

NEPA Environmental Assessment Sheridan Water Supply Improvements Project



Prepared for:
Placer County, Department of Facility Services



AECOM

July 2012

NEPA Environmental Assessment
Sheridan Water Supply Improvements Project



Prepared for:

Placer County, Department of Facility Services
11476 C Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603

Contact:

Christina Hanson
Senior Planner
Placer County
Facility Services Department
11476 C Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603
(530) 886-4965

Prepared by:

AECOM
2020 L Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95811

Contact:

Andrea Shephard
Senior Project Manager
916/414-5800

with:

Douglas Environmental
1517 28th Street
Sacramento, CA 95816

Contact:

Doug Brown
Project Manager
916/739-8407

AECOM

July 2012

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**COUNTY OF PLACER
FACILITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

Phone 530-886-4900 Fax 530-889-6809
www.placer.ca.gov

JAMES DURFEE, DIRECTOR
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**COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
AND INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS**

DATE: August 16, 2012

PROJECT PROPONENT: Placer County Department of Facility Services
Environmental Engineering Division
11476 C Ave., Auburn, CA 95603
(530) 886-4900

PROJECT NAME: Sheridan Water Supply Improvements Project

PROJECT LOCATION: Unincorporated Community of Sheridan, CA
Western Placer County, APN 019-080-033-000

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about September 3, 2012 the County of Placer will submit a request to the California Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant funds under Title 1 of the Housing & Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake a project known as the Sheridan Water Supply Improvements Project.

This is a two-phase project; phase one, which is partially funded by a Community Development Block Grant, is for the purpose of constructing a new public water well, upsizing approximately 400-feet of water main, and extending the water main approximately 200-feet to the proposed well site, all to provide an additional water supply to the community of Sheridan, California. The second phase is to install a storage tank on the well site and upsize and construct approximately 1,800 linear feet of distribution water line. The distribution system upgrades will occur between the well site and existing elementary school and include upsizing the existing 4" and 6" lines to 10" lines and adding a new section of 10" line.

The total project cost is estimated to be \$1,530,000 of which \$380,000 is from the block grant, approximately \$285,000 is from an anticipated USDA Rural Utility Service grant, \$430,000 is from the Placer County General Fund and up to \$925,000 would be loaned from the Placer County Solid Waste Enterprise Fund.

11476 C Avenue Auburn CA 95603
Entrance at 2855 2nd Street

Administration – Building Maintenance – Capital Improvements – Museums – Parks
Property Management – Environmental Engineering - Utilities

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The County of Placer has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required and an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared.

The EA and additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record on file at the following locations:

- Community Development Resource Agency public counter at 3091 County Center Drive, Suite 190, Auburn, CA 95603. Open 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
- Lincoln Public Library, 485 Twelve Bridges Drive Lincoln, CA 95648
- Sheridan Elementary School Library 4730 H Street Sheridan, CA 95681

The EA can also be accessed through the County's website at:

www.placer.ca.gov/Departments/CommunityDevelopment/EnvCoordSvcs/NegDec.aspx

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to Maywan Krach, Environmental Coordination Services, at the Placer County Community Development Resource Agency, 3091 County Center Drive, Suite 190, Auburn, CA 95603, by email at cdraecs@placer.ca.gov, or by fax (530)745-3003.

All comments received by August 31, 2012 will be considered by the County of Placer prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Those commenting should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

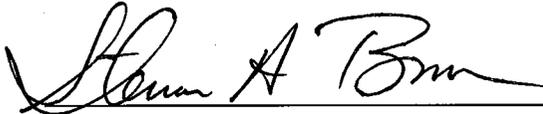
The County of Placer certifies to HCD that Steve Brown, Program Coordinator, in his capacity as Certifying Officer consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The HCD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the County of Placer to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HCD will accept objections to its release of funds and the County of Placer's (Responsible Entity) certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the County of Placer; (b) the County of

Placer has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HCD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to HCD at 1800 Third Street, Suite 390, Sacramento, CA 95811-6942. Potential objectors should contact HCD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Brown", written over a horizontal line.

Steve Brown, Certifying Officer

The objection period follows the submission date specified in the Notice or the actual date of receipt by HCD, whichever is later.



**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
Development**

San Francisco Regional Office - Region IX
600 Harrison Street
San Francisco, California 94107-1387
www.hud.gov
espanol.hud.gov

**Environmental Assessment
for HUD-funded Proposals**

Recommended format per 24 CFR 58.36, revised March 2005
[Previously recommended EA formats are obsolete].

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act

Project Identification: Sheridan Water Supply Improvements Project

Preparer: Chris Hanson

Responsible Entity: Placer County Department of Facility Services
Environmental Engineering Division
11476 "C" Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603

Month/Year: July 2012

Environmental Assessment

Responsible Entity: Placer County Department of Facility Services, Environmental Engineering Division
[24 CFR 58.2(a)(7)]

Certifying Officer: Steve Brown
[24 CFR 58.2(a)(2)]

Project Name: Sheridan Water Supply Improvements Project

Project Location: Community of Sheridan, Placer County, CA, on an undeveloped parcel (APN 019-080-033-000) adjacent to Sheridan Community Park.

Estimated total project cost: \$1,530,000

Grant Recipient: Placer County
[24 CFR 58.2(a)(5)]

Recipient Address: 11476 "C" Avenue, Auburn, California 95603

Project Representative: Chris Hanson, Senior Planner

Telephone Number: (530) 886-4965

Conditions for Approval: (List all mitigation measures adopted by the responsible entity to eliminate or minimize adverse environmental impacts. These conditions must be included in project contracts and other relevant documents as requirements). [24 CFR 58.40(d), 40 CFR 1505.2(c)]

See the Mitigation Measures Listed in the Checklist Below

FINDING: [58.40(g)]

Finding of No Significant Impact

(The project will not result in a significant impact on the quality of the human environment)

Finding of Significant Impact

(The project may significantly affect the quality of the human environment)

Preparer Signature: *Chris Hanson* **Date:** 7/10/12

Name/Title/Agency: Chris Hanson, Sr. Planner, Placer County

RE Approving Official Signature: *Steven A Brown* **Date:** 10 July 2012

Name/Title/Agency: Steven A Brown / Program Coordinator / Placer County

Statement of Purpose and Need for the Proposal: [40 CFR 1508.9(b)]

The water supply system for the community of Sheridan does not have sufficient water supply and storage capacity to meet current California Waterworks Standards or State fire flow requirements. Therefore, the purpose of the Proposed Action is to improve the public water system within Sheridan by increasing the system's water supply and storage capacities, consistent with the requirements of the California Waterworks Standards and State fire flow requirements. The need for the Proposed Action is to ensure that the public health of the community of Sheridan is maintained through the provision of an adequate water supply system.

Description of the Proposal: [24 CFR 58.32, 40 CFR 1508.25]

The Proposed Action includes the development of a new groundwater supply well, a water storage tank with an operational capacity of 180,000 gallons; a well and pump station building that would house the well pump, discharge piping, appurtenances, associated electrical equipment, and new booster pump station; an access road from the end of the unnamed road adjacent to Sheridan Community Park to the project site; site improvements including fencing, a compacted baserock access area, a storm drainage ditch, and related on- and off-site infrastructure; the extension of water distribution piping from the new booster pump station to a new connection point in Camp Far West Road (approximately 700 linear feet); and the replacement of existing water lines that would extend from Camp Far West Road to an existing elementary school (Exhibit 2-1 in Chapter 2 of the Initial Study). To ensure adequate fire flow is provided to the elementary school site, the existing 4- and 6-inch water lines would be replaced with an 8-inch water line in order to ensure adequate fire flow is provided to the elementary school site line and a new section of 8-inch water line would be added to the distribution system.

Three alternative routes have been identified for this 8-inch water line, which are identified on Exhibit 2-2 included in Chapter 2 of the Initial Study. As proposed, the project includes the installation of a new pipeline from the project site east along the inside southern boundary of the Sheridan Community Park and its parking lot to Camp Far West Road. From its intersection with Camp Far West Road, the pipeline would be routed along one of three optional alignments. Option 1 would extend a new pipeline directly east from Camp Far West Road to Tenth Street. The extension would traverse between the side yards of two existing homes and would continue east along the southern boundary of an existing mobile home park before it turns right on Tenth Street at the mobile home park entrance. The alignment would continue southeast under Tenth Street until it connects to H Street. The alignment would extend southwest under H Street until it connects to a new fire hydrant lateral that would be installed in front of the Sheridan Elementary School. The segment between the proposed new water supply well and Tenth Street would be an entirely new 8-inch pipe while the segment under Tenth Street to the elementary school would replace existing 4- and 6-inch pipes with an 8-inch pipe.

Option 2 would extend south under Camp Far West Road until it begins to curve to the southeast. At the end of this curve, the pipeline would turn northeast toward Tenth Street. The alignment would pass by the northwestern edge of the elementary school track and the last home on the southwestern side of Tenth Street before turning right on Tenth Street. From Tenth Street, this alignment would follow the same alignment as Option 1 to the elementary school. The segment of this alignment extending under Camp Far West Road would replace an existing 4-inch pipe with an 8-inch pipe. The segment extending between Camp Far West Road and

Tenth Street would be an entirely new 8-inch pipe. Similar to Option 1, the segment under Tenth Street to the elementary school would replace existing 4- and 6-inch pipes with an 8-inch pipe.

