Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

Sheridan Water Supply Improvements Project

Prepared for:

Placer County, Department of Facility Services

AECOM

February 2012

Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

Sheridan Water Supply Improvements Project

Prepared for:

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

Contact:

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

Prepared by:

AECOM
2020 L Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95811

Contact:

Andrea Shephard
Senior Project Manager
916/414-5800

with:

Douglas Environmental
1517 28th Street
Sacramento, CA 95816

Contact:

Doug Brown
Project Manager
916/739-8407

AECOM

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MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Pursuant to Division 6, Title 14, Chapter 3, Article 6, Sections 15070 and 15071 of the California Administrative Code, Placer County does cause to be filed with the State of California, this Mitigated Negative Declaration.

1. **Title and Short Description of Project:** Sheridan Water Supply Improvements Project

   The Placer County Department of Facility Services, Environmental Engineering Division is proposing to upgrade the public water system in the community of Sheridan, located in unincorporated western Placer County. The Proposed Project would include the development of a new groundwater well, water storage tank, pump station, supporting infrastructure, and pipeline upsizing and extensions.

2. **Location of Project:** The project is located within the community of Sheridan in Placer County, California, approximately eight miles northwest of the City of Lincoln and 3.5 miles southeast of Wheatland.

3. **Project Proponent:** Placer County Department of Facility Services, Environmental Engineering Division

4. **Said project will not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:**

   Based on the analysis included in the attached Initial Study, the upgrade of the public water system has the potential to cause adverse environmental impacts. However, with implementation of the following mitigation measures, the impacts associated with the Proposed Project would remain less than significant.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES:

Mitigation Measure BIO-1

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

Mitigation Measure BIO-2

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

supervisor or designee shall inspect the fencing daily and maintain and repair the fencing as needed. The fencing shall be removed when project construction is complete.

Mitigation Measure BIO-3

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

Mitigation Measure BIO-4

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

Mitigation Measure BIO-5

The project shall implement best management practices (BMPs) in accordance with the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan that is prepared as a requirement of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit issued by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board in order to control erosion during and after construction of the project. Erosion control measures and BMPs, which retain soil or sediment, control runoff from watering for dust control, and control hazardous materials on the construction site and prevent these from entering the offsite vernal pool habitat, shall be placed, monitored, and maintained throughout the construction operations. These measures and BMPs may include, but are not limited to, silt fencing, sterile hay bales, vegetative strips, hydroseeding, and temporary sediment disposal. All BMPs will be removed from the site after the completion of construction.

Mitigation Measure BIO-6

The County shall acquire vernal pool habitat mitigation credits from a USFWS-approved mitigation bank for listed vernal pool branchiopod species for direct impacts to 0.03 acre and for indirect impacts to 0.03 acre of vernal pool habitat at a ratio determined by the USFWS. This purchase will occur prior to the initiation of construction and proof of payment and credit acquisition shall be provided to the USFWS and Placer County prior to the initiation of construction.

Mitigation Measure BIO-7

For all of the pipeline alignments, the County shall implement the Best Management Practices identified in Mitigation Measure HYD-1 below to ensure that soil erosion during construction is not transported into the adjacent wetlands. Also, when pipeline trenching occurs within close proximity to wetland fills, high-visibility fencing shall be placed two feet outside of the wetland boundary to minimize direct impacts.

CULTURAL RESOURCES:

Mitigation Measure CR-1

If archaeological artifacts, exotic rock (non-native), or unusual amounts of shell or bone, midden deposits, historic debris, building foundations, human bone, or paleontological resources are uncovered during any on-site construction activities, all work must stop immediately within 100 feet of the area and a SOPA-certified (Society of Professional Archaeologists) and/or Register of Professional Archaeologist (or Paleontologist, if appropriate) shall be retained to evaluate the deposits. The Placer County Planning Department and Department of Museums must also be contacted for review of the archaeological find(s). Work in the area may only resume after authorization is granted by the Placer County Planning Department.

Mitigation Measure CR-2

In accordance with the California Health and Safety Code, if human remains are uncovered during ground-disturbing activities, the construction contractor shall immediately halt potentially damaging ground disturbing activity in the area of the remains and within 100 feet of the find and notify the Placer County Coroner, the appropriate Placer County representative, and a professional archaeologist specializing in Human Osteology and approved by the County to determine the nature of the remains.

The coroner is required to examine all discoveries of human remains within 48 hours of receiving notice of a discovery on private or state lands (Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5[b]). If the coroner determines that the remains are those of Native American origin, he or she must contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) by telephone within 24 hours of making that determination (Health and Safety Code Section 7050[c]). Following the coroner's findings, the County, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), the construction contractor, the archaeologist, and the NAHC-designated Most Likely Descendent (MLD) shall determine the ultimate treatment and disposition of the remains and take appropriate steps to ensure that additional human interments are not disturbed. The responsibilities for acting upon notification of a discovery of Native American human remains are identified in California Public Resources Code Section 5097.9.

The County and HCD shall ensure that the area of the discovery and the immediate vicinity within 100 feet of the find (according to generally accepted cultural or archaeological standards and practices) is cordoned off and not damaged or disturbed by further ground-disturbing activity (including pedestrian traffic) until consultation with the MLD has taken place. The MLD shall have 48 hours to complete a site inspection and make recommendations after being granted access to the site. A range of possible treatments for the remains, including nondestructive removal and analysis, preservation in place, relinquishment of the remains and associated items to the descendents, or other culturally appropriate treatment may be discussed. The concerned parties may extend discussions beyond the initial 48 hours to allow for the discovery of additional remains.

HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY:

Mitigation Measure HYD-1

The following mitigation measures shall be implemented during site construction activities associated with the Proposed Project:

1. Because this project disturbs greater than one acre, coverage under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ, as amended) shall be obtained by Placer County prior to any soil disturbance activities. A storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) shall be prepared by a Qualified SWPPP Developer (QSD) for the Proposed Project that complies with this Construction General Permit. The SWPPP shall be downloaded to the California Water Resources Control Board SMARTS database prior to the onset of any soil disturbance activities. All construction contractors shall retain a copy of the QSD-approved SWPPP on the construction site. At a minimum, the SWPPP shall identify and specify:

    - The use of erosion and sediment-control Best Management Practices (BMPs) as determined by the QSD;
    - The use of non-structural BMPs such as project scheduling;
    - The means of waste disposal;
    - The implementation of approved local plans, non-storm water-management controls, permanent post-construction BMPs, and inspection and maintenance responsibilities;
    - The pollutants that are likely to be used during construction that could be present in storm water drainage and non-storm water discharges, and other types of materials used for equipment operation;
    - Spill prevention and contingency measures, including measures to prevent or clean up spills of hazardous waste and of hazardous materials used for equipment operation, and emergency procedures for responding to spills;
    - Personnel training requirements and procedures that will be used to ensure that workers are aware of permit requirements and proper installation methods for BMPs specified in the SWPPP;
    - The appropriate personnel responsible for supervisory duties related to implementation of the SWPPP;
    - The designated risk level of the project as determined by a QSD;
    - The monitoring and reporting requirements associated with the project's risk level; and
    - The non-visual pollutant monitoring program.

2. BMPs identified in the SWPPP shall be installed and maintained throughout all site work and construction. BMPs may include but are not limited to:

- Implementing temporary sediment-control measures in disturbed areas to minimize discharge of sediment into nearby drainage conveyances. These measures may include but are not limited to silt fences, staked straw bales or wattles, sediment/silt basins and traps, geofabric, and sandbag dikes.

- Implementing temporary erosion control measures to minimize or eliminate the erosion of sediment. These measures may include but are not limited to rolled erosion control products such as coconut matting, plastic sheeting, etc.

- Establishing permanent vegetative cover to reduce erosion in the roadway shoulder areas disturbed by construction that will slow runoff velocities, trap sediment, and enhance filtration and transpiration.

- Using drainage swales, ditches, and earth dikes to control erosion and runoff by conveying surface runoff down sloping land, intercepting and diverting runoff to a watercourse or channel, preventing sheet flow over sloped surfaces, preventing runoff accumulation at the base of a grade, and avoiding flood damage along roadways and facility infrastructure.

3. The SWPPP shall be amended by a QSD, as necessary, to address changing site conditions and risk levels. Any SWPPP amendments shall be contained within the onsite copy and downloaded to the SMARTS database.

4. The project monitoring shall be performed by a QSD, Qualified SWPPP Practitioner (QSP), or a designated trainee of a QSD or QSP. This monitoring is subject to the requirements of the Construction General Permit for the specified risk level for the project and may include discharge sampling and analysis. All monitoring results shall be downloaded to the SMARTS database within the required timeframes specified in the Construction General Permit.

5. The SWPPP shall be implemented until all permanent post-construction BMPs have been successfully implemented and a Notice of Termination has been granted by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board absolving coverage under the General Construction Permit.

5. As a result thereof, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (Division 13 of the Public Resources Code of the State of California) is not required.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW

Placer County is seeking to upgrade the public water system in the community of Sheridan, located in unincorporated western Placer County. The project would include the development of a new groundwater well, water storage tank, pump station, supporting infrastructure, and pipeline upsizing and extensions. Placer County is seeking funding for the project from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Utilities Services (RUS) and will be preparing a separate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Assessment for this project.

This document is an initial study (IS) and has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This IS will be used to examine the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Project. In general, this document describes the project objectives; the Proposed Project; the existing environment that could be affected; potential impacts from the Proposed Project; and proposed mitigation measures in compliance with the State CEQA Guidelines (14 California Code of Regulations [CCR] 15000 et seq).

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15051(b)(1), “the lead agency will normally be the agency with general governmental powers, such as a city or county, rather than an agency with a single or limited purpose....” The lead agency for the Proposed Project for CEQA purposes is Placer County.

1.2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The community of Sheridan, California consists of single family homes, an elementary school, and several small businesses. The primary water service area (referred to as Community Service Area [CSA] 28/Zone 6) serves 184 connections on 209 acres within Sheridan. The Sheridan water system consists of three public water wells and a series of 4- and 6-inch distribution pipelines. Two of the wells provide drinking water, while the third is only used to fill fire department tanker trucks (Brown and Caldwell 2011:3-1 – 3-3).

By 1982, the community had expanded to 200 residences and the sewer system was no longer in regulatory compliance. As a result, in1983, Placer County implemented a self-imposed building moratorium in Sheridan, which was recently lifted in May 2011 due to completion of sewer system improvements and approval of new sewer and water connection fees. Residences and businesses not served with water by the water system receive water from private wells, and in some cases, from agricultural water provided by Nevada Irrigation District.

On June 26, 2008, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) performed a routine inspection of the Sheridan water system and noted that Sheridan had insufficient source and storage capacity to meet current California Waterworks Standards in Title 22 of the California Water Code Section 64554. The County was required to provide a plan to comply with these standards. The County responded with a plan to evaluate the community’s maximum day demand, evaluate existing pumping and storage capacity, and then determine potential alternatives to bring the community’s water system into compliance. Potential alternatives identified

included upsizing a pump at one of the community's existing wells, drilling a new well, increasing storage capacity by installing a new water storage tank, or developing a new emergency water supply well.

On May 17, 2010, the County received an updated source/storage evaluation from CDPH that provided an updated interpretation of current California Waterworks Standards. CDPH determined that the water system must meet maximum day demand at all times or have storage capacity equal to or greater than the maximum day demand. CDPH further determined that the water system would require a total of two days of maximum day demand available through a combination of source and storage capacity to ensure that the water system was operating acceptably.

Based on the supply and demand evaluation performed by the County and CDPH, the water system deficit was determined to be approximately 70 gallons per minute (gpm). The system was also determined to not meet the minimum State (CALFIRE) fire flow requirement of 1,500 gpm for two hours.

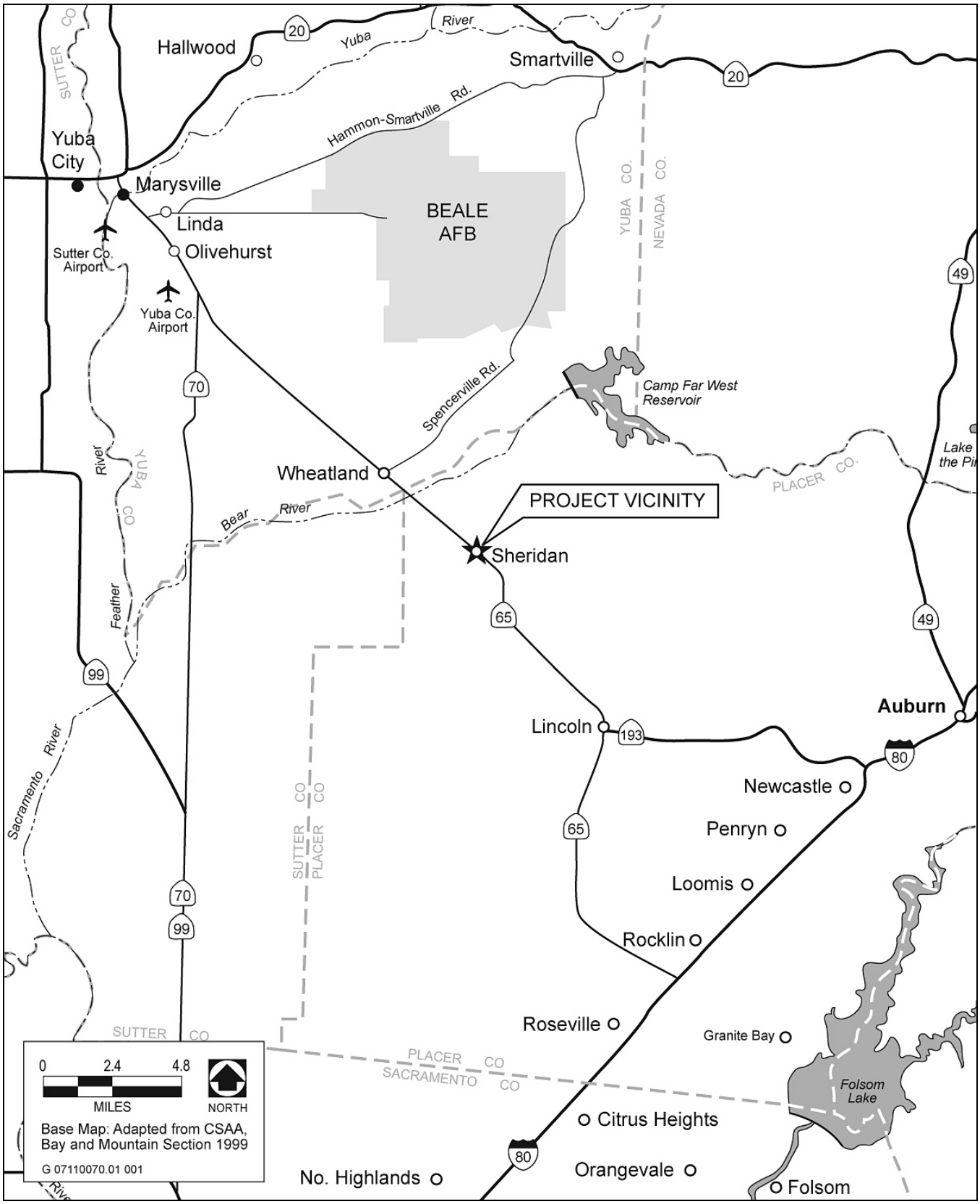
After a preliminary analysis of several alternatives to address Sheridan's system deficit, Placer County determined that the most financially feasible option would be to install one additional well to add to the community's water supply and build a water storage tank to meet maximum day demands and fire flow requirements.

1.3 PROJECT LOCATION

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

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

The project site is located approximately 105 feet above mean sea level (msl) and is vegetated with annual grassland. A wetland delineation of the project site identified a 0.03-acre vernal pool, the majority of which is located within the site boundaries and a second 0.03-acre vernal pool, the majority of which is located outside of the site boundaries. The vernal pools lack surface hydrologic connectivity to any local drainage courses. A wetland delineation report (Appendix A) was submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for verification and determination in May 2011. In October 2011, the USACE responded with its concurrence that the vernal pools located within the project study area are not within the jurisdiction of the USACE in accordance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) (Appendix C).



Source: AECOM 2011

Exhibit 1-1 **Regional Location**

Source: AECOM 2011

Exhibit 1-2 **Project Location**

1.4 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

Prior to approving the Proposed Project, Placer County must evaluate the project's potential environmental impacts as required by CEQA. The Proposed Project is also subject to evaluation under NEPA because it is being funded in part by HCD and RUS funds. Prior to making further funding decisions for the Proposed Project, HCD as the Federal lead agency, must consider the environmental effects of their actions through preparation of a NEPA Environmental Assessment, which is being prepared separately.

Placer County, as the lead agency under CEQA, and HCD as the lead agency under NEPA, will consider the environmental impacts of the Proposed Project when each agency considers whether to approve or provide funding for the Proposed Project. This IS is an informational document to be used in the local planning and decision-making process; it does not recommend approval or denial of the Proposed Project.

This IS will be available for public review for 30 days. Placer County will take into consideration comments received during the public review period and will factor these comments into their assessment of the environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Project prior to making their decisions related to project approval.

1.5 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

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

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2 PROPOSED PROJECT AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1 PROPOSED PROJECT

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

The community currently has a deficiency of approximately 70 gpm. With the addition of the new groundwater supply well, the California Waterworks Standards would be met and adequate fire flow levels would be achieved within the community.

2.1.1 WATER SUPPLY

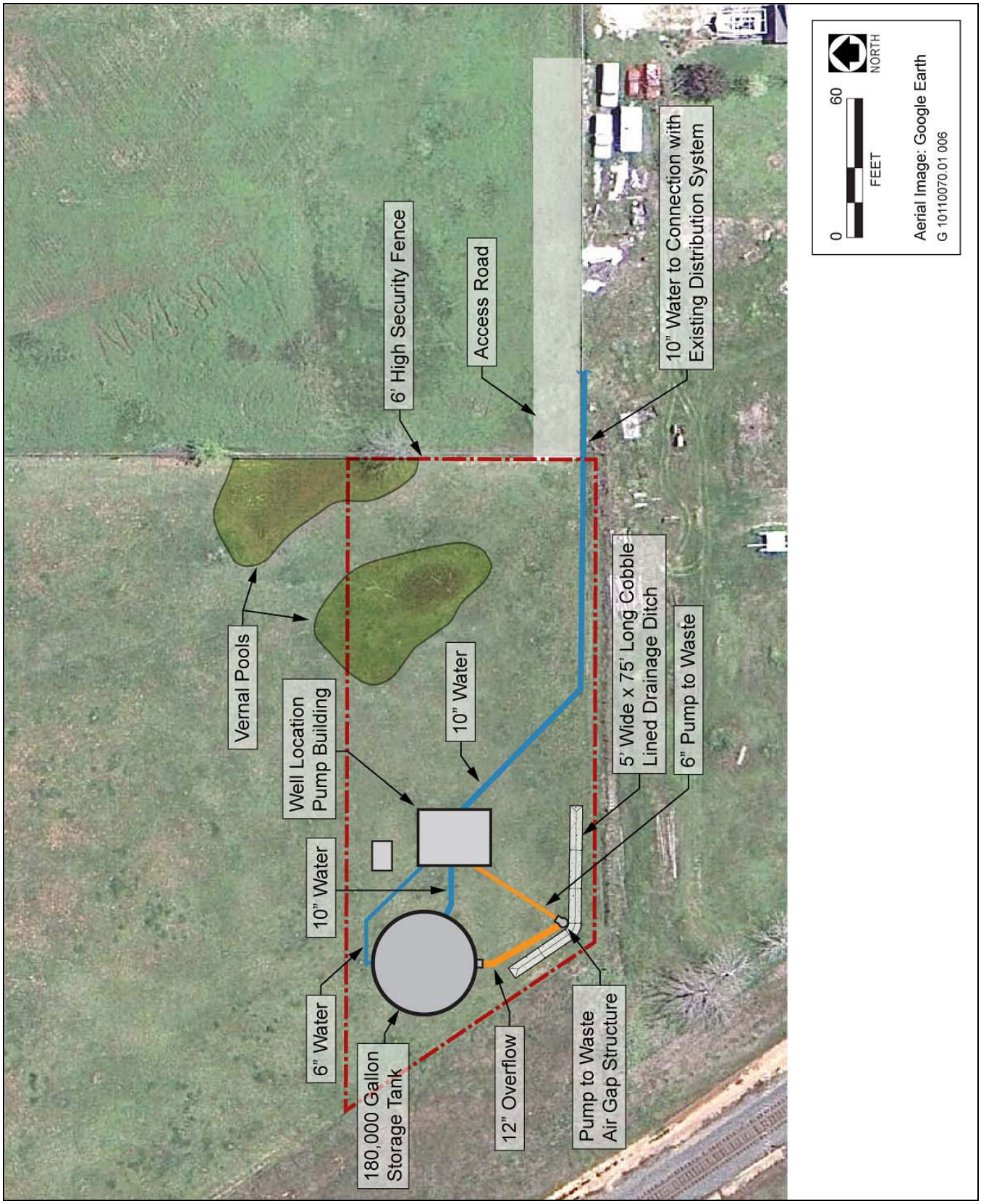
The new water supply well would be drilled to a depth of approximately 150 feet below the ground surface (bgs). The well would be constructed to meet California Well Standards Bulletin 74-90 and Placer County well installation requirements. The well would be equipped with a vertical turbine pump, discharge piping, check valve, flow meter, and pump-to-waste line. The well would pump directly into the new on-site storage tank. The pump-to-waste would be piped to a cobble-lined drainage ditch at the south-western boundary of the site (Exhibit 2-1).

