Section 4
TRPA Initial Environmental Checklist

This document is a joint CEQA/TRPA Environmental Document. TRPA made an environmental determination requiring preparation of an IEC to analyze and provide mitigation for potentially significant environmental impacts resulting from the Project.

The completed TRPA IEC is included on the following pages. Supplemental information including explanations of “Yes”, “No, with mitigation” and “Data Insufficient” answers follow the checklist. All questions were answered “No” for several resource areas including: Light and Glare, Land Use, Natural Resources, Population, Housing, Energy, and Utilities. These questions on the checklist are used as significance criteria for TRPA to determine if a resource issue will be significantly impacted during construction or operation of the Project.

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Print Form

INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FOR DETERMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

I. Assessor's Parcel Number (APN)/Project Location See below.

Project Name Snow Creek SEZ Restoration Project

County/City Placer

Brief Description of Project:

See Section 2 Project Description.

List of affected Assessor's Parcel Numbers:

National Avenue right-of-way (portion)
Gun Club right-of-way (portion)
Lily Road right-of-way (portion)
Iris Road right-of-way (portion)
Sotoyon right-of-way (portion)
112-050-014, 112-050-015, 112-120-001, 112-120-002, 112-120-003, 112-120-004, 112-120-016, 112-120-089, 112-120-090, 112-120-069, 112-120-068,112-120-035, 112-120-034, 112-120-033.

The following questionnaire will be completed by the applicant based on evidence submitted with the application. All "Yes" and "No, With Mitigation" answers will require further written comments. Use the blank boxes to add any additional information. If more space is required for additional information, please attach separate sheets and reference the question number and letter.

II. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

1. Land

Will the proposal result in:

a. Compaction or covering of the soil beyond the limits allowed in the land capability or Individual Parcel Evaluation System (IPES)?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

b. A change in the topography or ground surface relief features of site inconsistent with the natural surrounding conditions?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

c. Unstable soil conditions during or after completion of the proposal?

See Section 4.1.1.	☐ Yes	☐ No
	☒ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

d. Changes in the undisturbed soil or native geologic substructures or grading in excess of 5 feet?

See Section 4.1.1.	☒ Yes	☐ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

e. The continuation of or increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

f. Changes in deposition or erosion of beach sand, or changes in siltation, deposition or erosion, including natural littoral processes, which may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed of a lake?

	☒ Yes	☐ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

g. Exposure of people or property to geologic hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, backshore erosion, avalanches, mud slides, ground failure, or similar hazards?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

2. Air Quality

Will the proposal result in:

a. Substantial air pollutant emissions?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

b. Deterioration of ambient (existing) air quality?

See Section 4.1.2	☐ Yes	☐ No
	☒ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

c. The creation of objectionable odors?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

d. Alteration of air movement, moisture or temperature, or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

e. Increased use of diesel fuel?

See Section 4.1.2	☒ Yes	☐ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

3. Water Quality

Will the proposal result in:

a. Changes in currents, or the course or direction of water movements?

See Section 4.1.3	☒ Yes	☐ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

b. Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface water runoff so that a 20 yr. 1 hr. storm runoff (approximately 1 inch per hour) cannot be contained on the site?

See Section 4.1.3.	☐ Yes	☐ No
	☒ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

c. Alterations to the course or flow of 100-yearflood waters?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

d. Change in the amount of surface water in any water body?

See Section 4.1.3.	☒ Yes	☐ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

e. Discharge into surface waters, or in any alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?

See Section 4.1.3.	☐ Yes	☐ No
	☒ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

f. Alteration of the direction or rate of flow of ground water?

See Section 4.1.3.	☒ Yes	☐ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

g. Change in the quantity of groundwater, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations?

See Section 4.1.3.	☐ Yes	☐ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☒ Data Insufficient

h. Substantial reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for public water supplies?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

i. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding and/or wave action from 100-year storm occurrence or seiches?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

j. The potential discharge of contaminants to the groundwater or any alteration of groundwater quality?

See Section 4.1.3.	☐ Yes	☐ No
	☒ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

k. Is the project located within 600 feet of a drining water source?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

4. Vegetation

Will the proposal result in:

a. Removal of native vegetation in excess of the area utilized for the actual development permitted by the land capability/IPES system?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

b. Removal of riparian vegetation or other vegetation associated with critical wildlife habitat, either through direct removal or indirect lowering of the groundwater table?

See Section 4.1.4	☒ Yes	☐ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

c. Introduction of new vegetation that will require excessive fertilizer or water, or will provide a barrier to the normal replenishment of existing species?

See Section 4.1.4	☒ Yes	☐ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

d. Change in the diversity or distribution of species, or number of any species of plants (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, micro flora and aquatic plants)?

See Section 4.1.4	☒ Yes	☐ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

e. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of plants?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

f. Removal of stream bank and/or backshore vegetation, including woody vegetation such as willows?

See Section 4.1.4	☐ Yes	☐ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☒ Data Insufficient

g. Removal of any native live, dead or dying trees30 inches or greater in diameter at breast height (dbh) within TRPA's Conservation or Recreation land use classifications?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

h. A change in the natural functioning of an old growth ecosystem?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

5. Wildlife

Will the proposal result in:

a. Change in the diversity or distribution of species, or numbers of any species of animals (birds, land animals including reptiles, fish and shellfish, benthic organisms, insects, mammals, amphibians or microfauna)?

See Section 4.1.5	☐ Yes	☐ No
	☒ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

b. Reduction of the number of any unique, rare or endangered species of animals?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

c. Introduction of new species of animals into an area, or result in a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

d. Deterioration of existing fish or wildlife habitat quantity or quality?

See Section 4.1.5	☐ Yes	☐ No
	☒ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

6. Noise

Will the proposal result in:

a. Increases in existing Community Noise Equivalency Levels (CNEL) beyond those permitted in the applicable Plan Area Statement, Community Plan or Master Plan?

See Section 4.1.6	☐ Yes	☐ No
	☒ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

b. Exposure of people to severe noise levels?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

c. Single event noise levels greater than those set forth in the TRPA Noise Environmental Threshold?

