

14.0 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND HAZARDS

This chapter evaluates information about hazardous materials and hazards in the project area. It describes existing characteristics of the area, summarizes pertinent regulations, analyzes the environmental impacts from implementation of the proposed project on hazardous materials and hazards, and provides mitigation measures as needed to reduce those impacts.

14.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

For purposes of this chapter, the term “hazardous materials” refers to both hazardous substances and hazardous wastes. A “hazardous material” is defined in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) as “a substance or material that...is capable of posing an unreasonable risk to health, safety, and property when transported in commerce” (49 CFR 171.8). California Health and Safety Code Section 25501 defines a hazardous material as follows:

“Hazardous material” means any material that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment. “Hazardous materials” include, but are not limited to, hazardous substances, hazardous waste, and any material which a handler or the administering agency has a reasonable basis for believing that it would be injurious to the health and safety of persons or harmful to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment.

“Hazardous wastes” are defined in California Health and Safety Code Section 25141(b) as wastes that:

... because of their quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics, [may either] cause, or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious illness, [or] pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of, or otherwise managed.

14.1.1 REGIONAL SETTING

The project area is located along Coon Creek in the Sierra Nevada foothills of Placer County. It is surrounded by undeveloped land dominated by natural vegetation. According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire), the overall fire danger in the vicinity of the Park is rated as medium (CalFire 2007).

14.1.2 EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS

There is an existing ranch house within the Spears Ranch portion of the Park; however, it is not currently in use. None of the land in the project area is in agricultural production or in timber resource operations; however, the proposed Park and surrounding area are used for livestock grazing. Historic uses of the project area include mining and prospecting and several remnants of these activities exist within the project area. Heavy metals such as mercury and arsenic were often used in mining operations; however, it is unknown if these contaminants are present within the project area.

Elevations in the project area range from less than 400 feet to more than 1,200 feet above mean sea level. Side slopes are steepest adjacent to the eastern portion of Coon Creek. Geology and geologic hazards in the project area are described in Chapter 5.0, “Soils, Geology, and Seismicity.” Several stock ponds exist within the Spears Ranch portion of the Park that could provide potential habitat for mosquitoes. The project area is served by the Placer Mosquito and Vector Control District (Vector Control District), which serves all of Placer County. The Vector Control District routinely inspects and treats agricultural, industrial, and residential vector sources such as creeks, wetlands, and human-made water features, as needed (Placer Mosquito and Vector Control District 2009).

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Envirofacts database and EnviroMapper was reviewed for the project area. The Envirofacts database contains a variety of environmental information maintained by EPA, such as the locations of releases of more than 650 toxic chemicals. EnviroMapper was used to depict graphically whether EPA maintains any information about the project area in Envirofacts. No records of any toxic releases, hazardous waste, or other violations were found (EPA 2007). A Phase I Site Assessment, Asbestos Building Material and Lead-Based Paint Survey Report, and a Limited Phase II Soil and Domestic Well Water Assessment were also conducted within the Spears Ranch portion of the Park by Kleinfelder, Inc., in 2003 (Trust for Public Lands 2003a, 2003b, 2003c). The Phase I Site Assessment concluded that there were no records of any toxic releases, hazardous waste, or other violations recorded for the Spears Ranch portion of the Park; however, some areas of stained soils were observed on the property and some of the on-site buildings were identified as potentially containing asbestos containing materials (ACMs) and/or lead-based paint (LBP) (Trust for Public Lands 2003b). The Asbestos Building Material and Lead-Based Paint Survey Report identified six samples of painted surfaces that contained LBP exceeding the Housing and Urban Development and EPA criterion for lead and two structures on-site were identified as containing or having the potential to contain ACMs (Trust for Public Lands 2003c).

14.2 REGULATORY SETTING

14.2.1 FEDERAL PLANS, POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND LAWS

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

EPA is the agency primarily responsible for enforcing and implementing federal laws and regulations pertaining to hazardous materials. Applicable federal regulations pertaining to hazardous materials are contained mainly in CFR Titles 29, 40, and 49. Hazardous materials, as defined in the CFR (see the definitions of terms above), are listed in 49 CFR 172.101. Management of hazardous materials is governed by the following laws:

- ▶ Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA) (42 U.S. Code [USC] 6901 et seq.);
- ▶ Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA, also called the Superfund Act) (42 USC 9601 et seq.); and
- ▶ Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986 (Public Law 99-499).

