Sacramento – Placerville Transportation Corridor Joint Powers Authority Natural Trail Project

Initial Study / Draft Mitigation Negative Declaration

Prepared for:

Sacramento Placerville Transportation Corridor
Joint Powers Authority
1329 Howe Avenue, Suite 110
Sacramento, CA 95825

September 11, 2015

Prepared by:

FOOTHILL ASSOCIATES

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NOTICE OF INTENT
TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

for the

Sacramento – Placerville Transportation Corridor Joint Powers Authority Natural Trail Project

Public Notice is hereby given that a Mitigated Negative Declaration (Environmental Report) is available for public review for the Sacramento – Placerville Transportation Corridor Joint Powers Authority (SPTC – JPA) Natural Trail Project.

Project Location: The Proposed Project is located within the SPTC from milepost 116.4, within the Folsom City limits at Iron Point Road and Placerville Road in Sacramento County, southeast to milepost 119.4 at the Sacramento County Line, within portions of Sections 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, and 23, Township 9 North, Range 8 East, of the *Clarksville*, and *Folsom SE*, California USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles, 38° 37' 46.843" North, 121° 5' 37.973" West.

Project Description: Implementation of the Proposed Project would result in the development of an approximately three-mile natural trail segment beginning in the City of Folsom and extending south to the Sacramento/El Dorado County line. The proposed Natural Trail would accommodate mountain bikers, pedestrians, and equestrian users. The proposed Natural Trail alignment would generally follow the existing informal trail and would be constructed as an unpaved trail surfaced with compacted earth or decomposed granite, uniformly graded and free of obstructions, generally ranging from three to four feet in width with two to three feet clearance on either side.

Document Review and Availability: The public review and comment period will extend for 30 calendar days in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15105 starting **September 11, 2015** and ending **October 12, 2015**. The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) is available for public review at the following locations:

Folsom Public Library
Georgia Murray Building
411 Stafford Street
Folsom, CA 95630

Sacramento County Department of Community Development
827 7th Street, Room 225
Sacramento, CA 95814

El Dorado County Public Library
2850 Fairlane Court
Placerville, CA 95667

Sacramento Placerville Transportation Corridor Joint Powers Authority
1329 Howe Avenue, Suite 110
Sacramento, CA 95825

The IS/MND can also be viewed and/or downloaded at the Sacramento – Placerville Transportation Corridor Joint Powers Authority website via the following: http://www.sptc-jpa.org/.

Comments/Questions: Comments and/or questions regarding the IS/MND may be directed to: John Segerdell, Chief Executive Officer – JPA, SPTC – JPA, 1329 Howe Avenue, Suite 110, Sacramento, CA 95825, Phone: (916) 924-8800, Fax: (916) 924-8886, Email: jsegerdell@pghwong.com.

Public Meetings: The IS/MND is tentatively scheduled for consideration and possible adoption by the SPTC – JPA Board on **November 2, 2015**. Board meetings start at 9:30 A.M. in the Folsom City Hall, Council Chambers, 50 Natoma Street, Folsom, California, 95630. Interested parties should call John Segerdell, Chief Executive Officer – JPA at (916) 924-8800 to confirm meeting agendas, times, and dates.

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1.0 MITIGATION NEGATIVE DECLARATION INFORMATION SHEET

PROJECT TITLE: Sacramento – Placerville Transportation Corridor Joint Powers Authority Natural Trail Project

PROJECT LOCATION: City of Folsom, Sacramento County, California

DATE: September 11, 2015

PROJECT APPLICANT: Sacramento – Placerville Transportation Corridor Joint Powers Authority

LEAD AGENCY: Sacramento – Placerville Transportation Corridor Joint Powers Authority

CONTACT PERSON: John Segerdell, Chief Executive Officer – SPTC – JPA

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Implementation of the Proposed Project would result in the development of an approximately three mile natural trail segment beginning in the City of Folsom and extending south to the Sacramento/El Dorado County line. The proposed Natural Trail would accommodate mountain bikers, pedestrians, and equestrian users. The proposed Natural Trail alignment would generally follow the existing informal trail and would be constructed as an unpaved trail surfaced with compacted earth or decomposed granite, uniformly graded and free of obstructions, generally ranging from three to four feet in width with two to three feet clearance on either side. See **Section 3.0** for additional Project Description details.

DECLARATION

The Sacramento – Placerville Transportation Corridor Joint Powers Authority (SPTC – JPA) has determined that implementation of the Proposed Project will not result in significant effects on the environment and therefore this project does not require evaluation through the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This determination is based on the attached Initial Study in support of the following findings:

- The project will not degrade environmental quality, substantially reduce habitat, cause a wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, reduce the number or restrict the range of special-status species, or eliminate important examples of California history or prehistory;
- The project does not have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals;
- The project will not have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable;
- The project will not have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly; and
- No substantial evidence exists that the project will have a negative or adverse effect on the environment.

The project incorporates all applicable mitigation measures identified in the attached Initial Study.

This Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) reflects the independent judgment of the Lead Agency.

Written comments shall be submitted no later than 30 days from the posting date. The SPTC – JPA's determination on the draft MND shall be final.

Submit comments in writing to:

John Segerdell
Chief Executive Officer - JPA
Sacramento – Placerville Transportation Corridor
Joint Powers Authority
1329 Howe Avenue, Suite 110
Sacramento, CA 95825
Phone: (916) 924-8800
Fax: (916) 924-8886
Email: jsegerdell@pghwong.com

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 INTRODUCTION AND REGULATORY GUIDANCE

This document is an Initial Study (IS) supporting a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) determination for the Sacramento – Placerville Transportation Corridor Joint Powers Authority Natural Trail Project (Proposed Project). This MND evaluates the potential impacts resulting from implementation of the Proposed Project. This MND has been prepared in accordance with CEQA, Public Resources Code Section 21000 *et seq.*, and the State CEQA Guidelines, 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15000 *et seq*.

An Initial Study is prepared by a Lead Agency to determine if a project has the potential to result in significant impacts on the environment (CEQA Guidelines Section 15063). An EIR must be prepared if an IS indicates that the proposed project under review may result in significant impacts to the environment. A Negative Declaration (ND) may be prepared instead, if the Lead Agency prepares a written statement describing the reasons why a proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment, and therefore does not require the preparation of an EIR. According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15070, a Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration shall be prepared for a project subject to CEQA when either:

A. The Initial Study documents that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the proposed project may result in any significant effect on the environment, or

B. The Initial Study identifies potentially significant effects, but:

    1) Revisions in the project plans or proposals made by or agreed to by the applicant before the proposed negative declaration is released for public review would avoid potentially significant impacts or mitigate potential impacts to less than significant levels, and

    2) There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency that the proposed project as revised, may result in significant impacts to the environment.

2.2 LEAD AGENCY

The Lead Agency is the public agency that has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a proposed project. CEQA Guidelines Section 15051 states that if a project will be carried out by a public agency that agency shall be the Lead Agency, even if the project would be located within the jurisdiction of another public agency. The Sacramento – Placerville Transportation Corridor Joint Powers Authority (SPTC – JPA) will oversee and implement the project, therefore the SPTC – JPA is the designated Lead Agency for the purposes of CEQA.

2.3 PURPOSE AND DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

The purpose of this Initial Study is to document if implementation of the Proposed Project may result in potentially significant impacts on the environment.

This document is divided into the following sections:

Section 1.0 Mitigation Negative Declaration Information Sheet
Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15071, Section 1 includes a brief description of the project, the project location, and the SPTC – JPA's proposed findings, and references the attached Initial Study, including proposed mitigating measures included within individual resource issue areas as applicable to development of the proposed Natural Trail project.

Section 2.0 Introduction
This section provides an introduction and describes the purpose and organization of this document.

Section 3.0 Project Description
This section provides a detailed description of the Proposed Project including the location of the project.

Section 4.0 Initial Study Checklist
This section describes the environmental setting for each of the environmental subject areas, the regulatory setting, where relevant, and evaluates a range of impacts in response to the environmental checklist. Impacts are classified as "no impact", "less than significant impact," "less than significant with mitigation incorporated," or "potentially significant impact." Where appropriate, mitigation measures are provided that mitigate potentially significant impacts to a less than significant level.

Section 5.0 CEQA Determination
This section provides the environmental determination for the project.

Section 6.0 Report Preparation
This section identifies a list of staff and consultants responsible for preparation of this document, and persons and agencies consulted.

Section 7.0 References
This section identifies the references used in preparation of the MND.

Appendix A Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
This appendix identifies mitigation measures included in the Initial Study and the responsible entity for implementation of the mitigation measures, as required by Section 15097 of the CEQA Guidelines.

Appendix B Road Construction Emissions Model, Version 7.1.5.1

Appendix C *Biological Resources Assessment* [for the] *±124-Acre SPTC – JPA Nature Trail Project, City of Folsom, Sacramento County and El Dorado County, California*

Appendix D U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination for the SPTC – JPA Nature Trail Site

2.4 THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

A significant effect on the environment is generally defined as a substantial or potentially substantial adverse change in the physical environment (CEQA Guidelines Section 15358). Environment as used in this definition includes the land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects which are historical or aesthetic in nature. The guidelines in the following Initial Study focus on these elements and are used as tools to determine the potential of whether or not an activity is considered significant (CEQA Guidelines Section 15065). Effects are also recognized as to whether they would occur either directly or indirectly as a result of the project.

2.5 TERMINOLOGY USED IN THIS DOCUMENT

This Environmental Checklist in this document utilizes the following terminology to describe the levels of significance associated with project-related impacts:

Potentially Significant Impact: An impact that may have a "substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project" (CEQA Guidelines Section 15382); the existence of a potentially significant impact requires the preparation of an EIR with respect to such an impact.

Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated: A potentially significant impact that could be mitigated to a level of less than significant through the incorporation of mitigation measures.

Less Than Significant Impact: An impact which is less than significant and does not require the implementation of mitigation measures.

No Impact: Utilized for checklist items where development of the project would not have any impact and does not require the implementation of mitigation measures.

2.6 REQUIRED PERMIT APPROVALS

Development of the Proposed Project is anticipated to require permits and authorizations as summarized in **Table 2.6-1** below.

Table 2.6-1 — Potential Resource Agency Permitting Requirements

Approving Agency	Permit/Approval
Federal Agencies	
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	Compliance with Section 7 of the Federal Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1536)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	Compliance with Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act, 33 USC 1341)
State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)	Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act
State Agencies	
State Water Resources Control Board, Regional Water Quality Control Board (SWRCB, RWQCB)	Coverage under the General Construction Activity Storm Water Permit (§ 402 of the Clean Water Act, 40 CFR Part 122)
State Water Resources Control Board,, Regional Water Quality Control Board (SWRCB, RWQCB)	Water Quality Certification (§ 401 of the Clean Water Act)
California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)	Streambed Alteration Agreement (§1602 of the Fish and Game Code)
California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)	Review/Approval of all Rail Crossings by General Order (GO) - railroad clearances (G.O. D26), railroad crossing warning devices (G.O. 75-D), and walkways (G.O. 118)
Local Agencies	
Sacramento – Placerville Transportation Corridor Joint Powers Authority (SPTC – JPA)	Project Approval and Adopt Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

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3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

3.1 PROJECT LOCATION

The approximately 30-acre project site is located within the SPTC from milepost 116.4, within the Folsom City limits at Iron Point Road and Placerville Road in Sacramento County, southeast to milepost 119.4 at the Sacramento County Line, within portions of Sections 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, and 23, Township 9 North, Range 8 East, of the *Clarksville* and *Folsom SE*, California USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles, 38° 37' 46.843" North, 121° 5' 37.973" West (**Figure 3.3-1**) (Project Site).

The Project Site is also shown **Figure 3.3-1 through Figure 3.3-5**.

3.2 BACKGROUND AND PROJECT PURPOSE

The SPTC is a 53-mile segment of the Southern Pacific Railway Corporation's Placerville Branch railroad right-of-way (Rail Corridor) from Sacramento to Placerville, California. The SPTC – JPA is a public entity formed in 1991 for the purpose of purchasing the SPTC and consists of four member agencies: the County of El Dorado, the City of Folsom, the County of Sacramento, and the Sacramento Regional Transit District, and one Member-at-Large that serves on the SPTC – JPA Board of Directors. The SPTC – JPA is funded by each member agency contributing equal shares towards an annual Operating and Capital Budget approved by the JPA Board.

The SPTC – JPA purchased the 53-mile Rail Corridor segment in 1996 and continues to own it for the purpose of preserving it for transportation uses, and coordinating usage and maintenance by the member agencies. Upon acquiring the Rail Corridor, the SPTC – JPA and its member agencies entered into a Reciprocal Use and Funding Agreement (RUFA) to establish the joint rights and responsibilities for the member agencies with respect to the ownership and use of the Rail Corridor. The RUFA allocates segments of the Rail Corridor among the SPTC – JPA member agencies; each member agency has primary usage rights and maintenance responsibility for its allocation of the Rail Corridor which has been granted through an easement to each member by the SPTC – JPA. The SPTC – JPA has railbanked[1] this portion of the Rail Corridor under the Rails to Trails Act and it remains subject to the jurisdiction of the federal Surface Transportation Board.

3.3 PLANNING AND CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT EVALUATION

The Sacramento – Placerville Transportation Corridor Master Plan (SPTC Master Plan) and associated programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR) were prepared over a period of five years from 1998 to 2003 under direction from the County of El Dorado Board of Supervisors in order to identify alternative uses of the portion of the SPTC in El Dorado County. These documents address 28 miles of the corridor from the Sacramento County/ El Dorado County line (milepost 19.4) to the community of Apex (milepost 147.6) west of the City of Placerville. They do not address any trail uses within the SPTC corridor outside of El Dorado County.

[1] Railbanking, as defined by the National Trails System Act, 16 USC 1247 (d), is a voluntary agreement between a railroad company and a trail agency to use an out-of-service rail corridor as a trail until a railroad might need the corridor again for rail service. Because a railbanked corridor is not considered abandoned, it can be sold, leased or donated to a trail manager without reverting to adjacent landowners (Rails to Trails Conservancy, accessed online May 24, 2015 - http://www.railstotrails.org/build-trails/trail-building-toolbox/railbanking/).

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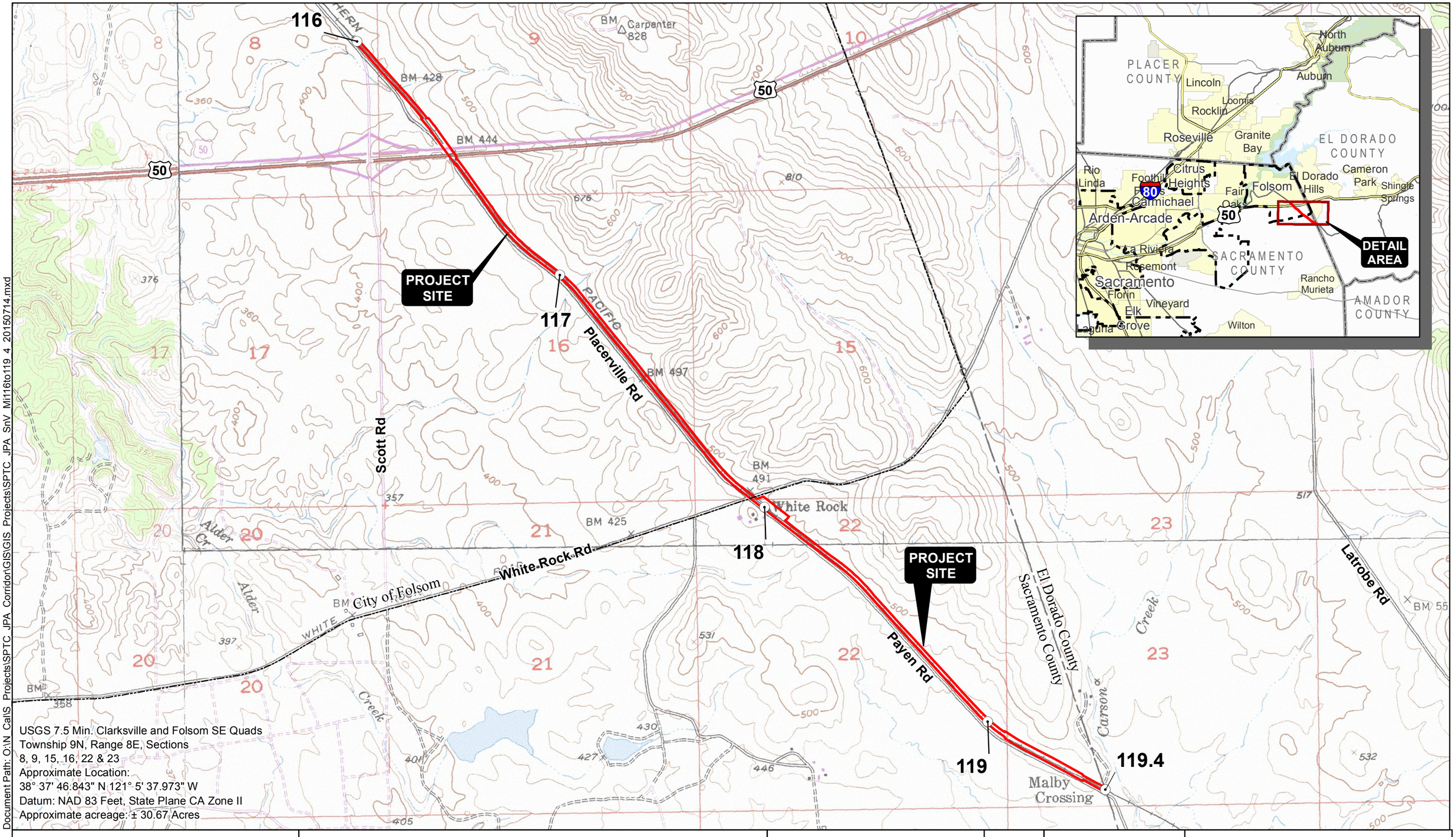

USGS 7.5 Min. Clarksville and Folsom SE Quads
Township 9N, Range 8E, Sections
8, 9, 15, 16, 22 & 23
Approximate Location:
38° 37' 46.843" N 121° 5' 37.973" W
Datum: NAD 83 Feet, State Plane CA Zone II
Approximate acreage: ± 30.67 Acres

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ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING • PLANNING • LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

SPTC-JPA NATURAL TRAIL
SITE AND VICINITY

0 1,000 2,000
Feet

N

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FIGURE 3.3-1

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0 400 800 1,600

Feet

1 inch = 400 feet

SPTC-JPA Biological Communities

Other Features

- Elderberry
- Burrowing Owl Nest
- Culvert
- Mile Marker
- Study Area

FIGURE: 3.3-2

Milepost: 116

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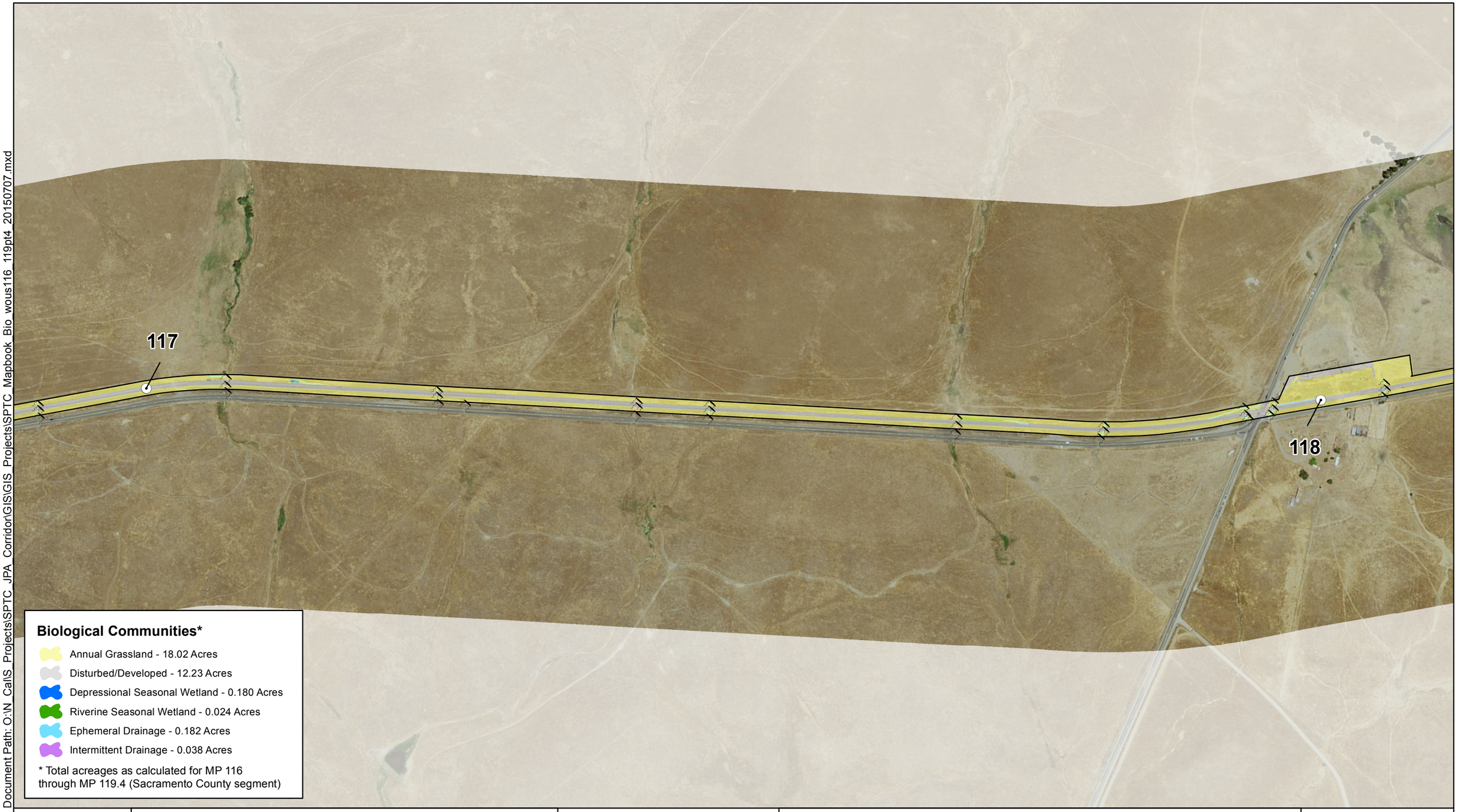

Biological Communities*

- Annual Grassland - 18.02 Acres
- Disturbed/Developed - 12.23 Acres
- Depressional Seasonal Wetland - 0.180 Acres
- Riverine Seasonal Wetland - 0.024 Acres
- Ephemeral Drainage - 0.182 Acres
- Intermittent Drainage - 0.038 Acres

* Total acreages as calculated for MP 116 through MP 119.4 (Sacramento County segment)

0 400 800 1,600

Feet

1 inch = 400 feet

SPTC-JPA Biological Communities

Other Features

- Elderberry
- Burrowing Owl Nest
- Culvert
- Mile Marker
- Study Area

FIGURE: 3.3-3

Milepost: 117

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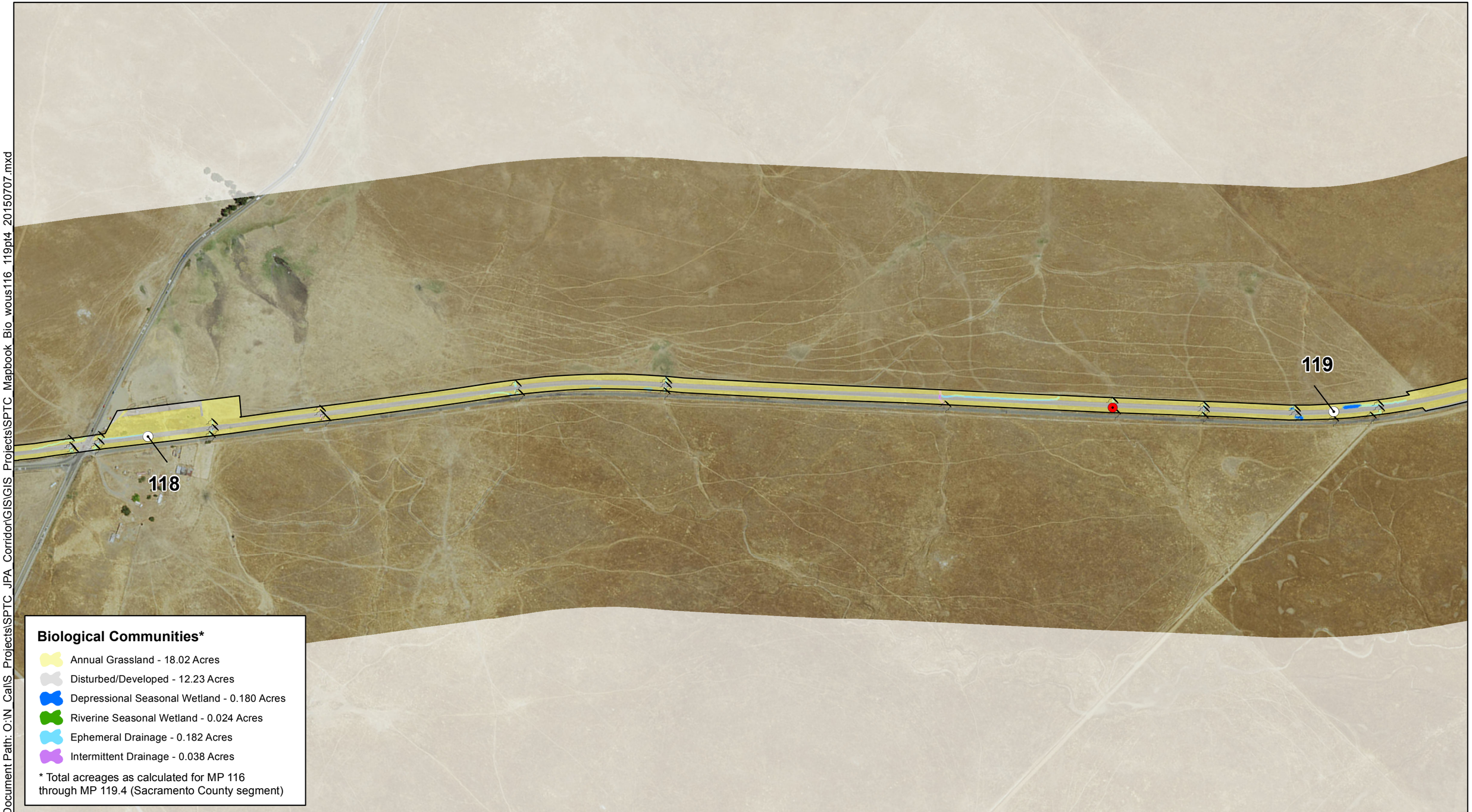

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N

0 400 800 1,600

Feet

1 inch = 400 feet

SPTC-JPA Biological Communities

Other Features

- Elderberry
- Burrowing Owl Nest
- Culvert
- Mile Marker
- Study Area

FIGURE: 3.3-4

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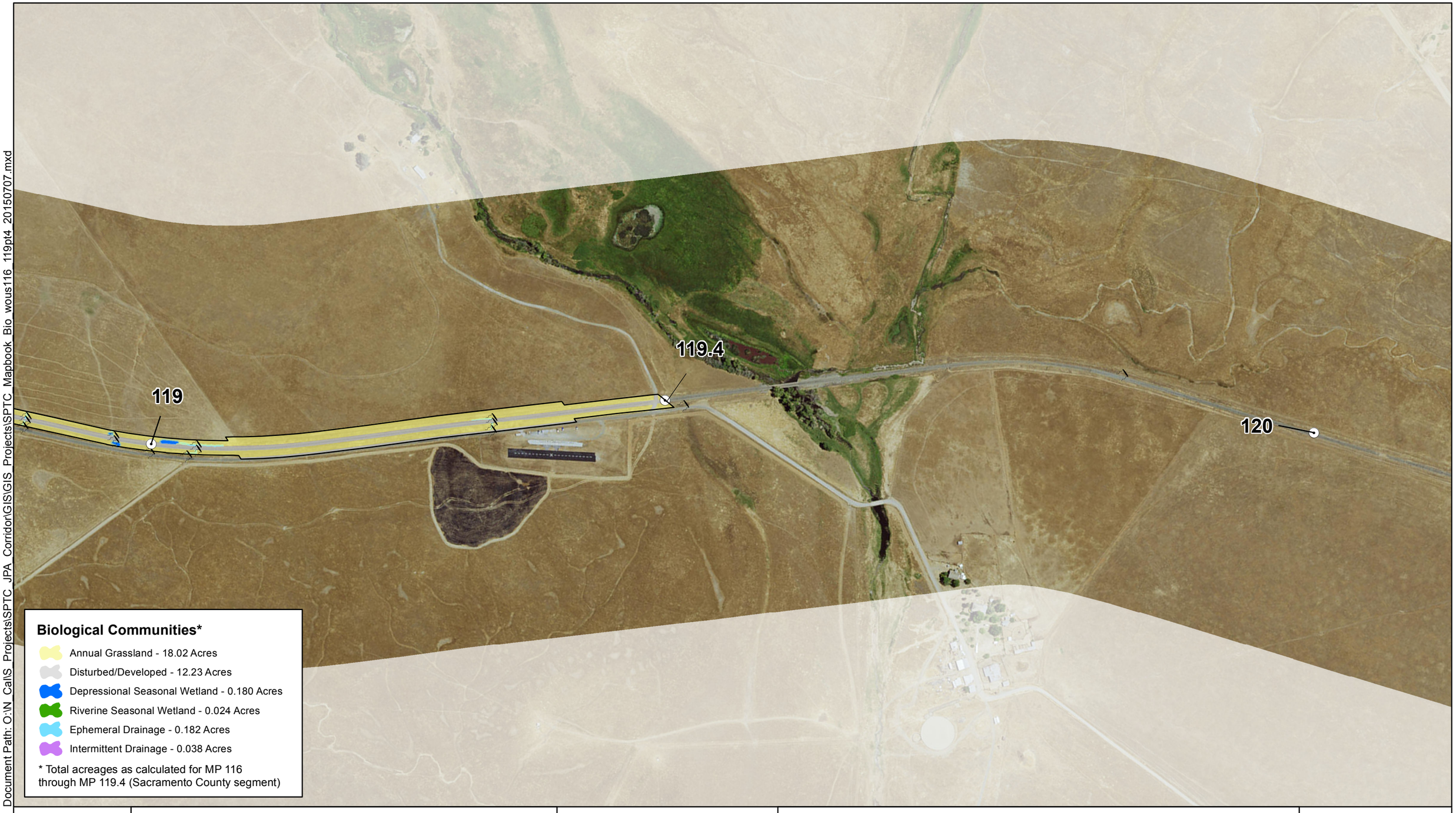

Biological Communities*

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* Total acreages as calculated for MP 116 through MP 119.4 (Sacramento County segment)

0 400 800 1,600

Feet

1 inch = 400 feet

SPTC-JPA Biological Communities

Other Features

- Elderberry
- Burrowing Owl Nest
- Culvert
- Mile Marker
- Study Area

FIGURE: 3.3-5

Milepost: 119

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The Sacramento – Placerville Transportation Corridor Natural Trail Implementation Plan (SPTC Natural Trail Implementation Plan) was completed in June 2014. The focus of this plan was limited to implementation of a natural trail throughout the SPTC from Missouri Flat Road in the community of Diamond Springs in El Dorado County to Iron Point Road in the City of Folsom. The total length of the corridor is approximately 28.5 miles, with approximately three miles located outside of El Dorado County, within Sacramento County and the City of Folsom. The SPTC Natural Trail Implementation Plan provides a current overview of general conditions within the SPTC, including trail features, natural resources, drainage, and crossings as they may relate to implementing the Natural Trail. Findings from this plan are of a preliminary nature and are intended to be used to identify the next steps that are necessary to open the SPTC Natural Trail in the studied area to public use.

While the SPTC Master Plan and EIR only apply to the portion of the corridor in El Dorado County, the recommendations in the SPTC Natural Trail Implementation Plan address the El Dorado, Sacramento County, and City of Folsom segments.

In February 2014, the JPA Board approved a Capital Project for Fiscal Year 2013/2014 to begin development and construction of ten miles of natural trail starting from Latrobe Road in El Dorado County (EDC) and ending at Iron Point Road in the City of Folsom. The segment of this trail located in El Dorado County from milepost 126.2 (Latrobe Road Crossing) to milepost 119.4 (El Dorado/ Sacramento County Line) segment is entirely in El Dorado County and falls under the findings of the 2003 EDC SPTC Master Plan Program EIR and MMP. The remaining section from milepost 119.4 (El Dorado/ Sacramento County Line) to milepost 116 (Iron Point Road, City of Folsom) has not undergone review under the CEQA for the purposes of natural trail development.

This Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) evaluates development of the SPTC – JPA Natural Trail between milepost 116 and milepost 119.4 (Project Site).

3.4 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

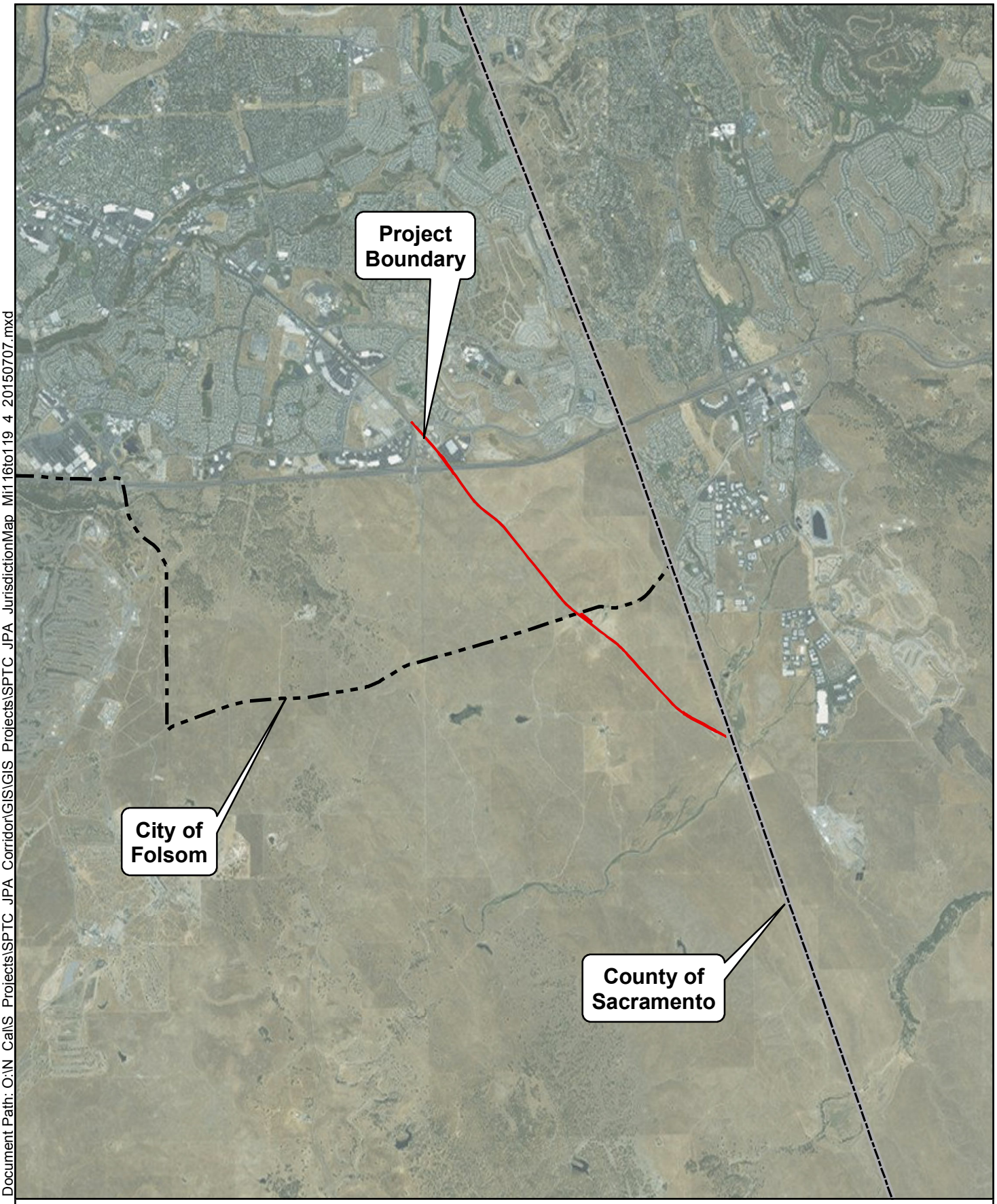
3.4.1 Overview/Land Use

The Project Site has been historically characterized as Southern Pacific Railroad property ranging from 66 to 163 feet in width primarily traversing annual grassland and terminating at the northwest end in the City of Folsom within an area of commercial and industrial land uses. The proposed alignment is currently “informally” used as a trail as apparent by a narrow, yet well-established pathway through grassland.

As shown on **Figure 3.4-1**, the Project Site is located within the jurisdictions of Sacramento County and the City of Folsom.

3.4.2 Topography

The general topography of the Project Site has been largely influenced by the construction of the railroad. The immediate area paralleling the railroad tracks appears relatively flat, but maintains a three percent grade or less throughout its length. The rest of the corridor varies widely from gently sloping to steeply sloping. Elevations within the proposed alignment range from 430 feet above mean sea level (MSL) to 500 feet above MSL.



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SPTC-JPA Natural Trail Local Land Use Jurisdictions

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N

0 0.5 1
Miles
1 inch = 1 miles

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FIGURE 3.4-1

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3.4.3 Biological Communities

The Project Site is primarily characterized by disturbed/developed areas and disturbed non-native annual grassland. A number of unnamed drainages and seasonal wetlands also occur within the Project Site. The extent of individual biological communities mapped within the Project Site is summarized below in **Table 3.4-1** and shown on **Figure 3.3-1through Figure 3.3-5**.

Table 3.4-1 — Biological Communities and Acreages within the Project Site

Biological Community	Acreage
Disturbed/Developed	12.23
Annual Grassland	18.02
Seasonal Wetland	0.204
Intermittent Drainage	0.038
Ephemeral Drainage	0.182

3.4.4 Aquatic Features

Many unnamed intermittent and ephemeral drainages bisect the Project Site. These drainages generally begin east of the Project Site as headwaters in the foothills, and flow west to the main drainages. Seasonal wetlands are scattered throughout the proposed Natural Trail alignment.

3.5 PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

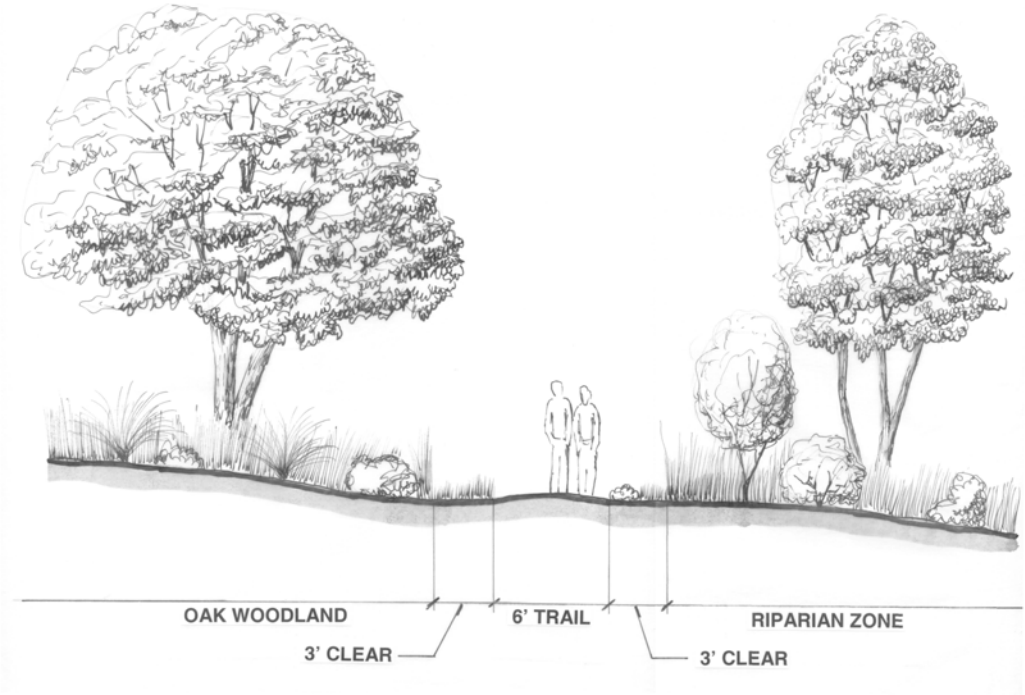
3.5.1 Overall Trail Design

The Natural Trail is designed to accommodate mountain bikers, pedestrians, and equestrian users. The Natural Trail is not anticipated to be American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible; however, slopes would generally be as gradual as possible within the constraints of existing topography to cater to the widest range of abilities.

The proposed Natural Trail alignment would generally follow the existing informal trail, except in several locations where the actual alignment would be designed to avoid resources. In general, the proposed alignment has been identified to minimize track crossings and reduce wetland and habitat impacts. The Natural Trail would be constructed as an unpaved trail surfaced with compacted earth or decomposed granite, uniformly graded and free of obstructions, and would generally range from three to four feet in width with two to three feet clearance of woody vegetation on either side for visibility and to avoid tripping hazards. A separation width of 10 feet from the center of the railroad track to the nearest edge of the trail has been identified as a target setback. Interpretive and wayfinding signage would be constructed as appropriate along key points of the alignment.

In areas with severe topographic slopes or spatial constraints, as may be applicable to target areas where wetland or native tree impact avoidance is desired, trail width may be reduced to two feet. Some form of slope or cut bank stabilization measures, including, but not limited to retaining walls may be required to avoid impacts and/or remain within the right-of-way. Within broad, flat areas with few wetlands or trees, trail width may be increased to six feet, if desired, to better accommodate two-way traffic. A "typical" cross-section for proposed trail design is show on **Figure 3.5-1** with widths adjusted as noted above.

Figure 3.5-1 — SPTC – JPA Natural Trail "Typical" Cross Section

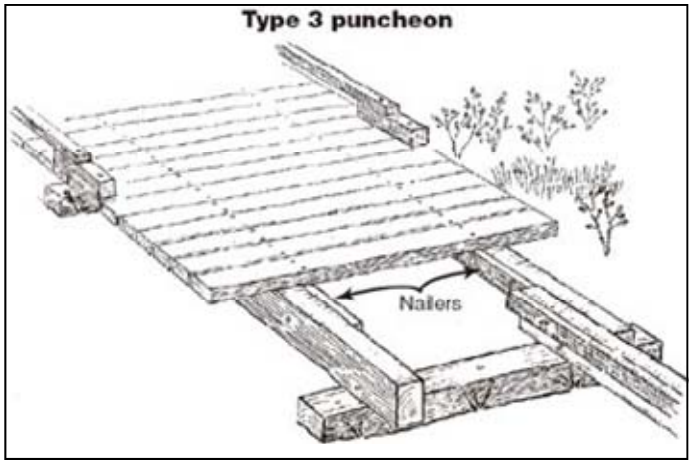


3.5.2 Wetland/ Creek Crossings

As shown in **Table 3.5-1** below, trail development would require approximately 21 trail crossings over aquatic features throughout the alignment. Five culverts are being added to address drainage across the trail where there are no wetlands. Wherever possible, crossings across aquatic features would be designed as free-span structures with footings located outside of the jurisdictional boundaries of the aquatic feature, or would be replacements for existing culverts. Potential wetland crossings range in width from under two feet to about 30 feet. Small drainages could be crossed via culverts or puncheons (rail-less bridges constructed of pressure treated timber). Larger drainages would require multi-plate, con-span structures, or full bridges (**Figure 3.5-2**).

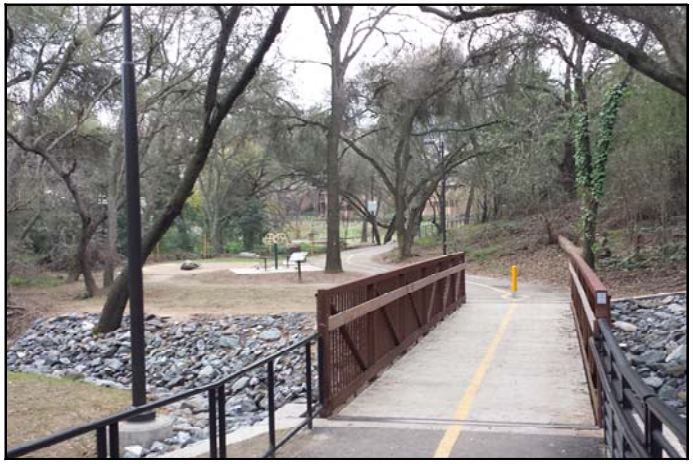
Table 3.5-1 — Potential Wetland/ Creek Crossing Locations and Proposed Structure(s)

ID	NOTES
1	Install new 24" culvert.
2	Install new 3'-4' long multi-plate structure.
3	Trail/rail crossing. Site of future road crossing (signage will be needed).
4	Install culvert.
5	Use existing 36" culvert.
6	Site of future road crossing (signage will be needed).
7	Install 20' - 30' bridge to free-span wetland; 4' wide deck.
8	Install 12" culvert for drainage across trail. No wetland.
9	Use existing 24" culvert. ~2.5' clear of 10' track safety zone.
10	Install 12" culvert for drainage across trail. No wetland.
11	Site of future road crossing (signage will be needed).
12	Install 20' bridge to free-span wetland; 4' wide deck.
13	Install new 24" culvert.
14	Install 12" culvert for drainage across trail. No wetland.
15	Site of future road crossing (signage will be needed).
16	Install 20' bridge to free-span wetland; 4' wide deck.
17	Install 12" culvert for drainage across trail. No wetland.
18	Install 24 - 36" culvert.
19	Install 12" culvert for drainage across trail. No wetland.
20	Install 6' long multi-plate structure to span wetland.
21	Install 24 - 36" culvert.
22	Install new 36 - 48" multi-plate structure.
23	Install 18 - 24" culvert.
-	Stay to road-side of wetland #69.
24	Install 18 - 24" culvert.
-	Avoid impacts to wetlands 7 & 8. Route trail north of wetland.
25	Install 24" culvert.
26	Install 18 - 24" culvert.
27	Install 36" culvert.
28	Install 48" multi-plate structure.
-	Skirt wetland 9 on uphill (track) side. Assume minor fill required in wetland.
29	Install 18 - 24" culvert.
30	Install 18" culvert.
-	Carson Creek Crossing: route trail on south side up to bridge, both sides. Assume retaining wall will be required to avoid impacts to existing wetland east of bridge. Use existing RR bridge with safety signs & procedures. Long-term plan is for separate dedicated bike/ped bridge on south side.
31	Use existing crossing over wetland.
32	Erosion washout needs stabilization.



Description: Puncheon Bridge Example

Description: Multi-Plate Structure Crossing Example



Description: Prefabricated Steel Bridge with Concrete Deck Example

FOOTHILL ASSOCIATES ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING • PLANNING • LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	**SPTC – JPA NATURAL TRAIL** **WETLAND/CREEK CROSSINGS EXAMPLES**	Layout By: CTG Date: 08/11/15	FIGURE 3.5-2

3.5.3 Rail and Road Crossings and Signage

Development of the proposed Natural Trail would require a single rail crossing. This rail crossing would eventually be developed as a road crossing when development of the Folsom South of 50 Specific Plan Area is completed. The crossing would be adequately posted with warning signs for both trail users and railroad operators. The Natural Trail would also intersect three additional proposed future roads when development of the Folsom South of 50 Specific Plan Area is completed. Signage for both trail users and motorists will be posted to ensure safety and may include one or more of the following components:

- Striping;
- Signage; and/or
- High-Intensity Activated Cross Walk (HAWK) Signal.

3.5.4 Staging and Parking

It is anticipated that sufficient parking exists within existing and proposed commercial developments in the vicinity of the Natural Trail to support the needs of trail users.

