

## 2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 2.1 SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT AND ALTERNATIVES

#### SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECT

The North Fork American River Trail is a natural surface multiple-use trail proposed by the Placer County (County) Department of Facility Services for construction within the Auburn State Recreation Area (SRA). The County has the principal responsibility for approving and carrying out the proposed project and is the primary source and recipient of funding for the proposed project. The proposed project is a multiple-use trail that would begin at the confluence of the North and Middle Forks of the American River and end at the Ponderosa Bridge, approximately 14.2 miles upstream. The County, with input from a Trail Advisory Group (TAG) composed of local citizens and stakeholders such as equestrians, hikers, mountain bikers, and environmental organizations developed the objectives for the proposed North Fork American River trail project. Based on these objectives, the proposed trail alignment was flagged in the field, and is shown in the proposed *North Fork American River Trail, Trail Plan* (Trail Plan) (Placer County 2003a), which was prepared by the County in conjunction with State Parks. The tread width of the proposed trail alignment would generally be 6 feet.

The proposed project would include the following components:

- ▶ a 14.2-mile natural surface multiple-use trail accommodating hiking, biking and equestrian use;
- ▶ bridges and stream fords to accommodate stream crossings;
- ▶ two staging termini (Foresthill Road and Ponderosa Way);
- ▶ portable restroom;
- ▶ signage; and
- ▶ informational kiosks.

#### PROJECT LOCATION

The project area is located on the southern slope of the North Fork American River canyon in the Sierra Nevada foothills of Placer County, approximately 40 miles northeast of Sacramento. The termini of the proposed trail are logically placed at or near existing roads, so the proposed project would be a stand alone trail. The beginning of the proposed trail alignment is located near the confluence of the North and Middle Forks of the American River, approximately 3 miles northeast of the City of Auburn near Foresthill Road. The trail ends at the Ponderosa Bridge, approximately 14.2 miles upstream and 5 miles west of the town of Foresthill and southeast of Weimar. Interstate 80 (I-80) is located approximately 1.5 miles northwest of the proposed trail alignment and Foresthill Road is generally to the south. The proposed trail alignment is located at elevations of 800–1,200 feet above mean sea level (msl).

### 2.2 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND RECOMMENDED MITIGATION

Information in Table 2-1, Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures, has been organized to correspond with the environmental issues discussed in Chapters 4.0 through 15.0 of this document. The summary table is arranged in four columns: environmental impacts; level of significance without mitigation; recommended mitigation measures; and level of significance with implementation of mitigation measures. Environmental impacts and mitigation measures are shown for the proposed project.

## 2.3 ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Two alternatives, the No Project Alternative and the Original Alignment Alternative are evaluated in Chapter 16, “Other CEQA-Required Sections.” Table 16-1 provides a comparison of the alternatives, and brief descriptions of each alternative are provided below.

### **NO PROJECT ALTERNATIVE (ALTERNATIVE 1)**

The No Project Alternative assumes that the proposed trail and associated facilities, including the corresponding staging termini, would not be constructed. Existing trails in the surrounding area would continue to be used for recreation, and access and recreational opportunities would be limited in the project area. The project area would continue to be managed under Reclamation contract by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) according to the *Auburn State Recreation Area Interim Resource Management Plan* (Auburn SRA IRMP) and the revised Auburn SRA General Plan (GP)/IRMP.

This alternative would not meet the demand for recreational facilities in Placer County, specifically hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian trails along the North Fork American River. Because no trail would be constructed under this alternative, the impacts associated with the proposed project on land use; biological resources; cultural resources; visual resources; transportation and circulation; air quality; noise; soils, geology, and seismicity; hydrology and water quality; public services; recreation; and hazardous materials and hazards would not occur. Because the proposed project would not have an impact on population, employment, housing, public utilities, or mineral resources, impacts on these resource areas under the No Project Alternative would be similar to those under the proposed project.

### **ORIGINAL ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVE (ALTERNATIVE 2)**

Under the Original Alignment Alternative, as proposed in the Initial Study/Environmental Assessment for the North Fork American River Trail, the trail would follow the same alignment as the proposed project, except for a portion of the proposed trail near Upper Lake Clementine Road. Under the Original Alignment Alternative, the trail would follow the canyon contour around the river bend upstream of Lake Clementine. This segment of trail would not climb higher up the canyon although it would for the proposed project, and it would not include switchbacks. Because the trail alignment under the Original Alignment Alternative would be similar to the proposed project trail alignment, the impacts associated with this alternative on land use; biological resources; cultural resources; visual resources; transportation and circulation; air quality; noise; public services; recreation; and hazardous materials and hazards would be similar to those under the proposed project. The Original Alignment Alternative would have increased impacts on soils, geology, and seismicity, and hydrology and water quality compared to the proposed project because the proposed project avoids steep slopes and high erosion areas.

