

Nevada City Regional Office

State Route 20 in Nevada County

03-NEV-20-15.92

EA 2M7600

Initial Study with Proposed Negative Declaration



Prepared by the
State of California Department of Transportation

March 2009



General Information About This Document

What's in this document?

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has prepared this Initial Study, which examines the potential environmental associated with the proposed project located in Nevada County, California. The document describes why the project is being proposed, the existing environment that could be affected by the project, and the proposed avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures.

In California, properties with known hazardous waste are placed on a public list for notification and public disclosure. This list, known as the "Cortese List", was established under Government Code 65962.5 and is published annually by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research. If a site is listed in the Cortese List database, a negative declaration (ND) is the minimum level of CEQA documentation required for legal compliance.

What should you do?

- Please read this Initial Study. Additional copies of this document as well as the technical studies are available for review at the Caltrans District 3 Office of Environmental Support at 703 B St, Marysville, CA 95901 and at the Madelyn Helling Library at 980 Helling Way, Nevada City, CA 95959.
- We welcome your comments. If you have any concerns regarding the proposed project, send your written comments to Caltrans by the deadline. Submit comments via U.S. mail to Caltrans at the following address:

Sandra Rosas, Senior Environmental Planner
North Region Environmental Planning
California Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 911 Marysville, CA 95901

Submit comments via email to: sandra_rosas@dot.ca.gov

- Submit comments by the deadline: April 16, 2009.

What happens next?

After comments are received from the public and reviewing agencies, Caltrans may 1) give environmental approval to the proposed project, 2) do additional environmental studies, or 3) abandon the project. If the project is given environmental approval and funding is appropriated, Caltrans could design and construct all or part of the project.

For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document is available in Braille, large print, on audiocassette, or computer disk. To obtain a copy in one of these alternate formats, please call or write to Caltrans, Attn: Sandra Rosas, North Region Environmental Planning, P.O. Box 911, Marysville, CA 95901; (530) 741-4017 Voice, or use the California Relay Service TTY number, 1-800-735-2929.

SCH:
03 NEV-20-15.92
PM 15.92
EA 2M7600

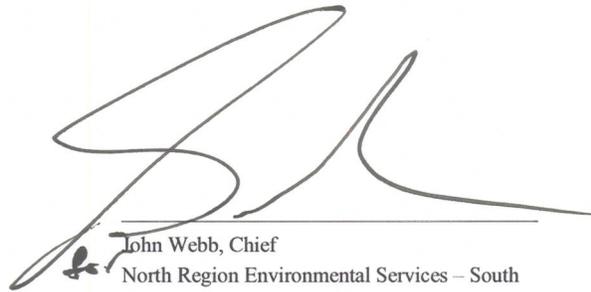
Nevada City Regional Office in Nevada County, California
PM 15.92
EA 2M7600

INITIAL STUDY

Submitted Pursuant to: (State) Division 13, California Resources Code

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Department of Transportation

3/11/2009
Date of Approval



John Webb, Chief
North Region Environmental Services – South
California Department of Transportation

Proposed Negative Declaration

Pursuant to: Division 13, Public Resources Code

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), District 3, proposes to renovate and update the Nevada City Maintenance Yard by joining the Superintendent and Supervisor buildings to accommodate the personnel currently housed at the Crown Point Region Office. In order to accomplish this task the current buildings will need to bring many items up to present code standards as well as to have ADA compliant facilities. There will be excavations up to 3 foot 8 inches to place additional perimeter footings, a relocation of the rest-rooms, placement of a conference room, additional room to house existing personnel, renovate and upgrade the kitchen facilities, improve building utility connections and hook up to existing utility connections.

These improvements will once again bring the Region Office Personnel back to the Maintenance Yard and eliminate the need to lease property from an outside source at the expense of almost \$7,000 per month. This will also facilitate a quicker response and implementation of emergency operations plans and personnel from a central location.

Caltrans has prepared an Initial Study for this project and, pending public review, expects to determine from this study that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

- The proposed project would have no effect on visual aesthetics, agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology/soils, hydrology/water quality, land use/planning, mineral resources, noise, population/housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or utilities/service systems.
- The proposed project would have no effect on hazardous materials.