3.5.5 Special Events

The Natural Trail may be used in the future for special events. It is anticipated that parking for special events would be accommodated through existing and proposed future commercial developments within the region.

3.5.6 Construction

Project construction is planned to commence during spring/summer 2016, and would involve a combination of hand and mechanical labor for construction of the main trail alignment, combined with rail-mounted equipment for any areas requiring more intensive construction practices anticipated to be limited to proposed crossings at aquatic features and areas where bridges are proposed.

Construction staging would occur within the SPTC or in adjacent public road right-of-ways.

3.6 NATURAL TRAIL GUIDELINES

The following general guidelines are applicable to development of the Natural Trail.

(1) Trails will be open from dawn to dusk.

(2) **Figure 3.7-1** identifies alternative configurations for future road crossings as shown in the SPTC Master Plan. The same configurations are also appropriate for the section of the SPTC Natural Trail addressed in this MND. The design of individual road crossings would consider these alternatives in light of traffic volumes, and vertical and horizontal sight distance.

(3) **Figure 3.7-2** identifies suggested construction guidelines for improved natural trails from the SPTC Master Plan. The same guidelines are also appropriate for the section of the SPTC Natural Trail addressed in this MND. As conditions allow, use of the corridor for natural trail purposes may be allowed without these types of improvements. However, where feasible, ultimate development of a natural trail would conform to the guidelines to maximize safety and proper drainage.

(4) Several types of signage will be used to properly implement uses of the corridor. Signs would serve many purposes:

- Identify permitted uses, regulations, and penalties for unsafe and unlawful uses;
- Identify potential hazards or unsafe conditions;
- Identify proper etiquette for shared uses;
- Provide directions and information regarding historic landmarks and destinations; and
- Control opposing and cross traffic.

(5) Maintenance, vegetation control, and other fire prevention/control actions would periodically be undertaken within the SPTC.

Maintenance includes those activities necessary to preserve the value of the SPTC and the infrastructure. This includes those activities related to maintaining proper drainage. Maintaining assets directly related to private ventures will be required of and paid for by the applicable private enterprise. Other maintenance will be performed by the SPTC – JPA on a routine basis. In addition to routine preventative maintenance, this also includes consistent removal of trash, debris and other refuse.

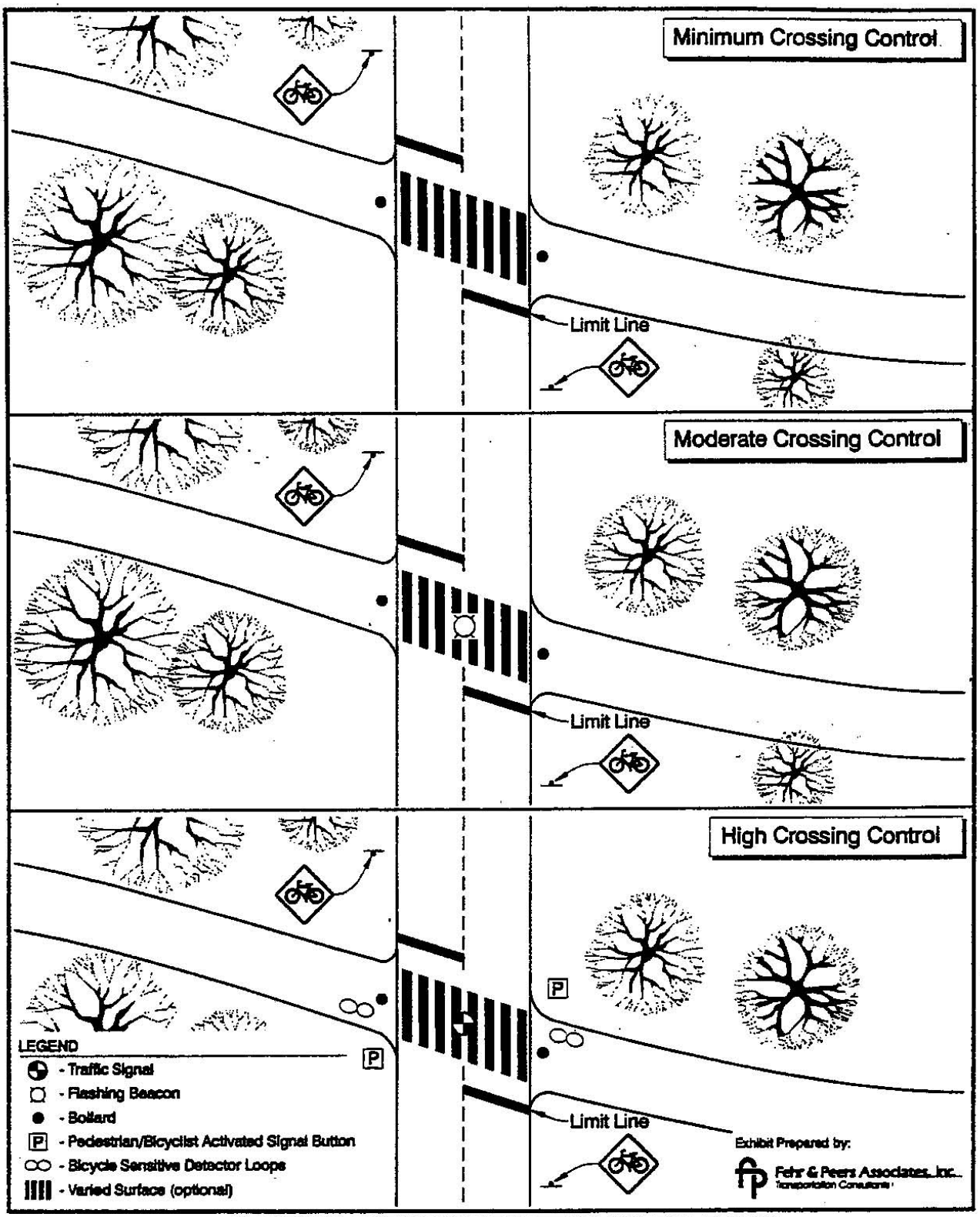
Vegetation within the SPTC will be properly maintained to protect the integrity of rail and natural trail infrastructure, and to ensure that activities (or inactivity) on the corridor do not contribute to wildfires. With vegetation properly controlled, the corridor will serve as a "fire break" for fires that are in the immediate vicinity of the corridor.

3.7 SAFETY/ENFORCEMENT OF PROPER USES

It is a priority to ensure that the Natural Trail within the SPTC is used properly. To ensure proper use, the SPTC – JPA will:

- Work with volunteers and public safety agencies to establish patrols for the purpose of educating natural trail users on proper shared trail etiquette, environmental stewardship, and safe trail use.

- Install bollards and gated fences at access points to keep motorized vehicles out; removable bollards and restricted-access gates will allow access for maintenance and emergency vehicles.



MAP DOES NOT IMPLY GEOMETRIC CONFIGURATION

SPTC – JPA NATURAL TRAIL DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS FOR AT-GRADE CROSSINGS

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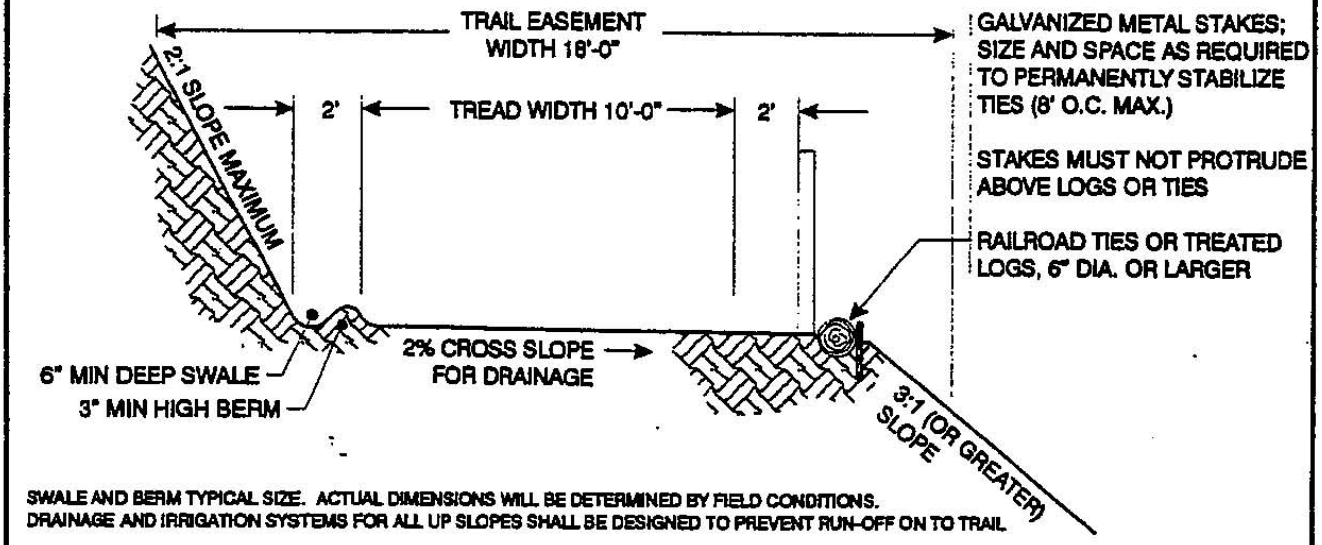
Date: 08/11/15

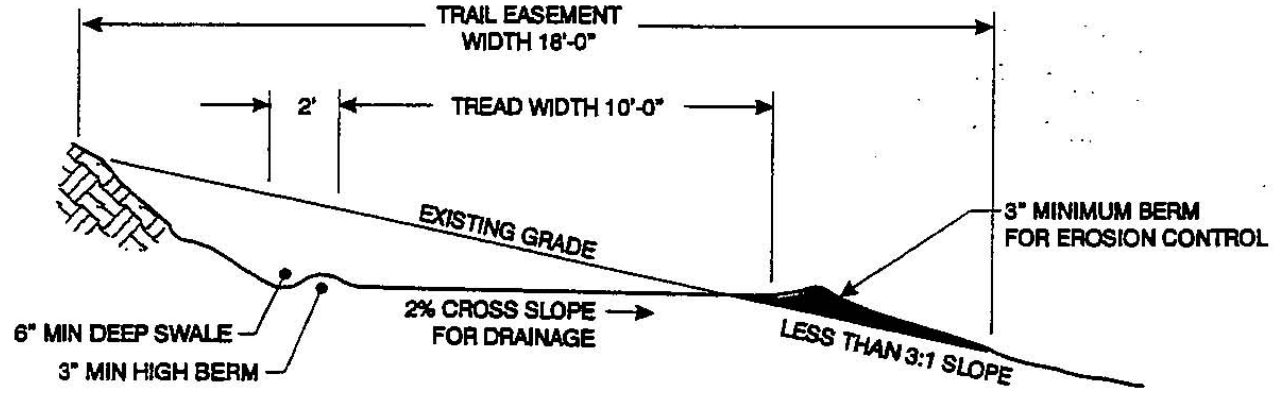
FIGURE 3.7-1

GRADE	12% AVERAGE. SLOPES LESS THAN 20% ARE ALLOWABLE FOR SHORT DISTANCES (LESS THAN 500')
CROSS GRADE	2% MAXIMUM
VERTICAL CLEARANCE	12' MINIMUM BENEATH STRUCTURES OR TREE LIMBS



SWALE AND BERM TYPICAL SIZE. ACTUAL DIMENSIONS WILL BE DETERMINED BY FIELD CONDITIONS.
DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION SYSTEMS FOR ALL UP SLOPES SHALL BE DESIGNED TO PREVENT RUN-OFF ON TO TRAIL

SIDE SLOPE LESS THAN 2:1



SWALE AND BERM TYPICAL SIZE. ACTUAL DIMENSIONS WILL BE DETERMINED BY FIELD CONDITIONS.
DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION SYSTEMS FOR ALL UP SLOPES SHALL BE DESIGNED TO PREVENT RUN-OFF ON TO TRAIL

SIDE SLOPE MORE THAN 2:1

Exhibit Prepared by:
Fehr & Peers Associates, Inc.
Transportation Consultants

SPTC – JPA NATURAL TRAIL— NATURAL TRAIL CONSTRUCTION GUIDELINES

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Layout By: CTG
Date: 08/11/15

FIGURE 3.7-2

4.0 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

4.1 AESTHETICS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings along a 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 which would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Impact Analysis

a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

No Impact. Development of the proposed Natural Trail would result in the widening and surfacing of an existing informal trail, parallel to an existing Southern Pacific railroad track segment. The natural topography immediately adjacent to the proposed Natural Trail has historically been altered by the development of the railroad. Surrounding topography in the vicinity of the Project Site is generally level and no scenic vistas overlook the proposed Natural Trail. Therefore, ***No Impact*** would result from implementation of the proposed Natural Trail.

b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings along a scenic highway?

No Impact. Development of the proposed Natural Trail would formalize an existing informal trail within a three-mile segment parallel to the existing Rail Corridor. Hand crews or rail-based equipment would implement proposed improvements and natural substrates will be used to construct and widen the existing informal trail. Construction of proposed improvements would not damage any scenic resources such as trees, rock outcroppings, historic buildings, etc.

A portion of the proposed Natural Trail would cross under U.S. Route 50 which is considered a state scenic highway in El Dorado County between Placerville and South Lake Tahoe (post miles 16 - 74) (Caltrans 2013). However, the portion of U.S. Route 50 that intersects the trail is in Sacramento County and is not designated as a state scenic highway at that point or anywhere within Sacramento County. No other state scenic highways are within the view shed of the trail. Therefore, ***No Impact*** would result from development of the proposed Natural Trail.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. Development of the proposed Natural Trail would result in the widening and surfacing of an existing informal trail within a three-mile segment parallel to the existing Rail Corridor. The natural topography immediately adjacent to the proposed Natural Trail has historically been altered

by the development of the railroad. Hand crews or rail-based equipment would implement proposed improvements and natural substrates will be used to construct and widen the existing trail. No trees would be removed. No mass grading is proposed. Therefore, implementation of proposed improvements would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the Project Site and its surroundings and impacts resulting from implementation of the proposed Natural Trail are considered ***Less Than Significant***.

d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area?

Less Than Significant Impact. The land surrounding the proposed Natural Trail north of U.S. Route 50 is currently being used for commercial/retail businesses which currently generate light within an urbanized setting. The land surrounding the Natural Trail south of U.S. Route 50 is annual grassland, devoid of development or nearby residences. The Natural Trail is designated for use between dawn and dusk, although recreational users may access the trail at night and use headlamps or flashlights while on the trail. Since no residential areas or scenic vistas are nearby, light sources from recreational users would not be expected to adversely affect nighttime views. Therefore, impacts resulting from implementation of the proposed Natural Trail are considered ***Less Than Significant***.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is warranted.

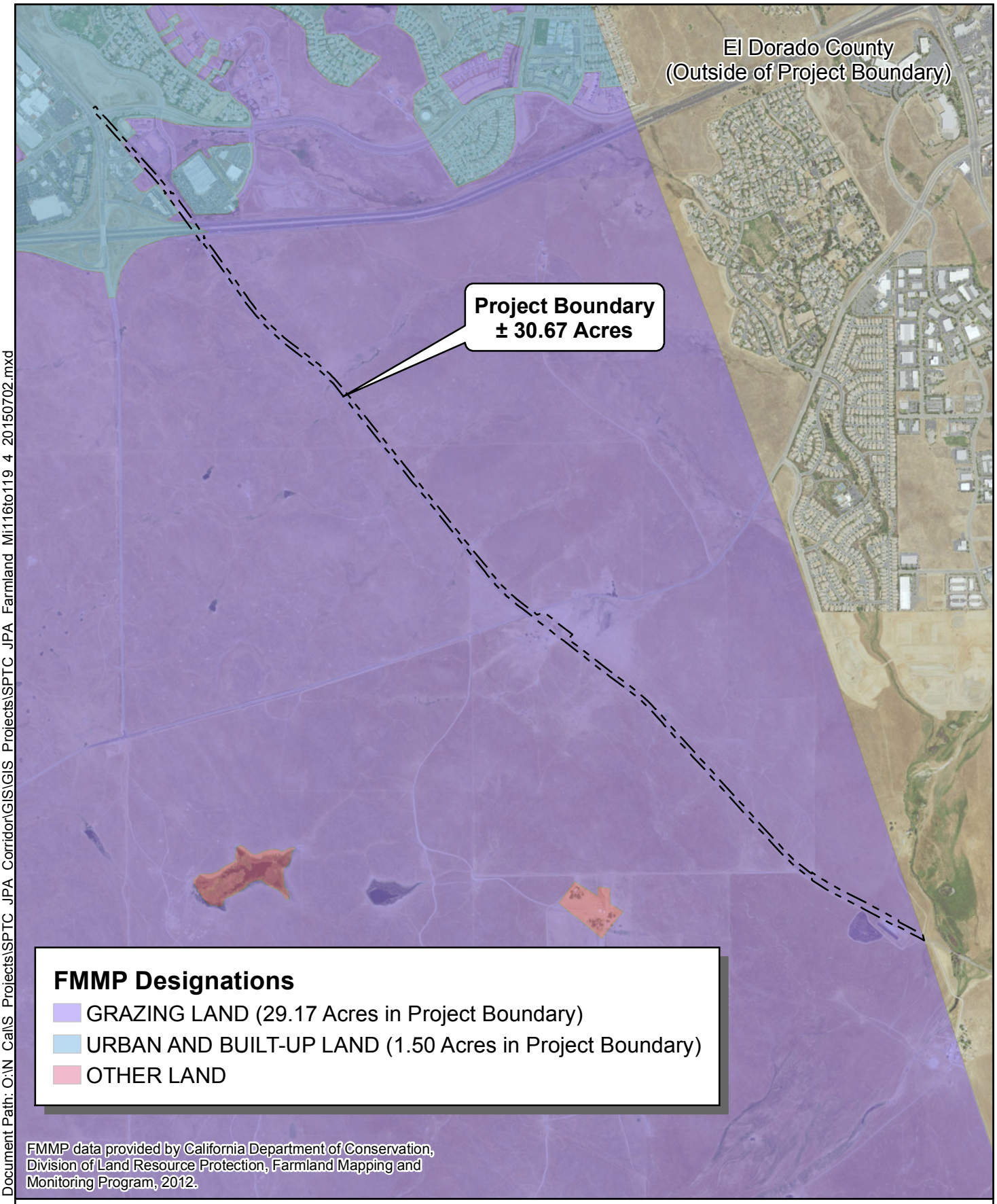
4.2 AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or conflict with a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e. Involve other changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Impact Analysis

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

No Impact. As shown on **Figure 4.2-1**, lands within the project alignment are primarily designated as "Grazing Land" by the State Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program and there are approximately 29.17 acres of "Grazing Land" mapped within the project alignment. The Project Site contains no Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance. Therefore, ***No Impact*** related to conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on **Figure 4.2-1** prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use would result from development of the proposed Natural Trail.



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SPTC-JPA NATURAL TRAIL FARMLAND

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N

0 1,000 2,000
Feet
1 inch = 2,000 feet

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Date: 07/02/2015

FIGURE 4.2-1

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b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or conflict with a Williamson Act contract?

No Impact. Land within the project alignment is mapped as "Grazing Land" and "Urban and Built-Up Land" by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (**Figure 4.2-1**). The southern portion of the Project Site is zoned as "Agricultural Land" by Sacramento County's Zoning Ordinance (County of Sacramento 2015). The northern portion of the project alignment is located in the City of Folsom within areas of commercial and industrial land uses, as well as grasslands. Development of proposed Natural Trail within the project alignment however, will not impact any agricultural zoned land or land currently under Williamson Act Contract because proposed improvements would be located within a three-mile segment of the 53-mile SPTC that was purchased by the SPTC – JPA in 1996. The SPTC – JPA has railbanked[2] this portion of the Rail Corridor under the Rails to Trails Act and it remains subject to the jurisdiction of the federal Surface Transportation Board. The proposed trail alignment consists primarily of annual grasslands and is currently in use as an informal trail. Therefore, development of the Proposed Project will not conflict any existing agricultural zoning or Williamson Act Contract and ***No Impact*** would result from the Proposed Project.

c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?

No Impact. No forest lands exist within the project vicinity. Therefore, ***No Impact*** related to existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g)) would result from development of the Proposed Project.

d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No Impact. No forested areas are located within the vicinity of the Proposed Project. Therefore development of the proposed Natural Trail would not result in the loss of any forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use, and ***No Impact*** would result from development of the Proposed Project.

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

No Impact. The project alignment occurs within a three-mile segment of the SPTC and will follow the existing informal trail except in several locations where the actual trail alignment would be designed to avoid environmental resources (i.e. topographic constraints, aquatic features, etc.). No farmland occurs in the project vicinity and development of the proposed Natural Trail would not result in conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use. Therefore, ***No Impact*** related to conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural use would result from development of the Proposed Project.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is warranted.

[2] Railbanking, as defined by the National Trails System Act, 16 USC 1247 (d), is a voluntary agreement between a railroad company and a trail agency to use an out-of-service rail corridor as a trail until a railroad might need the corridor again for rail service. Because a railbanked corridor is not considered abandoned, it can be sold, leased or donated to a trail manager without reverting to adjacent landowners (Rails to Trails Conservancy, accessed online May 24, 2015 - http://www.railstotrails.org/build-trails/trail-building-toolbox/railbanking/).

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4.3 AIR QUALITY

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is a non-attainment area for an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Impact Analysis

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

No Impact. The proposed trail alignment is located within the Sacramento Valley Air Basin. Local and regional air quality management districts, including the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD), are responsible for implementing and enforcing emissions standards and other regulations pursuant to federal and State laws. The Sacramento region's air districts work jointly with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), California Air Resources Board (CARB), Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), county transportation and planning departments, cities and counties, and multiple non-governmental organizations to improve air quality through a variety of programs. These programs include the adoption of regulations and policies, as well as implementation of extensive education and public outreach programs, and emission reducing incentive programs (SMAQMD 2009)[3].

The SMAQMD prepared the 1991 Air Quality Attainment Plan (AQAP) as required by the California Clean Air Act of 1988. The AQAP addresses the Sacramento County's non-attainment status for ozone, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter and was designed to make progress towards attaining the State ozone standard and contained preliminary implementation schedules for control programs on stationary sources, transportation, and indirect sources, and a vehicle/fuels program. SMAQMD has also adopted regulations and programs to minimize pollutant emissions.

[3] SMAQMD 2015. *Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, CEQA Guide*, December 2009, Revised May 2011, June 2014, November 2014, June 2015

Project development would be required to be implemented in a manner consistent with SMAQMD rules and regulations. It s not anticipated that any proposed construction or operational activities related to development of the proposed Natural Trail would conflict with or obstruct implementation of any SMAQMD plan or regulations. Therefore, ***No Impact*** would result from development of the Proposed Project.

b. Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?

Less Than Significant Impact. Sacramento County is currently designated as in "attainment" for all State and federal ambient air quality standards, except ozone, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$. The current "non-attainment" status for ozone, $PM_{10,}$ and $PM_{2.5}$ signifies that these pollutant concentrations have exceeded the established standard.

In order to evaluate ozone and other criteria air pollutant emissions and support attainment goals for those pollutants, the SMAQMD has established significance thresholds for emissions of $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10}, and ozone precursors – reactive organic gases (ROG) and nitrous oxides (NO_X). The significance thresholds, expressed in pounds per day (lbs/day), listed in **Table 4.3-1** below represent the SMAQMD's current established thresholds of significance for use in the evaluation of air quality impacts associated with proposed land development projects. Thus, if the Proposed Project's emissions exceed the pollutant thresholds presented in **Table 4.3-1**, the project would have the potential to result in significant effects to air quality, and affect the attainment of federal and State Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Table 4.3-1 — SMAQMD Mass Emissions Thresholds of Significance

Pollutant	Construction Threshold (lbs/day)	Operational Threshold (lbs/day)
ROG	None	65
NO_X	85	65
PM_{10}	80[4]	80[5]
$PM_{2.5}$	82[6]	82[7]

Source: SMAQMD 2015 [8]

Construction Emissions

Project construction is planned to commence during spring/summer 2016, and would involve a combination of hand and mechanical labor for construction of the main trail alignment, combined with rail-mounted equipment for any areas requiring more intensive construction practices anticipated to be limited to proposed crossings at aquatic features and areas where bridges are proposed.

Construction exhaust emissions would be generated from construction equipment, earth moving activities, construction worker commutes, and construction material hauling during the construction work window. The aforementioned activities would involve the use of diesel- and gasoline-powered equipment that would generate emissions of criteria pollutants. Project construction activities also represent sources of fugitive dust, which includes PM emissions. As construction of improvements would generate air pollutant emissions intermittently until all construction has been completed, it is not anticipated that

[4] Assumes all feasible BACT/BMPs are applied.
[5] Assumes all feasible BACT/BMPs are applied.
[6] Assumes all feasible BACT/BMPs are applied.
[7] Assumes all feasible BACT/BMPs are applied.

project implementation would result in emissions exceeding SMAQMD established thresholds. However, construction-related activities remain of potential concern due to the fact that Sacramento County is currently designated as "non-attainment" for ozone and PM.

Short-term, construction-related emissions resulting from project construction were estimated using the Roadway Construction Emissions Model version 7.1.5.1, a model developed by Jones & Stokes and TIAX LLC in partnership with the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD 2015) (**Appendix B**).

Table 4.3-2 — Estimated Maximum Unmitigated Project Construction Emissions

Pollutant	Project Emissions (lbs/day)	SMAQMD Significance Threshold (lbs/day)
ROG	1.4	None
NO_x	14.2	85
PM_{10}	10.7	80
$PM_{2.5}$	2.7	82

Source: Road Construction Emissions Model, Version 7.1.5.1 (**Appendix B**).

As shown in **Table 4.3-2** above, estimated maximum unmitigated project construction emissions would remain well below SMAQMD significance thresholds. However, the thresholds for PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ assume implementation all feasible Best Available Control Technology (BACT)/Best Management Practices (BMP) technology at the time of construction; otherwise the significance threshold is defined as 0 pounds per day. Therefore, unless project construction is implemented utilizing all feasible air quality-related BACT/BMPs impacts would be considered potentially significant. However, SMAQMD Rule 201 requires any business or person to obtain an Authority to Construct/Permit to Operate before installing or operating new equipment or processes that may release or control air pollutants to ensure that all SMAAQMD rules and regulations are considered. The SPTC – JPA would be required to comply with SMAQMD Rule 201, including the identification and implementation of all feasible BACT/BMPs, resulting in estimated maximum unmitigated project construction emissions below the established SMAQMD thresholds for PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$. Construction-related emissions resulting from construction of the proposed Natural Trail would therefore remain below SMAQMD thresholds, and would not substantially contribute to Sacramento County's non-attainment status for ozone and particulate matter. Therefore, construction-related impacts are considered ***Less Than Significant***.

Operational Emissions

Operational emissions of ROG, NO_x, $PM_{2.5}$, and PM_{10} are generated by mobile and stationary sources, including day-to-day activities such as vehicle trips to and from a given site, heavy equipment operation, natural gas combustion from heating mechanisms, landscape maintenance equipment exhaust, and consumer products (e.g., deodorants, cleaning products, spray paint, etc.). Development of the Natural Trail is not anticipated to result in a substantial increase in vehicle trips, nor would proposed improvements significantly modify the existing land use or operations within the Project Site. Development of the Natural Trail would not involve mobile, stationary, or area sources and new operational emissions would therefore not occur. Therefore, the Proposed Project is anticipated to result in a ***Less Than Significant Impact*** associated with operational emissions.

c. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is a non- attainment area for an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?

Less Than Significant Impact. Sacramento County is currently designated as "non-attainment" for ozone and PM. Projected growth and combined population, vehicle usage, and business activity within the County, in combination with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects within the

County and surrounding areas, could either delay attainment of established standards or require the adoption of additional controls on existing and future air pollution sources to offset emission increases.

Implementation of the Proposed Project would involve minimal emissions during construction; in addition, the proposed Natural Trail improvements would not require frequent maintenance and would not result in a substantial increase in long-term operational emissions. Construction emissions would be short-term in duration, and would be implemented intermittently throughout a one to two year timeframe. Accordingly, the incremental contribution of the Proposed Project's construction-related emissions would not be considered cumulatively considerable. Therefore, the Proposed Project would result in a ***Less Than Significant Impact***, cumulatively. No mitigation is required.

d. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated. Development of the proposed Natural Trail would not involve on-site operations other than recreational use by pedestrians and bicyclists. Emissions of diesel particulate matter (DPM) resulting from construction-related equipment and vehicles would be temporary and no sensitive receptors (surrounding neighborhood residents) are located within the vicinity of the majority of the trail alignment. No substantial long-term concentrations of DPM emissions associated with construction of proposed improvements are anticipated and no residences are located within the vicinity of the proposed trail alignment.

Project development would not introduce any sensitive receptors to the area, and, thus, would not expose new sources of sensitive receptors to any existing sources of substantial pollutant concentrations.

However, the California Air Resource Board promulgated the Airborne Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) for Construction, Grading, Quarrying and Surface Mining Operations. The ATCM is a statewide regulation triggered prior to the ground-disturbing activities in certain areas of California, and applies to any size construction project, although there are more stringent mitigation requirements for projects that exceed one acre. Areas most likely to contain naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) are the eastern parts of Sacramento County, Folsom, and Rancho Murieta (SMAQMD 2015).

During recent collaborative efforts between the City of Folsom and the SMAQMD, the State Geologist evaluated the potential extent of naturally-occurring asbestos in the City of Folsom. The State Geologist determined that areas within the southern and eastern portions of the City of Folsom (generally east of Prairie City Road) within the mapped region for Copper Hills Volcanic and Gopher Ridge Volcanic soils formations generally have low to moderate potential for naturally-occurring asbestos. Geologic mapping prepared by the California Geological Survey presented within the Background Report prepared for the *City of Folsom 2035 General Plan Update* identifies the project area as an area moderately likely to contain naturally occurring asbestos (City of Folsom 2014).

And although according to the State Geologist's Map, naturally-occurring asbestos occurrences can be small and irregularly distributed, the risk for exposure has been documented within the region of the Proposed Project. Therefore, impacts related to exposing sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations are considered a ***Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated***.

Compliance with **Mitigation Measure AQ — 1** would require that the SPTC – JPA implement on-site inspections by a qualified geotechnical specialist to determine if naturally occurring asbestos is present, and will implement all minimization measures, in accordance with SMAQMD rules and regulations, at a minimum, required to reduce the potential risk from exposure to NOA. Implementation of **Mitigation Measure AQ — 1** would reduce potential impacts to less than significant levels.

e. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

Less Than Significant Impact. While offensive odors rarely cause any physical harm, they can be unpleasant, leading to considerable distress among members of the public and often generating citizen complaints to local governments and air districts. Project-related odor emissions would be limited to

times when equipment would be utilized for construction and emissions from equipment may be evident in the immediately surrounding area. Potential impacts would be limited to the trail segment within the City of Folsom, as the trail segment within Sacramento County is generally isolated from public gathering places or other places where sensitive receptors may be present. Construction activities would be short-term and would not result in the creation of long-term objectionable odors. Therefore, due to the short-term nature of proposed construction activities, combined with the limited exposure to sensitive receptors, impacts associated with development of the proposed Natural Trail are considered ***Less Than Significant***. No mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measure AQ — 1: Prior to commencement of ground-disturbing activities, the SPTC – JPA will implement on-site inspections by a qualified geotechnical specialist to determine if naturally occurring asbestos is present within the proposed construction footprint required for development of the Proposed Project. If naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) is present, SPTC – JPA will assume responsibility for obtaining all required SMAQMD authorizations relevant to NOA in accordance with SMAQMD rules and regulations, and will require contractors to implement all feasible mitigating measures identified to reduce the health risks related to potential exposure to NOA.

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4.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	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?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
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, marshes, vernal pools, coastal wetlands, etc.) through direct removal, filling hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☒	☐	☐
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Impact Analysis

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?

Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated. Based on a records search of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and California Native Plant Society (CNPS) lists as well as field observations, several special-status species are found to have the potential to occur onsite or in the vicinity of the Project Site. The CNDDB special-status species occurrences in the project vicinity are shown on **Figure 4.4-1** and enclosed within the *Biological Resources Assessment* [for the] *±124-Acre SPTC – JPA Nature Trail Project, City of Folsom, Sacramento County and El Dorado County, California* which was prepared by Foothill Associates March 6, 2015 (**Appendix C**). The following set of criteria has been used to determine each species' potential for occurrence within the Project Site.

Present: Species known to occur within the Project Site based on CNDDB records and/or observed within the Project Site during the biological surveys.

High: Species known to occur on or near the Project Site (based on CNDDB records within 5 miles and/or based on professional expertise specific to the Project Site or species) and there is suitable habitat within the Project Site.

Low: Species known to occur in the vicinity of the Project Site and there is marginal habitat within the Project Site -**OR**- Species is not known to occur in the vicinity of the site, however, there is suitable habitat on the site.

None: Species is not known to occur on or in the vicinity of the Project Site and there is no suitable habitat within the Project Site -**OR**- Species was surveyed for during the appropriate season with negative results -**OR**- Species is not known in Project Site.

Only those species that are known to be present or that have a high or low potential for occurrence will be discussed in further detail.

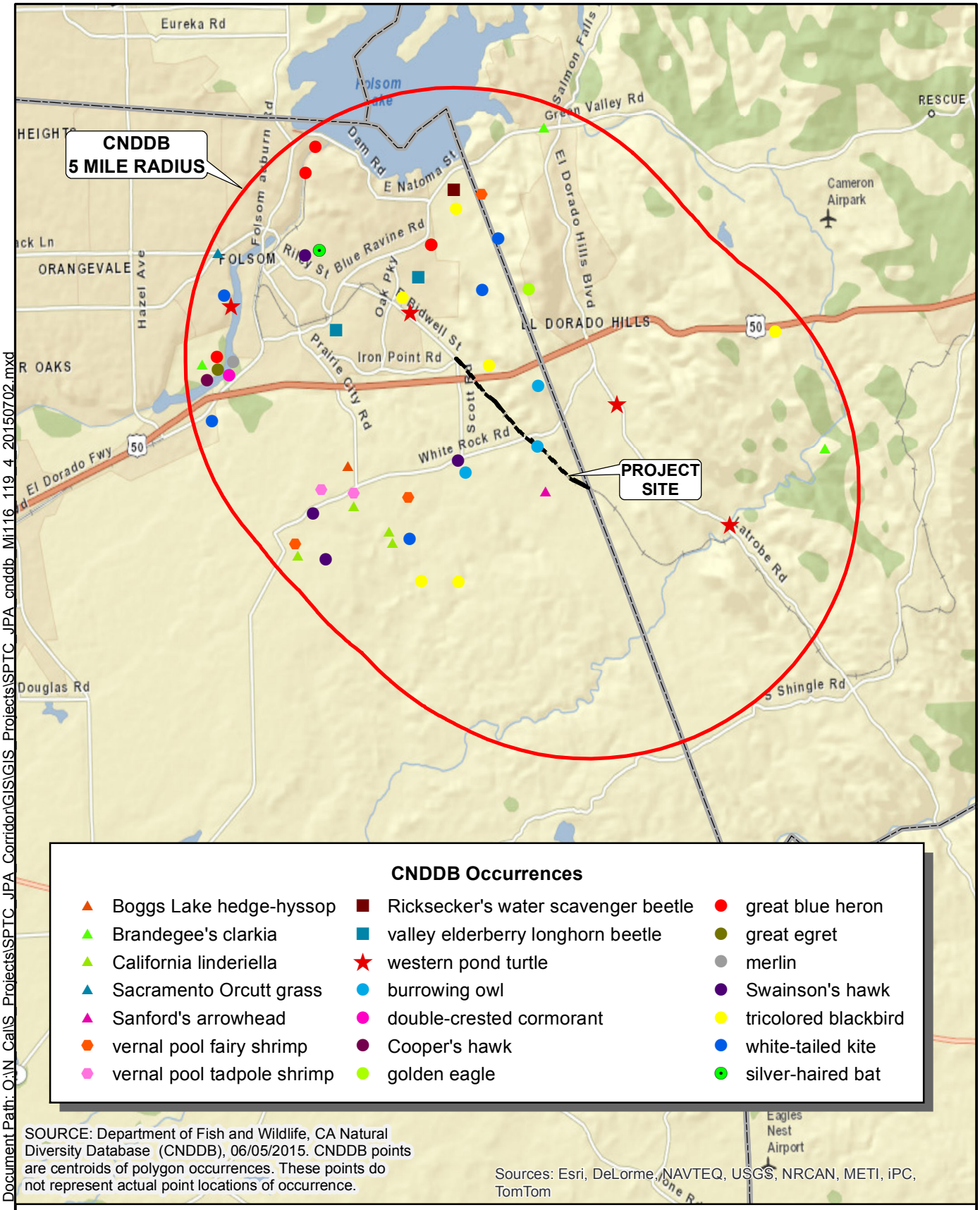
Special-Status Plants

The following special-status plants have a *high* potential to occur within the Project Site, Brandegee's clarkia (*Clarkia biloba* ssp. *biloba*). The following special-status plants have a *low* potential to occur within the Project Site: Ahart's dwarf rush (*Juncus leiospermus* var. *ahartii*), dwarf downingia (*Downingia pusilla*), Jepson's woolly sunflower (*Eriophyllum jepsonii)*, and Tuolumne button-celery (*Eryngium pinnatisectum*). These species are discussed in detail below.

Species with a High Potential to Occur

Brandegee's Clarkia

Brandegee's clarkia is an annual herb found in chaparral and cismontane woodland, often in roadcuts, from 73 to 915 meters. The blooming period for this species is from May through July (CNPS 2015). There is one CNDDB record for this species within five miles of the Project Site (**Figure 4.4-1**). The oak woodland within the Project Site provides habitat for this species. Because the biological surveys were conducted outside of the evident and identifiable period for Brandegee's clarkia, the species could potentially be present within the Project Site and not have been detected. This species has *high* potential to occur within the Project Site.



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SPTC-JPA NATURAL TRAIL CNDDB

FOOTHILL ASSOCIATES
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING • PLANNING • LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

N

0 1 2
SCALE IN MILES

Drawn By: AMP
Date: 07/07/2015

FIGURE 4.4-1

SPTC-JPA NATURE TRAIL

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Species with a Low Potential to Occur

Ahart's Dwarf Rush

Ahart's dwarf rush is an annual herb found on mesic soils in valley and foothill grassland from 30 to 100 meters. The blooming period is from March through May (CNPS 2015). There are no CNDDB records for Ahart's dwarf rush within five miles of the Project Site. The disturbed non-native annual grassland within the Project Site provide potential habitat for Ahart's dwarf rush. Because the biological surveys were conducted outside of the evident and identifiable period for Ahart's dwarf rush, the species could potentially be present within the Project Site and not have been detected. This species has a *low* potential to occur within the Project Site.

Dwarf Downingia

Dwarf downingia is an annual herb found in mesic valley and foothill grassland and vernal pools from 1 to 450 meters. The blooming period is from March through May (CNPS 2015). There are no CNDDB records for this species within five miles of the Project Site. The disturbed non-native annual grassland within the Project Site provides potential habitat for dwarf downingia. Because the biological surveys were conducted outside of the evident and identifiable period for dwarf downingia, the species could potentially be present within the Project Site and not have been detected. This species has a *low* potential to occur within the Project Site.

Jepson's Woolly Sunflower

Jepson's woolly sunflower is a perennial herb sometimes found on serpentinite substrate within chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub from 200 to 1,025 meters. The blooming period is from April through June (CNPS 2015). There are no CNDDB records for this species within five miles of the Project Site. The oak woodland within the Project Site provides potential habitat for Jepson's woolly sunflower. Because the biological surveys were conducted outside of the evident and identifiable period for Jepson's woolly sunflower, the species could potentially be present within the Project Site and not have been detected. This species has a *low* potential to occur within the Project Site.

Tuolumne Button-Celery

Tuolumne button-celery is an annual to perennial herb found in mesic cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, and vernal pools from 70 to 915 meters. The blooming period is from June through August (CNPS 2015). There are no CNDDB records for this species within five miles of the Project Site. The oak woodland within the Project Site provides potential habitat for Tuolumne button-celery. Because the biological surveys were conducted outside of the evident and identifiable period for Tuolumne button-celery, the species could potentially be present within the Project Site and not have been detected. This species has a *low* potential to occur within the Project Site.

Listed and Special-Status Wildlife

The following special-status wildlife species have a *high* potential to occur or were observed within the Project Site: western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*), burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), white-trailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), and migratory birds and other birds of prey. The following special-status wildlife species have a *low* potential to occur within the Project Site: Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (VELB) (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*), California red-legged frog (CRF) (*Rana draytonii*), western spadefoot toad (*Spea hammondii*), grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*), American badger (*Taxidea taxus)*, and special-status bats. Special-status wildlife species with the potential to occur or that were observed within the Project Site are discussed in detail below.

Species with a High Potential to Occur

Western Pond Turtle

Western pond turtles require slow moving perennial aquatic habitats with suitable basking sites. Western pond turtles occasionally inhabit irrigation ditches. Suitable aquatic habitat typically has a muddy or rocky bottom and has emergent aquatic vegetation for cover (Stebbins 2003). There are two CNDDB records for this species within five miles of the Project Site (**Figure 4.4-1**). The perennial and intermittent drainages and riparian habitat provide habitat for the species. No western pond turtles were observed within the Project Site during the biological surveys. This species has a high potential to occur within the Project Site.

Burrowing Owl

Burrowing owl is a small ground-dwelling owl that occurs in western North America from Canada to Mexico, and east to Texas and Louisiana. Although in certain areas of its range burrowing owls are migratory, these owls are predominantly non-migratory in California. The breeding season for burrowing owls occurs from March to August, peaking in April and May (Zeiner *et. al.* 1990). Burrowing owls nest in burrows in the ground, often in old ground squirrel burrows. Burrowing owl is also known to use artificial burrows including pipes, culverts, and nest boxes. In California, the breeding season for burrowing owl is from February 1 to August 31 (Haug *et al.* 1993). There are four CNDDB records for this species within five miles of the Project Site (**Figure 4.4-1**). This species was observed wintering in a box culvert beneath the railroad during the December 2014 biological surveys of the Project Site. The burrows within disturbed non-native annual grassland and the culverts along the railroad provide habitat for this species. This species has a *high* potential to occur within the Project Site.

Golden Eagle

Golden eagles live in semi-open habitats where they have easy access to their primary prey of small to medium-sized mammals. Grasslands, deserts, savannahs, and early successional stages of forest and shrub habitats provide necessary foraging habitat. Nests are placed on cliffs or large trees and are maintained year and after year. Breeding occurs from January through August (Kochert *et al.* 2002). Golden eagle home range territories vary widely from 8 to 77 square miles (McGrady 1997) and are estimated to average 48 square miles in northern California (Zeiner *et al.* 1990). Although only one nest is used each year, a territory may contain multiple alternate nests. Typically, there are between 6 and 14 nests are found in a territory (Kochert *et al.* 2002). Golden eagles may use the same nest for multiple years or use new nest sites every year (Watson 2010).

An active golden eagle nest was identified approximately 1.9 miles northeast of the Project Site in 2013 and 2014. The nest is located on a foothill pine (*Pinus sabiniana*) on a hillslope surrounded by oak woodland. Existing residences are located uphill within 300 feet of the nest on the north and east. Two juvenile and two adult golden eagles were observed at the nest in August 2013. A pair of adult eagles returned to the nest in 2014 and successfully raised one eaglet, which fledged by June 18, 2014. The extent of this territory and locations of alternate nests are unknown. In December 2014, the nest tree fell over. A new nest was observed approximately 2.22 miles northeast of the Project Site on March 6, 2015. The new nest occurs within a foothill pine on a hillslope surrounded by oak woodland, approximately 25 feet from a residential dwelling. The extent of this territory and locations of alternate nests are unknown.

No golden eagles were observed during the biological surveys of the Project Site. The trees within the riparian habitat and oak woodland provide nesting habitat and the disturbed non-native annual grassland provides foraging habitat for this species. This species has a *high* potential to nest and forage within the Project Site.

Swainson's Hawk

Swainson's hawk is a long-distance migrant with nesting grounds in western North America. The Swainson's hawk population that nests in the Central Valley winters primarily in Mexico, while the population that nests in the interior portions of North America winters in South America (Bradbury *et. al.* in prep.). Swainson's hawks arrive in the Central Valley between March and early April to establish

breeding territories. Breeding occurs from late March to late August, peaking in late May through July (Zeiner *et. al.* 1990). In the Central Valley, Swainson's hawks nest in isolated trees, small groves, or large woodlands next to open grasslands or agricultural fields. This species typically nests near riparian areas; however, it has been known to nest in urban areas as well. Nest locations are usually in close proximity to suitable foraging habitats, which include fallow fields, annual grasslands, irrigated pastures, alfalfa and other hay crops, and low-growing row crops. Swainson's hawks leave their breeding grounds to return to their wintering grounds in late August or early September (Bloom and De Water 1994).

There are five CNDDB records for this species within five miles of the Project Site (**Figure 4.4-1**). The nearest CNDDB occurrence (occurrence number 200) is from 1982 and is approximately 1.1 miles southwest of the Project Site. Occurrence number 200 states that one adult was observed, but no nests were found. The next nearest occurrence (occurrence number 2662) is from 1962 and is approximately 3.2 miles northwest of the Project Site. Occurrence number 2662 states that an active nest was observed in a black oak. The next nearest occurrence (occurrence number 2203) is from 2011 and is approximately 4.25 miles southwest of the Project Site. Occurrence number 2203 states that a pair was observed nest-building in April. No Swainson's hawks were observed in the vicinity of the Project Site during the biological surveys. Swainson's hawks have the potential to nest within the trees within the riparian habitat and oak woodland and forage within the disturbed non-native annual grassland within the Project Site. This species has a *high* potential to nest and forage within the Project Site.

Tricolored Blackbird

Tricolored blackbird is a colonial species that occurs in pastures, dry seasonal pools, and agricultural fields in the Central Valley and the foothills surrounding the valley. This species usually nests with dense cattrails or tules (*Scirpus* sp.) in emergent wetlands. Tricolored blackbird also nests in thickets of blackberry (*Rubus* sp.), wild rose (*Rosa* sp.), willows, and tall herbs (Zeiner *et. al.* 1990). Nesting locations typically must be large enough to support a minimum colony of approximately 50 pairs (Zeiner *et. al.* 1990). There are five CNDDB records for this species within five miles of the Project Site (**Figure 4.4-1**). The disturbed non-native annual grassland provides foraging habitat for this species. The riparian vegetation within and around the perennial drainages provide nesting habitat for this species. However, the majority of the vegetation is comprised of willows and the patch sizes of Himalayan blackberry are most likely not of sufficient size to support a breeding colony. No tricolored blackbirds were observed within the Project Site. This species has a *high* potential to forage within the Project Site, but is unlikely to nest within the Project Site.

White-Trailed Kite

White-trailed kite is a yearlong resident in coastal and valley lowlands in California. White-trailed kite breed from February to October, peaking from May to August (Zeiner *et. al.* 1990). This species nests near the top of dense oaks, willows, or other large trees. There are five CNDDB records of white-trailed kite listed within five miles of the Project Site (**Figure 4.4-1**). The trees within the riparian habitat provide nesting habitat for this species. This species has a *high* potential to nest within the Project Site.

Migratory Birds and Other Birds of Prey

Migratory birds and other birds of prey, protected under 50 CFR 10 of the MBTA and/or Section 3503 of the California Fish and Game Code, have the potential to nest in the disturbed non-native annual grassland, in culverts and burrows along the railroad tracks within the disturbed/developed areas, and trees and shrubs within the oak woodland and riparian habitat. In addition, hundreds of remnant cliff swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) nests were observed beneath the U.S. Route 50. Although none of these nests were occupied during the December 2014 and January 2015 biological surveys, these surveys were conducted outside of the nesting season. It is assumed that these swallows will return to these nest sites during the nesting season in subsequent years. Several birds protected under the MBTA and/or Section 3503 of the California Fish and Game Code were observed foraging within the Project Site including: Brewer's blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*), red-winged blackbird, northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), red-trailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), and western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*). Migratory birds and

other birds of prey have a high potential to nest within the Project Site during the nesting season. The generally accepted nesting season is from February 15 through August 31.