2.1.2 TREATMENT

Sheridan's existing water supply system wells produce water that meets all Federal and State drinking water standards without treatment. Similarly, treatment is not anticipated to be necessary for the new well. However, once constructed, water from the new well would be tested to ensure its compliance with all applicable drinking water standards. The new well would be equipped with a small sodium hypochlorite tank and metering pump to provide disinfection, similar to what is provided at the existing well sites.

2.1.3 STORAGE

An approximately 24-foot high steel water storage tank with an operational storage capacity of 180,000 gallons and a diameter of approximately 50 feet would be constructed to meet the community's fire flow requirements (1,500 gpm for 2 hours). This tank would also be intended to provide additional connections and emergency water storage for the community.



Source: Placer County 2011

Exhibit 2-1 **Project Site Plan**

Source: Placer County 2011

Exhibit 2-2 **Pipeline Alignment Options**

2.1.4 PUMP STATION

A booster pump station would be installed at the site to boost the water supply from the tank to meet system pressure requirements. The booster pump station would also be equipped to meet fire flow demands. The pump station would include two operational pumps, a duty and standby pump, as well as a third pump to meet fire flow requirements. The well and pump would be powered using electricity provided through a tie-in connection with the existing electricity infrastructure that provides power to the park and the adjacent residences. An emergency backup generator powered by propane fuel would be used during electricity outages, if needed. The backup generator would operate one time per week for a period of 10 minutes for testing purposes and would be tested manually once per week for a period of 10 minutes by the Placer County Utilities Department staff. The tests would occur during normal business hours.

2.1.5 WELL AND PUMP STATION BUILDING

A single-story, concrete-block building with a metal roof would be constructed to house the new wellhead, associated piping, and booster pump station. The associated electrical equipment would also be housed in the approximately 700 square foot building. The building is intended to protect the equipment from the elements, to secure the new well and booster pump station improvements, and to minimize offsite noise generation from the equipment.

2.1.6 SITE IMPROVEMENTS

A 10-foot-wide access road would be constructed inside the southern boundary of Sheridan Community Park from the end of the existing Sheridan Community Park parking lot to the project site within an existing utility access easement. The access road and new well and tank site would be finished with compacted baserock to provide all-weather access to the facilities.

2.1.7 PROPOSED PIPELINE ALIGNMENT OPTIONS

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

Option 2 would extend south under Camp Far West Road until it begins to curve to the southeast. At the end of this curve, the pipeline would turn northeast toward Tenth Street. The alignment would pass by the northwestern edge of the elementary school track and the last home on the southwestern side of Tenth Street before turning

right on Tenth Street. From Tenth Street, this alignment would follow the same alignment as Option 1 to the elementary school. The segment of this alignment extending under Camp Far West Road would replace an existing 4-inch pipe with an 8-inch pipe. The segment extending between Camp Far West Road and Tenth Street would be an entirely new 8-inch pipe. Similar to Option 1, the segment under Tenth Street to the elementary school would replace existing 4- and 6-inch pipes with an 8-inch pipe.

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

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

2.2 NO-PROJECT ALTERNATIVE

Under the No-Project Alternative, the existing Sheridan water system would not be upgraded. The proposed well, (Exhibit 2-3) water storage tank, pipeline infrastructure, access road, and other components of the Proposed Project would not be constructed. As a result, the existing water system would not meet the requirements of the California Waterworks Standards for minimum daily demand and the water system would not have sufficient stored water to meet fire flow standards.

2.3 PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

The scheduled construction period for the project would take place over a six-month period, which is anticipated to begin in summer 2012. Construction would occur within the hours permitted by the Placer County Noise Ordinance (between 6:00 am and 8:00 pm, Monday through Friday and 8:00 am to 8:00 pm, Saturday and Sunday), and would include a well drilling rig, trenching equipment and supporting construction vehicles. The construction activities would include relatively limited construction equipment due to the small size of the project site and proposed facilities.

2.4 REQUIRED PERMITS AND APPROVALS

The Proposed Project would require a grading permit from Placer County; Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) due to the indirect and/or direct effects on vernal pools; a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) storm water permit for construction activity; an amendment to the County's existing California Department of Public Health permit for the new well, a County minor use permit to construct on residentially-zoned land, potential easements to accommodate the pipeline alignments, and potentially a permit from the Placer County Air Pollution Control District for the site generator. The No-Project Alternative would leave the project site in its current state, and as a result, no permits or approvals for the Proposed Project would be required. However, the community's water system would continue to be subject to the California Waterworks Standards, which would require some undetermined change in the system to ensure compliance with the CDPH permit requirements.

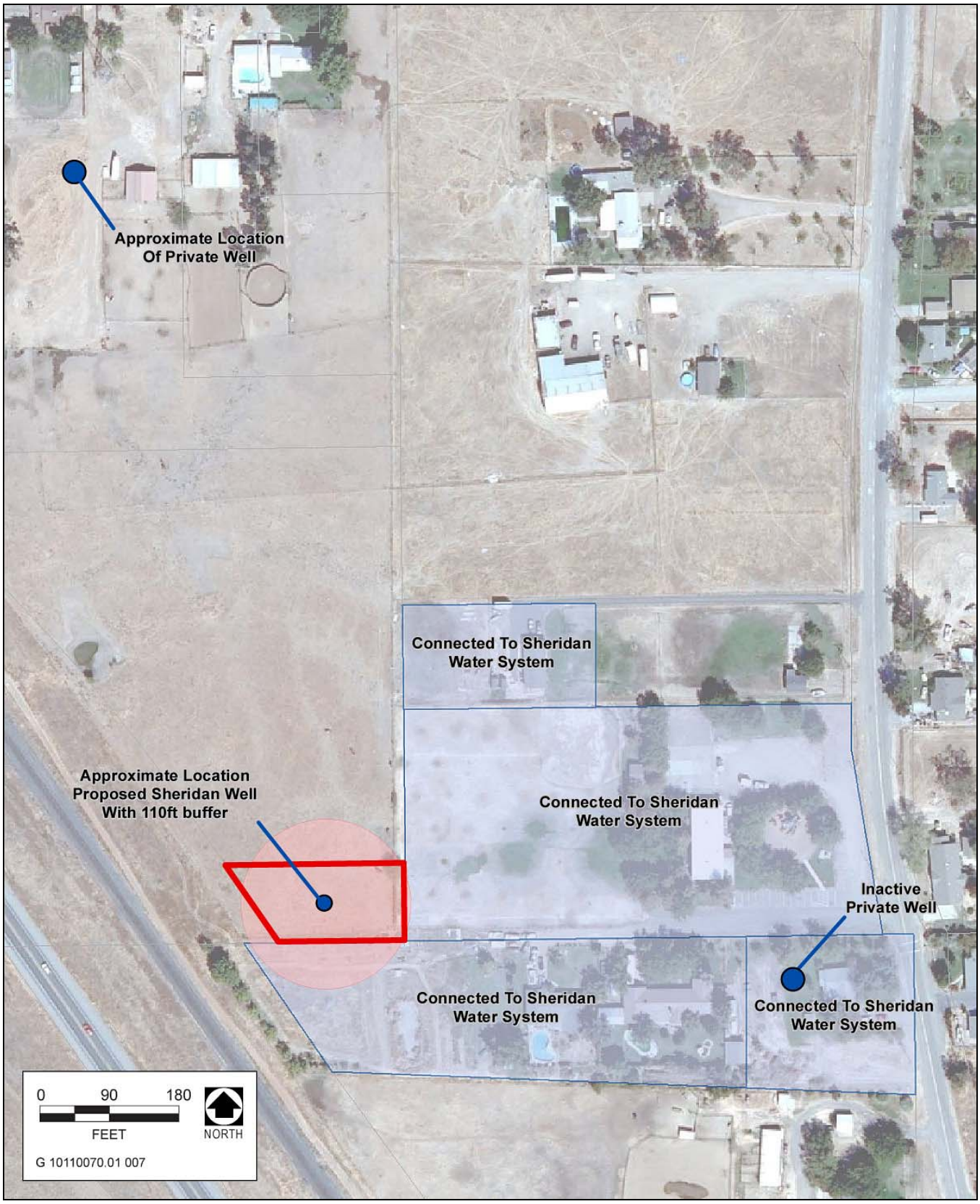


Exhibit 2-3 **Proposed Well Site**

2.5 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED

In addition to the Proposed Project, several alternatives were considered to meet the California Waterworks Standards. Potential alternatives identified included upsizing a pump at one of the community's existing wells and developing a new emergency water supply well. In addition, two alternative sites were evaluated for installation of the proposed well and water tank including at Sheridan Park, directly west of the project site, and at a mobile home park site located further west of the project site or approximately 500 feet west of Camp Far West Road. Each alternative was evaluated to determine how best it would meet the County's objectives. The Proposed Project was determined to have the best hydrogeology due to its westerly location and the fact that it is furthest from the community's existing water supply wells and adjacent wells, the least cost because the County owns the property, and the best security due to its isolated location (Brown and Caldwell 2011:Appendix E). For these reasons, the other potential alternatives were rejected from further consideration.

3 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

PROJECT INFORMATION		
1.	Project Title:	Sheridan Water Supply Improvements Project
2.	Lead Agency Name and Address:	Placer County Department of Facility Services Environmental Engineering Division 11476 “C” Avenue Auburn, CA 95603
3.	Contact Person and Phone Number:	Chris Hanson (530) 886-4965
4.	Project Location:	Community of Sheridan, Placer County APN 019-080-033
5.	Project Sponsor’s Name and Address:	Placer County Department of Facility Services Environmental Engineering Division 11476 “C” Avenue Auburn, CA 95603
6.	General Plan Designation:	Rural Residential
7.	Zoning:	Single Family Residential with a Building Site combining district with a 5 acre minimum (RS-B-X 5 AC MIN)
8.	Description of Project: (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary.) See Chapter 2, “Project Description.”	
9.	Surrounding Land Uses and Setting: (Briefly describe the project’s surroundings)	The 0.45-acre project site proposed for the new well and storage tank is located east of State Route 65 and the Southern Pacific Railroad and west of Camp Far West Road. The site will be accessed through the adjacent Sheridan Community Park located on Camp Far West Road. Two homes and the park are accessed via this road, and another three homes are located in the immediate vicinity and are accessed via Camp Far West Road. The project site is currently undeveloped.
10:	Other public agencies whose approval is required: (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement)	California Department of Housing and Community Development’s Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG); U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board; California Department of Public Health, and Placer County Air Pollution Control District

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Agriculture Resources	☐ Air Quality
☐ Biological Resources	☐ Cultural Resources	☐ Geology / Soils
☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Hazards & Hazardous Materials	☐ Hydrology / Water Quality
☐ Land Use / Planning	☐ Mineral Resources	☐ Noise
☐ Population / Housing	☐ Public Services	☐ Recreation
☐ Transportation / Traffic	☐ Utilities / Service Systems	☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance
		☒ None With Mitigation

DETERMINATION (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☐ I find that the proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment, and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.

☒ I find that although the proposed project COULD have a significant effect on the environment, there WILL NOT be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.

☐ I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a significant effect on the environment, and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required.

☐ I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier **EIR** or **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier **EIR** or **NEGATIVE DECLARATION**, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Signature	Date
Printed Name	Title
Agency	

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.

3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

4. "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses," as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).

5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:

   a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.

   b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.

   c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

7. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

8. This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.

9. The explanation of each issue should identify:
   the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
   the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

3.1 AESTHETICS

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. Aesthetics. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☒	☐

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The project site is located off of Camp Far West Road in the community of Sheridan in unincorporated western Placer County. Sheridan and the surrounding area are relatively flat with little variation in topography in the immediate vicinity. The area contains primarily rural single family residential lots, some vacant parcels, with grazing lands and other agricultural lands at the edges of the community. Vacant lots and grazing lands are covered in non-native grasses. Ornamental trees are scattered throughout the community.

The vacant project site is vegetated with grasses. The site is located within a larger area that has a perimeter fence that limits access. A community park is located directly to the east, rural residences are located to the southeast, SR 65 and the Southern Pacific Railroad rail line are located directly to the west, and grazing lands are located to the north, with more rural residences located further to the north. An irrigation canal is located less than one-quarter mile to the northwest. Agricultural grazing lands are located west of SR 65 and further to the north.

DISCUSSION

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

The project site is not located within, or within view of, a scenic vista. Therefore, the Proposed Project would have **no impact** on a scenic vista.

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

SR 65, which is located directly west of the project site, is not designated a state scenic highway and the project site is not located within the viewshed of a state-designated scenic highway. Therefore, the Proposed Project would have **no impact** on a state scenic highway.

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

The project elements that would be visible from surrounding areas would include the approximately 24-foot tall water storage tank, the single-story well and pump station building, the site access road, and the perimeter fencing. The introduction of these project elements would result in some change in the site's visual character. However, due to the relatively small size of the building (approximately 700 square feet) and water storage tank (approximately 50 feet in diameter), these changes would be relatively minor. These structures would be consistent with the rural built environment in the community of Sheridan and would not represent a substantial degradation of the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. The Proposed Project would also include the installation of new pipelines underground. Although the construction activities necessary to install these pipelines would be visible, the pipelines would not be visible following construction. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings and this impact would be **less than significant**.

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

New lighting sources at the project site would be limited to minor night lighting for security purposes. The lighting is expected to be shielded to limit its visibility off of the site and it would be consistent with residential building lighting in the local area. Therefore, the Proposed Project is not anticipated to create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area and this impact would be **less than significant.**

3.2 AGRICULTURAL & FOREST RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
II. Agricultural and Forest Resources.				
In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997, as updated) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board.				
Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The project site is located on an approximately 0.45-acre vacant parcel in Sheridan. Adjacent uses include a park, vacant land, SR 65, and several rural residential homes. Agricultural grazing lands are located southwest of SR 65. A large area of Prime Farmland is located approximately one mile northwest of the project site that is bisected by SR 65 near the Yuba County boundary. Lands to the east and south are primarily developed with rural

residential uses. The project site is zoned for Single Family Residential uses with a Building Site combining district with a 5 acre minimum (RS-B-X 5 AC MIN). This zoning district does not permit major agricultural uses.

DISCUSSION

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

The project site is located on land designated by the California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) as grazing land and urban. Implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in the conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide importance, and it would not interfere with activities on Important Farmlands. Therefore, there would be **no impact** on Important Farmland.

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

The project site is not zoned for agricultural uses and is not located on, or adjacent to, land that is currently under Williamson Act contract. Therefore, there would be **no impact**.

c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?

The project site is not located in an area with forest land or any land zoned for forest land. Therefore, there would be **no impact**.

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

The project site does not contain, and is not located in the vicinity of, any forest land. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in the loss of forest land or the conversion of forest land to a non-forest use. There would **no impact**.

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

The project site is not located on or directly adjacent to farmland or forest land. The project would involve the development of a new groundwater well and a water storage tank on a small County-owned parcel located between SR 65 and a community park. An area of Unique Farmland is located approximately one-quarter mile to the northwest on the west side of SR 65 and some Farmland of Local Importance is located directly west of SR 65 across from the project site. The Proposed Project does not include any components that would cause conversion of either farmland or forest land. Therefore, there would be **no impact**.

3.3 AIR QUALITY

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
III. Air Quality.				
Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied on to make the following determinations.				
Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The project site is located in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin, within the jurisdiction of the Placer County Air Pollution Control District (PCAPCD). PCAPCD adopts rules and issues permits consistent with County and State regulations.

The concentration of air pollutants within the air basin varies from day to day depending on the ability of the atmosphere to disperse pollutants. Atmospheric dispersal is dependent on various factors, including topography, air flow, and climate.

Both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Air Resources Board (ARB) designate areas of the state as attainment, nonattainment, or unclassified for the various pollutant standards. An “attainment” designation for an area signifies that pollutant concentrations did not violate the standard for that pollutant in that area. A “nonattainment” designation indicates that a pollutant concentration violated the standard at least once, excluding those occasions when a violation was caused by an exceptional event, as identified in the criteria. An “unclassified” designation signifies that data do not support either an attainment or nonattainment status. In addition, each agency has several levels of classification used to further describe the severity of nonattainment conditions. For instance, the ARB classifies nonattainment areas into moderate, serious, or severe air pollution categories, with increasingly strict control requirements mandated for each.

The attainment status designations of the Placer County portion of the Sacramento Valley Air Basin are "serious nonattainment" for the State 1-hour and Federal 8-hour ozone standard, nonattainment for the State and unclassified for the Federal 24-hour PM_{10} (particulate matter of 10 microns or less) standards, nonattainment for the State annual $PM_{2.5}$ (particulate matter of 2.5 microns or less) standard, and attainment or unclassified for all other pollutants.

DISCUSSION

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

The Proposed Project would develop a groundwater well, water storage tank, and associated infrastructure. The project does not include any components that would interfere with any air quality plans. The Proposed Project is consistent with the Placer County General Plan land use designation and zoning for the site with the issuance of conditional use permits and the facilities would be located on a site appropriate for the proposed use. The project does not include any components that are expected to substantially increase air emissions in the area, and does not include any uses that would violate the State Implementation Plan requirements for Placer County. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan and there would be **no impact**.

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

Limited air emissions would be generated during project construction from construction equipment exhaust and dust generation. However, due to the small area of disturbance and the relatively short construction period, these emissions are considered to be temporary and negligible.

Following construction, the operation of the facility equipment would not be expected to generate substantial air emissions. The water pumps would be electrically powered and the operation of the emergency generator would be powered by propane fuel. The emergency generator would be operated for a total of approximately 20 minutes per week for testing purposes. It would only be used for a longer duration during emergency outages and would be required to comply with all applicable permitting requirements dictated by the Placer County Air Pollution Control District.

Indirect impacts that would occur as a result of project operation include emissions from maintenance vehicles accessing the site and air emissions generated offsite during the production of the electricity that would power the onsite pumps. Emissions generated by maintenance vehicles accessing the site by County personnel would occur infrequently and would typically be limited to a single vehicle. The facility would not include any regular on-site staff. The indirect emissions generated with project implementation would be negligible due to the small size of the project and its minimal maintenance requirements. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not be expected to violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation and this impact would be **less than significant**.

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

As mentioned under the analysis of Item b) above, the Proposed Project would contribute only negligible air emissions to the regional air basin. The project would not create enough air pollutants either directly or indirectly, to have a considerable cumulative net increase of any criteria pollutant. This impact is **less than significant**.

d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

As mentioned above under the analyses for Items b) and c), the Proposed Project would not result in substantial amounts of criteria pollutants either directly or indirectly. Therefore, this impact is **less than significant**.

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

The project would use sodium hypochlorite, or bleach, for disinfection. Sodium hypochlorite is often used in place of other disinfectants, such as chlorine, to control odors, although some people find that sodium hypochlorite does have a smell that could be considered unpleasant by some. However, the sodium hypochlorite used would be located within the pump house building, so the chance of odors being detected offsite is minimal. This impact is **less than significant**.

3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IV. Biological Resources. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

A 1.85-acre area surrounding the 0.45-acre project site was used as the "study area" for a wetland delineation (Appendix A) and biological assessment (BA) prepared for the Proposed Project. The wetland delineation, prepared by AECOM in 2011, determined that the study area contained 1.79 acres of annual grassland and two vernal pools, 0.03 acre each, for a total of 0.06 acre of vernal pool habitat. Both vernal pools straddle the project site's northern boundary. At the request of Placer County, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducted a jurisdictional determination of these vernal pools and concluded that they are not regulated by the USACE and are not subject to the jurisdiction of Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act, as confirmed by the October 2011 letter from the USACE included as Appendix C. An additional biological evaluation was conducted for each of the three proposed pipeline alignment options to determine what, if any, impacts would occur with these alignment options. The results of this biological evaluation are discussed below.

PROJECT SITE

The majority of the project site and study area is comprised of non-native annual grassland. The annual grassland habitat is dominated by Mediterranean barley, graceful tarplant (*Holocarpha virgata*), lesser hawkbit (*Leontodon taraxacoides*), medusahead (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*). This habitat is not dominated by hydrophytic plant species and lacks wetland hydrology.