See Section 4.1.6	☐ Yes	☐ No
	☒ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

7. Light and Glare

Will the proposal:

a. Include new or modified sources of exterior lighting?

☐ Yes ☒ No

☐ No, With Mitigation ☐ Data Insufficient

b. Create new illumination which is more substantial than other lighting, if any, within the surrounding area?

☐ Yes ☒ No

☐ No, With Mitigation ☐ Data Insufficient

c. Cause light from exterior sources to be cast off -site or onto public lands?

☐ Yes ☒ No

☐ No, With Mitigation ☐ Data Insufficient

d. Create new sources of glare through the siting of the improvements or through the use of reflective materials?

☐ Yes ☒ No

☐ No, With Mitigation ☐ Data Insufficient

8. Land Use

Will the proposal:

a. Include uses which are not listed as permissible uses in the applicable Plan Area Statement, adopted Community Plan, or Master Plan?

☐ Yes ☒ No

☐ No, With Mitigation ☐ Data Insufficient

b. Expand or intensify an existing non-conforming use?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

9. Natural Resources

Will the proposal result in:

a. A substantial increase in the rate of use of any natural resources?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

b. Substantial depletion of any non-renewable natural resource?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

10. Risk of Upset

Will the proposal:

a. Involve a risk of an explosion or the release of hazardous substances including, but not limited to, oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation in the event of an accident or upset conditions?

See Section 4.1.7	☐ Yes	☐ No
	☒ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

b. Involve possible interference with an emergency evacuation plan?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

11. Population

Will the proposal:

a. Alter the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population planned for the Region?

☐ Yes ☒ No

☐ No, With Mitigation ☐ Data Insufficient

b. Include or result in the temporary or permanent displacement of residents?

☐ Yes ☒ No

☐ No, With Mitigation ☐ Data Insufficient

12. Housing

Will the proposal:

a. Affect existing housing, or create a demand for additional housing?

To determine if the proposal will affect existing housing or create a demand for additional housing, please answer the following questions:

(1) Will the proposal decrease the amount of housing in the Tahoe Region?

☐ Yes ☒ No

☐ No, With Mitigation ☐ Data Insufficient

(2) Will the proposal decrease the amount of housing in the Tahoe Region historically or currently being rented at rates affordable by lower and very-low-income households?

☐ Yes ☒ No

☐ No, With Mitigation ☐ Data Insufficient

Number of Existing Dwelling Units: 0

Number of Proposed Dwelling Units: 0

b. Will the proposal result in the loss of housing for lower-income and very-low-income households?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

13. Transportation/Circulation

Will the proposal result in:

a. Generation of 100 or more new Daily Vehicle Trip Ends (DVTE)?

See Section 4.1.8	☒ Yes	☐ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

b. Changes to existing parking facilities, or demand for new parking?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

c. Substantial impact upon existing transportation systems, including highway, transit, bicycle or pedestrian facilities?

See Section 4.1.8	☒ Yes	☐ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

d. Alterations to present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods?

See Section 4.1.8	☒ Yes	☐ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

e. Alterations to waterborne, rail or air traffic?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

f. Increase in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists, or pedestrians?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

14. Public Services

Will the proposal have an unplanned effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas?

a. Fire protection?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

b. Police protection?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

c. Schools?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

d. Parks or other recreational facilities?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

e. Maintenance of public facilities, including roads?

See Section 4.1.9	☒ Yes	☐ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

f. Other governmental services?

☐ Yes ☒ No

☐ No, With Mitigation ☐ Data Insufficient

15. Energy

Will the proposal result in:

a. Use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy?

☐ Yes ☒ No

☐ No, With Mitigation ☐ Data Insufficient

b. Substantial increase in demand upon existing sources of energy, or require the development of new sources of energy?

☐ Yes ☒ No

☐ No, With Mitigation ☐ Data Insufficient

16. Utilities

Except for planned improvements, will the proposal result in a need for new systems, or substantial alterations to the following utilities:

a. Power or natural gas?

☐ Yes ☒ No

☐ No, With Mitigation ☐ Data Insufficient

b. Communication systems?

☐ Yes ☒ No

☐ No, With Mitigation ☐ Data Insufficient

c. Utilize additional water which amount will exceed the maximum permitted capacity of the service provider?

☐ Yes ☒ No

☐ No, With Mitigation ☐ Data Insufficient

d. Utilize additional sewage treatment capacity which amount will exceed the maximum permitted capacity of the sewage treatment provider?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

e. Storm water drainage?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

f. Solid waste and disposal?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

17. Human Health

Will the proposal result in:

a. Creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard (excluding mental health)?

See Section 4.1.10	☐ Yes	☐ No
	☒ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

b. Exposure of people to potential health hazards?

See Section 4.1.10	☐ Yes	☐ No
	☒ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

18. Scenic Resources/Community Design

Will the proposal:

a. Be visible from any state or federal highway, Pioneer Trail or from Lake Tahoe?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

b. Be visible from any public recreation area or TRPA designated bicycle trail?

See Section 4.1.11	☒ Yes	☐ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

c. Block or modify an existing view of Lake Tahoe or other scenic vista seen from a public road or other public area?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

d. Be inconsistent with the height and design standards required by the applicable ordinance or Community Plan?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

e. Be inconsistent with the TRPA Scenic Quality Improvement Program (SQIP) or Design Review Guidelines?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

19. Recreation

Does the proposal:

a. Create additional demand for recreation facilities?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

b. Create additional recreation capacity?

See Section 4.1.12	☒ Yes	☐ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

c. Have the potential to create conflicts between recreation uses, either existing or proposed?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

d. Result in a decrease or loss of public access to any lake, waterway, or public lands?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

20. Archaeological/Historical

a. Will the proposal result in an alteration of or adverse physical or aesthetic effect to a significant archaeological or historical site, structure, object or building?

See Section 4.1.13	☐ Yes	☐ No
	☒ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

b. Is the proposed project located on a property with any known cultural, historical, and/or archaeological resources, including resources on TRPA or other regulatory official maps or records?