These laws and associated regulations include specific requirements for facilities that generate, use, store, treat, and/or dispose of hazardous materials. EPA provides oversight for and supervision of federal Superfund investigation/remediation projects, evaluates remediation technologies, and develops restrictions on disposal of hazardous materials and standards for treatment.

Hazardous Substances

Hazardous substances are a subclass of hazardous materials. They are regulated under CERCLA and SARA (and the federal Clean Water Act for water resources; see Chapter 11.0, "Hydrology and Water Quality"). Under CERCLA, EPA has authority to seek the parties responsible for releases of hazardous substances and ensure that the responsible parties remediate the site. CERCLA also provides federal funding (the "Superfund") for remediation. SARA Title III, the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, requires companies to declare potential toxic hazards to ensure that local communities can plan for chemical emergencies. EPA maintains a National Priority List of uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites identified as high priorities for remediation under the Superfund program. EPA also maintains the CERCLIS database, which contains information on hazardous waste sites, potential hazardous waste sites, and remedial activities across the nation.

Hazardous Wastes

Hazardous wastes, although included in the definition of hazardous materials and hazardous substances, are regulated separately under RCRA. A waste can legally be considered hazardous if it is classified as ignitable, corrosive, reactive, or toxic. Title 22, Section 66261.24 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) (i.e., 22 CCR 66261.24) defines characteristics of toxicity. Under RCRA, EPA regulates hazardous waste from the time that the waste is generated until its final disposal (“cradle to grave”). RCRA also authorizes EPA or a state to inspect individual facilities for compliance with regulations and to pursue enforcement action if a violation is discovered. EPA can delegate its responsibility to a state if the state’s regulations are at least as stringent as the federal ones. RCRA was updated in 1984 by the passage of the federal Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments, which required phasing out land disposal of hazardous waste.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) of the U.S. Department of Labor is responsible for enforcing and implementing federal laws and regulations pertaining to worker health and safety. Workers at hazardous waste sites must receive specialized training and medical supervision according to the Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response regulations (29 CFR 1910.120).

14.2.2 STATE PLANS, POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND LAWS

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), a division of the California Environmental Protection Agency, has primary regulatory responsibility over hazardous materials in California. DTSC works in conjunction with the federal EPA to enforce and implement hazardous materials laws and regulations; it can delegate enforcement responsibilities to local jurisdictions.

The hazardous waste management program enforced by DTSC was created by the Hazardous Waste Control Act (California Health and Safety Code Section 25100 et seq.), which is implemented by regulations described in CCR Title 26. The state program thus created is similar to, but more stringent than, the federal program under RCRA. The regulations list materials that may be hazardous and establish criteria for their identification, packaging, and disposal.

Environmental health standards for management of hazardous waste are contained in CCR Title 22, Division 4.5. In addition, as required by Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code, DTSC maintains a hazardous waste and substances site list for the state, called the Cortese List. The project area is not included on this list (DTSC 2007).

California’s Secretary for Environmental Protection has established a unified hazardous waste and hazardous materials management regulatory program (Unified Program) as required by Senate Bill 1082 (1993). The Unified Program consolidates, coordinates, and makes consistent the administrative requirements, permits, inspections, and enforcement activities for the following environmental programs:

- ▶ programs for hazardous waste generators and on-site treatment of hazardous waste;
- ▶ underground storage tank program;
- ▶ hazardous-materials release response plans and inventories;
- ▶ California Accidental Release Prevention Program;
- ▶ Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act requirements for spill prevention, control, and countermeasure plans; and
- ▶ hazardous-material management plans and inventories under the California Uniform Fire Code.

The six environmental programs within the Unified Program are implemented at the local level by local agencies.

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

The State Water Resources Control Board, through its nine regional water quality control boards (RWQCBs), has primary responsibility for protecting water quality and supply. The project area is located within the jurisdiction of the Central Valley RWQCB. See Chapter 11.0, "Hydrology and Water Quality," for further discussion of the Central Valley RWQCB.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

The California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal/OSHA), assumes primary responsibility for developing and enforcing workplace safety regulations within the state. Cal/OSHA standards are more stringent than federal OSHA regulations and are presented in CCR Title 8. Standards for workers dealing with hazardous materials include practices for all industries (General Industry Safety Orders); specific practices are described for construction and for hazardous waste operations and emergency response. Cal/OSHA conducts on-site evaluations and issues notices of violation to enforce necessary improvements to health and safety practices.