<b>Table 2-1 Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures</b>			
Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
<b>4.0 Land Use</b>			
<b>4-1 Potential for Conflicts with Land Use Plans, Policies, or Regulations.</b> Implementation of the proposed project would be consistent with relevant policies in the adopted planning documents pertinent to the project area.	LTS	No mitigation is required.	LTS
<b>4-2 Alteration of Land Use and Potential Conflicts with Existing or Future Land Uses Adjacent to the Project Area.</b> The proposed project would increase the use of the project area by the public. However, this increase in use would not cause a conflict with existing or future land uses in areas adjacent to the project area. The proposed land uses would be compatible with neighboring land uses.	LTS	No mitigation is required.	LTS
<b>5.0 Biological Resources</b>			
<b>5-1 Potential Disturbance of Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog Habitat or Individuals.</b> Although no foothill yellow-legged frogs were observed in the project area during the field surveys, potential habitat for the frogs does exist. Construction of the trail across drainages could degrade aquatic habitat or could result in physical injury to yellow-legged frog.	PS	<b>5-1: Protect Foothill Yellow-legged Frog.</b> The County and its primary construction contractor shall implement the following measures to reduce impacts on foothill yellow-legged frogs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Construction of the trail across drainages and streams shall occur when the drainages are dry, to the extent feasible.</li> <li>▶ Guidelines shall be implemented to protect water quality and prevent erosion, as outlined in the best management practices (BMPs) in Chapter 3.0, “Project Description,” and Mitigation Measure 11-2, “Obtain Authorization for Construction Activities with the Central Valley RWQCB and Implement Erosion and Sediment Control Measures as Required.”</li> <li>▶ If water is present during construction, disturbance to pools and slow runs with cobble-sized substrate shall be minimized. In particular, rocks shall not be collected from in-water environments from late March to early September to avoid disturbing foothill yellow-legged frog egg masses and tadpoles.</li> </ul>	LTS

<b>Table 2-1 Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures</b>			
Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
<p><b>5-2 Potential Disturbance of Nests and Individual Raptors and Other Nesting Birds.</b> Trees and other vegetation in and adjacent to the project area provide potential nest sites for raptors and migratory birds. Removal of trees or other vegetation during trail construction could destroy or disturb nests, resulting in loss of eggs or young.</p>	PS	<p><b>5-2: Protect Raptors and Other Nesting Birds.</b> The County and its primary construction contractor shall implement the following measures to reduce impacts on raptors and other nesting birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Limit removal of trees greater than 6 inches dbh to the greatest degree possible. If trees larger than 6 inches dbh must be removed, then the following mitigation measures shall be implemented:</li> <li>▶ Tree removal shall be done in accordance with the Placer County Tree Ordinance.</li> <li>▶ Before removal of trees during the non-breeding season, a qualified biologist shall inspect the tree for potential raptor nest, which are protected under Section 3503.5 of the California Fish and Game Code. If raptor nests are present and cannot be avoided, consult with DFG regarding appropriate measures for tree removal. If no nests are found, no further mitigation is required.</li> <li>▶ If any construction activities, including tree removal, take place between March 1 and August 31, preconstruction surveys for active raptor nests shall be conducted prior to the beginning of construction. If any active raptor nests are identified during preconstruction surveys, then impacts to active raptor nests shall be avoided by the establishment of appropriate buffers and/or nest monitoring by a qualified wildlife biologist.</li> <li>▶ Avoid construction within the buffer until the end of the breeding season and consult with DFG regarding alternative appropriate protection measures. The nest tree shall not be removed.</li> <li>▶ Woody vegetation (e.g. small trees and shrubs) shall not be removed during the nesting season for raptors and migratory birds (i.e., March to August) to the extent feasible. If woody vegetation must be removed during the nesting season, the amount and extent to be removed shall be minimized to the extent feasible.</li> </ul>	LTS

<p align="center"><b>Table 2-1 Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures</b></p>			
Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
<p><b>5-3 Potential Loss of Special-Status Plants.</b> One special-status plant species, Brandegee’s clarkia, was documented along the proposed trail alignment. Construction of the proposed trail could potentially disturb a population of Brandegee’s clarkia.</p>	<p>PS</p>	<p><b>5-3: Protect Special-Status Plants.</b> Note: Special-status plant surveys in support of the proposed project have been conducted along the entire alignment of the original and revised trail corridors; however, surveys of the new segment of the proposed trail alignment were completed during the non-blooming season. The only special-status plant species documented during these surveys is Brandegee’s clarkia. Brandegee’s clarkia is a CNPS list 2 species; it is not listed under the state or federal endangered species acts. Nevertheless, impacts to Brandegee’s clarkia resulting from the proposed project would be considered significant under CEQA. Brandegee’s clarkia is an annual species that is fairly common in the vicinity of the project site and appears to thrive on sites that have experienced some level of prior disturbance such as roadsides of along trails.</p> <p>The following mitigation measures shall be implemented to avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse effects on Brandegee’s clarkia resulting from project implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The 2.3-mile new segment of the proposed trail alignment will be surveyed during the blooming season for Brandegee’s clarkia prior to the start of construction.</li> <li>▶ The locations of all known Brandegee’s clarkia occurrences in the vicinity of the proposed trail alignment shall be clearly marked by a qualified biologist for avoidance by construction crews prior to the commencement of trail construction activities.</li> <li>▶ Construction crews shall be alerted to the presence of Brandegee’s clarkia in the vicinity of the proposed trail corridor, shall be shown maps of known locations and the methods used to identify populations in the field, and shall be asked to avoid these occurrences and a 25 foot buffer zone around them to the greatest extent possible.</li> <li>▶ If complete avoidance of the populations is not feasible, the areas where occurrences would be impacted shall be minimized to the greatest extent feasible.</li> <li>▶ In those areas where Brandegee’s clarkia cannot be avoided, trail construction shall take place after the plants have</li> </ul>	<p>LTS</p>