See Section 4.1.13	☒ Yes	☐ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

c. Is the property associated with any historically significant events and/or sites or persons?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

d. Does the proposal have the potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

e. Will the proposal restrict historic or pre-historic religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area?

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

21. Findings of Significance.

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

See Section 4.1.14	☐ Yes	☐ No
	☒ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

b. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals? (A short-term impact on the environment is one which occurs in a relatively brief, definitive period of time, while long-term impacts will endure well into the future.)

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

c. Does the project have impacts which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project may impact on two or more separate resources where the impact on each resource is relatively small, but where the effect of the total of those impacts on the environmental is significant?)

	☐ Yes	☒ No
	☐ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

d. Does the project have environmental impacts which will cause substantial adverse effects on human being, either directly or indirectly?

See Section 4.1.14	☐ Yes	☐ No
	☒ No, With Mitigation	☐ Data Insufficient

DECLARATION:

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present the data and information required for this initial evaluation to the best ofmy ability, and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: **(Original signature required.)**

_____ Person Preparing Application

At _____ County

Date: _____

Applicant Written Comments: (Attach additional sheets if necessary)

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Date Received: _____ By: _____

Determination:

On the basis of this evaluation:

a. The proposed project could not have a significant effect on the environment and a finding of no significant effect shall be prepared in accordance with TRPA's Rules of Procedure.

☐ Yes ☐ No

b. The proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, but due to the listed mitigation measures which have been added to the project, could have no significant effect on the environment and a mitigated finding of no significant effect shall be prepared in accordance with TRPA's Rules and Procedures.

☐ Yes ☐ No

c. The proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment and an environmental impact statement shall be prepared in accordance with this chapter and TRPA's Rules of Procedure

☐ Yes ☐ No

_____ Date: _____

Signature of Evaluator

Title of Evaluator

ADDENDUM FOR TRANSFERS/CONVERSIONS OF USE

The following is to be used as a supplemental checklist for the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Initial Environmental Checklist (IEC). It is to be used when reviewing any transfer pursuant to Chapter 34 of the Code of Ordinances or Conversion of Use pursuant to Chapter 33 of the Code of Ordinances. Any question answered in the affirmative will require written documentation showing that the impacts will be mitigated to a less than significant level. Otherwise, an environmental impact statement will be required.

The asterisk (*) notes threshold subjects.

a) Land *
Does the proposal result in any additional land coverage?

☐ Yes ☐ No
☐ No, With Mitigation ☐ Data Insufficient

b) Air Quality *
Does the proposal result in any additional emission?

☐ Yes ☐ No
☐ No, With Mitigation ☐ Data Insufficient

c) Water *
Does the proposal result in any additional discharge that is in violation of TRPA discharge standards?

☐ Yes ☐ No
☐ No, With Mitigation ☐ Data Insufficient

d) Does the proposal result in an increase in the volume of discharge?

☐ Yes ☐ No
☐ No, With Mitigation ☐ Data Insufficient

e) Noise *
Does the proposal result in an increase in Community Noise Equivalency Level (CNEL)?

☐ Yes ☐ No
☐ No, With Mitigation ☐ Data Insufficient

f) Aesthetics *
Does the proposal result in blockage of significant views to Lake Tahoe or an identified visual resource?

☐ Yes ☐ No
☐ No, With Mitigation ☐ Data Insufficient

g) Recreation *
Does the proposal result in a reduction of public access to public recreation areas or public recreation opportunities?

☐ Yes ☐ No
☐ No, With Mitigation ☐ Data Insufficient

h) Land Use
Does the converted or transferred use result in a use that is not consistent with the goals and policies of the Community Plan or Plan Area Statement?

☐ Yes ☐ No
☐ No, With Mitigation ☐ Data Insufficient

i) Population
Does the proposal result in an increase in the existing or planned population of the Region?

☐ Yes ☐ No
☐ No, With Mitigation ☐ Data Insufficient

j) Housing
Does the proposal result in the loss of affordable housing?

☐ Yes ☐ No
☐ No, With Mitigation ☐ Data Insufficient

k) Transportation
Does the proposal result in the increase of100 Daily Vehicle Trip Ends (DVTE)?

☐ Yes ☐ No
☐ No, With Mitigation ☐ Data Insufficient

l) Does the proposal result in a project that does not meet the parking standards?

☐ Yes ☐ No
☐ No, With Mitigation ☐ Data Insufficient

m) Utilities
Does the proposal result in additional water use?

☐ Yes ☐ No
☐ No, With Mitigation ☐ Data Insufficient

n) Does the proposal result in the need for additional sewer treatment?

☐ Yes ☐ No
☐ No, With Mitigation ☐ Data Insufficient

o) Historical
Does the proposal result in the modification or elimination of a historic structure or site?

☐ Yes ☐ No
☐ No, With Mitigation ☐ Data Insufficient

DECLARATION:

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present the data and information required for this initial evaluation to the best of my ability, and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: **(Original signature required.)**

_____ At_____ Date:_____

Person Preparing Application — County

Applicant Written Comments: (Attach additional sheets if necessary)

4.1 Supplemental Information

4.1.1 Land

1c. Will the proposal result in unstable soil conditions during or after completion of the proposal?

No, with mitigation. Approximately 8,000 cubic yards of fill soil and concrete will be excavated from the former concrete batch plant property to allow SEZ and wetlands restoration of the site to be hydrologically connected to existing SEZ and wetlands directly adjacent to the site. The excavated area will be revegetated and surrounded by filter fence until plants are established.

Grading will take place in the drier months of July through October. All grading activities will comply with all ordinances and standard conditions established by jurisdictional agencies including the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), Placer County Department of Public Works (DPW), Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE), and California Department of Fish and Game.

Soil erosion could occur in construction zones, along access routes, and in staging areas that have been cleared of vegetation. The construction contractor will be required to implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that details BMPs to manage stormwater and reduce erosion at the construction site. Measures are described below. These measures will help to prevent soil erosion by protecting disturbed areas from summertime precipitation events up to the 20-year storm. Stockpiled soil will be covered or stabilized to reduce dust, stormwater runoff and erosion. Topsoil will be preserved and reused on site. All access routes will be constructed according to approved methods designed to reduce erosion. Construction vehicles will be confined to specific construction zones to reduce dust and will use existing roads whenever possible.

