

14.0 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND HAZARDS

This chapter summarizes the 2010 Hidden Falls Regional Park (HFRP) Certified Environmental Impact Report (EIR) hazardous materials and hazards findings; describes the proposed Trails Expansion project area (project area) environmental setting and pertinent regulations; evaluates the potential for project-related impacts associated with hazardous materials and hazards resulting from implementation of the proposed project; and provides mitigation measures as necessary to reduce those impacts.

14.1 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS ON THE 2010 HFRP CERTIFIED EIR

Chapter 14.0, “Hazardous Materials and Hazards,” of the 2010 HFRP Certified EIR included a detailed discussion of the park environmental and regulatory setting, potential impacts on hazards resources resulting from implementation of the park project, and any needed mitigation measures to reduce these impacts.

14.1.1 FINDINGS OF FACT

The following is a list of the 2010 EIR findings.

- ▶ Park project construction and maintenance equipment may use small amounts of hazardous materials and accidental spills or other releases could occur. Compliance with all applicable federal and state regulations and implementing various measures, including preparing and implementing an accidental-spill prevention response plan and employee safety training, reduced the potentially significant impact to **less than significant**.
- ▶ Several existing buildings likely contained asbestos containing materials and lead based paint and remnant mining or prospecting resources that could contain hazardous materials are located on the park site, which could pose a health risk to park construction workers. Preparing and implementing a safety hazard plan and conducting soil sampling reduced the potentially significant impact to **less than significant**.
- ▶ The potential for fire occurring during or after construction of the park were found to be **less than significant** because the County would implement fire response facilities and management actions and per *Hidden Falls Regional Park Vegetation, Fuels and Range Management Plan* (Placer County 2007) recommendations that would reduce the risk of wildfire.
- ▶ The potential public safety hazards from hunting and increased risk to health hazards from Vector-borne disease were determined to be **less than significant** because hunting would not be allowed when the park is open to the public and hunters would comply with all California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), including shooting setbacks from inhabited structures, and the County closely coordinates with the Vector Control District to monitor and treat potential vector sources in the park area.
- ▶ There are no public schools within 0.25-miles of the park and no public airports within two miles; therefore, there were **no impacts** related to schools or airports resulting from implementation of the park project.

14.2 2019 HFRP TRAILS EXPANSION PROJECT – ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The setting for the Subsequent EIR describes the physical environmental conditions of the proposed HFRP Trails Expansion project. See Chapter 14, “Hazardous Materials and Hazards,” of the 2010 HFRP EIR for information about the existing park.

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

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

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

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

14.2.1 REGIONAL SETTING

The project proposes to add parking and expand the park trail network to the northeast, west and east of the existing park, and south of the Bear River, with interconnections to existing trails within the park. The Trails Expansion project area is surrounded by undeveloped land dominated by natural vegetation. The proposed expansion project area has few roads and includes expansive undeveloped lands within the Raccoon Creek and Bear River watersheds. The area is characterized by blue oak woodland and oak-foothill pine woodland. See Figure 3-4 in Chapter 3, “Project Description,” which shows the boundaries of the trail expansion properties and the planned alignment of the proposed new trails.

14.2.2 EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS

Land proposed for inclusion in the Trails Expansion boundary includes the Harvego Preserve, Kotomyan Preserve, Taylor Ranch and an easement through the Outman Preserve, which are owned in fee by the PLT. All four preserves possess exceptional natural, scenic, recreational and open space values and contribute to the preservation of native wildlife habitat and oak woodlands (PLT 2007a, 2007b, 2011, 2013). Allowable uses, including agricultural and recreational activities, habitat management, and restoration activities on those properties are regulated through implementation of policies contained in individual management plans.

The Liberty Ranch property is privately owned; however, the PLT holds a conservation easement on the property and the County has a dedicated trail easement within the property that connects to the other PLT-owned parcels. The County's trail easement on the Liberty Ranch property is limited to a previously-surveyed, 15-foot-wide corridor whereas the trail easements on the Harvego Preserve are "blanket" in nature and are not limited to prior established corridors.

Harvego Preserve includes a working cattle ranch, an extensive network of existing ranch roads, and trails developed by the PLT. Outman Preserve, Liberty Ranch, and Taylor Ranch consist of undeveloped land used for cattle grazing. Both the Kotomyan Preserve and Taylor Ranch have existing multi-use trails which are used by the PLT during docent-led site visits.

The Twilight Ride parcel is located adjacent to Taylor Ranch and is accessed directly off Bell Road. The County has entered a Purchase and Sale Agreement for this land for the potential to provide parking accessible directly from Bell Road.