Vernal Pool 1 (VP1), the majority of which is located within the project site boundary, is dominated by Mediterranean barley (*Hordeum marinum* ssp. *gussoneanum*), waxy mannagrass (*Glyceria declinata*), and spike rush (*Eleocharis macrostachya*). Vernal Pool 2 (VP2), the majority of which is located outside of the project site boundary, is dominated by waxy mannagrass and rabbitsfoot grass (*Polypogon monspeliensis*).

The project site does not contain any other bodies of water that could provide habitat for aquatic species, and the vernal pools lack surface connections to other waters of the United States and do not appear to contribute significantly to the biological, chemical, or physical character of down-gradient waters of the United States.

PIPELINE ALIGNMENTS

Two potential wetlands within the non-native grassland habitat are located within proximity of pipeline alignment Options 1 and 2. A seasonal wetland is present west of the community's existing groundwater well site near the elementary school track. Another seasonal wetland is located north of the existing well site and north of the elementary school's track. The two seasonal wetlands appear to be physically distinct from each other as upland vegetation was observed between the two wetlands and no evidence of surface hydrology was observed in the grassland habitat that separates the two wetlands. These two wetlands may be subject to USACE jurisdiction pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and a formal delineation would be required to establish USACE jurisdiction.

The seasonal wetland near the existing well site is located south of the Option 2 alignment. This seasonal wetland is dominated by common rush (*Eleocharis macrostachya*) and rough cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*). The seasonal wetland crosses the existing unimproved road, which provides access from Camp Far West Road to the existing well.

The second seasonal wetland is located in close proximity to both pipeline alignment Options 1 and 2. This seasonal wetland is also dominated by common rush. Curly dock (*Rumex crispus*) and tall flat sedge (*Cyperus eragrostis*) are also prevalent in this seasonal wetland. Within this seasonal wetland, large depressions contain standing water and support obligate wetland species typical of freshwater marsh habitat including narrow-leaf cattail (*Typha angustifolia*) and hardstem bulrush (*Schoenoplectus acutus*). A portion of this seasonal wetland is identified on the National Wetland Inventory (NWI). Several trees surround the open water depressions including black willow (*Salix gooddingii*) and Fremont's cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*). A swale connects this seasonal wetland to the roadside ditch along Camp Far West Road.

A drainage ditch is also located directly north of pipeline alignment Option 1 approximately half way between Camp Far West Road and Tenth Street. This swale does not have a surface connection to other potential wetlands and is characterized by the following species: curly dock, fluellin (*Kickxia* sp.), English plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), and field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*). This swale is not subject to USACE jurisdiction under

Section 404 of the CWA because the USACE does not regulate swales that lack a connection to other waters of the United States.

Roadside ditches are present along both sides of Camp Far West Road. The topography of this area slopes gently from the north to the south. Roadside ditches contain weedy species including ripgut brome, Johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense*), Bermuda grass, hawkbit (*Leontodon taraxacoides*), prickly lettuce, and curly dock. The ditches are intermittent along Camp Far West Road and do not appear to be connected to other streams or drainages and are therefore not regulated by the USACE pursuant to Section 404 of the CWA.

SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES

Based on a records search, the following federally listed species have the potential to occur within the USGS Sheridan and Lincoln quadrangles within the project site: Valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*), Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardi*), Delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*), Central Valley steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Giant garter snake (*Thamnophis giga*), and California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*). However, most of these species were determined to be unlikely to occur because suitable habitat for these species does not occur within the project site.

The only listed species that were determined to have suitable habitat within the project site were Conservancy fairy shrimp, vernal pool fairy shrimp, and vernal pool tadpole shrimp. There are known locality records for Conservancy fairy shrimp (one record), vernal pool fairy shrimp (two records), and vernal pool tadpole shrimp (one record) within 5 miles of the project site. Given this information, Conservancy fairy shrimp, vernal pool fairy shrimp, and vernal pool tadpole shrimp have the potential to occur within the project vicinity.

DISCUSSION

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

Implementation of the Proposed Project would result in the direct filling of the vernal pool habitat on the project site. Approximately 0.03 acre of vernal pool habitat is present on the project site, including the 0.02 acre of VP 1 and 0.01 acre of VP 2. All of this habitat would be filled with implementation of the Proposed Project. In addition, the remaining 0.03 acre of combined habitat within VP 1 and VP 2 is assumed to be indirectly affected with implementation of the Proposed Project due to the disruption of the pool's hydrology and the sedimentation that would occur with the filling of a portion of the pools. The direct and indirect impacts associated with the Proposed Project on the vernal pools that may contain special-status vernal pool branchiopod species is considered **potentially significant**.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1

In order to minimize indirect impacts to the offsite vernal pool habitat located directly north of the project boundary, a qualified biologist shall be retained to conduct worker awareness training for construction personnel. The qualified biologist shall conduct worker awareness trainings for all construction personnel before ground-

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

Mitigation Measure BIO-2

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

Mitigation Measure BIO-3

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

Mitigation Measure BIO-4

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

Mitigation Measure BIO-5

The project shall implement best management practices (BMPs) in accordance with the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan that is prepared as a requirement of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit issued by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board in order to control erosion during and after construction of the project. Erosion control measures and BMPs, which retain soil or sediment, control runoff from watering for dust control, and control hazardous materials on the construction site and prevent these from entering the offsite vernal pool habitat, shall be placed, monitored, and maintained throughout the construction operations. These measures and BMPs may include, but are not limited to, silt fencing, sterile hay bales, vegetative strips, hydroseeding, and temporary sediment disposal. All BMPs will be removed from the site after the completion of construction.

Mitigation Measure BIO-6

The County shall acquire vernal pool habitat mitigation credits from a USFWS-approved mitigation bank for listed vernal pool branchiopod species for direct impacts to 0.03 acre and for indirect impacts to 0.03 acre of vernal pool habitat at a ratio determined by the USFWS. This purchase will occur prior to the initiation of construction and proof of payment and credit acquisition shall be provided to the USFWS and Placer County prior to the initiation of construction.

Implementation of these mitigation measures would ensure that the direct and indirect impacts of the Proposed Project are appropriately offset through the purchase of mitigation credits. This would make this impact **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

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

The project site does not contain any riparian habitat or sensitive natural communities as identified by the California Department of Fish and Game or the USFWS. Therefore, there is **no impact**.

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

As described under item a) above, the Proposed Project would have potentially direct and indirect impacts on the vernal pool wetlands that area located on and directly off of the project site. Mitigation measures listed above would reduce these impacts to a less-than-significant level.

The proposed pipeline alignments for the Proposed Project also have the potential to affect wetlands. Pipeline alignment Option 1 has the potential to have indirect effects on a seasonal wetland south of the alignment and on a swale adjacent to the alignment between Camp Far West Road and Tenth Street. These indirect effects could occur due to the proximity of the trenching activity within approximately 25 feet of the wetland and swale. This impact would be **potentially significant**. However, because this alignment would not result in direct wetland fill, a Clean Water Act Nationwide Permit would not be necessary for the pipe installation along this route.

Pipeline alignment Option 2 also has the potential to have indirect effects on seasonal wetland because it would traverse between two seasonal wetlands. These indirect effects could occur due to the proximity of the trenching activity within approximately 25 feet of the seasonal wetlands. This impact would be **potentially significant**. However, because this alignment would not result in direct wetland fill, a Clean Water Act Nationwide Permit would not be necessary for the pipe installation along this route.

Pipeline alignment Option 3 would have no effect on wetlands and **no impact** would occur.

Mitigation Measure BIO-7

For all of the pipeline alignments, the County shall implement the BMPs identified in Mitigation Measure HYD-1 below to ensure that soil erosion during construction is not transported into the adjacent wetlands. Also, when

pipeline trenching occurs within close proximity to wetland fills, high-visibility fencing shall be placed two feet outside of the wetland boundary to minimize direct impacts.

Implementation of this mitigation measure would ensure that the direct and indirect impacts of the Proposed Project on wetlands are appropriately minimized. This would make this impact **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

The project site does not contain any hydrologically connected waters that would support native resident or migratory fish. In addition, the project site is not located within a migratory wildlife corridor and is fenced, which limits wildlife access to the site. Therefore, the project would not interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. There would be **no impact**.

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

Placer County contains several policies and ordinances intended to protect biological resources, including a Tree Preservation Ordinance, a Right-to-Farm Ordinance, Environmental Review Ordinance, and many General Plan policies. The project would not remove any trees, remove farmland, or develop uses that are sensitive to adjacent farming activities. The project would comply with the requirements of the Environmental Review Ordinance. The goals and policies of the Placer County General Plan include a “no net loss” policy for wetland areas; require mitigation for wetland loss; discourage direct runoff from projects into wetland areas; and the conservation of areas located upland of wetlands. The Proposed Project includes vernal pool impacts but also includes mitigation to offset these impacts. It, therefore, complies with these policies. Therefore, the Proposed Project is not anticipated to conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. There would be **no impact**.

f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

The project area is not currently located within an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) or Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) area, although Placer County is currently in the process of developing the Placer County Conservation Plan, which includes a joint HCP/NCCP. The Plan is intended to provide a framework to protect, enhance, and restore natural resources in Placer County. The Plan is still in draft form and has not yet been adopted. Therefore, **no impact** would occur relative to this plan.

3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

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

INTRODUCTION AND METHODS

Efforts to identify cultural resources within the project area consisted of a records search, conducting a cultural resources pedestrian survey of the project area and consultation with Native Americans.

A cultural resources records search (File No. PLA-11-52) was conducted by the North Central Information Center (NCIC) staff in July 2011. The NCIC of the California Historical Resources Information System is located at California State University, Sacramento. By request from AECOM, the NCIC staff conducted a records search that consisted of a review of the state's database of cultural resources studies and recorded cultural resource sites for the project site and a ½-mile radius surrounding the site. Other sources consulted included the national and state inventories and registers of historic properties, standard historical references, and pertinent historic maps.

On August 13, 2011 and October 25, 2011, an AECOM staff archaeologist conducted a pedestrian survey of the currently undeveloped 0.45-acre project site, the new access road, and the three pipeline alignments. The area surveyed for the new access road is located along the inside southern boundary of Sheridan Community Park and is approximately 330 feet long and 30 feet wide. Ground surface visibility was excellent over the 0.45-acre project area because the area appears to be used as a horse corral, which seems to have kept the vegetation low. However, along the alignment of the proposed new access road and the pipeline alignments, the vegetation was only partially mowed, thus allowing only approximately 50% ground visibility in some areas.

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was contacted by AECOM on July 19, 2011. NAHC was requested to search their Sacred Lands files and to provide a list of Native Americans that should be contacted about the Proposed Project. The NAHC responded to AECOM's information request on July 21, 2011. As indicated in materials provided in Appendix B, the search of their Sacred Lands files resulted in the finding of no presence of Native American cultural resources in the immediate project area. Additionally, the NAHC provided a list of Native American individuals and organizations for Placer County who may have interest or knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. On behalf of Placer County, AECOM prepared and mailed project

information letters to all those Native American contacts provided by the NAHC for Placer County. These letters provided a general project description along with a location map and request for any information or concerns these contacts may have pertinent to this water supply facility installation.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The community of Sheridan was established during the mid-1800s and is located adjacent to the Southern Pacific Railroad. The vicinity of the project area is characterized by open, gentle rolling grasslands vegetated predominantly with non-native grasses and weeds. The project site is located on a relatively flat parcel surrounded by rural neighborhoods on the north edge of central Sheridan. The project area is located adjacent to SR 65 and the Southern Pacific Railroad line. The nearest natural water source to the project location is the Bear River located approximately 1.5-miles to the north.

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

The NCIC findings for the records search conducted for the project indicated that no cultural resource studies have been previously conducted within the project area and no cultural resources have been previously recorded within the project area. Additionally, only two previous studies have been conducted within the ½-mile radius adjacent to the project area within the last 10 years (2004, NCIC report #6592; 2008, NCIC #10031). Two historical buildings have been previously recorded in Sheridan and are located substantially outside of the area of potential effect. The pedestrian survey resulted in no new cultural resources being identified within the project area.

At the time of this document's preparation, two responses from Native Americans that were contacted concerning the Proposed Project had been received:

- On September 9, 2011 Daniel Fonseca, Assistant Director of the Shingle Springs Rancheria responded by letter indicating that the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians is not aware of any cultural resources at the project site but that they would like to have continued consultation if new information arises or if human remains are discovered at the project site.

- Gregory S. Baker, Tribal Administrator from United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) of the Auburn Rancheria responded by letter on September 26, 2011. Mr. Baker requested copies of any archaeological reports that have been, or will be, completed for the project so that the UAIC can ascertain whether or not the project could affect cultural resources that may be important to them. Placer County will send all subsequent cultural resource reports to Mr. Baker.

A cultural resources report was prepared by AECOM, which fully documents the findings and Native American consultation. Records of Native American consultation can be found in Appendix B.

3.5.1 REGULATORY SETTING

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Federal, state, and local governments have developed laws and regulations designed to consider project effects on significant cultural resources that may be affected by actions that they undertake or regulate. The National

Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and CEQA are the primary federal and state laws governing the preservation of historic and archaeological resources of national, regional, state, and/or local significance.

Federal Regulations

The Proposed Project would utilize funding from HCD and RUS. Because this project would utilize federal funding, this action is required to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 as amended, and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800). Section 106 of the NHPA requires that, before beginning any undertaking, a federal agency, or in this case HCD, must take into account the effects of the undertaking on historic properties and afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) an opportunity to comment on these actions. The Section 106 review process involves a four-step procedure:

- Initiate the Section 106 process by establishing the undertaking, developing a plan for public involvement, and identifying other consulting parties
- Identify historic properties by determining the scope of efforts, identifying cultural resources and evaluating their eligibility for inclusion in the NRHP,
- Assess adverse effects by applying the criteria of adverse effect to historic properties (resources that are eligible for inclusion in the NRHP),
- Resolve adverse effects by consulting with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and other consulting agencies, including the Advisory Council if necessary, to develop an agreement that addresses the treatment of historic properties.

Specific regulations regarding compliance with Section 106 state that, although the tasks necessary to comply with Section 106 may be delegated to others, the federal agency is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the Section 106 process is completed.

Under federal regulations, a project has an effect on an historic property when the undertaking could alter the characteristics of the property that may qualify the property for inclusion in the NRHP, including alteration of location, setting, or use. An undertaking may be considered to have an adverse effect on an historic property when the effect may diminish the integrity of the property's location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association. Adverse effects on historic properties include, but are not limited to,

- physical destruction or alteration of all or part of the property
- isolation of the property from or alteration of the property's setting when that character contributes to the property's qualifications for listing in the NRHP
- introduction of visual, audible, or atmospheric elements that are out of character with the property or that alter its setting
- neglect of a property resulting in its deterioration or destruction; or
- transfer, lease, or sale of the property (36 CFR 800.9).

California State Regulations

Cultural resources are defined as buildings, sites, structures, or objects, each of which may have historic, architectural, archaeological, cultural, or scientific importance. Under CEQA, public agencies must consider the effects of their actions on "historical resources." CEQA defines a "historical resource" as any resource listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR). The CRHR includes resources listed in or formally determined eligible for listing in the NRHP. Pursuant to Public Resources Code, Section 21084.1, a "project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment."

Under the State CEQA statutes, an impact on a cultural resource is considered significant if a project would result in an effect that may change the significance of the resource (Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 21084.1). Demolition, replacement, substantial alteration, and relocation of historic properties are actions that would change the significance of an historic resource (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, 15064.5). Before the level of significance of impacts can be determined and appropriate mitigation measures developed, the significance of cultural resources must be determined. The following steps are normally taken in a cultural resources investigation to comply with CEQA:

- Identify cultural resources.
- Evaluate the significance of the cultural resources based on established thresholds of significance.
- Evaluate the effects of a project on all cultural resources.
- Develop and implement measures to mitigate the effects of the project on significant cultural resources.

Because the project is also located on non-federal land in California, it is also necessary to comply with state laws pertaining to the inadvertent discovery of human remains of Native American origin. The procedures that must be followed if burials of Native American origin are discovered on non-federal land in California are described in the Impacts and Mitigation section, below.

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

No historical resources were identified in the project area. However, two historical structures were identified by the NCIC as being located within a 1/2-mile radius of the project area. These resources are some distance from the proposed site of the water tank and other facilities. Therefore, these two historic structures would not be affected by the project. The project area is currently undeveloped and does not contain any historic resources. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource and there would be **no impact**.

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

Based on a review of the state's data files located at the NCIC and the findings of the intensive pedestrian survey of the project area conducted by a professional archaeologist, the Sheridan water supply system improvements project is considered very unlikely to result in an impact to cultural resources. No cultural resources have been

identified in the project area. However, although the pedestrian survey provides a reasonable effort to determine the presence or absence of cultural resources, subsurface findings cannot be determined. Thus, the possibility remains that archaeological resources now buried or obscured by vegetation that could not be identified during field survey could be inadvertently unearthed during ground-disturbing activities, which could result in the demolition or substantial damage to significant archaeological resources. Damage to or the destruction of these archaeological materials would be a **potentially significant impact**.

Mitigation Measure CR-1

If archaeological artifacts, exotic rock (non-native), or unusual amounts of shell or bone, midden deposits, historic debris, building foundations, human bone, or paleontological resources are uncovered during any on-site construction activities, all work must stop immediately within 100 feet of the area and a SOPA-certified (Society of Professional Archaeologists) and/or Register of Professional Archaeologist (or Paleontologist, if appropriate) shall be retained to evaluate the deposits. The Placer County Planning Department and Department of Museums must also be contacted for review of the archaeological find(s). Work in the area may only resume after authorization is granted by the Placer County Planning Department.

The implementation of this mitigation measure would reduce this impact to **less-than-significant with mitigation incorporated**.

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

The construction excavation activities would occur primarily in what appears to be native, previously unexcavated soil. No paleontological resources were observed or appear likely to be present in the project area. However, since the potential exists for buried remains to be unearthed during construction activities such as trenching and excavation, there is a possibility that such a resource could be unearthed during construction activities. The direct or indirect destruction of paleontological resources or a unique geologic feature would be a **potentially significant impact**.

Implement Mitigation Measure CR-1.

Implementation of Mitigation Measure CR-1 would avoid or reduce this potential impact on paleontological resources or unique geologic features, if discovered. This would make this impact **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

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

Based on the findings of the records search and the pedestrian survey of the project area, interred human remains are not known to be located within or near the project area and thus, no significant impact is anticipated. However, it is possible that ground disturbing activities associated with the proposed water supply facility could result in the inadvertent discovery and destruction of buried human remains. This impact to human remains would be considered a significant impact. California law recognizes the need to protect historic-era and Native American human burials, skeletal remains, and items associated with Native American interments from vandalism and inadvertent destruction. The procedures for the treatment of Native American human remains are contained in California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and Section 7052 and California Public Resources Code

Section 5097. In the event that human remains are unearthed during construction activities, this would be a **potentially significant impact**.

Mitigation Measure CR-2

In accordance with the California Health and Safety Code, if human remains are uncovered during ground-disturbing activities, the construction contractor shall immediately halt potentially damaging ground disturbing activity in the area of the remains and within 100-feet of the find and notify the Placer County Coroner, the appropriate Placer County representative, and a professional archaeologist specializing in Human Osteology and approved by the County to determine the nature of the remains.

The coroner is required to examine all discoveries of human remains within 48 hours of receiving notice of a discovery on private or state lands (Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5[b]). If the coroner determines that the remains are those of Native American origin, he or she must contact the NAHC by telephone within 24 hours of making that determination (Health and Safety Code Section 7050[c]). Following the coroner's findings, the County, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), the construction contractor, the archaeologist, and the NAHC-designated Most Likely Descendent (MLD) shall determine the ultimate treatment and disposition of the remains and take appropriate steps to ensure that additional human interments are not disturbed. The responsibilities for acting upon notification of a discovery of Native American human remains are identified in California Public Resources Code Section 5097.9.

The County and HCD shall ensure that the area of the discovery and the immediate vicinity within 100 feet of the find (according to generally accepted cultural or archaeological standards and practices) is cordoned off and not damaged or disturbed by further ground-disturbing activity (including pedestrian traffic) until consultation with the MLD has taken place. The MLD shall have 48 hours to complete a site inspection and make recommendations after being granted access to the site. A range of possible treatments for the remains, including nondestructive removal and analysis, preservation in place, relinquishment of the remains and associated items to the descendents, or other culturally appropriate treatment may be discussed. The concerned parties may extend discussions beyond the initial 48 hours to allow for the discovery of additional remains.