Species with a Low Potential to Occur

Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (VELB)

The USFWS considers the range of VELB to include the watersheds of the American, San Joaquin, and Sacramento River and their tributaries up to approximately 3,000 feet above MSL (USFWS 1980). VELB are completely dependent on elderberry (*Sambucus* sp.) shrubs as their host plants during their entire life cycle. VELB typically utilize stems that are greater than one inch in diameter at ground level (DGL) (USFWS 1994).

There are two CNDDB occurrences for this species within five miles of the Project Site; however no elderberry shrubs are present with the Project Site. Given that no elderberry shrubs are located within the Project Site, it is *unlikely* that VELB occurs within the Project Site.

California Red-Legged Frog (CRF)

CRF typically inhabit ponds, slow-moving creeks, and streams with deep pools that are lined with dense emergent marsh or shrubby riparian vegetation. Submerged root masses and undercut banks are important habitat features for this species. Although CRF historically occurred throughout much of the Central Valley, it is widely accepted that they have been extirpated from there for more than 50 years. All of the extant records for CRF in the Sierras are over 800 feet above MSL (Rana Resources 2013). Below this elevation, aquatic habitat generally supports stronger populations of non-native predators associated with warm water habitats such as bullfrogs (*Lithobates catesbeiana*) and Centrarchid fish (Rana Resources 2013). The Project Site occurs between approximately 423 and 780 feet above MSL.

There are no known CNDDB occurrences for this species within five miles of the Project Site. There is a CNDDB occurrence approximately 6.3 miles northeast of the Project Site along a small drainage feeding directly into the east side of Folsom Lake (Occurrence Number 814), however, the validity of this record is highly questionable due to the low elevation (approximately 500 feet above MSL), the proximity to urban development and to Folsom Lake, and the abundant non-native predators that it supports (Rana Resources 2013). The record states that a juvenile frog was sighted on a small footbridge crossing a drainage leading into Folsom Lake from an adjacent residential development. This frog was most likely a juvenile bullfrog, which, to the untrained eye, can be easily confused with a juvenile CRF (Rana Resources 2013). Even if this were a valid record, this location is separated from the Project Site by a number of impassible barriers including major roadways and urban development. The nearest valid CNDDB occurrences (Occurrence Numbers 1284 and 1317) are over 25 miles northeast of the Project Site. These occurrences state that CRF was observed in a series of small pools/wet areas in a drainage stream channel. In addition, existing literature indicates that CRF may have been extirpated from the floor of the Central Valley prior to the 1960s (USFWS 2002).

The perennial drainages provide habitat for this species and the riparian habitat surrounding the perennial drainages provide upland habitat. Although suitable habitat is present, the Project Site is outside of the known extant elevation range inhabited by CRF and there are no known CNDDB occurrences for CRF within 25 miles of the Project Site. No CRF were observed during the biological surveys of the Project Site. CRF is *unlikely* to occur within the Project Site.

Western Spadefoot Toad

Western spadefoot toad prefers open areas with sandy or gravelly soils, in a variety of habitats including mixed woodlands, grasslands, chaparral, sandy washes, lowlands, river floodplains, alluvial fans, playas, alkali flats, foothills, and mountains from 0 to 1,200 meters. Rain pools containing minimal numbers of bullfrogs, fish, or crayfish and that remain continuously inundated for 30 days are necessary for breeding. There are no CNDDB records of this species within five miles of the Project Site. The seasonal wetlands provide potential breeding habitat for this species. The disturbed non-native annual grassland and oak

woodland provide upland habitat for this species. No western spadefoot toads were observed during the biological surveys of the Project Site. This species has a low potential to occur within the Project Site.

Grasshopper Sparrow

Grasshopper sparrow inhabits moderately open grasslands and prairies with patchy bare ground. There is one CNDDB record of this species within five miles of the Project Site (**Figure 4.4-1**). Although the disturbed non-native annual grassland provides habitat, the soils only provide marginal habitat for this species. No grasshopper sparrows were observed during the biological surveys of the Project Site. This species has a *low* potential to occur within the Project Site.

American Badger

American badgers are found in dry, open habitats including grassland and open woodland. Suitable burrowing habitat requires dry, sandy soil. Breeding occurs in summer and early fall, with young being born from March to April (Nature Serve 2014). There are no CNDDB records for this species within five miles of the Project Site. The disturbed non-native annual grassland provides habitat for this species. No American badgers were observed during the biological surveys. This species has a *low* potential to occur within the Project Site.

Special-Status Bat Species

California is home to several special-status bat species. Bat numbers are in decline throughout the U.S. due to loss of roosting habitat, habitat conversion, and habitat alteration. There are no CNDDB records for special-status bat species within five miles of the Project Site. No bat species were observed roosting during the biological surveys of the Project Site. The trees within the oak woodland and riparian habitat provide roosting habitat for special-status bats. These species have a *low* potential to roost within the Project Site.

Conclusion

Several special-status species have been identified and/or have the potential to occur within the Project Site. Implementation of **Mitigation Measure BIO – 1 through BIO – 11** would require pre-construction surveys prior to implementation of construction activities ensuring no adverse effects to special-status species. These measures would reduce potential impacts to special-status species to a less than significant level. Therefore, impacts to special-status species are considered to be ***Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated***.

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

Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated. Sensitive habitats include those that are of special concern to resource agencies or those that are protected under CEQA, Section 1600 of the California Fish and Game Code, or Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Sensitive habitats within the Project Site include the following biological communities and resources: oak woodland, waters of the U.S. (including ephemeral drainage, depressional seasonal wetland, and intermittent drainage).

Oak Woodland

The Project Site contains scattered isolated oak trees. These trees are not considered oak woodland habitat due to their isolation from other oak trees and there is no proposed removal of oak trees within the Project Site.

Waters of the U.S.

Ephemeral Drainage

A total of 0.182 acre of ephemeral drainage occurs within the Project Site. Ephemeral drainages are primarily fed by storm water runoff. These features convey flows during and immediately after storm events but may stop flowing or begin to dry if the interval between storm events is long enough. Typically, these features exhibit a defined bed and bank and often show signs of scouring as a result of rapid flow events. Dominant species occurring along the banks of the ephemeral drainages consist of upland species including barley, soft chess, wild oat, and ripgut grass.

Depressional Seasonal Wetland

A total of 0.212 acre of seasonal wetland has been delineated within the Project Site. The hydrologic regime is generally saturated rather than inundated. Dominant vegetation includes cattrail (*Typha* sp.), perennial ryegrass (*Festuca perennis*), Mediterranean barley (*Hordeum marinum*), cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*), spikerush (*Eleocharis macrostachya*), curly dock (*Rumex crispus*), and flat nutsedge (*Cyperus eragrostis*).

Intermittent Drainage

A total of 0.038 acre of intermittent drainage have been delineated within the Project Site. Intermittent drainages are defined as well-defined channels that contain water for only part of the year, typically during the winter and spring when the aquatic bed is below the water table. Dominant species occurring along the banks of the intermittent drainages include curly dock, perennial ryegrass, Mediterranean barley, and cocklebur.

Conclusion

Project development would not result in the removal of any oak trees. However, development of the Proposed Project would have the potential to result in impacts to riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Implementation of **Mitigation Measure BIO – 11 and Mitigation Measure BIO – 12** would require the appropriate permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Therefore, impacts to sensitive natural communities within the Project Site are considered ***Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated***.

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, marshes, vernal pools, coastal wetlands, etc.) through direct removal, filling hydrological interruption, or other means?

Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated. The Project Site contains a total of 0.432 acre of jurisdictional aquatic features, including depressional and riverine seasonal wetland (0.212 acre), intermittent drainage (0.038 acre), and ephemeral drainage (0.182 acre). See *Subsection b* above for a more detailed characterization of individual feature classifications. Trail development will require approximately 21 trail crossings over aquatic features throughout the alignment. Potential wetland crossings range in width from under two feet to about 30 feet. Small drainages could be crossed via culverts or puncheons (rail-less bridges constructed of pressure treated timber). Larger drainages would require multi-plate, con-span structures, or full bridges. Five culverts will be constructed to address drainages across the trail where there are no wetlands. Wherever possible, aquatic feature crossings would be designed as free-span structures with footings located outside of the jurisdictional boundaries of the aquatic feature. Some existing culverts within the Natural Trail alignment would be replaced.

Implementation of **Mitigation Measure BIO – 11** and **Mitigation Measure BIO – 12** would require Section 404 Authorization for the fill of any federally jurisdictional waters and would require that a Section 401 Water Quality Certification be obtained from the RWQCB. In addition, a Section 1600 Agreement will be required for impacts to the streamzone. Compliance with these measures would ensure that impacts

to federally jurisdictional waters, including wetlands, as well as other aquatic resources are implemented in a manner consistent with current regulatory standards and that impacts are offset through applicable regulatory standards, ensuring no-net-loss of aquatic functions and values. Therefore, impacts to aquatic features are considered ***Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated***.

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?

Less Than Significant Impact. According to the Biological Resources Assessment (**Appendix C**) there are no fish species known to occur within the Project Site. The Project Site is not part of a major or local wildlife corridor/travel route because it does not connect two significant habitats. The Project Site consists of currently vacant grassland parallel to the existing Rail Corridor. Impacts are considered ***Less Than Significant***.

e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

Less Than Significant Impact. The City of Folsom Tree Preservation Ordinance (Municipal Code Chapter 12.16) requires a permit to remove protected trees and encroachment of construction activities within their driplines requires a permit. According to the Biological Resources Assessment (**Appendix C**) there are no oak trees that meet this criterion in the portion of the Project Site within the City of Folsom or the City of Folsom Sphere of Influence. Therefore, impacts are considered ***Less Than Significant*** and no mitigation is required.

f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

No Impact. There are no Habitat Conservation Plans, Natural Conservation Community Plans, or other adopted plans applicable to the project. Therefore, ***No Impact*** would result from development of the proposed Natural Trail and no mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measure BIO — 1 through BIO — 12 are identified by the analyses within this IS/MND to reduce potential impacts related to biological resources to less than significant levels:

Mitigation Measure BIO — 1: To ensure that fully protected species are not injured or disturbed by construction in the vicinity of nesting habitat, the applicant shall implement the following measures:

If construction is proposed during the raptor breeding season (March 1 through September 1), a pre-construction raptor nest survey shall be conducted within 30 days prior to the beginning of construction activities by a qualified biologist. The results of the survey should be submitted to California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). If no active nests are found, no further mitigation is required. If active nests are found, a quarter-mile (1320 feet) initial temporary nest disturbance buffer area shall be established. If project related activities within the temporary nest disturbance buffer are determined to be necessary during the nesting season (March 1 through September 1), then an on-site biologist/monitor experienced with raptor behavior shall be retained by the project proponent, consult with CDFW to determine the best course of action necessary to avoid nest abandonment or take of individuals. Work may be allowed to proceed within the temporary nest disturbance buffer if raptors are not exhibiting agitated behavior as determined by the on-site biologist/monitor.

Mitigation Measure BIO — 2: A qualified biologist shall conduct a minimum of two protocol level preconstruction surveys during the recommended survey periods immediately prior to the anticipated commencement of construction activities, in accordance with the *Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson's Hawk Nesting Surveys in California's Central Valley* (Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory Committee 2000). The qualified biologist shall conduct surveys for nesting Swainson's hawk in the project alignment and within 0.25 miles of construction activities where legally permitted. If no active Swainson's hawk nests are identified on or within 0.25 miles of construction activities within the recommended survey periods, a letter report summarizing the survey results will be submitted to the applicant and the CDFW within 30 days following the final survey, and no further mitigation for nesting habitat is recommended.

If active Swainson's hawk nests are found within 0.25 miles of the project alignment, the biologist will contact the applicant and the CDFW within one day following the pre-construction survey to report the findings. Construction activities include heavy equipment operation associated with construction or other project-related activities that could cause nest abandonment or forced fledging within 0.25 miles of an active nest site. Should an active nest be present within 0.25 miles of construction areas, then the CDFW will be consulted to establish an appropriate noise buffer, develop take avoidance measures, and implement a monitoring and reporting program prior to any construction activities occurring within 0.25 miles of the nest. The monitoring program will include an onsite biologist to monitor all grading activities and work associated with crossing installation that occur within the established buffer zone to ensure that disruption of the nest or forced fledging does not occur.

Mitigation Measure BIO — 3: Migratory birds protected under 50 CFR 10 of the MBTA and/or Section 3503 of the California Fish and Game Code, including grasshopper sparrow and white-trailed kite have the potential to nest within the trees within the riparian woodland and within the annual grassland. Foraging habitat is not protected for these species as well as for tricolored blackbird. Vegetation clearing operations, including pruning or removal of trees and shrubs for trail clearing, should be completed between September 1 to February 14, if feasible. If vegetation removal begins during the nesting season (February 15 to August 31), a qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction survey for active nests within 500 feet of the project alignment. The pre-construction survey will be conducted within 14 days prior to commencement of any vegetation removal. If the pre-construction surveys show that there is no evidence of active nests, then no additional measures are recommended. If construction does not commence within 14 days of the preconstruction survey, or halts for more than 14 days, an additional pre-construction survey would be recommended.

If any active nests are located within the vicinity of the Project Site, an appropriate buffer zone will be established around the nests. The biologist will delimit an appropriate buffer zone with construction tape or pin flags and maintain the buffer zone until the end of the breeding season or the young have successfully fledged. Buffer zones are typically 100 feet for migratory bird nests. If active nests are found on site, a qualified biologist will monitor nests weekly during construction to evaluate potential nesting disturbance by construction activities.

Guidance from the CDFW would be recommended if establishing the typical buffer zone is impractical.

Mitigation Measure BIO — 4: The non-native annual grassland within the Project Site provides habitat for potentially occurring non-listed special-status plants including: Brandegee's clarkia (blooms May through July), Ahart's dwarf rush (blooms March through May), dwarf downingia (blooms March through May), Jepson's woolly sunflower (blooms April though June), and Tuolumne button-celery (blooms June though August). A qualified botanist shall conduct two botanical surveys of the Project Site some time between March and May and again in June, within the blooming period for potentially occurring special status plants. A letter report shall be submitted to the applicant within 30 days following the bloom survey to document the results. If no special-status plants are observed, then no additional measures are recommended.

If any of the non-listed special-status plants occur within the Project Site, they shall be avoided to the extent feasible. If the plants cannot be avoided, a mitigation plan shall be prepared in consultation with the CDFW. At minimum, the mitigation plan will include locations where the plants will be transplanted in suitable habitat adjacent to the Project Site, success criteria, and monitoring activities. The CDFW must approve the mitigation plan prior to transplantation and commencement of construction activities.

Mitigation Measure BIO — 5: A qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey for California red-legged frog (CRF) within 14 days prior to the start of construction inputting trail crossings or work associated with riparian areas. If construction does not commence within 14 days of the pre-construction survey or halts for more than 14 days, a new survey will be required. If no CRF are found, no additional measures are required. If CRF are found, consultation with USFWS would be required. Construction will be delayed until the USFWS authorizes the work.

Mitigation Measure BIO — 6: Within 14 days prior to the start of ground disturbance, a qualified biologist shall conduct a pre construction survey for Western pond turtles. Ground disturbance includes any grading any work associated with constructing trail crossings. If construction does not commence within 14 days of the pre-construction survey or halts for more than 14 days, a new survey will be required. If no Western pond turtles are found, no additional measures are required. If Western pond turtles are found, consultation with the CDFW is recommended to determine avoidance measures. These measures may include having a qualified biologist onsite during construction activities and work associated crossing installation for the purpose of relocating any species found within the construction footprint to suitable habitat away from the construction zone, but within the vicinity of the Project Site.

Mitigation Measure BIO — 7: A qualified biologist shall conduct burrowing owl surveys during the peak breeding season (April 15 and July 15), in accordance with the *2012 California Department of Fish and Game Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (2012 Staff Report) (CDFG 2012). The survey area includes an approximately 500-foot (150-meter) buffer around the project alignment, where access is permitted. The report will be submitted to the CDFW, as indicated in the 2012 Staff Report. If the surveys are negative, then no additional measures are recommended.

If active burrows are observed within 500 feet of the project alignment, an impact assessment will be prepared and submitted to the CDFW, in accordance with the 2012 Staff Report. If it is determined that project activities may result in impacts to nesting, occupied, and satellite burrows and/or burrowing owl habitat, the applicant will consult with the CDFW and develop a detailed Avoidance and Minimization Plan to mitigate such that the habitat acreage, number of burrows, and burrowing owls impacted are replaced. The mitigation plan will be based on the requirements set forth in Appendix A of the 2012 Staff Report.

Mitigation Measure BIO — 8: A qualified biologist shall conduct pre-construction surveys for special-status bat species within 14 days prior to the start of ground disturbance and tree or shrub removal for trail widening. If no bats are observed, then no additional measures are recommended. If construction does not commence within 14 days of the pre-construction survey or halts for more than 14 days a new survey will be required. If bats are found, consultation with the CDFW is recommended to determine avoidance measures. Recommended avoidance measures include establishing a buffer around the roost tree until it is no longer occupied. If the bat is roosting in a tree anticipated for removal, then that tree will not be removed until a biologist has determined that the tree is no longer occupied by the bat.

Mitigation Measure BIO — 9: A qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction survey for the western spadefoot toad within 14 days prior to the start of construction. If construction does not commence within 14 days of the pre-construction survey or halts for more than 14 days, a new survey will be required. If no toads are found, no additional measures are required. If toads are found, consultation with CDFW would be required. Construction will be delayed until the CDFW authorizes the work.

Mitigation Measure BIO — 10: A qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey for the American badger within 14 days prior to the start of construction. If construction does not commence within 14 days of the pre-construction survey or halts for more than 14 days, a new survey will be required. If no badgers are found, no additional measures are required. If badgers are found, consultation with CDFW would be required. Construction will be delayed until the CDFW authorizes the work. If no badgers are found, no additional measures are required. If badgers are found, consultation with CDFW would be required. Construction will be delayed until the CDFW authorizes the work.

Mitigation Measure BIO — 11: Placement of permanent or temporary fill in waters of the U.S. is regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) under Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act. The SPTC – JPA shall coordinate with the Corps in order to obtain the applicable permits for activities resulting in temporary and/or permanent impacts to waters of the U.S. The project shall comply with the Corps "no-net-loss" policy and the conditions of a Nationwide or Individual Permit authorization by the Corps.

Any discharge into waters of the U.S. is also subject to regulation by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) pursuant to Clean Water Act Section 401. The SPTC – JPA shall also coordinate with the RWQCB in order to obtain a Water Quality Certification.

Mitigation Measure BIO — 12: Pursuant to Fish and Game Code §1602, the SPTC – JPA shall notify the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) prior to any activity which may result in impacts to the streamzone. The SPTC – JPA will coordinate with CDFW in order to obtain a 1600 Streambed Alteration Agreement, if applicable, for impacts to the bed, bank or channel of onsite drainages and/or any riparian areas.

4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Impact Analysis

a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?

Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated. Registered Professional Archaeologist Ric Windmiller, M.A., and Architectural Historian Katherine Vallaire, M.A., prepared the February 2015 *Sacramento-Placerville Transportation Corridor Nature Trail Implementation Plan Cultural Resources Inventory and Evaluation Iron Point Road (MP 116) to Latrobe Road (MP 126.2) Sacramento and El Dorado Counties, California* (Cultural Assessment Report). The Cultural Assessment Report was prepared to identify and evaluate cultural resources within the SPTC alignment between milepost 116 and milepost 126.2, and consisted of a records search by the North Central Information Center, California Historical Resources Information System; sacred lands file search by the Native American Heritage Commission; contacts with Native Americans listed by the Commission; literature review/historical research; consultation with knowledgeable others and pedestrian field surveys of the railroad easement by archaeologists and an architectural historian.

As summarized below in **Table 4.5-1**, the field team documented the railroad and eight features within the proposed Natural Trail alignment.

Table 4.5-1 — Cultural Resources Identified within the Natural Trail Alignment and their National Register/California Register Eligibility

Reference Number	Description	National Register/California Register Eligibility (Yes/No)
P-34-00455/P-9-4794	Sacramento and Placerville Railroad Iron Point Road – Latrobe Road segment	Yes
SPTC 26	Road Remnant	No
SPTC 01	Coast and Geodetic Survey Marker	No
SPTC 02	Coast and Geodetic Survey Marker	No
P-34-00155	White Rock Road – Sacramento and Placerville Railroad Segment	Yes

P-34-00455 Locus A	Sacramento and Placerville Railroad Iron Point Road – Latrobe Road segment	Yes
SPTC 03	Payen Road	No
P-34-1745	Keef-McDerby Mine Ditch Payen Road Segment	No

Source: Windmiller 2015

Resources P-34-00455/P-9-4794 and P-34-00155/P-9-000809 were determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources and were determined to be eligible under CEQA as unique archaeological resources (Windmiller 2015), as further discussed by individual resource below.

P-34-00455/P-9-4794: The Sacramento and Placerville Railroad, Iron Point Road to Latrobe Road

The Sacramento and Placerville Railroad Iron Point Road to Latrobe Road Segment is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A. As such, it is also eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources under criterion 1. In addition, the railroad feature identified as "Locus A: the site of White Rock Station" is eligible for the National Register under criterion D for its potential to yield information through archaeology that is important in history (Windmiller 2015).

P-34-00155/P-9-000809: White Rock Road/Lincoln Highway, Sacramento and Placerville Railroad Segment

Segments of White Rock Road in the *Clarksville* area are identified as a portion of the historic Lincoln Highway. As a result of Section 106 review process, these segments were recently determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A. Therefore, these segments are also eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources. The Sacramento and Placerville Railroad, Iron Point Road to Latrobe Road segment crosses another segment of White Rock Road/Lincoln Highway. The Cultural Assessment Report concludes that the segment of White Rock Road/Lincoln Highway to be crossed by the proposed Natural Trail is also eligible for the National Register under criterion A, which makes the segment also eligible for the California Register under criterion 1 (Windmiller 2015).

Under CEQA, any activity that would demolish or materially alter or adversely affect the physical characteristics that convey the historical significance of a resource, and that justifies its inclusion in, or eligibility for, inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources would be considered potentially significant. Construction of the proposed Natural Trail could adversely affect historic resources; therefore impacts are considered ***Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated***.

Compliance with **Mitigation Measure CR — 1 through Mitigation Measure CR — 3** would require resource avoidance, combined with required construction monitoring to ensure potential effects to historic resources are avoided and would ensure project development would be implemented in such a manner to ensure potential impacts remain less than significant.

b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?

Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated. No prehistoric resources were identified by the Cultural Assessment Report (Windmiller 2015).

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) responded to a request for a sacred lands file search and list of Native American contacts on December 5, 2014. On January 9, 2015 each of the 13 Native American contacts were sent written correspondence requesting input on the Proposed Project including a project description and map. No Native American cultural resources were identified by the NAHC or any of the responses from Native American contacts. No Native American archaeological resources or traditional cultural properties were identified by the Cultural Assessment Report (Windmiller 2015).

However, grading and excavation activities associated with construction of the proposed Natural Trail would have the potential to unearth or otherwise expose previously unidentified archaeological resources. Therefore, impacts are considered ***Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated***.

Compliance with **Mitigation Measure CR — 4** would require construction activities to cease in the event of inadvertent discovery of archaeological resources and would require that the Sacramento County Department of Environmental Review be contacted for inadvertent discovery of resources associated with trail construction between mileposts 117.9 and 119.4 and that the City of Folsom Planning Division be contacted for inadvertent discovery of resources associated with trail construction between mileposts 116 and 117.9. In the event of inadvertent discovery of archaeological resources, **Mitigation Measure CR — 4** would require coordination with local agency planning resources and the project archaeologist to assist with the proper treatment of discovered resources.

c. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated. No prehistoric resources were identified by the Cultural Assessment Report (Windmiller 2015). However, grading and excavation activities associated with construction of the proposed Natural Trail would have the potential to unearth or otherwise expose previously unidentified paleontological resources. Therefore, impacts are considered ***Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated***.

Compliance with **Mitigation Measure CR — 5** would require construction activities to cease in the event of inadvertent discovery of paleontological resources and would require that the Sacramento County Department of Environmental Review be contacted for inadvertent discovery of resources associated with trail construction between mileposts 117.9 and 119.4 and that the City of Folsom Planning Division be contacted for inadvertent discovery of resources associated with trail construction between mileposts 116 and 117.9. In the event of inadvertent discovery of paleontological resources, **Mitigation Measure CR — 5** would require coordination with local agency planning resources and the project archaeologist to assist with the proper treatment of discovered resources.

d. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated. No known grave sites or burial grounds have been identified within the proposed Natural Trail alignment. However, grading and excavation activities associated with construction of the proposed Natural Trail would have the potential to unearth or otherwise expose previously unidentified human remains or burial grounds. Therefore impacts are considered ***Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated***.

Compliance with **Mitigation Measure CR — 6** would require coordination with the Sacramento County Coroner in compliance with CEQA (Section 1064.5) and the California Health and Safety Code (Section 7050.5), as well as Native American Heritage Commission who will notify and appoint a Most Likely Descendent (MLD), thereby reducing potential impacts to less than significant levels.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measure CR — 1: The proposed trail and trail construction shall avoid the archaeologically sensitive areas at Locus A (White Rock Station Site) of the Sacramento and Placerville Railroad (P-34-00455/P-9-4794).

Mitigation Measure CR — 2: Construction of the proposed trail crossing of White Rock Road shall avoid any excavation that would disturb, damage, or destroy the concrete pavement of the old Lincoln Highway that may underlie the existing asphalt.

Mitigation Measure CR — 3: An archaeologist who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards shall monitor trail construction at the railroad's Locus A and any trail construction-related excavation into White Rock

Road. The qualified archaeologist shall have the authority to stop work if necessary to protect the integrity of the site.

Mitigation Measure CR — 4: Should buried archaeological deposits or artifacts be inadvertently exposed during the course of any construction activity, work shall cease in the immediate area and the Sacramento County Department of Environmental Review shall be immediately contacted for inadvertent discovery of resources associated with trail construction between mileposts 117.9 and 119.4 and that the City of Folsom Planning Division be immediately contacted for inadvertent discovery of resources associated with trail construction between mileposts 116 and 117.9. A qualified archaeologist will be retained to document the find, assess its significance, and recommend further treatment. Work on the Project Site shall not resume until the archaeologist has had a reasonable time to conduct an examination and implement mitigation measures deemed appropriate and necessary by the agency with local jurisdiction in consultation with the qualified archaeologist to reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

Mitigation Measure CR — 5: If evidence of a paleontological site is uncovered during grading or other construction activities, work shall be halted within 100 feet of the find and the Sacramento County Department of Environmental Review shall be contacted for inadvertent discovery of resources associated with trail construction between mileposts 117.9 and 119.4 and that the City of Folsom Planning Division be contacted for inadvertent discovery of resources associated with trail construction between mileposts 116 and 117.9. A qualified paleontologist shall be retained to conduct an on-site evaluation and provide recommendations for removal and/or preservation. Work on the Project Site shall not resume until the paleontologist has had a reasonable time to conduct an examination and implement mitigation measures deemed appropriate and necessary by the agency with local jurisdiction in consultation with the qualified paleontologist to reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

Mitigation Measure CR — 6: In the event that any human remains or any associated funerary objects are encountered during construction, all work will cease within the vicinity of the discovery and the Sacramento County Department of Environmental Review shall be immediately contacted for inadvertent discovery of resources associated with trail construction between mileposts 117.9 and 119.4 and that the City of Folsom Planning Division be immediately contacted for inadvertent discovery of resources associated with trail construction between mileposts 116 and 117.9. In accordance with CEQA (Section 1064.5) and the California Health and Safety Code (Section 7050.5), the Sacramento County coroner should be contacted immediately. If the human remains are determined to be Native American, the coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission, who will notify and appoint a Most Likely Descendent (MLD). The MLD will work with a qualified archaeologist to decide the proper treatment of the human remains and any associated funerary objects. Construction activities in the immediate vicinity will not resume until a notice-to-proceed is issued.

4.6 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii. Strong seismic groundshaking?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iv. Landslides?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☒	☐	☐
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Section 1803.5.3 of the 2010 CBC, creating substantial risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Impact Analysis

a. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

Less Than Significant Impact. The Project Site is not located within close proximity to a mapped Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone or any other active fault (DOC 2015) (Sacramento County 2011); therefore, impacts are considered ***Less Than Significant*** and no mitigation is required.

a.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.

Less Than Significant Impact. Geological literature indicates that no major active faults transect Sacramento County (Sacramento County 2011). Therefore, impacts are considered ***Less Than Significant*** and no mitigation is required.

a.ii. Strong seismic groundshaking?

Less Than Significant Impact. According to mapping prepared by the California Division of Mines and Geology, the potential for seismic ground shaking hazards within the vicinity of the Project Site is low, and the Project Site is not located within the vicinity of an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. Therefore, the Proposed Project is not expected to experience strong ground shaking, and impacts are considered ***Less Than Significant*** and no mitigation is required.

a.iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

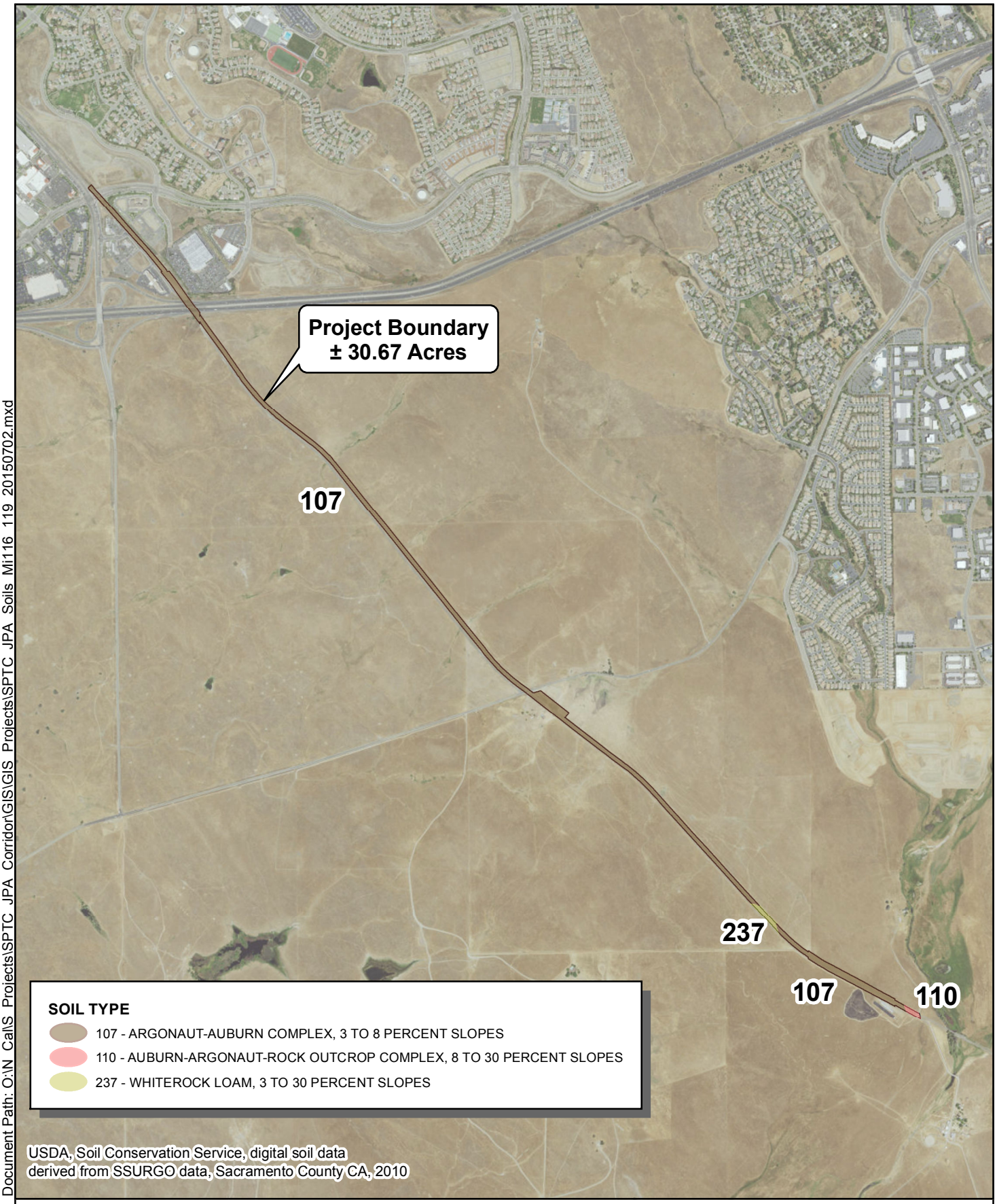
Less Than Significant Impact. Liquefaction is a loss of soil strength related to seismic ground shaking and is most commonly associated with soil deposits characterized by water-saturated, well sorted, fine grain sands and silts. The Project Site contains Argonaut-Auburn Complex, Auburn-Argonaut-Rock Outcrop Complex, and Whiterock Loam soils (**Figure 4.6-1**), which are underlain material weathered from metabasic and metasedimentary rocks. The potential for liquefaction within the Project Site is low. Only two areas in Sacramento County are considered at risk from liquefaction – the Delta and downtown Sacramento (Sacramento County 2011). The project alignment is not expected to experience any seismic-related ground failure including liquefaction. Therefore, impacts are impacts are considered ***Less Than Significant*** and no mitigation is required.

a.iv. Landslides?

Less Than Significant Impact. The general topography of the Project Site has been largely influenced by the construction of the railroad. The immediate area paralleling the railroad tracks appears relatively flat, but maintains a three percent grade or less throughout its length. The rest of the corridor land varies widely from gently sloping to steeply sloping. Elevations range from 423 feet above MSL in the northern portion of the Project Site to 780 feet above MSL in the southern portion of the Project Site. The proposed trail design maintains the gradual slopes within the constraints of existing topography. The trail alignment paralleling the railroad tracks appears relatively flat, but maintains a three percent grade or less throughout its extent. Therefore, impacts associated with landslides are considered ***Less Than Significant*** and no mitigation is required.

b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated. As shown on **Figure 4.6-1**, the proposed Natural Trail is characterized by three soil map units including: Argonaut-Auburn Complex, 3 to 8 percent slopes, Auburn-Argonaut-Rock Outcrop Complex, 8 to 30 percent slopes, and Whiterock Loam, 3 to 30 percent slopes.



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SPTC-JPA NATURAL TRAIL SOILS

FOOTHILL ASSOCIATES
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING • PLANNING • LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

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Feet
1 inch = 2,000 feet

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FIGURE 4.6-1

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Argonaut-Auburn Complex occurs in foothills from 160 to 660 feet above MSL. The native vegetation of this soil type is annual grasses and herbaceous species with a few scattered oaks. The Argonaut soil is moderately deep and well drained. Permeability is very slow and runoff is medium. It formed in material weathered from metaandesite and metamorphic rocks. The Auburn soil is shallow or moderately deep and well-drained. It formed in material weathered from metabasic and metasedimentary rocks. Permeability is moderate and runoff is medium. The hydric soils list for Sacramento County does not identify this soil type as hydric (USDA, NRCS 2014).

Auburn-Argonaut-Rock Outcrop Complex is comprised of approximately 40 percent Auburn soil, 35 percent Argonaut soil, and 10 percent rock outcrop. This soil unit is found in foothills from 150 to 830 feet above MSL. The Auburn soil is shallow or moderately deep and well-drained. It formed in material weathered from metabasic and metasedimentary rocks. Permeability is moderate and runoff is medium. The Argonaut soil is moderately deep and well drained. Permeability is very slow and runoff is medium. It formed in material weathered from metaandesite and metmorphic rocks. The hydric soils list for Sacramento County does not identify this soil type as hydric (USDA, NRCS 2014).

Whiterock Loam soil occurs on foothills from 160 to 530 feet above MSL. This soil type is material weathered from vertically tilted metasedimentary rocks. This soil type is very shallow and somewhat excessively drained. Permeability is moderate and runoff is medium or rapid. The hydric soils list for Sacramento County does not identify this soil type as hydric (USDA, NRCS 2014).

The proposed trail alignment would be constructed as a uniformly graded unpaved trail surfaced with compacted earth or decomposed granite. Trail development will require approximately 21 trail crossings over aquatic features and five culverts throughout the alignment.

State regulations pertaining to the management of erosion and sedimentation target the protection of surface water resources from the effects of land development (such as turbidity caused by sedimentation), measures included in such regulations and standards also reduce the potential for erosion and soil loss. Such regulations include, but are not limited to, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program for management of construction and municipal storm water runoff, which is part of the federal Clean Water Act and the State Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act and is implemented at the State and local level through issuance of permits and preparation of site-specific Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP).

Site disturbance related to clearing, grading, and excavation activities associated with implementation of the improvements proposed by SPTC – JPA Natural Trail improvements would have the potential to result in increased erosion within the project area.

Project development would be required to comply with the standards established by Sacramento County's, as well as the City of Folsom's, Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP). Project-related grading activities would also be subject to the requirements of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board for filing a Notice of Intent (NOI) to comply with the Construction General Permit for projects over an acre or for projects that are part of a larger common plan of development that is over one acre. NOI applicants are required to develop a SWPPP specifying individual BMPs as well as scheduling for regular monitoring and maintenance of said BMPs for effectiveness.

Construction-related soil disturbance within the Project Site would exceed one acre and would have the potential to result in impacts to water quality resulting from pollutant discharge, including soil sediments. Therefore, preparation of a SWPPP would be required to comply with the NPDES Construction General Permit administered by the State Water Resources Control Board. The SWPPP will identify structural and non-structural BMPs to control and prevent erosion and topsoil loss. Impacts are therefore considered ***Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated***.

Compliance with **Mitigation Measure GEO – 1** would require that the SPTC – JPA comply with applicable NPDES requirements in effect at the time of construction.

Compliance with **Mitigation Measure GEO – 2** would ensure that the trail corridor and surrounding land are monitored for erosion resulting from long-term trail usage, as well as unauthorized use in surrounding lands adjacent to the designated trail.

It is anticipated that compliance with **Mitigation Measure GEO – 1** and **Mitigation Measure GEO – 2** would reduce potential impacts associated with erosion to less than significant levels.

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?

Less Than Significant Impact. Lateral spreading, a phenomenon associated with liquefaction, subsidence, or other geologic or soils conditions that could create unstable subsurface conditions that could affect project features, is not a significant hazard for the Project Site. Impacts related to unstable soils including lateral spreading or collapse resulting from seismic-induced ground shaking are considered less than significant due to the distance from an active fault, the low potential for ground shaking hazards, and soil conditions in the area. Subsidence is generally characterized by the gradual settling of the earth's surface with little or no horizontal motion, and typically occurs in formations overlaying an aquifer subject to a gradual and consistently decreasing withdraw of groundwater. Subsidence is an issue in the delta regions of Sacramento County but not in the project vicinity. Impacts are therefore considered ***Less Than Significant*** and no mitigation is required.

d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Section 1803.5.3 of the 2010 CBC, creating substantial risks to life or property?

No Impact. The Project Site is not located in an area of expansive soils and would not expose people to risk related to potential geologic impacts. Therefore, ***No Impact*** would result from project development and no mitigation is required.

e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?

No Impact. Project development would not involve septic tank installation or the use of alternative waste water disposal systems. Therefore, ***No Impact*** on soils related to the use of septic tanks would occur. No mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measure GEO – 1: The SPTC – JPA shall apply for and comply with all construction-related storm water permitting, monitoring and reporting requirements defined by the RWQCB under NPDES, as applicable to project development at the time of construction of proposed improvements/facilities.

Mitigation Measure GEO – 2: Annually, prior to October 15 (the onset of the rainy season), the SPTC – JPA shall inspect and repair cut slopes and off-trail use areas within the corridor. Repairs should be targeted at eliminating any areas subject to erosion, as well as improper drainage and areas likely to form gullies during the rainy season.

Compliance with **Mitigation Measure GEO – 1** and **Mitigation Measure GEO – 2** would ensure that water quality BMPs are implemented in a pro-active and effective manner compliant with regulatory standards in effect at the time of construction, as well as throughout the long-term usage of the trail.

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4.7 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Impact Analysis

a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

Less Than Significant Impact. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions negatively affect the environment through contributing, on a cumulative basis, to global climate change. Atmospheric concentration of GHGs determines the intensity of climate change, with current levels already leading to increases in global temperatures, sea level rise, severe weather, and other environmental impacts. From a CEQA perspective, GHG impacts to global climate change are inherently cumulative (SMAQMD 2015)[9]. Due to the inherently cumulative nature of impacts associated with global climate change, a project's GHG emissions contribution is typically quantified and analyzed on an annual operational basis.

Construction-related GHG emissions are a one-time release that occurs over a short period of time; nonetheless, construction-related GHG emissions have been quantified for the Proposed Project. The estimated construction-related GHG emissions attributable to the Proposed Project would be primarily associated with increases of CO_2 and other GHG pollutants, such as methane (CH4) and nitrous oxide (N2O), from mobile sources and construction equipment operation. The Proposed Project's short-term construction-related emissions were estimated using the Roadway Construction Emissions Model version 7.1.5.1 (**Appendix B**), a model developed by Jones & Stokes and TIAX LLC in partnership with the SMAQMD. The model quantifies direct GHG emissions from construction, which are expressed in tons per project of CO_2 equivalent units of measure (MTCO2e), based on the global warming potential of the individual pollutants. This number is then converted from English tons to metric tons by a conversion factor of 0.91. The estimated increase in GHG emissions associated with construction of the proposed Natural Trail is 263 $MTCO_2e$ as summarized below in **Table 4.7-1**.

[9] SMAQMD 2015. Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, The CEQA Guide, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, accessed online August 4, 2015 (http://www.airquality.org/ceqa/cequguideupdate/Ch6ghgFINAL.pdf).

Table 4.7-1 — Project Estimated Annual Construction-Related GHG Emissions

	CO_2 emissions ($MTCO_2e$)
Total Construction GHG Emissions	263

Source: Road Construction Emissions Model, Version 7.1.5.1 (**Appendix A**).

As presented in **Table 4.7-1**, annual construction-related GHG emissions associated with development of improvements proposed are estimated to total 263 $MTCO_2e$. The SMAQMD Board of Directors adopted GHG thresholds on October 23, 2014, via resolution AQMD2014-028. The adopted annual threshold of 1,100 $MTCO_2e$ is applicable to the construction phase, as well as the operational phase for land development and construction projects in Sacramento County.

The Proposed Project's construction-related emissions would be substantially below the SMAQMD thresholds of significance for construction phase GHG emissions. Therefore, the Proposed Project's construction-related GHG emissions are not expected to result in a significant impact.

In conclusion, operational GHG emissions would be minimal; however, construction of the Proposed Project would generate GHG emissions that would contribute to the overall GHG levels in the atmosphere. Although the Proposed Project would contribute to GHG levels during construction of the Proposed Project, the incremental contribution to cumulative GHG emissions and global climate change would be minor and below established thresholds defined for the region. In addition, the GHG emissions resulting from construction of the Proposed Project would occur only intermittently during construction over an estimated two year timeframe. Therefore, the Proposed Project's contribution to global climate change through GHG emissions are considered ***Less Than Significant***. No mitigation is required.

b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

No Impact. Implementation of the Proposed Project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of any applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. By design, proposed improvements include consistency with the goals and policies identified by the City of Folsom's General Plan pertaining to sustainability and an overall strategy for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Construction and operation of proposed improvements would be implemented consistent with applicable regulatory standards and requirements, including consistency with all applicable SMAQMD rules and thresholds. Therefore ***No Impact*** is anticipated and no mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is warranted.

4.8 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Emit hazardous emissions or involve handling hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e. Be located within an airport land use plan area or, where such a plan has not been adopted, be within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, and result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project vicinity?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f. Be located within the vicinity of a private airstrip and result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project vicinity?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?				

Impact Analysis

a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would involve construction activities such as grading and trail crossings over aquatic features, including two bridges. Some of these activities will involve the use of heavy equipment, which would contain fuels, oils, lubricant, solvents, and various other possible contaminants. The transport, storage, and disposal of any hazardous materials used would be subject to federal, State, and local regulations. The Sacramento County Environmental Management Division (SCEMD) is the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) for the incorporated and unincorporated areas within Sacramento County. As the CUPA, the SCEMD regulates the use, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials and is available to respond to hazardous materials complaints or emergencies, if any, during construction.

The SCEMD administers the Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP) Program to protect public health and the environment and groundwater from risks or adverse effects associated with the storage of hazardous materials. Businesses that handle/store 55 gallons of hazardous liquids, 500 pounds of hazardous solids, and 200 cubic feet (at standard temperature and pressure) of compressed gases must complete a HMBP for the safe storage and use of chemicals.

The handling, use, and storage of hazardous materials during construction would be required to be compliant with SCEMD standards and the City of Folsom's Design and Construction Standards. Therefore, impacts related to violation of hazards and hazardous material requirements are considered ***Less Than Significant*** and no mitigation is required.

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?

Less Than Significant Impact. During trail construction there is the possibility of upset or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment involving contaminants from machinery. However, if an accident should occur the SCEMD is available to respond to an emergency relating to hazardous materials during construction. The handling, use, and storage of hazardous materials during construction would be required to be compliant with SCEMD standards and the City of Folsom's Design and Construction Standards. Therefore, impacts are considered ***Less Than Significant*** and no mitigation is required.

c. Emit hazardous emissions or involve handling hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

No Impact. There are no schools located within the Project Site. Vista Del Lago High School is located 1.5 miles northeast from the trailhead at Iron Point Road and Russell Ranch Elementary School is located 5 miles east from the Iron Point Road trailhead. There are no public or private schools either located within ¼ mile of the project alignment nor are there any schools planned to be developed within ¼ mile of the project alignment according to the *Public Facilities and Services Element* of the *City of Folsom Public Review Draft General Plan Background Report* (City of Folsom 2014). Construction would not generate hazardous air emissions or handle acutely hazardous substances within ¼ mile of a school. Therefore, ***No Impact*** would result from development of the Proposed Project and no mitigation is required.

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?

No Impact. The project alignment is not included on the list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. According to the California Department of Toxic

Substances Control (CDTSC) *Envirostor Database*, there are no known hazardous sites within the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Project alignment (CDTSC 2014). Therefore, the Proposed Project would not create a significant hazard to the public or environment and ***No Impact*** would result from project implementation. No mitigation is required.

e. Be located within an airport land use plan area or, where such a plan has not been adopted, be within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, and result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project vicinity?

No Impact. The County of Sacramento operates five airports: Sacramento International, Sacramento Executive, Sacramento Mather, Franklin Field, and McClellan Airport (Sacramento County 2014). The project alignment is not located within an airport land use plan area (SACOG 2015). The project alignment is not within two miles of any airport and would not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project vicinity. Therefore, ***No Impact*** would result from development of the Proposed Project and no mitigation is required.

f. Be located within the vicinity of a private airstrip and result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project vicinity?

No Impact. The project alignment is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip and would not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project vicinity. Therefore, ***No Impact*** would result from development of the Proposed Project and no mitigation is required.

g. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

No Impact. The Proposed Project will not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Therefore, ***No Impact*** would result from development of the Proposed Project and no mitigation is required.

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?

Less Than Significant Impact. Wildland fires are those fires that pose a threat to the more rural areas of the County. Grass fires and peat fires are the two main types of wildland fires of concern in Sacramento County. Grass fires are an annual threat in the unincorporated area of the County, especially recreational areas such as the American River Parkway (Sacramento County 2011). According to the Background Report prepared for the *City of Folsom 2035 General Plan Update*, the fire threat, as mapped by the California Department of Fire Protection and Forestry, within the Project Site ranges from “high” to “moderate” (City of Folsom 2014).

As described within **Section 3.6**, **Natural Trail Guidelines**, include the following specifications:

(5) Maintenance, vegetation control, and other fire prevention/control actions would periodically be undertaken within the SPTC.