Option 3 includes the same replacement of existing pipeline along Camp Far West Road as Option 2, although instead of turning northeast at the curve in the road, the pipeline would continue to H Street before turning left and continuing to the new hydrant lateral at the elementary school. The majority of this alignment would include the replacement of existing 4- and 6-inch pipes with an 8-inch pipe. However, an entirely new segment of 8-inch pipe would be installed along a portion of Camp Far West Road before it connects to H Street.

Each of the pipeline alignment options would construct and/or upsize existing pipelines to at least 8 inches in diameter to provide a fire flow of 1,500 gpm to the elementary school.

Existing Conditions and Trends: [24 CFR 58.40(a)]

The project site is located in the community of Sheridan in unincorporated western Placer County, California, approximately eight miles northwest of the City of Lincoln and 3.5 miles southeast of Wheatland (Exhibit 1-1 in Chapter 1 of the Initial Study). The Sheridan planning area is approximately 1,710 acres in size and is largely a rural residential community surrounded by agricultural uses. The primary water service area encompasses 209 acres.

The 0.45-acre project site is located east of State Route 65 and the Southern Pacific Railroad and west of Camp Far West Road (Exhibit 1-2 in Chapter 1 of the Initial Study). The site is accessed through the adjacent Sheridan Community Park parking lot located off Camp Far West Road. Two homes and the park are accessed via an adjacent, unnamed road, and another three homes are located in the immediate vicinity and are accessed via Camp Far West Road. The project site is currently undeveloped. The Proposed Action also includes the development of one of three off-site proposed pipeline alignment options, as described above.

The project site is located approximately 105 feet above mean sea level (msl) and is vegetated with annual grassland. A wetland delineation of the project site identified a 0.03-acre vernal pool, the majority of which is located within the site boundaries and a second 0.03-acre vernal pool, the majority of which is located outside of the site boundaries. The vernal pools lack surface hydrologic connectivity to any local drainage courses. A wetland delineation report was submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for verification and determination in May 2011. At the request of Placer County, the USACE conducted a jurisdictional determination of these vernal pools and concluded that they are not regulated by the USACE and are not subject to the jurisdiction of Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act, as confirmed in a letter from William Ness, Senior Project Manager, California North Branch, USACE to Christina Hanson, Placer County Facility Services Department dated October 6, 2011.

Additional information regarding existing conditions is provided in Chapter 3 of the Initial Study under the "Affected Environment" for each of the environmental topic areas.

Statutory Checklist

[24CFR §58.5]

Record the determinations made regarding each listed statute, executive order or regulation. Provide appropriate source documentation. [Note reviews or consultations completed as well as any applicable permits or approvals obtained or required. Note dates of contact or page references]. Provide compliance or consistency documentation. Attach additional material as appropriate. Note conditions, attenuation or mitigation measures required.

Factors	Determination and Compliance Documentation
<p>Historic Preservation</p> <p>[36 CFR 800]</p> <p><i>Note for all sections: all Sources, Agencies, and Persons Consulted are listed on Pages 19-22 of the EA.</i></p>	<p>The project site does not contain any structures or known items or resources of historical significance. In addition, the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) has been contacted to initiate consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The consultation letter was submitted on February 20, 2012, a 30 day response period elapsed, and no comments were received. (Attachment)</p> <p>Should any sensitive cultural or historical resources be discovered during construction, Mitigation Measures CR-1 and CR-2 would require that construction stop until the significance of the find is determined, as follows:</p> <p>Mitigation Measure CR-1</p> <p>If archaeological artifacts, exotic rock (non-native), or unusual amounts of shell or bone, midden deposits, historic debris, building foundations, human bone, or paleontological resources are uncovered during any on-site construction activities, all work must stop immediately within 100 feet of the area and a SOPA-certified (Society of Professional Archaeologists) and/or Register of Professional Archaeologist (or Paleontologist, if appropriate) shall be retained to evaluate the deposits. The Placer County Planning Department and Department of Museums must also be contacted for review of the archaeological find(s). Work in the area may only resume after authorization is granted by the Placer County Planning Department.</p> <p>Mitigation Measure CR-2</p> <p>In accordance with the California Health and Safety Code, if human remains are uncovered during ground-disturbing activities, the construction contractor shall immediately halt potentially damaging ground disturbing activity in the area of the remains and within 100 feet of the find and notify the Placer County Coroner, the appropriate Placer County representative, and a professional archaeologist specializing in Human Osteology and approved by the County to determine the nature of the remains.</p> <p>The coroner is required to examine all discoveries of human remains within 48 hours of receiving notice of a discovery on private or state lands (Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5[b]). If the coroner determines that the remains are those of Native American origin, he</p>

	<p>or she must contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) by telephone within 24 hours of making that determination (Health and Safety Code Section 7050[c]). Following the coroner's findings, the County, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), the construction contractor, the archaeologist, and the NAHC-designated Most Likely Descendent (MLD) shall determine the ultimate treatment and disposition of the remains and take appropriate steps to ensure that additional human interments are not disturbed. The responsibilities for acting upon notification of a discovery of Native American human remains are identified in California Public Resources Code Section 5097.9.</p> <p>The County and HCD shall ensure that the area of the discovery and the immediate vicinity within 100 feet of the find (according to generally accepted cultural or archaeological standards and practices) is cordoned off and not damaged or disturbed by further ground-disturbing activity (including pedestrian traffic) until consultation with the MLD has taken place. The MLD shall have 48 hours to complete a site inspection and make recommendations after being granted access to the site. A range of possible treatments for the remains, including nondestructive removal and analysis, preservation in place, relinquishment of the remains and associated items to the descendants, or other culturally appropriate treatment may be discussed. The concerned parties may extend discussions beyond the initial 48 hours to allow for the discovery of additional remains.</p> <p>Please see attached CEQA Cultural Resources section in Chapter 3 for additional information. The CEQA document will be maintained on file with the EA.</p>
<p>Floodplain Management [24 CFR 55, Executive Order 11988]</p>	<p>The community of Sheridan and the project site are located in FEMA Zone X, meaning that it is considered to be located outside of the 500-year flood zone (FIRM Community Panel Number 06061C0250 F, Effective date June 8, 1998 [most recent available]). There is no threat to the project site from potential flooding.</p>
<p>Wetlands Protection [Executive Order 11990]</p>	<p>The project site contains portions of two vernal pools. At the request of Placer County, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) conducted a jurisdictional determination of these vernal pools and concluded that they are not regulated by the USACE and are not subject to the jurisdiction of Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act, as confirmed in a letter from William Ness, Senior Project Manager, California North Branch, USACE to Christina Hanson, Placer County Facility Services Department dated October 6, 2011.</p> <p>Two of the three proposed pipeline alignment routes have the potential to indirectly affect wetlands. However, Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-7 are intended to ensure that the loss of non-jurisdictional wetlands on the site are appropriately mitigated and that indirect impacts to offsite wetlands are minimized, as follows:</p> <p>Mitigation Measure BIO-1</p> <p>In order to minimize indirect impacts to the offsite vernal pool habitat located directly north of the project boundary, a qualified biologist shall be retained to conduct worker awareness training for</p>

construction personnel. The qualified biologist shall conduct worker awareness trainings for all construction personnel before ground-disturbance activities begin and, as needed, prior to new personnel beginning work. The program shall inform all construction personnel about the life history and status of vernal pool crustaceans, the need to avoid damaging vernal pool habitats, and the possible penalties for not complying with these requirements. All personnel will acknowledge that they have attended the training and understand all environmental requirements of the project by signing an attendance form at the completion of the training. Written documentation of the training and a list of attendees shall be submitted to USFWS upon request within 30 days of the completion of training.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2

High-visibility fencing shall be placed along the northern site boundary adjacent to the existing vernal pool habitat prior to ground-breaking activities in order to avoid direct impacts. This action will prevent the encroachment of construction vehicles and personnel into the offsite vernal pool habitat. A qualified biologist shall assist in the identification of the extent of the boundaries of the vernal pools and direct the placement of high-visibility fencing. Offsite vernal pool habitat to be avoided shall be marked in all applicable site plans and construction drawings. Placer County shall stipulate in the construction contract that the construction supervisor or designee shall inspect the fencing daily and maintain and repair the fencing as needed. The fencing shall be removed when project construction is complete.

Mitigation Measure BIO-3

The storage of construction equipment, portable equipment, vehicles, and supplies shall be restricted to the designated construction staging areas and exclusive of the offsite vernal pool habitat. All fueling, cleaning, and maintenance of vehicles and other equipment shall occur only within designated areas and at least 250 feet away from any wetland habitats or drainages as feasible. All workers shall be informed of the importance of preventing spills and appropriate measures to take should a spill occur.

Mitigation Measure BIO-4

Temporary soil berms or other, as effective, barriers shall be installed along the limits of construction to prevent construction storm water discharge into the offsite vernal pool habitat. Ground disturbing activities will be limited to the dry season, generally March 15 to October 15, reducing the likelihood of any direct runoff escaping the immediate construction footprint.