Implementation of Mitigation Measure CR-2 would ensure that proper procedures are followed in the event that human remains are discovered during construction activities. This impact would be reduced to **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

3.6 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VI. Geology and Soils. Would the project:				
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? (Refer to California Geological Survey Special Publication 42.)	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994, as updated), creating substantial risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☒

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The project site is located in the Sacramento Valley northeast of the city of Lincoln on the valley floor. Together, the Sacramento Valley and the San Joaquin Valley, beginning approximately 50 miles to the south, make up the Great Valley of California. The Great Valley Geomorphic Province is located between the Sierra Nevada Geomorphic Province on the east and the Coast Range Geomorphic Province on the west. The majority of the Great Valley is covered with recent (Holocene, less than 10,000 years ago) and Pleistocene alluvium. This alluvium is composed of sediments that have washed downstream by water from the Sierra Nevada mountains and Coast Ranges and deposited on the valley floor, resulting in a flat valley floor underlain by soils dominated by sediment. Siltstone, claystone, and sandstone are the primary types of sedimentary deposits in the valley. The Sierra Nevada foothills are located within five miles to the northeast, and the Bear River is located approximately 1.5 miles to the north.

Western Placer County is an area of low probability for seismic hazards. According to the *Simplified Fault Activity Map of California* (Jennings and Saucedo 1999), the Bear Mountains Fault is the closest fault to the project site. This fault's last known activity near in Placer County occurred more than 10,000 years other. Other segments of the fault may have experienced activity later. The Foothills Fault Zone is located slightly east of the Bear Mountains Fault, and has the greatest potential to result in seismic activity in the area. The Foothills Fault Zone stretches from near Oroville to east of Fresno. This fault system produced the 1975 Oroville earthquake. The Willows Fault Zone is located to the west in Sutter County and was likely last active 10,000 years ago. Despite the presence of these faults, Placer County does not contain any Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones, and the probability of groundshaking is considered low (Barnum et al 2008).

According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey (WSS) of Placer County, Western Part, California, the soils within the study area belong to the San Joaquin and Fiddyment-Kaseberg soil series (NRCS 2009). Most of the project site is underlain by the soil type San Joaquin Sandy Loam, 1-5% Slopes, although there is a narrow strip of Fiddyment-Kaseberg Loams, 2-9% Slopes.

San Joaquin soils are generally moderately deep, well-drained soils formed from alluvium derived from mixed, but predominantly granitic rock sources. These soils are moderately well-drained, have medium to very high runoff, and very slow permeability. Some areas are subject to rare or occasionally flooding. San Joaquin soils have a low potential for shrink-swell at depths between 0 to 15 feet below the ground surface and low risk for erosion potential (SCS 1980: Table 12).

Fiddyment soils are moderately deep, well-drained, have medium runoff, and very slow permeability. They are generally found on nearly level to rolling low terraces and hills. Kaseberg soils are shallow, well-drained soils found on nearly level to rolling low terraces and hills. They also have medium runoff and moderate permeability. The Fiddyment-Kaseberg soil unit has a low potential for shrink-swell at depths between 0 to 15 feet below the ground surface and low risk for erosion potential (SCS 1980: Table 12).

DISCUSSION

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

i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? (Refer to California Geological Survey Special Publication 42.)

The project site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. Therefore, there is **no impact**.

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

Ground shaking occurs as a result of energy released during faulting, which could potentially result in the damage or collapse of buildings and other structures, depending on the magnitude of the earthquake, the location of the epicenter, and the character and duration of the ground motion. The project site is not located in an area of California considered to be at a high risk of strong seismic groundshaking. According to the California Geological Survey, western Placer County has a low probability of groundshaking. Therefore, this impact is considered **less than significant**.

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

The primary factors in determining liquefaction potential are soil type, the level and duration of seismic ground motions, and the depth to groundwater. Sandy, loose, or unconsolidated soils are susceptible to liquefaction hazards. Liquefaction and other seismically-induced forms of ground movement have historically occurred throughout California during major earthquake events. These phenomena generally consist of lateral movement, flow, or vertical settlement of saturated, unconsolidated soil in response to strong ground motion. Due to the limited seismic activity in the project area and the depth to groundwater, the Proposed Project would not be adversely affected by liquefaction. This impact is considered **less than significant**.

iv) Landslides?

The project site is flat and is not located near any slopes, so the chance of landslide is highly unlikely. There would be **no impact**.

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

The soil units located within the project site do not have a high potential for soil erosion. In addition, due to the flat character of the project site and the small building footprint, substantial soil erosion would not be anticipated. However, in addition to construction of the pump building and tank, the project would include the excavation of soil from the pipeline trench and the placement of that soil adjacent to the trench until the pipeline is installed and the trench is refilled. During these trenching activities, the stockpiled soils would be exposed to wind and water erosion that could transport sediments into local drainages. These contaminant sources could degrade the water quality of receiving water bodies, potentially resulting in a violation of water quality standards. Mitigation measures have been identified under the Hydrology and Water Quality - VIII (a) section below that would ensure soil erosion from project construction activities is appropriately controlled. With implementation of the identified mitigation measures, this impact would remain **less than significant**.

c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?

The project site is flat and is surrounded by flat terrain, so there is no risk of landslide either on- or offsite. As mentioned above under the analysis of Item a) iii, the potential for seismic-induced liquefaction at the project site is low due to the depth to groundwater and make-up of the soils located on the site. Similarly, the potential for ground failure is unlikely for the same reasons. The risk of lateral spreading is low due to the lack of liquefiable soils both on- and offsite. The project site is not located in an area that experiences subsidence or collapse. Therefore, this impact is **less than significant**.

d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994, as updated), creating substantial risks to life or property?

The soils located on the project site are considered to have a low expansion potential at depths between 0 to 15 feet bgs. The project would not include building foundations that would extend below these elevations. Due to their low expansion potential, the soils on the site would not be expected to create substantial risks to life or property. This impact is **less than significant**.

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

The project would not include components that would require the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems, such as restroom facilities. Therefore, there would be **no impact**.

3.7 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

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

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Greenhouse gases (GHG) are gases that trap heat in the atmosphere. These gases are emitted by both natural processes and human activities. The accumulation of GHG in the atmosphere regulates the earth's temperature. Without natural GHG, the Earth's surface would be approximately 61 degrees Fahrenheit cooler (AEP 2007). However, scientific studies have determined that the combustion of fossil fuels (coal, petroleum, natural gas, etc.) for human activities, such as electricity production and vehicle use, has elevated the concentration of these gases in the atmosphere beyond the level of naturally occurring concentrations. The increase in atmospheric concentrations of GHG has resulted in more heat being held within the atmosphere, which is the accepted explanation for Global Climate Change (GCC).

Global Warming Potentials (GWPs) are one type of simplified index (based upon radiative properties) that can be used to estimate the potential future impacts of emissions of various gases. GWP is based on a number of factors, including the heat-absorbing ability of each gas relative to that of carbon dioxide, as well as the decay rate of each gas relative to that of carbon dioxide. Common GHG components include water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous dioxide, chlorofluorocarbons, hydro-fluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulfur hexafluoride, and ozone.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) *Climate Change 2007* (IPCC 2007) report indicates that the average global temperature is likely to increase between 3.6 and 8.1 degrees Fahrenheit by the year 2100, with larger increases possible but not likely. Temperature increases are expected to vary widely in specific locations depending on a variety of factors. The increase in temperature is expected to lead to higher temperature extremes, a larger variability in precipitation leading to increased flooding and droughts, ocean acidification from increased carbon content, and rising sea levels.

Climate change is an issue of global concern. Effects occur over large areas of the globe, and the full effects of the possible changes that could occur are not yet completely known.

DISCUSSION

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

The project's proposed groundwater well pumps would be powered by electricity, so the project would not directly emit greenhouse gases. Greenhouse gas emissions associated with the production of electricity would be considered an indirect effect of the project. The project does include an emergency backup generator, which would be powered by propane. The generator would only be used in emergencies if the project's primary power source were compromised. To ensure that the generator is kept in good working condition in the event an emergency does occur, it would be tested for a total of approximately 20 minutes per week, but the resulting GHG emissions would be negligible, particularly because full use of the backup generator would only occur during emergencies.

Some activities associated with the project would result in other indirect emissions of GHGs, such as those created during trips by County employees for maintenance activities. However, maintenance trips to the site would typically be periodic (1-2 times per week), would be limited to a single vehicle, and would likely occur as part of other water system inspection trips within the community. Therefore, the GHG emissions associates with these trips would be negligible.

Directly, the project would result in GHG emissions during construction activities. However, as mentioned under "Air Quality," all construction impacts associated with the generation of air pollutants would be temporary and due to the short duration of construction activities, would be negligible.

GHG emissions contribute to climate change on a global level. While the Proposed Project would result in some GHG emissions, compared with the global scope of climate change, the direct and indirect emissions resulting from the project would be extremely minimal, and as a result, would not significantly contribute to the global effects of climate change caused by GHG emissions. This impact is **less than significant**.

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

The project does not include any components that would conflict with any plans, policies, or regulations for greenhouse gas emissions. The project is intended to bring the community's water system into compliance with water systems standards and make improvements to the system that would increase its operational efficiency. This impact is **less than significant**.

3.8 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VIII. Hazards and Hazardous Materials. Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and/or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	☐	☐	☒	☐

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

According to the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Envirostor database, the community of Sheridan does not contain any listed hazardous materials cleanup sites, investigation sites, or leaking underground storage tanks (USTs). This includes sites listed pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

DISCUSSION

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

The Proposed Project would require the use of chemicals, including sodium hypochlorite, commonly known as bleach, for water disinfection and water quality sampling. The groundwater in the area meets all federal and state drinking water standards for quality without treatment, but would be disinfected, so a small tank with sodium hypochlorite would be located at the well, similar to the existing well sites. Sodium hypochlorite is a common water disinfectant and is used as such at the other water wells in Sheridan's water system. Sodium hypochlorite can be dangerous if ingested in large quantities, particularly if not diluted (NIH 2011).

Public access to the well and pump would not be permitted. The project site is currently fenced and the well and pump would be located within a secured structure that would only be accessed by qualified County personnel during maintenance activities. These personnel would be properly trained to handle the chemicals and equipment used at the well.

During project construction, potentially hazardous liquid materials such as oil, diesel fuel, gasoline, and hydraulic fluid could be used at the site in construction equipment. If spilled, these substances could pose a risk to the environment and to human health.

The use, handling, and storage of hazardous materials is regulated by both the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Fed/OSHA) and the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal/OSHA). Cal/OSHA is responsible for developing and enforcing workplace safety regulations. Both federal and State laws include special provisions/training in safe methods for handling any type of hazardous substance. These strict regulations ensure that potential hazards associated with construction activities and the use of sodium hypochlorite during facility operations does not create a significant hazard to the public. Because the routine transport, use, and disposal of hazardous materials are regulated by existing federal, State, and local regulations, and these regulations would be required to be followed during site operations, the project would not be anticipated to create a significant hazard to the public or the environmental and this impact would be considered **less than significant**.

b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and/or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

Similar to the analysis of Item a), above, the use of sodium hypochlorite in site operations could create a potential hazard to the public or the environment if ingested in large quantities. However, this analysis assumes that the project complies with all federal, state, and local requirements and regulations pertaining to hazardous materials safety and that access to the site is restricted. Based on these assumptions, the project would not be expected to create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and/or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. This impact would be considered **less than significant**.

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

The project site is located just over a one-quarter mile from Sheridan Elementary School. While the project would require the use of sodium hypochlorite, this is only toxic to people if ingested. Only qualified professionals would have access to the chemicals at the project site and they would be located within a contained structure, which would prevent release into the environment. Based on the distance to the school and the characteristics of the project, hazardous emissions would not be handled or emitted within ¼ mile of an existing school. This impact would be considered **less than significant**.

d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

There are no listed hazardous materials sites identified within Sheridan, including near the project site. Therefore, there would be no chance to create a hazard to the public or the environment. There is **no impact**.

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

The project site is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport. There is **no impact**.

f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

The project site is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip. There is **no impact**.

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

The project site is located off of a main road, is setback, and would have its own access road. The project does not include any components and is not located in an area that could interfere with the implementation of or physically interfere with an emergency response plan or emergency evacuation route. There is **no impact**.

h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?

The project site is located in a rural residential area with surrounding agricultural grazing lands. There are no adjacent wildlands or densely vegetated areas that would represent a significant fire hazard. In addition, one of the purposes of the project is to provide water supplies to ensure adequate fire flows, which would assist in suppressing wildland fires if they occurred near the project site. Therefore, this impact is **less than significant**.

3.9 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IX. Hydrology and Water Quality. Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level that would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial on- or off-site erosion or siltation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in on- or off-site flooding?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	☒
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	☐	☐	☐	☒
j) Result in inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	☐	☐	☐	☒

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Sheridan is located approximately one mile north of Yankee Slough, 1.5 miles southeast of the Bear River, three miles north of Coon Creek, and approximately five miles southwest of Camp Far West Reservoir. An aqueduct is located approximately one-half mile to the west of the community and is approximately 700 feet northwest of the project site. In the area of the project site, water generally flows to the south and southwest toward Yankee

Slough, which flows west into Sutter County and eventually into the Bear River. Bear River is a navigable waterway that provides both urban and agricultural water supply.

Yankee Slough is listed as an impaired water body on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) for the presence of toxicity and chlorpyrifos. The Bear River is listed as well for the 21 miles downstream from Camp Far West Reservoir for the presence of chlorpyrifos, copper, diazinon, and mercury (SWRCB 2010).

The community of Sheridan and the project site are located in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Zone X, meaning that it is considered to be located outside of the 500-year flood zone. The closest mapped flood zone is located along the Bear River two miles to the northwest.

DISCUSSION

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

Construction of the Proposed Project would include the excavation of soil to construct building foundation and excavation of soil from the pipeline trench and the placement of that soil adjacent to the trench until the pipeline is installed and the trench is refilled. The total area of disturbance, include the pipeline extensions, would be expected to exceed one acre. During these excavation activities, the stockpiled soils would be exposed to wind and water erosion that could transport sediments into local drainages. Also, accidental spills of fluids or fuels from construction vehicles and equipment, or miscellaneous construction materials and debris, could be mobilized and transported off-site in overland flow. These contaminant sources could degrade the water quality of receiving water bodies, potentially resulting in a violation of water quality standards. This impact would be considered **potentially significant**.

Mitigation Measure HYD-1

The following mitigation measures shall be implemented during site construction activities associated with the Proposed Project:

1. Because this project disturbs greater than one acre, coverage under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ, as amended) shall be obtained by Placer County prior to any soil disturbance activities. A storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) shall be prepared by a Qualified SWPPP Developer (QSD) for the Proposed Project that complies with this Construction General Permit. The SWPPP shall be downloaded to the California Water Resources Control Board SMARTS database prior to the onset of any soil disturbance activities. All construction contractors shall retain a copy of the QSD-approved SWPPP on the construction site. At a minimum, the SWPPP shall identify and specify:

    - The use of erosion and sediment-control Best Management Practices (BMPs) as determined by the QSD;
    - The use of non-structural BMPs such as project scheduling;
    - The means of waste disposal;

- The implementation of approved local plans, non-storm water-management controls, permanent post-construction BMPs, and inspection and maintenance responsibilities;
- The pollutants that are likely to be used during construction that could be present in storm water drainage and non-storm water discharges, and other types of materials used for equipment operation;
- Spill prevention and contingency measures, including measures to prevent or clean up spills of hazardous waste and of hazardous materials used for equipment operation, and emergency procedures for responding to spills;
- Personnel training requirements and procedures that will be used to ensure that workers are aware of permit requirements and proper installation methods for BMPs specified in the SWPPP;
- The appropriate personnel responsible for supervisory duties related to implementation of the SWPPP;
- The designated risk level of the project as determined by a QSD;
- The monitoring and reporting requirements associated with the project's risk level; and
- The non-visual pollutant monitoring program.

2. BMPs identified in the SWPPP shall be installed and maintained throughout all site work and construction. BMPs may include but are not limited to:
    - Implementing temporary sediment-control measures in disturbed areas to minimize discharge of sediment into nearby drainage conveyances. These measures may include but are not limited to silt fences, staked straw bales or wattles, sediment/silt basins and traps, geofabric, and sandbag dikes.
    - Implementing temporary erosion control measures to minimize or eliminate the erosion of sediment. These measures may include but are not limited to rolled erosion control products such as coconut matting, plastic sheeting, etc.
    - Establishing permanent vegetative cover to reduce erosion in the roadway shoulder areas disturbed by construction that will slow runoff velocities, trap sediment, and enhance filtration and transpiration.
    - Using drainage swales, ditches, and earth dikes to control erosion and runoff by conveying surface runoff down sloping land, intercepting and diverting runoff to a watercourse or channel, preventing sheet flow over sloped surfaces, preventing runoff accumulation at the base of a grade, and avoiding flood damage along roadways and facility infrastructure.
3. The SWPPP shall be amended by a QSD, as necessary, to address changing site conditions and risk levels. Any SWPPP amendments shall be contained within the onsite copy and downloaded to the SMARTS database.
4. The project monitoring shall be performed by a QSD, Qualified SWPPP Practitioner (QSP), or a designated trainee of a QSD or QSP. This monitoring is subject to the requirements of the Construction General Permit

for the specified risk level for the project and may include discharge sampling and analysis. All monitoring results shall be downloaded to the SMARTS database within the required timeframes specified in the Construction General Permit.

5. The SWPPP shall be implemented until all permanent post-construction BMPs have been successfully implemented and a Notice of Termination has been granted by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board absolving coverage under the General Construction Permit.

The implementation of this mitigation measure would reduce this impact to **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre existing nearby wells would drop to a level that would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?

The proposed groundwater well is anticipated to pump between 150 and 350 gpm, a rate that is consistent with the pump rates for the two other primary water supply wells used to meet Sheridan's current water demands. This new well would draw down groundwater levels in the immediate vicinity of the pump, creating a radius of influence of approximately 110 feet. The well has been specifically located on the perimeter of the community away from other groundwater users in order to minimize its potential to reduce water levels in existing wells within the community. Exhibit 2-3 identifies the two other closest wells in the project vicinity and the radius of influence of the proposed well. The closest well, which is located approximately 600 feet to the east, is inactive and the property owner is connected to Sheridan's water system. This existing inactive well is located substantially outside of the radius of influence of the proposed well.

The community's existing Well #1 is located near the center of Sheridan, directly west of the Sheridan Elementary School, and New Well #2 is located in the southeastern corner of the community. Both of these wells have a greater potential to affect the height of the groundwater table within the more densely populated grid portion of the community than the proposed well. A number of residents in Sheridan have individual groundwater wells on their properties and this grid area has the highest concentration of domestic groundwater wells. The project's proposed location on the western edge of the community in an area with relatively low density residential uses minimizes its effects on existing domestic wells.

Based on the County's experience operating the water supply system within Sheridan, the yields of the existing water system wells has not diminished over time, indicating that the aquifer is not being depleted by the current uses. Because the proposed pump would be located a substantial distance from the two primary domestic supply wells within the community, is located on the perimeter of the community away from most other private groundwater wells, and is located more than 600 feet from the nearest existing groundwater well, it would not be expected to substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level. This impact is **less than significant**.

c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial on- or off-site erosion or siltation?

The Proposed Project would not substantially alter the existing drainage patterns of the relatively flat site. The Proposed Project would remove vegetation from the site, including the area containing vernal pool habitat, the pools would be filled, and the entire site would be covered with compacted baserock. The construction of a new access road and building pads for the pump station building and water tank would result in some loss of permeable surfaces on the project site. However, because the Proposed Project does not include the application of paving on the site and the compacted baserock would maintain a fairly high permeability, the decrease in site permeability associated with development would not substantially differ from current conditions. Also, due to the small area of site development, a negligible change in the site drainage would be anticipated following construction. Storm water discharge from the project site would be expected to quickly percolate into the ground after it discharges from the site. The project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the area in a manner that would result in substantial on- or off-site erosion or siltation. This impact is **less than significant**.

d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in on- or off-site flooding?

As analyzed under Item c) above, the Proposed Project would not result in substantial alterations of the drainage patterns on the site or surrounding area. Similar to above, there are no components of the Proposed Project that would substantially increase surface runoff, particularly in a manner that would result in on- or off-site flooding. This impact is **less than significant**.