14.2.3 LOCAL PLANS, POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND ORDINANCES

PLACER COUNTY GENERAL PLAN

The following are the relevant goals and policies identified by the *Placer County General Plan* (General Plan) (Placer County 1994) for hazardous materials and hazards.

GOAL 8.C: To minimize the risk of loss of life, injury, and damage to property and watershed resources resulting from unwanted fires.

- ▶ **Policy 8.C.7.** [Placer] County shall work with local fire protection agencies, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the U.S. Forest Service to promote the maintenance of existing fuel breaks and emergency access routes for effective fire suppression.
- ▶ **Policy 8.C.11.** The County shall continue to work cooperatively with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and local fire protection agencies in managing wildland fire hazards.
- ▶ **Policy 8.E.4.** The County shall, through its Office of Emergency Services, maintain the capability to effectively respond to emergency incidents.
- ▶ **Policy 8.E.5.** The County shall maintain an emergency operations center to coordinate emergency response, management, and recovery activities.

GOAL 8.G: To minimize the risk of loss of life, injury, serious illness, damage to property, and economic and social dislocations resulting from the use, transport, treatment, and disposal of hazardous materials and hazardous materials wastes.

- ▶ **Policy 8.G.1.** The County shall ensure that the use and disposal of hazardous materials in the County complies with local, state, and federal safety standards.
- ▶ **Policy 8.G.5.** The County shall strictly regulate the storage of hazardous materials and wastes.
- ▶ **Policy 8.G.6.** The County shall require secondary containment and periodic examination for all storage of toxic materials.

- ▶ **Policy 8.G.13.** The County shall work with local fire protection and other agencies to ensure an adequate Countywide response capability to hazardous materials emergencies.

14.3 IMPACTS

14.3.1 ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

The environmental analysis for hazardous materials and hazards was based largely on the results of searches of EPA’s Envirofacts database and EnviroMapper and DTSC’s Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List, as well as field review of the project area. Background information included in the General Plan was also used in this analysis. The effects of the proposed project were compared to environmental baseline conditions (i.e., existing conditions) to determine impacts.

14.3.2 THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

CEQA THRESHOLDS

Based on the Placer County CEQA checklist and the State CEQA Guidelines, the proposed project would result in a potentially significant impact on hazardous materials or hazards if it would:

- ▶ create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials;
- ▶ create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment;
- ▶ emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous materials within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school;
- ▶ be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites, and as a result, would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment;
- ▶ impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan; or
- ▶ expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires.

ISSUES NOT ANALYZED FURTHER

The proposed project would have no impact associated with the following issues, and these issues will not be analyzed further in this chapter:

- ▶ **Emergency Response/Emergency Evacuation Plans:** The proposed project would not impair implementation of or interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. As mentioned in Chapter 3.0, “Project Description,” and Impact 8-6 in Chapter 8.0, “Transportation and Circulation,” proposed roads would provide emergency access to all portions of the project area, including those across Coon Creek.
- ▶ **Emissions or Hazardous Materials within One-Quarter Mile of a School:** There are no schools within 0.25-mile of the project area. As mentioned in Chapter 13.0, “Public Services and Utilities,” the closest schools to the project area are located approximately 9 miles to the southwest in Lincoln.

- ▶ **Hazardous Materials Sites:** As mentioned above in Section 14.2.2, “State Plans, Policies, Regulations, and Laws,” the project area is not included on DTSC’s Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List for the state (the Cortese List), compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. As a result, construction and use of the project area would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment.

14.3.3 IMPACT ANALYSIS

IMPACT 14-1 **Hazardous Materials and Hazards—Potential for Fire to Occur during or after Construction.** *The potential exists for wildfire to occur during or after project construction. However, as part of the project, the County would implement management actions and fire response facilities that would reduce the risk of wildfire.*

Significance *Less than Significant*

Mitigation Proposed *None Warranted*

Residual Significance *Less than Significant*

Fire services in the project area are currently provided by CalFire. CalFire has rated the overall fire danger for the property as medium, which is based on several factors: risks to hydroelectric power, soil erodability, water storage facilities, water transportation facilities, timber resources, range resources, air basins involved, historic buildings and landmarks, housing, recreational opportunities, wildlife, infrastructure, fire-flood watershed facilities, ecosystem sensitivity, and the amount of available fuels, such as dried woods and low-lying shrubs (Placer County 2007).