Maintenance includes those activities necessary to preserve the value of the SPTC and the infrastructure. This includes those activities related to maintaining proper drainage. Maintaining assets directly related to private ventures will be required of and paid for by the applicable private enterprise. Other maintenance will be performed by the SPTC – JPA on a routine basis. In addition to routine preventative maintenance, this also includes consistent removal of trash, debris and other refuse.

Vegetation within the SPTC will be properly maintained to protect the integrity of rail and natural trail infrastructure, and to ensure that activities (or inactivity) on the corridor do not

contribute to wildfires. With vegetation properly controlled, the corridor will serve as a "fire break" for fires that are in the immediate vicinity of the corridor.

According to **Section 3.6**, **Natural Trail Guidelines**, the SPTC – JPA would implement vegetation management and other fire control/prevention activities to ensure that activities (or inactivity) on the corridor do not contribute to wildfires.

The Natural Trail Guidelines are established to minimize the risk from willdland fires. Therefore, impacts are considered ***Less Than Significant*** and no mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is warranted.

4.9 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge, resulting in 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)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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 onsite or offsite?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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 onsite or offsite?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e. Create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f. Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	☐	☒	☐	☐
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h. Place structures within a 100-year flood hazard area that would impede	☐	☐	☐	☒

	or redirect flood flows?				
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
j.	Contribute to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Impact Analysis

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

Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated. The proposed Natural Trail would be constructed as a uniformly graded unpaved trail, surfaced with compacted earth or decomposed granite. Natural trail development would require approximately 21 trail crossings over aquatic features and five culverts throughout the proposed alignment.

Construction-Related Impacts

Any discharge of pollutants to waters of the U.S. is unlawful unless the discharge is in compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The Statewide General Construction Permit and the NDPES General Construction Activity Stormwater Permit (General Permit) are applicable to requiring the preparation and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that specifies erosion and sediment control construction and post-construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce or eliminate construction-related and operational impacts on receiving water quality. The SWPPP identifies structural and non-structural BMPs to uphold water quality and waste discharge requirements.

Chapter 16.44 of the Sacramento County Code establishes the Land Grading and Erosion Control Ordinance. A Grading and Erosion Control Permit is required to grade, fill, excavate, store or dispose of 350 cubic yards or more of soil or earthen material, or to clear and grub one acre or greater of land within the unincorporated area of the County. The Land Grading and Erosion Control Ordinance was established to minimize damage to surrounding properties and public rights-of-way, the degradation of the water quality of watercourses, and the disruption of natural or County authorized drainage flows caused by the activities of clearing and grubbing, grading, filling and excavating of land, and sediment and pollutant runoff from other construction related activities, and to comply with the provisions of the County's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Number, CA0082597, issued by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board).

The City of Folsom's Grading Ordinance (Ord. 415 § 1 (part), 1981) requires a grading plan to obtain a grading permit and applies to the section of the trail alignment proposed within the City of Folsom. The grading plan would include erosion control measures such as hydromulching and berms to protect water quality.

Implementation, monitoring and maintenance of BMPs required to comply with existing enforceable City and County Ordinances, combined with compliance with State and federal regulations relevant to maintaining water quality objectives, would ensure that project development will not result in substantial erosion or siltation violating water quality standards and discharge requirements. Construction-related impacts related to project development are therefore considered ***Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated***.

Compliance with **Mitigation Measure GEO – 1** would require the SPTC – JPA to comply with local, State, and federal standards and regulatory applicable to proposed improvements at the time of construction, ensuring compliance with the current NPDES and State and federal water quality objectives.

In addition, the discharge of fill into aquatic features would require compliance with the State Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act through the issuance of waste discharge requirements (WDRs). However, as all aquatic features within the project alignment have been determined to be subject to federal jurisdiction through the June 16, 2015 Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (**Appendix D**), any fill proposed with aquatic features delineated within the project alignment would be subject to 401 Water Quality Certification. Compliance with **Mitigation Measure BIO – 11** would require that the SPTC – JPA obtain Water Quality Certification prior to implementation of any fill of aquatic features within the project alignment. Therefore, impacts related to violation of waste discharge requirements are considered ***Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated*** with implementation of **Mitigation Measure BIO – 11**.

Operational Impacts

Ongoing use of the proposed Natural Trail within the SPTC would have the potential, through time, to result in areas prone to erosion within the designated trail alignment. In addition, it is likely that trail users will use areas adjacent to and outside of the designated trail alignment.

Ongoing use by trail users would have the potential to result in areas within and off of the trail alignment that may exhibit erosion and sediment loss. Therefore, potential impacts associated with trail operation are considered ***Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated***.

Implementation of **Mitigation Measure GEO – 2** would require the SPTC – JPA to conduct annual inspections of the trail alignment and areas of adjacent off-trail use for areas of erosion and would require the implementation of BMPs to stabilize all areas exhibiting erosion.

Overall

Compliance with **Mitigation Measure GEO – 1** and **Mitigation Measure GEO – 2** would require the SPTC – JPA to obtain all applicable permits and implement effective erosion control BMPs during construction, as well as throughout the operational life of the Natural Trail corridor, thereby reducing potential erosion-related impacts to ***Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated***.

b. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge, resulting in 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)?

Less Than Significant Impact. Project development would not result in an increased demand for or use of groundwater.

Development of the proposed Natural Trail would result in an unpaved trail alignment with approximately two bridges for trail crossings and would, therefore, not substantially increase impermeable surface cover. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not 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. Therefore, project development would result in a ***Less Than Significant*** and no mitigation is required.

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 onsite or offsite?

Less Than Significant Impact. Guidelines applicable to the proposed Natural Trail include grading of 5 inch deep swales for all less than 2:1 slopes and a 6 inch deep swale for all slopes greater than 2:1 along the trail in order to capture and redirect runoff from the trail (**Figure 3.7-1**). According to the construction guidelines all drainage and irrigation systems for cut slopes shall be designed to prevent run-off. These guidelines will ensure proper drainage and erosion control from berms and swales.

The proposed Natural Trail alignment proposes approximately 21 trail crossings through aquatic features within the proposed alignment. Five culverts will be added to address drainage across the trail where there are not wetlands. Wherever possible, crossings across aquatic features would be designed as free-span structures with footings located outside of the jurisdictional boundaries of the aquatic feature, or would be replacements for existing culverts. Small drainages could be crossed via culverts or puncheons (rail-less bridges constructed of pressure treated timber). In general, the proposed alignment has been identified to minimize track crossings and reduce wetland and habitat impacts. The proposed crossings will not alter the existing drainage patterns of the Project Site only provide access across the trail with as little disturbance as feasible, and will not result in any substantial erosion or siltation as a result of implementation of trial development and construction guidelines. Therefore, impacts are considered ***Less Than Significant***.

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 onsite or offsite?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project has approximately 21 trail crossings through aquatic features throughout the alignment. In addition to improvements identified for existing crossings, as shown in **Table 3.5-1**, five culverts would be added. In general, the proposed alignment has been identified to minimize track crossings and reduce wetland and habitat impacts. Wherever possible, crossings across aquatic features would be designed as free-span structures with footings located outside of the jurisdictional boundaries of the aquatic feature, or would be replacements for existing culverts. Small drainages would be crossed via culverts or puncheons (rail-less bridges constructed of pressure treated timber). The proposed crossings will not substantially alter the existing drainage patterns of the Project Site. Therefore impacts are considered ***Less Than Significant***.

e. Create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project includes the grading of swales and berms along the unpaved trail alignment to capture and redirect runoff from the trail. The trail alignment contains no impervious surfaces, and only two bridge crossings. Therefore, development of the Proposed Project would not result in a substantial increase in the amount of runoff. The trail alignment will be used by pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrian users and is not anticipated to result in additional sources of pollutant runoff. Implementation of onsite post-construction BMPs is anticipated to result in ***Less Than Significant Impacts***.

f. Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated. Construction of the proposed Natural Trail would be implemented through a combination of hand and mechanical work, as well as rail-based construction equipment for crossings, where necessary. Construction activities will disturb the existing topography and would therefore have the potential to result in erosion and sediment loss. Long-term trail use would occur on earthen surfaces throughout the Project Site.

Implementation, monitoring and maintenance of BMPs required to comply with existing enforceable City of Folsom and County of Sacramento Ordinances, combined with compliance with State and federal regulations relevant to maintaining water quality objectives, would ensure that project development would

not result in substantial erosion or siltation violating water quality standards and discharge requirements. Construction-related impacts related to project development are therefore considered ***Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated***.

Compliance with **Mitigation Measure GEO – 1** and **Mitigation Measure GEO – 2** would require the SPTC – JPA to obtain all applicable permits and implement effective erosion control BMPs during construction, as well as throughout the operational life of the Natural Trail corridor, thereby reducing potential erosion-related impacts to less than significant levels.

Compliance with **Mitigation Measure BIO – 11** would require that the SPTC – JPA obtain Water Quality Certification prior to implementation of any placement of fill within aquatic features within the project alignment, thereby reducing potential impacts related to water quality standards to less than significant levels.

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?

No Impact. As shown on **Figure 4.9-1**, the project alignment is not located within a FEMA-designated 100-year flood hazard area. Additionally, the Proposed Project would not involve residential development and would not place housing in special flood hazard areas. Therefore, ***No Impact*** would result from project development and no mitigation is required.

h. Place structures within a 100-year flood hazard area that would impede or redirect flood flows?

No Impact. As shown on **Figure 4.9-1**, the Project Site is not located within a FEMA-designated 100-year flood hazard area. Therefore, no structures would be placed within a FEMA-designated 100-year flood hazard area that would impede or redirect flood flows and project development would result in ***No Impact*** to impeding or redirecting flood flows.

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?

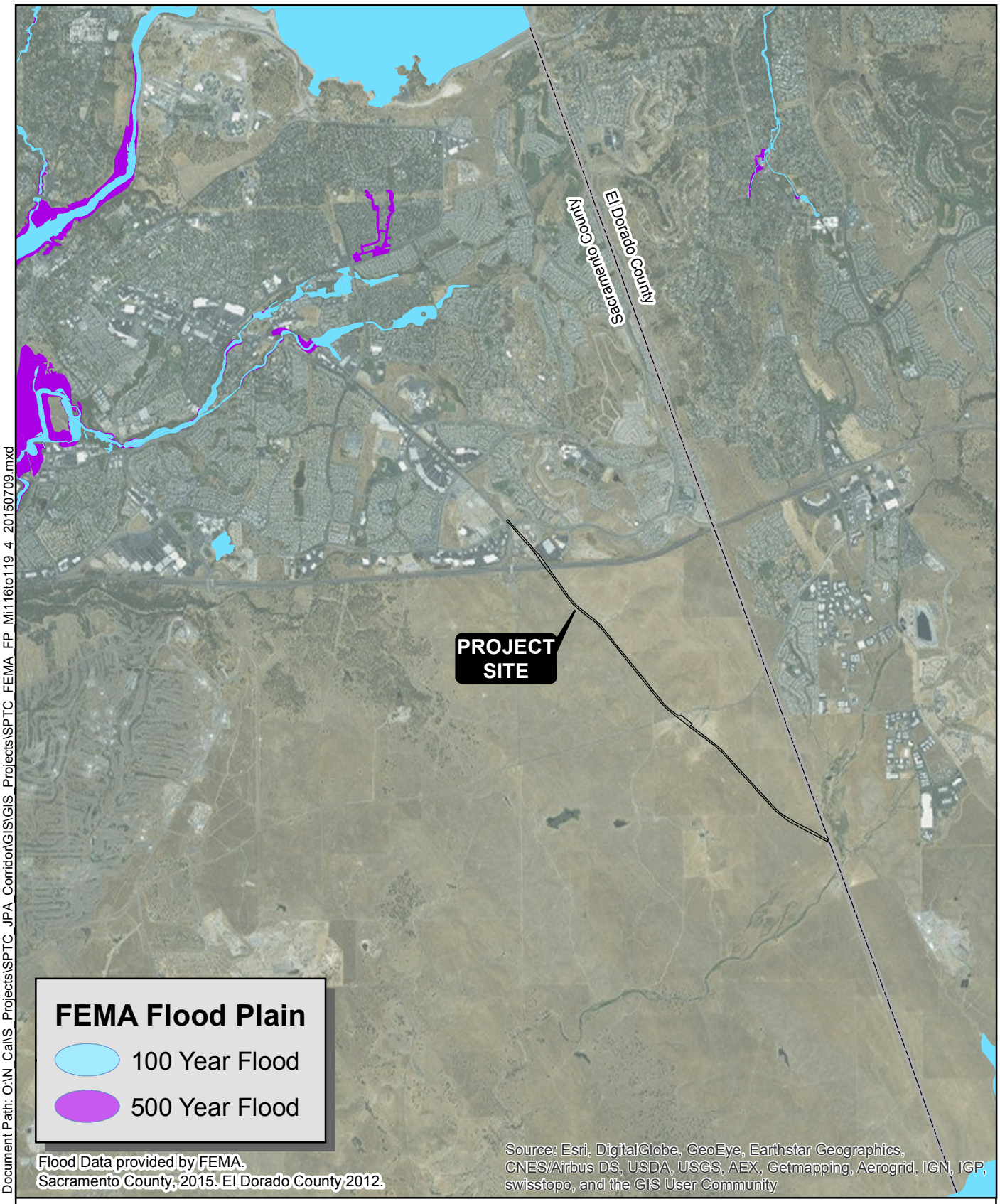
No Impact. The Project Site is not located within a FEMA-designated 100-year flood hazard area or within the vicinity of a dam or levee. Therefore, project development would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death, involving flooding and ***No Impact*** would result from development of the Proposed Project and no mitigation is required.

j. Contribute to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

No Impact. The Project Site is not located near an ocean coast or enclosed body of water that could produce a seiche or tsunami, nor is the site located near areas having steep slopes that would create mudflows. Therefore, ***No Impact*** would result from project development and no mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures

Compliance with **Mitigation Measure GEO – 1**, **Mitigation Measure GEO – 2**, and **Mitigation Measure BIO – 11** would reduce potential impact to a less than significant level.



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SPTC-JPA NATURAL TRAIL FEMA MAPPED FLOOD ZONES

FOOTHILL ASSOCIATES
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING • PLANNING • LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

N

0 0.5 1
Miles
1 inch = 1 miles

Drawn By: AMP
Date: 07/09/2015

FIGURE 4.9-1

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4.10 LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, a general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Result in land use/operational conflicts between existing and proposed on-site or off-site land uses?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Impact Analysis

a. Physically divide an established community?

No Impact. The entire Project Site is located within the SPTC. Development of the proposed three-mile Natural Trail segment would be accessible to pedestrians, mountain bicyclists, and equestrian riders and connect Iron Point Road, in the City of Folsom to the El Dorado County/Sacramento County line and proposed additional connections to SPTC trails. The proposed trail alignment would not divide an established community, and would therefore result in ***No Impact*** related to division of an established community.

b. Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, a general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

No Impact. The SPTC consists of a 53-mile segment of the Southern Pacific Railway Corporation's Placerville Branch railroad right-of-way from Sacramento to Placerville, California. The SPTC – JPA is a public entity formed in 1991 for the purpose of purchasing the SPTC and consists of four member agencies: the County of El Dorado, the City of Folsom, the County of Sacramento, and the Sacramento Regional Transit District, and one Member-at-Large that serves on the SPTC – JPA Board of Directors.

The SPTC – JPA purchased the 53-mile Rail Corridor segment in 1996 and continues to own it for the purpose of preserving it for transportation uses, and coordinating usage and maintenance by the member agencies. Upon acquiring the Rail Corridor, the SPTC – JPA and its member agencies entered into a Reciprocal Use and Funding Agreement (RUFA) to establish the joint rights and responsibilities for the member agencies with respect to the ownership and use of the Rail Corridor. The RUFA allocates segments of the Rail Corridor among the SPTC – JPA member agencies; each member agency has primary usage rights and maintenance responsibility for its allocation of the Rail Corridor which has been

granted through an easement to each member by the SPTC – JPA. The SPTC – JPA has the authority under the Rail to Trails Act to use this portion of the out-of-service rail corridor as a trail until a railroad might need the corridor again for rail service. The Rail Corridor therefore remains in the jurisdiction of the federal Surface Transportation Board. The proposed trail alignment is an appropriate usage for the out-of-service railway and there is no conflict with the federal Surface Transportation Board.

The trail alignment is also under the jurisdiction of the County of Sacramento and the City of Folsom (**Figure 3.4-1**). Development of the three-mile trail alignment would be consistent with Goal 2 of the *Sacramento County General Plan, Circulation Element* because it will encourage bicycling and walking for transportation, recreation, and exercise (County of Sacramento, 2014). The northern portion of the trail alignment occurs in the City of Folsom and is also consistent with the *City of Folsom General Plan, Transportation and Circulation Element* goals of increasing Class I off-road bikeways and pedestrian pathways. The Proposed Project remains consistent with all applicable land use plans, policies, or regulation of agencies with jurisdiction over the project and would therefore result in ***No Impact***.

c. Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?

No Impact. The Project Site does not contain any applicable Habitat Conservation Plans or Natural Community Conservation Plans. Therefore, ***No Impact*** would result from development of the Proposed Project.

d. Result in land use/operational conflicts between existing and proposed on-site or off-site land uses?

No Impact. The Proposed Project would construct an unpaved compacted or decomposed granite trail within an alignment that is currently used as an informal trail. The proposed Natural Trail would generally follow the existing informal trail except in several locations where the actual alignment would be designed to avoid resources. The Proposed Project is consistent with existing uses and surrounding land uses and does not have the potential to result in land use or operational conflicts on- or off-site. Therefore, ***No Impact*** would result from project development and no mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is warranted.

4.11 MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Impact Analysis

a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?

No Impact. The City of Folsom and areas surrounding the proposed natural trail alignment are not mapped by Sacramento County as regional or statewide important aggregate resource areas (Sacramento County 2011). Therefore, ***No Impact*** to mineral resources of the regional or statewide importance would result from development of the Proposed Project.

b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?

No Impact. As stated in the *City of Folsom General Plan*, Goal 28 provides for the protection of natural resources, including mineral resources. Policy 28.5 allows for the protection of existing or future mining and/or gravel extraction operations; however, the prospects of mining or gravel extraction are extremely unlikely within the City limits. No mineral resource areas documented within the *City of Folsom General Plan* (City of Folsom 1993). Further, the City of Folsom in entirety and the Natural Trail alignment are not mapped by Sacramento County as regional or statewide important aggregate resource areas (Sacramento County 2011). Therefore, ***No Impact*** to mineral resources would result from development of the Proposed Project.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is warranted.

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4.12 NOISE

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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. Expose persons to or generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e. Be located within an airport land use plan area, or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport and expose people residing or working in the project vicinity to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f. Be located in the vicinity of a private airstrip and expose people residing or working in the project vicinity to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Impact Analysis

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?

Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated. Development of the proposed Natural Trail would require intermittent construction activities throughout an estimated two year timeframe. The proposed trail alignment extends through the jurisdictional limits of both Sacramento County and the City of Folsom and therefore must meet the noise level standards in each jurisdictional area.

The *Sacramento County General Plan, Noise Element* has established Goals and Policies relating to evaluating noise impacts due to projects (Sacramento County 2011). The underlying theme in the *Noise Element* of the General Plan is to protect the health and welfare of the community from exposure to excessive noise by promoting community development which is compatible with noise level criteria. The *Noise Element* establishes noise standards for maximum allowable noise exposure. The Non-Transportation Noise Standards in playgrounds, parks, etc. have noise standards with a median of 65 L_{50}

and 75 L_{max} during daytime hours. The Natural Trail will be considered closed at dusk and does not require night-time noise levels. The Sacramento County Municipal Code Section 6.68.090(e) contains specific requirements for construction activities. County Code Section 6.68.090(e) states that noise sources related to construction activities are exempt from the provisions of noise codes if all activities occur between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. on weekdays (Monday through Friday) and the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. on Saturday and Sunday.

The trail segment located in the City of Folsom must adhere to the *City of Folsom General Plan, Noise Element*. The *Noise Element* of the General Plan states that an area will be considered impacted by noise if the noise level exceeds 60 dB Ldn/CNEL. New development of noise sensitive land uses will not be permitted without effective mitigation to reduce noise levels to the appropriate standards (City of Folsom 1993). However, the City of Folsom Municipal Code Section 8.42.060(c) contains specific requirements for construction activities, stating that they are exempt from the provisions of noise codes if all activities occur between 7:00 A. M. and 6:00 P.M. on weekdays (Monday through Friday) and between and 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. on Saturday and Sunday.

The noise environment at the proposed Natural Trail is influenced only by recreational uses because there are no roadways or residential areas within the Project Site which is characterized by the Rail Corridor and surrounding annual grassland. Any additional noise in the Project Site would result from construction-related activities. Construction noise, however, would be temporary and short-term by nature and is exempt from the noise ordinance standards provided that activities are conducted within specified hours.

Compliance with **Mitigation Measure Noise — 1** would reduce potential impacts related to construction-related noise to less than significant levels. The Proposed Project therefore would not generate any noise levels in excess of the standards established by the local general plans and noise ordinances, and impacts associated with project development are considered ***Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated***.

b. Expose persons to or generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

Less Than Significant Impact. Construction of the proposed trail alignment is not anticipated to generate excessive groundborne vibration or noise levels. Construction activities, however, may result in some level of groundborne vibration. The majority of the work on the trail alignment will be conducted by construction crews completing hand and mechanical labor. These construction activities will not result in excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels. Construction equipment for the crossings at aquatic features and bridges requiring more intensive construction will result in rail-mounted equipment to be brought onto the Project Site. The equipment utilized during construction of the Proposed Project would include, but not be limited to: crane, saws, backhoes, and compactor. As shown in **Table 4.12-1**, the typical noise level for the equipment listed above is 83 dBA, 76 dBA, 80 dBA, 82 dBA, respectively. These noise levels are based on measurements at a receptor located 50 feet away from the source. The distance to the nearest sensitive receptor from the Project Site is over 50 feet from the project alignment. Proposed construction equipment will be temporarily used to construct the crossings for aquatic features and will not result in excessive groundborne vibration; therefore potential noise-related impacts associated with construction of the Proposed Project are considered ***Less Than Significant***.

Table 4.12-1 — Construction Equipment Nose Emission Levels

Equipment	Typical Noise Level (dBA) 50 Ft. from Source
Air Compressor	81
Backhoe	80
Ballast Equalizer	82
Ballast Tamper	83
Compactor	82
Concrete Mixer	85
Concrete Pump	82
Concrete Vibrator	76
Crane, Derrick	88
Crane, Mobile	83
Dozer	85
Generator	81
Grader	85
Impact Wrench	85
Jack Hammer	88
Loader	85
Paver	89
Pile Driver (Impact)	101
Pile Driver (Sonic)	96
Pneumatic Tool	85
Pump	76
Rail Saw	90
Rock Drill	98
Roller	74
Saw	76
Scarifier	83
Scraper	89
Shovel	82
Spike Driver	77
Tie Cutter	84
Tie Handler	80
Tie Inserter	85
Truck	88

Source: U.S. Department of Transportation. 2006. *Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment*. FTA-VA-90-1003-06. May 2006.

c. Result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

Less Than Significant Impact. Long-term operational use would include use by pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrian users which is consistent with the current existing use of the SPTC as an informal trail in use. Little additional operational noise would result from operation of the Proposed Project. Therefore, impacts to permanent ambient noise levels are considered ***Less Than Significant***.

d. Result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated. The primary source of temporary increased noise levels due to development of the proposed Natural Trail would be construction noise. Construction noise would be temporary and intermittent and is exempt from the noise ordinance standards provided the activities are conducted within specific hours. Compliance with **Mitigation Measure Noise — 1** would require construction activities to adhere to specified hours of operation and would therefore reduce impacts from construction noise to a less than significant level. Therefore impacts are considered ***Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated***.

e. Be located within an airport land use plan area, or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport and expose people residing or working in the project vicinity to excessive noise levels?

No Impact. The proposed trail alignment is not located within an airport land use plan area or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. Therefore, people working on the project and residing in the project vicinity will not be exposed to excessive noise levels. ***No Impact*** would result from development of the Proposed Project.

f. Be located in the vicinity of a private airstrip and expose people residing or working in the project vicinity to excessive noise levels?

No Impact. There are no private air strips within the vicinity of the Project Site. Therefore people working in the Project Site will not be exposed to any excessive noise levels. ***No Impact*** would result from development of the Proposed Project.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measure Noise — 1 is proposed to reduce potential noise-related impacts to less than significant levels:

Mitigation Measure Noise — 1: Construction activities occurring within the jurisdiction of the City of Folsom shall be limited to: Monday through Friday 7:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. and 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on Saturday and Sunday. Construction activities within the jurisdiction of Sacramento County shall be limited to: 6:00 A. M. and 8:00 P.M. Monday through Friday and between 7:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. on Saturday and Sunday. Any exceptions to these hours shall be evaluated on a case by case basis and require approval by the appropriate jurisdictional authority.

4.13 POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Displace a substantial number of existing housing units, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Displace a substantial number of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Impact Analysis

a. Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

No Impact. The Proposed Project would involve the construction of a uniformly graded compacted or decomposed granite trail alignment along the existing Rail Corridor from milepost 116 to 119 and does not propose any residential or commercial development. The Proposed Project would not directly induce population growth because it proposes no employment-generating land uses. Project development would not indirectly induce population growth because it would not extend roads or infrastructure into previously undeveloped areas. Therefore, ***No Impact*** would result from project development and no mitigation is required.

b. Displace a substantial number of existing housing units, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

No Impact. The Proposed Project is located within a three-mile segment of the SPTC parallel to the existing Rail Corridor from milepost 116 to 119 and would not displace any existing housing units. ***No Impact*** would result from development of the Proposed Project and no mitigation is required.

c. Displace a substantial number of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

No Impact. The Proposed Project is located within a three-mile segment of the SPTC parallel to the existing Rail Corridor from milepost 116 to 119 and would not displace any people. ***No Impact*** would result from development of the Proposed Project and no mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is warranted.

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4.14 PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities or a 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 following public services:				
a. Fire protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Police protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e. Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Impact Analysis

Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities or a 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 following public services:

a. Fire protection?

Less Than Significant Impact. Fire protection services within the vicinity of the proposed Natural Trail are provided by the Folsom Fire Department and the Sacramento County Fire Protection District.

City of Folsom

The Folsom Fire Department (FFD) currently operates four stations within central Folsom locations. The Department has automatic aid agreements with neighboring jurisdictions in Sacramento, El Dorado, and Placer Counties that establishes that the closest and most appropriate unit will respond to an emergency (City of Folsom 2014).

This eastern area in Folsom is difficult to access due to the current lack of road connections. As a result, FFD is in the process of planning a fifth station, that will serve the east and north areas of the City of Folsom from its location on Empire Ranch Road at Ritchie Street (Station #39). Two additional new fire stations will eventually be located south of U.S. Route 50, to serve the new development in the area (City of Folsom 2014).

Development of the proposed Natural Trail would not result in increased population and residential structures, and a subsequent need for additional fire protection facilities. Three future fire stations are proposed within the vicinity of the SPTC Natural Trail.

It is therefore anticipated that existing and currently planned future fire protection facilities in the City of Folsom will be able to provide fire protections services for the proposed Natural Trail within the City, and maintain acceptable service ratios, response times and performance objectives.

Sacramento County

Sacramento County is served by 17 fire protection districts, including the Sacramento County Fire Protection District in the vicinity of the proposed Natural Trail.

Wildland fires are those fires that pose a threat to the more rural areas of the County. Grass fires and peat fires are the two main types of wildland fires of concern in Sacramento County. Grass fires are an annual threat in the unincorporated area of the County, especially recreational areas such as the American River Parkway (Sacramento County 2011). According to the Background Report prepared for the *City of Folsom 2035 General Plan Update*, the fire threat, as mapped by the California Department of Fire Protection and Forestry, within the Project Site ranges from "high" to "moderate" (City of Folsom 2014).

Section 3.6, **Natural Trail Guidelines** include the following specifications:

(5) Maintenance, vegetation control, and other fire prevention/control actions would periodically be undertaken within the SPTC.

Maintenance includes those activities necessary to preserve the value of the SPTC and the infrastructure. This includes those activities related to maintaining proper drainage. Maintaining assets directly related to private ventures will be required of and paid for by the applicable private enterprise. Other maintenance will be performed by the SPTC – JPA on a routine basis. In addition to routine preventative maintenance, this also includes consistent removal of trash, debris and other refuse.

Vegetation within the SPTC will be properly maintained to protect the integrity of rail and natural trail infrastructure, and to ensure that activities (or inactivity) on the corridor do not contribute to wildfires. With vegetation properly controlled, the corridor will serve as a "fire break" for fires that are in the immediate vicinity of the corridor.

According to **Section 3.6**, **Natural Trail Guidelines**, the SPTC – JPA would implement vegetation management and other fire control/prevention activities to ensure that activities (or inactivity) on the corridor do not contribute to wildfires.

Natural trail guidelines are established to minimize the risk from wildland fires. Therefore, impacts are considered ***Less Than Significant***.

b. Police protection?

Less Than Significant Impact. Police protection services within the vicinity of the proposed Natural Trail are provided by the Folsom Police Department and the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department.

City of Folsom

The Folsom Plan Area Specific Plan (FPASP) proposes an on-site police station south of U.S. Route 50. New development in the area must pay a Capital Improvement New Construction Fee, which is used exclusively for construction of new fire and police facilities as required by new development (City of Folsom 2014).

County of Sacramento

The Sacramento County Sheriff's Department provides police protection services to the unincorporated areas of the County (County of Sacramento 2014).

The SPTC Master Plan specifies standards relevant to maintaining and operating the Natural Trail as a safe facility.

(1) Trails will be open from dawn to dusk;

(2) Work with volunteers and public safety agencies to establish patrols for the purpose of educating natural trail users on proper shared trail etiquette, environmental stewardship, and safe trail use;

(3) Install bollards and gated fences at access points to keep motorized vehicles out; removable bollards and restricted-access gates will allow access for maintenance and emergency vehicles; and

(4) Several types of signage will be used to properly implement uses of the corridor. Signs would serve many purposes:

- Identify permitted uses, regulations, and penalties for unsafe and unlawful uses;
- Identify potential hazards or unsafe conditions;
- Identify proper etiquette for shared uses;
- Provide directions and information regarding historic landmarks and destinations; and
- Control opposing and cross traffic.

Police protection services and facilities are currently available through the City of Folsom and the County of Sacramento. In addition, the SPTC Master Plan includes standards relevant to operating the proposed Natural Trail as a safe public facility, including defining use hours, establishing signage to define acceptable trail use protocols, and coordinating with volunteers and public safety agencies to establish patrols for safe trail use. Current and future police protection services are located within the vicinity of the proposed Natural Trail, the SPTC Master Plan identifies standards relevant to safety and personal mobile communication devices are prevalent amongst area citizens. Impacts are therefore ***Less Than Significant***.

c. Schools?

No Impact. The Proposed Project would involve the construction of an unpaved trail alignment for public use within a three-mile segment of the SPTC in Sacramento County and the City of Folsom. The Project Site is located in Folsom Cordova Unified School District (FCUSD). The FCUSD is planning to construct one middle school and two K-6 schools in the Glenborough/Easton area in unincorporated Sacramento County (City of Folsom, 2014). The proposed Natural Trail will not involve residential development and would not result in increased population. Therefore, ***No Impact*** related to existing school facilities would result from project development.

d. Parks?

No Impact. Development of the Proposed Project would not involve residential development or employment-generating land uses and would therefore not result in increased population. Implementation of the proposed Natural Trail is expected to provide increased recreational use for pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrian users. Therefore, there would be ***No Impact*** related to existing park facilities would result from project development.

e. Other public facilities?

No Impact. The Proposed Project would not involve residential development and would not result in increased population; therefore, ***No Impact*** related to other public facilities such as hospitals or libraries would result from project development.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is warranted.

4.15 RECREATION

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Impact Analysis

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?

No Impact. Development of the proposed Natural Trail would result in the construction of a recreational facility for public access/use and would not increase the use of other recreational facilities or parks. Therefore, ***No Impact*** would result from development of the Proposed Project.

b. Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated. As discussed throughout this document, construction of the proposed Natural Trail would have the potential to result in adverse physical effects on the environment related to **Air Quality**, **Biological Resources**, **Cultural Resources**, **Geology and Soils**, and **Noise**. However, mitigation measures are proposed to reduce potentially significant effects resulting from implementation of the Proposed Project to less than significant levels; therefore, impacts are considered ***Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated***.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigating measures are proposed within this document relevant to **Air Quality**, **Biological Resources**, **Cultural Resources**, **Geology and Soils**, and **Noise**. Individual mitigation measures can be found within individual resource-related sections within this document.

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4.16 TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county 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 because of a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e. Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f. Conflict with adopted policies, plans or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Impact Analysis

a. Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?

No Impact. Development of the Proposed Project would result in the construction of a trail alignment for use by pedestrians, mountain bikers, and equestrian users. Proposed improvements represent proposed

facilities within a three-mile segment of the SPTC, a 53-mile segment of the Rail Corridor from Sacramento to Placerville, California. The proposed alignment is currently "informally" used and is well-established an existing informal pathway through grassland connecting people to existing informal trail segments within El Dorado County. The Proposed Project aligns with Goal 2 of the *Sacramento County, General Plan, Circulation Element* providing a designated trail for pedestrian, bike and equestrian transportation (County of Sacramento 2011). Development of the Proposed Project would not conflict with other components of the circulation system such as existing intersections, streets, highways, freeways or mass transit. Therefore, project development would not conflict with existing adopted plans, ordinances, or policies establishing performance standard for transportation-related improvements. ***No Impact*** would result from development of the proposed Natural Trail and no mitigation is required.

b. Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?

No Impact. Development of the Proposed Project would not result in changes in vehicle circulation patterns nor would it increase vehicle trips in the project vicinity. The Proposed Project would formalize a trail alignment in the City of Folsom and within Sacramento County and would not alter the design of any roadways. Therefore, ***No Impact*** would result from development of the proposed Natural Trail and no mitigation is required.

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?

No Impact. Development of the Proposed Project would not result in a change in air traffic patterns. Therefore ***No Impact*** would result from development of the proposed Natural Trail and no mitigation is required.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. Development of the proposed three-mile trail segment would require a single rail crossing. The rail crossing will eventually be developed as a road crossing when development of the Folsom South of 50 Specific Plan Area is completed. Adequate signage at the crossing will be posted as a safety measure for both trail users and railroad operators. Signage may include one or more of the following:

- Striping,
- Signage, and/or
- High-Intensity Activated Cross Walk (HAWK) signal.

A separation width of 10 feet from the center of the railroad track to the nearest edge of the trail has been identified as a target setback. Interpretive and wayfinding signage would be constructed as appropriate along key points of the alignment.

In addition, the trail alignment will be constructed as an unpaved trail surfaced uniformly graded and free of obstructions and generally range from 3 to 4 feet in width. The trail width is designed at 6 feet within broad flat areas and will be reduced to a minimum of 2 feet in some sections to prevent environmental impact. The trail width will allow for compatible trail use of mountain bikers, pedestrians, and equestrian riders. Impacts are therefore considered ***Less Than Significant*** and no mitigation is required.

e. Result in inadequate emergency access?

No Impact. Emergency access to the trail alignment via vehicular access is present within the proposed alignment and parallel to the alignment via the SPTC from milepost 116 to milepost 119. Project development would not involve temporary road or lane closures during construction or operation and no

emergency access routes would be affected by the project. Therefore ***No Impact*** would result from development of the proposed Natural Trail and no mitigation is required.

f. Conflict with adopted policies, plans or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?

No Impact. Development of the Proposed Project is consistent with the *Sacramento County, General Plan, and Circulation Element* (County of Sacramento 2011). Specifically, the Proposed Project is consistent with Goal 2 because it will encourage bicycling and walking for transportation, recreation, and exercise. Goal 2 of the *Circulation Element* is as follows:

> *Provide safe, continuous, efficient, integrated, and accessible bicycle and pedestrian systems that encourages the use of the bicycle and walking as a viable transportation mode and as a form of recreation and exercise.*

Therefore, the Proposed Project would not conflict with the City of Folsom's overall transportation service goal. Therefore ***No Impact*** would result from development of the Proposed Project and no mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is warranted.

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4.17 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 stormwater 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 would new or expanded entitlements be needed?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e. Result in a determination by the wastewater 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Impact Analysis

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

No Impact. Development of the Proposed Project would result in a trail alignment within Sacramento County and the City of Folsom. The Proposed Project would not include the construction of any wastewater-generating uses. ***No Impact*** would result from the development of the Proposed Project and no mitigation is required.

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?

No Impact. Development of the Proposed Project would not increase population in the project vicinity. Development of the Proposed Project would not result in the need for new or expanded wastewater facilities and would not have an adverse effect on wastewater treatment requirements. ***No Impact*** would result from development of the Proposed Project and no mitigation is required.

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

No Impact. The Proposed Project would integrate post-construction stormwater management principles into proposed design including the integration of berms and swales to minimize erosion and direct runoff. The construction of new stormwater facilities or the expansion of existing facilities would not be required. ***No Impact*** would result from development of the Proposed Project and no mitigation is required.

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

No Impact. Development of the Proposed Project would not result in the need for new or expanded water supplies. ***No Impact*** would result from development of the Proposed Project and no mitigation is required.

e. Result in a determination by the wastewater 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?

No Impact. The Proposed Project would not increase population in the project vicinity. Development of the Proposed Project would not result in the need for new or expanded wastewater facilities and would not have an adverse effect on wastewater treatment requirements. ***No Impact*** would result from development of the Proposed Project and no mitigation is required.

f. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Kiefer Landfill is the permitted landfill facility in Sacramento County handling recycling and waste disposal for the county and surrounding areas. Project construction may generate construction debris and excavated soil. This would not affect landfill capacity because the amounts would not be substantial and would occur only during the construction period. Therefore, impacts associated with development of the Proposed Project are considered ***Less Than Significant*** and no mitigation is required.

g. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Sacramento Regional Solid Waste Authority (SRSWA) is the regional agency handling recycling and waste disposal for the Sacramento region. The Environmental Management Department (EMD) is the Local Enforcing Agency for Sacramento County, enforcing State and local solid waste laws. Minimal solid waste will be generated from the project during the construction period and will be disposed of at an appropriately permitted and established solid waste facility. All construction debris and excavated soil will be disposed of according to relevant federal, State, and local statutes. Therefore, project development would comply with federal, State and local statues and regulations related to solid waste and impacts are therefore considered ***Less Than Significant*** and no mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is warranted.

4.18 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☒	☐	☐
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.)	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Impact Analysis

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?

Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated. Implementation of the Proposed Project would have the potential to degrade the quality of the existing environment. Potential impacts have been identified related to **Air Quality**, **Biological Resources**, **Cultural Resources**, **Geology and Soils**, and **Noise**. Mitigation measures have been identified related to individual potential resource-specific impacts. Proposed mitigation measures would reduce the level of all project-related impacts to less than significant levels. Therefore, impacts are considered ***Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated***.

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.)

Less Than Significant Impact. Implementation of the proposed Natural Trail would facilitate the development of recreational facilities proposed by and pursuant to the standards established by the SPTC Master Plan. Where applicable, this Initial Study identifies Mitigation Measures by individual resource area as relevant to potential environmental impacts resulting from development of the Natural Trail. Mitigation measures are proposed to reduce all project-related environmental impacts to less than significant levels; therefore, impacts are considered ***Less Than Significant***.

c. Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

Less Than Significant Impact. Implementation of **Mitigation Measures AQ – 1** would reduce potential impacts related to Air Quality to less than significant levels. Implementation of Mitigation **Measures BIO – 1 through BIO – 12** would reduce impacts related to Biological Resources to less than significant levels. Implementation of **Mitigation Measures CR – 1 through CR – 6** would reduce potential impacts related to Cultural and Paleontological Resources to less than significant levels. Implementation of **Mitigation Measures GEO – 1 and GEO – 2** would reduce potential impacts related to Geology and Soils to less than significant levels. Implementation of Mitigation **Measure Noise – 1** would reduce potential impacts related to Noise to less than significant levels. Therefore, impacts resulting in substantial adverse environmental effects to human beings from implementation of the Proposed Project are considered ***Less Than Significant***.

5.0 CEQA DETERMINATION

Pursuant to Section 15063, CEQA Guidelines, SPTC – JPA has utilized an Environmental Checklist to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the Proposed Project. The checklist provides a determination of these potential impacts and includes the substantiation developed in support of the conclusions checked on this form.

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 the mitigation measures described on the attached sheets have been added to the project (see previous pages). 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 significant effect 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 upon the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets, if the effect is a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated." 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, there will NOT be a significant effect in this case 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

8/27/15
Date

JOHN C. SEGERDELL
Printed Name:
John C. Segerdell
Chief Executive Officer SPTC – JPA

For:
Sacramento – Placerville Transportation
Corridor Joint Powers Authority

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6.0 REPORT PREPARATION

6.1 LEAD AGENCY

6.1.1 Sacramento – Placerville Transportation Corridor - Joint Powers Authority

John C. Segerdell, Chief Executive Officer, Joint Powers Authority

6.2 CONSULTANT STAFF

6.2.1 Foothill Associates

Kyrsten Shields, Project Manager, Senior Regulatory Specialist
Kari Zajac, Environmental Planner
Candice Guider, Regulatory Specialist
Michael Brewer, GIS Specialist
Ann Marie Perozzi, Graphics Design & Mapping

6.2.2 Ric Windmiller Consulting

Ric Windmiller, Registered Professional Archaeologist

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7.0 REFERENCES

7.1 LITERATURE REFERENCES

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7.2 PERSONAL COMMUNICATION

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Appendix A — Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Sacramento – Placerville Transportation Corridor Joint Powers Authority
Natural Trail Project Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Measure (MM)	Implementing Responsibility	Monitoring Responsibility	Timing*	Verification of Compliance (Initials/Date)
Air Quality				
AQ — 1: Prior to commencement of ground-disturbing activities, the SPTC – JPA will implement on-site inspections by a qualified geotechnical specialist to determine if naturally occurring asbestos is present within the proposed construction footprint required for development of the Proposed Project. If naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) is present, SPTC – JPA will assume responsibility for and/or require contractors to implement all feasible mitigating measures identified to reduce the health risks related to potential exposure to NOA.	SPTC – JPA	City and/or County, and SMAQMD	Prior to Construction	
Biological Resources				
BIO — 1: To ensure that fully protected species are not injured or disturbed by construction in the vicinity of nesting habitat, the applicant shall implement the following measures: If construction is proposed during the raptor breeding season (March 1 through September 1), a pre-construction raptor nest survey shall be conducted within 30 days prior to the beginning of construction activities by a qualified biologist. The results of the survey should be submitted to California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). If no active nests are found, no further mitigation is required. If active nests are found, a quarter-mile (1320 feet) initial temporary nest disturbance buffer area shall be established. If project related activities within the temporary nest disturbance buffer are determined to be necessary during the nesting season (March 1 through September 1), then an on-site biologist/monitor experienced with raptor behavior shall be retained by the project proponent, consult with CDFW to determine the best course of action necessary to avoid nest	SPTC – JPA and Contractor	SPTC – JPA and CDFW if Applicable	30 days Prior to Construction (during breeding season) and During Construction (if applicable)	

Mitigation Measure (MM)	Implementing Responsibility	Monitoring Responsibility	Timing*	Verification of Compliance (Initials/Date)
abandonment or take of individuals. Work may be allowed to proceed within the temporary nest disturbance buffer if raptors are not exhibiting agitated behavior as determined by the on-site biologist/monitor.				
BIO — 2: A qualified biologist shall conduct a minimum of two protocol level preconstruction surveys during the recommended survey periods immediately prior to the anticipated commencement of construction activities, in accordance with the Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson's Hawk Nesting Surveys in California's Central Valley (Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory Committee 2000). The qualified biologist shall conduct surveys for nesting Swainson's hawk in the project alignment and within 0.25 miles of construction activities where legally permitted. If no active Swainson's hawk nests are identified on or within 0.25 miles of construction activities within the recommended survey periods, a letter report summarizing the survey results will be submitted to the applicant and the CDFW within 30 days following the final survey, and no further mitigation for nesting habitat is recommended. If active Swainson's hawk nests are found within 0.25 miles of the project alignment, the biologist will contact the applicant and the CDFW within one day following the pre-construction survey to report the findings. Construction activities include heavy equipment operation associated with construction or other project-related activities that could cause nest abandonment or forced fledging within 0.25 miles of an active nest site. Should an active nest be present within 0.25 miles of construction areas, then the CDFW will be consulted to establish an appropriate noise buffer, develop take avoidance measures, and implement a monitoring and reporting program prior to any construction activities occurring within 0.25 miles of the nest. The monitoring program will include an onsite biologist to monitor all grading activities and work associated with crossing	SPTC – JPA	SPTC – JPA and CDFW if Applicable	Prior to Construction and During Construction (if applicable)	

Mitigation Measure (MM)	Implementing Responsibility	Monitoring Responsibility	Timing*	Verification of Compliance (Initials/Date)
installation that occur within the established buffer zone to ensure that disruption of the nest or forced fledging does not occur.				
BIO — 3: Migratory birds protected under 50 CFR 10 of the MBTA and/or Section 3503 of the California Fish and Game Code, including grasshopper sparrow and white-trailed kite have the potential to nest within the trees within the riparian woodland and within the annual grassland. Foraging habitat is not protected for these species as well as for tricolored blackbird. Vegetation clearing operations, including pruning or removal of trees and shrubs for trail clearing, should be completed between September 1 to February 14, if feasible. If vegetation removal begins during the nesting season (February 15 to August 31), a qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction survey for active nests within 500 feet of the project alignment. The pre-construction survey will be conducted within 14 days prior to commencement of any vegetation removal. If the pre-construction surveys show that there is no evidence of active nests, then no additional measures are recommended. If construction does not commence within 14 days of the preconstruction survey, or halts for more than 14 days, an additional pre-construction survey would be recommended. If any active nests are located within the vicinity of the project site, an appropriate buffer zone will be established around the nests. The biologist will delimit an appropriate buffer zone with construction tape or pin flags and maintain the buffer zone until the end of the breeding season or the young have successfully fledged. Buffer zones are typically 100 feet for migratory bird nests. If active nests are found on site, a qualified biologist will monitor nests weekly during construction to evaluate potential nesting disturbance by construction activities. Guidance from the CDFW would be recommended if establishing the typical	SPTC – JPA	SPTC – JPA and CDFW if Applicable	14 Days Prior to Construction (before vegetation clearing between September 1 to February 14) and/or Survey During Nesting Season February 15 to August 31) and During Construction (if applicable)	

Mitigation Measure (MM)	Implementing Responsibility	Monitoring Responsibility	Timing*	Verification of Compliance (Initials/Date)
buffer zone is impractical.				
BIO — 4: The non-native annual grassland within the Project Site provides habitat for potentially occurring non-listed special-status plants including: Brandegee's clarkia (blooms May through July), Ahart's dwarf rush (blooms March through May), dwarf downingia (blooms March through May), Jepson's woolly sunflower (blooms April though June), and Tuolumne button-celery (blooms June though August). A qualified botanist shall conduct two botanical surveys of the Project Site some time between March and May and again in June, within the blooming period for potentially occurring special status plants. A letter report shall be submitted to the applicant within 30 days following the bloom survey to document the results. If no special-status plants are observed, then no additional measures are recommended. If any of the non-listed special-status plants occur within the project site, they shall be avoided to the extent feasible. If the plants cannot be avoided, a mitigation plan shall be prepared in consultation with the CDFW. At minimum, the mitigation plan will include locations where the plants will be transplanted in suitable habitat adjacent to the project site, success criteria, and monitoring activities. The CDFW must approve the mitigation plan prior to transplantation and commencement of construction activities.	SPTC – JPA	SPTC – JPA and CDFW if Applicable	Prior to Construction (during appropriate blooming periods)	
BIO — 5: A qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey for California red-legged frog (CRF) within 14 days prior to the start of construction inputting trail crossings or work associated with riparian areas. If construction does not commence within 14 days of the pre-construction survey or halts for more than 14 days, a new survey will be required. If no CRF are found, no additional measures are required. If CRF are found, consultation with USFWS would be required. Construction will	SPTC – JPA	SPTC – JPA and USFWS if Applicable	14 days Prior to Construction	