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

As analyzed under Items c) and d) above, implementation of the Proposed Project is not anticipated to result in large volumes of runoff. The natural site drainage and permeability of the soil and base rock is adequate to handle the minimal stormwater runoff volumes that could be generated at the project site. This impact is **less than significant**.

f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

The project includes the development of a groundwater well, pump station, storage tank, and distribution piping. The project would not include uses that would contribute to the degradation of water quality and the groundwater well would be required to be constructed consistent with California Waterworks Standards. Exposed soils on the flat site would be stabilized by the concrete foundations necessary for the pump station building and water tank, and soils on the remaining site would be stabilized with the application of compacted baserock. In addition, soils at the project site are not highly erodible and are unlikely to be eroded during site construction activities. Soils would be exposed to erosion during trenching activities for the water line alignments; however, due to the small diameter of the pipe (8 inches), a relatively small trench would be necessary to accommodate the new pipe resulting in only very limited soil excavation. In addition, the SWPPP will specify appropriate BMPs to address

potential erosion during construction. The excavated trenches would be quickly refilled with soil following pipe placement. This impact is **less than significant**.

g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?

The project does not propose the development of housing and is located outside of the 100-year floodplain. There is **no impact**.

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

The project site is located outside of the 100-year floodplain. There is **no impact**.

i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?

The project sire is not located in an area subject to dam or levee failure. There is **no impact**.

j) Result in inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

The project site is not located near any large bodies of water and is not in an area subject to seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. There is **no impact**.

3.10 LAND USE AND PLANNING

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
X. Land Use and Planning. Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, a general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The project site is designated as Rural Residential in the Placer County General Plan and is zoned for Single Family Residential with a Building Site combining district with a 5 acre minimum (RS-B-X 5 AC MIN).

DISCUSSION

a) Physically divide an established community?

The project includes the development of a groundwater well, pump station, water storage tank, and associated infrastructure. The project site is located adjacent to SR 65 along the western edge of the Sheridan community. None of the project components would physically divide the community. There is **no impact**.

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

As mentioned above, the project site is designated as Rural Residential in the Placer County General Plan and zoned as RS-B-X 5 AC MIN in the County's Zoning Ordinance. The Rural Residential land use allows for the development of necessary public utility facilities. Similarly, the zoning district allows for the development of public utility facilities with a minor use permit. Therefore, there is **no impact**.

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

No HCPs or NCCPs are currently in place that are applicable to the project site, although a combined HCP/NCCP is being prepared by Placer County as part of the Placer County Conservation Plan. The Plan is currently in draft form and the project does not conflict with the draft Plan. There is **no impact**.

3.11 MINERAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XI. Mineral Resources. Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

According to the California Department of Conservation Division of Mines and Geology (DMG), the project site is located in an area designated as a Mineral Resource Zone 4 (MRZ-4). Areas zoned as MRZ-4 are defined as areas of unknown mineral resource significance (DMG 1995). The nearest areas with mineral resources are located east of Sheridan for clay and along the Bear River t o the north for sand and gravel. A number of clay mining operations also exist to the south, near Lincoln. There are currently no mineral resource recovery efforts or plans located within the immediate vicinity of the project site.

DISCUSSION

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

The project site is not located in an area with known mineral resources, so implementation of the project would not result in the loss of availability of mineral resources. There is **no impact**.

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

There are no locally important mineral resource recovery sites or plans to recover any minerals within the immediate vicinity of the project site. In addition, the project does not include components that would interfere with any such efforts or plans, if they did exist. There is **no impact**.

3.12 NOISE

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XII. Noise. Would the project result in:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or in other applicable local, state, or federal standards?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The noise environment on the project site is dominated by the vehicle noise generated from SR 65. Relatively low noise levels are also generated from vehicles driving on Camp Far West Road, from the park to the east, from residences to the southeast. Residential noise is typically generated from vehicles, barking dogs, yard maintenance equipment, and other neighborhood noises. Relatively high noise levels are also generated intermittently from trains using the Southern Pacific Railroad rail line directly to the west.

Noise regulations and ordinances typically distinguish between stationary (point) noise sources and transportation-related mobile noise sources. Placer County's policies and guidelines regarding noise are contained in the County's General Plan Noise Section. The Noise Section establishes noise exposure standards for different land uses. Allowable noise levels in residential zones are 50 decibels (dB) at the property line of receiving use and 45 dB at interior spaces for new non-transportation projects. The County's policies require that projects should use modern equipment with lower noise emissions where possible, use site design principals to reduce noise, and use plants and vegetation to mitigate noise, where needed.

AECOM staff took noise measurements at three locations at the project site and in the vicinity on August 18, 2011 between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm. Location 1 was located at the northwestern corner of the project site. Location 2 was located along the proposed access road adjacent to a residence. Location 3 was located at the southeast corner of Sheridan Community Park, adjacent to Camp Far West Road. Recorded noise levels are shown in Table 3-1 below.

Table 3-1
Existing Noise Levels in Project Vicinity

	Location #1 (dB)	Location #2 (dB)	Location #3 (dB)
Leq (Average)	49.7	42.1	52.4
Lmin (Minimum level)	31.7	30.8	34.5
Lmax (Maximum level)	66.5	55.7	70.2

Source: AECOM 2011.

The project site and proposed access road are located adjacent to a park and rural residences, both of which are considered noise sensitive receptors.

The Placer County Noise Ordinance is intended to protect residents from unnecessary, excessive, and offensive sounds. The ordinance states that sounds exceeding the exterior ambient sound level by 5 dB at the property line of a sensitive receptor or exceeding the standards listed in Table 3-2, below are in violation of the ordinance.

Table 3-2
Placer County Noise Ordinance Sound Level Standards

Sound Level (dB)	Daytime (7 am to 10 pm)	Nighttime (10 pm to 7 am)
Hourly Leq (Average)	55	45
Lmax (Maximum)	70	65

Source: Placer County Code, Article 9.36.060

The following noise sources are exempted from the above-listed requirements:

- Construction activities occurring between 6:00 am and 8:00 pm Monday through Friday or between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday, provided construction equipment is fitted with factory-installed muffling devices and is maintained in good working order;
- Existing legal nonconforming and/or existing permitted commercial, industrial, or nonprofit operations that do not significantly change existing on-site activities or result in a change in the number of days or daily hours of operation;
- Equipment used for property maintenance between the hours of 7:00 am and 9:00 pm; and
- Emergencies, involving the execution of the duties of duly authorized governmental personnel and others providing emergency response to the general public, including but not limited to sworn peace officers,

emergency personnel, utility personnel, and the operation of emergency response vehicles and equipment (Placer County Code, Article 9.36.030).

DISCUSSION

a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or in other applicable local, state, or federal standards?

Construction activities associated with the Proposed Project would result in the temporary elevation of noise levels at the project site and surrounding areas. Construction noise would be particularly noticeable by residents located along the three pipeline alignment options, with the specific residents affected depending upon the ultimate alignment selected. For alignment Option 1, trenching equipment and construction personnel would be required to traverse through the side yards of two residential homes located directly east of the Sheridan Community Park. Residents would also be exposed to elevated noise levels from trenching activities within the mobile home park and along Tenth and H Streets. For alignment Option 2, residents along Camp Far West Road and Tenth and H Streets would primarily be affected by the trenching noise. For alignment Option 3, residents along Camp Far West Road and H Street would be primarily affected. Residents located directly south of the community park would be affected by trench noise regardless of the alignment selected.

Although the noise levels from pipeline trenching activities could be bothersome, the construction activities would be temporary and construction activities are exempted from noise standards as long as it complies with the requirements of the Placer County Noise Ordinance, as shown above. Project construction would be required to comply with these requirements; therefore, no significant noise impacts would be anticipated to result from project construction.

The vertical well pump, booster pumps and emergency generator are the components of the project that would be anticipated to generate noise during operations. Pump operations are typically relatively quite especially when the pumps are housed within a concrete-block building, which is proposed for this project. The pumps are electrically powered and typically generate a low humming sound, which is typically only audible when inside the pump station building.

The emergency generator would only be operated for approximate 20 minutes per week for maintenance and testing purposes. These operations would occur during normal business hours. During emergencies, the generator would be operated more frequently, as required by the emergency. Because it is propane powered, the emergency generator would be expected to generate substantially louder noise levels than the pumps. Noise levels from the emergency generator could result in noise levels as high as 75 dB within 25 feet if no barriers are in place (M. White pers. comm., October 2011). However, the concrete-block pump house building would be expected to attenuate the emergency generator noise for areas directly to the south. Assuming a typical noise reduction of 6 dB for every doubling of distance from the noise source to the receptor and the fact that the noise generator would only be operated for approximate 20 minutes per week, the average hourly noise level at the nearest residences approximately 250 feet to the southeast would be substantially below the County's Noise Ordinance sound level standards. The typical noise levels would be consistent with the existing ambient noise levels in the project vicinity and would not be noticeable.

During emergency periods, the generator would be operated for longer periods until the emergency is averted. However, operation of the generator during emergency periods would be exempt from the Noise Ordinance sound level standards, per Placer County Code, Article 9.36.030. For the above reasons, the noise impacts associated with facility operations would be considered **less than significant**.

b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

Construction of the Proposed Project would result in the generation of groundborne vibration and noise levels at the project site and surrounding areas. However, construction is exempted from noise standards as long as it complies with the requirements of the Placer County Noise Ordinance, as shown above. Project construction would comply with these requirements, so there would be no adverse effect resulting from project construction.

In general, groundwater wells are not considered to be major sources of groundborne vibration or noise during operation. This, combined with the distances to the residences and park, ensure that operation of the project would not expose people to excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels. This impact is **less than significant**.

c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

As mentioned above under Item a), the pumps associated with the facility would not substantially increase noise levels in the project vicinity; therefore, a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels would not be anticipated with project implementation. This impact is assumed to be **less than significant**.

d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

Construction of the Proposed Project would result in the generation of groundborne vibration and noise levels at the project site and surrounding areas. However, construction is exempted from noise standards as long as it complies with the requirements of the Placer County Noise Ordinance, as shown above. Project construction would comply with these requirements, so there would be no adverse effect resulting from project construction. There is **no impact**.

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

The project site is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public use airport. The project would have no effect on airport operations. There is **no impact**.

f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

The project site is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip. The project would not expose people to excessive noise levels from airplane operations. There is **no impact**.

3.13 POPULATION AND HOUSING

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIII. Population and Housing. Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing homes, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Sheridan is a small unincorporated community made up primarily of single family homes, an elementary school, and a small number of businesses. The population of Sheridan has remained steady at approximately 600 residents since 1982 (Brown and Caldwell 2011:2-2).

DISCUSSION

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

A building moratorium had been in place on new residential construction within the community until it was lifted in 2011. After the moratorium was lifted, new residential development was allowed on residentially-zone lands within the community. However, substantial residential development has not occurred during this timeframe.

Prior to the moratorium being put in place in 1983, property owners within Sheridan had a vested right to develop their properties consistent with the County's existing land use and zoning designations for the community. Development moratoriums are generally temporary measures that are put in place due to the need to resolve an issue that could be substantially exacerbated by ongoing growth. The Sheridan moratorium is highly unusual due to its long duration. When the moratorium was lifted, the vested property rights for property owners were essentially reestablished. The Proposed Project in no way expands these rights. The lifting of the moratorium in effect returned the community to the growth potential it had in 1985.

The Proposed Project would provide additional water connections within the community, which could accommodate future residential development on existing residentially-zoned properties, ultimately resulting in an increase in the community’s population. However, the Proposed Project does not provide any additional development potential that was not in place in 1983 and does not expand the development footprint of the community. Because the building moratorium was lifted in 2011 and substantial residential development

proposals have not materialized, the implementation of the Proposed Project would not be anticipated to materially affect residential growth and would not either directly or indirectly induce substantial population growth in Sheridan. Therefore, this impact is considered **less than significant**.

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing homes, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

The Proposed Project involves the development of a groundwater well, pump station, water storage tank, and associated piping on a small, vacant parcel currently owned by Placer County. It would not result in the demolition of any homes and does not include any components that would result in the displacement of any homes or create the need for replacement housing. There is **no impact**.

c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

Similar to the analysis of Item b) above, the project would not result in the displacement of homes, and there are no people currently living on the project site who would be displaced by the project. There is **no impact**.

3.14 PUBLIC SERVICES

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIV. Public Services. Would the project:				
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
Police protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
Schools?	☐	☐	☒	☐
Parks?	☐	☐	☒	☐
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The project site is located within a State Responsibility Area (SRA) as mapped by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE). This area receives fire protection services from the Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit of CALFIRE. Police protection services are provided by the Placer County Sheriff's Department. Sheridan is located within the Western Placer Unified School District, which operates 11 schools, including seven elementary schools, two middle schools, one high school, and one continuation high school. One school, Sheridan Elementary School, is located in Sheridan. Park services are provided by the Placer County Facility Services Department, Parks and Grounds Division. Sheridan Park is the only park located in Sheridan. The four-acre Sheridan Park is located adjacent to the project site at 6005 Camp Far West Road and includes a community hall, tot lot, picnic areas, basketball court, and baseball diamond.

DISCUSSION

a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services listed above:

The Proposed Project would improve the public water system within Sheridan in order to ensure that the public health of the community is maintained. This would be achieved by increasing the system's water supply and storage capacities, consistent with the requirements of the California Waterworks Standards and State fire flow requirements.

The Proposed Project would not provide any new or physically altered government facilities or require the need for new or physically altered government facilities. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not be expected to result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered government facilities in Sheridan and this impact is considered **less than significant**.

3.15 RECREATION

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XV. Recreation. Would the project:				
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

As mentioned above under "Public Services," the four-acre Sheridan Park, which is located directly east of the project site, is the only park in Sheridan. The nearest parks outside of Sheridan are located in the City of Lincoln. Sheridan Park includes a community hall, tot lot, picnic areas, basketball court, and baseball diamond.

DISCUSSION

a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

The project does not include any components that would directly result in an increased use of Sheridan Park or other park facilities in western Placer County. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not be expected to increase the use of Sheridan Park such that substantial physical deterioration would occur and this impact would be **less than significant**.

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

The project would not include any recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. As described above, the Proposed Project would not be expected to increase the use of recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration would occur and this impact would be **less than significant**.

3.16 TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVI. Transportation/Traffic. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The project site is currently accessed from the parking lot of the Sheridan Community Park. The closest roadway is a private drive, which connects to an unnamed paved road along the southern boundary of Sheridan Park. Camp Far West Road is approximately 600 feet east of the project site. The unnamed road is used only by the residents and visitors of the two homes that use the road for access and park visitors. Camp Far West Road is more heavily traveled and is a major road in Sheridan. However, it is not heavily traveled due to the relatively small size of the community and the small number of people making pass-through trips through the community.

DISCUSSION

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

The project would not generate substantial levels of traffic and is located in a rural community with very low traffic volumes on the local roadway network. A new access road would be constructed along the inside southern boundary of Sheridan Community Park that would connect the project site to Camp Far West Road. The project would generate a negligible amount of traffic by County personnel accessing the facility for maintenance purposes. No staff would be present on the site full time. A total of approximately two vehicle trips to the site are anticipated by a County employee on a weekly basis. This volume of traffic would not interfere with any plans, ordinances, or policies that address performance of the circulation system. This impact is **less than significant**.

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

The project does not include any components or uses that would substantially contribute to traffic levels in the area, so it is not expected to conflict with any congestion management programs or level of service standards. The project would require single lane closure to accommodate pipeline installation within roadways. However, these lane closures would be temporary and would not result in entire road closures. Single lane closures can result in temporary delays because only one direction of traffic can be accommodated at a time. However, these types of lane closures are common and due to the low traffic generation within Sheridan, would not be expected to substantially disrupt typical traffic patterns and levels of service. This impact is **less than significant**.

c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?

The project does not include any components that would have any effect on air traffic patterns, and thus would not be expected to adversely affect air traffic safety. There is **no impact**.

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

The project would not include hazardous design features, such as sharp curves or dangerous intersections, or create hazardous conditions by introducing incompatible uses. Therefore, no design hazards would be anticipated with project implementation. There is **no impact**.

e) Result in inadequate emergency access?

The project does not include any components that would restrict emergency access. Emergency service providers would be provided with a key to access the locked security gate at the facility entrance during emergencies. No restrictions to emergency vehicle access would be anticipated with the project implementation. There is **no impact**.

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

The project would not include any features that would affect or alter existing facilities nor interfere with construction of any future planned facilities for alternative modes of transportation (i.e., bus turnouts, bicycle lanes, etc.). There is **no impact**.

3.17 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVII. Utilities and Service Systems. Would the project:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand, in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The community of Sheridan uses a domestic water system currently supplied by two potable wells. Fire flow protection is augmented by a third well. This third well is considered non-potable because it is not setback from the sewage collection system an appropriate distance. The project would supplement the existing water supply and add a well and water storage tank to bring the system into compliance with regulations.

Recology Auburn Placer Disposal Services, under contract with Placer County, currently provides municipal solid waste collection services within the community of Sheridan. Collected non-hazardous waste is transported to the Western Placer Waste Management Authority (Authority) Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) where recyclables are recovered. Residual waste is disposed of at the Authority's Western Regional Sanitary Landfill, which is located south of the City of Lincoln adjacent to the MRF. Based on current available capacity and waste recovery efforts, the Western Regional Sanitary Landfill is currently permitted to accept solid waste until 2042 (CalRecycle 2011).

The Sheridan Wastewater Treatment Plan serves the community of Sheridan. The plant operates under a permit issued by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board.

DISCUSSION

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

The Proposed Project does not include any components that would require wastewater treatment. Therefore, the project would not contribute to the exceedance of wastewater treatment standards. There is **no impact**.

b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

The Proposed Project would not include the construction of new wastewater treatment facilities or the expansion of existing facilities. The existing wastewater treatment system within Sheridan has recently been upgraded to comply with applicable discharge requirements. Therefore, the construction of new or expansion of existing wastewater treatment facilities would not be necessary and no adverse environmental impacts would occur.

The project is being developed to address Sheridan's need for upgraded water facilities. Therefore, it would result in the construction of new water facilities. However, the analysis included in this document has fully evaluated the possible environmental impacts associated with this upgrade. The project itself would not be expected to result in the need for any additional water facilities other than those included as part of the Proposed Project. There is **no impact**.

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

The Proposed Project would remove the vegetation from the entire site, including the area containing vernal pool habitat, the pools would be filled, and the entire site would be covered with compacted baserock. The construction of the new access road and building pads for the pump station building and water tank would result in some loss of permeable surfaces on the project site. However, the Proposed Project does not include the application of paving on the site and the compacted baserock would maintain a fairly high permeability. Due to the small area of site development, a negligible change in the site drainage would be anticipated following construction. Storm water discharge from the project site would be expected to quickly percolate into the ground after it discharges from the site. The project would not require the development of new storm water facilities that would cause significant environmental effects. This impact is **less than significant**.

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

The project includes the development of a groundwater well, pump station, and water storage tank in order to meet the existing water supply demand within the community and to make additional water available to accommodate anticipated infill development. Based on information available regarding the groundwater basin underlying the community of Sheridan, the Preliminary Engineering Report prepared for the project concluded

that sufficient groundwater is available to meet the community's current and future water needs with implementation of the Proposed Project (Brown and Caldwell 2011). Therefore, new or expanded water entitlements would not be necessary. This impact is **less than significant**.

e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand, in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

The project includes the development of a groundwater well, pump station, water storage tank, and associated infrastructure. The project would not generate wastewater or include the development of wastewater treatment facilities or other facilities that would require wastewater treatment. There is **no impact**.

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

The project includes the development of a groundwater well, pump station, water storage tank, and associated infrastructure. Solid waste generated during operation activities would be minimal and would have no effect on the permit capacity of the Western Regional Sanitary Landfill. There is **no impact**.

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

The project does not include any components that would have any effect on solid waste regulations. There is **no impact**.

3.18 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVIII. Mandatory Findings of Significance.				
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare, or threatened species, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Authority: Public Resources Code Sections 21083, 21083.5.
Reference: Government Code Sections 65088.4.
Public Resources Code Sections 21080, 21083.5, 21095; *Eureka Citizens for Responsible Govt. v. City of Eureka* (2007) 147 Cal.App.4th 357; *Protect the Historic Amador Waterways v. Amador Water Agency* (2004) 116 Cal.App.4th at 1109; *San Franciscans Upholding the Downtown Plan v. City and County of San Francisco* (2002) 102 Cal.App.4th 656.

DISCUSSION

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

Implementation of the Proposed Project would not substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of rare or endangered plants or animals, or eliminate important examples of California history or prehistory. However, the Proposed Project would have direct impacts on the site's vernal pool habitat due to its proposed removal. Mitigation measures have been identified to offset the biological impacts associated with these impacts. With the implementation of these mitigation measures, the

impacts of the Proposed Project on sensitive biological resources would be minimized and this impact would be considered **less than significant**.

Similarly for cultural resources, mitigation measures have been identified in the event subsurface remains are discovered during construction activities. With the implementation of these mitigation measures, the impacts of the Proposed Project on sensitive cultural resources would be minimized and this impact would be considered **less than significant**.