<b>Table 2-1 Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures</b>			
Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
		<p>completed their flowering cycles and set seed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ A qualified biologist shall be present during trail construction in or near occurrences of Brandagee’s clarkia and shall collect seeds from any occurrences of Brandagee’s clarkia at those sites that will be impacted. Seeds collected shall be distributed immediately following collection in the immediate vicinity of the original site, but outside the construction footprint.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5-4 Impacts on Waters of the United States.</b> Installation of stream crossings and bridges and trail construction could result in fill of jurisdictional waters of the United States, including wetlands.</p>	PS	<p><b>5-4: Protect Jurisdictional Waters of the United States.</b> Note: The wetland delineation completed in support of the proposed project in 2004 was submitted to and verified by the USACE. In addition, a nationwide permit for the proposed project has been obtained from USACE, and a water quality certification pursuant to Section 401 has been obtained from the Central Valley RWQCB. Both the wetland delineation and 401 permit will be resubmitted to the appropriate agencies to incorporate changes to the proposed trail alignment.</p> <p>The County and its primary construction contractor shall implement the following measures to reduce potential impacts on jurisdictional waters of the United States, including wetlands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Comply with the terms and conditions set forth in Nationwide Permit 42 obtained from USACE for the proposed project.</li> <li>▶ Comply with the terms and conditions set forth in the Section 401 water quality certification. For a complete list of these terms see Chapter 3.0, “Project Description.”</li> </ul>	LTS
<p><b>5-5 Streambed Alteration.</b> Construction of the proposed trail would require crossing approximately 47 drainages. These crossings could alter the streambeds and adjacent vegetation of these drainages that are regulated by DFG.</p>	PS	<p><b>5-5: Implement Conditions of Streambed Alteration Agreement.</b> Note: A Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement for the proposed project was obtained from DFG in August 2004.</p> <p>The County shall comply with the terms and conditions set forth in the Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement. Because of alignment changes and new drainages affected since the issuance of the 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement, the permit application will be resubmitted following the filing of the Notice of Determination for the proposed project, and any new conditions attached to the reissuance of the Streambed Alteration Agreement will be implemented.</p>	LTS

<b>Table 2-1 Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures</b>			
Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
<p><b>5-6 Potential Introduction and Spread of Invasive Weeds.</b> Several invasive weeds, including Himalayan blackberry, Italian thistle, and yellow starthistle, currently occur in the project area. Construction and use of the proposed trail has the potential to introduce additional invasive weed species or spread invasive weeds already in the project area. Introduction and spread of invasive weeds could reduce habitat quality.</p>	PS	<p><b>5-6: Prevent the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Weeds.</b> The County shall implement the following measures to reduce potential impacts resulting from the introduction and spread of invasive weeds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ A target list of invasive weeds with the potential to occur and be problematic in the project area shall be developed. This may be accomplished by reviewing the California Invasive Plant Council’s “CalEPPC List,” or list of invasive wildland weeds (2006); the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s “Encycloweediea,” or list of invasive weeds (2004); and by consulting knowledgeable individuals such as the resource ecologists employed by Reclamation and the California Department of Parks and Recreation, and the County agricultural commissioner.</li> <li>▶ The County shall ensure that any equipment used during construction is free of mud or seed-bearing material before such equipment enters the construction area.</li> <li>▶ If populations of invasive weeds are documented in the construction area, they shall be eradicated prior to construction, preferably before they set seed. If eradication is infeasible, the population shall be clearly identified in the field by flagging and shall be avoided during construction to prevent spread.</li> <li>▶ The County shall ensure that any fill soil, mulch, seeds, and straw materials used during construction and implementation of BMPs are weed-free. Certified weed-free material shall be used if available.</li> <li>▶ Once the trail is constructed and open to the public, conduct periodic monitoring (at least once per year during the growing season) to ensure early detection and eradication of any invasive weed species brought in by users. Any populations detected during annual monitoring shall be treated and eradicated as soon as possible after detection, preferably before seeds set.</li> </ul>	LTS