The adopted Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for HFRP, CUP No. 20090391 approved on January 28, 2010, allows for an additional parking area at the western end of the park, with access via Garden Bar Road. Pursuant to this CUP, and as described in the 2010 HFRP Certified EIR, the County is allowed to provide limited, reservation-based access off Garden Bar Road that would require only minimal off-site road improvements, including the establishment of a parking lot on park land. Although approved in 2010, the parking lot on the Garden Bar side of the park has not yet been constructed. In 2016, the County purchased a 40-acre parcel with direct access off Garden Bar Road. An existing easement connects this 40-acre parcel to the west end of the park. This Draft SEIR discusses the parking area that is proposed to be constructed on the 40-acre parcel. A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) was prepared for the Harvego Preserve property by Wallace Kuhl and Associates (2006). Review of historical U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps and historic aerial photos and field reconnaissance of the property showed no evidence to suggest that the property was disturbed by intensive human activities such as quarrying, subsurface or surface mining, or dredging. No aboveground storage tanks, odors, soil staining, or stressed vegetation were observed. Debris, soil piles, concrete rubble, and other abandoned items were located on the property and there was no evidence that these items contained hazardous materials. No recognized environment conditions¹ were observed on the property.

A Phase I ESA was prepared for the Taylor Ranch property by Youngdahl Associates (2007). Field reconnaissance of the property identified a lode mine with vertical shaft covered at the surface with vegetation and other inert debris (wood, concrete, vegetation, and miscellaneous trash), a waste rock pile, and associated structures located at the eastern boundary of parcel 026-120-028-000, north of Raccoon Creek. A Limited Phase 2 Soil Investigation was conducted to evaluate the waste rock pile for elevated concentrations of arsenic. The investigation determined that arsenic concentrations were below reporting limits. No recognized environment conditions were observed on the property.

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) GeoTracker and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) EnviroStor database were searched to identify toxic releases, hazardous waste, or

¹ The American Society of Testing and Materials Standard Practice E 1527-05 define "Recognized Environmental Conditions" as the "the presence or likely presence of any hazardous substances or petroleum products on a property under conditions that indicate an existing release, a part release, or a material threat of a release of any hazardous substances or petroleum products into structures on the property or into the ground, groundwater, or surface water of the property."

other violations that could affect the proposed project site. As of March 2019, none of the properties within the expansion area are listed as a hazardous waste sites in either of these database (SWRCB 2019; DTSC 2019).

In addition, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Envirofacts database was searched. The Envirofacts database is an assemblage of USEPA databases, including the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (commonly known as Superfund) Information System database, which includes National Priorities List sites being assessed under the Superfund program, hazardous waste sites, and potential hazardous waste sites. None of the properties within the Trails Expansion area are listed in the Envirofacts database (USEPA 2019).

Several stock ponds and reservoirs exist within the Harvego Preserve portion of the expansion area that could provide potential habitat for mosquitoes (Wallace Kuhl Associates 2006). The project area is served by the Placer Mosquito and Vector Control District (Vector Control District), which serves all of Placer County. The Vector Control District routinely inspects and treats agricultural, industrial, and residential vector sources such as creeks, wetlands, and human-made water features, as needed (Placer Mosquito and Vector Control District 2009).

The closest airport is the Auburn Municipal Airport, which is located approximately 7 miles southeast of the proposed expansion project area.

The nearest school is Auburn Elementary School, located approximately 7 miles south of the proposed expansion project area.

FIRE HAZARD

The 2010 HFRP Certified EIR considered the potential for construction and operation of the park to expose people and structures to wildfires. However, the State CEQA Guidelines were amended in 2019 to include new thresholds related to wildfire. Because the 2010 HFRP Certified EIR was prepared prior to adoption of the 2019 amendments and because the County is conducting a Subsequent EIR Analysis, evaluation of the potential for park operations to create wildfire related impacts is evaluated for both the existing HFRP and the proposed trails expansion areas. See Section 16.0 “Wildfire” of this SEIR for the discussion of wildfire hazards.

14.3 REGULATORY SETTING

14.3.1 FEDERAL PLANS, POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND LAWS

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

The USEPA has primary responsibility for enforcing and implementing federal laws and regulations pertaining to hazardous materials. Applicable regulations are contained mainly in CFR Titles 29, 40, and 49. Hazardous materials, as defined in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), are listed in 49 CFR 172.101. Management of hazardous materials is governed by the laws summarized below.