For hydrology and water quality, mitigation measures have been identified to minimize the potential for erosion impacts associated with site grading activities. With the implementation of these mitigation measures, the hydrology and water quality impacts of the Proposed Project would be minimized and this impact would be considered **less than significant**.

b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)

Implementation of the Proposed Project would result in less-than-significant environmental impacts following the implementation of the identified mitigation measures. The impacts associated with the Proposed Project are anticipated to be localized at the project site and would not be expected to combine with other projects to cause cumulatively considerable environmental impacts. The additional water supply that would become available as a result of the project would remove one constraint to future residential development within the community; however, any additional development would be required to comply with existing land use and zoning designations identified in the Placer County General Plan. No plans have been proposed for new residential developments within the community; therefore, no cumulative development projects are currently anticipated. Given the limited impacts anticipated with project implementation and the lack of cumulative development projects, the Proposed Project would not be expected to cause cumulatively considerable impacts. This impact is **less than significant**.

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

As discussed in this Initial Study, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in less-than-significant environmental impacts following the implementation of the identified mitigation measures. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not be expected to cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. This impact is **less than significant**.

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APPENDIX A

Wetland Delineation

Preliminary Delineation of
Waters of the United States, Including Wetlands

Sheridan Water Supply Improvements Project

Prepared for:

Placer County, Department of Facility Services

May 2011

AECOM

Preliminary Delineation of
Waters of the United States, Including Wetlands

Sheridan Water Supply improvements Project

Prepared for:

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

Contact:

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

Prepared by:

AECOM
2020 L Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95811

Contact:

Sarah Bennett
916/414-5800

May 2011

AECOM

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CWA	Clean Water Act
FAC	Facultative
FACU	Facultative Upland
FACW	Facultative Wetland
GPS	Global Positioning System
msl	mean sea level
NI	No Indicator
NL	Not Listed
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
OBL	Obligate
OHWM	Ordinary High Water Mark
RPW	Relatively Permanent Water
SR	State Route
TNW	Traditional Navigable Water
UPL	Upland
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
WSS	Web Soil Survey

INTRODUCTION

The Placer County Department of Facility Services is proposing the installation of water supply improvements in the unincorporated community of Sheridan in Placer County, CA. The proposed project includes the installation of a new well, pump station, tank and associated building on an approximately 0.53-acre property in the northwestern portion of Sheridan directly east of State Route 65 and west of Camp Far West Road. The building measures approximately 30 feet by 40 feet and the 180,000-gallon storage tank measures 41 feet in diameter. The proposed improvements are intended to ensure that Sheridan's water supply system safely and efficiently meets the community's water demands.

STUDY AREA

The 1.85-acre study area includes two parcels consisting of the 0.53-acre property proposed to include the water supply improvements and a larger parcel located directly to the north (Exhibit 1). The study area is located within the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute Sheridan Quadrangle, Township 13 North, Range 5 East, Section 11 (Exhibit 2). The study area is approximately 100 feet above mean sea level (msl). The Bear River, located approximately 1.5 miles to the north of the study area is the nearest navigable water of the United States.

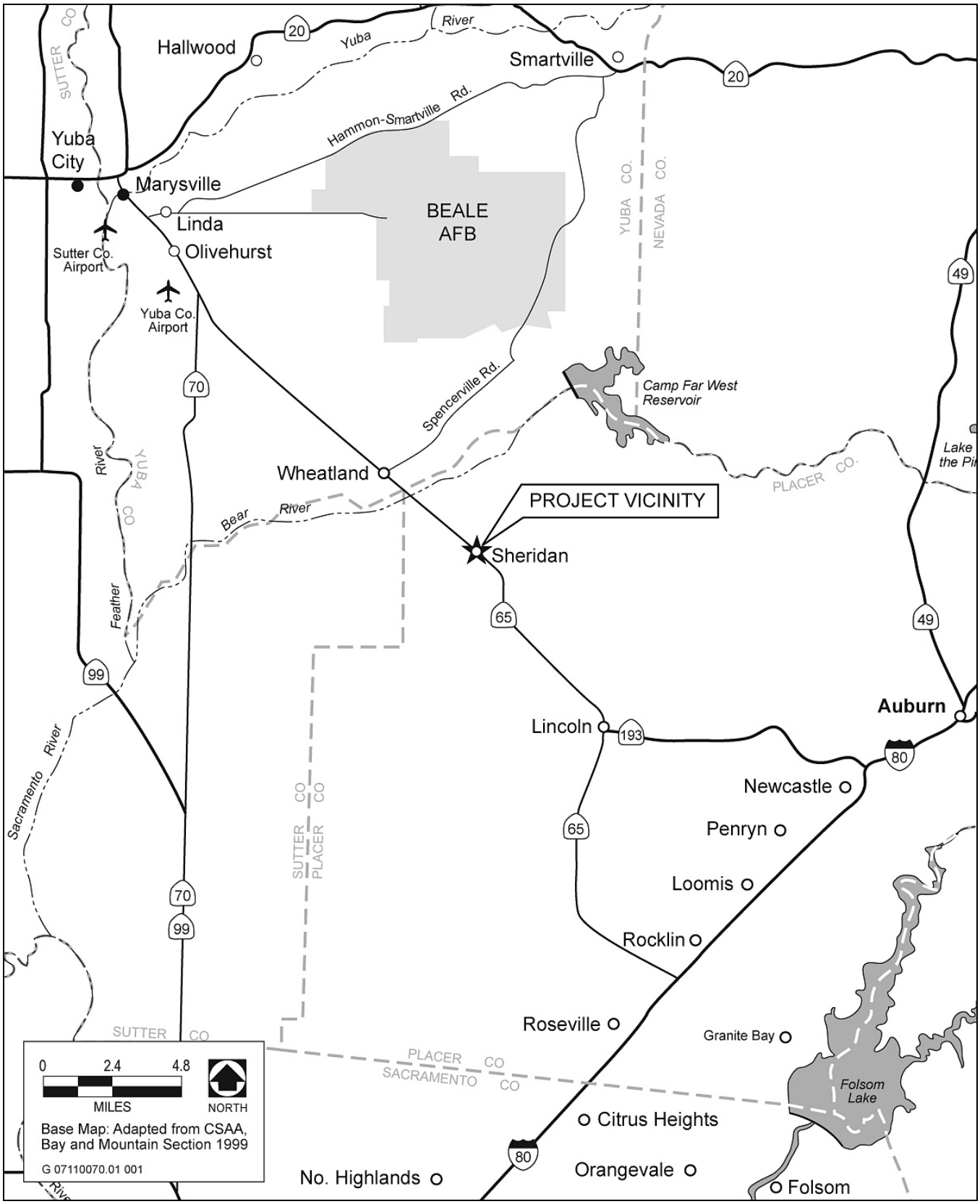
This report presents the results of the delineation of waters of the United States, as defined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), for the study area. It is considered a draft until verified by the Sacramento District of USACE.

DELINEATION METHODS

Before conducting the wetland delineation of the study area, an AECOM wetland ecologist reviewed recent color aerial photographs of the study area at a scale of 1 inch = 200 feet and the soil survey of Placer County, Western Part, California (NRCS 2009) to determine areas of potential USACE jurisdiction. Sarah A. N. Bennett conducted the wetland delineation on October 21, 2010. Routine wetland determination data forms were completed for 3 sample points and are provided in Appendix A.

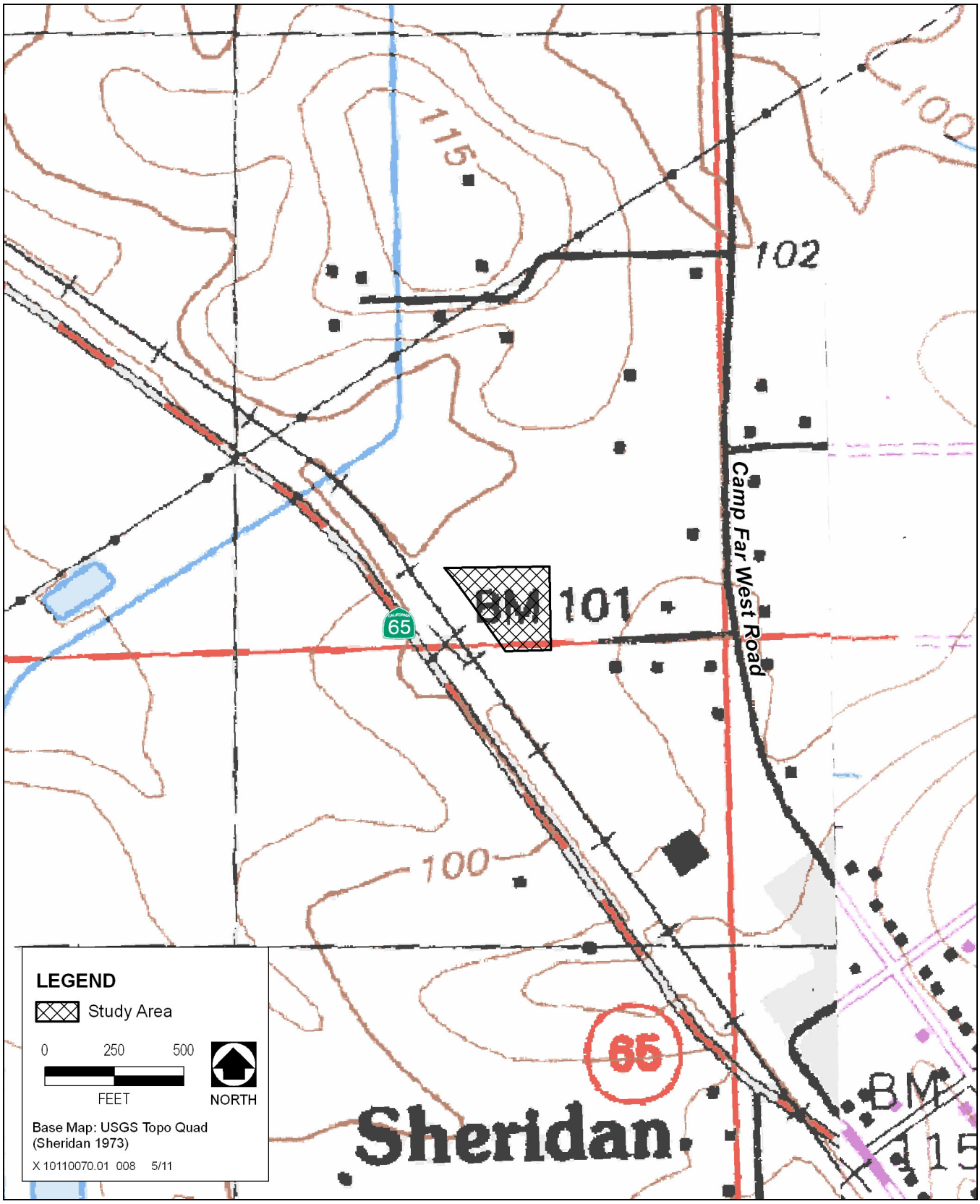
The USACE 1987 wetland delineation manual (Environmental Laboratory 1987) and *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region* (Environmental Laboratory 2008) were used to delineate wetlands that could be subject to USACE jurisdiction under Section 404 of the CWA. The 1987 manual and 2008 Arid West Supplement provided technical guidelines and methods for the three-parameter approach to determining the location and boundaries of jurisdictional wetlands. This approach requires that an area must support positive indicators of hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology to be a wetland. Potential jurisdictional areas were identified and mapped in the field and later digitized onto an aerial photograph. Sample point locations were recorded digitally using a global positioning system (GPS) data logger (Trimble XH) and imported onto an electronic version of the aerial photograph. GPS data were recorded in NAD 83 datum.

To determine whether hydrophytic vegetation dominated the area, plant species at sample sites were listed on data forms and the wetland indicator status was recorded for the dominant species using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service *National List of Plants that Occur in Wetlands: California (Region 0)* (Reed 1988). Hydrophytic species include those listed as obligate (OBL), facultative wetland (FACW, FACW*), or facultative (FAC, FAC*, FAC^+, but not FAC^-). Before the release and implementation of the Arid West Supplement, the 1987 wetland delineation manual treated species listed as FAC^- as species that are more likely to occur in upland habitats and, therefore, did not include FAC^- as a hydrophytic species (Environmental Laboratory 1987, 2008). The manual assigns an asterisk to species that have limited ecological information available. The plus ($^+$) and minus ($^-$) designations



Source: Data compiled by AECOM in 2011

Regional Location **Exhibit 1**



Source: Data compiled by AECOM in 2011

Site and Vicinity Map **Exhibit 2**

specify the higher or lower part of the frequency range. The designation of a species corresponds to the probability that a species will occur in a wetland habitat. The indicator categories are defined as:

- OBL: greater than 99% occurrence in wetlands,
- FACW: between 66% and 99% occurrence in wetlands, and
- FAC: between 34% and 66% occurrence in wetlands.

The Arid West Supplement gives equal weight to all FAC-listed species (i.e., plus [$^{+}$] and minus [$^{-}$] modifiers are not used)—FAC^{-}, FAC, and FAC^{+}—plants are all considered to be FAC. A sample site was considered to have hydrophytic vegetation if greater than 50% of the dominant species had an indicator status of FAC or wetter.

Species that usually occur in nonwetlands (67–99% estimated probability), but are occasionally found in wetlands (1–33% estimated probability), are identified as facultative upland (FACU). Obligate upland (UPL) species may occur in wetlands in another region, but almost always (>99%) occur–under natural conditions–in nonwetlands in California (Region 0). A no indicator (NI) designation is recorded for those species for which insufficient information was available to determine an indicator status. A not listed (NL) designation indicates a species is not listed in Reed (1988). These four indicators—UPL, FACU, NI, and NL—are used to identify species not considered hydrophytic. According to standard protocol, a species with an NL designation is considered UPL when completing the "Prevalence Index Worksheet" portion of the wetland determination data form (Environmental Laboratory 2008). Botanical nomenclature follows *The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California* (Hickman 1993).

Wetland hydrology was assessed by recording observations such as drainage patterns, watermarks, flooded or saturated soil conditions, and other indicators of wetland hydrology. In addition, potentially jurisdictional areas were all evaluated in terms of the feature's status as a navigable waterway, adjacency, or hydrological connection to a navigable waterway.

Waters of the United States were delineated based on the ordinary high water mark (OHWM). OHWMs for drainages typically correspond with characteristics such as shelving, scour lines, and other natural linear features which define the bed and bank portion of the channel that floods under normal conditions (USACE 2005).

Soils were examined by digging soil test pits to determine whether hydric soils exist in a sampling location. Soils were described in terms of depth, matrix color, redoxymorphic color (when present), and moisture status at each sampling location. Other diagnostic features indicative of hydric soils, such as the presence of concretions and oxidized rhizospheres (a redoximorphic feature, according to Vepraskas [1992]), were also recorded on data forms. Hydric soil determinations were based on the indicators provided by the 1987 delineation manual, 2008 Arid West Supplement, the *Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States: A Guide for Identifying and Delineating Hydric Soils* (NRCS 2010a), and Vepraskas (1992). Soil units mapped to the study area by the soil survey were cross-referenced to *The National Hydric Soils List by State* (NRCS 2010b) to determine if the soil was listed as a hydric map unit.

The *U.S Army Corps of Engineers Jurisdictional Determination Form Instructional Guidebook* was consulted to aid the preliminary determination that an area would be subject to USACE jurisdiction under Section 404 of the CWA (USACE 2007). The significant nexus test—outlined in a memorandum jointly authored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and USACE—was applied to each potentially jurisdictional habitat type (Grumbles and Woodley 2008). To facilitate jurisdictional determination consistent with the guidance, each water body delineated was evaluated as a Traditional Navigable Water (TNW), Relatively Permanent Water (RPW), or non-RPW based on the following definitions:

- TNWs include all waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide, or waters that are presently used, have been used in the past, or may be used in the future to transport interstate or foreign commerce, and all waters that are navigable in fact under federal law for any purpose.

- RPWs are waters that flow continuously at least seasonally (typically at least 3 months of the year) and are not TNWs.
- Non-RPWs are waters that do not have continuous flow at least seasonally.

The following types of water bodies are subject to CWA jurisdiction:

- All TNWs and adjacent wetlands;
- Relatively permanent tributaries of TNWs and wetlands with a continuous surface connection to such tributaries; and
- Non-relatively permanent tributaries of TNWs and adjacent wetlands if they have a significant nexus to a TNW. Non-RPWs and adjacent wetlands are determined to have a significant nexus to a TNW if they significantly affect the chemical, physical, or biological integrity of a downstream TNW.

SOIL SURVEY RESULTS

According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey (WSS) of Placer County, Western Part, California, the soils within the study area belong to three soil series: San Joaquin and Fiddyment-Kaseberg (NRCS 2009); according to the *The National Hydric Soils List by State (California)*, both map units within the study area contain minor hydric inclusions (NRCS 2010b). Appendix B includes a soils map of the study area.

FIDDYMENT-KASEBERG LOAMS, 2 TO 9 PERCENT SLOPES (MAP UNIT 147)

Map unit 147 is composed of two soil series, Fiddyment and Kaseberg. The map unit is identified as containing hydric inclusions of Alamo soils in approximately 10 percent of the map unit acreage; hydric soils are located in depressions.

The Fiddyment series is a moderately deep soil with a duripan located approximately 20 to 40 inches below the soil surface. Fiddyment soils are well drained soils that formed in material weathered from consolidated sediments of mixed rock sources. Fiddyment soils are on nearly level to rolling low terraces and hills. Fiddyment soils are taxonomically classified as fine-loamy, mixed, superactive, thermic Typic Durixeralfs. Fiddyment soils are well drained, have medium runoff, and very slow permeability. Water perches above the claypan for short periods after periods of high rainfall.

The Kaseberg series is a shallow soil with a duripan located approximately 10 to 20 inches below the soil surface. Kaseberg soils are well drained soils that formed in material weathered from consolidated sediments of mixed rock sources. Kaseberg soils are on nearly level to rolling low terraces and hills. Kaseberg soils are taxonomically classified as loamy, mixed, superactive, thermic, shallow Typic Durixerepts. Kaseberg soils are well drained, have slow to medium runoff, and moderate permeability. Water perches above the claypan for short periods after periods of high rainfall.

SAN JOAQUIN SANDY LOAM, 1 TO 5 PERCENT SLOPES (MAP UNIT 181)

The San Joaquin series is a moderately deep soil with a duripan located approximately 26 to 60 inches below the soil surface. San Joaquin soils are moderately well drained soils that formed from alluvium derived from mixed, but predominately granitic rock sources. San Joaquin soils are on undulating low terraces on slopes of 0 to 9 percent. San Joaquin soils are taxonomically classified as fine, mixed, active, thermic Abruptic Durixeralfs.

San Joaquin soils are well and moderately well drained, have medium to very high runoff, and very slow permeability. Some areas are subject to rare or occasional flooding. San Joaquin soils contain hydric inclusions of Alamo soils at 2 percent in topographic depressions (NRCS 2010b).

DELINEATION RESULTS

The study area contains two vernal pool wetland features which lack surface connections to other waters of the United States. Two vernal pools, totaling 0.06 acre, are surrounded by annual grassland (Exhibit 3). Because the vernal pools lack a surface connection to other waters of the United States and do not appear to contribute significantly to the biological, chemical, or physical character of down gradient waters of the United States, these features may be considered isolated and not subject to Section 404 of the CWA because a significant nexus is absent. Annual grassland upland habitat composes 1.79 acres of the site.

Delineation sample sites depicted on Exhibit 3 are cross-referenced to the wetland determination data forms provided in Appendix A. Habitat descriptions are included below and a habitat map is provided in Appendix C, representative photographs of the study area are provided in Appendix D, and a list of vegetation observed during the field survey is provided in Appendix E.

NONJURISDICTIONAL HABITATS

The entire study area totaling 1.85-acres is composed of potentially nonjurisdictional habitats (Table 1). Potentially nonjurisdictional habitats within the study area include annual grassland and vernal pools, which lack a surface connection to other waters of the United States (Exhibit 3). The annual grassland habitat is potentially nonjurisdictional under Section 404 of the CWA because this habitat lacks one or more of the following three criteria which define wetlands: a hydrophytic plant assemblage, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology. The two vernal pools within the study area achieve the USACE three-parameter criteria as wetlands; however, these features lack a surface connection, and due to the size and distance to other waters of the United States, are unlikely to provide a significant contribution to the biological, chemical, and physical character of wetlands and other waters of the United States located down gradient. Because the vernal pools are non-relatively permanent wetlands separated by uplands from other waters of the United States, these wetlands are unlikely to be subject to USACE jurisdiction in accordance with Section 404 of the CWA. The conclusions of this delineation are contingent upon verification by the Sacramento District USACE.