Construction of SEZ and wetland areas close to existing stormwater channels creates the risk of erosion for a couple of years after construction due to revegetation seasoning, especially if a flood event were to happen within this time period. The Project design considers these areas most vulnerable post-Project and treats them very aggressively with stabilization treatments. Areas deemed most vulnerable to impacts post Project will receive more willow transplants and all exposed soil close to the channel will be either treated with sod or coir blanket to provide protection from flood flows.

Monitoring of the Project area will occur after flood events and annually to identify areas that need rehabilitation. These inspections will include full walks of the Project area and photos. Implementation of this process will identify soil erosion problems and direct activity that will fix the problems. The strategic revegetation design and post-construction monitoring of the Project, will reduce the risk of long-term soil erosion to less than significant.

After construction, the Project site will be winterized according to TRPA and Lahontan RWQCB requirements, which will require extensive stabilization of the area and reduce any risk of substantial soil erosion during the winter months.

The following temporary BMPs and construction controls will be implemented during construction. These construction controls are being included to help reduce impacts to land.

- *Construction fencing will be placed around verified SEZ and delineated wetlands that are located outside of proposed disturbance areas to avoid disturbance during construction.*
- *Vegetation protection fencing will be installed to protect existing trees and other vegetation outside of proposed disturbance areas.*
- *Filter fencing and sediment logs will be installed where needed to protect SEZ and surface waters.*
- *Stockpile areas and transported material will be covered, revegetated, or otherwise stabilized as required by the permitting agencies.*
- *All construction equipment would be serviced in a specific, stabilized area to prevent spills of fluids, oils, or lubricants. This area would consist of a clean gravel pad with an impervious liner underneath.*
- *All spills would be reported to Lahontan RWQCB and procedures and response protocols for immediate cleanup [per the permit and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)] would be implemented. These procedures may include placement of sandbags, gravel, or other approved features to prevent material entering surface waters.*
- *A BMP monitoring plan will be developed and implemented to ensure all BMPs are maintained and functioning properly.*

1d. Changes in the undisturbed soil or native geologic substructures or grading in excess of 5 feet?

Yes. The Project will include grading in excess of 5 feet where existing fill exceeds 5 feet in depth and to install a stormwater pre-treatment facility. In some locations fill could be excavated to 8 feet in depth. The Project's goal is to restore SEZ and wetlands similar to what existed in some of the locations prior to placement of fill at the concrete plant property and to hydrologically connect restored SEZ to existing SEZ and wetlands. This requires excavation below 5 feet in some locations. It is expected that riparian habitat and water quality will benefit from the Project. The temporary BMPs and construction controls listed above under answer 1c. will reduce potential impacts to less than significant.

CDM, Placer County's consultant, prepared a soils/hydrologic report and conducted a field investigation because grading in excess of 5 feet would be required as part of the Project. TRPA staff issued a Soil/Hydrologic Waiver/Approval for the Project, which stated that excavations needed to restore the SEZ are approved.

1f. Will the proposal result in changes in deposition or erosion of beach sand, or changes in siltation, deposition or erosion, including natural littoral processes, which may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed of the lake?

Yes, however, this will benefit water quality. These changes are part of the Project design to restore SEZ and wetlands, which includes changes to existing stormwater channels. The expected changes would help to provide water to restoration areas to maintain function and encourage plant establishment. Improved riparian vegetation due to increased wetness and revegetation treatments will help to stabilize the area over the long-term and will likely result in less soil erosion. Primary treatment of stormwater for sediment will be done in a new proposed settling basin. This basin will be lined and covered with soil to allow for plant growth. Treated stormwater will be discharged from the basin to a newly created stormwater channel. The channel will convey stormwater to existing SEZ and wetlands. This channel will be vegetated and restored as SEZ. Deposition of sediment may occur within the channel or SEZ and wetlands.

4.1.2 Air Quality

2b. Will the proposal result in deterioration of ambient (existing) air quality?

No, with mitigation. All potential air quality impacts resulting from the Project will be temporary, during construction only. There will be no long-term impacts because the Project will not result in any criteria pollutant generating facilities.

During construction, approximately 8,000 cy of soil and concrete will be excavated onsite and transported to a landfill. Dust could be generated during construction. Fugitive dust emissions of particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM_{10}) due to construction activities will be controlled by implementing the Fugitive Dust Control Plan. This plan is required to be submitted to Placer County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) prior to the start of the Project per Placer County APCD Rule 228. Typical BMPs that will be implemented include covering or using water on stockpile areas, using water on unpaved access roads, using gravel on transitions from paved to dirt surfaces, covering trucks transporting materials and stockpiles appropriately, employing tire washes for vehicles leaving the Project site, and stabilizing newly graded areas. These measures will allow the Project to conform to air quality standards for PM_{10}, and would preclude contribution to an existing or projected air quality violation.

The Project will result in a temporary increase in vehicle emissions in the Project area from construction vehicles and workers driving to and from the site in the morning and at the end of the work day. Construction equipment will include: excavators, loaders, bull dozer, compactor, rubber tired backhoe, small motor grader, and water trucks, with a maximum of 4 pieces of equipment to operate at the same time. Worker vehicles will travel on average, 50 miles roundtrip for an average of 16 workers per day, and 26 workers at peak day and 7 workers at a minimum.

Project peak daily emissions during construction were modeled as part of CEQA analysis. All totals are shown to be below thresholds for ROG, CO, NOx and SO2. Therefore, impacts to ambient air quality during construction would be less than significant.

2e. Will the proposal increase use of diesel fuel?

Yes. The Project will temporarily increase the use of diesel fuel within the Project area with the use of heavy equipment during construction and hauling of fill to a landfill. However, this impact will be less than significant to air quality as explained in answer 2b above.

4.1.3 Water Quality

3a. Will the proposal result in changes in currents, or the course or direction of water movements?