John Webb
Chief, Office of Environmental Services - South
North Region Environmental Planning
California Department of Transportation

Date

Proposed Negative Declaration

Project Title

Nevada City Regional Office

Lead Agency Name and Address

California Department of Transportation
703 B St, Marysville 95901

Contact Person and Phone Number

Sandra Rosas, Senior Environmental Planner
(530) 741-4017

Project Location

The proposed project site is located east of State Route (SR) 20, at PM 15.916, south of Gold Flat Road, and northwest of Granholm Lane. The project area is approximately one mile from Nevada City. Refer to Project Location Map and Project Vicinity Map on pages *v* and *vi*. The parcel referred to as the proposed project site is parcel number 35-230-35.

Project Sponsor's Name and Address

California Department of Transportation
Sandra Rosas, Senior Environmental Planner
703 B St
Marysville, CA 95901

Zoning

Through correspondence with the Nevada County Planning Commission it has been determined that Caltrans is exempt from any building permits. The proposed project parcel is zoned as Public (P).

The 'P' District provides for areas occupied by Federal, State and local government agencies, or by a private entity under contract, agreement or franchise with a governmental agency if the use is a service or function normally provided by the agency entering into a contract or agreement, or issuing a franchise.

Description of Project

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), District 3, proposes to renovate and update the Nevada City Maintenance Yard by joining the Superintendent and Supervisor buildings to accommodate the personnel currently housed at the Crown Point Region Office. In order to accomplish this task the current buildings will need to bring many items up to present code standards as well as to have ADA compliant facilities. There will be excavations up to 3 foot 8 inches to place additional perimeter footings, a relocation of the rest-rooms, placement of a conference room, additional room to house existing personnel, renovate and upgrade the kitchen facilities, improve building utility connections and hook up to existing utility connections.

These improvements will facilitate the consolidation of regional maintenance personnel and eliminate the need to lease property from an outside source at the expense of almost \$7,000 per month. This will also facilitate a quicker response and implementation of emergency operations plans and personnel from a central location.

This proposed Negative Declaration is included to give notice to interested agencies and the public that it is Caltrans' intent to adopt a Negative Declaration for this project. This does not mean that Caltrans' decision regarding the project is final. This proposed Negative Declaration is subject to modification based on comments received by interested agencies and the public.

Surrounding Land Uses and Setting

The project area is outside of the Nevada City limits but is within the sphere of influence of Nevada City. The area is residential, light industrial and agricultural.

Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required

No permit, financing approval, participation or agreements are required from any other public agency based on the current scope of the project.