Table 1
Potentially Nonjurisdictional Features

Vernal Pools (Potentially Isolated)	
VP1	0.03
VP2	0.03
Upland Habitats	
Annual Grassland	1.79
Total Potentially Nonjurisdictional Features	**1.85**

Source: Data compiled by AECOM 2010

Source: Data compiled by AECOM in 2011

Wetlands Map **Exhibit 3**

VERNAL POOL

VP1 is dominated by Mediterranean barley (*Hordeum marinum* ssp. *gussoneanum*) (FAC), waxy mannagrass (*Glyceria declinata*) (OBL), and spike rush (*Eleocharis macrostachya*) (OBL). VP2 is dominated by waxy mannagrass and rabbitsfoot grass (*Polypogon monspeliensis*) (FACW). Due to the temporal and transitory nature of vegetation associated with seasonal wetland such as vernal pools, the vegetation and the hydrology were problematic given the season in which the field survey was conducted by Regional West Supplement standards (USACE 2008). However, vegetative remnants were clearly present in abundance and primary indicators of wetland hydrology typical of seasonal depressions were evident in both VP1 and VP2 including wide surface cracks—measuring up to a half inch wide—hoof punch, algal matting, and aquatic invertebrates. The soils within the study area are clay loam. Typical of vernal pool soils, both redoxymorphic concentrations and depletions were seen in the soil matrix. The two vernal pools within the study area, which combined total 0.06 acre, meet the USACE three parameter wetland criteria because these concave depressions in the landscape have evidence of wetland hydrology, a hydrophytic plant community assemblage, and wetland soils.

These wetlands are located within annual grassland habitat with a topographic slope of 2 to 3 percent. No drainages or swales were identified at the time of the field survey which would convey water outside of the study area boundaries. While a subsurface connection to other waters of the United States is likely due to lateral movement of water below the soil horizon, it is unlikely that these features contribute in a relevant manner to down gradient wetlands and waters of the United States individually. Therefore, these features may not be subject to USACE regulation under Section 404 of the CWA.

ANNUAL GRASSLAND

Annual grassland is present on 1.79 acres of the study area. This habitat type is dominated by Mediterranean barley, graceful tarplant (*Holocarpha virgata*) (NL), lesser hawkbit (*Leontodon taraxacoides*) (NL), medusahead (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*) (NL).This habitat is not dominated by hydrophytic plant species and lacks wetland hydrology. This habitat is not likely subject to USACE jurisdiction under Section 404 of the CWA because it does not meet the definition of wetlands or waters of the United States.

JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION

Two seasonal features which meet the USACE three parameter criteria of wetlands having a hydrophytic plant assemblage, wetland hydrology, and hydric soils are present within the study area. These seasonal features have a vegetation assemblage typical of geographically separated vernal pools. Vernal pools generally have greater plant diversity when the depressions are physically larger, deeper, and are situated in a vernal pool complex. The two vernal pools within the study area appear to lack a surface hydrologic connection to other waters of the United States. While the significant nexus test requires that individual wetlands be evaluated for the potential to contribute significantly to downstream waters of the United States, it also mandates that "similarly situated lands" be considered to determine if these features significantly affect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of other covered waters more readily understood as "navigable." The study area is surrounded to the south and east by rural development and the town of Sheridan, to the north by annual grassland, and to the west by SR-65. The road base of SR-65 likely acts as a hydrologic barrier to the vernal pool grasslands to the southwest of the study area. Vernal pool grasslands are located northeast of the study area. However, these features are physically separated from the study area by Camp Far West Road. Therefore, because the vernal pools within the study area are physically separated from and have a hydrologic barrier from other waters of the United States, it is unlikely that these two wetlands would be subject to USACE jurisdiction under Section 404 of the CWA. The conclusions of this report are contingent upon verification of the Sacramento District USACE.

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APPENDIX A

Wetland Delineation Data Forms

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Arid West Region

Project/Site: Sheridan Water Supply Project City/County: Sheridan / Placer Co. Sampling Date: 10/21/10

Applicant/Owner: State: CA Sampling Point: 1

Investigator(s): S. Bennett Section, Township, Range: Sheridan T13N, R5E, 11

Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.): Terrace Local relief (concave, convex, none): Concave Slope (%): 0-2

Subregion (LRR): LRRC Lat: 38.98490 Long: -121.37977 Datum: NAD 83

Soil Map Unit Name: 181 - San Joaquin Sandy loam - 1-5% slopes NWI classification:

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes X No ___ (If no, explain in Remarks.)

Are Vegetation N, Soil N, or Hydrology N significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes X No ___

Are Vegetation Y, Soil N, or Hydrology Y naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?	Yes X	No ___
Hydric Soil Present?	Yes X	No ___
Wetland Hydrology Present?	Yes X	No ___

Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland? Yes X No ___

Remarks:

Area = 147m²

VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.

Tree Stratum (Plot size: ___)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
	___ = Total Cover		

Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: ___)			
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
	___ = Total Cover		

Herb Stratum (Plot size: 3m x 7m)			
1. Rumex crispus	5	N	FACW
2. Navarretia leucocephala	~1	N	OBL
3. Eryngium sp.	5	N	OBL
4. Polypogon monspeliensis	5	N	FACW
5. Glyceria declinata	10	N	OBL
6. Eleocharis macrostachya	10	N	OBL
7. Ranunculus bonariensis	<1	N	OBL
8. Hordeum marinum	25	Y	FAC
	~60	= Total Cover	

Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: ___)			
1.			
2.			
	___ = Total Cover		

% Bare Ground in Herb Stratum 40-50 % Cover of Biotic Crust 10

Dominance Test worksheet:

Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 1 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 1 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 100 (A/B)

Prevalence Index worksheet:

Total % Cover of:		Multiply by:
OBL species	21	x 1 = 21
FACW species	10	x 2 = 20
FAC species	25	x 3 = 75
FACU species		x 4 =
UPL species		x 5 =
Column Totals:	56 (A)	116 (B)

Prevalence Index = B/A = 2.07

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

- ___ Dominance Test is >50%
- X Prevalence Index is ≤3.0[1]
- ___ Morphological Adaptations[1] (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)
- ___ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation[1] (Explain)

[1]Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes X No ___

Remarks:
Vegetation problematic due to season in which survey conducted. However, clearly the area is dominated by hydrophytes indicative of vernal pools and seasonally wet areas. Crypsis vaginiflora also present, <1% of herb strata / Holocarpha virgata ~2-3%

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SOIL

Sampling Point: 1

Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

Depth (inches)	Matrix Color (moist)	Matrix %	Redox Features Color (moist)	Redox %	Type[1]	Loc[2]	Texture	Remarks
0-4	7.5YR 4/4	70	5YR 5/8	25	C	M	clay loam	gravel size - 0.25-1"
			7.5YR 2.5/1	5	D	M		present in soil (granitic)

[1]Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, CS=Covered or Coated Sand Grains. [2]Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

Hydric Soil Indicators: (Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)

- ___ Histosol (A1)
- ___ Histic Epipedon (A2)
- ___ Black Histic (A3)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- ___ Stratified Layers (A5) (LRR C)
- ___ 1 cm Muck (A9) (LRR D)
- ___ Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- ___ Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- ___ Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)
- ___ Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- ___ Sandy Redox (S5)
- ___ Stripped Matrix (S6)
- ___ Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1)
- ___ Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- ___ Depleted Matrix (F3)
- ___ Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- ___ Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- ___ Redox Depressions (F8)
- ___ Vernal Pools (F9)

Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils[3]:

- ___ 1 cm Muck (A9) (LRR C)
- ___ 2 cm Muck (A10) (LRR B)
- ___ Reduced Vertic (F18)
- ___ Red Parent Material (TF2)
- X Other (Explain in Remarks) – Concentrations & depletions present. Matrix not meeting definition of depleted, but clearly a hydric soil.

[3]Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Restrictive Layer (if present):

Type: ___

Depth (inches): ___

Hydric Soil Present? Yes X No ___

Remarks:
Soil very difficult to dig.
Very heavy clay content – platy structure of ped faces when broken.

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators (minimum of one required; check all that apply)

- ___ Surface Water (A1)
- ___ High Water Table (A2)
- ___ Saturation (A3)
- ___ Water Marks (B1) (Nonriverine)
- ___ Sediment Deposits (B2) (Nonriverine)
- ___ Drift Deposits (B3) (Nonriverine)
- X Surface Soil Cracks (B6) Up to 1/2" wide
- ___ Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)
- ___ Water-Stained Leaves (B9)
- ___ Salt Crust (B11)
- ___ Biotic Crust (B12)
- ___ Aquatic Invertebrates (B13)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
- ___ Oxidized Rhizospheres along Living Roots (C3)
- ___ Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
- ___ Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)
- ___ Thin Muck Surface (C7)
- X Other (Explain in Remarks) hoof punch

Secondary Indicators (2 or more required)

- ___ Water Marks (B1) (Riverine)
- ___ Sediment Deposits (B2) (Riverine)
- ___ Drift Deposits (B3) (Riverine)
- ___ Drainage Patterns (B10)
- ___ Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
- ___ Crayfish Burrows (C8)
- ___ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
- ___ Shallow Aquitard (D3)
- ___ FAC-Neutral Test (D5)

Field Observations:

Surface Water Present? Yes ___ No X Depth (inches): ___

Water Table Present? Yes ___ No X Depth (inches): ___

Saturation Present? (includes capillary fringe) Yes ___ No X Depth (inches): ___

Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes X No ___

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:
hydrology problematic based on survey time. Concave surface is 2-7" below surrounding land surface. Hoof punch prevalent in depression – especially in center.

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WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Arid West Region

Project/Site: Sheridan Water Supply Project City/County: Sheridan / Placer Co. Sampling Date: 10/21/10

Applicant/Owner: State: CA Sampling Point: 2

Investigator(s): S. Bennett Section, Township, Range: Sheridan T13N R5E, 11

Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.): terrace Local relief (concave, convex, none): Undulating Slope (%): 0-2

Subregion (LRR): LRRC Lat: 38.98496 Long: -121.37943 Datum: NAD 83

Soil Map Unit Name: 181 - San Joaquin Sandy loam - 1-5% Slopes NWI classification:

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes X No ____ (If no, explain in Remarks.)

Are Vegetation N, Soil N, or Hydrology N significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes X No ____

Are Vegetation N, Soil N, or Hydrology N naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?	Yes ____ No X	Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland? Yes ____ No X
Hydric Soil Present?	Yes ____ No ____	
Wetland Hydrology Present?	Yes ____ No X	

Remarks:

Annual grassland habitat

VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.

Tree Stratum (Plot size: ____)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
	____ = Total Cover		

Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: ____)			
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
	____ = Total Cover		

Herb Stratum (Plot size: 3mX3m)			
1. Hordeum marinum	40	y	FAC
2. Hemizonia fitchii	50	y	NL
3. Bromus diandrus	~1	N	NL
4. Briza minor	<1	N	FACW
5. Trifolium sp.	<1	N	—
6. Holocarpha virgata	5	N	NL
7. Leontodon taraxacoides	5	N	NL
8.			
	100 = Total Cover		

Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: ____)			
1.			
2.			
	____ = Total Cover		

% Bare Ground in Herb Stratum 1-2 % Cover of Biotic Crust Ø

Dominance Test worksheet:

Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 1 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 2 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 50 (A/B)

Prevalence Index worksheet:

Total % Cover of:	Multiply by:
OBL species ____	x 1 = ____
FACW species 1	x 2 = 2
FAC species 40	x 3 = 120
FACU species ____	x 4 = ____
UPL species 59	x 5 = 295
Column Totals: 100 (A)	417 (B)

Prevalence Index = B/A = 4.17

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

- ____ Dominance Test is >50%
- ____ Prevalence Index is ≤3.0[1]
- ____ Morphological Adaptations[1] (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)
- ____ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation[1] (Explain)

[1]Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes ____ No X

Remarks:

US Army Corps of Engineers Arid West – Version 2.0

SOIL

Sampling Point: 2

Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

Depth (inches)	Matrix Color (moist)	Matrix %	Redox Features Color (moist)	Redox %	Type[1]	Loc[2]	Texture	Remarks
0-4	7.5YR 4/4	90	2.5YR 5/6	10	C	M	clay loam	

[1]Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, CS=Covered or Coated Sand Grains. [2]Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

Hydric Soil Indicators: (Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)

- ___ Histosol (A1)
- ___ Histic Epipedon (A2)
- ___ Black Histic (A3)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- ___ Stratified Layers (A5) (LRR C)
- ___ 1 cm Muck (A9) (LRR D)
- ___ Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- ___ Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- ___ Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)
- ___ Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- ___ Sandy Redox (S5)
- ___ Stripped Matrix (S6)
- ___ Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1)
- ___ Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- ___ Depleted Matrix (F3)
- ___ Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- ___ Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- ___ Redox Depressions (F8)
- ___ Vernal Pools (F9)

Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils[3]:

- ___ 1 cm Muck (A9) (LRR C)
- ___ 2 cm Muck (A10) (LRR B)
- ___ Reduced Vertic (F18)
- ___ Red Parent Material (TF2)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

[3]Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Restrictive Layer (if present):

Type: ___

Depth (inches): ___

Hydric Soil Present? Yes ___ No ___

Remarks:
Peds do not have obvious platy structure like seen in sample pt. 1.
Still, profile very difficult to dig due to high clay content

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators (minimum of one required; check all that apply)

- ___ Surface Water (A1)
- ___ High Water Table (A2)
- ___ Saturation (A3)
- ___ Water Marks (B1) (Nonriverine)
- ___ Sediment Deposits (B2) (Nonriverine)
- ___ Drift Deposits (B3) (Nonriverine)
- ___ Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
- ___ Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)
- ___ Water-Stained Leaves (B9)
- ___ Salt Crust (B11)
- ___ Biotic Crust (B12)
- ___ Aquatic Invertebrates (B13)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
- ___ Oxidized Rhizospheres along Living Roots (C3)
- ___ Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
- ___ Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)
- ___ Thin Muck Surface (C7)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

Secondary Indicators (2 or more required)

- ___ Water Marks (B1) (Riverine)
- ___ Sediment Deposits (B2) (Riverine)
- ___ Drift Deposits (B3) (Riverine)
- ___ Drainage Patterns (B10)
- ___ Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
- ___ Crayfish Burrows (C8)
- ___ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
- ___ Shallow Aquitard (D3)
- ___ FAC-Neutral Test (D5)

Field Observations:

Surface Water Present? Yes ___ No X Depth (inches): ___

Water Table Present? Yes ___ No X Depth (inches): ___

Saturation Present? (includes capillary fringe) Yes ___ No X Depth (inches): ___

Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes ___ No X

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:
No evidence of wetland hydrology.

Arid West - Version 2.0

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Arid West Region

Project/Site: Sheridan Water Supply Project City/County: Sheridan / Placer Co. Sampling Date: 10/21/10

Applicant/Owner: State: CA Sampling Point: 3

Investigator(s): S. Bennett Section, Township, Range: Sheridan T13N, R5E, 11

Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.): terrace Local relief (concave, convex, none): concave Slope (%): 0-2

Subregion (LRR): LRRC Lat: 38.98503 Long: -121.37967 Datum: NAD 83

Soil Map Unit Name: 181 - San Joaquin Sandy loam - 1-5% Slopes NWI classification:

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes X No ____ (If no, explain in Remarks.)

Are Vegetation N, Soil N, or Hydrology N significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes X No ____

Are Vegetation Y, Soil N, or Hydrology Y naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?	Yes X No ____	Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland? Yes X No ____
Hydric Soil Present?	Yes X No ____	
Wetland Hydrology Present?	Yes X No ____	

Remarks:
Vernal pool 2

VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.

Tree Stratum (Plot size: ____)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
	____ = Total Cover		

Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: ____)			
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
	____ = Total Cover		

Herb Stratum (Plot size: 3X5m)			
1. Polypogon monospeliensis	15	Y	FACW
2. Glyceria declinata	15	Y	OBL
3. Eryngium sp.	2	N	(OBL)
4. Eleocharis macrostachya	5	N	OBL
5. Rumex crispus	<1	N	FACW
6. Rumex pulcher	<1	N	FAC
7. Ranunculus bonariensis	<1	N	OBL
8. Echinochloa sp.	5	N	
	40 = Total Cover		

Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: ____)			
1.			
2.			
	____ = Total Cover		

% Bare Ground in Herb Stratum ~60 % Cover of Biotic Crust 15

Dominance Test worksheet:

Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 2 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 2 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 100 (A/B)

Prevalence Index worksheet:

Total % Cover of:	Multiply by:
OBL species ____	x 1 = ____
FACW species ____	x 2 = ____
FAC species ____	x 3 = ____
FACU species ____	x 4 = ____
UPL species ____	x 5 = ____
Column Totals: ____ (A)	____ (B)

Prevalence Index = B/A = ____

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

X Dominance Test is >50%

__ Prevalence Index is ≤3.0[1]

__ Morphological Adaptations[1] (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)

__ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation[1] (Explain)

[1]Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes X No ____

Remarks:

US Army Corps of Engineers Arid West – Version 2.0

SOIL

Sampling Point: 3'

Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

Depth (inches)	Matrix Color (moist)	Matrix %	Redox Features Color (moist)	Redox %	Type[1]	Loc[2]	Texture	Remarks
0-4	7.5YR 4/4	50	5YR 5/8	46	C	M	clay loam	
			7.5YR 2.5/1	2	D	M		

[1]Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, CS=Covered or Coated Sand Grains. [2]Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

Hydric Soil Indicators: (Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)

- ___ Histosol (A1)
- ___ Histic Epipedon (A2)
- ___ Black Histic (A3)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- ___ Stratified Layers (A5) (LRR C)
- ___ 1 cm Muck (A9) (LRR D)
- ___ Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- ___ Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- ___ Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)
- ___ Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- ___ Sandy Redox (S5)
- ___ Stripped Matrix (S6)
- ___ Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1)
- ___ Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- ___ Depleted Matrix (F3)
- ___ Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- ___ Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- ___ Redox Depressions (F8)
- ___ Vernal Pools (F9)

Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils[3]:

- ___ 1 cm Muck (A9) (LRR C)
- ___ 2 cm Muck (A10) (LRR B)
- ___ Reduced Vertic (F18)
- ___ Red Parent Material (TF2)
- X Other (Explain in Remarks) – See data form #1

[3]Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Restrictive Layer (if present):

Type: ___

Depth (inches): ___

Hydric Soil Present? Yes X No ___

Remarks:

Very similar to soil at sp. 1, – small granitic gravels present, very platy

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators (minimum of one required; check all that apply)

- ___ Surface Water (A1)
- ___ High Water Table (A2)
- ___ Saturation (A3)
- ___ Water Marks (B1) (Nonriverine)
- ___ Sediment Deposits (B2) (Nonriverine)
- ___ Drift Deposits (B3) (Nonriverine)
- X Surface Soil Cracks (B6) up to 1"
- ___ Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)
- ___ Water-Stained Leaves (B9)
- ___ Salt Crust (B11)
- X Biotic Crust (B12)
- X Aquatic Invertebrates (B13) – seed shrimp
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
- ___ Oxidized Rhizospheres along Living Roots (C3)
- ___ Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
- ___ Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)
- ___ Thin Muck Surface (C7)
- X Other (Explain in Remarks) hoof punch

Secondary Indicators (2 or more required)

- ___ Water Marks (B1) (Riverine)
- ___ Sediment Deposits (B2) (Riverine)
- ___ Drift Deposits (B3) (Riverine)
- ___ Drainage Patterns (B10)
- ___ Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
- ___ Crayfish Burrows (C8)
- ___ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
- ___ Shallow Aquitard (D3)
- ___ FAC-Neutral Test (D5)

Field Observations:

Surface Water Present? Yes ___ No X Depth (inches): ___

Water Table Present? Yes ___ No X Depth (inches): ___

Saturation Present? (includes capillary fringe) Yes ___ No X Depth (inches): ___

Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes X No ___

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:

Arid West – Version 2.0

APPENDIX B

Soils Map

Source: NRCS 2009; Data compiled by AECOM in 2010

Soils **Appendix B**

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APPENDIX C

Habitat Map

Data compiled by AECOM in 2010

Habitat Map **Appendix C**

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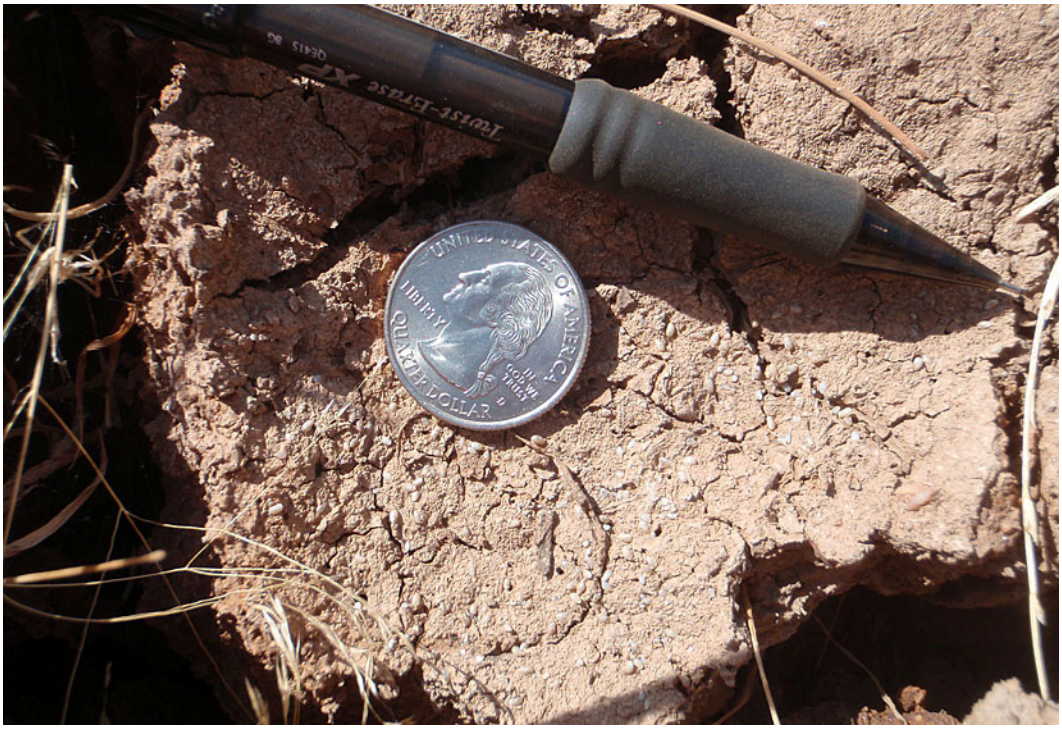
APPENDIX D

Representative Photographs

View of VP1 at the time of the October 21, 2010 field survey, view to the north.