Mitigation Measure (MM)	Implementing Responsibility	Monitoring Responsibility	Timing*	Verification of Compliance (Initials/Date)
be delayed until the USFWS authorizes the work.				
BIO — 6: Within 14 days prior to the start of ground disturbance, a qualified biologist shall conduct a pre construction survey for Western pond turtles. Ground disturbance includes any grading any work associated with constructing trail crossings. If construction does not commence within 14 days of the pre-construction survey or halts for more than 14 days, a new survey will be required. If no Western pond turtles are found, no additional measures are required. If Western pond turtles are found, consultation with the CDFW is recommended to determine avoidance measures. These measures may include having a qualified biologist onsite during construction activities and work associated crossing installation for the purpose of relocating any species found within the construction footprint to suitable habitat away from the construction zone, but within the vicinity of the project site.	SPTC – JPA	SPTC – JPA and CDFW (if applicable)	14 days Prior to Construction	
BIO — 7: A qualified biologist shall conduct burrowing owl surveys during the peak breeding season (April 15 and July 15), in accordance with the 2012 California Department of Fish and Game Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (2012 Staff Report) (CDFG 2012). The survey area includes an approximately 500-foot (150-meter) buffer around the project alignment, where access is permitted. The report will be submitted to the CDFW, as indicated in the 2012 Staff Report. If the surveys are negative, then no additional measures are recommended. If active burrows are observed within 500 feet of the project alignment, an impact assessment will be prepared and submitted to the CDFW, in accordance with the 2012 Staff Report. If it is determined that project activities may result in impacts to nesting, occupied, and satellite burrows and/or burrowing owl habitat, the applicant will consult with the CDFW and develop a detailed Avoidance and Minimization Plan to	SPTC – JPA	SPTC – JPA and CDFW	Prior to Construction (during breeding season April 15 to July 15) and During Construction (if applicable)	

Mitigation Measure (MM)	Implementing Responsibility	Monitoring Responsibility	Timing*	Verification of Compliance (Initials/Date)
mitigate such that the habitat acreage, number of burrows, and burrowing owls impacted are replaced. The mitigation plan will be based on the requirements set forth in Appendix A of the 2012 Staff Report.				
BIO — 8: A qualified biologist shall conduct pre-construction surveys for special-status bat species within 14 days prior to the start of ground disturbance and tree or shrub removal for trail widening. If no bats are observed, then no additional measures are recommended. If construction does not commence within 14 days of the pre-construction survey or halts for more than 14 days a new survey will be required. If bats are found, consultation with the CDFW is recommended to determine avoidance measures. Recommended avoidance measures include establishing a buffer around the roost tree until it is no longer occupied. If the bat is roosting in a tree anticipated for removal, then that tree will not be removed until a biologist has determined that the tree is no longer occupied by the bat.	SPTC – JPA	SPTC – JPA and CDFW (if applicable)	14 days Prior to Construction	
BIO — 9: A qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction survey for the western spadefoot toad within 14 days prior to the start of construction. If construction does not commence within 14 days of the pre-construction survey or halts for more than 14 days, a new survey will be required. If no toads are found, no additional measures are required. If toads are found, consultation with CDFW would be required. Construction will be delayed until the CDFW authorizes the work.	SPTC – JPA	SPTC – JPA and CDFW (if applicable)	14 Days Prior to construction	
BIO — 10: A qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey for the American badger within 14 days prior to the start of construction. If construction does not commence within 14 days of the pre-construction survey or halts for more than 14 days, a new survey will be required. If no badgers are found, no additional measures are required. If badgers are found, consultation with CDFW would be required. Construction will	SPTC – JPA	SPTC – JPA and CDFW (if applicable)	14 Days Prior to Construction	

Mitigation Measure (MM)	Implementing Responsibility	Monitoring Responsibility	Timing*	Verification of Compliance (Initials/Date)
be delayed until the CDFW authorizes the work. If no badgers are found, no additional measures are required. If badgers are found, consultation with CDFW would be required. Construction will be delayed until the CDFW authorizes the work.				
BIO — 11: Placement of permanent or temporary fill in waters of the U.S. is regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) under Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act. The SPTC – JPA shall coordinate with the Corps in order to obtain the applicable permits for activities resulting in temporary and/or permanent impacts to waters of the U.S. The project shall comply with the Corps "no-net-loss" policy and the conditions of a Nationwide or Individual Permit authorization by the Corps. Any discharge into waters of the U.S. is also subject to regulation by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) pursuant to Clean Water Act Section 401. The SPTC – JPA shall also coordinate with the RWQCB in order to obtain a Water Quality Certification.	SPTC – JPA	SPTC – JPA and Corps	Prior to Construction	
BIO — 12: Pursuant to Fish and Game Code §1602, the SPTC – JPA shall notify the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) prior to any activity which may result in impacts to the streamzone. The SPTC – JPA will coordinate with CDFW in order to obtain a 1600 Streambed Alteration Agreement, if applicable, for impacts to the bed, bank or channel of onsite drainages and/or any riparian areas.	SPTC – JPA	SPTC – JPA and CDFW	Prior to Construction	

Mitigation Measure (MM)	Implementing Responsibility	Monitoring Responsibility	Timing*	Verification of Compliance (Initials/Date)
Cultural Resources				
CR — 1: The proposed trail and trail construction shall avoid the archaeologically sensitive areas at Locus A (White Rock Station Site) of the Sacramento and Placerville Railroad (P-34-00455/P-9-4794).	SPTC – JPA / Contractor	SPTC – JPA	During Construction	
CR — 2: Construction of the proposed trail crossing of White Rock Road shall avoid any excavation that would disturb, damage, or destroy the concrete pavement of the old Lincoln Highway that may underlie the existing asphalt.	SPTC – JPA and Contractor	SPTC – JPA	During Construction	
CR — 3: An archaeologist who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards shall monitor trail construction at the railroad's Locus A and any trail construction-related excavation into White Rock Road. The qualified archaeologist shall have the authority to stop work if necessary to protect the integrity of the site.	SPTC – JPA	SPTC – JPA	During Construction	
CR — 4: Should buried archaeological deposits or artifacts be inadvertently exposed during the course of any construction activity, work shall cease in the immediate area and the Sacramento County Department of Environmental Review shall be immediately contacted for inadvertent discovery of resources associated with trail construction between mileposts 117.9 and 119.4 and that the City of Folsom Planning Division be immediately contacted for inadvertent discovery of resources associated with trail construction between mileposts 116 and 117.9. A qualified archaeologist will be retained to document the find, assess its significance, and recommend further treatment. Work on the Project Site shall not resume until the archaeologist has had a reasonable time to conduct an examination and implement mitigation measures deemed appropriate and necessary by the agency with local jurisdiction in consultation with the qualified archaeologist to reduce	SPTC – JPA and Contractor	SPTC – JPA and City and/or County	During Construction	

Mitigation Measure (MM)		Implementing Responsibility	Monitoring Responsibility	Timing*	Verification of Compliance (Initials/Date)
	impacts to a less than significant level.				
CR — 5:	If evidence of a paleontological site is uncovered during grading or other construction activities, work shall be halted within 100 feet of the find and the Sacramento County Department of Environmental Review shall be contacted for inadvertent discovery of resources associated with trail construction between mileposts 117.9 and 119.4 and that the City of Folsom Planning Division be contacted for inadvertent discovery of resources associated with trail construction between mileposts 116 and 117.9. A qualified paleontologist shall be retained to conduct an on-site evaluation and provide recommendations for removal and/or preservation. Work on the Project Site shall not resume until the paleontologist has had a reasonable time to conduct an examination and implement mitigation measures deemed appropriate and necessary by the agency with local jurisdiction in consultation with the qualified paleontologist to reduce impacts to a less than significant level.	SPTC – JPA and Contractor	SPTC – JPA and City and/or County	During Construction	
CR — 6:	In the event that any human remains or any associated funerary objects are encountered during construction, all work will cease within the vicinity of the discovery and the Sacramento County Department of Environmental Review shall be immediately contacted for inadvertent discovery of resources associated with trail construction between mileposts 117.9 and 119.4 and that the City of Folsom Planning Division be immediately contacted for inadvertent discovery of resources associated with trail construction between mileposts 116 and 117.9. In accordance with CEQA (Section 1064.5) and the California Health and Safety Code (Section 7050.5), the Sacramento County coroner should be contacted immediately. If the human remains are determined to be Native American, the coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission, who will notify and appoint a Most Likely Descendent (MLD). The MLD will work with a qualified	SPTC – JPA and Contractor	SPTC – JPA and City and/or County	During Construction	

Mitigation Measure (MM)	Implementing Responsibility	Monitoring Responsibility	Timing*	Verification of Compliance (Initials/Date)
archaeologist to decide the proper treatment of the human remains and any associated funerary objects. Construction activities in the immediate vicinity will not resume until a notice-to-proceed is issued.				
Geology and Soils				
GEO – 1: The SPTC – JPA shall apply for and comply with all construction-related storm water permitting, monitoring and reporting requirements defined by the RWQCB under NPDES, as applicable to project development at the time of construction of proposed improvements/facilities.	SPTC – JPA	SPTC – JPA and RWQCB	Prior to construction	
GEO – 2: Annually, prior to October 15 (the onset of the rainy season), the SPTC – JPA shall inspect and repair cut slopes and off-trail use areas within the corridor. Repairs should be targeted at eliminating any areas subject to erosion, as well as improper drainage and areas likely to form gullies during the rainy season	SPTC – JPA	SPTC – JPA	Annually After Construction (prior to October 15)	
Noise				
Noise — 1: Construction activities occurring within the jurisdiction of the City of Folsom shall be limited to: Monday through Friday 7:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. and 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on Saturday and Sunday. Construction activities within the jurisdiction of Sacramento County shall be limited to: 6:00 A. M. and 8:00 P.M. Monday through Friday and between 7:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. on Saturday and Sunday. Any exceptions to these hours shall be evaluated on a case by case basis and require approval by the appropriate jurisdictional authority.	SPTC – JPA and Contractor	City and/or County	During Construction	

Appendix B — Road Construction Emissions Model, Version 7.1.5.1

Road Construction Emissions Model, Version 7.1.5.1

Emission Estimates for -> SPTC - JPA Natural Trail Project Phases (English Units)	ROG (lbs/day)	CO (lbs/day)	NOx (lbs/day)	Total PM10 (lbs/day)	Exhaust PM10 (lbs/day)	Fugitive Dust PM10 (lbs/day)	Total PM2.5 (lbs/day)	Exhaust PM2.5 (lbs/day)	Fugitive Dust PM2.5 (lbs/day)	CO2 (lbs/day)
Grubbing/Land Clearing	0.5	3.3	3.5	10.3	0.3	10.0	2.3	0.2	2.1	731.0
Grading/Excavation	1.4	10.0	14.2	10.7	0.7	10.0	2.7	0.6	2.1	2,271.4
Drainage/Utilities/Sub-Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paving	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maximum (pounds/day)	1.4	10.0	14.2	10.7	0.7	10.0	2.7	0.6	2.1	2,271.4
Total (tons/construction project)	0.2	1.3	1.8	1.5	0.1	1.5	0.4	0.1	0.3	289.1

Notes:	
Project Start Year ->	2016
Project Length (months) ->	24
Total Project Area (acres) ->	4
Maximum Area Disturbed/Day (acres) ->	1
Total Soil Imported/Exported (yd^3/day)->	24

PM10 and PM2.5 estimates assume 50% control of fugitive dust from watering and associated dust control measures if a minimum number of water trucks are specified.

Total PM10 emissions shown in column F are the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns H and I. Total PM2.5 emissions shown in Column J are the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns K and L.

Emission Estimates for -> SPTC - JPA Natural Trail Project Phases (Metric Units)	ROG (kgs/day)	CO (kgs/day)	NOx (kgs/day)	Total PM10 (kgs/day)	Exhaust PM10 (kgs/day)	Fugitive Dust PM10 (kgs/day)	Total PM2.5 (kgs/day)	Exhaust PM2.5 (kgs/day)	Fugitive Dust PM2.5 (kgs/day)	CO2 (kgs/day)
Grubbing/Land Clearing	0.2	1.5	1.6	4.7	0.1	4.5	1.1	0.1	0.9	332.3
Grading/Excavation	0.7	4.5	6.5	4.9	0.3	4.5	1.2	0.3	0.9	1,032.5
Drainage/Utilities/Sub-Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paving	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maximum (kilograms/day)	0.7	4.5	6.5	4.9	0.3	4.5	1.2	0.3	0.9	1,032.5
Total (megagrams/construction project)	0.2	1.2	1.6	1.4	0.1	1.3	0.3	0.1	0.3	262.3

Notes:	
Project Start Year ->	2016
Project Length (months) ->	24
Total Project Area (hectares) ->	2
Maximum Area Disturbed/Day (hectares) ->	0
Total Soil Imported/Exported ($meters^3$/day)->	18

PM10 and PM2.5 estimates assume 50% control of fugitive dust from watering and associated dust control measures if a minimum number of water trucks are specified.

Total PM10 emissions shown in column F are the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns H and I. Total PM2.5 emissions shown in Column J are the sume of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns K and L.

Appendix C — *Biological Resources Assessment* [for the] *±124-Acre SPTC – JPA Nature Trail Project, City of Folsom, Sacramento County and El Dorado County, California*

Biological Resources Assessment

±124-Acre SPTC-JPA Nature Trail Project
City of Folsom, Sacramento County and El Dorado County, California

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Prepared for: Sacramento-Placerville Transportation Corridor Joint Power Authority

Date: March 6, 2015

Submitted by:

FOOTHILL ASSOCIATES

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Foothill Associates' biologists prepared this Biological Resources Assessment (BRA) for the ± 124-acre Sacramento-Placerville Transportation Corridor (SPTC)-Joint Power Authority (JPA) Nature Trail (Study Area), located in the City of Folsom, Sacramento County and in El Dorado County, California. The purpose of this BRA is to summarize the general biological resources within the Study Area, to assess the suitability of the Study Area to support special-status species and sensitive habitat types, to provide recommendations for regulatory permitting or further analysis that may be required, and to recommend mitigation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts to special-status species and sensitive habitat types.

Biological constraints within the Study Area include known or potential habitat for:

- Special-status plants including Ahart's dwarf rush (*Juncus leiospermus* var. *ahartii*), Brandegee's clarkia (*Clarkia biloba* ssp. *biloba*), dwarf downingia (*Downingia pusilla*), Jepson's woolly sunflower (*Eriophyllum jepsonii*), and Tuolumne button-celery (*Eryngium pinnatisectum*);
- Valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*);
- California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*);
- Western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*);
- Western spadefoot toad (*Spea hammondii*);
- Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*);
- Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*);
- Migratory birds and raptors including golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*); white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), and grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*);
- American badger (*Taxidea taxus*);
- Special-status bat species; and
- Sensitive habitats (potentially jurisdictional waters of the U.S., oak woodland, and native oak trees.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

This BRA summarizes the general biological resources within the Study Area, assesses the suitability of the Study Area to support special-status species and sensitive habitat types, provides recommendations for regulatory permitting or further analysis that may be required, and recommends mitigation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts to special-status species and sensitive habitat types.

3.0 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Federal, State, and local environmental laws, regulations, and policies relevant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process are summarized below. The CEQA significance criteria are also included in this section.

3.1 Federal Jurisdiction

3.1.1 Federal Endangered Species Act

The U.S. Congress passed the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) in 1973 to protect those species that are endangered or threatened with extinction. FESA is intended to operate in conjunction with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to help protect the ecosystems upon which endangered and threatened species depend.

FESA prohibits the "take" of endangered or threatened wildlife species. "Take" is defined to include harassing, harming, pursuing, hunting, shooting, wounding, killing, trapping, capturing, or collecting wildlife species or any attempt to engage in such conduct (FESA Section 3 [(3)(19)]). Harm is further defined to include significant habitat modification or degradation that results in death or injury to listed species by significantly impairing behavioral patterns (50 CFR §17.3). Harass is defined as actions that create the likelihood of injury to listed species to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavior patterns (50 CFR §17.3). Actions that result in take can result in civil or criminal penalties.

FESA and Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 guidelines prohibit the issuance of wetland permits for projects that jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered species or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of habitat of such species. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) must consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) when threatened or endangered species under their jurisdiction may be affected by a proposed project. In the context of the proposed project, FESA would be initiated if development resulted in take of a threatened or endangered species or if issuance of a Section 404 permit or other federal agency action could result in take of an endangered species or adversely modify critical habitat of such a species.

3.1.2 Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Raptors (birds of prey), migratory birds, and other avian species are protected by a number of State and federal laws. The federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) prohibits the killing, possessing, or trading of migratory birds except in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Interior.

3.1.3 The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (Eagle Act) prohibits the taking or possession of and commerce in bald and golden eagles with limited exceptions. Under the Eagle Act, it is a violation to "take, possess, sell, purchase, barter, offer to sell, transport, export or import, at any time or in any manner, any bald eagle commonly known as the American eagle, or golden eagle, alive or dead, or any part, nest, or egg, thereof." Take is defined to include pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, destroy, molest, and disturb. Disturb is further defined in 50 CFR Part 22.3 as "to agitate or bother a bald or golden eagle to a degree that causes, or is likely to cause, based on the best scientific information available (1) injury to an eagle, (2) a decrease in its productivity, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior, or (3) nest abandonment, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior."

3.2 State Jurisdiction

3.2.1 California Endangered Species Act

The State of California enacted the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) in 1984. CESA is similar to the FESA but pertains to State-listed endangered and threatened species. CESA requires state agencies to consult with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), formally California Department of Fish and Game, when preparing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documents. The purpose is to ensure that the state lead agency actions do not jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species or result in the destruction, or adverse modification of habitat essential to the continued existence of those species, if there are reasonable and prudent alternatives available (Fish and Game Code §2080). CESA directs agencies to consult with CDFW on projects or actions that could affect listed species, directs CDFW to determine whether jeopardy would occur and allows CDFW to identify "reasonable and prudent alternatives" to the project consistent with conserving the species. CESA allows CDFW to authorize exceptions to the State's prohibition against take of a listed species if the "take" of a listed species is incidental to carrying out an otherwise lawful project that has been approved under CEQA (Fish & Game Code § 2081).

3.2.2 California Department of Fish and Game Codes

Fully protected fish species are protected under Section 5515; fully protected amphibian and reptile species are protected under Section 5050; fully protected bird species are protected under Section 3511; and fully protected mammal species are protected under Section 4700. The California Fish and Game Code defines take as "hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill." Except for take related to scientific research, all take of fully protected species is prohibited.

Section 3503 of the California Fish and Game Code prohibits the killing of birds or the destruction of bird nests. Section 3503.5 prohibits the killing of raptor species and the

destruction of raptor nests. Sections 2062 and 2067 define endangered and threatened species.

3.2.3 California Department of Fish and Wildlife Species of Concern

In addition to formal listing under FESA and CESA, species receive additional consideration by CDFW and local lead agencies during the CEQA process. Species that may be considered for review are included on a list of "Species of Special Concern," developed by the CDFW. It tracks species in California whose numbers, reproductive success, or habitat may be threatened.

3.3 Jurisdictional Waters

3.3.1 Federal Jurisdiction

The Corps regulates discharge of dredge or fill material into waters of the U.S. under Section 404 of the CWA. "Discharges of fill material" is defined as the addition of fill material into waters of the U.S., including, but not limited to the following: placement of fill that is necessary for the construction of any structure, or impoundment requiring rock, sand, dirt, or other material for its construction; site-development fills for recreational, industrial, commercial, residential, and other uses; causeways or road fills; fill for intake and outfall pipes and subaqueous utility lines [33 C.F.R. §328.2(f)]. In addition, Section 401 of the CWA (33 U.S.C. 1341) requires any applicant for a Federal license or permit to conduct any activity that may result in a discharge of a pollutant into waters of the U.S. to obtain a certification that the discharge will comply with the applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards.

Waters of the U.S. include a range of wet environments such as lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, and wet meadows. Boundaries between jurisdictional waters and uplands are determined in a variety of ways depending on which type of waters is present. Methods for delineating wetlands and non-tidal waters are described below.

- Wetlands are defined as "those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater 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" [33 C.F.R. §328.3(b)]. Presently, to be a wetland, a site must exhibit three wetland criteria: hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology existing under the "normal circumstances" for the site.

- The lateral extent of non-tidal waters is determined by delineating the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) [33 C.F.R. §328.4(c)(1)]. The OHWM is defined by the Corps as "that line on shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical character of the soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter and debris, or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas" [33 C.F.R. §328.3(e)].

3.3.2 State Jurisdiction

CDFW is a trustee agency that has jurisdiction under Section 1600 *et seq*. of the California Fish and Game Code. Under Sections 1602 and 1603, a private party must notify CDFW if a proposed project will "substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow or substantially change the bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake designated by the department, or use any material from the streambeds…except when the department has been notified pursuant to Section 1601." Additionally, CDFW may assert jurisdiction over native riparian habitat adjacent to aquatic features, including native trees over 4 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH). If an existing fish or wildlife resource may be substantially adversely affected by the activity, CDFW may propose reasonable measures that will allow protection of those resources. If these measures are agreeable to the parties involved, they may enter into an agreement with CDFW identifying the approved activities and associated mitigation measures.

Section 13260(a) of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (contained in the California Water Code) requires any person discharging waste or proposing to discharge waste, other than to a community sewer system, within any region that could affect the quality of the waters of the State (all surface and subsurface waters) to file a report of waste discharge. The discharge of dredged or fill material may constitute a discharge of waste that could affect the quality of waters of the State. All of the wetlands and waterways in the Study Area are waters of the State, which are protected under this act.

Historically, California relied on its authority under Section 401 of the CWA to regulate discharges of dredged or fill material to California waters. That section requires an applicant to obtain "water quality certification" from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) through its Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB) to ensure compliance with state water quality standards before certain federal licenses or permits may be issued. The permits subject to Section 401 include permits for the discharge of dredged or fill materials (CWA Section 404 permits) issued by the USACE. Waste discharge requirements under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act were typically waived for projects that required certification. With the recent changes that limited the jurisdiction of wetlands under the CWA, the SWRCB has needed to rely on the report of waste discharge process.

3.4 CEQA Significance Criteria

Section 15064.7 of the CEQA Guidelines encourages local agencies to develop and publish the thresholds that the agency uses in determining the significance of environmental effects caused by projects under its review. However, agencies may also rely upon the guidance provided by the expanded Initial Study checklist contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. Appendix G provides examples of impacts that would normally be considered significant. Based on these examples, impacts to biological resources would normally be considered significant 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 federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the CWA (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; and

- Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP), or other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan.

An evaluation of whether or not an impact on biological resources would be substantial must consider both the resource itself and how that resource fits into a regional or local context. Substantial impacts would be those that would diminish, or result in the loss of, an important biological resource, or those that would obviously conflict with local, State, or federal resource conservation plans, goals, or regulations. Impacts are sometimes locally important but not significant according to CEQA. The reason for this is that although the impacts would result in an adverse alteration of existing conditions, they would not substantially diminish, or result in the permanent loss of, an important resource on a population-wide or region-wide basis.

3.4.1 California Native Plant Society

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) maintains a rank of plant species native to California that has low population numbers, limited distribution, or are otherwise threatened with extinction. This information is published in the Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California. Potential impacts to populations of CNPS-ranked plants receive consideration under CEQA review. The following identifies the definitions of the CNPS ranks:

- Rank 1A: Plants presumed Extinct in California
- Rank 1B: Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and elsewhere
- Rank 2: Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, but more numerous elsewhere
- Rank 3: Plants about which we need more information – A Review List
- Rank 4: Plants of limited distribution – A Watch List

All plants appearing on CNPS List 1 or 2 are considered to meet CEQA Guidelines Section 15380 criteria. While only some of the plants ranked 3 and 4 meet the definitions of threatened or endangered species, the CNPS recommends that all Rank 3 and Rank 4 plants be evaluated for consideration under CEQA.

3.5 El Dorado County General Plan

In addition to federal and State regulations, *The El Dorado County General Plan* (General Plan) includes goals, objectives, and policies regarding biological resources. Sections relevant to this project are summarized below.

CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF WATER RESOURCES

GOAL 7.3: WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY
Conserve, enhance, and manage water resources and protect their quality from degradation.

OBJECTIVE 7.3.1: WATER RESOURCE PROTECTION
Preserve and protect the supply and quality of the County's water resources including the protection of critical watersheds, riparian zones, and aquifers.

Policy 7.3.1.1 *Encourage the use of Best Management Practices, as identified by the Soil Conservation Service, in watershed lands as a means to prevent erosion, siltation, and flooding.*

Policy 7.3.1.2 *Establish water conservation programs that include both drought tolerant landscaping and efficient building design requirements as well as incentives for the conservation and wise use of water.*

Policy 7.3.1.3 *The County shall develop the criteria and draft an ordinance to allow and encourage the use of domestic gray water for landscape irrigation purposes. (See Title 22 of the State Water Code and the Graywater Regulations of the Uniform Plumbing Code).*

OBJECTIVE 7.3.2: WATER QUALITY
Maintenance of and, where possible, improvement of the quality of underground and surface water.

Policy 7.3.2.1 *Stream and lake embankments shall be protected from erosion, and streams and lakes shall be protected from excessive turbidity.*

Policy 7.3.2.2 *Projects requiring a grading permit shall have an erosion control program approved, where necessary.*

Policy 7.3.2.3 *Where practical and when warranted by the size of the project, parking lot storm drainage shall include facilities to separate oils and salts from storm water in accordance with the recommendations of the Storm Water*

Quality Task Force's California Storm Water Best Management Practices Handbooks (1993).

Policy 7.3.2.4 *The County should evaluate feasible alternatives to the use of salt for ice control on County roads.*

Policy 7.3.2.5 *As a means to improve the water quality affecting the County's recreational waters, enhanced and increased detailed analytical water quality studies and monitoring should be implemented to identify and reduce point and non-point pollutants and contaminants. Where such studies or monitoring reports have identified sources of pollution, the County shall propose means to prevent, control, or treat identified pollutants and contaminants.*

OBJECTIVE 7.3.3: WETLANDS

Protection of natural and man-made wetlands, vernal pools, wet meadows, and riparian areas from impacts related to development for their importance to wildlife habitat, water purification, scenic values, and unique and sensitive plant life.

Policy 7.3.3.1 *For projects that would result in the discharge of material to or that may affect the function and value of river, stream, lake, pond, or wetland features, the application shall include a delineation of all such features. For wetlands, the delineation shall be conducted using the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Wetland Delineation Manual*

Policy 7.3.3.2 *Intentionally blank*

Policy 7.3.3.3 *The County shall develop a database of important surface water features, including lake, river, stream, pond, and wetland resources.*

Policy 7.3.3.4 *The Zoning Ordinance shall be amended to provide buffers and special setbacks for the protection of riparian areas and wetlands. The County shall encourage the incorporation of protected areas into conservation easements or natural resource protection areas.*

Exceptions to riparian and wetland buffer and setback requirements shall be provided to permit necessary road and bridge repair and construction, trail construction, and other recreational access structures such as docks and piers, or where such buffers deny reasonable use of the property, but only when appropriate mitigation measures and Best Management Practices are incorporated into the project. Exceptions shall also be provided for horticultural and grazing activities on agriculturally zoned lands that utilize "best management practices (BMPs)" as recommended by the County Agricultural Commission and adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

Until standards for buffers and special setbacks are established in the Zoning Ordinance, the County shall apply a minimum setback of 100 feet from all perennial streams, rivers, lakes, and 50 feet from intermittent streams and wetlands. These interim standards may be modified in a particular instance if more detailed information relating to slope, soil stability, vegetation, habitat, or other site- or project-specific conditions supplied as part of the review for a specific project demonstrates that a different setback is necessary or would be sufficient to protect the particular riparian area at issue.

For projects where the County allows an exception to wetland and riparian buffers, development in or immediately adjacent to such features shall be planned so that impacts on the resources are minimized. If avoidance and minimization are not feasible, the County shall make findings, based on documentation provided by the project proponent, that avoidance and minimization are infeasible.

Policy 7.3.3.5 *Rivers, streams, lakes and ponds, and wetlands shall be integrated into new development in such a way that they enhance the aesthetic and natural character of the site while disturbance to the resource is avoided or minimized and fragmentation is limited.*

OBJECTIVE 7.3.4: DRAINAGE
Protection and utilization of natural drainage patterns.

Policy 7.3.4.1 *Natural watercourses shall be integrated into new development in such a way that they enhance the aesthetic and natural character of the site without disturbance.*

Policy 7.3.4.2 *Modification of natural stream beds and flow shall be regulated to ensure that adequate mitigation measures are utilized.*

OBJECTIVE 7.3.5: WATER CONSERVATION
Conservation of water resources, encouragement of water conservation, and construction of wastewater disposal systems designed to reclaim and re-use treated wastewater on agricultural crops and for other irrigation and wildlife enhancement projects.

Policy 7.3.5.1 *Drought-tolerant plant species, where feasible, shall be used for landscaping of commercial development. Where the use of drought-tolerant native plant species is feasible, they should be used instead of non-native plant species.*

Policy 7.3.5.2 *A list of appropriate local indigenous drought tolerant plant materials shall be maintained by the County Planning Department and made available to the public.*

Policy 7.3.5.3 The County Parks and Recreation Division shall use drought tolerant landscaping for all new parks and park improvement projects.

Policy 7.3.5.4 Require efficient water conveyance systems in new construction. Establish a program of ongoing conversion of open ditch systems shall be considered for conversion to closed conduits, reclaimed water supplies, or both, as circumstances permit.

Policy 7.3.5.5 Encourage water reuse programs to conserve raw or potable water supplies consistent with State Law.

CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

GOAL 7.4: WILDLIFE AND VEGETATION RESOURCES
Identify, conserve, and manage wildlife, wildlife habitat, fisheries, and vegetation resources of significant biological, ecological, and recreational value.

OBJECTIVE 7.4.1: RARE, THREATENED, AND ENDANGERED SPECIES
The County shall protect State and federally recognized rare, threatened, or endangered species and their habitats consistent with Federal and State laws.

Policy 7.4.1.1 The County shall continue to provide for the permanent protection of the eight sensitive plant species known as the Pine Hill endemics and their habitat through the establishment and management of ecological preserves consistent with County Code Chapter 17.71 and the USFWS's Gabbro Soil Plants for the Central Sierra Nevada Foothills Recovery Plan (USFWS 2002).

Policy 7.4.1.2 Private land for preserve sites will be purchased only from willing sellers.

Policy 7.4.1.3 Limit land uses within established preserve areas to activities deemed compatible. Such uses may include passive recreation, research and scientific study, and education. In conjunction with use as passive recreational areas, develop a rare plant educational and interpretive program.

Policy 7.4.1.4 Proposed rare, threatened, or endangered species preserves, as approved by the County Board of Supervisors, shall be designated Ecological Preserve (-EP) overlay on the General Plan land use map.

Policy 7.4.1.5 Species, habitat, and natural community preservation/conservation strategies shall be prepared to protect special-status plant and animal species and natural communities and habitats when discretionary development is proposed on lands with such resources unless it is

determined that those resources exist, and either are or can be protected, on public lands or private Natural Resource lands.

Policy 7.4.1.6 *All development projects involving discretionary review shall be designed to avoid disturbance or fragmentation of important habitats to the extent reasonably feasible. Where avoidance is not possible, the development shall be required to fully mitigate the effects of important habitat loss and fragmentation. Mitigation shall be defined in the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) (see Policy 7.4.2.8 and Implementation Measure CO-M).*

The County Agricultural Commission, Plant and Wildlife Technical Advisory Committee, representatives of the agricultural community, academia, and other stakeholders shall be involved and consulted in defining the important habitats of the County and in the creation and implementation of the INRMP.

Policy 7.4.1.7 *The County shall continue to support the Noxious Weed Management Group in its efforts to reduce and eliminate noxious weed infestations to protect native habitats and to reduce fire hazards.*

OBJECTIVE 7.4.2: IDENTIFY AND PROTECT RESOURCES
Identification and protection, where feasible, of critical fish and wildlife habitat including deer winter, summer, and fawning ranges; deer migration routes; stream and river riparian habitat; lake shore habitat; fish spawning areas; wetlands; wildlife corridors; and diverse wildlife habitat.

Policy 7.4.2.1 *To the extent feasible in light of other General Plan policies and to the extent permitted by State law, the County of El Dorado will protect identified critical fish and wildlife habitat, as identified on the Important Biological Resources Map maintained at the Planning Department, through any of the following techniques: utilization of open space, Natural Resource land use designation, clustering, large lot design, setbacks, etc.*

Policy 7.4.2.2 *Where critical wildlife areas and migration corridors are identified during review of projects, the County shall protect the resources from degradation by requiring all portions of the Study Area that contain or influence said areas to be retained as non-disturbed natural areas through mandatory clustered development on suitable portions of the Study Area or other means such as density transfers if clustering cannot be achieved. The setback distance for designated or protected migration corridors shall be determined as part of the project's environmental analysis. The intent and emphasis of the Open Space land use designation and of the non-disturbance policy is to ensure continued viability of contiguous or interdependent habitat areas and the*

preservation of all movement corridors between related habitats. The intent of mandatory clustering is to provide a mechanism for natural resource protection while allowing appropriate development of private property. Horticultural and grazing projects on agriculturally designated lands are exempt from the restrictions placed on disturbance of natural areas when utilizing "Best Management Practices" (BMPs) recommended by the County Agricultural Commission and adopted by the Board of Supervisors when not subject to Policy 7.1.2.7.

Policy 7.4.2.3 *Consistent with Policy 9.1.3.1 of the Parks and Recreation Element, low impact uses such as trails and linear parks may be provided within river and stream buffers if all applicable mitigation measures are incorporated into the design.*

Policy 7.4.2.4 *Establish and manage wildlife habitat corridors within public parks and natural resource protection areas to allow for wildlife use. Recreational uses within these areas shall be limited to those activities that do not require grading or vegetation removal.*

Policy 7.4.2.5 *Setbacks from all rivers, streams, and lakes shall be included in the Zoning Ordinance for all ministerial and discretionary development projects.*

Policy 7.4.2.6 *El Dorado County Biological Community Conservation Plans shall be required to protect, to the extent feasible, rare, threatened, and endangered plant species only when existing federal or State plans for non-jurisdictional areas do not provide adequate protection.*

Policy 7.4.2.7 *The County shall form a Plant and Wildlife Technical Advisory Committee to advise the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors on plant and wildlife issues, and the committee should be formed of local experts, including agricultural, fire protection, and forestry representatives, who will consult with other experts with special expertise on various plant and wildlife issues, including representatives of regulatory agencies. The Committee shall formulate objectives which will be reviewed by the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.*

Policy 7.4.2.8 *Develop within five years and implement an Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) that identifies important habitat in the County and establishes a program for effective habitat preservation and management. The INRMP shall include the following components:*

A. Habitat Inventory. This part of the INRMP shall inventory and map the following important habitats in El Dorado County:

1. Habitats that support special-status species;

2. *Aquatic environments including streams, rivers, and lakes;*
3. *Wetland and riparian habitat;*
4. *Important habitat for migratory deer herds; and*
5. *Large expanses of native vegetation.*

The County should update the inventory every three years to identify the amount of important habitat protected, by habitat type, through County programs and the amount of important habitat removed because of new development during that period. The inventory and mapping effort shall be developed with the assistance of the Plant and Wildlife Technical Advisory Committee, CDFW, and USFWS. The inventory shall be maintained and updated by the County Planning Department and shall be publicly accessible.

B. *Habitat Protection Strategy. This component shall describe a strategy for protecting important habitats based on coordinated land acquisitions (see item D below) and management of acquired land. The goal of the strategy shall be to conserve and restore contiguous blocks of important habitat to offset the effects of increased habitat loss and fragmentation elsewhere in the county. The Habitat Protection Strategy should be updated at least once every five years based on the results of the habitat monitoring program (item F below). Consideration of wildlife movement will be given by the County on all future 4- and 6-lane roadway construction projects. When feasible, natural undercrossings along proposed roadway alignments that could be utilized by terrestrial wildlife for movement will be preserved and enhanced.*

C. *Mitigation Assistance. This part of the INRMP shall establish a program to facilitate mitigation of impacts to biological resources resulting from projects approved by the County that are unable to avoid impacts on important habitats. The program may include development of mitigation banks, maintenance of lists of potential mitigation options, and incentives for developers and landowner participation in the habitat acquisition and management components of the INRMP.*

D. *Habitat Acquisition. Based on the Habitat Protection Strategy and in coordination with the Mitigation Assistance program, the INRMP shall include a program for identifying habitat acquisition opportunities involving willing sellers. Acquisition may be by state or federal land management agencies, private land trusts or mitigation banks, the County, or other public or private organizations. Lands may be acquired in fee or protected through acquisition of a conservation easement designed to protect the core*

habitat values of the land while allowing other uses by the fee owner. The program should identify opportunities for partnerships between the County and other organizations for habitat acquisition and management. In evaluating proposed acquisitions, consideration will be given to site specific features (e.g., condition and threats to habitat, presence of special-status species), transaction related features (e.g., level of protection gained, time frame for purchase completion, relative costs), and regional considerations (e.g., connectivity with adjacent protected lands and important habitat, achieves multiple agency and community benefits). Parcels that include important habitat and are located generally to the west of the El Dorado National Forest should be given priority for acquisition. Priority will also be given to parcels that would preserve natural wildlife movement corridors such as crossing under major roadways (e.g., U.S. Highway 50 and across canyons). All land acquired shall be added to the Ecological Preserve overlay area.

E. *Habitat Management. Each property or easement acquired through the INRMP should be evaluated to determine whether the biological resources would benefit from restoration or management actions. Examples of the many types of restoration or management actions that could be undertaken to improve current habitat conditions include: removal of non native plant species, planting native species, repair and rehabilitation of severely grazed riparian and upland habitats, removal of culverts and other structures that impede movement by native fishes, construction of roadway under and overcrossing that would facilitate movement by terrestrial wildlife, and installation of erosion control measures on land adjacent to sensitive wetland and riparian habitat.*

F. *Monitoring. The INRMP shall include a habitat monitoring program that covers all areas under the Ecological Preserve overlay together with all lands acquired as part of the INRMP. Monitoring results shall be incorporated into future County planning efforts so as to more effectively conserve and restore important habitats. The results of all special-status species monitoring shall be reported to the CNDDB. Monitoring results shall be compiled into an annual report to be presented to the Board of Supervisors.*

G. *Public Participation. The INRMP shall be developed with and include provisions for public participation and informal consultation with local, state, and federal agencies having jurisdiction over natural resources within the County.*

H. *Funding. The County shall develop a conservation fund to ensure adequate funding of the INRMP, including habitat maintenance and restoration. Funding may be provided from grants, mitigation fees,*

and the County general fund. The INRMP annual report described under item F above shall include information on current funding levels and shall project anticipated funding needs and anticipated and potential funding sources for the following five years.

Policy 7.4.2.9 *The Important Biological Corridor (-IBC) overlay shall apply to lands identified as having high wildlife habitat values because of extent, habitat function, connectivity, and other factors. Lands located within the overlay district shall be subject to the following provisions except that where the overlay is applied to lands that are also subject to the Agricultural District (-A) overlay or that are within the Agricultural Lands (AL) designation, the land use restrictions associated with the -IBC policies will not apply to the extent that the agricultural practices do not interfere with the purposes of the -IBC overlay.*

- *Increased minimum parcel size;*
- *Higher canopy-retention standards and/or different mitigation standards/thresholds for oak woodlands;*
- *Lower thresholds for grading permits;*
- *Higher wetlands/riparian retention standards and/or more stringent mitigation requirements for wetland/riparian habitat loss;*
- *Increased riparian corridor and wetland setbacks;*
- *Greater protection for rare plants (e.g., no disturbance at all or disturbance only as recommended by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/California Department of Fish and Wildlife);*
- *Standards for retention of contiguous areas/large expanses of other (non-oak or non-sensitive) plant communities;*
- *Building permits discretionary or some other type of "site review" to ensure that canopy is retained;*
- *More stringent standards for lot coverage, floor area ratio (FAR), and building height; and*
- *No hindrances to wildlife movement (e.g., no fences that would restrict wildlife movement).*

The standards listed above shall be included in the Zoning Ordinance.

Wildland Fire Safe measures are exempt from this policy, except that Fire Safe measures will be designed insofar as possible to be consistent with the objectives of the Important Biological Corridor.

OBJECTIVE 7.4.3: COORDINATION WITH APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
Coordination of wildlife and vegetation protection programs with appropriate federal and State agencies.

PRESERVATION OF OPEN SPACE

GOAL 7.6: OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION

Conserve open space land for the continuation of the County's rural character, commercial agriculture, forestry and other productive uses, the enjoyment of scenic beauty and recreation, the protection of natural resources, for protection from natural hazards, and for wildlife habitat.

OBJECTIVE 7.6.1: IMPORTANCE OF OPEN SPACE

Consideration of open space as an important factor in the County's quality of life.

Policy 7.6.1.1 The General Plan land use map shall include an Open Space land use designation. The purpose of this designation is to implement the goals and objectives of the Land Use and the Conservation and Open Space Elements by serving one or more of the purposes stated below. In addition, the designations on the land use map for Rural Residential and Natural Resource areas are also intended to implement said goals and objectives. Primary purposes of open space include:

A. Conserving natural resource areas required for the conservation of plant and animal life including habitat for fish and wildlife species; areas required for ecologic and other scientific study purposes; rivers, streams, banks of rivers and streams and watershed lands;

B. Conserving natural resource lands for the managed production of resources including forest products, rangeland, agricultural lands important to the production of food and fiber; and areas containing important mineral deposits;

C. Maintaining areas of importance for outdoor recreation including areas of outstanding scenic, historic and cultural value; areas particularly suited for park and recreation purposes including those providing access to lake shores, beaches and rivers and streams; and areas which serve as links between major recreation and open space reservations including utility easements, banks of rivers and streams, trails and scenic highway corridors;

D. Delineating open space for public health and safety including, but not limited to, areas which require special management or regulation because of hazardous or special conditions such as earthquake fault zones, unstable soil areas, flood plains, watersheds, areas presenting high fire risks, areas required for the protection of water quality and water reservoirs, and areas required for the protection and enhancement of air quality; and

E. Providing for open spaces to create buffers which may be landscaped to minimize the adverse impact of one land use on another.

Policy 7.6.1.2 The County will provide for Open Space lands through:

A. The designation of land as Open Space;

B. The designation of land for low-intensity land uses as provided in the Rural Residential and Natural Resource land use designations;

C. Local implementation of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Flood Insurance Program;

D. Local implementation of the State Land Conservation Act Program; and

E. Open space land set aside through Planned Developments (PDs).

Policy 7.6.1.3 The County shall implement Policy 7.6.1.1 through zoning regulations and the administration thereof. It is intended that certain districts and certain requirements in zoning regulations carry out the purposes set forth in Policy 7.6.1.1 as follows:

A. The Open Space (OS) Zoning District is consistent with and shall implement the Open Space designation of the General Plan land use map and all other land use designations.

B. The Agricultural (A), Exclusive Agricultural (AE), Planned Agricultural (PA), Select Agricultural (SA-10), and Timberland Production Zone (TPZ) zoning districts are consistent with Policy 7.6.1.1 and serve one or more of the purposes set forth therein.

C. Zoning regulations shall provide for setbacks from all flood plains, streams, lakes, rivers and canals to maintain Purposes A, B, C, and D set forth in Policy 7.6.1.1.

D. Zoning regulations shall provide for maintenance of permanent open space in residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, and residential agricultural zone districts based on standards established in those provisions of the County Code. The regulations shall minimize impacts on wetlands, flood plains, streams, lakes, rivers, canals, and slopes in excess of 30 percent and shall maintain Purposes A, B, C, and D in Policy 7.6.1.1.

E. Landscaping requirements in zoning regulations shall provide for vegetative buffers between incompatible land uses in order to maintain Purpose E in Policy 7.6.1.1.

F. Zoning regulations shall provide for Mineral Resource Combining Zone Districts and/or other appropriate mineral zoning categories which shall be applied to lands found to contain important mineral deposits if development of the resource can occur in compliance with all other policies of the General Plan. Those regulations shall maintain Purposes A, B, C, D, and E of Policy 7.6.1.1.

Policy 7.6.1.4 The creation of new open space areas, including Ecological Preserves, common areas of new subdivisions, and recreational areas, shall include wildfire safety planning.

3.5.1 El Dorado County General Plan Section 7.4.4.4

The El Dorado County General Plan, adopted in 2004, regulates impacts to tree canopy under General Plan Policy 7.4.4.4. This policy set forth percentages of on-site canopy retention requirements for development projects until the County developed a County-wide strategy. In 2008, the County adopted the El Dorado County Oak Woodland Management Plan (OWMP) to implement these General Plan oak woodland protection policies. The County's adoption of the OWMP was challenged in court. In 2012, the Appellate Court upheld the CEQA challenge to the OWMP and directed the County to prepare an Environmental Impact Report for the OWMP. Currently, a General Plan amendment is being prepared to clarify and refine the County's oak tree protection policies.

As a result, only Option "A" of Policy 7.4.4.4 is applicable to oak woodland mitigation. Impacts to oak woodland canopy are currently assessed under the *Interim Interpretive Guidelines* amended October 12, 2007.

Policy 7.4.4.4 For all new development projects (not including agricultural cultivation and actions pursuant to an approved Fire Safe Plan necessary to protect existing structures, both of which are exempt from this policy) that would result in soil disturbance on parcels that (1) are over an acre and have at least 1 percent total canopy cover or (2) are less than an acre and have at least 10 percent total canopy cover by woodlands habitats as defined in this General Plan and determined from base line aerial photography or by site survey performed by a qualified biologist or licensed arborist, the County shall require one of two mitigation options: (1) the project applicant shall adhere to the tree canopy retention and replacement standards described below; or (2) the project applicant shall contribute to the County's Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) conservation fund described in Policy 7.4.2.8.

Option A

The County shall apply the following tree canopy retention standards:

Percent Existing Canopy Cover	Canopy Cover to be Retained
80–100	60% of existing canopy
60–79	70% of existing canopy
40–59	80% of existing canopy
20–39	85% of existing canopy
10-19	90% of existing canopy
1-9 for parcels > 1 acre	90% of existing canopy

Under Option A, the project applicant shall also replace woodland habitat removed at 1:1 ratio. Impacts on woodland habitat and mitigation requirements shall be addressed in a Biological Resources Study and Important Habitat Mitigation Plan as described in Policy 7.4.2.8. Woodland replacement shall be based on a formula, developed by the County, that accounts for the number of trees and acreage affected.

3.6 City of Folsom Tree Ordinance

The City of Folsom Tree Preservation Ordinance (Municipal Code Chapter 12.16) regulates both the removal of protected trees and the encroachment of construction activities within their driplines. Protected trees include native oak trees with a trunk diameter of 6 inches or greater (measured at 54 inches above grade), or a multiple trunked oak tree with an aggregate trunk diameter of 20 inches or greater and street trees or landmark trees of any species.

4.0 METHODS

Available information pertaining to the natural resources of the region was reviewed. All references reviewed for this assessment are listed in the **References** section. The following site-specific information was reviewed:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 2015. California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB: *Folsom, Clarksville, Shingle Springs, Buffalo Creek, Folsom SE, Latrobe, Sloughhouse, Carbondale,* and *Irish Springs* U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute series quadrangle (quadrangle)), Sacramento, CA. [Accessed 02/06/2015] (**Appendix A**);

- California Native Plant Society (CNPS). 2015. Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (online edition, v8-01a) (CNPS: *Folsom, Clarksville, Shingle Springs, Buffalo Creek, Folsom SE, Latrobe, Sloughhouse, Carbondale,* and *Irish Springs* quadrangles). [Accessed 02/06/2015] (**Appendix A**);

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2015. *Federal Endangered and Threatened Species that may be affected by Projects in the Folsom SE, Clarksville, and Latrobe 7.5-minute series Quadrangles*. Sacramento, CA. [Accessed 02/06/2015] (**Appendix A**);

- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). 1993. *Soil Survey of Sacramento County, California*. U.S. Department of Agriculture; and

- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). 1974. *Soil Survey of El Dorado Area, California*. U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Although the Study Area occurs on the *Folsom SE, Clarksville,* and *Latrobe* quadrangles, the majority of the Study Area occurs within the *Folsom SE* quadrangle. Therefore, the CDFW (2015) and CNPS (2015) species queries included the eight quadrangles surrounding the *Folsom SE* quadrangle.