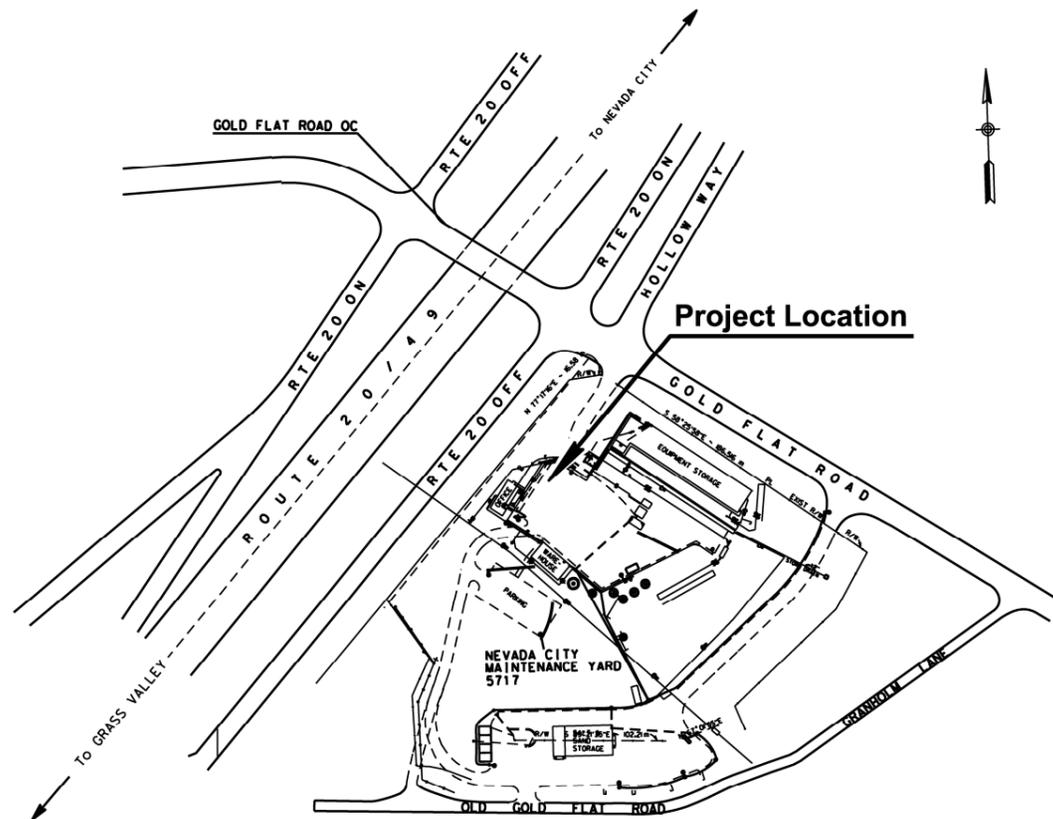
Project Location Map

INDEX OF SHEETS

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
**PROJECT PLANS FOR CONSTRUCTION ON
 STATE HIGHWAY**

**IN NEVADA COUNTY
 IN NEVADA CITY NEAR THE
 NEVADA CITY MAINTENANCE STATION
 AT 10057 GOLD FLAT ROAD**

To be supplemented by Standard Plans dated May, 2006



NO SCALE

The Contractor shall possess the class (or classes) of license as specified in the "Notice to Contractors."

DIST	COUNTY	ROUTE	POST MILES TOTAL PROJECT	SHEET NO.	TOTAL SHEETS
03	Nev	20	5717		



The State of California or its officers or agents shall not be responsible for the accuracy or completeness of electronic copies of this plan sheet.
 To get to the Caltrans web site, go to: <http://www.dot.ca.gov>