Yes. The intent and purpose of the Project is to restore SEZ and wetlands. The Project proposes to alter the existing drainage pattern by removing fill and allowing drainage entering the site to provide water for the newly created SEZ and wetlands. This will alter the drainage pattern of the site by allowing water to meander through the area at the surface in some locations instead of traveling under the existing fill. With the removal of fill, the wetlands and SEZ area will be larger and would be able to capture the water allowing for the area to function better as SEZ and wetlands and providing natural treatment prior to discharge into Snow Creek. Some of the existing groundwater located under the fill would become an intermittent surface water stormwater channel during the spring. After the fill is removed, the ground surface will be lower causing the groundwater to be shallower in those areas relative to the new ground surface elevation.

A new stormwater treatment facility will be constructed at the north end of the former batch plant property where stormwater currently enters the site from a culvert under National Avenue. The new facility will treat stormwater prior to discharging it to the newly created SEZ and wetlands, which will be connected to the existing adjacent SEZ and wetlands.

The proposed bicycle and pedestrian trail will span the SEZ and wetlands. Some footings will be constructed within this area to support the trail bridge. These footings will be small enough to not affect the course or direction of water movements.

3b. Will the proposal result in changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface water runoff so that the 20 yr. 1 hour storm runoff (approximately 1 inch per hour) cannot be contained on the site?

No, with mitigation. The Project would remove approximately 8,000 cy of fill from the former concrete plant site to create SEZ and wetlands similar to the adjacent SEZ/wetlands directly east of the former concrete plant site. The soil, plant species, amount of vegetation, and hydrology will be modified as SEZ and wetlands are created. This would change the absorption rates, drainage patterns and the amount of surface water. A stormwater treatment facility will be constructed to pretreat stormwater prior to entering the SEZ and wetland area. The newly

created SEZ and wetland area will contain and attenuate stormwater runoff exceeding the 20-year, 1-hour storm event.

3d. Will the proposal result in a change in the amount of surface water in any water body?

Yes. The removal of fill may result in new surface water where groundwater is underneath the fill. Since the Project is creating additional riparian area than what exists, more surface water would result in restored SEZ and wetlands as intermittent stormwater channels.

3e. Will the proposal result in discharge into surface waters, or in any alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?

No, with mitigation. During construction, grading activities could result in discharges to surface waters exceeding water quality standards . These potential water quality impacts will be less than significant because construction controls and BMPs, will be implemented to ensure water quality is protected.

This short-term construction related water quality impact evaluation focuses on potential impacts due to the proximity of the Project to SEZ, stormwater channels and wetlands. This analysis focuses on implementation of proposed controls, BMPs and plans (grading and erosion control, spill prevention, revegetation, monitoring, dewatering, and diversion) described in Section 2 of the Joint CEQA/TRPA Environmental Document. Major grading activities will be completed over a four-month period with active construction only conducted during the summer and fall months of July through mid-October. Construction will commence only after spring snowmelt flows diminish and soil within the Project area is no longer saturated.

During construction there is an inherent potential for water quality impacts because the site is located in or near SEZ and wetlands, and involves significant grading and ground disturbance. Due to the nature of SEZ and wetlands restoration projects, significant efforts are required to prevent impacts to water quality during construction.

A number of measures will be taken to protect water quality of the Snow Creek SEZ and wetlands and surface water channels. The construction methods and BMPs planned are explained in detail in Section 2.2.7 of the Joint CEQA/TRPA Environmental Document. Measures planned include standard, typical project BMPs and protections such as silt fences, coir logs, construction exclusion areas, spill prevention plans, water spraying for dust control, internal drainage systems to manage water encountered, and tire washes, among other things. Soil stockpiled and transported as part of the Project will be managed to prevent water quality impacts. All temporary construction BMPs will be designed to meet typical regulatory requirements (20 year rain event). A BMP monitoring and inspection plan will be implemented to ensure that all facilities are functioning properly. These more standard techniques will be implemented in conjunction with very specific Project level measures described below.

A specific Project Dewatering and Diversion Plan (described in Section 2.2.7.3 of the Joint CEQA /TRPA Environmental Document) will be implemented to treat any water encountered during construction. This water may come from intercepted groundwater, summer rain events, or seepage from diversion structures. Any water encountered will be pumped to a settling tank to achieve the 200 nephelometric turbidity units (NTU) standard of discharging to land based treatment facilities. This water additionally could be used in irrigation systems or for dust control.

It is anticipated that the County will request and be granted an exemption for potential violation of water quality turbidity standards from the Lahontan RWQCB as part of Clean Water Act compliance – this exemption will allow for turbidity levels beyond 10 percent of background as defined in the exemption letter provided there will be no impairment of beneficial uses. (Other restoration projects have received such an exemption, including the U.S. Forest Service's (USFS's) Blackwood Creek Phase 3 Project – Stream and Floodplain Restoration Project.)

Once the first year of construction is complete, the Project area will be winterized to protect water quality. All areas will be stabilized to prevent erosion and runoff. If a large flood event occurred, newly revegetated and constructed areas could be susceptible to erosion and result in water quality impacts. As described in the Restoration and Revegetation section (2.2.3 of the Joint CEQA /TRPA Environmental Document), numerous techniques will be implemented to stabilize newly revegetated areas. Areas closest to stormwater flows will receive aggressive treatments of salvaged sod and transplanted willows to create the most stable conditions possible. Other less susceptible areas will be protected with various techniques, including wood chips, tackifier, and erosion control blanket. The greatest risk will be in the first year after construction and will decrease after each subsequent season.

The County will implement monitoring plan that will identify problem areas and guide actions to fix the problems in accordance with Lahontan NPDES permit requirements. The purpose will be to identify and fix problems before they exacerbate. By implementing this plan impacts will be reduced to less than significant.

Therefore, potential water quality impacts will be less than significant because construction controls, BMPs, and monitoring plans will be implemented to ensure water quality is protected and if violations occur, they will be for a short period of time and will not affect beneficial uses.

3f. Will the proposal result in alteration of the direction or rate of flow of ground water?