<b>Table 2-1 Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures</b>			
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<p><b>5-7 Conflict with Local Policies or Ordinances.</b> The proposed project would not cause a conflict with any local policies or ordinances in the project area. There are no habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans; therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with any such plans.</p>	LTS	No mitigation is required.	LTS
<p><b>5-8 Impacts on Oak Woodland Habitat.</b> The proposed project may result in the removal of some trees that are 6 inches dbh or larger from oak woodland habitat. Native oak trees are protected under the Placer County Tree Ordinance. Also, SB 1334, Statutes of 2004, requires County's to determine significance of conversion of oak woodland, and provide mitigation measures for significant effects.</p>	PS	<p><b>5-8: Replacement of Native Oaks.</b> If removal of native trees larger than 6 inches dbh is required during construction of the proposed project, the County shall take measures to compensate for the removal of those trees consistent with the Placer County Tree Ordinance.</p>	LTS
<b>6.0 Cultural Resources</b>			
<p><b>6-1 Potential for Loss of or Damage to Potentially Significant Cultural Resources.</b> Six unevaluated, although potentially significant, cultural resources have been documented within and immediately adjacent to the proposed trail alignment. The proposed project has the potential to destroy these cultural resources.</p>	PS	<p><b>6-1: Realign Trail to Avoid Potentially Significant Cultural Resources.</b> To ensure that construction of the proposed trail avoids all significant documented cultural resources in the project area, the County shall realign the trail route as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The proposed trail shall be realigned at least 25 feet downslope from sites NF-4, NF-5, NF-7, and NF-8 to eliminate direct impacts and reduce the possibility of trail-related erosion and siltation.</li> <li>▶ The proposed trail shall be realigned at least 25–50 feet upslope from the currently proposed trail alignment from the Ponderosa Bridge to approximately 2,000 feet downriver to avoid the historically mined bar (site NF-9) and associated features.</li> </ul>	LTS

<b>Table 2-1 Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures</b>			
Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
<p><b>6-2 Potential for Disturbance of Known and Undiscovered Cultural Resources.</b> The project vicinity is known to contain numerous historic and prehistoric resources. In addition, buried traces of historic-era activity and early Native American occupation that remain undocumented may be present within and in the vicinity of the proposed trail alignment. Ground-disturbing activities during trail construction could disturb these known and undiscovered cultural resources.</p>	PS	<p><b>6-2: Protect Previously Unknown Cultural Resources.</b> If archaeological materials such as historic building or structure remains, artifact deposits or scatters, or prehistoric artifacts such as stone tool flaking debitage, mortars, pestles, shell, bone, or human remains are encountered during trail construction, all ground-disturbing activity in the area shall cease. A qualified cultural resources specialist shall be contacted to identify the materials, determine their possible significance, and formulate appropriate mitigation measures. Appropriate measures may include no action, avoidance of the resource through trail realignment, subsurface testing, and potentially data recovery.</p>	LTS
<p><b>6-3 Potential for Disturbance of Unknown Human Interments.</b> Although no evidence of human interments was found in documentary research or the archaeological inventory, ground-disturbing activities during trail construction could adversely affect presently unmarked human interments.</p>	PS	<p><b>6-3: Stop Potentially Damaging Work if Human Remains are Uncovered during Construction.</b> In accordance with the California Health and Safety Code, if human remains are uncovered during ground-disturbing activities, the contractor and/or the County shall immediately halt potentially damaging excavation in the area of the burial and notify the County Coroner and a professional archaeologist to determine the nature of the remains. The coroner is required to examine all discoveries of human remains within 48 hours of receiving notice of a discovery on private or state lands (Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5[b]). If the coroner determines that the remains are those of a Native American, he or she must contact the NAHC by phone within 24 hours of making that determination (Health and Safety Code Section 7050[c]). Following the coroner’s findings, the property owner, contractor or County, an 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.</p> <p>Upon the discovery of Native American remains, the procedures above regarding involvement of the County Coroner, notification of the NAHC, and identification of a MLD shall be followed. The County shall ensure that the immediate vicinity (according to generally accepted cultural or archaeological standards and practices) is not damaged or disturbed by further development activity until consultation with the MLD has taken place. The MLD</p>	LTS

**Table 2-1  
Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
		<p>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. State Assembly Bill (AB) 2641 suggests that the concerned parties may extend discussions beyond the initial 48 hours to allow for the discovery of additional remains. AB 2641(e) includes a list of site protection measures and states that the County shall comply with one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Record the site with the NAHC or the appropriate Information Center</li> <li>▶ Utilize an open-space or conservation zoning designation or easement</li> <li>▶ Record a document with the county in which the property is located</li> </ul> <p>The County or their authorized representative shall rebury the Native American human remains and associated grave goods with appropriate dignity on the property in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance if the NAHC is unable to identify a MLD or the MLD fails to make a recommendation within 48 hours after being granted access to the site. The County or their authorized representative may also re-inter the remains in a location not subject to further disturbance if they reject the recommendation of the MLD, and mediation by the NAHC fails to provide measures acceptable to the landowner. Adherence to these procedures and other provisions of the California Health and Safety Code and AB 2641(e) will reduce potential impacts to human remains to a less-than-significant level.</p>	