PROJECT ENGINEER	DATE	PROJECT MANAGER	DATE
DAVID LAMB		RUSTY GROUT	

David S. Lamb 5-10-07
 Project Engineer Date
 Registered Civil Engineer



Plans Approval Date

Contract No. **03-2M7604**

03_2M7604ab01rev.dgn 5/10/2007 8:45:49 AM

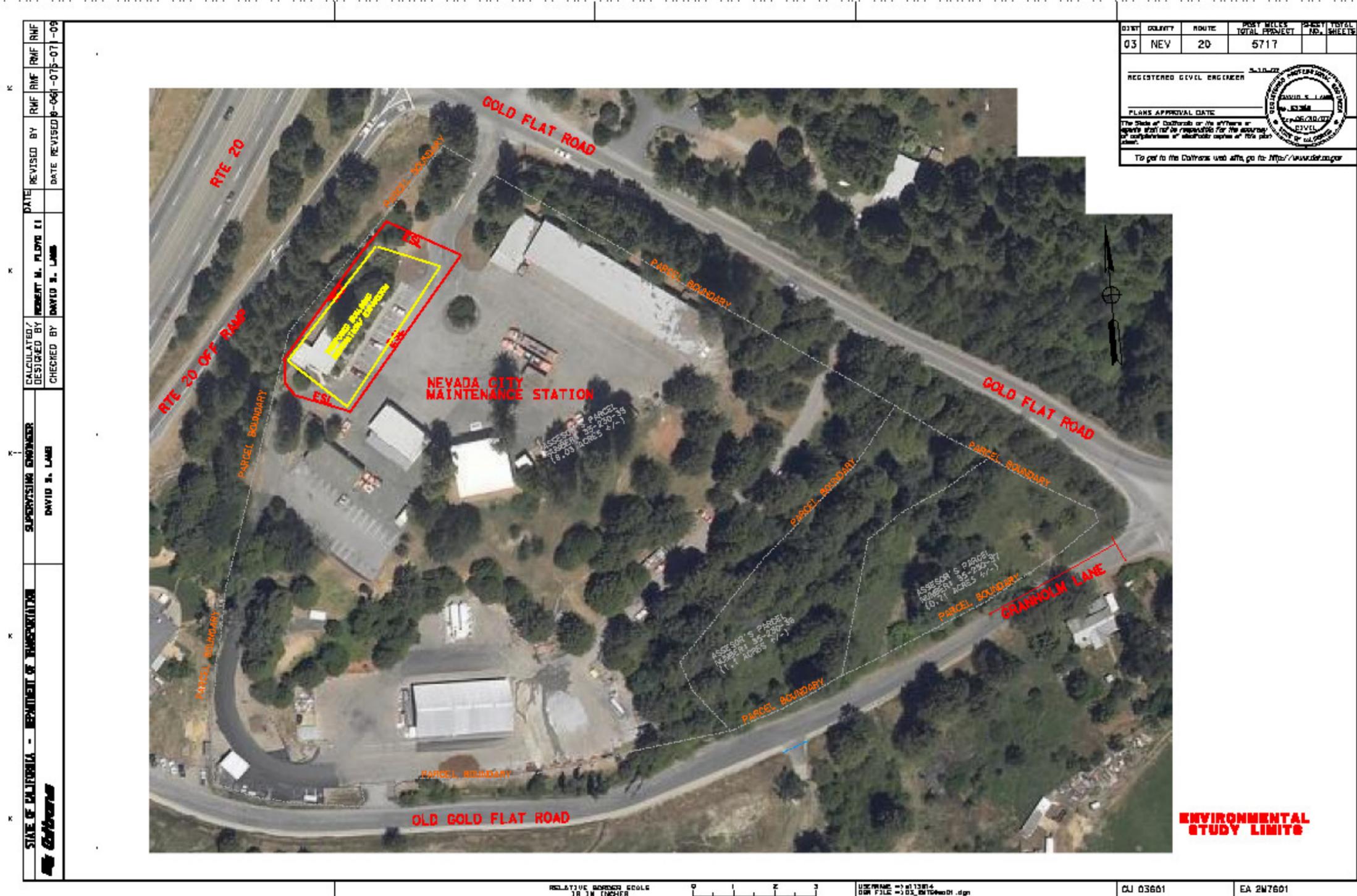


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 DGN FILE -> WREQUEST

CU 03601 EA 2M7601

DATE PLOTTED -> DATE
 05-10-07

Project Vicinity Map



Chapter 1 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.

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology/Soils
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology/Water Quality
- Land Use/Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population/Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation/Traffic
- Utilities/Service Systems
- Mandatory Findings of Significance

Chapter 2 Determination

On the basis of this determination:

- 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.

Signature

Date

Chapter 3 Impacts Checklist

The impacts checklist starting on the next page identifies physical, biological, social, and economic factors that might be affected by the proposed project. The California Environmental Quality Act impact levels include “potentially significant impact,” “less than significant impact with mitigation,” “less than significant impact,” and “no impact.”

A brief explanation of each California Environmental Quality Act checklist determination follows each checklist item. Lengthy explanations, if needed, are provided after the checklist.

Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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I. AESTHETICS — Would the project:

- a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

Hydro-seeding/mulching is to used where necessary to minimize storm water impacts.

“No Impact” determination in this section is based on the Visual Impact Assessment, February 2007.

- b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

- c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?

- d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES — In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:

- 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?

- b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

- c) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?

“No Impact” determinations in this section are based on various field reviews in 2006 and 2007.

III. AIR QUALITY — Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

- a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions, which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

“No Impact” determinations in this section are based on the Air Quality Report, February 2007.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES — Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" 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 Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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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"/>
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“No Impact” determinations in this section are based on the Natural Environmental Study (NES), February 2007.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES — Would the project:

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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“No Impact” determinations in this section are based on the Historic Resource Compliance Report, January 2007.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS — Would the project:

a) Expose people or structures to 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"/>
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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"/>
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ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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iv) Landslides?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" 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 onsite or offsite 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 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"/> |

“No Impact” determinations in this section are based on conversations with Project Engineer, March 2007.

VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS —

Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 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 type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" 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 that 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

“Less Than Significant” determination in this section is based on review of the Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) and Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon (TPH) Survey Report Transmittal, March 2007.

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 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 for people residing or working in the project area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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g) 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"/>
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h) Expose people or structures 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?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY —

Would the project:

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level that would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or offsite?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or offsite?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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e) Create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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j) Result in inundation by a seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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“No Impact” determinations in this section are based on the Water Quality report, February 2007.

IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING — Would the project:

a) Physically divide an established community?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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“No Impact” determinations in this section are based on conversations with Project Engineer, March 2007.

X. MINERAL RESOURCES — Would the project:

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"/>
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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"/>
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“No Impact” determinations in this section are based on conversations with Project Engineer, March 2007.

XI. NOISE — Would the project result in:

Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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- a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?
- b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?
- c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?
- d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?
- 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 expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?
- f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

“No Impact” determinations in this section are based on the Noise Report, February 2007.

XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING — Would the project:

- a) Induce substantial 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)?
- b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?
- c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

“No Impact” determinations in this section are based on the scope and location of the project.

Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES —

Would the project 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:

Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

“No Impact” determinations in this section are based on the scope and location of the project.

XIV. RECREATION —

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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“No Impact” determinations in this section are based on the scope and location of the project.

XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC — Would the project:

a) Cause an increase in traffic that is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?

c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?

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

e) Result in inadequate emergency access?

f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?

g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?