There is a potential for wildfire to occur during construction if equipment such as a trail dozer or mini excavator generates sparks near vegetation in construction areas. Depending on the equipment required for Park maintenance, equipment-related fire risks could persist. Implementation of the proposed project would also open the project area to the public, and occasional campfires may be allowed within the Park in association with overnight educational or scout camps, which could result in an increase in the potential for wildfires.

Although the project could cause an increase in the potential for wildfires, the potential for wildfire resulting from human or natural causes has previously existed in the project area. Campfires would be allowed only under restricted conditions and would not be allowed outside of the designated campfire pit areas. In addition, the project would include fire suppression facilities, including the construction of an emergency access bridge over Coon Creek, a new helistop on the Spears Ranch portion of the Park for emergency use, a hydrant system, and an emergency water storage system for fire protection. The helistop adjacent the Didion Ranch parking area would also be relocated immediately south of the existing helistop and would continue to provide the same level of emergency access. The County would also consult with CalFire on local fire conditions and would not allow campfires during high fire hazard days. The County would also implement recommendations included in the *Hidden Falls Regional Park Vegetation, Fuels and Range Management Plan* to reduce the risk of fire in the project area (Placer County 2007). These measures are described in Section 13.2.3, in Chapter 13.0, “Public Services and Utilities”.

Although the project could increase the potential risk of wildfire in the project area, the measures described above would improve CalFire’s ability to respond more quickly to fires and would reduce the severity and size of potential fires. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

IMPACT 14-2 **Hazardous Materials and Hazards—Potential for Release of Hazardous Materials during Construction or Operation.** *Park construction and maintenance equipment may use small amounts of hazardous materials. The proposed project would comply with all applicable federal and state regulations pertaining to handling of hazardous materials and worker health and safety; however, accidental spills or other releases of small amounts of hazardous materials could occur during construction or operation of the Park.*

Significance *Potentially Significant*

Mitigation Proposed *Mitigation Measure 14-1: Implement Measures to Reduce Hazards Associated with Potential Releases of Hazardous Materials; and Mitigation Measure 5-1 in Chapter 5.0, "Soils, Geology, and Seismicity": Obtain Authorization for Construction and Operation Activities with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board and Implement Erosion and Sediment Control Measures as Required*

Residual Significance *Less than Significant*

Construction of the proposed project would involve the use of a Sweco trail dozer, a mini excavator, and/or other machinery capable of conforming to the dimensional requirements of the trail system. In addition, other larger mechanized equipment (e.g., tractors, graders) would be used for construction of parking areas, bridges, road improvements along Garden Bar Road, and other recreational facilities. For long-term maintenance of the Park, construction equipment and localized hand spraying of herbicide along the trail would be required to prevent vegetation from overgrowing the trails. Herbicides would be applied by County staff members certified in herbicide/pesticide application. Construction and maintenance equipment may use small amounts of hazardous materials, including gasoline, diesel fuel, engine oil, and hydraulic fluids. Accidental spills of construction-related contaminants could occur during construction, resulting in contamination of surface soils. As described in Impact 11-1, "Potential for Short-Term, Construction-Related Soil Erosion and Impairment of Water Quality," in Chapter 11.0, "Hydrology and Water Quality," discharges of these contaminants to receiving waters during storm events could degrade water quality.

Operation of mechanized equipment during trail construction and maintenance, including spraying of herbicides, would proceed in compliance with applicable federal and state regulations pertaining to handling of hazardous materials and worker health and safety. Compliance with these regulations would protect workers from health hazards associated with routine exposure to hazardous materials and would minimize the potential for accidental spills and resultant hazards to people, animals, or plants in the area. Hazardous materials used for ongoing maintenance within the Park would also be stored in accordance with applicable federal and state regulations pertaining to storage of hazardous materials.

The project area is located in an undeveloped area that lacks existing sources of hazardous materials, and the purpose of the project is specifically for recreation in an unspoiled environment. An accidental spill or other release of even a small amount of a hazardous material in this area during project construction or maintenance could have a substantial effect on the quality of the natural environment. Therefore, this impact would be potentially significant.

Implementation of Mitigation Measures 14-1 and 5-1 would reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level.