- ▶ **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA):** The RCRA (42 U.S. Code [USC] 6901 et seq.) established a federal regulatory program for the generation, transport, and disposal of hazardous substances. Under the RCRA, EPA regulates the generation, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous substances. The RCRA was amended by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984, which banned the disposal of hazardous waste on land and strengthened EPA’s reporting requirements. EPA

has delegated authority for many RCRA requirements to the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).

- ▶ **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA):** CERCLA, also called the Superfund Act (42 USC 9601 et seq.), provided broad federal authority and created a trust fund for addressing releases and threatened releases of hazardous substances that could endanger public health or the environment.
- ▶ **Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA):** The Superfund Hazardous Substance Cleanup Program (Public Law 96-510) was established on December 11, 1980. The program was expanded and reauthorized by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-499), also known as SARA Title III. SARA created the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986, also known as SARA Title III, a statute designed to improve community access to information about chemical hazards and to facilitate the development of chemical emergency response plans by state, tribal, and local governments.
- ▶ **Toxic Substances Control Act:** The Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) (15 USC 2601 et seq.) provides EPA with authority to require reporting, recordkeeping and testing, and restrictions related to chemical substances and/or mixtures. The TSCA addresses the production, importation, use, and disposal of specific chemicals, including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), asbestos, radon, and lead-based paint.
- ▶ **Clean Air Act:** Regulations under the Clean Air Act (42 USC 7401 et seq., as amended) are designed to prevent accidental releases of hazardous materials. The regulations require facilities that store a threshold quantity or greater of listed regulated substances to develop a risk management plan that includes hazard assessments and response programs to prevent accidental releases of listed chemicals.

These laws and associated regulations include specific requirements for facilities that generate, use, store, treat, and/or dispose of hazardous materials. EPA is responsible for compiling the National Priorities List (NPL) for known or threatened release sites of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants (commonly referred to as “Superfund sites”). EPA provides oversight of and supervision for Superfund investigation/remediation projects, evaluates remediation technologies, and develops hazardous materials disposal restrictions and treatment standards.

Hazardous Materials Transportation

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), in conjunction with EPA, is responsible for enforcing and implementing federal laws and regulations that govern transportation of hazardous materials. The Hazardous Materials Transportation Act of 1974 (49 USC 5101) directed DOT to establish regulations for the safe storage and transportation of hazardous materials (CFR Title 49, Parts 171–180), which define the types of hazardous materials, their transport, packaging, and methods of marking vehicles (i.e., via placards). EPA, the California Highway Patrol (CHP), the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and DTSC also enforce state and federal laws regarding hazardous materials transport. EPA regulations for transporting hazardous wastes require tracking shipments with manifests. EPA standards for transporters of hazardous materials are found at 40 CFR 263 and include labeling, placarding, proper containers, and reporting discharges. DOT regulations are documented in 49 CFR 171–180.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is responsible for ensuring worker safety. OSHA sets federal standards for implementation of workplace training, exposure limits, and safety procedures for handling hazardous substances and addressing other potential industrial hazards. OSHA also establishes criteria by which each state can implement its own health and safety program. The Hazard Communication Standard (CFR Title 29, Part 1910) requires that workers be informed of the hazards associated with the materials they handle. Workers must be trained in safe handling of hazardous materials, use of emergency response equipment, and building emergency response plans and procedures. Containers must be labeled appropriately, and material safety data sheets must be available in the workplace.

14.3.2 STATE PLANS, POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND LAWS

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS HANDLING

Several state agencies regulate the transportation and use of hazardous materials to minimize potential risks to public health and safety. The California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services establish rules governing the use of hazardous substances in California. Within Cal/EPA, DTSC is primarily responsible for regulating the generation, transport, and disposal of hazardous substances under the authority of the Hazardous Waste Control Law; enforcement is delegated to local jurisdictions. Regulations implementing the Hazardous Waste Control Law list hazardous chemicals and common substances that may be hazardous; establish criteria for identifying, packaging, and labeling hazardous substances; prescribe hazardous-substances management; establish permit requirements for treatment, storage, disposal, and transportation of hazardous substances; and identify hazardous substances prohibited from landfills. These regulations apply to the protection of human health and the environment during construction.

State regulations applicable to hazardous materials are contained primarily in Title 22 of the CCR. CCR Title 26 is a compilation of those CCR chapters or titles that are applicable to hazardous materials management. California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) standards are presented in CCR Title 8; these standards are more stringent than federal OSHA regulations and address workplace regulations involving the use, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials.