“No Impact” determinations in this section are based on conversations with Project Engineer, March 2007.

XVI. UTILITY AND SERVICE SYSTEMS — Would the project:

a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?

b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?

e) Result in a determination by the wastewater

Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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"No Impact" determinations in this section are based on conversations with Project Engineer, March 2007.

XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE —

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Chapter 4 Additional Explanations

Hazardous Waste Materials

Regulatory Setting

Many state and federal laws regulate hazardous materials and hazardous wastes. These include not only specific statutes governing hazardous waste, but also a variety of laws regulating air and water quality, human health, and land use.

Hazardous waste in California is regulated primarily under the authority of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 and the California Health and Safety Code. Other California laws that affect hazardous waste are specific to handling, storage, transportation, disposal, treatment, reduction, cleanup, and emergency planning.

Worker health and safety and public safety are key issues when dealing with hazardous materials that may affect human health and the environment. Proper treatment of materials during excavation and transport, and proper disposal of hazardous material is vital during project construction in order to prevent impacts to workers (and the public) from contaminated dust or water. The principle agency in California state government concerned with these issues for the protection of human health and the environment is the Department of Toxic Substances Control.

In California, properties with known hazardous waste are placed on a public list for notification and public disclosure. This list, known as the “Cortese List”, was established under Government Code 65962.5 and was published annually by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research. If a site is listed in the Cortese List database, a negative declaration (ND) is the minimum level of CEQA documentation required for legal compliance.

Affected Environment

This proposed project includes work in parcel number 35-230-35 (maintenance station) which was on the Cortese list, as defined by Government Code Section 65962.5, however, the Cortese list is no longer updated. The suspected source of the contamination was related to a fuel spill that occurred in 1988 at the maintenance station. The actively regulated site is currently used as the Caltrans maintenance station (parcel 35-230-35) where Caltrans maintains active groundwater monitoring stations. Though physically located on a Cortese site, the contamination is well defined, under active remediation, and is a significant distance from the proposed new Regional Office location. Aside from the above description of the contamination the

proposed project is located in a region known to contain Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) as defined by the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District as potentially containing Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA).

Impacts

The Preliminary Site Investigations (PSIs) dated February 28, 2007 found no Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon (TPH) or NOA contamination within the soils that would be excavated and removed for the project. Therefore, soils removed from the site during construction can be reused or disposed of without restrictions.

Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures

Based on the previous findings, no avoidance, minimization, or mitigation measures are required. Although TPH was not identified in the report, the Office of Engineering South (OES) recommends that efforts be made to avoid the historical mine shaft, reportedly located near the existing Nevada City Maintenance Station.

In accordance with Caltrans' Construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) the following measures will be implemented to avoid impacts to water quality.

1. The project shall adhere to the conditions of the Caltrans Statewide NPDES Permit CAS # 000003, (Order # 99-06-DWQ), issued by the State Water Resources Control Board.
2. The project appears to have less than 0.4 hectares of Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA) and it is anticipated that a Water Pollution Control Plan (WPCP) level of temporary pollution controls will be specified for the project; Standard Special Provision 07-340 therefore shall be included in the contract to address these temporary construction water pollution control measures.
3. As directed by Caltrans' Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) and the Project Planning and Design Guide (PPDG) an evaluation of the project using the most recent approved evaluation guide is essential in determining if the incorporation of permanent storm water runoff treatment measures shall be considered for this project.

List of Preparers

The following Caltrans North Region staff contributed to the preparation of this Initial Study:

Larry M. Chiea, Environmental Planner. Contribution: Environmental Study Coordinator and Document Writer.

Sandra E. Rosas, Environmental Planner. Contribution: Environmental Branch Chief.

Erin Dwyer, Associate Environmental Planner (Archaeology). Contribution: Historic Property Survey report.

Jennifer A. Olah, Associate Environmental Planner/NS (Biologist). Contribution: Project Biologist, Natural Environmental Study (NES).

Ron Floyd, Project Engineer. Contribution: Preparation of Design Plans.

Brian Toepfer, Project Manager. Contribution: Project Coordination.

Mark Melani, Transportation Engineer. Contribution: Hazardous Waste Initial Site Assessment.

Sharon Tang, Air/Noise Specialist. Contribution: Air Quality and Noise Reports.

Jane H Donohoe, Landscape Architect. Contribution: Visual Impact Analysis.

Anand Maganti, Civil Transportation Engineer. Contribution: Water Quality Analysis and NPDES Storm Water Coordinator.