Foothill Associates' biologists conducted biological surveys and delineations on December 18, 19, 23, and 29, 2014 and on January 13, 2015. The surveys consisted of conducting botanical inventories, evaluating biological communities, mapping wetlands and waterways, and documenting potential habitat for special-status species with the potential to occur within the Study Area. The botanical inventories were conducted in accordance CDFW's (2009) protocol plant surveys. Plants and wildlife observed within the Study Area are identified in **Appendix B**. The results of the wetland delineation are summarized herein and are discussed in detail under a separate cover (Foothill Associates 2015).

5.0 RESULTS

5.1 Site Location and Description

The ±124-acre Study Area is located within the SPTC from mile post 116, located within the Folsom City limits at Iron Point Road and Placerville Road in Sacramento County, south to mile post 126 near the community of Latrobe, in El Dorado County. The Study Area is located within Township 9 North, Range 8 East, Sections 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 25, 26, and 36, Township 9 North, Range 9 East, Sections 29, 30, 31, and 32, and Township 8 North, Range 9 East, Sections 4, 5, and 9 of the *Clarksville*, *Folsom SE*, and *Latrobe* quadrangles. The approximate location of the Study Area is 38° 35' 58.8" North, 121° 2' 30.0" West (**Figure 1**).

The Study Area is historically a Southern Pacific railroad easement that ranges from 66 to 200 feet in width. The Study Area is comprised primarily of disturbed/developed areas and disturbed non-native annual grassland. Oak woodland surrounds the southern half of the Study Area. Several drainages and seasonal wetlands occur within the Study Area.

5.2 Physical Features

5.2.1 Topography and Drainage

The general topography of the Study Area has been largely influenced by the construction of the railroad. The immediate area paralleling the railroad tracks appears relatively flat, but maintains a three percent grade or less through its length. The rest of the corridor land varies widely from gently sloping to steeply sloping. Elevations range from 423 feet above mean sea level (MSL) in the northern portion of the Study Area to 780 feet above MSL in the southern portion of the Study Area.

The Study Area consists of three main perennial drainages: Carson Creek, Latrobe Creek, and Deer Creek. Carson Creek and Latrobe Creek are tributary to Deer Creek, which flows into the Cosumnes River, a navigable waters of the U.S. The Cosumnes River is tributary to the Sacramento River. Many intermittent and ephemeral drainages bisect the Study Area. These drainages generally begin east of the Study Area as head waters in the foothills, and flow west to the main drainages.

5.2.2 Soils

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) mapped 11 soil units within the Study Area (**Figure 2**). General characteristics associated with these soils types are described below (USDA, NRCS 1974, 1993, and 2013).

Sacramento County

- **(107) Argonaut-Auburn Complex, 3 to 8 Percent Slopes**: This soil unit is composed of approximately 45 percent Argonaut soil and 35 percent Auburn soil.

This soil type is found in foothills from 160 to 660 feet above mean sea level (MSL). The native vegetation of this soil type is annual grasses and herbaceous species with a few scattered oaks. The Argonaut soil is moderately deep and well drained. Permeability is very slow and runoff is medium. It formed in material weathered from metaandesite and metamorphic rocks. The Auburn soil is shallow or moderately deep and well-drained. It formed in material weathered from metabasic and metasedimentary rocks. Permeability is moderate and runoff is medium. The hydric soils list for Sacramento County does not identify this soil type as hydric (USDA, NRCS 2014).

- **(110) Auburn-Argonaut-Rock Outcrop Complex, 8 to 30 Percent Slopes**: This soil unit is composed of approximately 40 percent Auburn soil, 35 percent Argonaut soil, and 10 percent rock outcrop. This soil unit is found in foothills from 150 to 830 feet above MSL. The Auburn soil is shallow or moderately deep and well-drained. It formed in material weathered from metabasic and metasedimentary rocks. Permeability is moderate and runoff is medium. The Argonaut soil is moderately deep and well drained. Permeability is very slow and runoff is medium. It formed in material weathered from metaandesite and metmorphic rocks. The hydric soils list for Sacramento County does not identify this soil type as hydric (USDA, NRCS 2014).

- **(237) Whiterock Loam, 3 to 30 Percent Slopes**: This soil unit is found on foothills from 160 to 530 feet above MSL. This soil type is material weathered from vertically tilted metasedimentary rocks. This soil type is very shallow and somewhat excessively drained. Permeability is moderate and runoff is medium or rapid. The hydric soils list for Sacramento County does not identify this soil type as hydric (USDA, NRCS 2014).

El Dorado County

- **(AmD) Argonaut Very Rocky Loam, 3 to 30 Percent Slopes**: This soil unit is found on ridges between 120 and 2,500 feet above MSL. Argonaut soil consists of well drained soils with a depth to water table of more than 80 inches. This soil type has a parent material of residuum weathered from andesite and/or residuum weathered from metasedimentary rock. The hydric soils list for El Dorado County does not identify this soil type as hydric (USDA, NRCS 2014).

- **(AyF) Auburn Extremely Rocky Silt Loam, 3 to 70 Percent Slopes**: This soil unit occurs on slopes that dominantly range from 15 to 50 percent. Bedrock outcroppings occur on the surface of this soil type at a frequency of 25 to 50 percent. The Auburn series consists of well drained soils underlain by hard metamorphic rocks at a depth of 12 to 20 inches. Permeability is moderate and surface runoff is slow to very rapid. The hydric soils list for El Dorado County does not identify this soil as hydric (USDA, NRCS 2014).

- **(AwD) Auburn Silt Loam, 2 to 30 Percent Slopes**: This soil unit occurs on undulating to very steep foothills, typically located between 500 to 1,800 feet above

MSL. Bedrock outcroppings occur on the surface of this soil type at a frequency of less than 5 percent. The Auburn series consists of well drained soils underlain by hard metamorphic rocks at a depth of 12 to 26 inches. Permeability is moderate and surface runoff is slow to medium. The hydric soils list for El Dorado County does not identify this soil as hydric (USDA, NRCS 2014).

- **(AxD) Auburn Very Rocky Silt Loam, 2 to 30 Percent Slopes**: This soil unit occurs on the more prominent steep to very steep foothills and slopes descending into creek channels and drainageways, typically located between 500 to 1,800 feet above MSL. Bedrock outcroppings occur on the surface of this soil type at a frequency of 5 to 25 percent. The Auburn series consists of well drained soils underlain by hard metamorphic rocks at a depth of 12 to 26 inches. Permeability is moderate and surface runoff is slow to medium. The hydric soils list for El Dorado County does not identify this soil as hydric (USDA, NRCS 2014).

- **(PgB) Perkins Gravelly Loam, Moderately Deep Variant, 2 to 5 Percent Slopes**: This soil unit is found on hillslopes from 450 feet to 700 feet above MSL. This soil type has a parent material of consolidated gravelly alluvium derived from igneous, metamorphic and secimentary rock. The depth to water table for this soil type is more than 80 inches. The hydric soils list for El Dorado County does not identify this soil type as hydric (USDA, NRCS 2014).

- **(PrD) Placer Diggings**: This soil type is found in channels and has a parent material of alluvium derived from mixed sources. The depth to restrictive feature is more than 80 inches. The hydric soils list for El Dorado County identifies this soil type as hydric (USDA, NRCS 2014).

- **(TaD) Tailings**: This soil type consists of fragmental material. Available water storage in profile is very low. The hydric soils list for El Dorado County identifies this soil type as hydric (USDA, NRCS 2014).

- **(WhE) Whiterock Gravelly Silt Loam, 3 to 50 Percent Slopes**: This soil is found on hillslopes from 300 feet to 2,000 feet above MSL. This soil type has a parent material of residuum weathered from slate. The depth to water table for this soil is more than 80 inches. The hydric soils list for El Dorado County does not identify any hydric components or inclusions as present within this soil type (USDA, NRCS 2014).

5.3 Wildlife Corridors

Wildlife corridors link together areas of suitable wildlife habitat that are otherwise separated by rugged terrain, changes in vegetation, or human disturbance. The fragmentation of open space areas by urbanization creates isolated "islands" of wildlife habitat. Fragmentation can also occur when a portion of one or more habitats is converted into another habitat, such as when woodland or scrub habitat is altered or converted into grasslands after a disturbance such as fire, mudslide, or grading activities. Wildlife corridors mitigate the effects of this fragmentation by: (1) allowing animals to

move between remaining habitats, thereby permitting depleted populations to be replenished and promoting genetic exchange; (2) providing escape routes from fire, predators, and human disturbances, thus reducing the risk of catastrophic events (such as fire or disease) on population or local species extinction; and (3) serving as travel routes for individual animals as they move within their home ranges in search of food, water, mates, and other needs.

The Study Area is not part of a major or local wildlife corridor/travel route because it does not connect two significant habitats. The center of the Study Area consists of developed areas comprised of an existing railroad track. The proposed project would run parallel to the existing developed areas. Although the perennial drainages that cross beneath the Study Area act as wildlife corridors, the proposed project would run parallel to the existing developed areas above these drainages and would therefore, not impede wildlife movement.

5.4 Biological Communities

The following biological communities occur within the Study Area: disturbed/developed, disturbed non-native grassland, oak woodland, riparian, seasonal wetland, perennial drainage, intermittent drainage, and ephemeral drainage. **Table 1** summarizes the biological communities by acreages. Dominant vegetation observed within each biological community is discussed in detail below. The biological communities are shown in **Figure 4 (Sheets 1 through 11)**.

Table 1 — Biological Communities by Acreages

Biological Community	Acreage[1]
Disturbed/Developed	30.95
Disturbed Non-Native Annual Grassland	67.02
Oak Woodland	23.33
Riparian	0.05
Seasonal Wetland	0.91
Perennial Drainage	0.64
Intermittent Drainage	0.17
Ephemeral Drainage	0.64
Total	**123.71**

[1]GIS calculations may not reflect exact acreage of Study Area due to rounding.

5.4.1 Disturbed/Developed

Disturbed/developed occurs throughout the Study Area and is comprised of the railroad track and the associated gravel surrounding the railroad track and ornamental landscaping. The majority of the disturbed/developed areas lack vegetation.

5.4.2 Non-Native Annual Grassland

The majority of the Study Area is comprised of disturbed non-native annual grassland, which is characterized primarily by an assemblage of non-native grasses and herbaceous

species. Dominant vegetation includes soft chess (*Bromus hordeaceus*), ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), wild oat (*Avena barbata*), barley (*Hordeum murinum* ssp. *leporinum*), winter vetch (*Vicia villosa*), and pigweed (*Amaranthus* sp.).

5.4.3 Oak Woodland

Oak woodland occurs within the southeastern portion of the Study Area. This habitat type has a canopy of blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*), interior live oak (*Quercus wislizeni*), and gray pine (*Pinus sabiniana*) with an understory of non-native annual grassland.

5.4.4 Riparian

Riparian habitat occurs within the Study Area surrounding the perennial aquatic features. Dominant vegetation includes willow (*Salix* sp.), Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), gray pine, and interior live oak.

5.4.5 Seasonal Wetland

Seasonal wetlands occur within the Study Area. Dominant vegetation includes cattail (*Typha* sp.), perennial ryegrass (*Festuca perennis*), Mediterranean barley (*Hordeum marinum*), cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*), spikerush (*Eleocharis macrostachya*), curly dock (*Rumex crispus*), and flat nutsedge (*Cyperus eragrostis*).

5.4.6 Perennial Drainage

Three perennial drainages occur within the Study Area. These include Carson Creek, Latrobe Creek, and Deer Creek. Dominant vegetation includes those identified within the riparian biological community.

5.4.7 Intermittent Drainage

Several intermittent drainages occur within the Study Area. Dominant species occurring along the banks of the intermittent drainages include curly dock, perennial ryegrass, Mediterranean barley, and cocklebur.

5.4.8 Ephemeral Drainage

Several ephemeral drainages occur within the Study Area. Dominant species occurring along the banks of the ephemeral drainages consist of upland species including barley, soft chess, wild oat, and ripgut grass.

5.5 Special-Status Species

Special-status species are plant and animal species that have been afforded special recognition by federal, State, or local resource agencies or organizations. Listed and special-status species are of relatively limited distribution and may require specialized

habitat conditions. Special-status species are defined as meeting one or more of the following criteria:

- Listed or proposed for listing under the CESA or the FESA;
- Protected under other regulations (e.g. Migratory Bird Treaty Act);
- CDFW Species of Special Concern;
- Plant species ranked by the CNPS; or
- Receive consideration during environmental review under CEQA.

Special-status species considered for this analysis are based on the CNDDB, CNPS, and USFWS lists. CNDDB occurrences of special-status species documented within five miles of the Study Area are illustrated within **Figure 3**. **Appendix C** includes the common and scientific names for each species, regulatory status (federal, State, local, CNPS), habitat descriptions, and potential for occurrence on the Study Area. The following set of criteria has been used to determine each species potential for occurrence within the Study Area:

- **Present**: Species known to occur within the Study Area based on CNDDB records and/or observed within the Study Area during the biological surveys.

- **High**: Species known to occur on or near the Study Area (based on CNDDB records within 5 miles and/or based on professional expertise specific to the Study Area or species) and there is suitable habitat within the Study Area.

- **Low**: Species known to occur in the vicinity of the Study Area and there is marginal habitat within the Study Area **-OR-** Species is not known to occur in the vicinity of the site, however, there is suitable habitat on the site.

- **None**: Species is not known to occur on or in the vicinity of the Study Area and there is no suitable habitat within the Study Area **-OR-** Species was surveyed for during the appropriate season with negative results **-OR-** Species is not known in El Dorado County.

Only those species that are known to be present or that have a high or low potential for occurrence will be discussed further following **Appendix C**.

5.5.1 Listed and Special-Status Plants

The following special-status plants have a *high* potential to occur within the Study Area, Brandegee's clarkia. The following special-status plants have a *low* potential to occur within the Study Area: Ahart's dwarf rush, dwarf downingia, Jepson's woolly sunflower, and Tuolumne button-celery. These species are discussed in detail below.

Species with a High Potential to Occur

Brandegee's Clarkia

Brandegee's clarkia is an annual herb found in chaparral and cismontane woodland, often in roadcuts, from 73 to 915 meters. The blooming period for this species is from May through July (CNPS 2015). There is one CNDDB record for this species within five miles of the Study Area (**Figure 3**). The oak woodland within the Study Area provides habitat for this species. Because the biological surveys were conducted outside of the evident and identifiable period for Brandegee's clarkia, the species could potentially be present within the Study Area and not have been detected. This species has *high* potential to occur within the Study Area.

Species with a Low Potential to Occur

Ahart's Dwarf Rush

Ahart's dwarf rush is an annual herb found on mesic soils in valley and foothill grassland from 30 to 100 meters. The blooming period is from March through May (CNPS 2015). There are no CNDDB records for Ahart's dwarf rush within five miles of the Study Area. The disturbed non-native annual grassland within the Study Area provide potential habitat for Ahart's dwarf rush. Because the biological surveys were conducted outside of the evident and identifiable period for Ahart's dwarf rush, the species could potentially be present within the Study Area and not have been detected. This species has a *low* potential to occur within the Study Area.

Dwarf Downingia

Dwarf downingia is an annual herb found in mesic valley and foothill grassland and vernal pools from 1 to 450 meters. The blooming period is from March through May (CNPS 2015). There are no CNDDB records for this species within five miles of the Study Area. The disturbed non-native annual grassland within the Study Area provides potential habitat for dwarf downingia. Because the biological surveys were conducted outside of the evident and identifiable period for dwarf downingia, the species could potentially be present within the Study Area and not have been detected. This species has a *low* potential to occur within the Study Area.

Jepson's Woolly Sunflower

Jepson's woolly sunflower is a perennial herb sometimes found on serpentinite substrate within chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub from 200 to 1,025 meters. The blooming period is from April through June (CNPS 2015). There are no CNDDB records for this species within five miles of the Study Area. The oak woodland within the Study Area provides potential habitat for Jepson's woolly sunflower. Because the biological surveys were conducted outside of the evident and identifiable period for Jepson's woolly sunflower, the species could potentially be present within the Study Area and not have been detected. This species has a *low* potential to occur within the Study Area.

Tuolumne Button-Celery

Tuolumne button-celery is an annual to perennial herb found in mesic cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, and vernal pools from 70 to 915 meters. The blooming period is from June through August (CNPS 2015). There are no CNDDB records for this species within five miles of the Study Area. The oak woodland within the Study Area provides potential habitat for Tuolumne button-celery. Because the biological surveys were conducted outside of the evident and identifiable period for Tuolumne button-celery, the species could potentially be present within the Study Area and not have been detected. This species has a *low* potential to occur within the Study Area.

5.5.2 Listed and Special-Status Wildlife

The following special-status wildlife species have a *high* potential to occur or were observed within the Study Area: western pond turtle, burrowing owl, golden eagle, Swainson's hawk, tricolored blackbird, white-tailed kite, and migratory birds and other birds of prey. The following special-status wildlife species have a *low potential* to occur within the Study Area: California red-legged frog (CRLF), western spadefoot toad, grasshopper sparrow, American badger, and special-status bats. These species are discussed in detail below.

Species with a High Potential to Occur

Western Pond Turtle

Western pond turtles require slow moving perennial aquatic habitats with suitable basking sites. Western pond turtles occasionally inhabit irrigation ditches. Suitable aquatic habitat typically has a muddy or rocky bottom and has emergent aquatic vegetation for cover (Stebbins 2003). There are four CNDDB records for this species within five miles of the Study Area (**Figure 3**). The perennial and intermittent drainages and riparian habitat provide habitat for the species. No western pond turtles were observed within the Study Area during the biological surveys. This species has a *high* potential to occur within the Study Area.

Burrowing Owl

Burrowing owl is a small ground-dwelling owl that occurs in western North America from Canada to Mexico, and east to Texas and Louisiana. Although in certain areas of its range burrowing owls are migratory, these owls are predominantly non-migratory in California. The breeding season for burrowing owls occurs from March to August, peaking in April and May (Zeiner *et. al.* 1990). Burrowing owls nest in burrows in the ground, often in old ground squirrel burrows. Burrowing owl is also known to use artificial burrows including pipes, culverts, and nest boxes. In California, the breeding season for burrowing owl is from February 1 to August 31 (Haug *et al.* 1993). There are four CNDDB records for this species within five miles of the Study Area (**Figure 3**). This species was observed wintering in a box culvert beneath the railroad during the

December 2014 biological surveys of the Study Area. The burrows within disturbed non-native annual grassland and the culverts along the railroad provide habitat for this species. This species has a *high* potential to occur within the Study Area.

Golden Eagle

Golden eagles live in semi-open habitats where they have easy access to their primary prey of small to medium-sized mammals. Grasslands, deserts, savannahs, and early successional stages of forest and shrub habitats provide necessary foraging habitat. Nests are placed on cliffs or large trees and are maintained year and after year. Breeding occurs from January through August (Kochert *et al.* 2002). Golden eagle home range territories vary widely from 8 to 77 square miles (McGrady 1997) and are estimated to average 48 square miles in northern California (Zeiner *et al.* 1990). Although only one nest is used each year, a territory may contain multiple alternate nests. Typically, there are between 6 and 14 nests are found in a territory (Kochert *et al.* 2002). Golden eagles may use the same nest for multiple years or use new nest sites every year (Watson 2010).

An active golden eagle nest was identified approximately 1.9 miles northeast of the Study Area in 2013 and 2014. The nest is located on a foothill pine (*Pinus sabiniana*) on a hillslope surrounded by oak woodland. Existing residences are located uphill within 300 feet of the nest on the north and east. Two juvenile and two adult golden eagles were observed at the nest in August 2013. A pair of adult eagles returned to the nest in 2014 and successfully raised one eaglet, which fledged by June 18, 2014. The extent of this territory and locations of alternate nests are unknown. In December 2014, the nest tree fell over.

No golden eagles were observed during the biological surveys of the Study Area. The trees within the riparian habitat and oak woodland provide nesting habitat and the disturbed non-native annual grassland provides foraging habitat for this species. This species has a *high* potential to nest and forage within the Study Area.

Swainson's Hawk

Swainson's hawk is a long-distance migrant with nesting grounds in western North America. The Swainson's hawk population that nests in the Central Valley winters primarily in Mexico, while the population that nests in the interior portions of North America winters in South America (Bradbury *et. al.* in prep.). Swainson's hawks arrive in the Central Valley between March and early April to establish breeding territories. Breeding occurs from late March to late August, peaking in late May through July (Zeiner *et. al.* 1990). In the Central Valley, Swainson's hawks nest in isolated trees, small groves, or large woodlands next to open grasslands or agricultural fields. This species typically nests near riparian areas; however, it has been known to nest in urban areas as well. Nest locations are usually in close proximity to suitable foraging habitats, which include fallow fields, annual grasslands, irrigated pastures, alfalfa and other hay crops, and low-growing row crops. Swainson's hawks leave their breeding grounds to return to their wintering grounds in late August or early September (Bloom and De Water 1994).

There are five CNDDB records for this species within five miles of the Study Area (**Figure 3**). The nearest CNDDB occurrence (occurrence number 200) is from 1982 and is approximately 1.1 miles southwest of the Study Area. Occurrence number 200 states that one adult was observed, but no nests were found. The next nearest occurrence (occurrence number 2662) is from 1962 and is approximately 3.2 miles northwest of the Study Area. Occurrence number 2662 states that an active nest was observed in a black oak. The next nearest occurrence (occurrence number 2203) is from 2011 and is approximately 4.25 miles southwest of the Study Area. Occurrence number 2203 states that a pair was observed nest-building in April. No Swainson's hawks were observed in the vicinity of the Study Area during the biological surveys. Swainson's hawks have the potential to nest within the trees within the riparian habitat and oak woodland and forage within the disturbed non-native annual grassland within the Study Area. This species has a *high* potential to nest and forage within the Study Area.

Tricolored Blackbird

Tricolored blackbird is a colonial species that occurs in pastures, dry seasonal pools, and agricultural fields in the Central Valley and the foothills surrounding the valley. This species usually nests with dense cattails or tules (*Scirpus* sp.) in emergent wetlands. Tricolored blackbird also nests in thickets of blackberry (*Rubus* sp.), wild rose (*Rosa* sp.), willows, and tall herbs (Zeiner *et. al.* 1990). Nesting locations typically must be large enough to support a minimum colony of approximately 50 pairs (Zeiner *et. al.* 1990). There are six CNDDB records for this species within five miles of the Study Area (**Figure 3**). The disturbed non-native annual grassland provides foraging habitat for this species. The riparian vegetation within and around the perennial drainages provide nesting habitat for this species. However, the majority of the vegetation is comprised of willows and the patch sizes of Himalayan blackberry are most likely not of sufficient size to support a breeding colony. No tricolored blackbirds were observed within the Study Area. This species has a *high* potential to forage within the Study Area, but is unlikely to nest within the Study Area.

White-Tailed Kite

White-tailed kite is a yearlong resident in coastal and valley lowlands in California. White-tailed kite breed from February to October, peaking from May to August (Zeiner *et. al.* 1990). This species nests near the top of dense oaks, willows, or other large trees. There are five CNDDB records of white-tailed kite listed within five miles of the Study Area (**Figure 3**). The trees within the riparian habitat provide nesting habitat for this species. This species has a *high* potential to nest within the Study Area.

Migratory Birds and Other Birds of Prey

Migratory birds and other birds of prey, protected under 50 CFR 10 of the MBTA and/or Section 3503 of the California Fish and Game Code, have the potential to nest in the disturbed non-native annual grassland, in culverts and burrows along the railroad tracks within the disturbed/developed areas, and trees and shrubs within the oak woodland and riparian habitat. In addition, hundreds of remnant cliff swallow (*Petrochelidon*

pyrrhonota) nests were observed beneath the Highway 50. Although none of these nests were occupied during the December 2014 and January 2015 biological surveys, these surveys were conducted outside of the nesting season. It is assumed that these swallows will return to these nest sites during the nesting season in subsequent years. Several birds protected under the MBTA and/or Section 3503 of the California Fish and Game Code were observed foraging within the Study Area including Brewer's blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*), red-winged blackbird, northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), and western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*). Migratory birds and other birds of prey have a *high* potential to nest within the Study Area during the nesting season. The generally accepted nesting season is from February 15 through August 31.

Species with a Low Potential to Occur

Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (VELB)

The USFWS considers the range of VELB to include the watersheds of the American, San Joaquin, and Sacramento River and their tributaries up to approximately 3,000 feet above MSL (USFWS 1980). VELB are completely dependent on elderberry (*Sambucus* sp.) shrubs as their host plants during their entire life cycle. VELB typically utilize stems that are greater than one inch in diameter at ground level (DGL) (USFWS 1994).

There are two CNDDB occurrences for this species within five miles of the Study Area (**Figure 3**). Elderberry shrubs occur within the eastern portion of the Study Area. Two elderberry shrubs occur within the eastern portion of the Study Area. None of the elderberry shrub stems measuring one-inch DGL contain exit holes nor do any occur within riparian habitat. The shrubs are growing individually in annual grassland. Given that no VELB were observed, that no elderberry shrubs contain exit holes, and that the two shrubs do not occur within the riparian areas, it is unlikely that VELB occurs within the Study Area.

California Red-Legged Frog (CRLF)

CRLF typically inhabit ponds, slow-moving creeks, and streams with deep pools that are lined with dense emergent marsh or shrubby riparian vegetation. Submerged root masses and undercut banks are important habitat features for this species. Although CRLF historically occurred throughout much of the Central Valley, it is widely accepted that they have been extirpated from there for more than 50 years. All of the extant records for CRLF in the Sierras are over 800 feet above MSL (Rana Resources 2013). Below this elevation, aquatic habitat generally supports stronger populations of non-native predators associated with warm water habitats such as bullfrogs (*Lithobates catesbeiana*) and Centrarchid fish (Rana Resources 2013). The Study Area occurs between approximately 423 and 780 feet above MSL.

There are no known CNDDB occurrences for this species within five miles of the Study Area. There is a CNDDB occurrence approximately 6.3 miles northeast of the Study

Area along a small drainage feeding directly into the east side of Folsom Lake (Occurrence Number 814), however, the validity of this record is highly questionable due to the low elevation (approximately 500 feet above MSL), the proximity to urban development and to Folsom Lake, and the abundant non-native predators that it supports (Rana Resources 2013). The record states that a juvenile frog was sighted on a small footbridge crossing a drainage leading into Folsom Lake from an adjacent residential development. This frog was most likely a juvenile bullfrog, which, to the untrained eye, can be easily confused with a juvenile CRLF (Rana Resources 2013). Even if this were a valid record, this location is separated from the Study Area by a number of impassible barriers including major roadways and urban development. The nearest valid CNDDB occurrences (Occurrence Numbers 1284 and 1317) are over 25 miles northeast of the Study Area. These occurrences state that CRLF was observed in a series of small pools/wet areas in a drainage stream channel. In addition, existing literature indicates that CRLF may have been extirpated from the floor of the Central Valley prior to the 1960s (USFWS 2002).

The perennial drainages provide habitat for this species and the riparian habitat surrounding the perennial drainages provide upland habitat. Although suitable habitat is present, the Study Area is outside of the known extant elevation range inhabited by CRLF and there are no known CNDDB occurrences for CRLF within 25 miles of the Study Area. No CRLF were observed during the biological surveys of the Study Area. CRLF is unlikely to occur within the Study Area.

Western Spadefoot Toad

Western spadefoot toad prefers open areas with sandy or gravelly soils, in a variety of habitats including mixed woodlands, grasslands, chaparral, sandy washes, lowlands, river floodplains, alluvial fans, playas, alkali flats, foothills, and mountains from 0 to 1,200 meters. Rain pools containing minimal numbers of bullfrogs, fish, or crayfish and that remain continuously inundated for 30 days are necessary for breeding. There are no CNDDB records of this species within five miles of the Study Area. The seasonal wetlands provide potential breeding habitat for this species. The disturbed non-native annual grassland and oak woodland provide upland habitat for this species. No western spadefoot toads were observed during the biological surveys of the Study Area. This species has a *low* potential to occur within the Study Area.

Grasshopper Sparrow

Grasshopper sparrow inhabits moderately open grasslands and prairies with patchy bare ground. There is one CNDDB record of this species within five miles of the Study Area (**Figure 3**). Although the disturbed non-native annual grassland provides habitat, the soils only provide marginal habitat for this species. No grasshopper sparrows were observed during the biological surveys of the Study Area. This species has a *low* potential to occur within the Study Area.

American Badger

American badgers are found in dry, open habitats including grassland and open woodland. Suitable burrowing habitat requires dry, sandy soil. Breeding occurs in summer and early fall, with young being born from March to April (Nature Serve 2014). There are no CNDDB records for this species within five miles of the Study Area. The disturbed non-native annual grassland provides habitat for this species. No American badgers were observed during the biological surveys. This species has a *low* potential to occur within the Study Area.

Special-Status Bat Species

California is home to several special-status bat species. Bat numbers are in decline throughout the U.S. due to loss of roosting habitat, habitat conversion, and habitat alteration. There are no CNDDB records for special-status bat species within five miles of the Study Area. No bat species were observed roosting during the biological surveys of the Study Area. The trees within the oak woodland and riparian habitat provide roosting habitat for special-status bats. These species have a *low* potential to roost within the Study Area.

5.6 Sensitive Habitats

Sensitive habitats include those that are of special concern to resource agencies or those that are protected under CEQA, Section 1600 of the California Fish and Game Code, or Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Additionally, sensitive habitats are protected under the specific policies outlined in the *El Dorado County General Plan*. Sensitive habitats within the Study Area include riparian habitat and potential waters of the U.S., including perennial drainage, ephemeral drainage, seasonal wetland, oak woodland, within El Dorado County, and oak trees, within the City of Folsom.

5.6.1 Potential Jurisdictional Waters of the U.S.

Potential jurisdictional waters of the U.S. within the Study Area total approximately 2.353 acres. This acreage includes: 0.907 acres of seasonal wetland, 0.643 acres of perennial drainage, 0.168 acres of intermittent drainage, and 0.635 acres of ephemeral drainage (**Figure 4**) (**Sheets 1 and 11**).

5.6.2 Riparian

Riparian habitat is considered a sensitive habitat. The CDFW asserts jurisdiction over riparian habitat. There are 0.05 acres of riparian habitat (**Figure 4**) (**Sheets 1 and 11**).

5.6.3 Oak Woodland

Oak woodland habitat is regulated under Section 7.4.4.4 of the *El Dorado County General Plan*. The Study Area contains isolated oak trees within the riparian habitat. These trees are not considered oak woodland habitat due to their isolation from other oak

trees. The Study Area contains oak trees in the oak woodland within the eastern portion of the Study Area, which totals 23.33 acres (**Figure 4**) (**Sheets 1 and 11**).

Native oak trees with a trunk diameter of 6 inches or greater or a multiple trunked oak tree with an aggregate trunk diameter of 20 inches or greater are regulated under the City of Folsom Tree Preservation Ordinance (Municipal Code Chapter 12.16). Removal of protected trees and the encroachment of construction activities within their driplines require a permit. There are no oaks that meet this criterion in the portion of the Study Area within the City of Folsom or the City of Folsom Sphere of Influence.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Biological constraints within the Study Area include known or potential habitat for:

- Special-status plants including Ahart's dwarf rush (*Juncus leiospermus* var. *ahartii*), Brandegee's clarkia (*Clarkia biloba* ssp. *biloba*), dwarf downingia (*Downingia pusilla*), Jepson's woolly sunflower (*Eriophyllum jepsonii*), and Tuolumne button-celery (*Eryngium pinnatisectum*);
- Valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*);
- California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*);
- Western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*);
- Western spadefoot toad (*Spea hammondii*);
- Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*);
- Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*);
- Migratory birds and raptors including golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), and grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*);
- American badger (*Taxidea taxus*);
- Special-status bat species; and
- Sensitive habitats (potentially jurisdictional waters of the U.S., oak woodland, and native oak trees.

6.1 Special-Status Plants

A qualified botanist should conduct botanical surveys within the evident and identifiable blooming periods for Ahart's dwarf rush (blooms March through May), Brandegee's clarkia (blooms May through July), dwarf downingia (blooms March through May), Jepson's woolly sunflower (blooms April through June), and Tuolumne button-celery (blooms June through August). A minimum of two surveys could be conducted to satisfy the blooming periods for all five plants; one between March and April and the other between June and August. If no special-status plants are observed, the botanist should document the findings in a letter report within two weeks of the final survey and no additional measures are recommended.

If any of the non-listed special-status plants occur within the Study Area, they should be avoided to the extent feasible. If the plants cannot be avoided, a mitigation plan should be prepared in consultation with the CDFW. At minimum, the mitigation plan should include locations where the plants will be transplanted in suitable habitat adjacent to the Study Area, success criteria, and monitoring activities. The CDFW would need to approve the mitigation plan prior to transplantation and commencement of construction activities.

6.2 Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle

According to the *USFWS Conservation Guidelines for Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle* (Guidelines) (USFWS 1999), encroachment within 100 feet from elderberry shrubs with stems measuring at least one inch DGL must be approved by the USFWS and a minimum setback of 20 feet from the driplines of the elderberry shrubs must be maintained. Therefore, the project should be designed to avoid construction activities within 20 feet of the elderberry shrubs. If this is feasible, high visibility construction fencing should be erected at the edge of the construction footprint at a minimum of 20 from the elderberry shrubs.

Project activities that will encroach into the 20-foot minimum setback area are assumed to adversely affect VELB. Therefore, if work is anticipated to occur within 20 feet of the elderberry shrubs, the client should initiate formal Section 7 consultation with the USFWS to determine whether the project would adversely affect the species. If the project would remove the elderberry shrubs, a biological opinion with an incidental take statement must be obtained from the USFWS prior to construction. Project activities that that may directly or indirectly affect elderberry shrubs with stems measuring at least one inch DGL require minimization measures including planting replacement habitat or purchasing mitigation credits from a USFWS-approved mitigation bank. The mitigation ratios vary based on whether exit holes are present and whether the shrubs occur within riparian habitat.

6.3 California Red-Legged Frog

Although suitable habitat is present, the Study Area is outside of the known extant elevation and geographic ranges inhabited by CRLF and there are no known CNDDB occurrences for CRLF within 24 miles of the Study Area. However, a pre-construction survey should be conducted within 14 days of commencement of construction activities. If no CRLF are observed, a letter report documenting the results of the survey should be submitted to the applicant, and no additional measures are recommended. If construction does not commence within 14 days of the pre-construction survey or halts for more than 14 days a new survey will be recommended.

If CRLF are found, the USFWS would be contacted within 24 hours of the survey to initiate formal consultation. No work could commence until authorized by the USFWS.

6.4 Western Pond Turtle

The perennial and intermittent drainages and riparian habitat provide habitat for western pond turtle. Pre-construction surveys for western pond turtle are recommended within 14 days prior to the start of ground disturbance within 100 feet of riparian habitat and perennial and intermittent drainages. If no western pond turtle are observed, a letter report documenting the results of the survey should be submitted to the applicant, and no additional measures are recommended. If construction does not commence within 14 days of the pre-construction survey or halts for more than 14 days a new survey will be recommended.

If western pond turtles are found, consultation with the CDFW is recommended to determine avoidance measures. Recommended avoidance measures include having a qualified biologist on site during all activities within 100 feet of riparian habitat and perennial and intermittent drainages for the purpose of relocating any species found within the construction footprint to suitable habitat away from the construction zone, but within the Study Area.

6.5 Western Spadefoot Toad

The seasonal wetlands provide aquatic habitat and the disturbed non-native annual grassland and oak woodland provide upland aestivation habitat for western spadefoot toad. Pre-construction surveys for are recommended within 14 days prior to the start of ground disturbance. If no western spadefoot toads are observed, a letter report documenting the results of the survey should be submitted to the applicant, and no additional measures are recommended. If construction does not commence within 14 days of the pre-construction survey or halts for more than 14 days a new survey will be recommended.

If western spadefoot toads are found, consultation with the CDFW is recommended to determine avoidance measures. Recommended avoidance measures include having a qualified biologist on site during grading activities for the purpose of relocating any species found within the construction footprint to suitable habitat away from the construction zone, but within the Study Area.

6.6 Burrowing Owl

A burrowing owl was observed overwintering in a box culvert beneath the railroad tracks within the western portion of the Study Area. A qualified biologist should coordinate with the CDFW to determine an appropriate avoidance and minimization measures and incorporate these measures into an Avoidance and Minimization Plan. Measures may include, but or not limited to, avoiding disturbing occupied burrows during the nesting season (February 1 through August 31), avoiding direct destruction of burrows, conducting pre-construction surveys within 14 days prior to commencement of construction activities, and use of buffer zones and visual screens where burrowing owls are known to occur. Ground disturbing activities should not commence until the CDFW approves the Avoidance and Minimization Plan.

6.7 Swainson's Hawk Nesting

Prior to the commencement of construction activities during the nesting season for Swainson's hawk (between March 1 and September 15), a qualified biologist should conduct a minimum of two protocol level pre-construction surveys during the recommended survey periods for the nesting season that coincides with the commencement of construction activities, in accordance with the *Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson's Hawk Nesting Surveys in California's Central Valley* (Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory Committee 2000). The biologist should conduct surveys for nesting Swainson's hawk within ¼ mile of the proposed project footprint

where legally permitted. The biologist will use binoculars to visually determine whether Swainson's hawk nests occur within the ¼ -mile survey area if access is denied on adjacent properties. If no active Swainson's hawk nests are identified on or within ¼ mile of the proposed project footprint within the recommended survey periods, a letter report summarizing the survey results should be submitted to the applicant and the CDFW within 30 days following the final survey, and no additional measures are recommended.

If active Swainson's hawk nests are found within ¼ mile of construction activities, the biologist shall contact the applicant and the CDFW within one day following the pre-construction survey to report the findings. For purposes of this avoidance and minimization requirement, construction activities are defined to include heavy equipment operation associated with construction (use of cranes or draglines, new rock crushing activities) or other project-related activities that could cause nest abandonment or forced fledging within ¼ mile of a nest site between March 1 and September 15. Should an active nest be present within ¼ mile of construction areas, then the CDFW should be consulted to establish an appropriate noise buffer, develop take avoidance measures, determine whether high visibility construction fencing should be erected around the buffer zone, and implement a monitoring and reporting program prior to any construction activities occurring within ¼ mile of the nest. Should the biologist determine that the construction activities are disturbing the nest; the biologist should halt construction activities until the CDFW is consulted. The construction activities should not commence until the CDFW determines that construction activities would not result in abandonment of the nest site. Should the biologist determine that the nest has not been disturbed during construction activities within the buffer zone, then a letter report summarizing the survey results should be submitted to the applicant and the CDFW upon completion of work within the buffer zone.

6.8 Swainson's Hawk Foraging

The CDFW considers five or more vacant acres within ten miles of an active nest within the last five years to be significant foraging habitat for Swainson's hawk, the conversion of which to urban uses is considered a significant impact, in accordance with the *Staff Report Regarding Mitigation for Impacts to Swainson's Hawk in the Central Valley of California* (CDFW 1994; Staff Report). The Staff Report states that foraging habitat loss greater than one mile and less than five miles from an active nest shall be mitigated at a 0.75:1 ratio. The Study Area occurs within 5 miles of active Swainson's hawk nests documented within the last five years. The removal of more than 5 acres of annual grassland would require mitigation at a 0.75:1 ratio.

6.9 Migratory Birds and Other Birds of Prey

Migratory birds and other birds of prey, protected under 50 CFR 10 of the MBTA and/or Section 3503 of the California Fish and Game Code, including white-tailed kite, tricolored blackbird, and grasshopper sparrow have the potential to nest in the disturbed non-native annual grassland and within the trees and shrubs within the oak woodland and riparian habitat. Vegetation clearing operations, including pruning or removal of trees

and shrubs, should be completed between September 1 and February 14, if feasible. If vegetation removal begins during the nesting season (February 15 to August 31), a qualified biologist should conduct a pre-construction survey for active nests. The pre-construction survey should be conducted within 14 days prior to commencement of ground-disturbing activities. If the pre-construction survey shows that there is no evidence of active nests, then a letter report would be submitted to the applicant for their records and no additional measures are recommended. If construction does not commence within 14 days of the pre-construction survey, or halts for more than 14 days, an additional pre-construction survey will be required.

If any active nests are located within the Study Area, an appropriate buffer zone should be established around the nests, as determined by the biologist. The biologist should mark the buffer zone with construction tape or pin flags and maintain the buffer zone until the end of breeding season or the young have successfully fledged. Buffer zones are typically 100 feet for migratory bird nests and 250 feet for a raptor nest. If active nests are found on site, a qualified biologist should monitor nests weekly during construction to evaluate potential nesting disturbance by construction activities. Guidance from CDFW would be recommended if establishing the typical buffer zone is impractical.

Hundreds of remnant cliff swallow nests were observed beneath the Highway 50. Although none of these nests were occupied during the December 2014 and January 2015 biological surveys, these surveys were conducted outside of the nesting season. Exclusionary netting should be installed beneath the Highway 50 Bridge prior to the nesting season if any construction activities are anticipated to occur within 100 feet of the bridge between February 15 and August 31 to eliminate partial nest sites for swallows. If exclusion netting is infeasible, then the Engineer should spray beneath the bridge on a daily basis prior to and during the nesting season to remove partial nests prior to the nests becoming established. If an active nest becomes established before the spraying has initiated, then guidance from the CDFW will be requested prior to commencement of construction activities within 100 feet of the bridge.

6.10 American Badger

The disturbed non-native annual grassland provides habitat for American. A pre-construction for American badger is recommended within 14 days prior to the start of ground disturbance. If no American badgers are observed, then a letter report would be submitted to the applicant for their records and no additional measures are recommended. If construction does not commence within 14 days of the pre-construction survey or halts for more than 14 days a new survey is recommended.

If American badger is found, consultation with the CDFW is recommended to determine avoidance measures. Recommended avoidance measures include establishing a buffer around the den until it is no longer occupied. If any American badgers are present within the construction footprint, all construction should halt until the species has left the construction area on its own.

6.11 Special-Status Bat Species

The trees within the riparian habitat and oak woodland provide roosting habitat for special-status bats. Pre-construction surveys for special-status bat species are recommended within 14 days prior to the start of ground disturbance or tree removal. If no bats are observed, then no additional measures are recommended. If construction does not commence or if any trees anticipated for removal are not removed within 14 days of the pre-construction survey or halts for more than 14 days a new survey is recommended.

If bats are found, consultation with the CDFW is recommended to determine avoidance measures. Recommended avoidance measures establishing a buffer around the roost tree until it is no longer occupied. The tree should not be removed until a biologist has determined that the tree is no longer occupied by the bats.

6.12 Sensitive Habitats

Potential jurisdictional waters of the U.S. within the Study Area total approximately 2.353 acres. A preliminary jurisdictional delineation has been prepared and should be submitted to the Corps for their concurrence or verification. These areas are potentially regulated by Sections 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act. Additionally, these areas are protected under the *El Dorado County General Plan*. Should the Proposed Project result in impacts to any waters of the U.S. and waters of the State, then a Section 404 permit should be obtained by the Corps and a Section 401 Water Quality Certification should be obtained by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) prior to the issuance of a grading permit. Any waters of the U.S. or jurisdictional wetlands that would be lost or disturbed should be replaced or rehabilitated on a "no-net-loss" basis in accordance with the Corps mitigation guidelines. Habitat restoration, rehabilitation, and/or replacement should be at a location and by methods agreeable to the Corps and RWQCB.

In addition, if the Proposed Project results in impacts to the bed and bank of the perennial drainages or results in the removal of riparian vegetation, a Section 1600 Streambed Alteration Agreement may be required prior to the issuance of a grading permit. In addition, a minimum setback of 100 feet from perennial streams and 50 feet from the seep and perennial marsh is recommended, in accordance with Policy 7.3.3.4 of the *El Dorado County General Plan*. Exceptions to riparian and wetland buffer and setback requirements may be permitted so long as appropriate mitigation measures and Best Management Practices are incorporated into the project design and are approved by El Dorado County.

An Oak Woodland Canopy Assessment should be prepared for the El Dorado County portion of the Study Area. Option A under General Plan Policy 7.4.4.4 requires projects that involve more than one acre of soil disturbance with at least one percent of canopy cover by woodlands to adhere to the tree canopy retention and replacement standards.

6.13 Summary of Avoidance and Minimization Measures

- If wetlands or riparian areas will be impacted by the Proposed Project, apply for appropriate permits from the Corps, the RWQCB, and the CDFW;

- Conduct two botanical surveys for special-status plants (one in March or April and one in June through August);

- Construct the project a minimum of 20 feet from the elderberry shrubs, to avoid habitat for the potentially occurring Valley elderberry longhorn beetle;

- Conduct two protocol level pre-construction surveys during the recommended survey periods for Swainson's hawk;

- Purchase mitigation credits for the removal of Swainson's hawk foraging habitat if impacts to the disturbed non-native annual grassland exceed 5 acres;

- Conduct clearing and tree and shrub removal operations between September 1 and February 14 to minimize potential impacts to nesting birds;

- If construction begins or trees are anticipated for removal during the nesting season (February 15 – August 31), conduct a pre-construction survey for active bird nests within the Study Area;

- Within 14 days prior to the initiation of construction activities, conduct a pre-construction survey for CRLF, western pond turtle, western spadefoot toad, American badger, and special-status bat species;

- Coordinate with the CDFW to prepare an Avoidance and Minimization Plan for burrowing owl; and

- Prepare an Oak Woodland Canopy Assessment for oak woodland habitat within El Dorado County, in accordance with Option A under *El Dorado County General Plan Policy 7.4.4.4*, if disturbance thresholds are met.