State and federal laws require detailed planning to ensure that hazardous materials are handled, used, stored, and disposed of properly, and, in case such materials are accidentally released, to prevent or to mitigate injury to health or the environment. California's Hazardous Materials Release Response Plans and Inventory Law—also called the Business Plan Act—is intended to minimize the potential for accidents involving hazardous materials and facilitate an appropriate response to possible hazardous-materials emergencies. The law (California Health and Safety Code, Division 20, Chapter 6.95, Article 1) requires businesses that use hazardous materials to provide inventories of those materials to designated emergency response agencies; to illustrate on a diagram where the materials are stored on-site; to prepare an emergency response plan; and to train employees to use the materials safely and for emergency response.

CALIFORNIA HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RELEASE RESPONSE PLANS AND INVENTORY LAW OF 1985

This law requires preparation of hazardous materials business plans and disclosure of hazardous materials inventories. Such plans must include an inventory of hazardous materials handled, as well as facility floor plans

showing where hazardous materials are stored, an emergency response plan, and emergency response procedures that provide for employee training (California Health and Safety Code, Division 20, Chapter 6.95, Article 1). The business plan program is administered by the California Emergency Management Agency.

DTSC has primary regulatory responsibility for management of hazardous materials, and delegates authority to local jurisdictions that enter into agreements with the state. Local agencies are responsible for administering these regulations. Several state agencies, including Cal/EPA and the California Emergency Management Agency, regulate the transportation and use of hazardous materials to minimize potential risks to public health and safety. The CHP and Caltrans enforce regulations related to the transport of hazardous materials. Together, these agencies determine container types used and license haulers to transport hazardous waste on public roadways.

A business plan is required if a hazardous substance would be stored for more than 30 days in any of the following quantities:

- ▶ 500 gallons or more of any solid;
- ▶ 55 gallons or more of any liquid;
- ▶ 200 cubic feet or more of any compressed gas; or
- ▶ any acutely hazardous substance or radiological material that meets the federal threshold planning quantities listed in 40 CFR Part 355, Subpart A.

CAL/OSHA WORKER SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

The California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) assumes primary responsibility for developing and enforcing workplace safety regulations in California. Cal/OSHA regulations for the use of hazardous materials in the workplace (CCR Title 8) require safety training, available safety equipment, accident and illness prevention programs, hazardous-substance exposure warnings, and preparation of emergency action and fire prevention plans. Cal/OSHA enforces regulations on hazard communication programs and mandates specific training and information requirements. These requirements include procedures for identifying and labeling hazardous substances, providing hazard information about hazardous substances and their handling, and preparing health and safety plans to protect workers and employees at hazardous-waste sites. Employers must make material safety data sheets available to employees and document employee information and training programs.

TRANSPORTATION OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

State agencies with primary responsibility for enforcing federal and State regulations and responding to hazardous materials transportation emergencies are the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Together, these agencies determine container types used and license hazardous waste haulers for hazardous waste transportation on public roads. The transport of hazardous materials is regulated under the California Vehicle Code (CCR Title 13) and can only be conducted under a registration issued by DTSC. ID numbers are issued by DTSC or EPA for tracking hazardous waste transporters and treatment, storage, and disposal facilities for hazardous materials. The ID number is used to identify the hazardous waste handler and to track waste from point of origin to final disposal, and all material transport takes place under manifest.

CALIFORNIA ACCIDENTAL RELEASE PREVENTION PROGRAM

The goal of the California Accidental Release Prevention Program (CCR Title 19, Division 2, Chapter 4.5) is to reduce the likelihood and severity of consequences of any releases of extremely hazardous materials. Any business that handles regulated substances (chemicals that pose a major threat to public health and safety or the environment because they are highly toxic, flammable, or explosive, including ammonia, chlorine gas, hydrogen, nitric acid, and propane) must prepare a risk management plan. The risk management plan is a detailed engineering analysis of the potential accident factors present at a business and the measures that can be implemented to reduce this accident potential. The plan must provide safety information, hazard data, operating procedures, and training and maintenance requirements. The list of regulated substances is found in Article 8, Section 2770.5 of the program regulations.

UNIFIED PROGRAM

Cal/EPA has adopted regulations implementing the Unified Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Materials Management Regulatory Program (Unified Program). The six program elements of the Unified Program are hazardous-waste generation and on-site treatment, underground storage tanks, aboveground storage tanks, hazardous-material release response plans and inventories, risk management and prevention programs, and Uniform Fire Code hazardous-materials management plans and inventories. The program is implemented at the local level by a local agency, referred to as the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA), which is responsible for consolidating the administration of the six program elements within its jurisdiction. The Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (EMD) is the CUPA for Sacramento County.

PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 65962.5 (CORTESE LIST)

The provisions of California Government Code Section 65962.5 are commonly referred to as the “Cortese List” (after the legislator who authored the legislation that enacted it). The Cortese List is a planning document used by the State and local agencies to comply with CEQA requirements in providing information about the location of hazardous materials release sites. California Government Code Section 65962.5 requires Cal-EPA to develop an updated Cortese List annually, at minimum. DTSC and SWRCB are responsible for a portion of the information contained in the Cortese List. Other California State and local government agencies are required to provide additional hazardous material release information for the Cortese List.

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

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

14.3.3 LOCAL PLANS, POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND ORDINANCES

PLACER COUNTY GENERAL PLAN

The following are the relevant goals and policies identified by the *Placer County General Plan* (General Plan) (Placer County 2013) for hazardous materials and hazards.

GOAL 8.E: To ensure the maintenance of an Emergency Management Program to effectively prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of natural or technological disasters.

- ▶ **Policy 8.E.4.** The County shall, through its Office of Emergency Services, maintain the capability to effectively respond to emergency incidents.
- ▶ **Policy 8.E.5.** The County shall maintain an emergency operations center to coordinate emergency response, management, and recovery activities.

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

- ▶ **Policy 8.G.1.** The County shall ensure that the use and disposal of hazardous materials in the County complies with local, state, and federal safety standards.
- ▶ **Policy 8.G.5.** The County shall strictly regulate the storage of hazardous materials and wastes.
- ▶ **Policy 8.G.6.** The County shall require secondary containment and periodic examination for all storage of toxic materials.
- ▶ **Policy 8.G.13.** The County shall work with local fire protection and other agencies to ensure an adequate Countywide response capability to hazardous materials emergencies.

14.4 IMPACTS

14.4.1 ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

The focus of this analysis is on the potential for project-related impacts associated with hazardous materials and hazards resulting from implementation of the proposed project. A review of environmental risk databases was conducted, including the EPA's Envirofacts web site the SWRCB's GeoTracker web site, and DTSC's EnviroStor web site (SWRCB 2019; DTSC 2019; USEPA 2019; CAL FIRE 2007). In addition, the Phase I Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) for the Harvego Preserve and Taylor Ranch were reviewed (Wallace Kuhl Associates 2006; Youngdahl Consulting Group 2007). See appendix K for copies of these reports. The information obtained from these sources was reviewed and summarized to establish existing conditions and to evaluate the significance of potential environmental effects, based on the thresholds of significance presented below. In determining the level of significance, this analysis assumes that development in the proposed expansion area would comply with relevant federal, State, regional, and local ordinances and regulations. This analysis also considered how the HFRP Trails Expansion Project would or would not change the conclusions of the prior environmental review.

14.4.2 THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

CEQA THRESHOLDS

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

- ▶ create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials;
- ▶ create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment;
- ▶ emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous materials within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school;
- ▶ 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 result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area.
- ▶ be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites, and as a result, would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment;
- ▶ impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan;
- ▶ expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes.

ISSUES NOT ANALYZED FURTHER

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

- ▶ **Emergency Response/Emergency Evacuation Plans:** Project-related construction activities and expansion of the HFRP trail network would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, because emergency ingress and egress routes would remain open during both construction and operation. Emergency access to the existing HFRP is in place and includes three helicopter landing zones, three bridge crossings, and public roads. As discussed further in Chapter 3, “Project Description,” and Impact 8-6 in Chapter 8.0, “Transportation and Circulation,” proposed roads would provide enhanced emergency access to all portions of the project area over what is currently available, including those across Raccoon Creek.
- ▶ **Emissions or Hazardous Materials within One-Quarter Mile of a School:** The proposed project site is not within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school. The nearest school is the Auburn Elementary School, located approximately 7 miles south of the proposed expansion project area. No potential exists for hazardous emissions or handling of hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school.
- ▶ **Located in an Airport Land Use Plan or within 2 Miles of a Public Airport:** The proposed project site is not in a designated airport land use plan area, nor is it located within 2 miles of a public airport. The closest airport is the Auburn Municipal Airport, which is located approximately 7 miles southeast of the proposed expansion project area.

