policy – Cultural Resources (Consent)

***ENGINEERING***

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt Resolution No. 2015-16 (Establishing Policy for Administration – Cultural Resources) as recommended by the Administrative Practices Committee on May 5, 2015.

**BACKGROUND:**

Cultural resources can be found during numerous District activities. These resources such as Indian pottery or mining equipment are relevant to the history of this area. If the District encounters these resources, staff will take reasonable efforts to protect and preserve resources. Once these materials are removed, they can be stored and then donated to a preservation organization with the potential of display to the public. Human remains if found have a more formal method which is indicated in the attached guideline.

Staff in collaboration with a professional archeologist has developed a guideline for dealing with either human or cultural remains. In addition, this guideline was discussed in the Engineering Committee on May 19, 2015 and will be used by staff and included as a guideline in future California Environmental Quality Act documents. The guideline has been provided as an information item as part of this request.

It is the recommendation of staff to approve the attached policy.

**BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

No budget impact

GDK

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# Nevada Irrigation District

## POLICY MANUAL

**POLICY TITLE:** Cultural Resources  
**POLICY NUMBER:** 6085

The purpose of this policy is to outline efforts of the District to protect inadvertently discover cultural resources or human remains.

### **6085.1 Discovery of Cultural Resources**

Archaeological materials: may include, but are not limited to, flaked stone tools (projectile point, biface, scraper, etc.) and debitage (flakes) made of chert, obsidian, etc., groundstone milling tools and fragments (mortar, pestle, handstone, millingstone, etc.), faunal bones, fire-affected rock, dark middens, house pit depressions and human interments.

Historic-era Resources: may include, but are not limited to, small cemeteries or burial plots, cut (square) nails, containers or miscellaneous hardware, glass fragments, cans with soldered seams or tops, ceramic or stoneware objects or fragments, milled or split lumber, earthworks, feature or structure remains and trash dumps.

The District will treat those materials in a manner consistent using guidelines developed by the District staff and appropriate professionals which will follow standards of the industry and regulatory requirements to manage the discovery of cultural resources.

### **6085.2 Discovery of Human Remains**

According to Section 7050 of the California Health and Safety Code, it is a misdemeanor to knowingly disturb a human burial site. If human remains are encountered (or are suspected) during related activity, the District or its contractor will treat those remains or suspected remains in a dignified manner using guidelines developed by the District staff and appropriate professionals which will follow standards of the industry and regulatory requirements to manage the discovery of human remains.

Adopted: (Date) via Resolution No. 2015  
Revised:

# GUIDELINES FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES

## MAY 11, 2015

### Unanticipated Discovery of Cultural Resources

If subsurface cultural resources are inadvertently uncovered during Project ground disturbing activities

**Archaeological materials:** may include, but are not limited to, flaked stone tools (projectile point, biface, scraper, etc.) and debitage (flakes) made of chert, obsidian, etc., groundstone milling tools and fragments (mortar, pestle, handstone, millstone, etc.), faunal bones, fire-affected rock, dark middens, house pit depressions and human interments.

**Historic-era Resources:** may include, but are not limited to, small cemeteries or burial plots, cut (square) nails, containers or miscellaneous hardware, glass fragments, cans with soldered seams or tops, ceramic or stoneware objects or fragments, milled or split lumber, earthworks, feature or structure remains and trash dumps. NID or its contractor shall complete the following steps:

1. Stop all work when cultural resources are encountered
2. Immediately contact the NID Project Manager
3. NID will relocate work within no less than 150 feet of the discovery or otherwise directed by the NID Qualified Professional Archaeologist; If NID resumes work in a location where cultural resources have been discovered and cleared
4. NID will have an onsite archeologist to confirm that no additional archaeological resources are in the area.
5. NID or its contractor shall secure the discovery location with traffic plates over the exposed site or a person watching the site until cleared by the archeologist
6. NID contractor will make every effort not to further harass or damage, touch, or remove any cultural resources materials
7. All spoils will remain in their current location until directed to be moved by NID staff or the archeologist.
8. NID or its contractor shall record the location and keep notes of all calls and events
9. NID or its contractor shall treat the find as confidential and do not publically disclose the location. Only authorized personnel, or individuals with the permission of NID (and the land owner if different from NID) shall be allowed on the archeological site
10. The NID archaeologist will assess the significance of the find. All materials collected and secured by NID at the offsite District location. The NID archeologist will not provide any materials to a tribal agency or other group unless directed by the District. All materials found will be secured and provided to an appropriate tribal or museum of selection at the discretion of the District. The District will make every effort to treat the sharing of materials such that the community is benefited by the find
11. No additional work shall take place within the immediate vicinity of the find until NID's chosen archaeologist has given approval and with the concurrence of SHPO.

## **Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains**

Section 7050 of the California Health and Safety Code states that it is a misdemeanor to knowingly disturb a human burial site. If human remains are encountered (or are suspected) during any project-related activity, NID's contractor shall complete the following steps:

1. Immediately stop all work when human remains are encountered
2. Immediately contact the NID Project Manager or Department Manager
3. NID will contact a Qualified Professional Archaeologist (meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Qualifications) who will then notify the County Coroner immediately pursuant to PRC Section 7050.5;
4. NID or its contractor will relocate work if directed by NID within no less than 150 feet of the discovery or otherwise directed by the NID Qualified Professional Archaeologist;
5. NID will have the NID archeologist confirm that no additional archaeological resources are in the area. If NID resumes work in a location where human remains have been discovered and cleared, NID will have a Qualified Professional Archaeologist onsite to confirm that no additional human remains are in the area
6. NID's contractor shall not damage, touch, or remove any human remains or associated materials or remove associated spoils or pick through them;
7. Record the location and keep notes of all calls, site visits and events;
8. NID or its contractor shall treat the find as confidential and do not publically disclose the location. NID shall provide security to the area as needed. Only authorized personnel, or individuals with the permission of NID (and the land owner, if different from NID) shall be allowed onsite.
9. The County Coroner may assess the human remains. If the human remains are of Native American origin, the Coroner must notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) within 24 hours of such identification. The NAHC shall identify the most likely descendant (MLD).
10. Once given the permission by NID (and the land owner if different from NID) the MLD shall be allowed onsite. The MLD shall complete their inspection and make their recommendation to NID for means of treating or disposing of, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and any associated grave goods as provided in PRC Section 5097.98. MLD recommendations must be made within 48 hours of the NAHC notification to the MLD.
11. No additional work shall take place within the immediate vicinity of the find until NID's chosen archaeologist gives approval to resume work in that area.