Yes. The Project does propose to lower the ground surface elevation, which could cause existing groundwater that is at a higher elevation than the depth of fill to become surface water in the spring after the fill is removed. However, this is expected to benefit riparian habitat and water quality, which are goals of the Project. It is unknown how this change will affect the rate of flow of groundwater. Current groundwater data is limited within the Project area. During construction, grading activities may intercept groundwater temporarily. However, it is

unknown how this will affect the direction or rate of flow of groundwater during construction. This will be monitored during construction.

3g. Will the proposal result in a change in the quantity of groundwater, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavation?

Data insufficient. The Project will increase the amount of riparian area. More standing water than under existing conditions will be in the larger meadow after construction is completed and will infiltrate into the groundwater. It is unknown how this will affect the quantity of groundwater. Very little groundwater data exists within the Project area.

The Project will intercept groundwater during excavation, however this will be temporary during construction. The proposed Dewatering and Diversion Plan described in Section 2.2.7.3 of the Joint CEQA /TRPA Environmental Document will be implemented reducing potential impacts to groundwater quality to a less than significant level.

3j. Will the proposal result in the potential discharge of contaminants to the groundwater or any alteration of groundwater quality?

No, with mitigation. During construction there is the potential of discharge of contaminants to groundwater, which could alter groundwater quality. However, temporary BMPs and construction controls will be constructed to lessen impacts to groundwater quality. These BMPs and construction controls are described in Section 2.27 of the Joint CEQA /TRPA Environmental Document. The Dewatering and Diversion Plan described in Section 2.2.7.3 will be implemented during construction to lessen impacts.

4.1.4 Vegetation

4b. Will the proposal result in the removal of riparian vegetation or other vegetation associated with critical wildlife habitat, either through direct removal or indirect lowering of the groundwater table?

Yes. Some existing native SEZ and wetlands plants are proposed to be removed to provide innoculant plants for the newly restored SEZ and wetlands. These plants will be taken from within areas where disturbance is proposed and at sporadic smaller locations instead of from fewer larger areas. The areas where vegetation is removed will fill in naturally with surrounding existing vegetation within the next two construction seasons.

Approximately 15 living trees 14 inches or greater in diameter would be removed during construction. No trees equal to or greater than 30 inches in diameter would be removed. It may be necessary to remove one dead tree (snag) equal to or greater than 30 inches in diameter due to public safety concerns associated with the snag overhanging the pedestrian path. Snags may become unstable when fill is removed and could pose a public safety hazard. Cut trees and snags will be used for restoration purposes. The following mitigation measure is proposed. Any management activities that require the removal of trees and shrubs should be conducted outside the avian nesting season (April 1 through August 15) unless a qualified biologist

determines that no nesting is occurring. The chronology of each year's nesting could vary due to snow loads. If vegetation removal and ground disturbance occurs during the avian nesting season a qualified biologist should conduct a nesting bird survey of the areas of vegetation and tree removal out to 150 feet to ensure that breeding birds are not adversely affected. To comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, any location containing an active nest will not be disturbed until the young have fledged or it is determined that the nest is inactive. The survey should be conducted no sooner than 30 days prior to construction activity.

4c. Will the proposal result in the introduction of new vegetation that will require excessive fertilizer or water, or will provide a barrier to the normal replenishment of existing species?

Yes. The Project includes revegetation with native SEZ, riparian and upland species of plants. The new and replanted vegetation will require a large amount of water and soil amendments while it is being established. Once established, this vegetation will provide soil stabilization and help to reduce erosion. It is likely that some of the irrigation water will be taken up by the plants or infiltrate into the ground.

4d. Will the proposal result in a change in the diversity or distribution of species, or number of any species of plants (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, micro flora and aquatic plants?

Yes. The Project is for the purpose of SEZ and wetlands restoration and public recreation. Therefore, the amount of upland vegetation will decrease in areas where fill is proposed to be removed and SEZ/wetlands are restored. This newly created SEZ/wetlands will support more riparian and wetland vegetation than what previously existed, which is a major objective of the Project and consistent with the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP).

4f. Will the proposal result in removal of stream bank and/or backshore vegetation, including woody vegetation such as willows.

Yes. Construction of the bicycle and pedestrian trail would require the removal of some willows. However, all willows removed would be replanted onsite within SEZ and wetlands restoration areas.

4.1.5 Wildlife

5a. Will the proposal result in a change in the diversity or distribution of species, or numbers of any species of animals.

No, with mitigation. The Project could temporarily result in a change in numbers of birds, benthic organisms, insects, mammals, amphibians or microfauna during construction. However, one of the goals of the Project is to restore SEZ and wetlands, which is also important for wildlife habitat. Mitigation measures to be incorporated to help reduce impacts during construction will include the following.

- *Prior to construction, protocol-level willow flycatcher surveys will be performed. If willow flycatchers are detected nesting in the Project area, an agency mandated protected activity center will be delineated and a LOP will be applied in consultation with a TRPA biologist and CDFG.*

- *Any construction activities that require removal of trees and shrubs will be conducted outside the avian nesting season (April 1 through August 15) unless a qualified biologist determines that no nesting is occurring. The chronology of each year's nesting could vary due to snow loads. If vegetation removal and/or ground disturbance occurs during the avian nesting season, a qualified biologist will conduct nesting bird surveys of the areas of vegetation and tree removal out to 150 feet to ensure that breeding birds are not adversely affected. To comply with the MBTA, any location containing an active nest will not be disturbed until the young have fledged or it is determined that the nest is inactive. The first survey will be conducted 15 days prior to construction activity. A second survey will be conducted 72 hours prior to construction.*

5d. Will the proposal result in deterioration of existing fish or wildlife habitat quantity or quality?

No, with mitigation. The Project is to restore SEZ and wetlands. During construction there could be a deterioration of existing riparian wildlife habitat quality, however, after construction riparian wildlife habitat will be greatly improved because of the Project. Construction controls are discussed in Section 2.2.7 and in Section 3.3.6 Biological Resources, Mitigation Measures.

Approximately 15 trees will be cut in the restoration area. One dead snag and zero trees 30 inches dbh or over are included in this figure and will be cut along in fill removal areas. Trees 30 inches dbh and over are protected under TRPA regulations. All of the trees will be used for the restoration effort for stabilization measures and to construct in channel habitat structures.