- ▶ **Hazardous Materials Sites:** The proposed project site is not on the USEPA list of Superfund hazardous waste sites, nor is it on the DTSC Hazardous Waste and Substance Site list (the Cortese list) (DTSC 2019).
- ▶ **Runoff, Post-Fire Slope Instability, or Drainage Changes:** Operation of the park and construction and operation of new trails, amenities, roads, and parking lots within the proposed expansion area would not result in runoff, slope instability, or drainage changes that would expose people or structures to significant risks. The County would implement construction-related and post-development best management practices and comply with regulatory requirements that manage stormwater runoff and erosion (see Mitigation Measure S5-1 in Section 5.0, “Soils, Geology, and Seismicity,” and Mitigation Measure 11-1 in Section 11.0, “Hydrology and Water Quality”). Standard trail design would use the natural drainage patterns as well as follow contours to minimize grades to discourage erosion from water velocity on steep profiles. There are no areas of shallow slope instability within the park or proposed expansion area. Section 5.0, “Soils, Geology, and Seismicity,” and Section 11.0, “Hydrology and Water Quality,” provide a detailed discussion of stormwater runoff, slope stability, and drainage changes.

14.4.3 IMPACT ANALYSIS²

IMPACT 14-2	Hazardous Materials and Hazards—Potential for Release of Hazardous Materials during Construction or Operation. <i>Project construction activity and ongoing maintenance may use equipment that requires small amounts of hazardous materials. The County would comply with all applicable federal and state regulations pertaining to handling of hazardous materials and worker health and safety; however, accidental spills or other releases of small amounts of hazardous materials could occur during construction or operation of the project area.</i>
Significance	<i>Potentially Significant (Consistent with prior analysis in the 2010 HFRP Certified EIR)</i>
Mitigation Proposed	<i>Mitigation Measure 14-1: Implement Measures to Reduce Hazards Associated with Potential Releases of Hazardous Materials; and Mitigation Measure S5-1 in Chapter 5.0, “Soils, Geology, and Seismicity”: Obtain Authorization for Construction and Operation Activities with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board and Implement Erosion and Sediment Control Measures as Required</i>
Residual Significance	<i>Less than Significant</i>

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Construction of the existing HFRP involved machinery (e.g., mini excavator) and larger mechanized equipment (e.g., tractors, graders). For long-term maintenance, equipment and localized hand spraying of herbicide by County staff members certified in herbicide/pesticide application would be required to prevent vegetation from overgrowing the trails. Machinery and equipment used during construction and maintenance may use small amounts of hazardous materials, including gasoline, diesel fuel, engine oil, and hydraulic fluid. These activities would comply with

² Impact 14.1 pertaining to wildfire is now addressed in Section 16.0 “Wildfire” of this SEIR.

applicable federal and state regulations pertaining to handling of hazardous materials and worker health and safety and hazardous materials used for ongoing maintenance within HFRP would also be stored in accordance with applicable federal and state regulations pertaining to storage of hazardous materials. However, accidental spills or other releases could occur. Implementing Mitigation Measure 14-1 to prepare and implement an accidental-spill prevention response plan, conduct employee safety training, and properly store hazardous materials, as well as Mitigation 5-1 to obtain authorization for construction and operation activities from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board and implement erosion and sediment control measures as required, including stormwater, construction, and post-development best management practices (BMPs), reduced the potentially significant impact to **less than significant**.

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

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

The existing park and proposed Trails Expansion project area are located in an undeveloped area, and the purpose of the proposed project is to provide natural surface, multi-use trails for recreation in an unspoiled environment. An accidental spill or other release of even a small amount of a hazardous material in this area during project construction or maintenance could have a substantial effect on the quality of the natural environment. Therefore, this impact would be potentially significant. However, implementation of Mitigation Measures 14-1 and S5-1 would reduce this impact to a **less-than-significant** level.

The proposed HFRP Trails Expansion Project would not result in new significant environmental effects or substantially increase the severity of previously identified significant effects based on changes in the project, circumstances or new information.

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

Significance *Less than Significant (Consistent with prior analysis in the 2010 HFRP Certified EIR)*

Mitigation Proposed *None Warranted*

Residual Significance *Less than Significant*

2010 HFRP Certified EIR Impact Summary

The 2010 Certified EIR discussed the allowance for up to four days of hunting of legal game in the park during two, 2-day seasons per year with up to 10 hunting permits being issued per season. Each season would be a maximum of 2 days, for a total of 4 open hunting days per year. The potential public safety hazards from hunting were found to be **less than significant** because hunting would not be allowed when the park was open to the public and hunters would comply with all California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) regulations, including shooting setbacks from inhabited structures. During the public hearing in January of 2010, the Planning Commission decided to not allow hunting within the park, with the exception of depredation hunting for animals which are causing damage to the park. Condition of approval 1(u) for the Conditional Use Permit (which governs the activities at the park) therefore prohibits hunting on the park property other than as allowed by a valid depredation permit. In practice, the County Wildlife Specialist is contacted when an animal (or group of animals) is are causing damage to the park and the County must obtain a depredation permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW, formerly known as the DFG) prior to dispatching the animal(s).