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<b>7.0 Visual Resources</b>			
<b>7-1 Temporary Changes in Visual Resources Associated with Trail Construction.</b> Construction activity, construction equipment, and small areas of vegetation removal would be temporarily visible during and immediately following construction of the proposed trail. However, these changes in views would be minimal. All views of trail construction would be temporary.	LTS	No mitigation is required.	LTS
<b>7-2 Long-term Changes in Visual Resources Associated with the Proposed Trail.</b> The proposed project would introduce new physical elements into the landscape; however, the proposed trail is designed to avoid visually obtrusive effects and would be revegetated after construction. After 1 year of vegetation growth, the proposed trail alignment would not be visible from the KOPs.	LTS	No mitigation is required.	LTS
<b>7-3 Changes in Views from Scenic Vistas.</b> SR 49, Foresthill Road, and the North Fork American River have been identified as scenic vistas in the project area. The proposed trail alignment would not be visible from Foresthill Road or the American River, and only the existing portion of the trail is visible from SR 49. The Foresthill Bridge Staging Terminus would be visible from Foresthill Road; however, this staging terminus would be consistent with the character of the surrounding area.	LTS	No mitigation is required.	LTS
<b>7-4 Potential Conflict with Wild and Scenic Eligibility of the North Fork American River.</b> The section of the American River between Clementine Dam and the intake of the Auburn Dam diversion tunnel has been deemed eligible for listing as a recreational river under the Wild and Scenic River Act. The proposed project would be consistent with a recreational classification and would not have a significant impact on any of the outstandingly remarkable values of the river.	LTS	No mitigation is required.	LTS

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<b>8.0 Transportation and Circulation</b>			
<p><b>8-1 Temporary Increase in Traffic during Construction.</b> During construction of the proposed trail, local roadways would experience an increase in traffic from daily commutes by construction workers. However, this increase in traffic would be temporary and is not expected to be substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity.</p>	LTS	No mitigation is required.	LTS
<p><b>8-2 Increase in Traffic with Use of the North Fork Trail.</b> The proposed trail would not be sufficiently different from other multiple-use trails in the Auburn SRA to create its own demand. However, the proposed trail may redirect trail users from other trails in the area to the immediate project area. Visitors traveling to the Auburn SRA would use the surrounding roadways regardless of which recreational facility they will be using.</p>	LTS	No mitigation is required.	LTS
<p><b>8-3 Increase in Traffic Hazards Associated with Construction Vehicles.</b> Construction vehicles entering the road could cause an increase in traffic hazards in the project area. Site plans would include measures for safety that would reduce these hazards.</p>	LTS	No mitigation is required.	LTS
<p><b>8-4 Increase in Traffic Hazards Associated with Use of Staging Termini.</b> Trucks and trailers entering and exiting Foresthill Road and Ponderosa Way from the proposed staging termini could cause an increase in traffic hazards in the project area. The staging termini would be designed to include measures for safe ingress and egress of trucks and trailers.</p>	LTS	No mitigation is required.	LTS
<p><b>8-5 Adequacy of Parking for Trail Users.</b> Although there would be increased demand for parking at trail access points, adequate parking would be provided to accommodate this increase in demand.</p>	LTS	No mitigation is required.	LTS

<b>Table 2-1 Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures</b>			
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<p><b>8-6 Potential Interference with Emergency Response Routes.</b> The proposed trail would have several access points that would provide adequate access for emergency response vehicles and personnel.</p>	LTS	No mitigation is required.	LTS
<b>9.0 Air Quality</b>			
<p><b>9-1 Short-Term Construction-Generated Emissions of ROG, NO<sub>x</sub>, and PM<sub>10</sub>.</b> Site preparation and other trail construction activities would result in the temporary generation of ROG, NO<sub>x</sub>, and PM<sub>10</sub> emissions. However, daily unmitigated emissions of ROG, NO<sub>x</sub>, and PM<sub>10</sub> would not exceed PCAPCD's significance thresholds.</p>	LTS	No mitigation is required.	LTS
<p><b>9-2 Long-Term Operational (Regional) Emissions of ROG, NO<sub>x</sub>, and PM<sub>10</sub>.</b> Implementation of the proposed project may result in area-source emissions from trail landscape maintenance activities and could result in additional vehicle trips on local roadways from an increase in visitors to the trail. However, long-term operational emissions would not violate an air quality standard, contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation, expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations, or conflict with PCAPCD's air quality planning efforts.</p>	LTS	No mitigation is required.	LTS
<p><b>9-3 Exposure of Sensitive Receptors to Toxic Air Contaminant Emissions.</b> Construction of the proposed trail would result in short-term emissions of diesel exhaust from on-site heavy-duty equipment. However, the use of mobilized equipment would be temporary (approximately 2% of the exposure period) and would combine with the highly dispersive properties of diesel PM; furthermore, no sensitive receptors are located within 2 miles of the site. Therefore, short-term construction activities would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. In addition, the long-term use and maintenance of the proposed trail would not require the use of any major stationary sources of TAC emissions.</p>	LTS	No mitigation is required.	LTS

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<p><b>9-4 Long-Term Operational (Local) Mobile-Source Emissions of Carbon Monoxide.</b> The proposed project could result in additional vehicle trips on local roadways from an increase in visitors to the trail. However, a majority of such vehicle trips would be anticipated to be generated by current visitors of the Auburn SRA. Long-term operational emissions of CO would not be anticipated to violate or contribute substantially to an air quality violation.</p>	LTS	No mitigation is required.	LTS
<p><b>9-5 Exposure of Sensitive Receptors to Odor Emissions.</b> Construction of the proposed trail would result in emissions of diesel exhaust from on-site construction equipment. However, these emissions would be intermittent and temporary and would dissipate rapidly from the source with an increase in distance.</p>	LTS	No mitigation is required.	LTS
<b>10.0 Noise</b>			
<p><b>10-1 Short-Term Construction-Generated Noise Levels.</b> Short-term exterior noise levels at the closest existing noise-sensitive receptor could exceed 47 dBA without feasible noise controls, which would exceed the applicable County nighttime standard of 45 dBA. However, construction activities would occur only during daytime hours. Resulting exterior noise levels at the closest noise-sensitive receptor would not exceed the County daytime noise standard of 55 dBA, nor would they reflect a substantial increase in ambient noise.</p>	LTS	No mitigation is required.	LTS
<p><b>10-2 Increases in Long-Term (Operational) Stationary- and Area-Source Noise Levels.</b> Area-source noise may result from trail landscape maintenance activities. However, exterior noise levels at the closest existing noise-sensitive receptor (2 miles away) would not exceed 20 dBA. Such noise levels would not exceed any of the applicable County daytime or nighttime noise standards, nor would ambient noise levels substantially increase at nearby existing noise-sensitive receptors.</p>	LTS	No mitigation is required.	LTS

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Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
<p><b>10-3 Increases in Short- and Long-Term Traffic-Generated Noise Levels.</b> Construction, use, and maintenance of the proposed trail would not result in a noticeable change in the traffic noise contours of area roadways. In addition, noise increases associated with construction traffic would be temporary and would occur during the less noise-sensitive daytime hours. Thus, short- and long-term traffic-generated noise levels would not exceed applicable Placer County noise standards or substantially increase ambient noise at nearby existing noise-sensitive receptors.</p>	LTS	No mitigation is required.	LTS
<p><b>10-4 Exposure of Persons to or Generation of Excessive Groundborne Vibration or Noise Levels.</b> Vibration levels associated with on-site construction equipment would not exceed Caltrans’s recommended standard for the prevention of structural damage and FTA’s maximum-acceptable vibration standard with respect to human annoyance for residential uses. In addition, long-term use and maintenance of the proposed trail would not include any vibration sources. Thus, the proposed project would not result in the exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels.</p>	LTS	No mitigation is required.	LTS
<b>11.0 Soils, Geology, and Seismicity</b>			
<p><b>11-1 Construction-Related Erosion Hazards.</b> Based on soil types and topography, the excavation and grading of soil could result in erosion during project construction, particularly during periods of strong winds or storm events.</p>	PS	<p><b>11-1: Obtain Authorization for Construction and Operation Activities with the Central Valley RWQCB and Implement Erosion and Sediment Control Measures as Required.</b> The County and/or the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) shall design a drainage system for erosion control that incorporates the use of BMPs. Erosion and stormwater control shall be designed and implemented in accordance with the latest edition of the erosion and sediment control guidelines for developing areas of the Sierra Nevada foothills and mountains (HSRCOD 1991). BMPs for erosion and siltation prevention, as described in Chapter 3.0, “Project Description,” of this document and developed in the trail plan, would be implemented along the trail. Because of the small size of the staging areas and the implementation of these</p>	LTS