Mitigation Measure BIO-5

The project shall implement best management practices (BMPs) in accordance with the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan that is prepared as a requirement of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit issued by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board in order to control erosion during and

	<p>after construction of the project. Erosion control measures and BMPs, which retain soil or sediment, control runoff from watering for dust control, and control hazardous materials on the construction site and prevent these from entering the offsite vernal pool habitat, shall be placed, monitored, and maintained throughout the construction operations. These measures and BMPs may include, but are not limited to, silt fencing, sterile hay bales, vegetative strips, hydroseeding, and temporary sediment disposal. All BMPs will be removed from the site after the completion of construction.</p> <p>Mitigation Measure BIO-6</p> <p>The County shall acquire vernal pool habitat mitigation credits from a USFWS-approved mitigation bank for listed vernal pool branchiopod species for direct impacts to 0.03 acre and for indirect impacts to 0.03 acre of vernal pool habitat at a ratio determined by the USFWS. This purchase will occur prior to the initiation of construction and proof of payment and credit acquisition shall be provided to the USFWS and Placer County prior to the initiation of construction.</p> <p>Mitigation Measure BIO-7</p> <p>For all of the pipeline alignments, the County shall implement the Best Management Practices identified in Mitigation Measure HYD-1 below to ensure that soil erosion during construction is not transported into the adjacent wetlands. Also, when pipeline trenching occurs within close proximity to wetland fills, high-visibility fencing shall be placed two feet outside of the wetland boundary to minimize direct impacts.</p>
<p>Coastal Zone Management Act</p> <p>[Sections 307(c),(d)]</p>	<p>The site is located within the inland Sacramento Valley and is, therefore, not within any designated coastal zone areas.</p>
<p>Sole Source Aquifers</p> <p>[40 CFR 149]</p>	<p>The project is not located within a US EPA-designated sole source aquifer watershed according to the EPA Ground Water Office / Sole Source Aquifer (SSA) Program's map of designated SSAs. See attached map.</p>
<p>Endangered Species Act</p> <p>[50 CFR 402]</p>	<p>Implementation of the Proposed Action has the potential to directly and indirectly affect special-status vernal pool branchiopod species, including, vernal pool fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>) and vernal pool tadpole shrimp (<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>).</p> <p>Impacts on these species are considered potentially significant and would be mitigated through the implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-6, identified under the wetlands discussion above.</p> <p>In addition, a Biological Assessment was prepared for the Proposed Action (AECOM March 2012) and consultation was initiated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service April 17, 2012 (letter attached), consistent with the requirements of Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. The USFWS responded on May 4, 2012 (letter attached), concluding that the the project, with the proposed mitigation, is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the vernal pool fairy shrimp and vernal pool tadpole shrimp species.</p>

<p>Wild and Scenic Rivers Act</p> <p>[Sections 7 (b), (c)]</p>	<p>The project site is not located within view of any rivers. The nearest river, the Bear River, is located approximately 1.5 miles north of the project site and would not be affected by the Proposed Action. The Bear River is not designated as a Wild and Scenic River.</p>
<p>Air Quality</p> <p>[Clean Air Act, Sections 176 (c) and (d), and 40 CFR 6, 51, 93]</p>	<p>The Proposed Action would result in minor, temporary air quality impacts during construction related to equipment exhaust and potentially fugitive dust during grading and excavating activities. These impacts are considered to be minor due to the project's small size and short duration of construction activities. These activities would not result in violations of air quality standards, and mitigation is not required.</p> <p>Operation of the Proposed Action would result in minimal emissions of air pollutants during sporadic testing of an emergency backup generator that would be powered by propane fuel. Indirect impacts on air quality include the generation of electricity to power the pump, emissions from maintenance equipment used at the project site, and emissions from cars and trucks used to access the project site by maintenance personnel. These emissions are considered to be negligible and would not contribute substantially to an air quality violation, would not violate any air quality standard, and would not require mitigation.</p> <p>Please see the Air Quality section of the attached CEQA checklist in Chapter 3 for additional information. The CEQA document will be maintained on file with the EA and reference it as an attachment to the EA.</p>
<p>Farmland Protection Policy Act</p> <p>[7 CFR 658]</p>	<p>According to the Placer County General Plan, the site is located within an area designated as urbanized and does not contain any agricultural land. The project site is designated as Urban and Grazing by the California Department of Conservation.</p> <p>Please see the Agricultural Resources section of the attached CEQA checklist in Chapter 3 for additional information. The CEQA document will be maintained on file with the EA.</p>
<p>Environmental Justice</p> <p>[Executive Order 12898]</p>	<p>The project site is suitable for its proposed use. There are no populations that would be sensitive to activities at the project site, so there are no pre-existing environmental justice conditions.</p> <p>The Proposed Action is located on a small site adjacent to a community park, rural residences, and SR 65. The Proposed Action would not involve any activities that would have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on a significant minority population or low-income population. The Proposed Action would not divide any existing communities or displace any individuals.</p>

HCD Environmental Standards	
Factors	Determination and Compliance Documentation
Noise Abatement and Control	The Proposed Action includes the installation of an emergency generator and construction of a water tank and a structure that would contain a groundwater pump. The generator would be

[24 CFR 51 B]	<p>the greatest source of noise at the project site. However, the generator would only be operated approximately 20 minutes per week and during emergency conditions. The project site is located within 200 feet of SR 65, and as a result, existing noise conditions are dominated by car and truck traffic along this highway. This is considered to be a less-than-significant impact, and mitigation is not necessary.</p> <p>Please see the Noise section of the attached CEQA checklist in Chapter 3 for additional information. The CEQA document will be maintained on file with the EA.</p>
<p>Toxic/Hazardous/Radioactive Materials, Contamination, Chemicals or Gases</p> <p>[24 CFR 58.5(i)(2)]</p>	<p>The community of Sheridan does not contain any land uses that use or store large quantities of toxic, hazardous, or radioactive materials. The area is not known to have contaminated groundwater or soil, so the potential for release of these materials in the area is unlikely.</p> <p>Operation of the Proposed Action would include use of sodium hypochlorite for groundwater disinfection, but the quantities used and stored at the site would not be great enough to result in a substantial risk. In addition, all hazardous materials would be contained within a structure housing the pump, which would prevent dispersion in the event of a spill or accidental release. This is considered to be a less-than-significant impact, and mitigation is not necessary.</p> <p>Please see the Hazards and Hazardous Materials section of the attached CEQA checklist in Chapter 3 for additional information. The CEQA document will be maintained on file with the EA.</p>
<p>Siting of HUD-Assisted Projects near Hazardous Operations</p> <p>[24 CFR 51 C]</p>	<p>The project site is not located near any known hazardous operations as defined in 24 CFR 51C.</p> <p>Please see the Hazards and Hazardous Materials section of the attached CEQA checklist in Chapter 3 for additional information. The CEQA document will be maintained on file with the EA.</p>
<p>Airport Clear Zones and Accident Potential Zones</p> <p>[24 CFR 51 D]</p>	<p>The project site is not located within an airport clear zone or accident potential zone.</p> <p>Please see the Hazards and Hazardous Materials section of the attached CEQA checklist in Chapter 3 for additional information. The CEQA document will be maintained on file with the EA.</p>

Environmental Assessment Checklist

[Environmental Review Guide HUD CPD 782, 24 CFR 58.40; Ref. 40 CFR 1508.8 & 1508.27]

Evaluate the significance of the effects of the proposal on the character, features and resources of the project area. Enter relevant base data and verifiable source documentation to support the finding. Then enter the appropriate impact code from the following list to make a determination of impact. **Impact Codes:** (1) - No impact anticipated; (2) - Potentially beneficial; (3) - Potentially adverse; (4) - Requires mitigation; (5) - Requires project modification. Note names, dates of contact, telephone numbers and page references. Attach additional material as appropriate. Note conditions or mitigation measures required.

Land Development	Code	Source or Documentation
Conformance with Comprehensive Plans and Zoning	1	The project site is designated as Rural Residential in the Placer County General Plan and zoned as RS-B-X 5 AC MIN in the County's Zoning Ordinance. The Rural Residential land use allows for the development of necessary public utility facilities. Similarly, the zoning district allows for the development of public utility facilities with a minor use permit. Because the project would develop public utility infrastructure needed to upgrade Sheridan's water system to meet current State standards, this is considered to be consistent with the General Plan and zoning requirements of the project site.
Compatibility and Urban Impact	1	The project site is located in a rural residential area on the outskirts of the rural community of Sheridan. Public utility infrastructure in this area is considered to be compatible with the surrounding community, per the Placer County General Plan.
Slope	1	The project site is flat and is surrounded by flat terrain. No risks associated with slopes such as landslides are anticipated.
Erosion	1	<p>The soil units located within the project site do not have a high potential for soil erosion (SCS 1980: Table 12). In addition, Mitigation Measure HYD-1, identified below, addresses the potential for soil erosion associated with site development activities.</p> <p>Mitigation Measure HYD-1 The following mitigation measures shall be implemented during site construction activities associated with the Proposed Action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Because this project disturbs greater than one acre, coverage under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ, as amended) shall be obtained by Placer County prior to