IMPACT 14-3 **Hazardous Materials and Hazards—Potential for a Public Safety Hazard from Hunting Activities.**
Activities allowed in the Park would include hunting to control damage to the Park, especially wild pigs and hunting of legal game. Hunting activities could conflict with other recreational activities occurring in the Park. However, measures would be implemented to protect the visiting public and surrounding residents from hunting activities.

Significance *Less than Significant*

Mitigation Proposed *None Warranted*

Residual Significance *Less than Significant*

Up to four days of hunting of legal game would be allowed in the Park during two, 2-day seasons per year with up to 10 hunting permits being issued per season. Each season would be a maximum of 2 days, for a total of 4 open hunting days per year. Deprivation permits to control nuisance species (e.g. feral pigs) that cause damage to vegetation within the Park may also be obtained under California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) regulations. Because other recreation activities (e.g., hiking, biking, picnicking) would be allowed and encouraged in the Park, the potential for conflict with hunting activities exists. Therefore, hunting would only take place during times of Park closure to eliminate conflicts with other recreation activities. In addition, hunting would not be allowed within 0.5-mile of any neighboring residences. Hunting would be regulated by the County reservation system and DFG officials.

Because hunting would not be allowed when the Park is open to the public and would not take place near any residences, which would protect the public from hazards associated with hunting activities, this impact would be less than significant.

IMPACT 14-4 **Hazardous Materials and Hazards—Potential Exposure of People to Hazardous Materials.**
Although there have been no recorded releases of toxic materials in the project area, the Asbestos Building Material and Lead-Based Paint Survey Report concluded that several on-site buildings likely contain ACMs and LBP. In addition, several remnant mining or prospecting resources are located on-site that could contain hazardous materials.

Significance *Potentially Significant*

Mitigation Proposed *Mitigation Measure 14-2: Prepare and Implement a Safety Hazard Plan and Conduct Soil Sampling*

Residual Significance *Less than Significant*

Although there are no recorded releases of toxic materials within the project area, the Asbestos Building Material and Lead-Based Paint Survey Report concluded that several existing on-site buildings could contain ACMs and LBP (Trust for Public Lands 2003b); therefore, renovation or demolition of on-site buildings could expose workers to ACMs and LBP. Exposure of workers to these materials could pose a potential health hazard. Therefore, this impact would be potentially significant.

In addition, several mining- and/or prospecting-related resources were identified within the Spears Ranch portion of the Park during the cultural resources inventory (see Chapter 6.0, “Cultural Resources”). Mining-related

resources could contain hazardous materials (i.e., heavy metals) that were commonly used in mining operations; however, it is unlikely that prospecting-related resources contain any hazardous materials. Because it is unknown if these resources are mining-related or prospecting-related, there is the potential that they could contain hazardous materials. If any of these resources are in close proximity to a project facility, the affected resources would be removed during construction. Because these resources would either be removed during construction or would not be located near any Park facilities that are being accessed by Park users, this would not pose a hazard to the public. However, these features may be disturbed during construction, and construction workers could be exposed to hazardous materials. Therefore, this impact would be potentially significant.

Because workers could be exposed to heavy metals, ACMs, and/or LBP, this impact would be potentially significant. Implementation of Mitigation Measure 14-2 would reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level.

IMPACT 14-5 **Hazardous Materials and Hazards—Increased Risk of Health Hazard from Vector-borne Diseases.**
There are existing stock ponds on the Spears Ranch portion of the Park and several new fishing ponds could be constructed as part of the project. These ponds could serve as potential habitat for mosquitoes. The project would also increase the number of people in an area that could contain several mosquito-breeding sites and therefore would increase the number of people potentially exposed to vector-borne diseases carried by mosquitoes. However, the County would coordinate with the Vector Control District to ensure these sites are not a hazard to the public.

Significance *Less than Significant*

Mitigation Proposed *None Warranted*

Residual Significance *Less than Significant*

Several stock ponds currently exist within the Spears Ranch portion of the Park. The proposed project could include construction of new fishing ponds developed in conjunction with the fuel load reduction and/or grazing plans. These ponds could provide potential habitat for mosquitoes that can pose a health hazard to the public. The project would also increase the number of people in an area that could contain several mosquito-breeding sites and therefore would increase the number of people potentially exposed to vector-borne diseases carried by mosquitoes. However, this condition would be alleviated by close coordination with the Vector Control District to ensure routine monitoring and treatment of potential vector sources in the project area. If favorable conditions for vectors are found in the project area measures would be taken to reduce the potential sources for vectors. Measures would include actions such as, use of larvacides, stocking ponds with mosquito fish, and managing water levels and aquatic vegetation to discourage mosquito breeding. Larvacides used by the Vector Control District are the safest and least toxic materials available for public health and would not affect aquatic invertebrates or non-target insects.