2019 HFRP Trails Expansion Project Impact Analysis

Permitted uses in the expansion areas owned by the Placer Land Trust are regulated by individual management plans and are limited to recreational activities and actions to preserve and restore natural habitat. Recreational hunting is not a permitted activity under any of the management plans covering the expansion area. However, the management plans do provide for removal of exotic pests consistent with the goal to conserve native habitat. Management of exotic species could involve land managers obtaining a depredation permit to control nuisance species (e.g., feral pigs) that cause damage to vegetation within the park or Trails Expansion areas. The permits would be obtained under CDFW regulations. Because other recreation activities (e.g., hiking, biking, picnicking) are allowed in the park and the proposed Trails Expansion project area, the potential for conflict with hunting activities exists if they were to take place during periods when the park or Trails Expansion areas are open to the public. Therefore, depredation hunting would take place only during times of park closure in order to eliminate conflicts with other recreation activities. In addition, land managers would be required to comply with all CDFW hunting regulations, including shooting setbacks from inhabited structures, education, and licensing requirements.

Because hunting is not a permitted use except in specific circumstances, it would not be allowed when the park is open to the public and requires land managers to comply with all CDFW regulations, including setbacks from inhabited structures, which would protect the public from hazards associated with hunting activities, this **impact would be less than significant**. The proposed expansion of the HFRP trails system would not result in new significant environmental effects from depredation hunting or substantially increase the severity of previously identified significant effects based on changes in the project, circumstances or new information.

IMPACT 14-4	Hazardous Materials and Hazards—Potential Exposure of People to Hazardous Materials. <i>There have been no recorded releases of toxic materials in the park or the proposed Trails Expansion project area. Several remnant mining or prospecting resources are located in the existing park and one load gold mine is located in the Taylor Ranch property within the expansion area that could contain hazardous materials.</i>
Significance	<i>Potentially Significant (Consistent with prior analysis in the 2010 HFRP Certified EIR)</i>
Mitigation Proposed	<i>Mitigation Measure 14-2: Prepare and Implement a Safety Hazard Plan and Conduct Soil Sampling</i>
Residual Significance	<i>Less than Significant</i>

2010 HFRP Certified EIR Impact Summary

The 2010 Certified EIR noted no recorded releases of toxic materials within HFRP. However, several existing buildings likely contain asbestos containing materials and lead based paint, so renovation or demolition of on-site buildings could expose workers to asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) and lead-based paint (LBP). In addition, several mining and/or prospecting-related resources were identified within the Spears Ranch portion of the park during the cultural resources inventory (see Chapter 6.0, “Cultural Resources”) and mining-related resources could, although unlikely, contain hazardous materials (i.e., heavy metals) that were commonly used in mining operations, which could pose a health risk to park construction workers. Because it is unknown if these resources are mining-related or prospecting-related, there is the potential that they could contain hazardous materials. Mitigation Measure 14-2 to prepare and implement a safety hazard plan and conduct soil sampling reduced the potentially significant impact to **less than significant**.

2019 HFRP Trails Expansion Project Impact Analysis

AECOM searched the EPA’s Envirofacts, the SWRCB’s GeoTracker, and DTSC’s Envirostor web sites to identify toxic releases, hazardous waste, or other violations that could affect the Trails Expansion area. The expansion area is not listed in these databases as a hazardous waste site (USEPA 2019; SWRCB 2019; DTSC 2019). The Phase I ESAs prepared for the Harvego Preserve property and Taylor Ranch property did not identify any recognized environmental conditions or other indications of potential hazardous materials contamination (Wallace Kuhl and Associates 2006; Youngdahl Associates 2007).

A load gold mine with a vertical shaft covered at the surface with vegetation and other inert debris (wood, concrete, vegetation, and miscellaneous trash) and a waste rock pile was identified within parcel 026-120-028-000 of the Taylor Ranch property. As discussed above, a Limited Phase 2 Soil Investigation determined that arsenic

concentrations in the waste rock pile were below reporting limits (Youngdahl Associates 2007). If the load gold mine, inert debris, and waste rock would be in close proximity to a project facility, it would be removed during construction and would therefore not pose a hazard to the public.