	<p>any soil disturbance activities. A storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) shall be prepared by a Qualified SWPPP Developer (QSD) for the Proposed Project that complies with this Construction General Permit. The SWPPP shall be downloaded to the California Water Resources Control Board SMARTS database prior to the onset of any soil disturbance activities. All construction contractors shall retain a copy of the QSD-approved SWPPP on the construction site. At a minimum, the SWPPP shall identify and specify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of erosion and sediment-control Best Management Practices (BMPs) as determined by the QSD; • The use of non-structural BMPs such as project scheduling; • The means of waste disposal; • The implementation of approved local plans, non-storm water-management controls, permanent post-construction BMPs, and inspection and maintenance responsibilities; • The pollutants that are likely to be used during construction that could be present in storm water drainage and non-storm water discharges, and other types of materials used for equipment operation; • Spill prevention and contingency measures, including measures to prevent or clean up spills of hazardous waste and of hazardous materials used for equipment operation, and emergency procedures for responding to spills; • Personnel training requirements and procedures that will be used to ensure that workers are aware of permit requirements and proper installation methods for BMPs specified in the SWPPP; • The appropriate personnel responsible for supervisory duties related to implementation of the SWPPP; • The designated risk level of the project as determined by a QSD; • The monitoring and reporting requirements associated with the project's risk level; and • The non-visual pollutant monitoring program. <p>2. BMPs identified in the SWPPP shall be installed and maintained throughout all site work and construction. BMPs may include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing temporary sediment-control measures in disturbed areas to minimize discharge of sediment into nearby drainage conveyances. These measures may include but are not limited to silt fences, staked straw bales or wattles, sediment/silt basins and traps,
--	---

		<p>geofabric, and sandbag dikes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing temporary erosion control measures to minimize or eliminate the erosion of sediment. These measures may include but are not limited to rolled erosion control products such as coconut matting, plastic sheeting, etc. • Establishing permanent vegetative cover to reduce erosion in the roadway shoulder areas disturbed by construction that will slow runoff velocities, trap sediment, and enhance filtration and transpiration. • Using drainage swales, ditches, and earth dikes to control erosion and runoff by conveying surface runoff down sloping land, intercepting and diverting runoff to a watercourse or channel, preventing sheet flow over sloped surfaces, preventing runoff accumulation at the base of a grade, and avoiding flood damage along roadways and facility infrastructure. <p>3. The SWPPP shall be amended by a QSD, as necessary, to address changing site conditions and risk levels. Any SWPPP amendments shall be contained within the onsite copy and downloaded to the SMARTS database.</p> <p>4. The project monitoring shall be performed by a QSD, Qualified SWPPP Practitioner (QSP), or a designated trainee of a QSD or QSP. This monitoring is subject to the requirements of the Construction General Permit for the specified risk level for the project and may include discharge sampling and analysis. All monitoring results shall be downloaded to the SMARTS database within the required timeframes specified in the Construction General Permit.</p> <p>5. The SWPPP shall be implemented until all permanent post-construction BMPs have been successfully implemented and a Notice of Termination has been granted by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board absolving coverage under the General Construction Permit.</p>
Soil Suitability	1	The potential for ground failure due to lateral spreading, liquefaction, subsidence, or collapse is considered low. The soils at the site are not considered to be expansive as they have low shrink-swell potential (SCS 1980: Table 12).
Hazards and Nuisances including Site Safety	1	The Proposed Action would require the use of chemicals, particularly sodium hypochlorite, for water disinfection purposes. The use of these types of chemicals is common practice at groundwater wells. A small tank containing sodium hypochlorite would be located within the proposed structure containing the pump, and the supply would be replenished regularly, so

		<p>there would be transport of additional chemicals to the project site when onsite supplies run low.</p> <p>Sodium hypochlorite is known to create a hazard when ingested in undiluted, large quantities and can create a toxic gas when combined with ammonia. However, no ammonia would be used or stored on the site. Under implementation of the Proposed Action, all stored chemicals would be contained in the structure containing the pump, which would be secured. In addition, the project site would be fenced and secured, so there would be no public access to the site. Only qualified County staff would handle these materials, so the risk of upset is very low.</p> <p>Both federal and State laws include special provisions/training for safe methods for handling any type of hazardous substance. These regulations ensure that potential hazards associated with the use of sodium hypochlorite and those associated with construction of the Proposed Action do not create a significant hazard to the public. This ensures that the Proposed Action would not result in substantial hazards or nuisances during project construction or operation.</p>
Energy Consumption	1	<p>The Proposed Action would include the use of pumps and site lighting powered by electricity. A propane generator would be used in the event of an emergency when electricity was not available. In the project area, electricity is provided by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E). Due to the small size of the project, the amount of electricity needed to power the pump and the lighting would not be substantial, so its energy consumption would be low and not out of the ordinary for such a project.</p>

Land Development	Code	Source or Documentation
Noise - Contribution to Community Noise Levels	3	<p>The Proposed Action includes the installation of an emergency generator and construction of a water tank and a structure that would contain a groundwater pump. The generator would be the greatest source of noise at the project site. However, the generator would only be operated approximately 20 minutes per week and during emergency conditions. The project site is located within 200 feet of SR 65, and as a result, existing noise conditions are dominated by car and truck traffic along this highway. This is considered to be a less-than-significant impact and mitigation is not necessary.</p> <p>Please see the Noise section of the attached CEQA checklist in Chapter 3 for additional information. The CEQA document will be maintained on file with the EA.</p>
Air Quality	1	Minimal air quality impacts may occur during project

<p>Effects of Ambient Air Quality on Project and Contribution to Community Pollution Levels</p>		<p>construction from construction equipment and possible generation of dust in the project area, but due to the short construction period (estimated to be no more than six months) and small footprint of the project, these impacts are considered to be minimal and temporary.</p> <p>Project operations would only negligibly contribute to air quality impacts. The only direct impacts would be from the operation of the emergency generator, which would be powered by propane fuel. However, this is only for emergency operations and the generator would only be tested approximately 20 minutes per week to ensure it could provide sufficient power to run the system in the event of a loss of electricity from the power grid or other emergency.</p> <p>Indirect impacts that could occur as a result of project operations include emissions from maintenance equipment used at the site (e.g., leaf blowers), emissions from cars and trucks used by maintenance personnel, and possible air pollutants generated to produce the electricity that would power the pump. Emissions generated by maintenance equipment and vehicles accessing the site by County personnel would occur infrequently. In addition, these emissions are negligible and would not contribute substantially to an air quality violation and would not violate any air quality standard.</p>
<p>Environmental Design Visual Quality - Coherence, Diversity, Compatible Use and Scale</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Major project elements that would be visible to people off of the project site would including an approximately 24-foot tall and 50-foot wide storage tank with a 180,000-gallon water storage capacity, a single-story well and pump station building that would house most of the facility infrastructure, an access road, and perimeter fencing. The project would result in some change in the visual character of the site, but the change would be relatively minor, and the structures at the project site would be consistent with the visual character of infrastructure and structures found in most rural communities similar to Sheridan.</p>

Socioeconomic	Code	Source or Documentation
<p>Demographic Character Changes</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>The project site is not currently occupied by people, so the project would not directly contribute to changes in demographic character. The project is being developed to bring Sheridan's public water supply system into compliance with State regulations, which includes increasing water storage for fire flow requirements and the available water supply to provide adequate water supplies to the existing community in order to ensure public health is maintained..</p>

		<p>The project does not include any components that would attract one demographic group over another, and it would be speculative to assume that development of the Proposed Action would alter the demographics of the community.</p> <p>The project would not affect any community institutions nor create any physical barriers or difficult access affecting any particular neighborhoods or population groups.</p>
Displacement	1	The Proposed Action contains no components that would displace people or structures.
Employment and Income Patterns	1	<p>The Proposed Action would create temporary construction employment likely to be drawn from the local employment base. It is not expected that this temporary construction employment would draw significantly from outside the area.</p> <p>The project would be operated by employees of Placer County, who would visit the site weekly to perform ongoing operation and maintenance activities. The project alone would not generate the need for permanent employees at the site.</p>

Community Facilities and Services	Code	Source or Documentation
Educational Facilities	1	The Proposed Action consists of a new groundwater well, storage tank, and associated infrastructure, which would not directly result in any effects on educational facilities.
Commercial Facilities	1	The Proposed Action consists of a new groundwater well, storage tank, and associated infrastructure, which would not directly result in any effects on commercial facilities.
Health Care	1	Due to the nature of the Proposed Action, it is not expected to increase demand for health care.
Social Services	1	As a public utility improvements project, the Proposed Action is not expected to generate additional demands on social services in the community.
Solid Waste	1	The Proposed Action would not be permanently occupied by employees and would require two site visits by County employees each week for system maintenance. Solid waste generation from these site visits would be minimal and would have no effect on the disposal capacity of the Western Regional Sanitary Landfill.

Waste Water	1	The community's wastewater system was recently upgraded to meet current wastewater standards. The Proposed Action would not be expected to have any adverse effects on the community's waste water system.
Storm Water	1	The Proposed Action includes the implementation of appropriate storm water design to ensure adverse changes to existing drainage patterns are not altered. The Proposed Action would result in some loss of permeable surfaces at the project site to accommodate the new access road and building pads for the structure housing the well and the water storage tank. Due to the project site's small size, any changes in site runoff associated with the increase in impermeable surface area would have a negligible effect on the site's storm water runoff.
Water Supply	2	The Proposed Action would make available new water supplies to serve the existing community, which currently does not meet regulations for available water supply. The water storage tank would allow for the storage of water to provide adequate fire flow and as a back-up for pumped water on days when community water demand might exceed the capacity of the well. This provides critical reliability to the community's water supply.
Public Safety - Police	1	The Proposed Action includes installation of a new groundwater well and associated infrastructure, which would not directly result in any effects on police services.
- Fire	2	The Proposed Action is a groundwater well and associated infrastructure, including a 180,000-gallon water storage tank, which would provide enough water storage for fire flow purposes in the event of a fire in the community.
- Emergency Medical	1	Due to the nature of the Proposed Action, it is not expected to increase demand for emergency medical services.
Open Space and Recreation - Open Space	1	The Proposed Action would not result in any effects on designated open space. It would not result in the development of designated open space and it would not generate the need for additional open space.
- Recreation	1	The Proposed Action includes installation of a new groundwater well and associated infrastructure, which would not directly result in any effects on recreation services.
Cultural Facilities	1	The Proposed Action site does not include any cultural facilities and would not result in any adverse effects on

		cultural facilities.
Transportation	1	Operation of the Proposed Action would require two weekly site visits to the project site by County employees to perform maintenance activities. These site visits would have a negligible effect on traffic conditions in the area surrounding the project site.