**Table 2-1  
Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
		<p>design features, the proposed project is not anticipated to have significant effects on water quality.</p> <p>The County shall comply with the terms and conditions set forth in the Section 401 water quality certification obtained from the Central Valley RWQCB. Because of alignment changes and new drainages affected since the issuance of the 401 certification, this permit will be resubmitted following the filing of the Notice of Determination and any new conditions attached to that permit will be incorporated into the project.</p> <p>As required under the NPDES stormwater permit for general construction activities, the County shall prepare and submit the appropriate notices of intent and shall prepare any other necessary engineering plans and specifications for pollution prevention and control. The County will prepared a SWPPP that identifies and specifies the use of erosion and sediment control BMPs, means of waste disposal, implementation of approved local plans, nonstormwater management controls, permanent postconstruction BMPs, and inspection and maintenance responsibilities. The SWPPP shall also specify the pollutants that are likely to be used during construction that could be present in stormwater drainage and nonstormwater discharges. A sampling and monitoring program shall be included in the SWPPP that meets the requirements of SWRCB Order 99-08-DWQ to ensure that the BMPs are effective.</p> <p>Construction techniques shall be identified that would reduce the potential for runoff, and the plan shall identify the erosion and sedimentation control measures to be implemented. The SWPPP shall also specify spill prevention and contingency measures, identify the types of materials used for equipment operation, and identify measures to prevent or clean up spills of hazardous materials used for equipment operation and hazardous waste. Emergency procedures for responding to spills shall also be identified. BMPs identified in the SWPPP shall be used in all subsequent site development activities. The SWPPP shall identify personnel training requirements and procedures that would be used to ensure that workers are aware of permit requirements and proper installation and performance inspection methods for BMPs specified</p>	

<b>Table 2-1 Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures</b>			
Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
		in the SWPPP. The SWPPP shall also identify the appropriate personnel responsible for supervisory duties related to implementation of the SWPPP. All construction contractors shall retain a copy of the approved SWPPP on the construction site.	
<b>11-2 Risks to People from Naturally Occurring Asbestos.</b> Disturbance of naturally occurring asbestos fibers could create a health hazard. However, the project area is not located in an area that is likely to contain naturally occurring asbestos.	LTS	No mitigation is required.	LTS
<b>11-3 Risks to People and Structures Caused by Strong Seismic Ground Shaking.</b> The foothills of the Sierra Nevada are characterized by extremely low seismicity. However, four notable earthquakes have been reported in the northern Sierra Nevada. In addition, the area does have the potential to be affected by shock waves resulting from earthquakes in western and eastern Placer County, and in more distant areas that display greater seismic activity. Ground shaking could cause structural damage to permanent improvements proposed as part of the project.	PS	<b>11-2: Implement Recommended Measures to Reduce the Potential for Exposure to Seismic Hazards.</b> A geotechnical report for the proposed project has been prepared (Blackburn Consulting 2006, 2007) (Appendix C) that evaluates the potential for various geologic and seismic-related hazards. During project design and construction, all measures outlined in the geotechnical report for the proposed project (Blackburn Consulting 2006, 2007) (Appendix C) and, if necessary, supplemental site-specific geotechnical recommendations shall be implemented to ensure that the proposed trail alignment and bridge crossings are safe. It is the responsibility of the County to provide for engineering inspection and certification that earthwork has been performed in conformity with recommendations contained in the report.	LTS
<b>11-4 Risks to People and Structures Caused by Landsliding.</b> Field review of the proposed trail alignment noted several areas of shallow slope instability and/or small landslide areas. Although landsliding does not appear to be a current problem for the project area, stable conditions may be changed by slope alterations from cuts or fills, and by changes to drainage patterns.	PS	<b>11-2: Implement Recommended Measures to Reduce the Potential for Exposure to Seismic Hazards.</b> (See Mitigation Measure 11-2, above).	LTS

<b>Table 2-1 Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures</b>			
Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
<b>12.0 Hydrology and Water Quality</b>			
<b>12-1 Potential for Short-Term Construction-Related Soil Erosion and Water Quality Impairment.</b> Implementation of the proposed project could cause short-term water quality degradation associated with construction activities. Areas from which duff and vegetation have been removed could be subject to erosion from rain and wind. In addition, accidental spills of construction-related contaminants could occur during construction activities in the project area. Both of these mechanisms could carry soil and construction-related contaminants to intermittent drainages before they are ultimately discharged to the North Fork American River.	PS	<b>11-1: Obtain Authorization for Construction and Operation Activities with the Central Valley RWQCB and Implement Erosion and Sediment Control Measures as Required.</b> (See Mitigation Measure 11-1, above).	LTS
<b>12-2 Potential for Long-Term Soil Erosion and Water Quality Impairment.</b> Implementation of the proposed project could cause long-term water quality degradation associated with use of the proposed trail and extreme weather events. Areas from which duff and vegetation have been removed could be subject to erosion from rain and wind. These mechanisms could carry soil into intermittent drainages before they are ultimately discharged to the North Fork American River.	PS	<b>11-1: Obtain Authorization for Construction and Operation Activities with the Central Valley RWQCB and Implement Erosion and Sediment Control Measures as Required.</b> (See Mitigation Measure 11-1, above).	LTS
<b>13.0 Public Services</b>			
<b>13-1 Potential Reduction in Emergency Response Times.</b> The proposed project may cause an increase in demand for emergency services. However, adequate access to the proposed trail would be provided for emergency vehicles. Therefore, current emergency response times are not expected to be reduced.	LTS	No mitigation is required.	LTS
<b>13-2 Increase in Demand for Police Services.</b> Use of the proposed trail may increase demand for police services in the project area. However, an increase in demand is expected to occur in the project area regardless of implementation of the proposed project. This increase in demand is expected to be proportional to the increase in population in the surrounding	LTS	No mitigation is required.	LTS