During ground preparation and construction activities, construction workers could come in contact with and be exposed to currently unknown hazardous materials. Therefore, this impact would be potentially significant.

Mitigation Measure 14-2 requires the County to prepare and implement a safety hazard plan and conduct soil sampling that would reduce the potentially significant impact to **less than significant**. The proposed Trails Expansion project would not result in new significant environmental effects or substantially increase the severity of previously identified significant effects based on changes in the project, circumstances or new information.

IMPACT 14-5 **Hazardous Materials and Hazards—Increased Risk of Health Hazard from Vector-borne Diseases.**
A large stock pond currently exists within the HFRP, and the Trail Expansion areas could include development of new stock ponds for cattle grazing or fuels management purposes. These ponds could serve as potential habitat for mosquitoes. The project would also increase the number of people in an area that could contain several mosquito-breeding sites and therefore would increase the number of people potentially exposed to vector-borne diseases carried by mosquitoes. However, the County would coordinate with the Vector Control District to ensure these sites are not a hazard to the public.

Significance *Less than Significant (Consistent with prior analysis in 2010 HFRP Certified EIR)*

Mitigation Proposed *None Warranted*

Residual Significance *Less than Significant*

2010 HFRP Certified EIR Impact Summary

The 2010 Certified EIR discussed that several stock ponds exist within the park site and the park project could include construction of new fishing ponds developed in conjunction with the fuel load reduction and/or grazing plans. These ponds could provide habitat for mosquitoes. The project would increase the number of people in the area that could contain several mosquito-breeding sites and therefore would increase the number of people potentially exposed to vector-borne diseases carried by mosquitoes. This potentially significant impact would be reduced to **less than significant** because the County would work closely with the Vector Control District to ensure routine monitoring, treatments, and implement various measures, as necessary, to reduce mosquitoes.

2019 HFRP Trails Expansion Project Impact Analysis

The proposed new trails system would be outfitted with amenities similar to those in the current park and could include new stock ponds developed for grazing or fuels management purposes. These ponds could provide potential habitat for mosquitoes that can pose a health hazard to the public. The proposed project would also increase the number of people in an area that could contain several mosquito-breeding sites and therefore would increase the number of people potentially exposed to vector-borne diseases carried by mosquitoes. However, as

with the existing HFRP this condition would be alleviated by close coordination with the Vector Control District to ensure routine monitoring and treatment of potential vector sources in the project area. If favorable conditions for vectors are found in the project area measures would be taken to reduce the potential sources for vectors. Measures would include actions such as, use of larvacides, stocking ponds with mosquito fish, and managing water levels and aquatic vegetation to discourage mosquito breeding. Larvacides used by the Vector Control District are the safest and least toxic materials available for public health and would not affect aquatic invertebrates or non-target insects.

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

The proposed Trails Expansion project would not result in new significant environmental effects with regards to vector-borne diseases or substantially increase the severity of previously identified significant effects based on changes in the project, circumstances or new information.

14.5 MITIGATION MEASURES

Mitigation Measure S5-1: Obtain Authorization for Construction and Operation Activities with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board and Implement Erosion and Sediment Control Measures as Required (see in Chapter 5.0, "Soils, Geology, and Seismicity")

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

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

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

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

To avoid health risks to construction workers, Placer County shall require the contractor to prepare and implement a site health and safety plan if areas containing hazardous materials are to be disturbed. This plan will outline measures that will be employed to protect construction workers and the public from exposure to hazardous materials during remediation, demolition, and construction activities. The County shall consult with the contractor to determine the measures to be employed at the site, which could include posting notices, limiting access to the site, monitoring the air quality, watering, and installation of

wind fences. Contractors shall be required to comply with state health and safety standards for all demolition work, including compliance with OSHA and Cal/OSHA requirements regarding exposure to ACMs and LBP.

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

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

In addition, the contractor shall prepare and implement a site plan that identifies necessary remediation activities appropriate for proposed land uses, including excavation and removal of on-site contaminated soils, and redistribution of clean fill material within the project area. The plan shall include measures that ensure the safe transport, use, and disposal of contaminated soil and building debris removed from the project area. In the event that contaminated groundwater is encountered during site excavation activities, the contractor shall report the contamination to appropriate regulatory agencies, dewater the excavated area, and treat the contaminated groundwater to remove contaminants before discharge into the sanitary sewer system. The contractor shall be required to comply with the plan and with applicable local, state, and federal laws.