Natural Features	Code	Source or Documentation
Water Resources	1	<p>The Proposed Action would include the development of a groundwater well and water storage tank intended to provide the community of Sheridan with a reliable water supply system consistent with State standards.</p> <p>This new well would draw down groundwater levels in the immediate vicinity of the pump, creating a radius of influence of approximately 110 feet. The well has been specifically located on the perimeter of the community away from other groundwater users in order to minimize its potential to reduce water levels in existing wells within the community. The closest well, which is located approximately 600 feet to the east, is inactive and the property owner is connected to Sheridan's water system. This existing inactive well is located substantially outside of the radius of influence of the proposed well.</p> <p>Because the proposed pump would be located a substantial distance from the two primary domestic supply wells within the community, is located on the perimeter of the community away from most other private groundwater wells, and is located more than 600 feet from the nearest existing groundwater well, it would not be expected to 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.</p>
Surface Water	1	No significant surface water features are located at or in the vicinity of the project site. None of the pipeline route options are located near significant surface water features. Therefore, the project would have no effect on surface water features.
Unique Natural Features and Agricultural Lands	4	<p>The project site is located in a rural residential area adjacent to SR 65 and is not currently used for agricultural activities. Part of the project site is designated as grazing land by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP), but it is not currently used for that purpose.</p> <p>The project site contains portions of two vernal pools.</p>

		<p>The USACE determined in a letter dated October 6, 2011, that the vernal pools “are intrastate isolated waters with no apparent interstate or foreign commerce connection,” and as a result are not regulated by the USACE, so a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit is not needed to fill the wetlands.</p> <p>Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-6 identified above would reduce indirect impacts on these vernal pools.</p> <p>Please refer to the Biological Resources section of the attached CEQA checklist in Chapter 3 for additional information. The CEQA document will be maintained on file with the EA.</p>
Vegetation and Wildlife	4	<p>Although the vernal pools located within the project site have been determined to not be jurisdictional, as confirmed in a letter from William Ness, Senior Project Manager, California North Branch, USACE to Christina Hanson, Placer County Facility Services Department dated October 6, 2011, they may provide habitat for special-status vernal pool branchiopod species, such as Conservancy fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>), vernal pool fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>), vernal pool tadpole shrimp (<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>).</p> <p>For this reason, the Biological Assessment prepared for this project proposed mitigation, which has been incorporated into the Biological Resources section of the attached CEQA checklist in Chapter 3. Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-6, described above, will minimize direct and indirect impacts on the vernal pools.</p>

Other Factors	Code	Source or Documentation
Flood Disaster Protection Act [Flood Insurance] [§58.6(a)]	1	The community of Sheridan and the project site are located in FEMA Zone X, meaning that it is considered to be located outside of the 500-year flood zone. Flood insurance is not required at the project site or in the surrounding areas.
Coastal Barrier Resources Act/ Coastal Barrier Improvement Act [§58.6(c)]	1	The project site is located more than 100 miles inland from the coast.
Airport Runway Clear Zone or Clear Zone Disclosure [§58.6(d)]	1	<p>The project site is not located within an airport clear zone or accident potential zone.</p> <p>Please see the attached Hazards and Hazardous Materials section of the CEQA checklist in Chapter 3 for</p>

		additional information. The CEQA document will be maintained on file with the EA.
Other Factors		N/A

Summary of Findings and Conclusions

ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

Alternatives and Project Modifications Considered [24 CFR 58.40(e), Ref. 40 CFR 1508.9]

In addition to the Proposed Action, several alternatives were considered to meet the California Waterworks Standards. Potential alternatives identified included upsizing a pump at one of the community's existing wells and developing a new emergency water supply well. In addition, two alternative sites were evaluated for installation of the proposed well and water tank including at Sheridan Park, directly west of the project site, and at a mobile home site located further west of the project site or approximately 500 feet west of Camp Far West Road. Each alternative was evaluated to determine how best it would meet the County's objectives. The Proposed Action was determined to have the best hydrogeology due to its location furthest from the community's existing water supply wells and adjacent wells, the least cost because the County owned the property, and the best security due to its isolated location. For these reasons, the other potential alternatives were rejected from further consideration.

No Action Alternative [24 CFR 58.40(e)]

Not developing the Proposed Action would leave the project site in its current condition. The site would be available for another similar use or grazing. However, Sheridan's public water system would not be upgraded and would remain in violation of California Department of Public Health (CDPH) requirements for insufficient source and storage capacity, and would not meet existing fire-flow requirements.

Mitigation Measures Recommended [24 CFR 58.40(d), 40 CFR 1508.20]

See the Mitigation Measures listed in the checklist above.

Additional Studies Performed

Sheridan Water Supply Improvements Project Biological Assessment, March 2012, prepared by AECOM

Preliminary Delineation of Waters of the United States, Including Wetlands, Sheridan Water Supply Improvements Project, May 2011, prepared by AECOM

Cultural Resources Inventory Report for Sheridan Water Supply Improvements Project, Placer County, CA, November 2011, prepared by AECOM

List of Sources, Agencies and Persons Consulted [40 CFR 1508.9(b)]

Historic Preservation

Cultural Resources Report, November 2011, prepared by AECOM

Native American Consultation Request with Native American Heritage Commission and Responses, July through September 2011

State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) Section 106 Consultation Letter, February 20, 2012.

Floodplain Management

FIRM Community Panel Number 06061C0250 F, Effective date June 8, 1998.

Wetlands Protection

Preliminary Delineation of Waters of the United States, Including Wetlands, Sheridan Water Supply Improvements Project, May 2011, prepared by AECOM

Letter from William Ness, Senior Project Manager, California North Branch, USACE to Christina Hanson, Placer County Facility Services Department, October 6, 2011

Sole Source Aquifers

EPA Ground Water Office website at: <http://epa.gov/region09/water/groundwater/ssa.html>

Endangered Species Act

Sheridan Water Supply Improvements Project Biological Assessment, March 2012, prepared by AECOM

Formal consultation and Biological Opinion letter from Susan K. Moore, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, May 4, 2012

California Natural Diversity Database

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

Listing of California wild and scenic rivers at:
<http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/nri/states/ca.html>

Air Quality

Placer County Air Pollution District website at: <http://www.placer.ca.gov/Departments/Air.aspx>

Farmland Protection Policy Act

Placer County General Plan, August 1994

California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, GIS Data, 2008, located at:
<ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dlrp/FMMP/pdf/2008/pla08.pdf>

Environmental Justice

Placer County General Plan, August 1994

Noise Abatement and Control

Noise measurements taken by AECOM, August 2011

Placer County General Plan, August 1994

Toxic or Hazardous Substances and Radioactive Materials

California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Envirostor database

Siting of HUD-Assisted Projects Near Hazardous Operations

California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Envirostor database

Airport Clear Zones and Accident Potential Zones

Placer County General Plan, August 1994

Conformance with Comprehensive Plans and Zoning

Placer County General Plan, August 1994

Placer County Zoning Ordinance

Compatibility and Urban Impact

Placer County General Plan, August 1994

Placer County Zoning Ordinance

Slope

US Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey (WSS) of Placer County, Western Part, California, 2009. Available <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm>.

USDA, Soil Conservation Service (SCS). 1980. Soil Survey of Placer County, Western Part, California. Table 12.

Erosion

US Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey (WSS) of Placer County, Western Part, California, 2009. Available <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm>.

USDA, Soil Conservation Service (SCS). 1980. Soil Survey of Placer County, Western Part, California. Table 12.

Hazards and Nuisances Including Site Safety

California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Envirostor database. Available <http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/>

Noise – Contribution to Community Noise Levels

Noise measurements taken by AECOM, August 2011

Placer County General Plan, August 1994

Air Quality – Effects of Ambient Air Quality on Project and Contribution to Community Pollution Levels

Placer County Air Pollution District website at: <http://www.placer.ca.gov/Departments/Air.aspx>

Environmental Design – Visual Quality – Coherence, Diversity, Compatible Use and Scale

Placer County General Plan, August 1994

Water Resources

Final Preliminary Engineering Report, Sheridan Water Supply Improvements Project. March 4, 2011. Prepared by Brown and Caldwell.