Table 2-1 Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures			
Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
area. The proposed project is not expected to significantly increase the demand for police services in addition to increases already occurring due to population increases.			
<b>13-3 Increase in Demand for Fire Services.</b> Use of the proposed trail may increase demand for fire services in the project area. However, any increase in demand is expected to occur in the project area regardless of implementation of the proposed project. This increase in demand is expected to be proportional to the increase in population in the surrounding area. The proposed project is not expected to significantly increase the demand for fire services in addition to increases already occurring due to population increases.	LTS	No mitigation is required.	LTS
<b>13-4 Increase in Maintenance of Public Facilities.</b> Construction of the proposed trail and associated components would create more facilities that would need to be maintained by the County. The amount of maintenance required for the proposed trail and associated components is expected to be small.	LTS	No mitigation is required.	LTS
<b>14.0 Recreation</b>			
<b>14-1 Increased Demand for Recreational Facilities.</b> The proposed trail would be constructed in response to existing demand from population increases and would not create additional demand for recreational facilities. The proposed trail would not be sufficiently different from other trails in the project area to create its own demand. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not cause a significant increase in demand for additional recreational facilities.	LTS	No mitigation is required.	LTS

<b>Table 2-1 Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures</b>			
Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
<p><b>14-2 Increase in Wildlife Attacks as a Result of Increased Recreational Use.</b> The proposed trail would introduce more trail users into a fairly remote area of the North Fork American River canyon, which could increase the number of encounters with wildlife. However, wildlife attacks on humans are rare. In addition, informational signage on wildlife safety would be posted at the staging termini to educate trail users.</p>	LTS	No mitigation is required.	LTS
<p><b>14-3 Increased Degradation of Existing or Proposed Recreational Facilities.</b> The proposed trail may redirect trail users from other areas of the Auburn SRA to the project area, thereby increasing recreational use in the immediate project area. Redirecting trail users from other trails in the Auburn SRA would reduce degradation of those trails. Because the proposed trail would not cause a significant increase in demand, it would not cause degradation of existing trails. While regular trail use by equestrians and bicyclists could cause degradation of the proposed trail, routine maintenance of the trail would be performed to address this issue.</p>	LTS	No mitigation is required.	LTS
<p><b>14-4 Potential for Conflicts between Trail Users.</b> Because the proposed trail is a multiple-use trail, the potential exists for conflicts between pedestrians, equestrians, and bicyclists. The proposed project includes measures to minimize the occurrence of these potential conflicts, including a 6-foot wide trail width and informational signage.</p>	LTS	No mitigation is required.	LTS
<p><b>14-5 Increase in Unauthorized Activities in the Project Area.</b> The proposed trail may increase the number of visitors to the Auburn SRA, which could increase the occurrence of unauthorized activities in the project area. However, the increase in users as a result of the proposed trail is expected to be minimal, and the project area would be patrolled by State Parks' rangers.</p>	LTS	No mitigation is required.	LTS

<b>Table 2-1 Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures</b>			
Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
<b>15.0 Hazardous Materials and Hazards</b>			
<p><b>15-1 Potential for Fire to Occur During or After Construction.</b> The project area has been identified as an extreme fire hazard area. Sparks from construction and maintenance equipment could generate fire risks in this area. Trail users could also generate fire risks (e.g., from discarded cigarette butts) along the proposed trail; however, the County would follow the General Fire Prevention Requirements described above in Section 15.2.3, which would maintain the risk of wildfires at a less-than-significant level.</p>	LTS	No mitigation is required.	LTS
<p><b>15-2 Potential for Release of Hazardous Materials During Trail Construction or Maintenance.</b> Trail construction and maintenance equipment may require the use of 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 still occur in an otherwise pristine, undeveloped area during construction or maintenance of the proposed trail.</p>	PS	<p><b>15-1: Implement Measures to Reduce Hazards Associated with Potential Hazardous Materials Releases.</b> Mitigation Measure 15-1 applies to Impact 15-2. It would be implemented in conjunction with Mitigation Measure 11-1, “Obtain Authorization for Construction and Operation Activities with the Central Valley RWQCB and Implement Erosion and Sediment Control Measures as Required,” described in Chapter 11.0, “Soils, Geology, and Seismicity.”</p> <p>Before the commencement of trail construction, the County shall implement the following measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ An accidental-spill prevention and response plan shall be prepared and implemented for storage and use of hazardous materials during trail construction and maintenance. This plan shall identify measures to prevent accidental spills from leaving the site and methods for responding to and cleaning up spills before neighboring properties are exposed to hazardous materials.</li> <li>▶ The County shall ensure that any employee handling hazardous materials is trained in the safe handling and storage of hazardous materials and trained to follow all applicable regulations with regard to such hazardous materials.</li> <li>▶ 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.</li> </ul>	LTS

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