Close coordination with the Vector Control District to monitor the project area and implementation of measures as necessary to reduce vector sources would reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level.

14.4 MITIGATION MEASURES

Mitigation Measure 14-1: Implement Measures to Reduce Hazards Associated with Potential Releases of Hazardous Materials.

Mitigation Measure 14-1 applies to Impact 14-2.

The County shall ensure that the following measures are implemented before project construction begins:

- ▶ The County or the County’s contractor shall prepare and implement an accidental-spill prevention and response plan for storage and use of hazardous materials during trail construction and maintenance. This plan shall identify measures to prevent accidental spills from leaving the area and methods for responding to and cleaning up spills before neighboring properties are exposed to hazardous materials.
- ▶ The County shall ensure that any employee handling hazardous materials is trained in the safe handling and storage of hazardous materials and is trained to follow all applicable regulations with regard to such hazardous materials.
- ▶ The primary construction contractor shall identify a staging area where hazardous materials will be stored during construction, in accordance with applicable state and federal regulations.

Implementation of this mitigation measure and Mitigation Measure 5-1, “Obtain Authorization for Construction and Operation Activities with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board and Implement Erosion and Sediment Control Measures as Required,” in Chapter 5.0, “Soils, Geology, and Seismicity,” would reduce Impact 14-2 to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measure 14-2: Prepare and Implement a Safety Hazard Plan and Conduct Soil Sampling.

Mitigation 14-2 applies to Impact 14-4.

To avoid health risks to construction workers, Placer County shall require the contractor to prepare and implement a site health and safety plan if areas containing hazardous materials are to be disturbed. This plan will outline measures that will be employed to protect construction workers and the public from exposure to hazardous materials during remediation, demolition, and construction activities. The County shall consult with the contractor to determine the measures to be employed at the site, which could include posting notices, limiting access to the site, monitoring the air quality, watering, and installation of wind fences. Contractors shall be required to comply with state health and safety standards for all demolition work, including compliance with OSHA and Cal/OSHA requirements regarding exposure to ACMs and LBP.

For any prospecting or mining resources (Abandoned Mine Lands) that are in close proximity to a project facility, a Phase 2 Limited Soil Sampling (soil sampling) shall be conducted to determine if there are any hazardous materials present on-site. The soil sampling of the tailings shall be conducted during the entitlement process (i.e. conditional use permit). Soil sampling will determine the California Human Health Screening Levels (CHHSL) of the testing protocol (CAM 17 metals, a list of 17 metals found typically in hazardous materials and mining sites). The CHHSLs are a list of 54 hazardous chemicals in soil or soil gas that the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) considers to be below thresholds for risks to human health.

The soil sampling results shall be reviewed by Placer County Environmental Health Services. If the soil sampling results are above the CHHSLs, then Placer County Environmental Health Services would refer the project to the DTSC. DTSC requires the project proponent to enter their Voluntary Cleanup Agreement (VCA) program. The VCA typically requires more soil testing to determine the scope of the contamination area. Furthermore, DTSC may require a Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA) and/or a removal action workplan (RAW). The PEA is used to discuss the health risks associated with hazardous materials site releases and the RAW is used to specifically detail the areas of the project area to have soil removed and the contaminated soils disposal at an appropriate solid waste facility. Following soils removal, DTSC issues a “No Further Action” letter indicating that the project site is safe.

In addition, the contractor shall prepare and implement a site plan that identifies necessary remediation activities appropriate for proposed land uses, including excavation and removal of on-site contaminated soils, and redistribution of clean fill material within the project area. The plan shall include measures that ensure the safe

transport, use, and disposal of contaminated soil and building debris removed from the project area. In the event that contaminated groundwater is encountered during site excavation activities, the contractor shall report the contamination to appropriate regulatory agencies, dewater the excavated area, and treat the contaminated groundwater to remove contaminants before discharge into the sanitary sewer system. The contractor shall be required to comply with the plan and with applicable local, state, and federal laws.

Implementation of this mitigation measure would reduce Impact 14-4 to a less-than-significant level.