View of VP1 at the time of the October 21, 2010 field survey, view to the south.

View of VP2 at the time of the October 21, 2010 field survey, view to the east.



Seed shrimp in VP2.

Soil profile of VP1.

Soil profile of VP2.

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APPENDIX E

Species Observed

Table E-1 Species Observed		
Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**Indicator Status (Reed 1988)**
Anthemis cotula	Dog fennel	NL
Brassica nigra	Black mustard	NL
Bromus diandrus	Ripgut brome	NL
Bromus hordeaceus	Soft chess	NL
Crypsis vaginiflora	Pricklegrass	OBL
Conyza canadensis	Canada horseweed	FAC
Cynodon dactylon	Bermuda grass	FAC
Eleocharis macrostachya	Spike rush	OBL
Elymus triticoides	Creeping wildrye	FAC
Epilobium ciliatum	Hairy willowherb	FACW
Eremocarpus setigerus	Doveweed	NL
Erodium botrys	Filaree	NL
Erodium cicutarium	Redstem filaree	NL
Eryngium vaseyi var. *castrense*	Coyote thistle	FACW
Glyceria declinata	Waxy mannagrass	OBL
Ficus carica	Edible fig	NL
Hedera helix	English ivy	NL
Hemizonia fitchii	Fitch's tarweed	NL
Holocarpha virgata	Graceful tarplant	NL
Hordeum marinum ssp. *gussoneanum*	Mediterranean barley	FAC
Hordeum murinum	Foxtail barley	NL
Juncus bufonius	Toad rush	FACW
Lactuca serriola	Prickly lettuce	FAC
Leontodon taraxacoides	Lesser hawkbit	FACU
Lolium multiflorum	Italian ryegrass	FAC
Lotus purshianus	Spanish Clover	NL
Lythrum hyssopifolia	Hyssop loosestrife	FACW
Medicago polymorpha	Bur clover	NL
Navarretia leucocephala	Whitehead navarretia	OBL
Paspalum dilatatum	Dallisgrass	FAC
Plagiobothrys stipitatus var. *micranthus*	Slender popcorn flower	OBL
Plantago lanceolata	English plantain	FAC
Polypogon monspeliensis	Rabbitsfoot grass	FACW
Psilocarphus brevissimus	Woolly marbles	OBL

Table E-1 Species Observed		
Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**Indicator Status (Reed 1988)**
Quercus lobata	Valley oak	FAC
Ranunculus bonariensis	Carter's Buttercup	OBL
Rumex crispus	Curly dock	FACW
Rumex pulcher	Fiddle dock	FAC
Taeniatherum caput-medusae	Medusahead	NL
Trichostema lanceolatum	Vinegar weed	NL
Trifolium spp.	Clover	
Vulpia myuros	Rattail fescue	FACU

APPENDIX B

Native American Consultation

AECOM

AECOM
2020 L Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95811
www.aecom.com

916.414.5800 tel
916.414.5850 fax

July 19, 2011

Ms. Karen Fowler
California Native American Heritage Commission
915 Capitol Mall, Room 364
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: REQUEST FOR NATIVE AMERICAN CONTACT LIST AND SEARCH OF SACRED LANDS FILE FOR PLACER COUNTY (PROJECT #60210445).

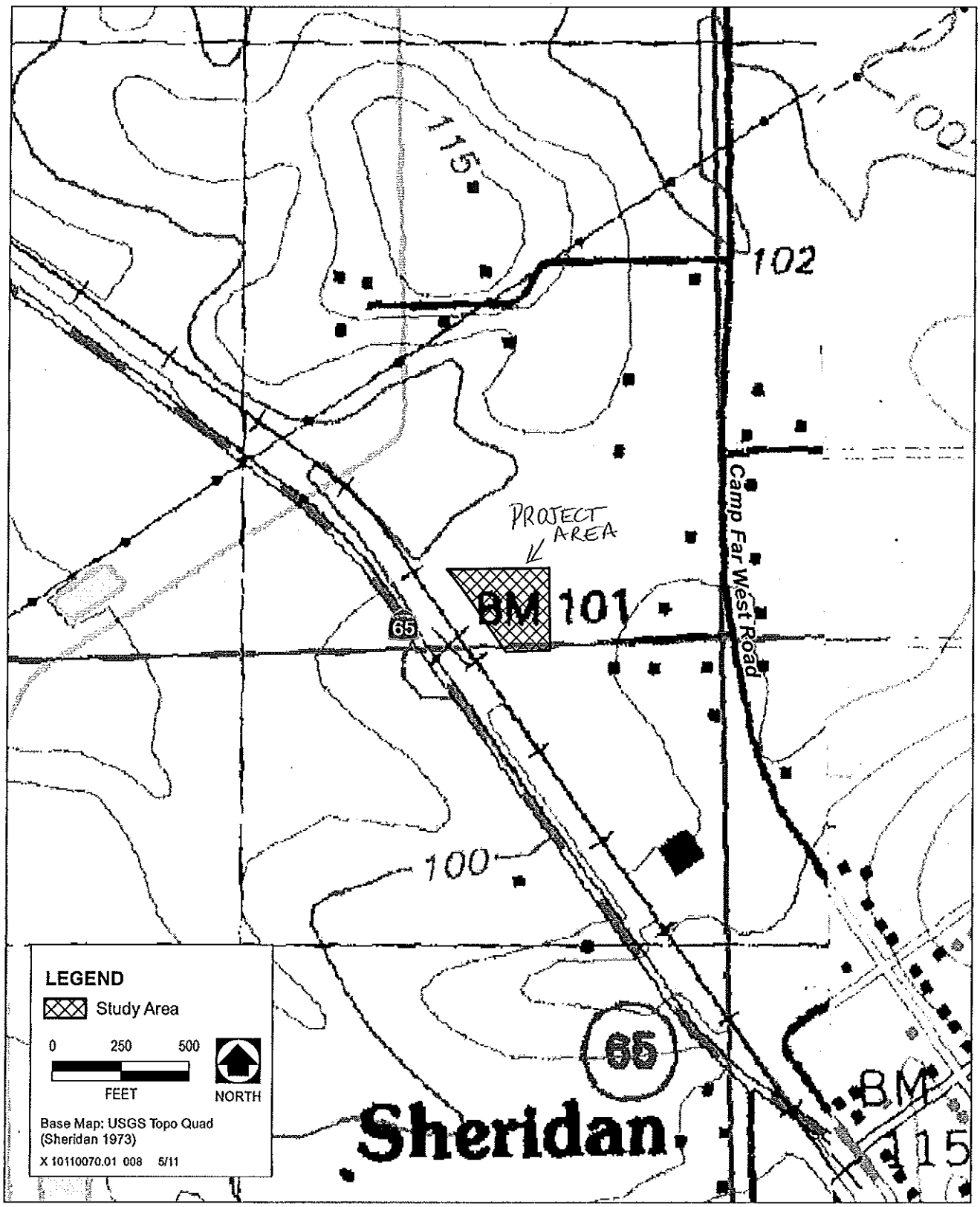
Dear Ms. Fowler,

AECOM is conducting a cultural resources investigation for a proposed new water supply installation project to be located in Sheridan, California. We are attaching a figure showing the portion of the Sheridan USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle map with the project area shown. The project is located in Section 11, Township 13N, Range 5E. The project area is approximately 0.53 acres in size and is located on currently undeveloped land. We would like to request a Native American contact list for Placer County and a search of your Sacred Lands file for any places of concern that may be located within the project vicinity.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me by email at teresa.obrien@aecom.com or telephone (916) 381-1247. I appreciate your assistance with this project and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Teresa O'Brien
Teresa (Traci) O'Brien
Archaeologist



Source: AECOM 2011

Site and Vicinity Map

DRAFT - Not for Public Review

STATE OF CALIFORNIA Edmund G. Brown jr., Governor

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION
915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 364
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 653-4082
Fax (916) 657-5390

July 21, 2011

Teresa O'Brien
AECOM
2020 L Street
Sacramento, CA

Sent by Fax: 916-414-5850
Number of Pages: 2

RE: Proposed Project, #60210445, Placer County

Dear Ms. O'Brien:

A record search of the sacred lands file has failed to indicate the presence of Native American cultural resources in the immediate project area. The absence of specific site information in the sacred lands file does not indicate the absence of cultural resources in any project area. Other sources of cultural resources should also be contacted for information regarding known and recorded sites.

Enclosed is a list of Native Americans individuals/organizations who may have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. The Commission makes no recommendation or preference of a single individual, or group over another. This list should provide a starting place in locating areas of potential adverse impact within the proposed project area. I suggest you contact all of those indicated, if they cannot supply information, they might recommend others with specific knowledge. If a response has not been received within two weeks of notification, the Commission requests that you follow-up with a telephone call to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from any of these individuals or groups, please notify me. With your assistance we are able to assure that our lists contain current information. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (916) 653-4040.

Sincerely,

Katy Sanchez
Program Analyst

Native American Contact List
Placer County
July 21, 2011

Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians
John Tayaba, Vice Chairperson
P.O. Box 1340
Shingle Springs, CA 95682
(530) 676-8010
(530) 676-8033 Fax
Miwok
Maidu

Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
Waldo Walker, Chairperson
919 Highway 395 South
Gardnerville , NV 89410
waldo.walker@washoetribe.
775-265-4191
775-265-6240 Fax
Washoe

Rose Enos
15310 Bancroft Road
Auburn , CA 95603
(530) 878-2378
Maidu
Washoe

Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians
Nicholas Fonseca, Chairperson
P.O. Box 1340
Shingle Springs, CA 95682
nfonseca@ssband.org
(530) 676-8010
(530) 676-8033 Fax
Miwok
Maidu

United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria
David Keyser, Chairperson
10720 Indian Hill Road
Auburn , CA 95603
530-883-2390
530-883-2380 - Fax
Maidu
Miwok

Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California THPO
Darrel Cruz, Cultural Resources Coordinator
919 Highway 395 South
Gardnerville , NV 89410
darrel.cruz@washoetribe.
(775) 265-4191 ext 1212
(775) 546-3421 - cell
(775) 265-2254 FAX
Washoe

Buena Vista Rancheria
Rhonda Morningstar Pope, Chairperson
PO Box 162283
Sacramento , CA 95816
rhonda@buenavistatribe.
916 491-0011
916 491-0012 - fax
Me-Wuk / Miwok

United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria
Marcos Guerrero, Tribal Preservation Committee
10720 Indian Hill Road
Auburn , CA 95603
mguerrero@auburnrancheria.com
530-883-2364
530-883-2320 - Fax
Maidu
Miwok

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of the statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources for proposed Project # 60210445, New water supply installation ; Placer County.

Native American Contact List
Placer County
July 21, 2011

April Wallace Moore
19630 Placer Hills Road
Colfax , CA 95713
530-637-4279

Nisenan - So Maidu
Konkow
Washoe

United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria
Gregory S. Baker, Tribal Administrator
10720 Indian Hill Road
Auburn , CA 95603
gbaker@auburnrancheria.
530-883-2390
530-883-2380 - Fax

Maidu
Miwok

Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians
Daniel Fonseca
P.O. Box 1340
Shingle Springs, CA 95682
(530) 676-8010
(530) 676-8033 Fax

Miwok
Maidu

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of the statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources for proposed Project # 60210445, New water supply installation ; Placer County.

Example of Native American Consultation Letter

AECOM
2020 L Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95811
www.aecom.com

916.414.5800 tel
916.414.5850 fax

August 24, 2011

Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians
Daniel Fonseca
P.O. Box 1340
Shingle Springs, CA 95682

Subject: INFORMATION REQUEST FOR PLACER COUNTY SHERIDAN WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

Dear Mr. Tayaba:

AECOM is conducting a cultural resources investigation for the above referenced project located just north of the town of Sheridan in Placer County, California as is depicted on the attached Sheridan (1973) 7.5 minute quadrangle graphic. The proposed project would provide a newly constructed water supply system for the community of Sheridan and anticipates a project area of approximately 0.53 acres. The proposed project site is currently undeveloped and used for horse pasture and is located behind the municipal park adjacent to Highway 65.

On behalf of Placer County, AECOM is contacting you because your name was provided to us by the Native American Heritage Commission. We would appreciate any information that you or your organization could provide regarding Native American cultural resources located within or near the proposed project area.

We appreciate your assistance with this project and look forward to hearing from you. If you have any comments or concerns please send them to the address provided above or you may contact the AECOM Project Manager, Jessica Heuer at her electronic mail address at jessica.heuer@aecom.com or 916-414-1622.

Sincerely,

Teresa O'Brien

Teresa O'Brien
Archaeologist

SHINGLE SPRINGS RANCHERIA
P.O. BOX 1340; SHINGLE SPRINGS, CA 95682
(530) 676-8010; FAX (530) 676-3582

September 9, 2011

AECOM
2020 L Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95811

RE: Information Request for Placer County Sheridan Water Supply Project

Dear Teresa O'Brien

Thank you for your letter dated August 24, 2011 seeking information regarding the proposed Placer County Sheridan Water Supply Project that is located in Placer County. Based on the information provided, the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians is not aware of any known cultural resources on this site. However, SSR would like to have continued consultation through updates, as the project progresses this will foster a greater communication between the Tribe and your agency.

If during the progress of the project new information or human remains are found we would like to be able to go over our process with you that we currently have in place to protect such important and sacred artifacts (especially near rivers and streams).

Please contact the following individuals if such finds are made:

Mr. Daniel Fonseca, Director and Most Likely Descendant (MLD)
Office: (530) 676-8010, dfonseca@ssband.org

And copy all communications to:
Crystal Dilworth, Office Coordinator cadilworth@ssband.org Office (530) 698-1471

Thank you for providing us with this notice and opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Daniel Fonseca
Assistant Director

MIWOK
MAIDU

United Auburn Indian Community
of the Auburn Rancheria

David Keyser
Chairman

Kimberly DuBach
Vice Chair

Gene Whitehouse
Secretary

Brenda Conway
Treasurer

Calvin Moman
Council Member

September 26, 2011

Teresa O'Brien
AECOM
2020 L Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95811

Subject: Information Request for Placer County Sheridan Water Supply Project

Dear Ms. O'Brien,

Thank you for requesting information regarding the above referenced project. The United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) of the Auburn Rancheria is comprised of Miwok and Southern Maidu (Nisenan) people whose tribal lands are within Placer County and ancestral territory spans into El Dorado, Nevada, Sacramento, Sutter, and Yuba counties. The UAIC is concerned about development within its aboriginal territory that has potential to impact the lifeways, cultural sites, and landscapes that may be of sacred or ceremonial significance. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this and other projects in your jurisdiction.

In order to ascertain whether or not the project could affect cultural resources that may be of importance to the UAIC, we would like to receive copies of any archaeological reports that have been, or will be, completed for the project. We also request copies of future environmental documents for the proposed project so that we have the opportunity to comment on potential impacts and proposed mitigation measures related to cultural resources. The information gathered will provide us with a better understanding of the project and cultural resources on site and is invaluable for consultation purposes. Please contact us if any Native American cultural resources are in, or found to be within, your project area.

I would also like to mention that we often receive mislabeled letters or other consulting parties' letters from you company. Please be advised. For example the letter we are replying has Mr. Tabaya in the salutation line.

Thank you again for taking these matters into consideration, and for involving the UAIC early in the planning process. We look forward to reviewing the aforementioned documents as requested. Please contact Marcos Guerrero, cultural resources specialist, at (530) 883-2364 or email at mguerrero@auburnrancheria.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Gregory S. Baker,
Tribal Administrator

CC: Marcos Guerrero, UAIC

APPENDIX C

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Letter Regarding Jurisdictional Determination

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, SACRAMENTO
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1325 J STREET
SACRAMENTO CA 95814-2922

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

October 6, 2011

2011 OCT 13 PM 12:40
RECEIVED
UTILITY SERVICES

Regulatory Division SPK-2011-00548

Ms. Christina Hanson
Placer County Facility Services Department
11476 C Avenue
Auburn, California 95603-2702

Dear Ms. Hanson:

We are responding to your May 9, 2011 request for an approved jurisdictional determination (JD) for the Sheridan Water Supply Improvements project. The approximately 1.85-acre site is located in Section 11, Township 13 North, Range 5 East, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian, Latitude 38.985°, Longitude -121.380°, Sheridan, Placer County, California.

Based on available information, we concur with the estimate of waters of the United States, as depicted on the drawing, entitled, *Wetlands Map, Exhibit 3, Sheridan Water Supply Improvements Project, Placer County* prepared by AECOM. Two vernal pools totaling approximately 0.06 acres are present within the survey area. The vernal pools identified on the drawing are intrastate isolated waters with no apparent interstate or foreign commerce connection. As such, these waters are not currently regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). This disclaimer of jurisdiction is only for Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act. Other federal, state, and local laws may apply to your activities. *In particular, you may need authorization from the California State Water Resources Control Board and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

This approved JD determination for this site is valid for five years from the date of this letter, unless new information warrants revision of the determination before the expiration date. If you object to this determination, you may request an administrative appeal under Corps regulations at 33 CFR Part 331. A Notification of Appeal Process (NAP) and Request for Appeal (RFA) form is enclosed. If you request to appeal this determination you must submit a completed RFA form to the South Pacific Division Office at the following address: Administrative Appeal Review Officer, Army Corps of Engineers, South Pacific Division, CESPD-PDS-O, 1455 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94103-1399, telephone: 415-503-6574, FAX: 415-503-6646.

In order for an RFA to be accepted by the Corps, the Corps must determine that it is complete, that it meets the criteria for appeal under 33 CFR Part 331.5, and that it has been received by the Division Office within 60 days of the NAP. Should you decide to submit an RFA form, it must be received at the above address by 60 days from the date of this letter. It is not necessary to submit an RFA form to the Division Office if you do not object to the determination in this letter.

You should provide a copy of this letter and notice to all other affected parties, including any individual who has an identifiable and substantial legal interest in the property.

This determination has been conducted to identify the limits of Corps of Engineers' Clean Water Act jurisdiction for the particular site identified in this request. This determination may not be valid for the wetland conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985. If you or your tenant are USDA program participants, or anticipate participation in USDA programs, you should request a certified wetland determination from the local office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service prior to starting work.

Please refer to identification number SPK-2011-00548 in any correspondence concerning this project. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. William Ness at 650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-200, Sacramento, California 95814, email *William.W.Ness@usace.army.mil*, or telephone 916-557-5268. For more information regarding our program, please visit our website at *www.spk.usace.army.mil/regulatory.html*. We appreciate your feedback. At your earliest convenience, please tell us how we are doing by completing the customer survey on our website under *Customer Service Survey*.

Sincerely,

William Ness
Senior Project Manager
California North Branch

Enclosures

Copies Furnished without enclosures:

Ms. Sarah Bennet, AECOM, 2020 L Street, Suite 400, Sacramento, California 95811-4267
Mr. Dan Radulescu, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, 11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114
Mr. Jason Brush, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 75 Hawthorne Street, WTR-8, San Francisco, California 94105-3901
Mr. Kenneth Sanchez, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2800 Cottage Way, Suite w-2605, Sacramento, California 95825-1846