4.1.6 Noise

6a. Will the proposal result in increases in existing Community Noise Equivalency Levels (CNEL) beyond those permitted in the applicable Plan Area Statement, Community Plan or Master Plan?

No, with mitigation. The existing maximum CNEL for the Project area is 65 in the area of the former batch plant and 50 in the area east of the former batch plant. During construction noise disturbance will be temporary and no permanent increases in noise will occur once the Project is completed. There would actually be a permanent decrease in the amount of noise generated from the former concrete plant property because it would no longer be used for industrial purposes. In the TRPA Code of Ordinances, TRPA exempts approved construction projects from noise restrictions from 8 AM until 6:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

Construction controls will be implemented to reduce impacts from noise, which include requiring mufflers on all construction equipment and requiring construction hours to be from 8AM to 6:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

6c. Will the proposal result in single event noise levels greater than those set forth in the TRPA Noise Environmental Threshold.

No, with mitigation. During construction the Project could cause a single noise event greater than those set forth in the TRPA Noise Environmental Threshold. See answer 6a above for additional information.

4.1.7 Risk of Upset

10a. Will the proposal involve a risk of an explosion or the release of hazardous substances including but not limited to, oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation in the event of an accident or upset conditions?

No, with mitigation. The Project will require the transport and use of a minimal amount of hazardous materials to maintain construction equipment on the site, which may include: motor oil, gasoline, diesel fuel, solvents and degreasers. All hazardous materials will be secured and stored in an area away from waterways. Workers will be instructed to follow guidelines outlined with the SWPPP, a requirement for approval of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued by the Lahontan RWQCB. The SWPPP will describe procedures to follow in case of an accidental spill of the material and the contractor will be required to implement these procedures. Hazardous materials will be stored in a secured area and all personnel will be trained in proper uses of the materials. Any vehicle or equipment maintenance work will be conducted within a designated area equipped with BMPs and in upland areas away from drainage ways. All hazardous materials will be removed from the site after the Project is completed.

Some of the fill that is proposed to be removed may contain residual contamination from concrete plant activities. Placer County or their contractor will monitor the fill removal process during construction. If it is determined that contamination exists in the soil beyond limits allowed for disposal in a landfill, this soil will be hauled to a landfill certified to accept contaminated material. The removal of contaminated soils and hauling of this material to a landfill will be done in accordance with all laws and regulations required for remediation, transport and disposal of hazardous materials. These measures will prevent the Project from having a significant impact on the public or environment from the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. As described above, measures implemented under the SWPPP will reduce the impact of construction related hazardous materials to less than significant. The Project is to remove hazardous and/or contaminated material from the site.

Additionally, during construction, there is the risk that underground utilities could be damaged by heavy equipment. Damaged infrastructure could result in discharges of raw sewage to the environment or natural gas. An explosion could also occur if a natural gas or electrical line is hit by heavy equipment. To prevent this impact all underground utility locations will be marked prior to construction.

4.1.8 Transportation and Circulation

13a. Will the proposal result in generation of 100 or more new Daily Vehicle Trip Ends (DVTE)?

Yes. During the peak period of excavation and fill removal, there would be approximately 26 workers traveling to the site in the morning and again after lunch and leaving the site at lunch time and again at the end of the day. Eight of the workers would be arriving in haul trucks, which would leave 18 workers arriving by automobile on peak days. Also, approximately 18 trucks with two trips each would take place for fill removal every work day for approximately two months. The amount of trips can then be calculated to include the following:

> *18 workers x 4 trips per day = 72 trips + 36 truck trips (18 trucks x 2 trips per day) = 108 trips + 10 miscellaneous deliveries (5 trucks x 2 trips per day) = 118 vehicle trip ends per day during peak construction periods.*

However, this increase in traffic would be temporary during construction only. Future car and truck traffic on the Project site will cease entirely after the Project is completed, with the exception of an occasional maintenance vehicle.

13c. Will the proposal result in substantial impact upon existing transportation systems, including highway, transit, bicycle or pedestrian facilities?

Yes, the Project proposes to construct a segment of new bicycle and pedestrian trail, including a frontage sidewalk, which will connect to a proposed North Tahoe PUD bicycle and pedestrian trail on National Avenue and existing dirt trails located on adjacent undeveloped Placer County right-of-way. The existing dirt trails eventually connect to the North Tahoe Regional Park trail system to the east and north of the Project area. This would be a positive impact to bicycle and pedestrian facilities and a positive overall increase in facilities along National Avenue and Tahoe Vista. The benefits of the Project include more trails and trail network connectivity and function within this neighborhood.

13d. Will the proposal result in alterations to present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods.

Yes. See answer 13c above.

4.1.9 Public Services

13e. Will the proposal have an unplanned effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered government services in any of the following areas? Maintenance of public facilities, including roads?

Yes. Construction of the new bicycle and pedestrian trail segment will require maintenance of this trail. The trail will be paved and may require localized pavement rehabilitation resurfacing and sweeping. Placer County would include this trail in their annual maintenance plan as needed or develop a contract with the North Tahoe PUD to maintain the trail.

4.1.10 Human Health

17a. Will the proposal result in exposure of people to potential health hazards?

No, with mitigation. The Project could cause a risk of loss, injury or death for nearby residents because of construction activities in a wildland fire risk area. Mechanical equipment will be used during construction within the meadow area. This area is a potential wildland fire area due the presence of dry vegetation and trees during the construction season. As a construction control, equipment will be required to have spark arrestors and contractor personnel will be advised regarding wildland fire dangers and what to do if a fire is started. Therefore, the impact to safety hazards caused by wildland fire during construction will be less than significant.

The Project proposes the creation of wet riparian areas where none currently exists. This area will be located near existing residences. The construction of a bicycle and pedestrian trail segment will also draw people to the area. This change in the existing environment could attract more mosquitoes to the Project area and closer to residences, which could be a potential health hazard. Placer County Vector Control will be responsible to monitor this site and supply assistance if needed to control the mosquito population. Therefore, this impact will be less than significant.