Vegetation and Wildlife

Preliminary Delineation of Waters of the United States, Including Wetlands, Sheridan Water Supply Improvements Project, May 2011, prepared by AECOM

Sheridan Water Supply Improvements Project Biological Assessment, March 2012, prepared by AECOM

California Natural Diversity Database

Other Factors

Not applicable

Attachment A
State Historic Preservation Officer Consultation Letter



AECOM
2020 L Street
Sacramento, CA 95811
www.aecom.com

916 414 5800 tel
916 414 5850 fax

February 20, 2012

Dr. Milford Wayne Donaldson
Office of Historic Preservation
Department of Parks and Recreation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816

**Subject: Consultation Regarding the Sheridan Water Supply Improvements Project,
Placer County, California**

Dear Dr. Donaldson:

The Placer County Department of Facility Services, Environmental Engineering Division is proposing to upgrade the public water system in the community of Sheridan, located in unincorporated western Placer County approximately eight miles northwest of the City of Lincoln and 3.5 miles southeast of Wheatland. Placer County is seeking funding for the project from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Utilities Services (RUS) and will be preparing a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Assessment for this project.

Because this project would use federal funding, it is required to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 as amended, and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800). HCD will serve as the lead agency for the Section 106 process. We are contacting you to initiate consultation under Section 106 of the NHPA and to solicit your comments on the adequacy of the investigation to identify historic properties and on our finding that no historic properties would be affected by the proposed project.

Proposed Undertaking

The proposed project includes the development of a new groundwater supply well, a water storage tank with an operational capacity of 180,000 gallons; a well and pump station building that would house the well pump, discharge piping, appurtenances, associated electrical equipment, and new booster pump station; an access road from the end of the Sheridan Community Park parking lot to the project site; site improvements including fencing, a compacted baserock access area, a storm drainage ditch, and related on- and off-site infrastructure; the extension of water distribution piping from the new booster pump station to a new connection point in Camp Far West Road (approximately 700 linear feet); and the replacement of existing water lines that would extend from Camp Far West Road to an existing elementary school. To ensure adequate fire flow is provided to the elementary school site, existing 4- and 6-inch water lines would be replaced with an 8-inch water line and a new section of 8-inch water line would be added to the distribution system. Three alternative routes have been identified for this 8-inch water line through the community of Sheridan.



Area of Potential Effects

The area of potential effect (APE) includes the 0.45-acre parcel that would include the new groundwater supply well, water storage tank, and access road, as well as the three alignments of the water distribution piping connecting to the elementary school. Where the pipeline is proposed along a roadway, the APE consists of one side of the road right-of-way. Where the pipeline extends beyond existing roadway right-of-way, the APE consists of a 20-foot corridor along the alignment. The existing elementary school buildings are not included in the APE because all proposed improvements at that location would be underground and would not be located directly adjacent to buildings.

Identification Efforts and Findings

AECOM conducted a cultural resources inventory of the entire APE for the proposed project. The methods of the inventory are described in the enclosed inventory report (AECOM 2011) and included a records search at the North Central Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System, Native American consultation and a pedestrian field survey. Based on the investigation conducted for this project, no historic properties are present in the APE and the proposed Sheridan Water Supply Improvements Project would not affect historic properties.

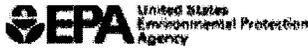
We respectfully request your comment on the adequacy of the identification efforts described in the enclosed report and seek your concurrence with the findings of the report and the determination that no historic properties would be affected by the proposed project. If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 414-5800 or by email at jessica.heuer@aecom.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jessica Heuer".

Jessica Heuer
Project Manager

Attachment B
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Sole Source Aquifer Map



Pacific Southwest, Region 9

Serving: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Pacific Islands, Tribal Nations

Ground Water

Ground Water Quick Finder

[Ground Water Home](#)
[Class V Wells](#)
[Cesspools in Hawaii](#)

[Onsite Sewage Treatment Permits](#)

[Sole Source Aquifer Source Water Protection](#)

[Tribal Water Protection Underground Injection Wells](#)

Sole Source Aquifer

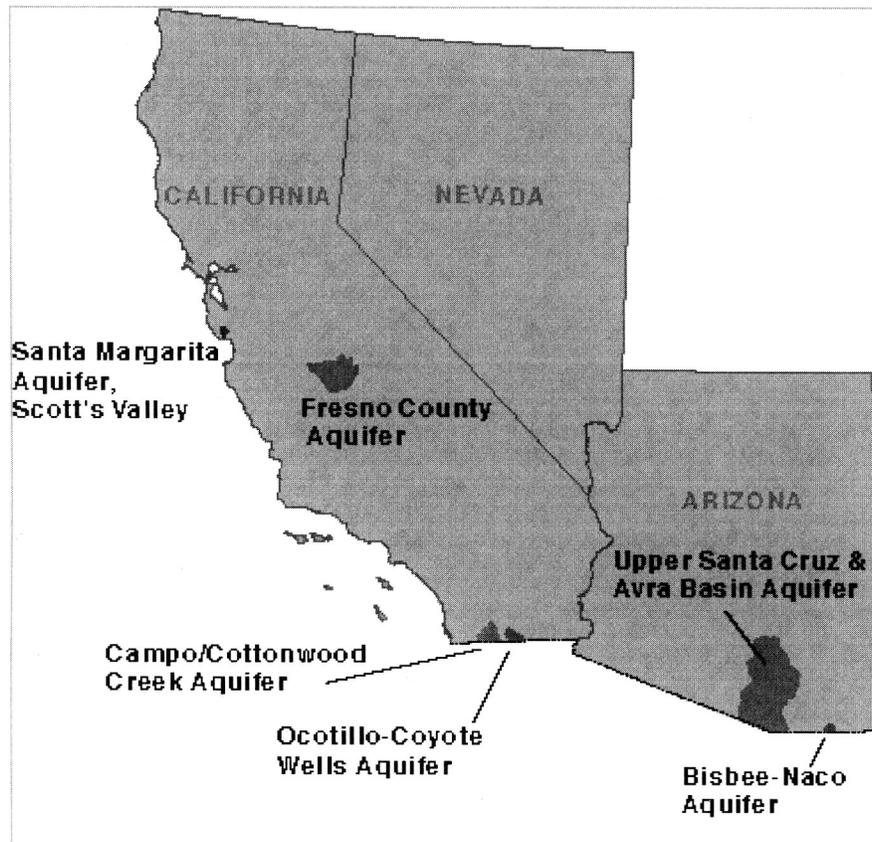
The EPA's Sole Source Aquifer (SSA) Program was established under Section 1424(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA.) Since 1977, it has been used by communities to help prevent contamination of groundwater from federally-funded projects. It has increased public awareness of the vulnerability of groundwater resources. The SSA program allows for [EPA environmental review \(PDF\)](#) (1pg, 34K) of any project which is financially assisted by federal grants or federal loan guarantees. These projects are evaluated to determine whether they have the potential to contaminate a sole source aquifer.

National Links

[EPA Ground Water & Drinking Water Home](#)

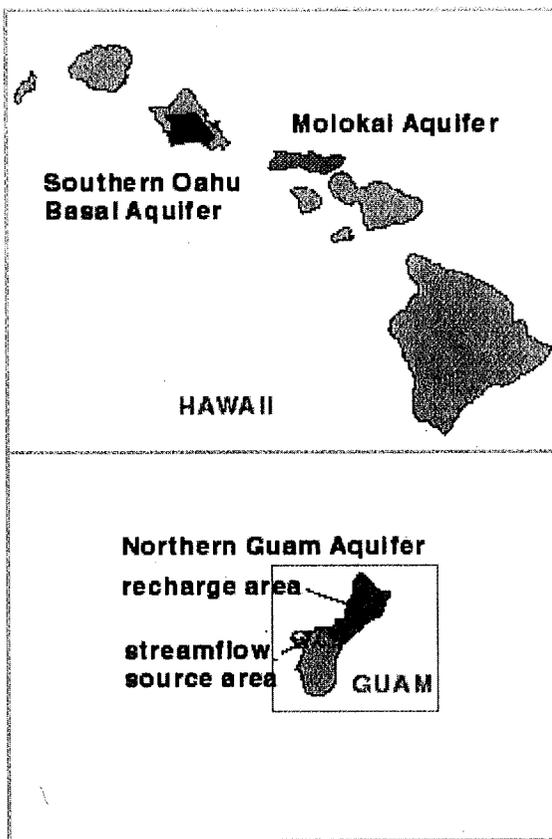
You will need Adobe Reader to view some of the files on this page. See [EPA's PDF page](#) to learn more about PDF, and for a link to the free Adobe Reader.

In Region 9, nine sole source aquifers have been designated:



Maps

Click [here for a national layer](#) including all available coverage for [Sole Source Aquifers \(SSA\)](#) that can be used in Geographic Information Systems (GIS)



State	Sole Source Aquifer Name	Federal Reg. Cit	Publ. Date	
AZ	Upper Santa Cruz & Avra Basin Aquifer	49 FR 2948	01/24/84	F
AZ	Bisbee-Naco Aquifer	53 FR 38337	09/30/88	P
CA	Fresno County Aquifer	44 FR 52751	09/10/79	F
CA	Santa Margarita Aquifer, Scotts Valley	50 FR 2023	01/14/85	P
CA	Campo/Cottonwood Creek	58 FR 31024	05/28/93	P
CA	Ocotillo-Coyote Wells Aquifer	61 FR 47752	09/10/96	P
GU	Northern Guam Aquifer System	43 FR 17867	04/26/78	P
HI	Southern Oahu Basal Aquifer	52 FR 45496	11/30/87	P
HI	Molokai Aquifer	59 FR 23063	04/20/93	P

A map of all nationally designated SSAs is also [available on the Source Water Protection Publications Database](#).

For more information, please contact the Ground Water Office at 415-972-3542 or visit the national [EPA Sole Source Aquifer Program](#) site.

Outreach Documents

<http://epa.gov/region09/water/groundwater/ssa.html>

[Sole Source Aquifer Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#) (1pg, 34K)

For Project Planners: [What to submit for EPA review of proposed projects \(PDF\)](#) (1pg, 34K)

Contact Information

See the [Sole Source Aquifer section](#) of the Ground Water contacts page.

[Pacific Southwest Newsroom](#)
[Pacific Southwest Programs](#)

[Grants & Funding](#)
[US-Mexico Border](#)

[Media Center](#)
[Careers](#)

[About EPA Pacific Southwest](#)
[A-Z Index](#)

Last updated on Friday, April 13, 2012

Attachment C
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Consultation Letter



**COUNTY OF PLACER
FACILITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

Phone 530-886-4900 Fax 530-889-6809
www.placer.ca.gov

JAMES DURFEE, DIRECTOR
MARY DIETRICH, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
VALERIE BAYNE, ADMIN. SVS. MANAGER
JOEL SWIFT, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
MARK RIDEOUT, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
BILL ZIMMERMAN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

April 17, 2012

Jason Hanni
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Fish and Wildlife Service
Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office
2800 Cottage Way, W-2605
Sacramento, CA 95825

**RE: SHERIDAN WATER SUPPLY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT SECTION 7
CONSULTATION**

Dear Mr. Hanni:

I am writing to initiate consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act for the Sheridan Water Supply Improvements Project. The Proposed Project is located in the community of Sheridan in unincorporated western Placer County, California, approximately eight miles northwest of the City of Lincoln and 3.5 miles southeast of Wheatland. A copy of the Biological Assessment prepared by AECOM on behalf of Placer County is enclosed.

Placer County is seeking funding for the project from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Utilities Services (RUS). The CDBG Program was established by the federal Housing and Community Development Act and is administered at the state level by HCD. HCD will serve as the lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The federal funding mechanism triggers the need to prepare the Biological Assessment and initiate the Section 7 process. HCD has delegated their authority for initiating the Section 7 consultation process to Placer County.

Based on the available information, we have determined the action may affect the Federally-listed vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*) and vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*).

The following information is included to initiate consultation:

1. A description of the action to be considered: The Proposed Project would include the development of a new groundwater well, water storage tank, pump station, supporting infrastructure, and pipeline upsizing and extensions.
2. A description of the specific area that may be affected by the action: The Proposed Project is expected to directly impact 0.03 acre of vernal pool habitat located within the development footprint of the well site due to site grading activities. The Proposed Project would also be expected to indirectly

11476 C Avenue Auburn CA 95603
Entrance at 2855 2nd Street

affect 0.03 acre of vernal pool habitat outside of the well site development footprint due to its direct proximity to the grading activities.

3. A description of any listed species or critical habitat that may be affected by the action: A list of special-status plant and wildlife species evaluated in the Biological Assessment was compiled from official species lists maintained by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the Sheridan and Lincoln U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangles, which encompass the entirety of the Proposed Project area. The California Natural Diversity Database and California Native Plant Society's electronic inventory of rare and endangered vascular plants of California were also reviewed for specific information on previously documented occurrences of special-status species in the Sheridan and Lincoln quadrangles. The following federally listed species have the potential to occur within the USGS Sheridan and Lincoln quadrangles: Vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*) and vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*).
4. A description of the manner in which the action may affect any listed species or critical habitat and analysis of any cumulative impacts: The construction activities associated with site grading activities would be expected to directly impact 0.03 acre of vernal pool habitat located within the development footprint of the well site. The grading activities would also be expected to indirectly affect 0.03 acre of vernal pool habitat outside of the well site development footprint due to its direct proximity to the grading activities. The proposed project would not be expected to contribute to cumulative impacts on the species.
5. Relevant reports including any environmental impact statement, environmental assessment or biological assessment prepared: Please see the enclosed AECOM, March 19, 2012 Biological Assessment.
6. Any other relevant available information on the action, the listed species or critical habitat: The County will follow all avoidance and minimization measures listed in the attached Biological Assessment to avoid direct and indirect effects to the vernal pool habitat located north of the well site development footprint during construction and operation. In addition, mitigation credits will be purchased at a habitat mitigation bank at a 2:1 ratio to offset direct and indirect effects to the identified vernal pool habitat that may occur from construction and operation of the Proposed Project.

This constitutes the best scientific and commercial data available. If you need additional information, or determine conditioning the permit or modifying the project would preclude the need for formal consultation, please contact Chris Hanson directly at 530-886-4965.

Sincerely,



Kevin Bell, P.E.
Environmental Engineering Program Manager

cc: Chris Hanson

Enclosure: Biological Assessment

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Attachment D
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Response Letter



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605
Sacramento, California 95825-1846

In reply refer to:
81420-2010-F-0980-1

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Mr. Kevin Bell
Environmental Engineering Program Manager
Placer County Facility Services Department
11476 C Avenue
Auburn, California 95603

Subject: Formal Endangered Species Consultation on the Sheridan Water Supply Improvements Project, Placer County, California

Dear Mr. Bell:

This is in response to your April 17, 2012, letter requesting consultation on the proposed Sheridan Water Supply Improvements Project (proposed project) in Placer County, California. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received your request on April 23, 2012. You requested formal consultation based on your determination that the proposed project may affect, and is likely to adversely affect the federally-listed as threatened vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*) and the endangered vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*) (collectively, the vernal pool crustaceans). The proposed action area is not located within any areas designated or proposed critical habitat for the vernal pool crustaceans; therefore, no designated or proposed critical habitat for the species will be affected. The Department of Housing and Urban Development has designated Placer County (County) as a non-Federal representative pursuant to 50 C.F.R. Part 402.08. The Federal action that we are consulting on is the development of a new ground water well, water storage tank, pump station, supporting infrastructure, and pipeline upsizing and extensions. This response is in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (Act).

This consultation is based on the following: 1) the April 17, 2012, letter initiating formal consultation; 2) the April 2012, *Sheridan Water Supply Improvements Project, Biological Assessment*, prepared by AECOM; and 3) other information available to the Service.

Project Description

The proposed project is located in the community of Sheridan in unincorporated western Placer County, California, approximately eight miles northwest of the City of Lincoln and 3.5 miles

southeast of Wheatland. The new groundwater well, water storage tank, pump station, and supporting infrastructure would be installed on a 0.45-acre site located east of State Route 65 and the Southern Pacific Railroad and west of Camp Far West Road. The well site is accessed through the adjacent Sheridan Community Park located on Camp Far West Road. The well site contains portions of two vernal pools that total 0.06 acre in size (0.03 acre each).

The proposed action also includes the development of one of three proposed pipeline alignment options that would replace existing deficient water pipelines, and/or install new pipeline segments, within the community. The majority of the proposed project area is developed and consists of single-family residential homes, a mobile home park, and an elementary school. These water pipeline alignment options extend for approximately 1/3 mile generally to the east, and south to an existing elementary school, and are for the purpose of ensuring adequate fire flow to the school. The alignments of these water pipeline options are also included within the proposed project area.

The proposed project will result in direct effects to one 0.03 acre vernal pool and indirect effects to one 0.03 acre vernal pool, both of which are considered suitable habitat for the vernal pool crustaceans. The County has proposed to compensate for the direct effects (0.03 acre direct at 2:1 = 0.06) and 0.03 acre of vernal pool creation credits (0.03 acre at 1:1) at Service-approved vernal pool crustacean banks (Table 1). In addition, the County has proposed to compensate for the indirect effects (0.03 acre indirect at 2:1 = 0.06) at a Service-approved vernal pool crustacean species conservation bank (Table 1). Therefore, the total compensation proposed for the proposed project totals 0.12 acre of preservation credits and 0.03 acre of creation credits. The County has also proposed minimization and avoidance measures found on pages 15-17 in the April 2012, *Biological Assessment for the Sheridan Water Supply Improvements Project*.

Table 1: Total Vernal pool crustacean habitat acreage impacted by the proposed project.

Impact Acreage	Ratio	Proposed Compensation
0.03 acre (direct)	2:1 preservation	0.06 acre preservation
	1:1 creation	0.03 acre creation
0.03 acre (indirect)	2:1 preservation	0.06 acre preservation
Total		0.12 acre preservation
		0.03 acre creation

Action Area

The action area is defined in 50 CFR §402.02 as “all areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the Federal action and not merely the immediate area involved in the action.” For the Sheridan Water Supply Improvements Project, the action area includes the new groundwater well, water storage tank, pump station, and the supporting infrastructure.

Analytical Framework for the Jeopardy Analysis

In accordance with policy and regulation, the jeopardy analysis in this biological opinion relies on four components: (1) the *Status of the Species*, which evaluates the vernal pool crustaceans range-wide condition, the factors responsible for that condition, and their survival and recovery needs; (2) the *Environmental Baseline*, which evaluates the condition of the vernal pool crustaceans in the action area, the factors responsible for that condition, and the relationship of the action area to the survival and recovery of the vernal pool crustaceans; (3) the *Effects of the Action*, which determines the direct and indirect effects of the proposed Federal action and the effects of any interrelated or interdependent activities on the vernal pool crustaceans; and (4) the *Cumulative Effects*, which evaluates the effects of future, non-Federal activities in the action area on the vernal pool crustaceans.