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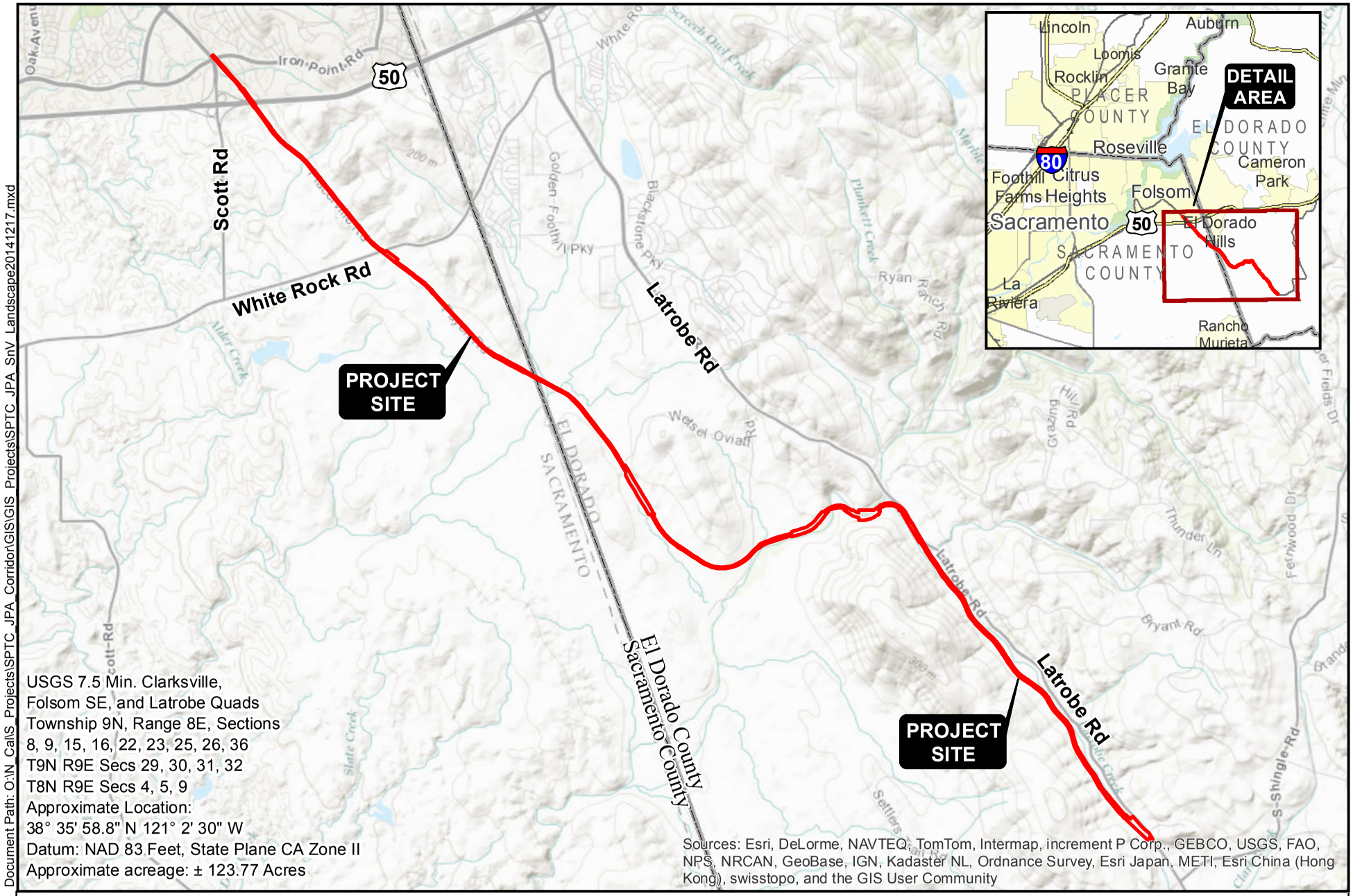

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SITE AND VICINITY

FOOTHILL ASSOCIATES
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING • PLANNING • LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

N

0 1 2
Miles

Drawn By: MUB
Date: 12/17/2014

FIGURE 1

SPTC-JPA NATURE TRAIL

Document Name: SPTC_JPA_SnV_Landscape20141217 : 12/17/2014 10:03:25 PM

SOIL TYPE - Sacramento County

- 107 - ARGONAUT-AUBURN COMPLEX, 3 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES
- 110 - AUBURN-ARGONAUT-ROCK OUTCROP COMPLEX, 8 TO 30 PERCENT SLOPES
- 237 - WHITEROCK LOAM, 3 TO 30 PERCENT SLOPES

107

237

107

110

0 0.5 1
Miles

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

PgB

AmD

AmD

WhE

AxD

AyF

PrD

PrD

PrD

PgB

AwD

PrD

AxD

AxD

AwD

TaD

AmD

AxD

AwD

AxD

AwD

AwD

AxD

SOIL TYPE - El Dorado

- AmD - ARGONAUT VERY ROCKY LOAM, 3 TO 30 PERCENT SLOPES
- AyF - AUBURN EXTREMELY ROCKY SILT LOAM, 3 TO 70 PERCENT SLOPES
- AwD - AUBURN SILT LOAM, 2 TO 30 PERCENT SLOPES
- AxD - AUBURN VERY ROCKY SILT LOAM, 2 TO 30 PERCENT SLOPES
- PgB - PERKINS GRAVELLY LOAM, MODERATELY DEEP VARIANT, 2 TO 5 PERCENT SLOPES
- PrD - PLACER
- WhE - WHITEROCK GRAVELLY SILT LOAM, 3 TO 50 PERCENT SLOPES
- TaD - TAILINGS

0 1 2
Miles

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

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SOILS
SPTC-JPA NATURE TRAIL

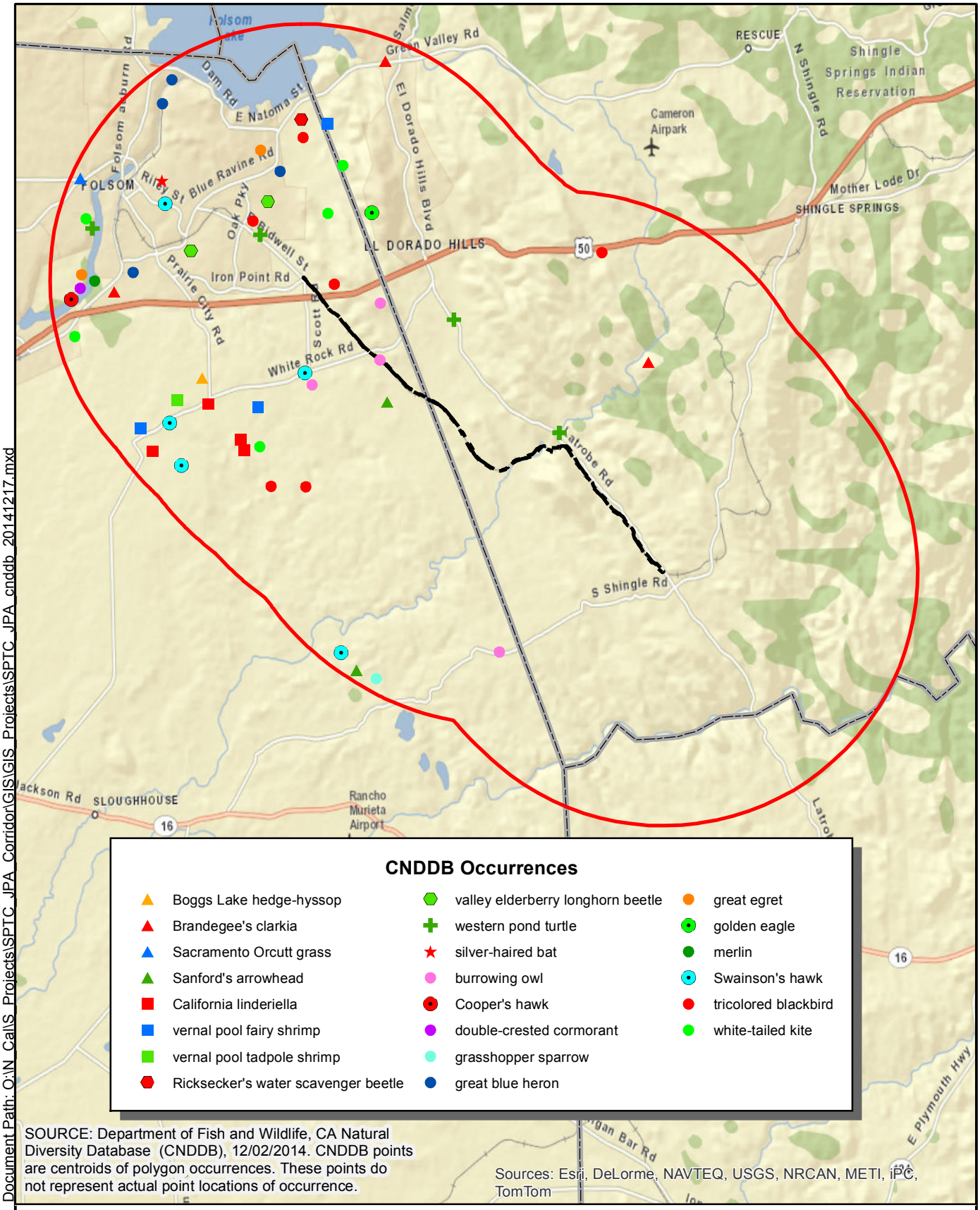
USDA, Soil Conservation Service, digital soil data derived from SSURGO data, Sacramento and El Dorado County CA, 2010

N

Drawn By: MUB
Date: 12/17/2014

FIGURE 2

Document Name: SPTC_JPA_Soills_11x17_20141217



SOURCE: Department of Fish and Wildlife, CA Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), 12/02/2014. CNDDB points are centroids of polygon occurrences. These points do not represent actual point locations of occurrence.

Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, USGS, NRCAN, METI, iPC, TomTom

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CNDDB

FOOTHILL ASSOCIATES
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N

0 1 2
SCALE IN MILES

Drawn By: MUB
Date: 12/17/2014

FIGURE 3

SPTC-JPA NATURE TRAIL

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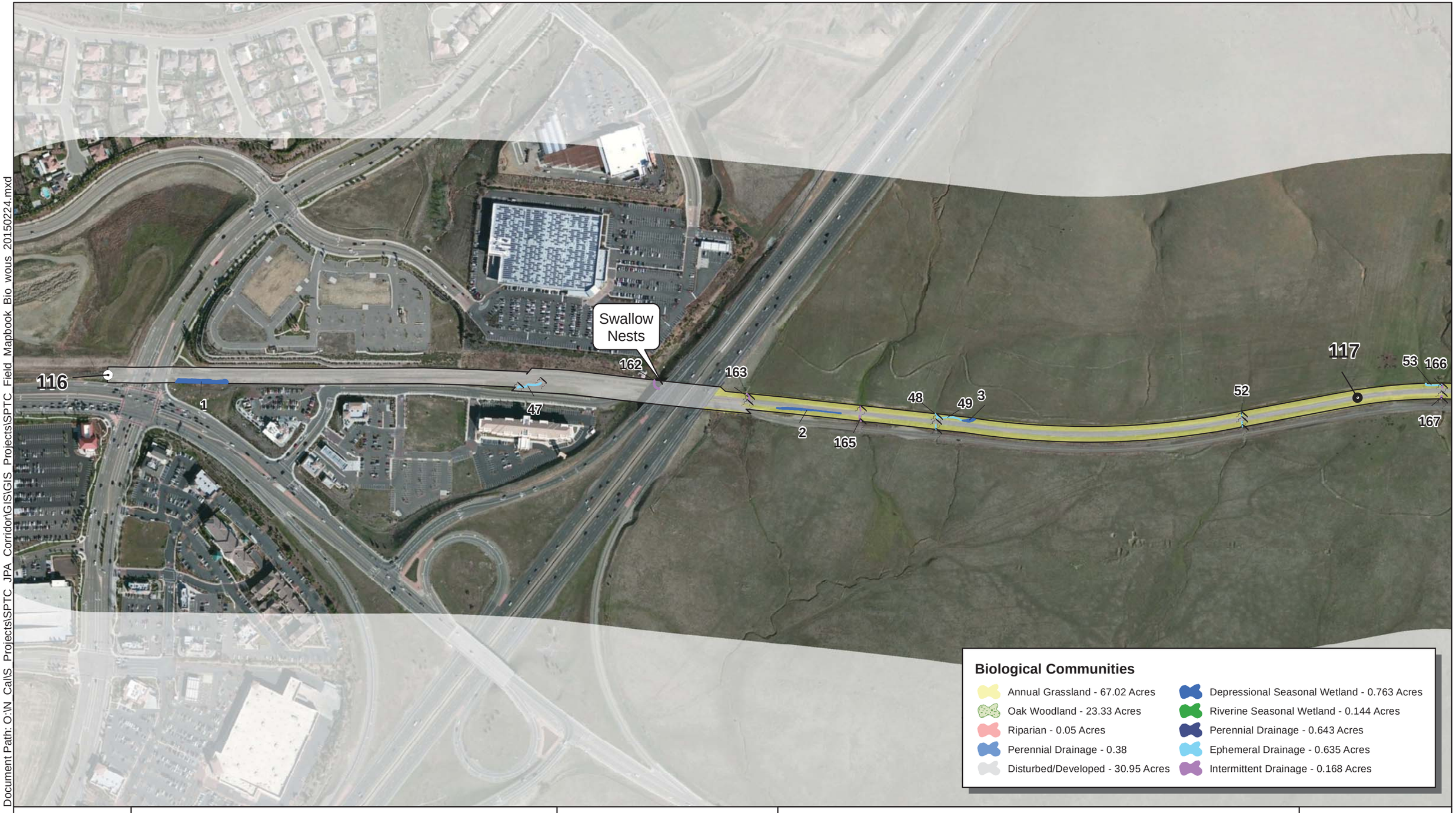

0 500 1,000

Feet

1 inch = 375 feet

SPTC Biological Communities

Other Features

- Elderberry
- Burrowing Owl Nest
- Culvert
- Mile Marker
- Study Area

MILE: 116

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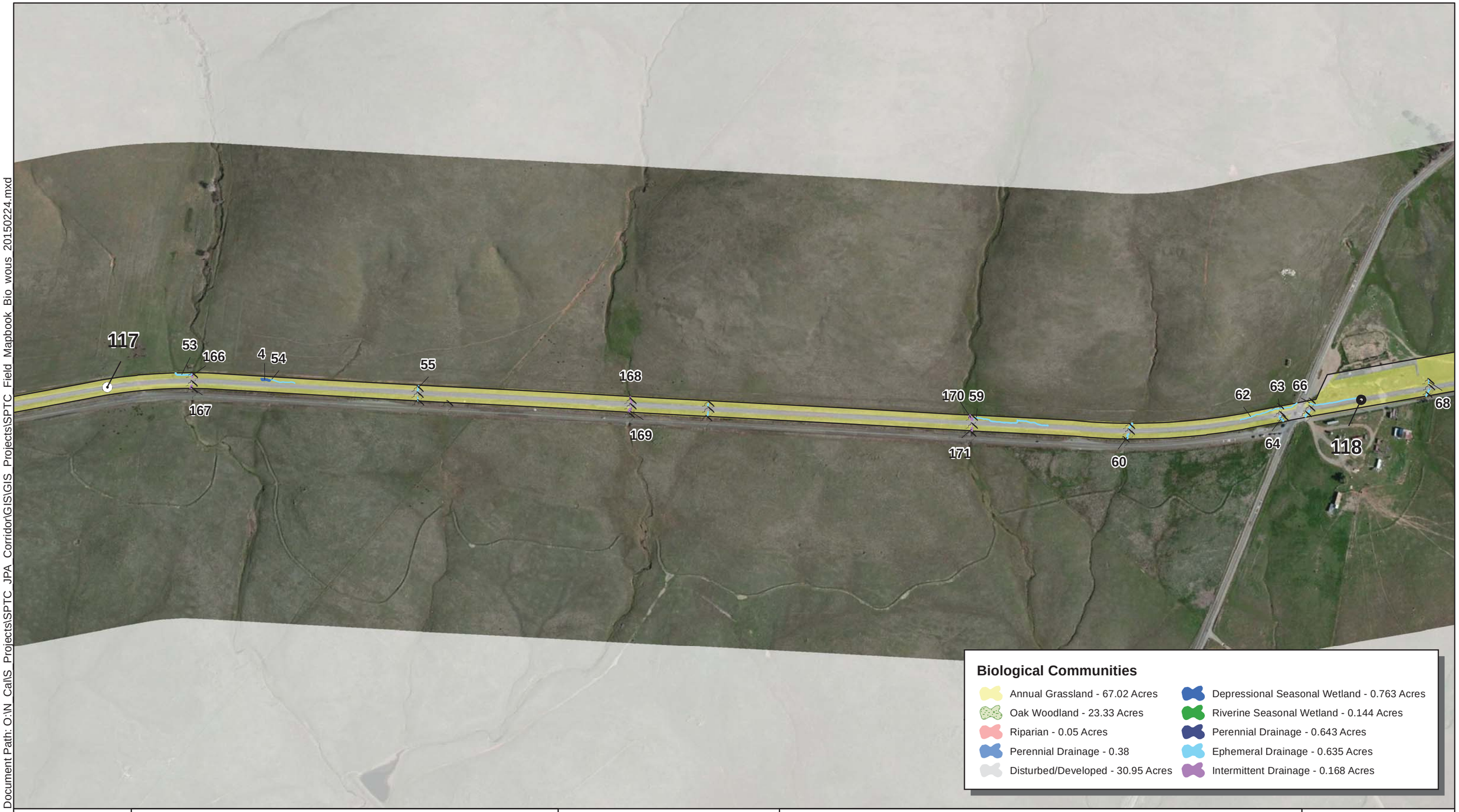

Biological Communities

- Annual Grassland - 67.02 Acres
- Oak Woodland - 23.33 Acres
- Riparian - 0.05 Acres
- Perennial Drainage - 0.38
- Disturbed/Developed - 30.95 Acres
- Depressional Seasonal Wetland - 0.763 Acres
- Riverine Seasonal Wetland - 0.144 Acres
- Perennial Drainage - 0.643 Acres
- Ephemeral Drainage - 0.635 Acres
- Intermittent Drainage - 0.168 Acres

N

0 500 1,000

Feet

1 inch = 375 feet

SPTC Biological Communities

Other Features

- Elderberry
- Burrowing Owl Nest
- Culvert
- Mile Marker
- Study Area

MILE: 117

N

0 500 1,000

Feet

1 inch = 375 feet

SPTC Biological Communities

Other Features

- Elderberry
- Burrowing Owl Nest
- Culvert
- Mile Marker
- Study Area

MILE: 118

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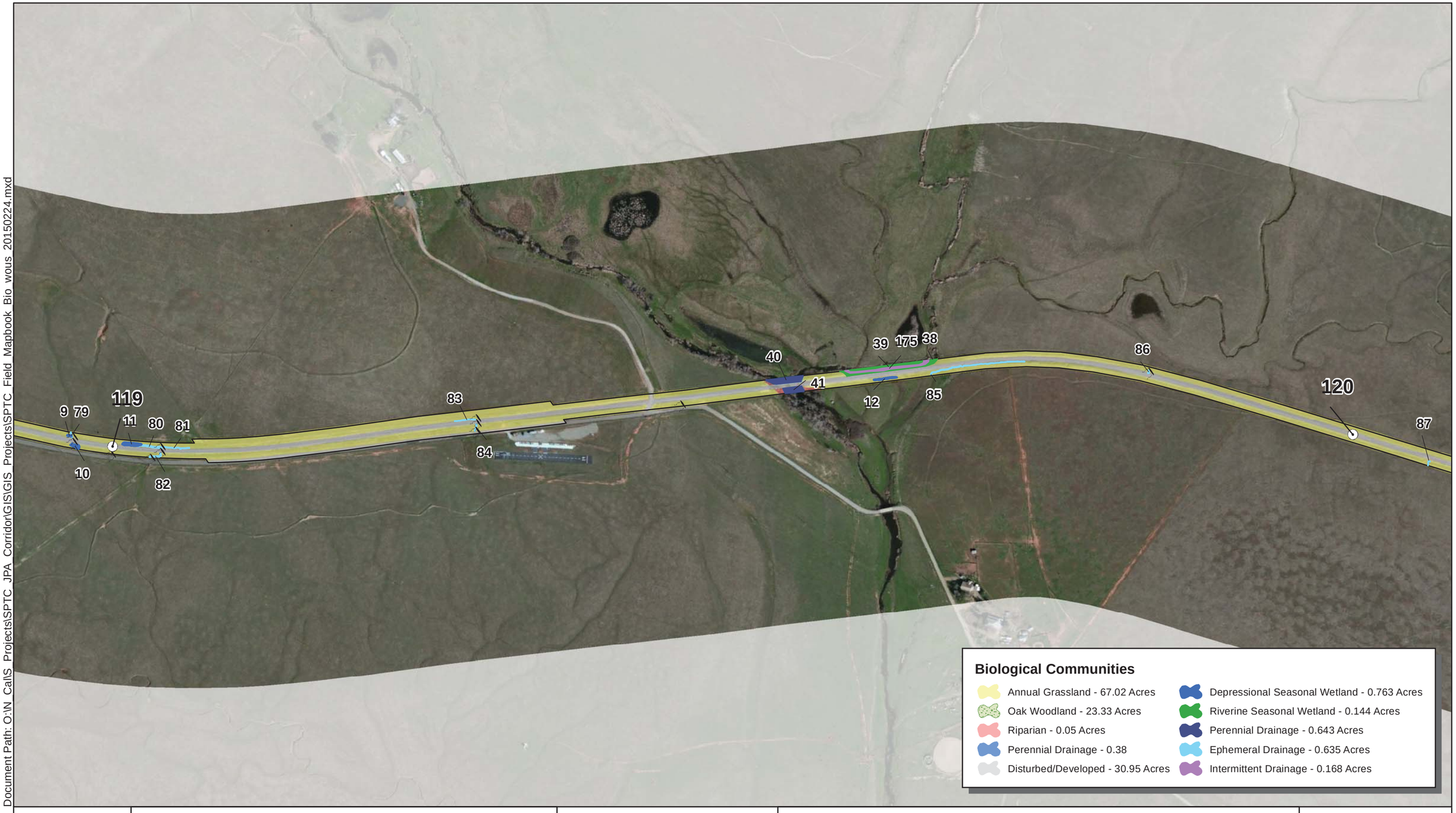

0 500 1,000

Feet

1 inch = 375 feet

SPTC Biological Communities

Other Features

- Elderberry
- Burrowing Owl Nest
- Culvert
- Mile Marker
- Study Area

MILE: 119

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Biological Communities

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- Oak Woodland - 23.33 Acres
- Riparian - 0.05 Acres
- Perennial Drainage - 0.38
- Disturbed/Developed - 30.95 Acres
- Depressional Seasonal Wetland - 0.763 Acres
- Riverine Seasonal Wetland - 0.144 Acres
- Perennial Drainage - 0.643 Acres
- Ephemeral Drainage - 0.635 Acres
- Intermittent Drainage - 0.168 Acres

0 500 1,000

Feet

1 inch = 375 feet

SPTC Biological Communities

Other Features

- Elderberry
- Burrowing Owl Nest
- Culvert
- Mile Marker
- Study Area

MILE: 120

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N

0 500 1,000

Feet

1 inch = 375 feet

SPTC Biological Communities

Other Features

- Elderberry
- Burrowing Owl Nest
- Culvert
- Mile Marker
- Study Area

MILE: 121

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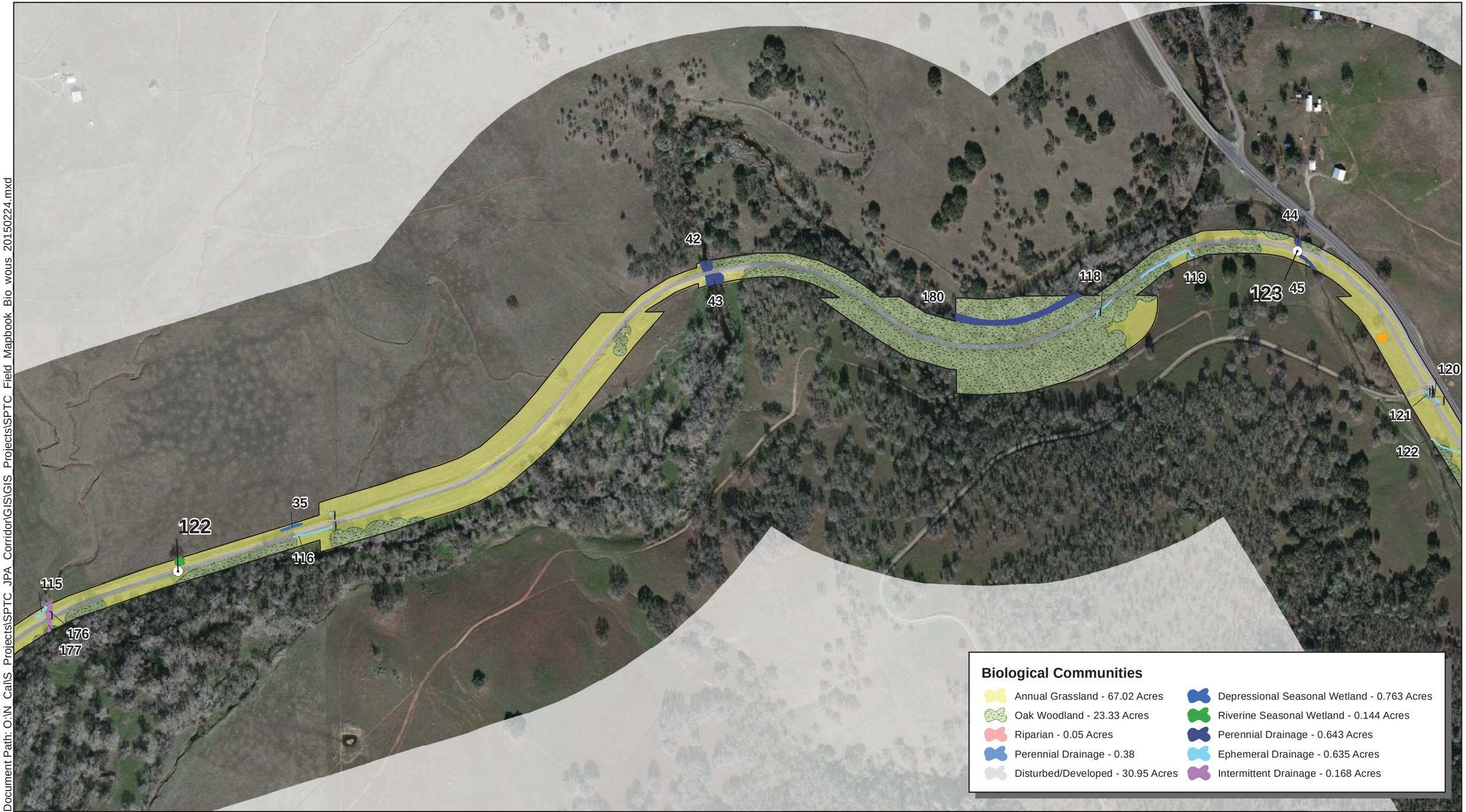

N

0 500 1,000

Feet

1 inch = 375 feet

SPTC Biological Communities

Other Features

- Elderberry
- Burrowing Owl Nest
- Culvert
- Mile Marker
- Study Area

MILE: 122

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Biological Communities

- Annual Grassland - 67.02 Acres
- Oak Woodland - 23.33 Acres
- Riparian - 0.05 Acres
- Perennial Drainage - 0.38
- Disturbed/Developed - 30.95 Acres
- Depressional Seasonal Wetland - 0.763 Acres
- Riverine Seasonal Wetland - 0.144 Acres
- Perennial Drainage - 0.643 Acres
- Ephemeral Drainage - 0.635 Acres
- Intermittent Drainage - 0.168 Acres

0 500 1,000

Feet

1 inch = 375 feet

SPTC Biological Communities

Other Features

- Elderberry
- Burrowing Owl Nest
- Culvert
- Mile Marker
- Study Area

MILE: 123

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0 500 1,000

Feet

1 inch = 375 feet

SPTC Biological Communities

Other Features

- Elderberry
- Burrowing Owl Nest
- Culvert
- Mile Marker
- Study Area

MILE: 124

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0 500 1,000

Feet

1 inch = 375 feet

SPTC Biological Communities

Other Features

- Elderberry
- Burrowing Owl Nest
- Culvert
- Mile Marker
- Study Area

MILE: 125

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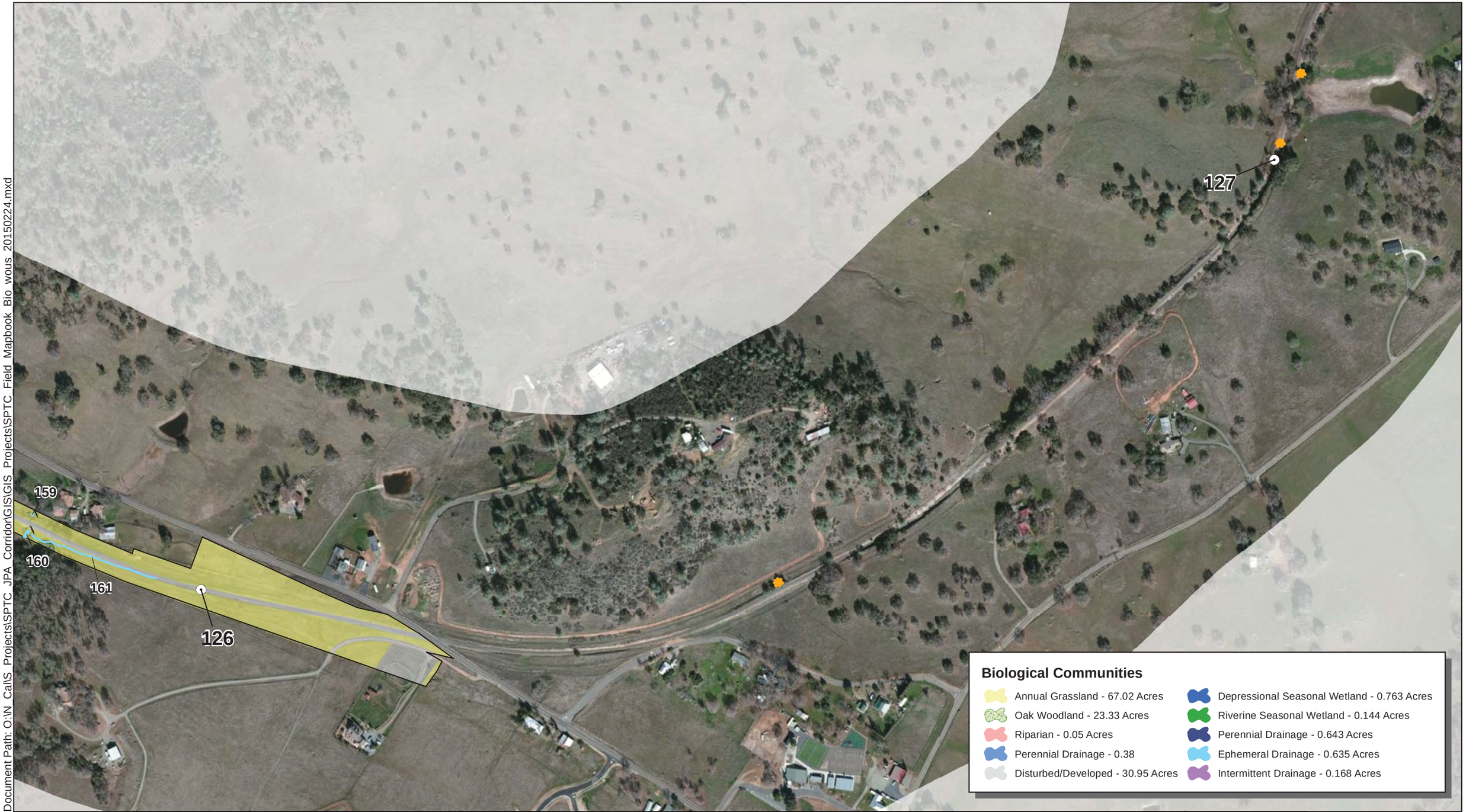

Biological Communities

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- Riparian - 0.05 Acres
- Perennial Drainage - 0.38
- Disturbed/Developed - 30.95 Acres
- Depressional Seasonal Wetland - 0.763 Acres
- Riverine Seasonal Wetland - 0.144 Acres
- Perennial Drainage - 0.643 Acres
- Ephemeral Drainage - 0.635 Acres
- Intermittent Drainage - 0.168 Acres

N

0 500 1,000

Feet

1 inch = 375 feet

SPTC Biological Communities

Other Features

- Elderberry
- Burrowing Owl Nest
- Culvert
- Mile Marker
- Study Area

MILE: 126

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Appendix A — CDFW, CNPS, and USFWS Queries

CDFW CNDDB: *Folsom, Clarksville, Shingle Springs, Buffalo Creek, Folsom SE, Latrobe, Sloughhouse, Carbondale,* and *Irish Springs* Quadrangles

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH and WILDLIFE **RareFind**

Query Summary:
Quad IS (Folsom (3812162) OR Clarksville (3812161) OR Shingle Springs (3812068) OR Buffalo Creek (3812152) OR Folsom SE (3812151) OR Latrobe (3812058) OR Sloughhouse (3812142) OR Carbondale (3812141) OR Irish Hill (3812048))

Print Close

CNDDB Element Query Results

Scientific Name	Common Name	Taxonomic Group	Element Code	Total Occs	Returned Occs	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	CA Rare Plant Rank	Other Status	Habitats
Accipiter cooperii	Cooper's hawk	Birds	ABNKC12040	103	2	None	None	G5	S4	null	CDFW_WL-Watch List | IUCN_LC-Least Concern	Cismontane woodland | Riparian forest | Riparian woodland | Upper montane coniferous forest
Agelaius tricolor	tricolored blackbird	Birds	ABPBXB0020	431	24	None	Endangered	G2G3	S1S2	null	BLM_S-Sensitive | CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern | IUCN_EN-Endangered | NABCI_RWL-Red Watch List | USFWS_BCC-Birds of Conservation Concern	Freshwater marsh | Marsh & swamp | Swamp | Wetland
Allium jepsonii	Jepson's onion	Monocots	PMLIL022V0	27	2	None	None	G1	S1	1B.2	BLM_S-Sensitive | USFS_S-Sensitive	Cismontane woodland | Lower montane coniferous forest | Ultramafic
Ambystoma californiense	California tiger salamander	Amphibians	AAAAA01180	1113	5	Threatened	Threatened	G2G3	S2S3	null	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern | IUCN_VU-Vulnerable	Cismontane woodland | Meadow & seep | Riparian woodland | Valley & foothill grassland | Vernal pool | Wetland
Ammodramus savannarum	grasshopper sparrow	Birds	ABPBXA0020	16	2	None	None	G5	S2	null	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern | IUCN_LC-Least Concern	Valley & foothill grassland
Andrena blennospermatis	Blennosperma vernal pool andrenid bee	Insects	IIHYM35030	15	2	None	None	G2	S2	null	null	Vernal pool
Antrozous pallidus	pallid bat	Mammals	AMACC10010	402	2	None	None	G5	S3	null	BLM_S-Sensitive | CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern | IUCN_LC-Least Concern | USFS_S-Sensitive | WBWG_H-High Priority	Chaparral | Coastal scrub | Desert wash | Great Basin grassland | Great Basin scrub | Mojavean desert scrub | Riparian woodland | Sonoran desert scrub | Upper montane coniferous forest | Valley & foothill grassland
Aquila chrysaetos	golden eagle	Birds	ABNKC22010	308	1	None	None	G5	S3	null	BLM_S-Sensitive | CDF_S-Sensitive | CDFW_FP-Fully Protected | CDFW_WL-Watch List | IUCN_LC-Least Concern | USFWS_BCC-Birds of Conservation Concern	Broadleaved upland forest | Cismontane woodland | Coastal prairie | Great Basin grassland | Great Basin scrub | Lower montane coniferous forest | Pinon & juniper woodlands | Upper montane coniferous forest | Valley & foothill grassland

Arctostaphylos myrtifolia	Ione manzanita	Dicots	PDERI04240	15	6	Threatened	None	G2	S2	1B.2	null	Chaparral | Cismontane woodland | Ione formation
Ardea alba	great egret	Birds	ABNGA04040	35	3	None	None	G5	S4	null	CDF_S-Sensitive | IUCN_LC-Least Concern	Brackish marsh | Estuary | Freshwater marsh | Marsh & swamp | Riparian forest | Wetland
Ardea herodias	great blue heron	Birds	ABNGA04010	133	6	None	None	G5	S4	null	CDF_S-Sensitive | IUCN_LC-Least Concern	Brackish marsh | Estuary | Freshwater marsh | Marsh & swamp | Riparian forest | Wetland
Athene cunicularia	burrowing owl	Birds	ABNSB10010	1862	11	None	None	G4	S3	null	BLM_S-Sensitive | CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern | IUCN_LC-Least Concern | USFWS_BCC-Birds of Conservation Concern	Coastal prairie | Coastal scrub | Great Basin grassland | Great Basin scrub | Mojavean desert scrub | Sonoran desert scrub | Valley & foothill grassland
Branchinecta lynchi	vernal pool fairy shrimp	Crustaceans	ICBRA03030	750	45	Threatened	None	G3	S2S3	null	IUCN_VU-Vulnerable	Valley & foothill grassland | Vernal pool | Wetland
Branchinecta mesovallensis	midvalley fairy shrimp	Crustaceans	ICBRA03150	125	12	None	None	G2	S2	null	null	Vernal pool | Wetland
Buteo swainsoni	Swainson's hawk	Birds	ABNKC19070	2394	23	None	Threatened	G5	S3	null	BLM_S-Sensitive | IUCN_LC-Least Concern | USFWS_BCC-Birds of Conservation Concern	Great Basin grassland | Riparian forest | Riparian woodland | Valley & foothill grassland
Calystegia stebbinsii	Stebbins' morning-glory	Dicots	PDCON040H0	13	7	Endangered	Endangered	G1	S1	1B.1	SB_RSABG-Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden	Chaparral | Cismontane woodland | Ultramafic
Ceanothus roderickii	Pine Hill ceanothus	Dicots	PDRHA04190	8	7	Endangered	Rare	G1	S1	1B.2	SB_RSABG-Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden	Chaparral | Cismontane woodland | Ultramafic
Central Valley Drainage Hardhead/Squawfish Stream	Central Valley Drainage Hardhead/Squawfish Stream	Inland Waters	CARA2443CA	11	1	None	None	GNR	SNR	null	null	null
Chlorogalum grandiflorum	Red Hills soaproot	Monocots	PMLIL0G020	82	9	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2	BLM_S-Sensitive	Chaparral | Cismontane woodland | Lower montane coniferous forest | Ultramafic
Clarkia biloba ssp. brandegeeae	Brandegee's clarkia	Dicots	PDONA05053	89	4	None	None	G4G5T4	S4	4.2	BLM_S-Sensitive	Chaparral | Cismontane woodland | Lower montane coniferous forest
Crocanthemum suffrutescens	Bisbee Peak rush-rose	Dicots	PDCIS020F0	31	17	None	None	G2Q	S2	3.2	null	Chaparral | Ione formation | Ultramafic
Desmocerus californicus dimorphus	valley elderberry longhorn beetle	Insects	IICOL48011	216	12	Threatened	None	G3T2	S2	null	null	Riparian scrub
Downingia pusilla	dwarf downingia	Dicots	PDCAM060C0	127	2	None	None	GU	S2	2B.2	null	Valley & foothill grassland | Vernal pool | Wetland
Dumontia oregonensis	hairy water flea	Crustaceans	ICBRA23010	2	1	None	None	G1G3	S1	null	null	Vernal pool
Elanus leucurus	white-tailed kite	Birds	ABNKC06010	158	10	None	None	G5	S3S4	null	BLM_S-Sensitive | CDFW_FP-Fully Protected | IUCN_LC-Least Concern	Cismontane woodland | Marsh & swamp | Riparian woodland | Valley & foothill grassland | Wetland
												Aquatic | Artificial flowing waters | Klamath/North coast flowing waters |

Emys marmorata	western pond turtle	Reptiles	ARAAD02030	1137	11	None	None	G3G4	S3	null	BLM_S-Sensitive | CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern | IUCN_VU-Vulnerable | USFS_S-Sensitive	Klamath/North coast standing waters | Marsh & swamp | Sacramento/San Joaquin flowing waters | Sacramento/San Joaquin standing waters | South coast flowing waters | South coast standing waters | Wetland
Eriogonum apricum var. apricum	Ione buckwheat	Dicots	PDPGN080F1	6	1	Endangered	Endangered	G2T1	S1	1B.1	SB_UCBBG-UC Berkeley Botanical Garden	Chaparral | Ione formation
Eriogonum apricum var. prostratum	Irish Hill buckwheat	Dicots	PDPGN080F2	2	2	Endangered	Endangered	G2T1	S1	1B.1	null	Chaparral | Ione formation
Eryngium pinnatisectum	Tuolumne button-celery	Dicots	PDAPI0Z0P0	24	5	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2	null	Cismontane woodland | Lower montane coniferous forest | Vernal pool | Wetland
Falco columbarius	merlin	Birds	ABNKD06030	34	1	None	None	G5	S3S4	null	CDFW_WL-Watch List | IUCN_LC-Least Concern	Estuary | Great Basin grassland | Valley & foothill grassland
Fremontodendron decumbens	Pine Hill flannelbush	Dicots	PDSTE03030	10	7	Endangered	Rare	G1	S1	1B.2	SB_RSABG-Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden | SB_UCBBG-UC Berkeley Botanical Garden	Chaparral | Cismontane woodland | Ultramafic
Galium californicum ssp. sierrae	El Dorado bedstraw	Dicots	PDRUB0N0E7	16	13	Endangered	Rare	G5T1	S1	1B.2	SB_RSABG-Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden	Chaparral | Cismontane woodland | Lower montane coniferous forest | Ultramafic
Gratiola heterosepala	Boggs Lake hedge-hyssop	Dicots	PDSCR0R060	94	5	None	Endangered	G2	S2	1B.2	BLM_S-Sensitive	Freshwater marsh | Marsh & swamp | Vernal pool | Wetland
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	bald eagle	Birds	ABNKC10010	316	1	Delisted	Endangered	G5	S2	null	BLM_S-Sensitive | CDF_S-Sensitive | CDFW_FP-Fully Protected | IUCN_LC-Least Concern | USFS_S-Sensitive | USFWS_BCC-Birds of Conservation Concern	Lower montane coniferous forest | Oldgrowth
Horkelia parryi	Parry's horkelia	Dicots	PDROS0W0C0	36	2	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2	BLM_S-Sensitive | USFS_S-Sensitive	Chaparral | Cismontane woodland | Ione formation
Hydrochara rickseckeri	Ricksecker's water scavenger beetle	Insects	IICOL5V010	13	2	None	None	G2?	S2?	null	null	Aquatic | Sacramento/San Joaquin flowing waters | Sacramento/San Joaquin standing waters
Ione Chaparral	Ione Chaparral	Scrub	CTT37D00CA	12	4	None	None	G1	S1.1	null	null	Chaparral
Juncus leiospermus var. ahartii	Ahart's dwarf rush	Monocots	PMJUN011L1	13	1	None	None	G2T1	S1	1B.2	null	Valley & foothill grassland | Vernal pool | Wetland
Lasionycteris noctivagans	silver-haired bat	Mammals	AMACC02010	138	2	None	None	G5	S3S4	null	IUCN_LC-Least Concern | WBWG_M-Medium Priority	Lower montane coniferous forest | Oldgrowth | Riparian forest
Legenere limosa	legenere	Dicots	PDCAM0C010	78	11	None	None	G2	S2	1B.1	BLM_S-Sensitive	Vernal pool | Wetland
Lepidurus packardi	vernal pool tadpole shrimp	Crustaceans	ICBRA10010	285	31	Endangered	None	G3	S2S3	null	IUCN_EN-Endangered	Valley & foothill grassland | Vernal pool | Wetland

Linderiella occidentalis	California linderiella	Crustaceans	ICBRA06010	416	17	None	None	G2G3	S2S3	null	IUCN_NT-Near Threatened	Vernal pool
Navarretia myersii ssp. myersii	pincushion navarretia	Dicots	PDPLM0C0X1	14	5	None	None	G1T1	S1	1B.1	null	Vernal pool | Wetland
Northern Hardpan Vernal Pool	Northern Hardpan Vernal Pool	Herbaceous	CTT44110CA	126	30	None	None	G3	S3.1	null	null	Vernal pool | Wetland
Northern Volcanic Mud Flow Vernal Pool	Northern Volcanic Mud Flow Vernal Pool	Herbaceous	CTT44132CA	7	1	None	None	G1	S1.1	null	null	Vernal pool | Wetland
Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus	steelhead - Central Valley DPS	Fish	AFCHA0209K	31	3	Threatened	None	G5T2Q	S2	null	AFS_TH-Threatened	Aquatic | Sacramento/San Joaquin flowing waters
Orcuttia tenuis	slender Orcutt grass	Monocots	PMPOA4G050	96	1	Threatened	Endangered	G2	S2	1B.1	SB_UCBBG-UC Berkeley Botanical Garden	Vernal pool | Wetland
Orcuttia viscida	Sacramento Orcutt grass	Monocots	PMPOA4G070	12	10	Endangered	Endangered	G1	S1	1B.1	null	Vernal pool | Wetland
Packera layneae	Layne's ragwort	Dicots	PDAST8H1V0	48	23	Threatened	Rare	G2	S2	1B.2	SB_RSABG-Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden	Chaparral | Cismontane woodland | Ultramafic
Pekania pennanti	fisher - West Coast DPS	Mammals	AMAJF01021	647	1	Proposed Threatened	Candidate Threatened	G5T2T3Q	S2S3	null	BLM_S-Sensitive | CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern | USFS_S-Sensitive	North coast coniferous forest | Oldgrowth | Riparian forest
Phalacrocorax auritus	double-crested cormorant	Birds	ABNFD01020	37	1	None	None	G5	S4	null	CDFW_WL-Watch List | IUCN_LC-Least Concern	Riparian forest | Riparian scrub | Riparian woodland
Phrynosoma blainvillii	coast horned lizard	Reptiles	ARACF12100	727	4	None	None	G3G4	S3S4	null	BLM_S-Sensitive | CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern | IUCN_LC-Least Concern	Chaparral | Cismontane woodland | Coastal bluff scrub | Coastal scrub | Desert wash | Pinon & juniper woodlands | Riparian scrub | Riparian woodland | Valley & foothill grassland
Rana draytonii	California red-legged frog	Amphibians	AAABH01022	1340	1	Threatened	None	G2G3	S2S3	null	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern | IUCN_VU-Vulnerable	Aquatic | Artificial flowing waters | Artificial standing waters | Freshwater marsh | Marsh & swamp | Riparian forest | Riparian scrub | Riparian woodland | Sacramento/San Joaquin flowing waters | Sacramento/San Joaquin standing waters | South coast flowing waters | South coast standing waters | Wetland
Riparia riparia	bank swallow	Birds	ABPAU08010	296	3	None	Threatened	G5	S2	null	BLM_S-Sensitive | IUCN_LC-Least Concern	Riparian scrub | Riparian woodland
Sagittaria sanfordii	Sanford's arrowhead	Monocots	PMALI040Q0	93	8	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2	BLM_S-Sensitive	Marsh & swamp | Wetland
Spea hammondii	western spadefoot	Amphibians	AAABF02020	426	8	None	None	G3	S3	null	BLM_S-Sensitive | CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern | IUCN_NT-Near Threatened	Cismontane woodland | Coastal scrub | Valley & foothill grassland | Vernal pool | Wetland
												Alkali marsh | Alkali playa | Alpine | Alpine dwarf scrub |

Taxidea taxus	American badger	Mammals	AMAJF04010	476	1	None	None	G5	S3	null	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern | IUCN_LC-Least Concern	Bog & fen | Brackish marsh | Broadleaved upland forest | Chaparral | Chenopod scrub | Cismontane woodland | Closed-cone coniferous forest | Coastal bluff scrub | Coastal dunes | Coastal prairie | Coastal scrub | Desert dunes | Desert wash | Freshwater marsh | Great Basin grassland | Great Basin scrub | Interior dunes | Ione formation | Joshua tree woodland | Limestone | Lower montane coniferous forest | Marsh & swamp | Meadow & seep | Mojavean desert scrub | Montane dwarf scrub | North coast coniferous forest | Oldgrowth | Pavement plain | Redwood | Riparian forest | Riparian scrub | Riparian woodland | Salt marsh | Sonoran desert scrub | Sonoran thorn woodland | Ultramafic | Upper montane coniferous forest | Upper Sonoran scrub | Valley & foothill grassland
Thamnophis gigas	giant garter snake	Reptiles	ARADB36150	345	1	Threatened	Threatened	G2	S2	null	IUCN_VU-Vulnerable	Marsh & swamp | Riparian scrub | Wetland
Valley Needlegrass Grassland	Valley Needlegrass Grassland	Herbaceous	CTT42110CA	45	1	None	None	G3	S3.1	null	null	Valley & foothill grassland
Wyethia reticulata	El Dorado County mule ears	Dicots	PDAST9X0D0	25	21	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2	BLM_S-Sensitive | SB_RSABG-Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden	Chaparral | Cismontane woodland | Lower montane coniferous forest | Ultramafic

CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered: *Folsom, Clarksville, Shingle Springs, Buffalo Creek, Folsom SE, Latrobe, Sloughhouse, Carbondale,* and *Irish Springs* Quadrangles