17b. Will the proposal result in exposure of people to potential health hazards?

No, with mitigation. See answer 17a above.

4.1.11 Scenic Resources/Community Design

18b. Will the proposal be visible from any public recreation area or TRPA designated bicycle trail?

Yes. The Project area would be visible from the proposed North Tahoe PUD bicycle and pedestrian trail that would be constructed on National Avenue between the intersection of SR 28 and the Project area. It would also be visible from the existing dirt trail system in the eastern portion of the Project area. However, this would not be an adverse impact as the Project would improve the aesthetics of the area by restoring SEZ and wetlands, and by removing industrial blight.

4.1.12 Recreation

19b. Does the proposal create additional recreation capacity.

Yes, the Project will create additional bicycle and pedestrian trail capacity. Recreation trail facilities are not required to receive PAOT allocations as defined in Chapter 33 of the TRPA Code of Ordinances. This Project is listed within the Lake Tahoe Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (2010) as a planned project.

4.1.13 Archaeological/Historical

20a. Will the proposal result in an alteration of or adverse physical or aesthetic effect to a significant archaeological or historical site, structure, object or building?

No, with mitigation. No significant archeology resources are known to be present on the site or were found during cultural resource surveys within the Project area. However, the Project could alter or result in an adverse change to an unknown significant archaeological resource because of underground-related disturbances. The following mitigation measure will be implemented during construction.

- *If heritage resources (historical and paleontological resources) are discovered during construction, Project activities should cease in the area of the find and the Project sponsor should consult a qualified archaeologist for recommended procedures. All such procedures should be conducted within the Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and CEQA Section 15064.5 Guidelines.*

The implementation of the mitigation measure described above will reduce potentially significant impacts to unknown archaeological resources present within the Project area to a less than significant level because the qualified archaeologist will assist the County to protect these potentially significant resources. Construction workers will be educated about fortuitous discoveries of paleontological resources. Due to this measure, the destruction of unique paleontological resources will be unlikely.

20b. Is the Project located on a property with any known cultural, historical, and/or archaeological resources, including resources on TRPA or other regulatory official maps or records?

Yes. While historic and cultural resources were found within the Project area, it has been determined by a qualified archaeologist that none of the resources are significant according to federal, state and TRPA eligibility standards for evaluating the significance of cultural resources. A report prepared by Susan Lindstrom (Heritage Resource Inventory and Evaluation Snow Creek Stream Environment Zone Restoration Project, March 14, 2011) is the basis for this determination. The proposed mitigation measures are listed below.

- *If heritage resources (historical and paleontological resources) are discovered during construction, Project activities should cease in the area of the find and the Project sponsor should consult a qualified archaeologist for recommended procedures. All such procedures should be conducted within the Section 106 of the NHPA and CEQA Section 15064.5 Guidelines.*

- *If human remains are inadvertently discovered during Project activity, Project managers should consult an archaeologist for further direction in contacting the County coroner. If the remains are determined to be of Native American origin, both the Native American heritage commission and members of the Washoe Tribe (or other identified descendants) must be notified to insure that*

proper treatment is given to the burial site. All procedures should be conducted within the contact of CEQA, Section 15064.5 Guidelines and the California Public Resources Code 5097.95, 5097.98 and 5097.99.

4.1.14 Findings of Significance

21a. Does the Project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California or Nevada history or prehistory?

No, with mitigation. The Project could cause potentially significant impacts to biological resources during construction. Construction controls described in Section 2.2.7, Project Description would help to eliminate potentially significant impacts to biological resources. Mitigation measures described below would reduce potentially significant impacts to a less than significant level with mitigation implementation.

- ***Mitigation BIO-1*** *Prior to construction, protocol-level willow flycatcher surveys will be performed in the late spring and/or early summer. If willow flycatchers are detected nesting in the Project area, an agency mandated protected activity center will be delineated and a Limited Operating Period (LOP) between June 1 and August 31 will be applied in consultation with a TRPA biologist, and/or CDFG.*

- ***Mitigation BIO-2*** *Any construction activities that require removal of trees and shrubs will be conducted outside the avian nesting season (April 1 through August 15) unless a qualified biologist determines that no nesting is occurring. The chronology of each year's nesting could vary due to snow loads. If vegetation removal and/or ground disturbance occurs during the avian nesting season, a qualified biologist will conduct nesting bird surveys of the areas of vegetation and tree removal out to 150 feet to ensure that breeding birds are not adversely affected. To comply with the MBTA, any location containing an active nest will not be disturbed until the young have fledged or it is determined that the nest is inactive. The first survey will be conducted 15 days prior to construction activity. A second survey will be conducted 72 hours prior to construction.*

- ***Mitigation BIO-3*** *Noxious and invasive weed control shall be implemented according to the instructions included in the plans and specifications. These measures will include the following:*

  All off-road equipment and vehicles used for the Project implementation are required to be weed-free. All equipment vehicles will be cleaned of all visible mud, dirt and plant parts. This will be done at a vehicle washing station before the equipment and vehicles

enter the Project area and before vehicles enter the Basin (if they originate from outside the Basin).

All gravel, fill or other materials imported to the site are required to be weed-free. Obtain weed-free material from gravel pits and fill sources that have been surveyed and approved by the California Department of Food and Agricultural, Nevada Department of Agriculture, or by a botanist or ecologist at TRPA.

Mulches and seed sources used for revegetation are required to be weed-free. Seed mixes must be approved by TRPA.

Weed infestations identified before Project implementation that are within the Project area will be hand treated or flagged and avoided according to the species present and Project constraints.

The Project could cause potentially significant impacts to cultural resources during construction. Mitigation measures described under answer 20a and 20b above would reduce these potentially significant impacts to a less than significant level with mitigation implementation.

21d. Does the Project have environmental impacts, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

No, with mitigation. Under the Project, impacts to land, air quality, water quality, noise, risk of upset, transportation/circulation, and human health could have an adverse impact on human beings. Project impacts which could affect human beings have been shown to result in a "no impact" or a "no, with mitigation" determination. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant adverse impact to human beings.