In accordance with policy and regulation, the jeopardy determination is made by evaluating the effects of the proposed Federal action in the context of the vernal pool crustaceans current status, taking into account any cumulative effects, to determine if implementation of the proposed action is likely to cause an appreciable reduction in the likelihood of both the survival and recovery of the vernal pool crustaceans in the wild.

The jeopardy analysis in this biological opinion places an emphasis on consideration of the range-wide survival and recovery needs of the vernal pool crustaceans and the role of the action area in the survival and recovery of the vernal pool crustaceans as the context for evaluating the significance of the effects of the proposed Federal action, taken together with cumulative effects, for purposes of making the jeopardy determination.

Status of the Species

Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp

Please refer to the vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*) 5-year Review: Summary and Evaluation (Service 2007a) for the current status of the species.

Vernal Pool Tadpole Shrimp

Please refer to the vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardi*) 5-year Review: Summary and Evaluation (Service 2007b) for the current status of the species.

Environmental Baseline

Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp and Vernal Pool Tadpole Shrimp

Status of the species within the action area – The action area is located in the Southeastern Sacramento Valley Vernal Pool Region, which contains almost 15 percent of the remaining vernal pool grasslands in the State of California (Keeler-Wolf et al. 1998). There are 106

occurrences of vernal pool fairy shrimp and 79 occurrences of vernal pool tadpole shrimp in the Southeastern Sacramento Valley Vernal Pool Region (Service 2007a, 2007b).

Surveys have not been conducted in the action area although detections of both vernal pool fairy shrimp and vernal pool tadpole shrimp have been recorded within 5 miles of the project site with two records for vernal pool fairy shrimp and one record for vernal pool tadpole shrimp (CNDDDB 2012). Therefore the Service believes these species are likely to be distributed in vernal pools within the action area.

Factors affecting the species within the action area – There are no known concurrent actions from State, local, private, and unrelated Federal actions within the action area affecting the environmental baseline of the vernal pool crustaceans.

Effects of the Proposed Action

Direct and Indirect Effects to the Vernal Pool Crustaceans

Individuals of listed crustaceans and their cysts may be directly injured or killed by activities leading to the destruction (i.e., the filling of habitat) of the pools in which they exist. All vernal pool crustaceans and their cysts inhabiting 0.03 acre of vernal pool crustacean habitat that will be directly affected as part of the project will be injured or killed as a result of the direct effects of the project.

Indirect effects are caused by or result from the proposed action, are later in time, and are reasonably certain to occur. Individuals and their cysts may be injured or killed by several indirect effects, including, but not limited to altered hydrology associated with construction activities such as grading the site. All vernal pool crustaceans and their cysts inhabiting 0.03 acre of vernal pool crustacean habitat will be indirectly affected as part of the project and will be harmed, harassed, injured or killed as a result of the indirect effects of the project.

Cumulative Effects

Cumulative effects are those impacts of future State, Tribal, county, local agency, and private actions that are reasonably certain to occur within the action area. Future Federal actions that are unrelated to the proposed action are not considered in this section because they require separate consultation pursuant to section 7 of the Act. There are no significant or reasonably certain to occur cumulative effects within the action area.

Conclusion

After reviewing the current status of the vernal pool crustaceans, the environmental baseline for the action area covered by this biological opinion, the effects of the proposed action, and the cumulative effects, it is the Service's biological opinion that the Sheridan Water Supply Improvements Project is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of these species. The Service reached this conclusion because the project-related effects to these species, when added to the environmental baseline and analyzed in consideration of anticipated cumulative effects,

would not rise to the level of precluding recovery of the species or reducing the likelihood of survival of the species. The effects to the vernal pool crustaceans are small and discrete, and the conservation measures will contribute to the long-term preservation and management of the vernal pool habitat. The project will contribute to the conservation of the vernal pool crustaceans by preserving habitat at a Service-approved conservation bank that will manage a large contiguous section of habitat for the benefit of the species.

INCIDENTAL TAKE STATEMENT

Section 9 of the Act and Federal regulation pursuant to section 4(d) of the Act prohibit the take of endangered and threatened species, respectively, without special exemption. Take is defined as harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. Harass is defined by the Service as an intentional or negligent act or omission which creates the likelihood of injury to a listed species by annoying it to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavioral patterns which include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding or sheltering. Harm is further defined by the Service to include significant habitat modification or degradation that results in death or injury to listed species by impairing behavioral patterns including breeding, feeding, or sheltering. Incidental take is defined as take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity. Under the terms of section 7(b)(4) and section 7(o)(2), taking incidental to and not intended as part of the agency project is not considered to be prohibited taking under the Act, provided that such taking is in compliance with this Incidental Take Statement.

The measures described below are nondiscretionary and must be implemented by the County in order for the exemption in section 7(o)(2) to apply. The County has a continuing duty to regulate the activity that is covered by this incidental take statement. If the County: (1) fails to adhere to the terms and conditions of the incidental take statement; and/or (2) fails to retain oversight to ensure compliance with these terms and conditions, the protective coverage of section 7(o)(2) may lapse.

Amount or Extent of Take

Upon implementation of the following reasonable and prudent measures, the following levels of incidental take of the vernal pool fairy shrimp and vernal pool tadpole shrimp will be exempted from prohibitions of take under section 9 of the Act. The Service expects that incidental take of the vernal pool crustaceans will be difficult to detect or quantify. The cryptic nature of these species and their relatively small body size make the finding of an injured or dead specimen unlikely. The species occurs in habitats that make them difficult to detect. Due to the difficulty in quantifying the number of vernal pool fairy shrimp and vernal pool tadpole shrimp that will be taken as a result of the proposed project, the Service estimates that all vernal pool tadpole and fairy shrimp inhabiting 0.06 acre of vernal pool crustacean habitat will be harmed, harassed, injured or killed as a result of the proposed project.

Effect of the Take

The Service has determined that this level of anticipated take is not likely to result in jeopardy to the vernal pool fairy shrimp and vernal pool tadpole shrimp.

Reasonable and Prudent Measures

The following reasonable and prudent measure is necessary and appropriate to minimize the effects of the Sheridan Water Supply Improvements Project on the vernal pool crustaceans:

1. All conservation measures outlined in the project description will be fully implemented. Further, these conservation measures shall be supplemented by the Terms and Conditions below.

Terms and Conditions

In order to be exempt from the prohibitions of section 9 of the Act, the following terms and conditions, which implements the reasonable and prudent measure described above, are non-discretionary. The following terms and conditions implement reasonable and prudent measure one (1):

1. The County will adhere to the conservation measures described in the April 2012, *Biological Assessment for the Sheridan Water Supply Improvements Project*.
2. Prior to ground disturbance, the County shall send a copy of the fully executed credit sales agreement, bill of sale, and payment receipt to the Service for vernal pool preservation and creation credits as outlined in the April 2012, *Biological Assessment for the Sheridan Water Supply Improvements Project*.
3. The County shall include a copy of this biological opinion within its solicitations for construction of the project, making the prime contractor responsible for implementing all requirements and obligations included in this biological opinion and to educate and inform all other contractors involved in the project as to the requirements of this biological opinion. A copy of the solicitations containing the biological opinion will be provided to the Assistant Field Supervisor for Endangered Species at the Service's Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office.

CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Conservation recommendations are suggestions of the Service regarding discretionary measures to minimize or avoid adverse effects of a proposed action on listed species or critical habitat or regarding the development of new information. These measures may serve to further minimize or avoid the adverse effects of a proposed action on listed, proposed, or candidate species, or on designated critical habitat. They may also serve as suggestions on how action agencies can assist

species conservation in furtherance of their responsibilities under section 7(a)(1) of the Act, or recommend studies improving an understanding of a species' biology or ecology. Wherever possible, conservation recommendations should be tied to tasks identified in recovery plans. The County should work with the Service to implement the *December 2005, Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon*.

In order for the Service to be kept informed of actions minimizing or avoiding adverse effects or benefiting listed species or their habitats, the Service requests notification of the implementation of any conservation recommendations.

REINITIATION - CLOSING STATEMENT

This concludes formal consultation on the Sheridan Water Supply Improvements Project. As provided in 50 CFR §402.16, reinitiation of formal consultation is required where discretionary Federal agency involvement or control over the action has been retained (or is authorized by law) and if: (1) the amount or extent of incidental take is exceeded; (2) new information reveals effects of the agency action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not considered in this opinion; (3) the action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to listed species or critical habitat that was not considered in this opinion; or (4) a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the action.

Please contact Jason Hanni, Fish and Wildlife Biologist or Kellie Berry, Chief, Sacramento Valley Division at (916) 414-6645, if you have questions regarding the proposed Sheridan Water Supply Improvements Project.

Sincerely,



Susan K. Moore
Field Supervisor

for

LITERATURE CITED

California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB). 2012. California Natural Heritage Division. California Fish and Game, Sacramento, California.

Keeler-Wolf, T., D.R. Elam, K. Lewis, and S.A. Flint. 1998. California vernal pool assessment preliminary report. California Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento, California.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). 2005. Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon. Portland, Oregon. xxii + 574 pp.

_____. 2007a. Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*) 5-year Review: Summary and Evaluation. September 2007.

_____. 2007b. Vernal Pool Tadpole Shrimp (*Lepidurus packardi*) 5-year Review: Summary and Evaluation. September 2007.

Attachment E
CEQA Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration

(separate bound document, dated February 2012)

Link:

www.placer.ca.gov/Departments/CommunityDevelopment/EnvCoordSvc/NegDec.aspx