CNPS California Native Plant Rare and Endangered Plant Inventory

Plant List

29 matches found. *Click on scientific name for details*

Search Criteria

Found in 9 Quads around 38121E1

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family	Lifeform	Rare Plant Rank	State Rank	Global Rank
Allium jepsonii	Jepson's onion	Alliaceae	perennial bulbiferous herb	1B.2	S1	G1
Arctostaphylos myrtifolia	Ione manzanita	Ericaceae	perennial evergreen shrub	1B.2	S2	G2
Bryum chryseum	brassy bryum	Bryaceae	moss	4.3	S3	G5
Calandrinia breweri	Brewer's calandrinia	Montiaceae	annual herb	4.2	S34	G4
Calystegia stebbinsii	Stebbins' morning-glory	Convolvulaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	1B.1	S1	G1
Ceanothus fresnensis	Fresno ceanothus	Rhamnaceae	perennial evergreen shrub	4.3	S4	G4
Ceanothus roderickii	Pine Hill ceanothus	Rhamnaceae	perennial evergreen shrub	1B.1	S1	G1
Chlorogalum grandiflorum	Red Hills soaproot	Agavaceae	perennial bulbiferous herb	1B.2	S3	G3
Clarkia biloba ssp. brandegeeae	Brandegee's clarkia	Onagraceae	annual herb	4.2	S4	G4G5T4
Crocanthemum suffrutescens	Bisbee Peak rush-rose	Cistaceae	perennial evergreen shrub	3.2	S2	G2Q
Downingia pusilla	dwarf downingia	Campanulaceae	annual herb	2B.2	S2	GU
Erigeron miser	starved daisy	Asteraceae	perennial herb	1B.3	S2	G2
Eriogonum apricum var. apricum	Ione buckwheat	Polygonaceae	perennial herb	1B.1	S1	G2T1
Eriogonum apricum var. prostratum	Irish Hill buckwheat	Polygonaceae	perennial herb	1B.1	S1	G2T1
Eriophyllum jepsonii	Jepson's woolly sunflower	Asteraceae	perennial herb	4.3	S3	G3
Eryngium pinnatisectum	Tuolumne button-celery	Apiaceae	annual / perennial herb	1B.2	S2	G2
Fremontodendron decumbens	Pine Hill flannelbush	Malvaceae	perennial evergreen shrub	1B.2	S1	G1
Galium californicum ssp. sierrae	El Dorado bedstraw	Rubiaceae	perennial herb	1B.2	S1	G5T1
Gratiola heterosepala	Boggs Lake hedge-hyssop	Plantaginaceae	annual herb	1B.2	S2	G2
Horkelia parryi	Parry's horkelia	Rosaceae	perennial herb	1B.2	S2	G2

Juncus leiospermus var. ahartii	Ahart's dwarf rush	Juncaceae	annual herb	1B.2	S1	G2T1
Legenere limosa	legenere	Campanulaceae	annual herb	1B.1	S2	G2
Navarretia myersii ssp. myersii	pincushion navarretia	Polemoniaceae	annual herb	1B.1	S1	G1T1
Orcuttia tenuis	slender Orcutt grass	Poaceae	annual herb	1B.1	S2	G2
Orcuttia viscida	Sacramento Orcutt grass	Poaceae	annual herb	1B.1	S1	G1
Packera layneae	Layne's ragwort	Asteraceae	perennial herb	1B.2	S2	G2
Sagittaria sanfordii	Sanford's arrowhead	Alismataceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	1B.2	S3	G3
Trichostema rubisepalum	Hernandez bluecurls	Lamiaceae	annual herb	4.3	S4	G4
Wyethia reticulata	El Dorado County mule ears	Asteraceae	perennial herb	1B.2	S2	G2

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USFWS List for *Federal Endangered and Threatened Species that may be affected by Projects in the Folsom SE, Clarksville, and Latrobe 7.5-minute series Quadrangles*

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office

Federal Endangered and Threatened Species that Occur in or may be Affected by Projects in the Counties and/or U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 Minute Quads you requested

Document Number: 150206123014

Current as of: February 6, 2015

Quad Lists

Listed Species

Invertebrates

Branchinecta conservatio
Conservancy fairy shrimp (E)

Branchinecta lynchi
vernal pool fairy shrimp (T)

Desmocerus californicus dimorphus
valley elderberry longhorn beetle (T)

Lepidurus packardi
vernal pool tadpole shrimp (E)

Fish

Hypomesus transpacificus
delta smelt (T)

Oncorhynchus mykiss
Central Valley steelhead (T) (NMFS)
Critical habitat, Central Valley steelhead (X) (NMFS)

Oncorhynchus tshawytscha
Central Valley spring-run chinook salmon (T) (NMFS)
winter-run chinook salmon, Sacramento River (E) (NMFS)

Amphibians

Ambystoma californiense
California tiger salamander, central population (T)

Rana draytonii
California red-legged frog (T)

Reptiles

Thamnophis gigas
giant garter snake (T)

Plants

Calystegia stebbinsii
Stebbins's morning-glory (E)

Ceanothus roderickii
Pine Hill ceanothus (E)

Fremontodendron californicum ssp. decumbens
Pine Hill flannelbush (E)

Galium californicum ssp. sierrae
El Dorado bedstraw (E)

Orcuttia viscida
Critical habitat, Sacramento Orcutt grass (X)
Sacramento Orcutt grass (E)

Senecio layneae
Layne's butterweed (=ragwort) (T)

Quads Containing Listed, Proposed or Candidate Species:

CLARKSVILLE (511A)

FOLSOM (511B)

FOLSOM SE (511D)

County Lists

El Dorado County

Listed Species

Invertebrates

Branchinecta conservatio
Conservancy fairy shrimp (E)

Branchinecta lynchi
vernal pool fairy shrimp (T)

Desmocerus californicus dimorphus
valley elderberry longhorn beetle (T)

Lepidurus packardi
vernal pool tadpole shrimp (E)

Fish

Hypomesus transpacificus
delta smelt (T)

Oncorhynchus (=Salmo) clarki henshawi
Lahontan cutthroat trout (T)

Oncorhynchus mykiss
Central Valley steelhead (T) (NMFS)
Critical habitat, Central Valley steelhead (X) (NMFS)

Oncorhynchus tshawytscha
Central Valley spring-run chinook salmon (T) (NMFS)
winter-run chinook salmon, Sacramento River (E) (NMFS)

Amphibians

Ambystoma californiense
California tiger salamander, central population (T)

Rana draytonii
California red-legged frog (T)
Critical habitat, California red-legged frog (X)

Rana sierrae
Mountain yellow legged frog (PX)

Reptiles

Thamnophis gigas
giant garter snake (T)

Birds

Coccyzus americanus occidentalis
Western yellow-billed cuckoo (T)

Plants

Calystegia stebbinsii
Stebbins's morning-glory (E)

Ceanothus roderickii
Pine Hill ceanothus (E)

Fremontodendron californicum ssp. decumbens
Pine Hill flannelbush (E)

Galium californicum ssp. sierrae
El Dorado bedstraw (E)

Orcuttia viscida
Critical habitat, Sacramento Orcutt grass (X)
Sacramento Orcutt grass (E)

Senecio layneae
Layne's butterweed (=ragwort) (T)

Candidate Species

Amphibians

Bufo canorus
Yosemite toad (C)

Rana muscosa
mountain yellow-legged frog (C)

Mammals

Martes pennanti
fisher (C)

Plants

Rorippa subumbellata
Tahoe yellow-cress (C)

Sacramento County

Listed Species

Invertebrates

Apodemia mormo langei

Lange's metalmark butterfly (E)

Branchinecta conservatio
Conservancy fairy shrimp (E)

Branchinecta lynchi
Critical habitat, vernal pool fairy shrimp (X)
vernal pool fairy shrimp (T)

Desmocerus californicus dimorphus
Critical habitat, valley elderberry longhorn beetle (X)
valley elderberry longhorn beetle (T)

Elaphrus viridis
delta green ground beetle (T)

Incisalia mossii bayensis
San Bruno elfin butterfly (E)

Lepidurus packardi
Critical habitat, vernal pool tadpole shrimp (X)
vernal pool tadpole shrimp (E)

Fish

Acipenser medirostris
green sturgeon (T) (NMFS)

Hypomesus transpacificus
Critical habitat, delta smelt (X)
delta smelt (T)

Oncorhynchus mykiss
Central Valley steelhead (T) (NMFS)
Critical habitat, Central Valley steelhead (X) (NMFS)

Oncorhynchus tshawytscha
Central Valley spring-run chinook salmon (T) (NMFS)
Critical Habitat, Central Valley spring-run chinook (X) (NMFS)
Critical habitat, winter-run chinook salmon (X) (NMFS)
winter-run chinook salmon, Sacramento River (E) (NMFS)

Amphibians

Ambystoma californiense
California tiger salamander, central population (T)
Critical habitat, CA tiger salamander, central population (X)

Rana draytonii
California red-legged frog (T)

Reptiles

Thamnophis gigas

giant garter snake (T)

Birds

Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus
western snowy plover (T)

Coccyzus americanus occidentalis
Western yellow-billed cuckoo (T)

Rallus longirostris obsoletus
California clapper rail (E)

Sternula antillarum (=Sterna, =albifrons) browni
California least tern (E)

Vireo bellii pusillus
Least Bell's vireo (E)

Mammals

Reithrodontomys raviventris
salt marsh harvest mouse (E)

Sylvilagus bachmani riparius
riparian brush rabbit (E)

Vulpes macrotis mutica
San Joaquin kit fox (E)

Plants

Arctostaphylos myrtifolia
Ione manzanita (T)

Calystegia stebbinsii
Stebbins's morning-glory (E)

Castilleja campestris ssp. succulenta
Critical habitat, succulent (=fleshy) owl's-clover (X)
succulent (=fleshy) owl's-clover (T)

Ceanothus roderickii
Pine Hill ceanothus (E)

Cordylanthus mollis ssp. mollis
soft bird's-beak (E)

Cordylanthus palmatus
palmate-bracted bird's-beak (E)

Eriogonum apricum var. apricum
Ione buckwheat (E)

Eriogonum apricum var. prostratum
Irish Hill buckwheat (E)

Erysimum capitatum ssp. angustatum
Contra Costa wallflower (E)
Critical Habitat, Contra Costa wallflower (X)

Fremontodendron californicum ssp. decumbens
Pine Hill flannelbush (E)

Galium californicum ssp. sierrae
El Dorado bedstraw (E)

Lasthenia conjugens
Contra Costa goldfields (E)

Neostapfia colusana
Colusa grass (T)

Oenothera deltoides ssp. howellii
Antioch Dunes evening-primrose (E)
Critical habitat, Antioch Dunes evening-primrose (X)

Orcuttia tenuis
Critical habitat, slender Orcutt grass (X)
slender Orcutt grass (T)

Orcuttia viscida
Critical habitat, Sacramento Orcutt grass (X)
Sacramento Orcutt grass (E)

Senecio layneae
Layne's butterweed (=ragwort) (T)

Sidalcea keckii
Keck's checker-mallow (=checkerbloom) (E)

Key:

(E) *Endangered* - Listed as being in danger of extinction.
(T) *Threatened* - Listed as likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future.
(P) *Proposed* - Officially proposed in the Federal Register for listing as endangered or threatened.
(NMFS) Species under the Jurisdiction of the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service. Consult with them directly about these species.
Critical Habitat - Area essential to the conservation of a species.
(PX) *Proposed Critical Habitat* - The species is already listed. Critical habitat is being proposed for it.
(C) *Candidate* - Candidate to become a proposed species.
(V) Vacated by a court order. Not currently in effect. Being reviewed by the Service.
(X) *Critical Habitat* designated for this species

Important Information About Your Species List

How We Make Species Lists

We store information about endangered and threatened species lists by U.S. Geological Survey 7½ minute quads. The United States is divided into these quads, which are about the size of San Francisco.

The animals on your species list are ones that occur within, **or may be affected by** projects within, the quads covered by the list.

- Fish and other aquatic species appear on your list if they are in the same watershed as your quad or if water use in your quad might affect them.
- Amphibians will be on the list for a quad or county if pesticides applied in that area may be carried to their habitat by air currents.
- Birds are shown regardless of whether they are resident or migratory. Relevant birds on the county list should be considered regardless of whether they appear on a quad list.

Plants

Any plants on your list are ones that have actually been observed in the area covered by the list. Plants may exist in an area without ever having been detected there. You can find out what's in the surrounding quads through the California Native Plant Society's online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants.

Surveying

Some of the species on your list may not be affected by your project. A trained biologist and/or botanist, familiar with the habitat requirements of the species on your list, should determine whether they or habitats suitable for them may be affected by your project. We recommend that your surveys include any proposed and candidate species on your list. See our Protocol and Recovery Permits pages.

For plant surveys, we recommend using the Guidelines for Conducting and Reporting Botanical Inventories. The results of your surveys should be published in any environmental documents prepared for your project.

Your Responsibilities Under the Endangered Species Act

All animals identified as listed above are fully protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Section 9 of the Act and its implementing regulations prohibit the take of a federally listed wildlife species. Take is defined by the Act as "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect" any such animal.

> Take may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, or shelter (50 CFR §17.3).

Take incidental to an otherwise lawful activity may be authorized by one of two procedures:

- If a Federal agency is involved with the permitting, funding, or carrying out of a project that may result in take, then that agency must engage in a formal consultation with the Service.

  During formal consultation, the Federal agency, the applicant and the Service work together to avoid or minimize the impact on listed species and their habitat. Such consultation would result in a biological opinion by the Service addressing the anticipated effect of the project on listed and proposed species. The opinion may authorize a limited level of incidental take.
- If no Federal agency is involved with the project, and federally listed species may be taken as part of the project, then you, the applicant, should apply for an incidental take permit. The Service may issue such a permit if you submit a satisfactory conservation plan for the species

that would be affected by your project.

Should your survey determine that federally listed or proposed species occur in the area and are likely to be affected by the project, we recommend that you work with this office and the California Department of Fish and Game to develop a plan that minimizes the project's direct and indirect impacts to listed species and compensates for project-related loss of habitat. You should include the plan in any environmental documents you file.

Critical Habitat

When a species is listed as endangered or threatened, areas of habitat considered essential to its conservation may be designated as critical habitat. These areas may require special management considerations or protection. They provide needed space for growth and normal behavior; food, water, air, light, other nutritional or physiological requirements; cover or shelter; and sites for breeding, reproduction, rearing of offspring, germination or seed dispersal.

Although critical habitat may be designated on private or State lands, activities on these lands are not restricted unless there is Federal involvement in the activities or direct harm to listed wildlife.

If any species has proposed or designated critical habitat within a quad, there will be a separate line for this on the species list. Boundary descriptions of the critical habitat may be found in the Federal Register. The information is also reprinted in the Code of Federal Regulations (50 CFR 17.95). See our Map Room page.

Candidate Species

We recommend that you address impacts to candidate species. We put plants and animals on our candidate list when we have enough scientific information to eventually propose them for listing as threatened or endangered. By considering these species early in your planning process you may be able to avoid the problems that could develop if one of these candidates was listed before the end of your project.

Species of Concern

The Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office no longer maintains a list of species of concern. However, various other agencies and organizations maintain lists of at-risk species. These lists provide essential information for land management planning and conservation efforts. More info

Wetlands

If your project will impact wetlands, riparian habitat, or other jurisdictional waters as defined by section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, you will need to obtain a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Impacts to wetland habitats require site specific mitigation and monitoring. For questions regarding wetlands, please contact Mark Littlefield of this office at (916) 414-6520.

Updates

Our database is constantly updated as species are proposed, listed and delisted. If you address proposed and candidate species in your planning, this should not be a problem. However, we recommend that you get an updated list every 90 days. That would be May 07, 2015.

Appendix B — Plants and Wildlife Observed within the Study Area

Appendix B

Plants and Wildlife Observed within the SPTC-JPA Nature Trail Study Area

Scientific Name	Common Name
Mammals	
Lepus californicus	Black-tailed jackrabbit
Spermophilus beecheyi	California ground squirrel
Birds	
Agelaius phoeniceus	Red-winged blackbird
Aphelocoma californica	Western scrub jay
Athene cunicularia	Burrowing owl
Baeolophus inornatus	Oak titmouse
Buteo jamaicensis	Red-tailed hawk
Carpodacus mexicanus	House finch
Cathartes aura	Turkey vulture
Charadrius vociferous	Killdeer
Corvus brachyrhyncos	American crow
Euphagus cyanocephalus	Brewer's blackbird
Falco sparverius	American kestrel
Melanerpes formicivorus	Acorn woodpecker
Mimus polyglottos	Northern mockingbird
Petrochelidon pyrrhonota	Cliff swallow nest
Sayornis nigricans	Black phoebe
Sturnella neglecta	Western meadowlark
Turdus migratorius	American robin
Tyrannus verticalis	Western kingbird
Zenaida macroura	Mourning dove
Amphbians	
Pseudacris regilla	Northern Pacific treefrog
Reptiles	
Sceloporus occidentalis	Western fence lizard

Appendix C — Regionally Occurring Listed and Special-Status Species

Special-Status Species	Regulatory Status (Federal; State; Local; CNPS)	Habitat Requirements	Identification/ Survey Period	Potential for Occurrence
Plants				
Ahart's dwarf rush *Juncus leiospermus* var. *ahartii*	--; --; --; 1B	Annual herb found in mesic areas in valley and foothill grassland from 30 to 229 meters.	Blooming period: March-May.	**Low**; the disturbed nonnative annual grassland within the Study Area provides habitat for this species.
Bisbee Peak rush-rose *Crocanthemum suffrutescens*	--; --; --; 3	Perennial evergreen shrub found often on gabbroic or ione soils, often in burned or disturbed areas and chaparral from 75 to 670 meters.	Blooming period: April-August.	**None**; the Study Area does not provide habitat or the soils required for this species.
Boggs Lake hedge-hyssop *Gratiola heterosepala*	--; CE; --; 1B	Annual herb found on clay soils in vernal pools and along the margins of marshes and swamps from 10 to 2,375 meters. One CNDDB occurrence is documented within 5 miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2015).	Blooming period: April-August.	**None**; the Study Area does not provide habitat or the soils required for this species.
Brandegee's clarkia *Clarkia biloba* ssp. *biloba*	--; --; --; 4	Annual herb found often in roadcuts within chaparral, cismontane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forest from 75 to 915 meters. One CNDDB occurrence is documented within 5 miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2015).	Blooming period: May-July.	**High**; the oak woodland provides habitat for this species.
Brewer's calandrinia *Calandrinia breweri*	--; --; --; 4	Annual herb found on sandy or loamy, disturbed sites and burns within chaparral and coastal scrub from 10 to 1,220 meters.	Blooming period: March-June.	**None**; the Study Area does not provide habitat for this species.
Dwarf downingia *Downingia pusilla*	--; --; --; 2	Annual herb found in mesic valley and foothill grassland and vernal pools from 1 to 445 meters.	Blooming period: March-May.	**Low**; the disturbed nonnative annual grassland within the Study Area provides habitat for this species.
El Dorado bedstraw *Galium californicum* ssp. *sierrae*	FE; CR; --; 1B	Perennial herb found on gabbroic soils within chaparral, cismontane woodland, and lower coniferous forest from 100 to 585 meters.	Blooming period: May-June.	**None**; the Study Area does not provide the soils required for this species.
El Dorado mule ears *Wyethia reticulata*	--; -- ;--; 1B	Perennial herb found on clay or gabbroic soils in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forest from 185 to 630 meters.	Blooming period: April-August.	**None**; the Study Area does not provide the soils required for this species.
Fresno ceanothus *Ceanothus fresnensis*	--; --; --; 4	Perennial evergreen shrub found in openings of cismontane woodland and lower montane coniferous forest from 900 to 2,103 meters.	Blooming period: May-July.	**None**; the Study Area occurs outside of the known elevation range for this species.

Special-Status Species	Regulatory Status (Federal; State; Local; CNPS)	Habitat Requirements	Identification/ Survey Period	Potential for Occurrence
Hernandez bluecurls *Trichostema rubisepalum*	--; --; --; 4	Annual herb found on volcanic or serpentinite, gravelly substrate within broad-leafed upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, and vernal pools from 300 to 1,435 meters.	Blooming period: June-August.	**None**; the Study Area occurs outside of the known elevation range for this species.
Ione buckwheat *Eriogonum apricum* var. *apricum*	--; --; --; 1B	Perennial herb found occasionally in openings or on Ione soil in chaparral from 60 to 145 meters.	Blooming period: July-October.	**None**; the Study Area does not provide habitat for this species.
Ione manzanita *Arctostaphylos myrtifolia*	--; --; --; 1B	Perennial evergreen shrub found in acidic, Ione soil, clay, or sandy substrate in chaparral and cismontane woodland from 60 to 580 meters.	Blooming period: November-March.	**None**; the Study Area does not provide the soils required for this species.
Irish Hill buckwheat *Eriogonum apricum* var. *prostratum*	FE; CE; --; 1B	Perennial herb found occasionally in openings or on Ione soil in chaparral from 90 to 120 meters.	Blooming period: June-July.	**None**; the Study Area does not provide habitat for this species.
Jepson's onion *Allium jepsonii*	--; --; --; 1B	Perennial bulbiferous herb found on serpentine or volcanic soils in chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, and cismontane woodland from 300 to 1,320 meters.	Blooming period: April-August.	**None**; the Study Area does not provide the soils required and occurs outside of the known elevation range for this species.
Jepson's woolly sunflower *Eriophyllum jepsonii*	--; --; --; 4	Perennial herb sometimes found on serpentinite substrate within chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub from 200 to 1,025 meters.	Blooming period: April-June.	**Low**; the oak woodland provides habitat for this species.
Layne's butterweed (=ragwort) *Packera layneae*	FT; CR; --; 1B	Perennial herb found on serpentine or gabbroic, rocky soils in cismontane woodland and chaparral from 200 to 1,085 meters.	Blooming period: April-August.	**None**; the Study Area does not provide the soils required for this species.
Legenere *Legenere limosa*	--; CT; --; 1B	Annual herb found in vernal pools from 1 to 880 meters.	Blooming period: April-June.	**None**; the Study Area does not provide habitat for this species.
Parry's horkelia *Horkelia parryi*	--; --; --; 1B	Perennial herb found on Ione formation in chaparral and cismontane woodland from 80 to 1,070 meters.	Blooming period: April-September.	**None**; the Study Area does not provide habitat for this species.
Pincushion navarretia *Navarretia myersii*	--; --; --; 1B	Annual herb found in vernal pools, which are often acidic, from 20 to 330 meters.	Blooming period: April-May.	**None**; the Study Area does not provide habitat for this species.
Pine Hill ceanothus *Ceanothus roderickii*	FE; CR; --; 1B	Perennial evergreen shrub found in chaparral or cismontane woodland on serpentine or gabbro soils from 245 to 630 meters.	Blooming period: April-June.	**None**; the Study Area does not provide the soils required for this species.
Pine Hill flannelbush *Fremontodendron decumbens*	FE; CR; --; 1B	Chaparral and cismontane woodland on rocky gabbroic or serpentinite soils.	Blooming period: April-July.	**None**; the Study Area does not provide the soils required for this species.

Special-Status Species	Regulatory Status (Federal; State; Local; CNPS)	Habitat Requirements	Identification/ Survey Period	Potential for Occurrence
Red Hills soaproot *Chlorogalum grandiflorum*	--; --; --; 1B	Perennial bulbiferous herb found gabbro, serpentine, or other soils in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forest from 245 to 1,240 meters.	Blooming period: May-June.	**None**; the Study Area does not provide the soils required for this species.
Sacramento Orcutt grass *Orcuttia viscida*	FE; CE; --; 1B	Annual herb found in vernal pools from 30 to 100 meters. One CNDDB occurrence is documented within 5 miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2015).	Blooming period: May-October.	**None**; the Study Area does not provide habitat for this species.
Sanford's arrowhead *Sagittaria sanfordii*	--; --; --; 1B	Perennial rhizomatous herb found in marshes and swamps in assorted shallow freshwater areas from 0 to 650 meters. Two CNDDB occurrences are documented within 5 miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2015).	Blooming period: May-October.	**None**; the Study Area does not provide habitat for this species.
Slender orcutt grass *Orcuttia tenuis*	FT; CE; --; 1B	Annual herb found in vernal pools that are often gravelly, from 35 to 1,760 meters.	Blooming period: May-October.	**None**; the Study Area does not provide habitat for this species.
Starved daisy *Erigeron miser*	--; --; --; 1B	Perennial herb usually found on rocky substrate in upper montane coniferous forest from 1,840 to 2,620 meters.	Blooming period: June-October.	**None**; the Study Area does not provide habitat for this species.
Stebbins' morning glory *Calystegia stebbinsii*	FE; CE; --; 1B	Perennial rhizomatous herb found in openings of chaparral and cismontane woodland on gabbro or serpentinite soils from 185 to 1,090 meters.	Blooming period: April-July.	**None**; the Study Area does not provide the soils required for this species.
Tuolumne button-celery *Eryngium pinnatisectum*	--; --; --; 1B	Annual/perennial herb found in mesic areas in cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, and vernal pools from 70 to 915 meters.	Blooming period: May-August.	**Low**; the oak woodland within the Study Area provides habitat for this species.
Wildlife				
Invertebrates				
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle *Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*	FT; --; --; --	Blue elderberry shrubs usually associated with riparian areas. Two CNDDB occurrences occur within 5 miles of the Study Area.	Adults emerge in spring until June. Exit holes visible year-round.	**Low**; although elderberry shrubs were observed within the Study Area, no exit holes were observed and the shrubs were located outside of riparian habitat.

Special-Status Species	Regulatory Status (Federal; State; Local; CNPS)	Habitat Requirements	Identification/ Survey Period	Potential for Occurrence
Vernal pool fairy shrimp *Branchinecta lynchi*	FT; --; --; --	Vernal pools, swales, and ephemeral freshwater habitat. Two CNDDB occurrences occur within 5 miles of the Study Area.	USFWS protocol-level wet-season sampling and/or dry season cyst identification.	**None**; the Study Area does not provide habitat for this species.
Vernal pool tadpole shrimp *Lepidurus packardi*	FE; --; --; --	Vernal pools, swales, and ephemeral freshwater habitat. Two CNDDB occurrences occur within 5 miles of the Study Area.	USFWS protocol-level wet-season sampling and/or dry season cyst identification.	**None**; the Study Area does not provide habitat for this species.
Amphibians/Reptiles				
California red-legged frog *Rana aurora draytonii*	FT; CSC; --; --	Requires a permanent water source and is typically found along quiet, slow-moving streams, ponds, or marsh communities with emergent vegetation. Believed extirpated from the Central Valley floor since 1970s.	Aquatic surveys of breeding sites between January and September. Optimally after April 15.	**Low**; the perennial drainages provide aquatic habitat and the riparian habitat surrounding the perennial drainage provide upland habitat, however, the Study Area occurs outside of the geographical range for the species.
California tiger salamander *Ambystoma californiense*	FT; CT; --; --	Ponded water required for breeding. Adults spend summer in small mammal burrows. The central population of this species is not known to occur north of Highway 16.	Drift fence studies during fall and winter for upland habitats.	**None**; the Study Area occurs outside of the known geographic range for this species.
Coast (California) horned lizard *Phrynosoma blainvillii*	--; CSC; --; --	Grasslands, coniferous forests, woodlands, and chaparral, with open areas and patches of loose sandy soil. Often found in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered shrubs and along dirt roads, and frequently found near ant hills.	Year-round	**None**; the Study Area does not provide the soils required for this species.
Giant garter snake *Thamnophis gigas*	FT; CT; --; --	Agricultural wetlands and other wetlands such as irrigation and drainage canals, low gradient streams, marshes, ponds, sloughs, small lakes, and their associated uplands. Upland habitat should have burrows or other soil crevices suitable for snakes to reside during their dormancy period (November – mid March). This species is known from Sacramento, Sutter, Butte, Colusa, and Glenn counties. In Sacramento County, this species is known along the valley floor, west of Highway 99.	Active outside of dormancy period November-mid March.	**None**; the Study Area occurs outside of the known geographical range for this species.

Special-Status Species	Regulatory Status (Federal; State; Local; CNPS)	Habitat Requirements	Identification/ Survey Period	Potential for Occurrence
Western pond turtle *Emys marmorata*	--; CSC; --; --	Agricultural wetlands and other wetlands such as irrigation and drainage canals, low gradient streams, marshes, ponds, sloughs, small lakes, and their associated uplands. Four CNDDB occurrences occur within 5 miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2015).	Year-round	**High**; the perennial drainages provide aquatic habitat for this species. The annual grassland and riparian habitat provide upland habitat for this species.
Western spadefoot *Spea hammondii*	--; CSC; --; --	Open grasslands and woodlands. Requires vernal pools or seasonal wetlands for breeding.	Year-round	**Low**; the disturbed nonnative annual grassland and oak woodland provide upland habitat and the seasonal wetlands provide breeding habitat for this species.
Fish				
Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*	FT; CT; --; --	Spawn in Mill, Deer, and Butte Creeks and in Yuba River and Feather River watersheds. Juveniles may journey up to 5 miles upstream in Sacramento River tributaries.	Migrate from late March – September. Spawn in mid-August – early October.	**None**; the perennial drainages within the Study Area is not deep enough to provide fish passage.
Central Valley winter-run Chinook salmon *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*	FE; CE; --; --	Spawn in northern Sacramento River (Redding to Red Bluff) and its tributaries. Juveniles may journey up to 5 miles upstream in other tributaries.	Migrate from late December - August. Spawn April - August	**None**; the perennial drainages within the Study Area is not deep enough to provide fish passage.
Central Valley steelhead *Oncorhynchus mykiss*	FT; --; --; --	Rivers and streams tributary to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Rivers and Delta ecosystems.	Spawn in winter and spring.	**None**; the perennial drainages within the Study Area is not deep enough to provide fish passage.
Delta smelt *Hypomesus transpacificus*	FT; CE; --; --	Shallow fresh or brackish water tributary to the Delta ecosystem; spawns in freshwater sloughs and channel edgewaters. Known almost exclusively in the Fresno-San Joaquin estuary.	Spawn December – July. Present year-round in delta.	**None**; the Study Area does not occur within the known geographic range for this species.
Birds				
Bald eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	FD; CFP; --; --	Nesting restricted to the mountainous habitats near permanent water sources in the northernmost counties of California, the Central Coast Region, and on Santa Catalina Island. Winters throughout most of California at lakes, reservoirs, river systems, and coastal wetlands.	Year-round	**None**; the Study Area is outside of the nesting range for this species and does not contain suitable foraging habitat.
Bank swallow *Riparia riparia*	--; CT; --; --	Nests in riverbanks and forages over riparian areas and adjacent uplands.	Spring – Fall	**None**; there is no nesting habitat for this species within the Study Area.

Special-Status Species	Regulatory Status (Federal; State; Local; CNPS)	Habitat Requirements	Identification/ Survey Period	Potential for Occurrence
Burrowing owl *Athene cunicularia*	--; CSC; --; -- (burrowing sites and some wintering sites)	Nests in burrows in the ground, often in old ground squirrel burrows, within open dry grassland and desert habitat Four CNDDB occurrences occur within 5 miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2015).	Year-round; Breeding season surveys between March and August.	**Present**; this species was observed within the ruderal/developed areas during the biological surveys.
Golden eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*	--; CFP; --; -- (nesting and wintering)	Open and semi-open areas up to 12,000 feet in elevation. Builds stick nests on cliffs, in trees, or on man-made structures. One CNDDB occurrence occurs within 5 miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2015).	Year-round	**High**; the annual grassland provides foraging habitat and the trees within the riparian habitat and oak woodland provide nesting habitat for this species. An active nest was observed in 2013 and 2014, approximately 2 miles north of the Study Area; however, the nest tree is no longer standing and this species was not observed foraging within the Study Area during the biological surveys.
Grasshopper sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum*	--; CSC; --; --	Frequents dense, dry, or well drained grassland, especially native grassland. Nests at base of overhanging clump of grass. This species is known from Los Angeles, Mendocino, Orange, Placer, Sacramento, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Solano, and Yuba counties, in California. One CNDDB occurrence occurs within 5 miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2015).	Year-round	**Low**; although the disturbed nonnative annual grassland provides habitat for this species, the soils provide only marginal habitat.
Swainson's hawk *Buteo swainsoni*	--; CT; --; --	Nest peripherally to Valley riparian systems lone trees or groves of trees in agricultural fields. Valley oak, Fremont cottonwood, walnut, and large willow trees, ranging in height from 41 to 82 feet, are the most commonly used nest trees in the Central Valley. This species is known from Alameda, Butte, Colusa, Contra Costa, Fresno, Glenn, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lassen, Los Angeles, Madera, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Napa, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Siskiyou, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Yolo, and Yuba counties. Four CNDDB occurrences occur within 5 miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2015).	March – October.	**High**; the trees within the riparian habitat and oak woodland provide potential nesting habitat and the disturbed nonnative annual grassland provides foraging habitat.

Special-Status Species	Regulatory Status (Federal; State; Local; CNPS)	Habitat Requirements	Identification/ Survey Period	Potential for Occurrence
Tricolored blackbird *Agelaius tricolor*	--; CSC; --; -- (nesting colony)	Nests in dense blackberry, cattail, tules, willow, or wild rose within emergent wetlands throughout the Central Valley and foothills surrounding the valley. Six CNDDB occurrences occur within 5 miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2015).	Year-round	**High**; the riparian vegetation surrounding the perennial drainages provide marginal nesting habitat for this species; however, the patch sizes are most likely not of sufficient size to support a breeding colony. The disturbed nonnative annual grassland provides foraging habitat for this species.
White-tailed kite *Elanus leucurus*	--; CFP; --; --	Nests in isolated trees or woodland areas with suitable open foraging habitat. Five CNDDB occurrences are documented within 5 miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2015).	Year-round	**High**; the trees within the riparian habitat and the oak woodland provide nesting habitat for this species.
Other Raptors (Hawks, Owls and Vultures) and Migratory Birds	MBTA and §3503.5 Department of Fish and Game Code	Nests in a variety of communities including cismontane woodland, mixed coniferous forest, chaparral, montane meadow, riparian, annual grassland, and urban communities.	February 15 – August 31	**High**; the annual grassland and the trees within the riparian habitat and the oak woodland provide nesting habitat for this species.
Mammals				
American badger *Taxidea taxus*	--; CSC; --; --	Found in a variety of grasslands, shrublands, and open woodlands throughout California.	Year-round	**Low**; the disturbed nonnative annual grassland provides habitat; however, suitable burrows were not observed during biological surveys.
Fisher *Martes pennanti*	FC; CCT; --; --	Occurs in intermediate to large-tree stages of coniferous and deciduous forests.	Most active at dusk and night, year-round; camera and tracking surveys.	**None**; there is no habitat for this species within the Study Area.
Pallid bat *Antrozous pallidus*	--; CSC; --; --	Most abundant in oak woodland, savannah, and riparian habitats. Roosts in crevices and hollows in trees, rocks, cliffs, bridges, and buildings.	Year-round	**Low**; potential roosting habitat is present within the trees within the riparian habitat and oak woodland.

Federally-Listed Species:	**California State Ranked Species:**	**CNPS* Rank Categories:**
FE = federal endangered	CE = California state endangered	1A = plants presumed extinct in California
FT = federal threatened	CT = California state threatened	1B = plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere
FC = candidate	CR = California state rare	2 = plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but common elsewhere
PT = proposed threatened	CSC = California species of special Concern	3 = plants about which we need more information
FPD = proposed for delisting	CSA = California Special Animals List	4 = plants of limited distribution

Special-Status Species	Regulatory Status (Federal; State; Local; CNPS)	Habitat Requirements	Identification/ Survey Period	Potential for Occurrence
FD = delisted		CCT = California state threatened candidate	**Other Special-Status Listing:** SLC – species of local or regional concern or conservation significance *Source: Foothill Associates*	

Appendix D — U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination for the SPTC – JPA Nature Trail Site

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SACRAMENTO DISTRICT
1325 J STREET
SACRAMENTO CA 95814-2922

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

June 2, 2015

Regulatory Division SPK-2015-00232

Mr. John Segerdell
Sacramento-Placerville Transportation, Corridor-Joint Power Authority
1329 Howe Ave, Suite 110
Sacramento, California 95825

Dear Mr. Segerdell:

We are responding to your March 20, 2015 request for a preliminary jurisdictional determination (JD), in accordance with our Regulatory Guidance Letter (RGL) 08-02, for the SPTC-JPA Nature Trail site. The approximately 124-acre site is located in Sections 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 25, 26, and 36, Township 9 North, Range 8 East, Sections 29, 30, 31, and 32, Township 9 North Range 9 East, and Sections 4, 5, and 9, Township 8 North, Range 9 East, Mount Diablo Meridian, Latitude 38.639602°, Longitude -121.106565°, Folsom, Sacramento County and El Dorado, California.

Based on available information, **we concur with the amount and location of wetlands and other water bodies on the site as depicted on the enclosed April 1, 2015, *SPTC-JPA Corridor: Nature Trail Wetland Delineation, Figure 4,* drawing prepared by Foothill Associates (enclosure 1)**. The approximately 0.931 acre of wetlands and 1.44 acres of drainage present within the survey area are potential waters of the United States regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

We have enclosed a copy of the *Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination Form* for this site (enclosure 2). Please sign and return a copy of the completed form to this office. Once we receive a copy of the form with your signature we can accept and process a Pre-Construction Notification or permit application for your proposed project.

You should not start any work in potentially jurisdictional waters of the United States unless you have Department of the Army permit authorization for the activity. You may request an approved JD for this site at any time prior to starting work within waters. In certain circumstances, as described in RGL 08-02, an approved JD may later be necessary.

You should provide a copy of this letter and notice to all other affected parties, including any individual who has an identifiable and substantial legal interest in the property.

This preliminary determination has been conducted to identify the potential limits of wetlands and other water bodies which may be subject to Corps of Engineers' jurisdiction for the particular site identified in this request. A Notification of Appeal Process and Request for Appeal form is enclosed to notify you of your options with this determination (enclosure 3). This determination may not be valid for the wetland conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985. If you or your tenant are U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program participants, or anticipate participation in USDA programs, you should request a certified wetland determination from the local office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, prior to starting work.

We appreciate your feedback. At your earliest convenience, please tell us how we are doing by completing the customer survey on our website under *Customer Service Survey*.

Please refer to identification number SPK-2015-00232 in any correspondence concerning this project. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Melissa France at California North Branch Office, Regulatory Division, Sacramento District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1325 J Street, Room 1350, Sacramento, California 95814-2922, by email at *Melissa.M.France@usace.army.mil*, or telephone at 916-557-7759. For more information regarding our program, please visit our website at *www.spk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx*.

Sincerely,

Nancy A. Haley
Chief, California North Branch
Regulatory Division

Enclosures

cc: (w/o encls)
Ms. Kelly Bayne, Foothill Associates, kbayne@foothill.com
Ms. Elizabeth Lee, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov
Mr. Paul Jones, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, Jones.Paul@epa.gov
Ms. Tina Bartlett, California Department of Fish and Game, R2Info@wildlife.ca.gov
Mr. Ryan Olah, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, ryan_olah@fws.gov

PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION FORM
Sacramento District

This preliminary JD finds that there *"may be"* waters of the United States on the subject project site, and identifies all aquatic features on the site that could be affected by the proposed activity, based on the following information:

Regulatory Branch: **California North** File/ORM #: **SPK-2015-00232** PJD Date: **June 2, 2015**

State: **CA** City/County: **, Sacramento County**
Nearest Waterbody:

Location (Lat/Long): **38.639602°, -121.106565°**

Size of Review Area: **124** acres

Name/Address Of Property: **Mr. John Segerdell**
Sacramento-Placerville Transportation, Corridor-Joint Power Authority

Owner/ Potential Applicant: **1329 Howe Ave, Suite 110**
Sacramento, California 95825

Identify (Estimate) Amount of Waters in the Review Area

Non-Wetland Waters:
linear feet ft wide **1.44** acre(s)
Stream Flow: **Mixed**

Wetlands: **0.931** acre(s)
Cowardin Class: **Riverine**

Name of any Water Bodies on the site identified as Section 10 Waters: Tidal: Non-Tidal:

☐ Office (Desk) Determination
☒ Field Determination:
Date(s) of Site Visit(s): **March 25, 2015**

SUPPORTING DATA: Data reviewed for preliminary JD (check all that apply – checked items should be included in case file and, where checked and requested, appropriately reference sources below)

☒ Maps, plans, plots or plat submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant: **April 1, 2015, SPTC-JPA Corridor: Nature Trail Wetland Delineation Figure 4 drawing prepared by Foothill Associates**
☒ Data sheets prepared/submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant.
☐ Data sheets prepared by the Corps.
☐ Corps navigable waters' study.
☐ U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Atlas:
  ☐ USGS NHD data.
  ☐ USGS HUC maps.
☒ U.S. Geological Survey map(s). Cite scale & quad name: **1:24K; CA-CLARKSVILLE, FOLSOM-SE, AND LATROBE**
☒ USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey.
☐ National wetlands inventory map(s).
☐ State/Local wetland inventory map(s).
☐ FEMA/FIRM maps.
☐ 100-year Floodplain Elevation (if known):
☒ Photographs: ☒ Aerial
  ☐ Other
☐ Previous determination(s). File no. and date of response letter:
☐ Other information (please specify):

IMPORTANT NOTE: The information recorded on this form has not necessarily been verified by the Corps and should not be relied upon for later jurisdictional determinations.

Signature and Date of Regulatory Project Manager (REQUIRED)

Signature and Date of Person Requesting Preliminary JD (REQUIRED, unless obtaining the signature is impracticable) 6/15/15

EXPLANATION OF PRELIMINARY AND APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATIONS:

1. The Corps of Engineers believes that there may be jurisdictional waters of the United States on the subject site, and the permit applicant or other affected party who requested this preliminary JD is hereby advised of his or her option to request and obtain an approved jurisdictional determination (JD) for that site. Nevertheless, the permit applicant or other person who requested this preliminary JD has declined to exercise the option to obtain an approved JD in this instance and at this time.

2. In any circumstance where a permit applicant obtains an individual permit, or a Nationwide General Permit (NWP) or other general permit verification requiring "preconstruction notification" (PCN), or requests verification for a non-reporting NWP or other general permit, and the permit applicant has not requested an approved JD for the activity, the permit applicant is hereby made aware of the following: (1) the permit applicant has elected to seek a permit authorization based on a preliminary JD, which does not make an official determination of jurisdictional waters; (2) that the applicant has the option to request an approved JD before accepting the terms and conditions of the permit authorization, and that basing a permit authorization on an approved JD could possibly result in less compensatory mitigation being required or different special conditions; (3) that the applicant has the right to request an individual permit rather than accepting the terms and conditions of the NWP or other general permit authorization; (4) that the applicant can accept a permit authorization and thereby agree to comply with all the terms and conditions of that permit, including whatever mitigation requirements the Corps has determined to be necessary; (5) that undertaking any activity in reliance upon the subject permit authorization without requesting an approved JD constitutes the applicant's acceptance of the use of the preliminary JD, but that either form of JD will be processed as soon as is practicable; (6) accepting a permit authorization (e.g., signing a proffered individual permit) or undertaking any activity in reliance on any form of Corps permit authorization based on a preliminary JD constitutes agreement that all wetlands and other water bodies on the site affected in any way by that activity are jurisdictional waters of the United States, and precludes any challenge to such jurisdiction in any administrative or judicial compliance or enforcement action, or in any administrative appeal or in any Federal court; and (7) whether the applicant elects to use either an approved JD or a preliminary JD, that JD will be processed as soon as is practicable. Further, an approved JD, a proffered individual permit (and all terms and conditions contained therein), or individual permit denial can be administratively appealed pursuant to 33 C.F.R. Part 331, and that in any administrative appeal, jurisdictional issues can be raised (see 33 C.F.R. 331.5(a)(2)). If, during that administrative appeal, it becomes necessary to make an official determination whether CWA jurisdiction exists over a site, or to provide an official delineation of jurisdictional waters on the site, the Corps will provide an approved JD to accomplish that result, as soon as is practicable.

NOTIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL OPTIONS AND PROCESS AND REQUEST FOR APPEAL

Applicant: Mr. John Segerdell , Sacramento-Placerville Transportation, Corridor-Joint Power Authority	File No.: SPK-2015-00232	Date: June 2, 2015

Attached is:		See Section below
	INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT (Standard Permit or Letter of permission)	A
	PROFFERED PERMIT (Standard Permit or Letter of permission)	B
	PERMIT DENIAL	C
	APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION	D
X	PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION	E

SECTION I - The following identifies your rights and options regarding an administrative appeal of the above decision. Additional information may be found at *http://www.usace.army.mil/cecw/pages/reg_materials.aspx* or Corps regulations at 33 CFR Part 331.

A: INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT: You may accept or object to the permit.

- ACCEPT: If you received a Standard Permit, you may sign the permit document and return it to the district engineer for final authorization. If you received a Letter of Permission (LOP), you may accept the LOP and your work is authorized. Your signature on the Standard Permit or acceptance of the LOP means that you accept the permit in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the permit, including its terms and conditions, and approved jurisdictional determinations associated with the permit.

- OBJECT: If you object to the permit (Standard or LOP) because of certain terms and conditions therein, you may request that the permit be modified accordingly. You must complete Section II of this form and return the form to the district engineer. Your objections must be received by the district engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice, or you will forfeit your right to appeal the permit in the future. Upon receipt of your letter, the district engineer will evaluate your objections and may: (a) modify the permit to address all of your concerns, (b) modify the permit to address some of your objections, or (c) not modify the permit having determined that the permit should be issued as previously written. After evaluating your objections, the district engineer will send you a proffered permit for your reconsideration, as indicated in Section B below.

B: PROFFERED PERMIT: You may accept or appeal the permit

- ACCEPT: If you received a Standard Permit, you may sign the permit document and return it to the district engineer for final authorization. If you received a Letter of Permission (LOP), you may accept the LOP and your work is authorized. Your signature on the Standard Permit or acceptance of the LOP means that you accept the permit in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the permit, including its terms and conditions, and approved jurisdictional determinations associated with the permit.

- APPEAL: If you choose to decline the proffered permit (Standard or LOP) because of certain terms and conditions therein, you may appeal the declined permit under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer (address on reverse). This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.

C: PERMIT DENIAL: You may appeal the denial of a permit under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer (address on reverse). This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.

D: APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION: You may accept or appeal the approved JD or provide new information.

- ACCEPT: You do not need to notify the Corps to accept an approved JD. Failure to notify the Corps within 60 days of the date of this notice, means that you accept the approved JD in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the approved JD.

- APPEAL: If you disagree with the approved JD, you may appeal the approved JD under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer (address on reverse). This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.

E: PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION: You do not need to respond to the Corps regarding the preliminary JD. The Preliminary JD is not appealable. If you wish, you may request an approved JD (which may be appealed), by contacting the Corps district for further instruction. Also you may provide new information for further consideration by the Corps to reevaluate the JD.

SECTION II - REQUEST FOR APPEAL or OBJECTIONS TO AN INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT

REASONS FOR APPEAL OR OBJECTIONS: (Describe your reasons for appealing the decision or your objections to an initial proffered permit in clear concise statements. You may attach additional information to this form to clarify where your reasons or objections are addressed in the administrative record.)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The appeal is limited to a review of the administrative record, the Corps memorandum for the record of the appeal conference or meeting, and any supplemental information that the review officer has determined is needed to clarify the administrative record. Neither the appellant nor the Corps may add new information or analyses to the record. However, you may provide additional information to clarify the location of information that is already in the administrative record.

POINT OF CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS OR INFORMATION:

If you have questions regarding this decision and/or the appeal process you may contact:

Melissa France
Regulatory Project Manager, California North Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1325 J Street, Room 1350
Sacramento, California 95814-2922
Phone: 916-557-7759, FAX 916-557-7803
Email: Melissa.M.France@usace.army.mil

If you only have questions regarding the appeal process you may also contact:

Thomas J. Cavanaugh
Administrative Appeal Review Officer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
South Pacific Division
1455 Market Street, 2052B
San Francisco, California 94103-1399
Phone: 415-503-6574, FAX 415-503-6646)
Email: Thomas.J.Cavanaugh@usace.army.mil

RIGHT OF ENTRY: Your signature below grants the right of entry to Corps of Engineers personnel, and any government consultants, to conduct investigations of the project site during the course of the appeal process. You will be provided a 15 day notice of any site investigation, and will have the opportunity to participate in all site investigations.

Signature of appellant or agent.	Date:	Telephone number: