



# *County of Yuba*

## Community Development & Services Agency

915 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 123, Marysville, CA 95901

### Planning Department

Phone: (530) 749-5470

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### DEVELOPMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** January 4, 2024

**TO:** DEVELOPMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE

**FROM:** Ciara Fisher, Planner III

**RE:** Environmental Assessment CEQA-23-0011 (Yuba Co. Star Bend Boat Ramp)

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**REQUEST:** The applicant, Yuba County Public Works Department, requests an Environmental Assessment to dredge a small portion of the roughly nine-acre Star Bend Boat Ramp facility located at 2034 Feather River Boulevard in the Arboga Community (APNs: 016-010-017-000, 016-010-019-000, and 016-060-046-000).

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends that the Development Review Committee (DRC) adopt the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring Plan pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Article 6 et.seq. and make the necessary findings.

**BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:** The Yuba County Public Works Department (YCPW) operates the Star Bend Boat Ramp facility on California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) property located at 2034 Feather River Boulevard, Arboga, CA 95961 (APNs: 016-010-017-000, 016-010-019-000, and 016-060-046-000). The project site is located adjacent to the Feather River and west of the intersection of Feather River Boulevard and Levee Road in Olivehurst, CA.

Due to the Feather River's high-water events of 2019, the access channel and basin were significantly altered as the riverbed was raised with silt deposits. Consequently, the use of the boat ramp has been strained as boaters find they have limited navigation through exceedingly shallow water. Furthermore, the Star Bend Boat Ramp is the southernmost boat ramp in Yuba County, providing the only access below a treacherous fall/rapid type structure at Shanghai Bend approximately 5.6 miles upstream. The Yuba County Sheriff's Department and their Swift Water and Technical Rescue Team routinely depend on this boat ramp for training and rescue operations directly related to this hazard. The goal of Yuba County is to facilitate a timely maintenance dredging effort within the basin and return this critical site to its preexisting condition. Dredging has been completed at this location in the past due to earlier high-water events.

The proposed action is for the dredging of accumulated bedload in the Yuba County Boat Ramp Marina. The proposed bedload dredging is required due to the high-water events of 2019. Yuba County's access channel to the Star Bend Boat Ramp on the Feather River was significantly

altered as the riverbed was raised with silt deposits (bedload). The reach of the marina and the entrance to this channel, situated within a peninsula on the Feather River, requires immediate dredging. The dredging is on property owned by CDFW and is maintained by YCPW. The goal of the project is to return the boat ramp to its original design. Either hydraulic or mechanical methods will be employed to remove all material. According to client provided information, Yuba County intends to dredge the Star Bend Boat Ramp to restore the existing boat ramp channel. It is anticipated the dredging will remove approximately 2000 cubic yards of material. Maximum excavation is estimated to be approximately nine and a half feet deep with an average removal depth of four feet. Prior to dredging the sediment in the boat ramp channel, the sediment would need to be characterized to determine the potential beneficial use of the dredged material. Although routine dredging will not be conducted each year, it is anticipated that dredging will be required at least every three years to achieve the long-term goals of the project.

The dredged materials will be excavated and removed using dump trucks and a loader. The dredged materials will be transported in dump trucks to an offsite disposal location. Measures will be taken to ensure that the dredged materials will be contained in a stock-pile area, and that the sediment laden run-off from the stored dredge spoils is contained within this stock-pile area.

The proposed project will be conducted during the period of July 1st and August 31st to avoid all impacts to federal special status fish species. Approximately 15-20 working days will be in the water for dredging. No permanent impacts are anticipated.

Anticipated heavy equipment and vehicles to be used during the dredging and mitigation process may include the following:

- DMS Survey Vessel
- CAT 905 Loader
- CAT 314 Excavator
- HDPE pipe
- Amphibious Caterpillar 324 Excavator
- Dredge
- Booster pump
- Hydro seeder

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:** Staff has prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring Plan (Attachments 2 and 3) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 15070(b)(1).

During the initial study of the project, no potential impacts to the environment were identified that could not be reduced through mitigation measures to a level that is less than significant and therefore a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) was prepared. The MND discusses the following project impacts and their respective Mitigation Measures:

- Biological Resources: 1) Focused Survey for special-status plant species 2) Giant Garter Snakes Protection 3) Construction Activities for Special status species birds or their nests 4) Ground Disturbance for Special species birds 5) Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle Protection 6) Bats Protection 7) Fish Species Protection

- Cultural Resources: Inadvertent Discoveries of Objects of Cultural Significance
- Noise: Reduce Impacts
- Tribal Cultural Resources: 1) Tribal Monitoring 2) Unanticipated/Inadvertent Discoveries Of TCRs 3) Treatment and Disposition of Cultural Objects

The environmental document was circulated for the required 30-day review period and comments received to date are listed in the Comments section of this staff report.

**COMMENTS:** The project was circulated to various agencies and County departments for review and comment during the early consultation phase and the environmental review stages of the project. The following is a summary of comments:

- County Staff – The Public Works Department, Environmental Health Department, and Building Department have reviewed the project and had no comments.
- UAIC & Enterprise Rancheria: AB-52 Consultation was started with the addition of their mitigation measures.
- California Department of Transportation: No comments.
- PG&E: No comments.

All comments were reviewed for adequacy and accuracy and none of the comments necessitated any changes in the environmental document (Attachment 4).

**FINDINGS:** The necessary findings for adoption of the environmental assessment are as follows:

**WHEREAS,** the Community Development and Services Agency of the County of Yuba has provided due notice of a public hearing before the Development Review Committee for the consideration of the proposed project in accordance with Government Code Sections 65090 and 65091 and the intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring Plan for the proposed project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act; and

**WHEREAS,** the Community Development and Services Agency of the County of Yuba has conducted an Initial Study for the proposed project and concluded that the Project would not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts provided the mitigation measures that are incorporated into the Mitigation Monitoring Plan are implemented; and

**WHEREAS,** the documents and other materials constituting the administrative record of the proceedings upon which the Development Review Committee's recommendation is based are located at the Yuba County Government Center offices at 915 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Marysville, CA 95901, and that the custodian of the records is the Yuba County Planning Department.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:**

- A. The Development Review Committee finds that the Project will not cause substantial environmental damage to fish and/or wildlife and their habitats, nor have the potential for adverse effect(s) on wildlife resources or the habitat upon which wildlife depends. A Notice of Determination will be recorded with the County Recorder and Fish and Game Filing Fees will be paid to the County Recorder.
- B. The Development Review Committee finds that on the basis of the whole record no substantial evidence that the Project will have a significant effect on the environment and that the Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the lead agency's independent judgment and analysis.

Report Prepared by:



Ciara Fisher

Planner III

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- 1. Site Plan
- 2. Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
- 3. Mitigation Monitoring Plan
- 4. Comment Letters



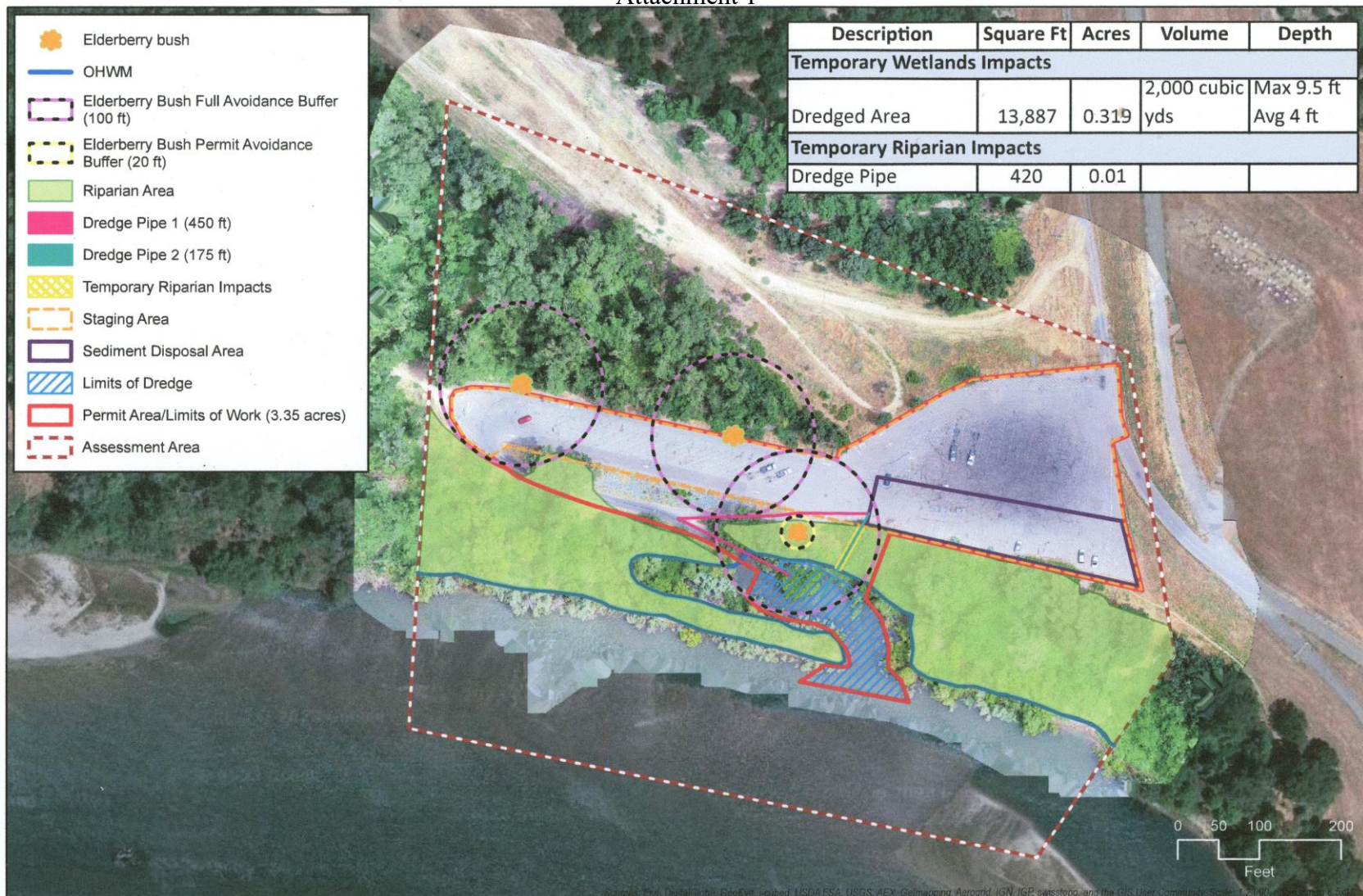


FIGURE 1 IMPACTS MAP

STAR BEND PROJECT • YUBA COUNTY, CA

Date: July 25, 2023





December 2023

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT  
ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM  
INITIAL STUDY (CEQA-23-0011)**

- 1. Project Title:** Yuba Co. Star Bend Boat Ramp
- 2. Lead Agency Name and Address:** Yuba County  
915 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Marysville, CA 95901
- 3. Contact Person:** Ciara Fisher  
(530) 749-5470  
[planning@co.yuba.ca.us](mailto:planning@co.yuba.ca.us)
- 4. Project Location(s):** 2034 Feather River Boulevard  
Olivehurst, CA  
95961  
APN: 016-010-017-000, 016-010-019-000, and 016-060-046-000
- 5. Project Sponsor's Name/Address:** Sam Bunton  
Yuba County  
Director of Public Works  
(530) 749-5420  
[publicworks@co.yuba.ca.us](mailto:publicworks@co.yuba.ca.us)
- 6. General Plan Designation:** Natural Resources
- 7. Zoning:** AE-40

**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).**

Supervisor District:	District 4
Flood Zone:	Zone AE Floodway Areas.
Slope:	0-1% slopes
Fire Hazard Severity Zone:	Not within a fire hazard severity zone
Earthquake Fault Zone:	Not within a fault zone
Dam Failure Inundation Area:	Not within dam failure zone
Parcel Size:	12.9 acres (APN: 016-010-017-000, 016-010-019-000, and 016-060-046-000)

### **8.1 Project Location**

The Star Bend Boat Ramp is a 12.9-acre property located at 2034 Feather River Boulevard 95961, in the unincorporated community of Arboga, California (CA) in the Sacramento Valley of northern CA, on the left bank of the lower Feather River at River Mile 18 (in Yuba County approx. 10 miles south of Marysville (APN: 016-010-017-000, 016-010-019-000, and 016-060-046-000)). The project site is located adjacent to the Feather River and west of the intersection of Feather River Boulevard and Levee Road in Olivehurst, CA and is in Township 13 North, Range 3 East of the Olivehurst, CA 7.5-minute USGS quadrangle map. The permit area consists of 3.35-acres and encompasses the paved parking lot, boat ramp, riparian area, and a small portion of the Feather River where dredging will occur.

### **8.2 Project Background**

The Yuba County Public Works Department (YCPW) operates the Star Bend Boat Ramp facility on California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) property located at 2034 Feather River Boulevard, Arboga, CA 95961. Due to the Feather River's high-water events of 2019, the access channel and basin were significantly altered as the riverbed was raised with silt deposits. Consequently, the use of the boat ramp has been strained as boaters find they have limited navigation through exceedingly shallow water. Furthermore, the Star Bend Boat Ramp is the southernmost boat ramp in Yuba County, providing the only access below a treacherous fall/rapid type structure at Shanghai Bend approximately 5.6 miles upstream. The Yuba County Sheriff's Department and their Swift Water and Technical Rescue Team routinely depend on this boat ramp for training and rescue operations directly related to this hazard. The goal of Yuba County is to facilitate a timely maintenance dredging effort within the basin and return this critical site to its preexisting condition. Dredging has been completed at this location in the past due to earlier high-water events.

### **8.3 Proposed Action**

#### **8.3.1 Work within the Feather River**

The proposed action is for the dredging of accumulated bedload in the Yuba County Boat Ramp Marina. The proposed bedload dredging is required due to the high-water events of 2019. Yuba County's access channel to the Star Bend Boat Ramp on the Feather River was significantly altered as the riverbed was raised with silt deposits (bedload). The reach of the marina and the entrance to this channel, situated within a peninsula on the Feather River, requires immediate dredging. The dredging is on property owned by

CDFW and is maintained by YCPW. The goal of the project is to return the boat ramp to its original design. Either hydraulic or mechanical methods will be employed to remove all material. According to client provided information, Yuba County intends to dredge the Star Bend Boat Ramp to restore the existing boat ramp channel. It is anticipated the dredging will remove approximately 2000 cubic yards of material. Maximum excavation is estimated to be approximately nine and a half feet deep with an average removal depth of four feet. Prior to dredging the sediment in the boat ramp channel, the sediment would need to be characterized to determine the potential beneficial use of the dredged material. Although routine dredging will not be conducted each year, it is anticipated that dredging will be required at least every three years to achieve the long-term goals of the project. Approximately 15-20 working days will be in the water for dredging. No permanent impacts are anticipated.

### **8.3.2 Construction Equipment**

Anticipated heavy equipment and vehicles to be used during the dredging and mitigation process may include the following:

- DMS Survey Vessel
- CAT 905 Loader
- CAT 314 Excavator
- HDPE pipe
- Amphibious Caterpillar 324 Excavator
- Dredge
- Booster pump
- Hydro seeder

### **8.3.3 Staging and Access Areas**

Staging and access for heavy equipment will adhere to the following best management practices (BMPs):

1. Staging/storage areas for equipment, materials, fuels, lubricants, and solvents, will be located 150 ft from Feather River where it cannot enter the stream channel. Stationary equipment will be positioned over drip-pans. The staging area will be in the upland parking lot to the north.
2. Vehicles will be parked a minimum 150 ft away from Feather River to ensure that contamination of habitat does not occur during operations.
3. The applicant shall ensure that they have a plan to allow a prompt and effective response to any accidental spills. All workers shall be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measures to take should a spill occur.
4. Only the existing access road and parking lot shall be used to access work areas as much as practicable.

### **8.3.4 Construction Schedule**

The proposed project will be conducted during the period of July 1<sup>st</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup> to avoid all impacts to federal special status fish species. The dredging work will take approximately 15 to 20 days to complete.

### **8.3.5 Hydraulic and Mechanical Dredging Methods**

As mentioned above, either hydraulic or mechanical methods will be used to remove sediment from the boat ramp.



## Attachment 2

1. A preconstruction survey will be done for the assessment area. This will be a general site and bathymetric survey to define limits of pavement, sensitive areas, and to establish the baseline for quantities. Daily progress surveys will be performed using a DMS survey vessel “Weir II”. The vessel is equipped with a Ross Multi-Sweep echo sounder. The sweep system is comprised of 5 acoustic transducers spaced at 5-foot intervals along a horizontal boom. The sweep system is well suited for high resolution mapping in shallow water applications.
2. Mobilization of all equipment and setting up the staging area in preparation for construction to begin.
3. The sediment dewatering area will be set up. This will be used for sediment staging, dewatering, and potentially disposal. A CAT 905 loader will be used to move material, and a CAT 314 excavator will be used to assist with transloading sediment and to complete upland work.
4. Vegetation removal and site clearing will be complete with an amphibious caterpillar 324 excavator mounted on EIK amphibious floats. The vegetation removal and clearing will be done in water and on the bank. The floats reduce the ground pressure and will float the excavator. The excavator has a 200hp engine and is 6 years old. The amphibious excavator can reach the dredging extent given the predicted river levels for the summer.
5. The excavator will be fully instrumented to give the operator a complete understanding of where the bucket is and what material has been removed. The amphibious excavator will be used to move a small amount of sediment in the vicinity of the Star Bend Boat Ramp, to ensure the pilings and boat ramp are not damaged.
6. Pipeline construction for the hydraulic method will then begin. This pipeline will facilitate the movement of dredged material from the barge on the river to the sediment disposal area. Approximately 450 feet of SDR-17, HDPE pipe will be placed along the boat ramp with another 175 feet of HDPE pipe laid up slope within the riparian area to facilitate sediment from the river to the staging area within the parking lot.
7. Dredging of sediment material from the channel will be transported to the sediment staging area for dewatering and disposal. Dredging of Star Bend Boat Ramp using the hydraulic method will be performed using the DMS dredge “John Devin” (Dredge). The John Devin is a 10” hydraulic cutter suction dredge and is equipped with the latest in dredge positioning software. The John Devin can effectively remove sediment to depths up to 30 feet with a high level of accuracy. The Dredge is powered by a diesel engine that drives the main slurry pump as well as the ancillary equipment essential to dredging. Movement of the Dredge during sediment removal is performed using a system of anchors and spuds. Lateral movement is controlled via anchors in the water that pull the cutter head across the dredge cut and through the sediment to be removed. Advancement of the Dredge is performed using two spuds located on the stern. One spud (kicker spud) is equipped with a hinge that allows it to be hydraulically tilted while in contact with the bottom, advancing the Dredge further into the dredge cut.

The dredging program is designed to have one booster pump in line to accommodate the elevation gain to the disposal ponds. The pump is a 10” x 8” Metso slurry pump powered by a C15 Caterpillar diesel engine and will be placed on the bank at the confluence of the Yuba and Feather River. The

packing gland on the pump will require service water applied to the shaft packing while in operation, river water will be used for the service water.

Dredging and sediment removal using the mechanical method includes both a CAT 905 loader and a CAT 314 excavator. Both the loader and the excavator will remove sediment material from the channel and place it on the track dump truck. The tracked dump truck will be used to carry dredged material and primrose roots/soil up the boat ramp for dewatering prior to offsite disposal. Tracked dump trucks are equipped with rubber tracks and have a fully loaded ground pressure of 5.8 psi. This will ensure the boat ramp surface is not damaged.

8. All equipment will be removed from the project site and a post construction survey will be conducted with the DMS survey vessel to confirm the final quantity of removed material.

### **8.3.6 Proposed Disposal of Dredge Material**

Dredging material will be stockpiled on site during construction for staging and dewatering activities. Stockpiling will occur in the parking lot north of the boat ramp. Based on the soil sample data analysis the detected concentration of metals did not exceed the applicable Regional Screening Levels or Total Threshold Limit Concentrations hazardous waste criteria. The analyzed soil sample did not contain detectable concentrations of total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) as gasoline, TPH as diesel, TPH as motor oil, organochlorine pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls, organophosphorus pesticides, chlorinated herbicides, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylenes, or fuel oxygenates at concentrations exceeding the laboratory reporting limits. Debris will be sent to the landfill after construction and wash water will be returned to the river. The stockpile will be away from all drainage system components including storm sewer inlets. Sediment control best management practices will be implemented, such as sediment control logs, rock socks, silt fencing, straw bales, and sandbags. In active use a stabilized designated access point will be used on the upgradient side of the stockpile. Upon completion of the project the ground surface will be restored to pre-construction conditions. YCPW will remove accumulated streambed substrate as described above. The dredged materials will be excavated and removed using dump trucks and a loader. The dredged materials will be transported in dump trucks to an offsite disposal location. Measures will be taken to ensure that the dredged materials will be contained in a stock-pile area, and that the sediment laden run-off from the stored dredge spoils is contained within this stock-pile area.

### **8.3.7 Environmental Management Practices**

#### **8.3.7.1 Best Management Practices (BMPs)**

##### *a. Project timeframe*

The project will be conducted during the period of July 1<sup>st</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup> to avoid all impacts to federal special fish species. To avoid impacts to the giant garter snake, construction activities will take place after May 1.

##### *b. Avoidance*

Protective fencing around the VELB

Protective fencing around perimeter of Action Area, including riparian corridor.

*c. Erosion and Sedimentation Control*

Silt wattles or silt fences will be used, in conjunction with erosion control mats when appropriate, to prevent erosion and sediment from entering Feather River.

*d. Construction Monitoring*

A qualified biologist will be present and responsible for ensuring full avoidance of any special status species during any vegetation clearing in the riparian area.

*e. Equipment maintenance*

All refueling and equipment routine service will be conducted at least 150 feet away from waterways in designated refueling stations. In addition, routine equipment maintenance will occur at designated staging areas or commercial facilities. All project equipment will be inspected for leaks prior to being brought on-site and regularly throughout construction. Any equipment with signs of lubricant leaks will be immediately removed from work area and will be inspected/repared in designated service area.

*f. Dust Control*

Aggressive dust control measures will be taken, including the following steps:

1. Sprinkle water on all active construction areas at least twice daily and more often when conditions warrant
2. Cover all trucks hauling soil, sand, and other loose materials or require all trucks to maintain at least two feet of freeboard
3. Pave, apply water three times daily, or apply non-toxic soil stabilizers on all unpaved access roads, parking, areas, and staging areas at construction sites
4. Hydroseed or apply non-toxic soil stabilizers to inactive construction areas
5. Enclose, cover, water twice daily, or apply non-toxic soil binders to exposed soil stockpiles
6. Limit traffic speed on unpaved road to 5 mph
7. Replant vegetation in disturbed areas as quickly as possible
8. Limit the areas subject to excavation, grading, and other dust generating activities at any one time
9. Cover and water stockpile

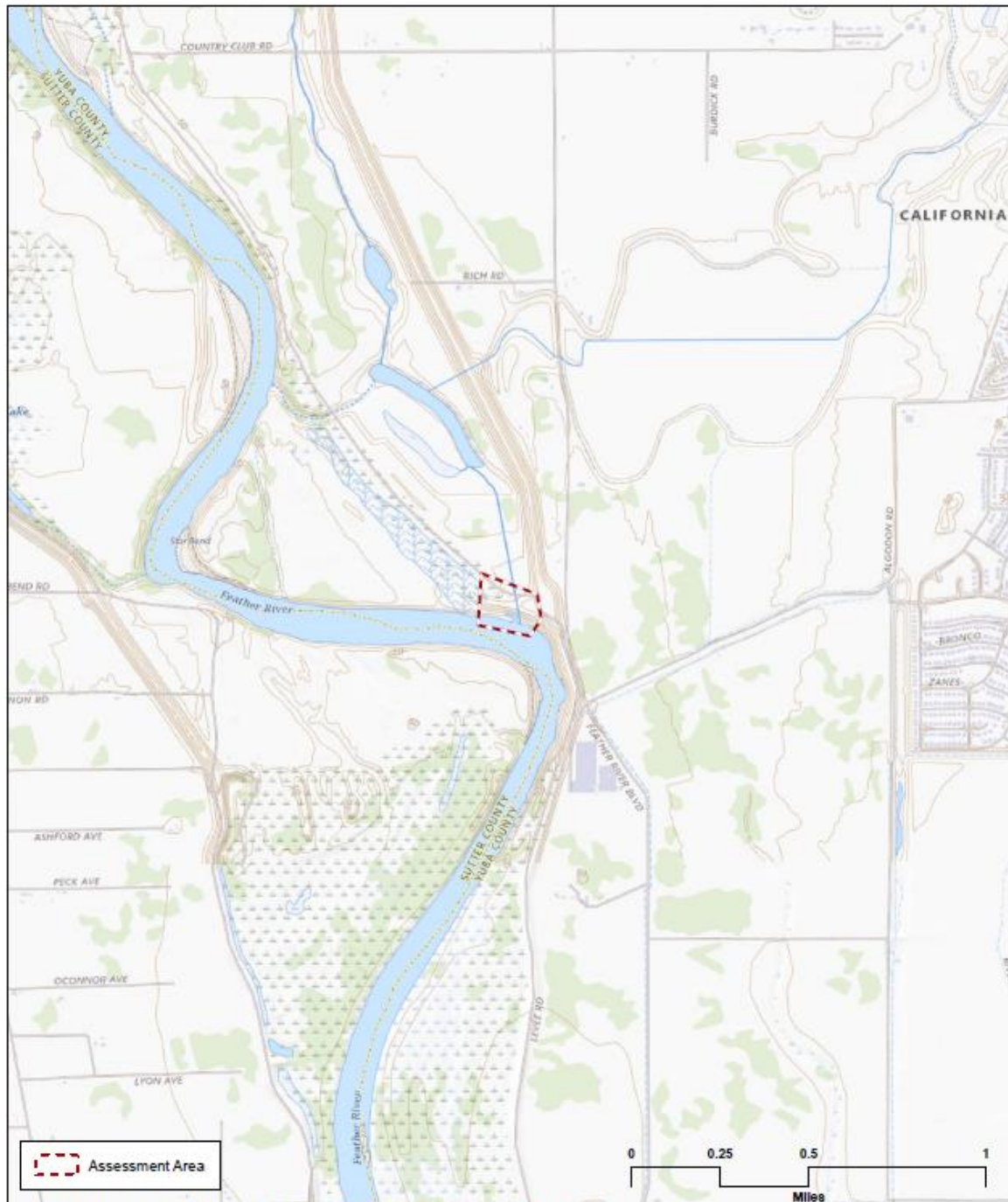
8.3.7.2 Stockpile Storage and Disposal Management Plan

Dredging material will be stockpiled on site during construction for staging and dewatering activities. Stockpiling will occur in the parking lot north of the boat ramp. Based on the soil sample data analysis the detected concentration of metals did not exceed the applicable Regional Screening Levels or Total Threshold Limit Concentrations hazardous waste criteria. The analyzed soil sample did not contain detectable concentrations of total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) as gasoline, TPH as diesel, TPH as motor oil, organochlorine pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls, organophosphorus pesticides, chlorinated herbicides, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylenes, or fuel oxygenates at concentrations exceeding the laboratory reporting limits. Debris will be sent to the landfill after construction and wash water will be returned to the river. If a discharge pipeline is utilized, water from the dewatering operation will be funneled back to the river using a return pipe with a fixed discharge location back into the river. If mechanical methods are used the material will be spread and dried within the parking lot with any excess water being channeled back down the boat ramp using both wattles and sandbags. The stockpile will be away from all drainage system components including storm sewer inlets. In both scenarios riparian areas will be protected from dewatering operations using erosion control measures. Erosion control measures shall be placed between the river and the outer edge of the staging and dewatering areas and shall be maintained until construction is completed and soil is stabilized. Sediment control best management

## Attachment 2

practices will be implemented, such as sediment control logs, rock socks, silt fencing, straw bales, and sandbags. In active use a stabilized designated access point will be used on the upgradient side of the stockpile. Upon completion of the project the ground surface will be restored to pre-construction conditions. YCPW will remove accumulated streambed substrate as described above. The dredged materials will be excavated and removed using dump trucks and a loader. The dredged materials will be transported in dump trucks to an offsite disposal location. Routine maintenance checks will be taken to ensure that the dredged materials will be contained in a stock-pile area, and that the sediment laden run-off from the stored dredge spoils is contained within this stock-pile area.

**Figure 1  
Vicinity Map**



Source: USGS 7.5-Minute Topographic Quads Olivehurst and Nicolaus in Yuba County, CA

## FIGURE 1 - VICINITY MAP

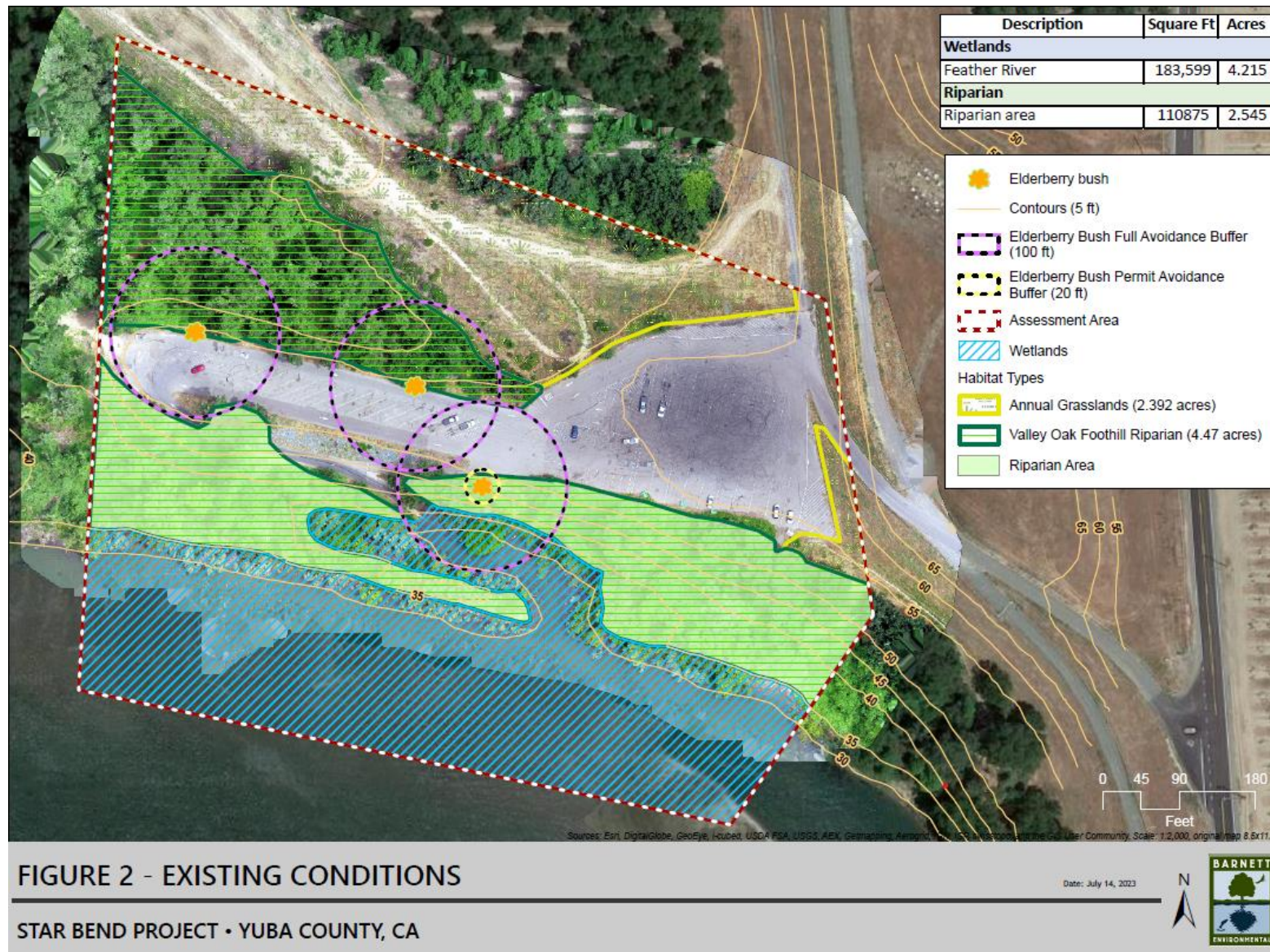
Date: July 14, 2023



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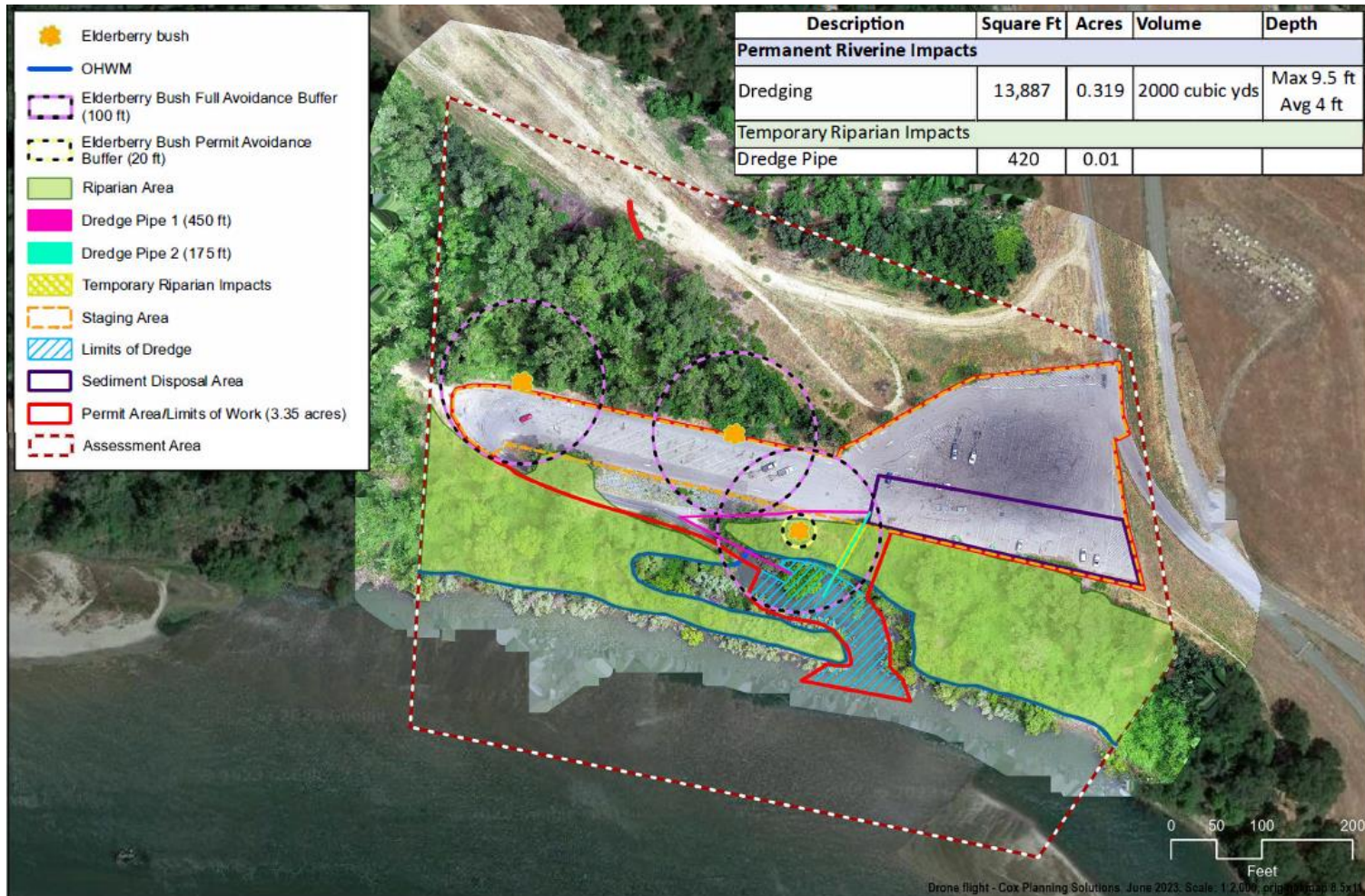


### Figure 2 Existing Conditions





**Figure 3**  
**Impacts Map**



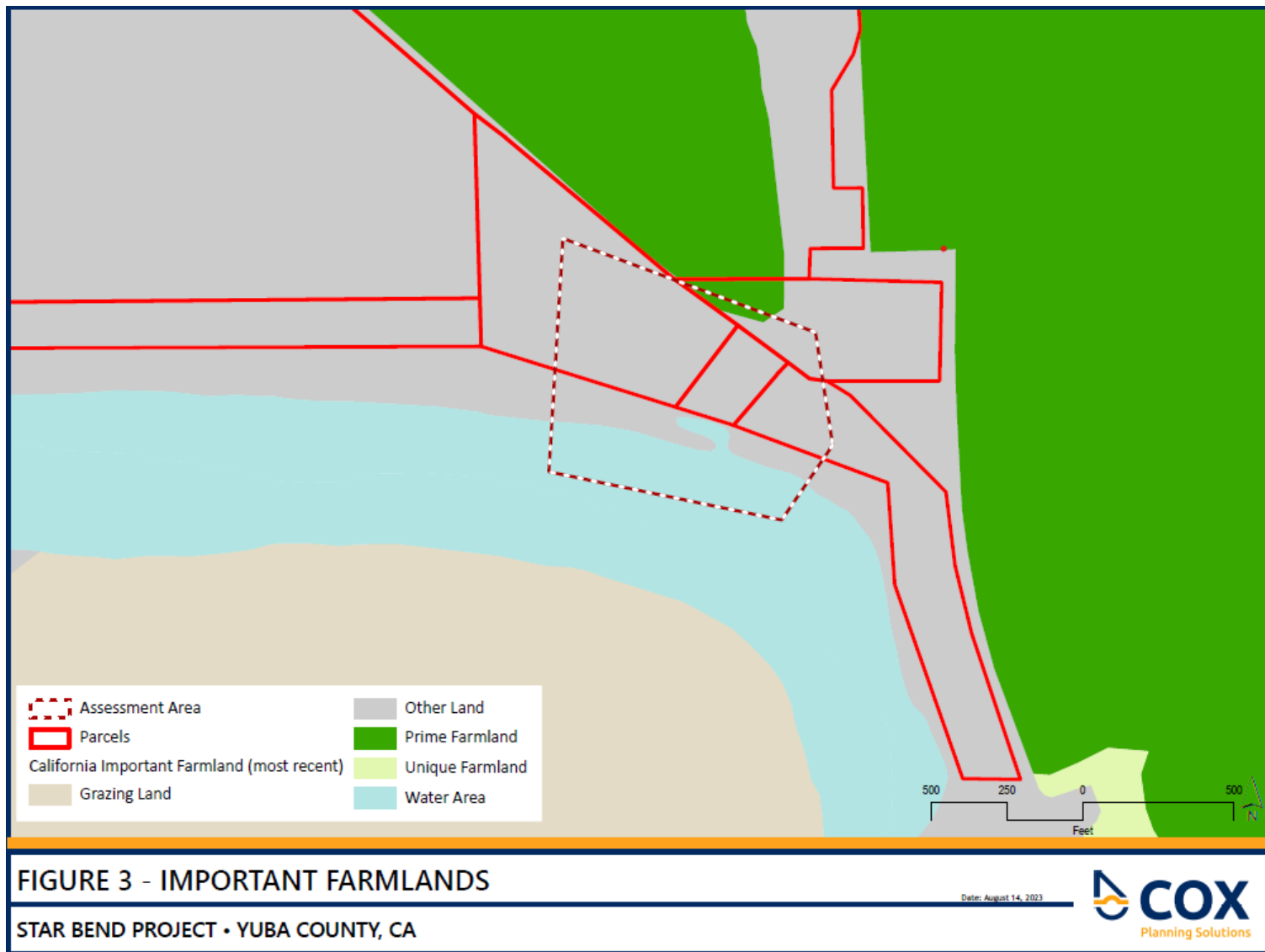
**FIGURE 3 - IMPACTS MAP**

STAR BEND PROJECT • YUBA COUNTY, CA

Date: September 13, 2023



**Figure 3**  
**Important Farmlands**



**9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting: Briefly describe the project's surroundings:**

The proposed project is surrounded by undeveloped "AE-40" designated riparian, annual grasslands, and valley oak foothill riparian to the north, west, and east with Feather River to the south. There are no agricultural or forestry resources within or adjacent to the proposed project area, therefore no impact will occur to these environmental resources.

**10. Public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., Permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.)**

Several federal, State, and regional agencies, as well as decision-making bodies, have jurisdiction over resources that may be affected by the proposed project, or have other permitting or regulatory authority over certain aspects of the proposed project. These agencies and decision-makers will review and consider the information provided in this environmental document during their decision-making process. The proposed project will need to obtain the following permits and approvals:

- Clean Water Act, Letter of Permission
- Clean Water Act, Section 401 Water Quality Certification
- California Central Valley Flood Protection Board Permit – Maintenance Letter
- California Waste Discharge Requirements Waiver Notification
- California Fish & Game Code Section 1602 Lake & Streambed Alteration Agreement
- Central Valley Flood Protection Board Encroachment Permit

**11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?**

Note: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 21080.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code section 21082.3 (c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

A letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a check of the Sacred Lands files. The reply from the NAHC on June 26, 2023, reported that there were no resources listed for the Project APE or immediate project area (Appendix 3). The NAHC also provided a list with ten individuals and groups for the area. Letters and a map with the project APE shown were sent on July 21, 2023 to: Glenda Nelson, Chairperson, Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria; Tina Goodwin, Chairperson, Pakan'yani Maidu of Strawberry Valley Rancheria; Grayson Coney, Cultural Director, Tsi Akim Maidu; Gene Whitehouse, Chairperson, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria; Jesus Tarango, Chairperson, Wilton Rancheria; Steven Hutchason, THPO, Wilton Rancheria; Dahlton Brown, Director of Administration, Wilton Rancheria; Saxton Thomas, Tribal Council Member, Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe; Shelly Covert, Tribal Secretary, Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe; and Richard Johnson, Chairman, Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe. No replies have been received as of August 3, 2023.

**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.

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions  | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Forestry Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials        | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources  | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources    | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology / Soils                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

**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.

Initial Study Prepared By:  
Morgan Henry, Associate Planner

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

Ciara Fisher - Contact

Yuba County

Reviewed by: Ciara Fisher

**SECTION 1****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, and 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 Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," 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:
  - a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
  - b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

**KEY: 1 = Potentially Significant Impact**  
**2 = Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation**  
**3 = Less Than Significant Impact**  
**4 = No Impact**

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
<b>I. AESTHETICS</b> <i>Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:</i>						
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?				X	<p>Examples of typical scenic vistas include mountain ranges, ridgelines, or bodies of water as viewed from a highway, public space, or other area designated for the express purpose of viewing and sightseeing. In general, a project's impact to a scenic vista would occur if development of the project would substantially change or remove a scenic vista.</p> <p>According to the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans') State Scenic Highway System Map, officially-designated State or County scenic highways do not occur in the project vicinity. The closest designated scenic roadway is California Highway 160, which connects Contra Costa County and Sacramento nearly 60 miles away, and therefore will be unaffected by the project site.</p> <p>Furthermore, scenic resources, including rock outcroppings or historically significant buildings, do not exist on the project site.</p> <p>Based on the above, implementation of the proposed project would not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista nor substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway. Thus, there would be no impact.</p> <p><b>No Impact</b></p>	1
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?			X		<p>The project will occur within a rural area of the water of the Feather River, and while removing excess sediment will be a permanent impact, it will only occur underwater, and therefore outside of public view. Dredging will occur from July 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>, and while machinery will be visible from the parking lot during this period and the sediment will be stored there for a maximum of 60 days, the project will not affect public views outside this time.</p> <p><b>Less Than Significant Impact</b></p>	
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?				X	<p>No construction activities will occur in evening hours, and the proposed project will not include any new installation of light, and therefore there will be no impact.</p> <p><b>No Impact</b></p>	

\* Impact Categories defined by CEQA Guidelines.

\*\* Source list included at the end of this document.



IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
<b>II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES</b> <i>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) prepared by the California Dept. 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.</i> <i>Would the project:</i>						
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?  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?				X	As shown in Figure 4, there is no prime farmland, unique farmland, or farmland of statewide importance within the area the dredge will occur within the water. No farmland or forestry resources will be affected by the proposed dredge. Therefore, no impact will occur.  <b>No impact</b>	2
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				X	The project site is not under a Williamson Act contract. The project site is currently zoned "AE-40" and is located within Yuba County which is a non-participating county of The Williamson Act. Therefore, buildout of the proposed project would not conflict with an agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract, and no impact would occur.  <b>No Impact</b>	3
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?				X	The project site is not considered forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220[g]), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), and is not zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104[g]). Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact with regard to conversion of forest land or any potential conflict with forest land, timberland, or Timberland Production zoning.  <b>No Impact</b>	
<b>III. AIR QUALITY</b> <i>Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations.</i> <i>Would the project:</i>						
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors or dust) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?			X		According to Chapter 7 of FRAQMD's ISR Guide, lead agencies should consider odors from two situations: if the proposed project would locate receptors near an existing source of odor, and if the proposed project would locate a source of odor near existing receptors. Typical odor-generating land uses include, but are not limited to, wastewater treatment plants, landfills, and composting facilities.  The proposed project includes construction activities using diesel-fueled equipment and heavy-duty diesel trucks, which can create odors associated with diesel fumes. The project is of short duration, not creating a permanent odor source, and does not have existing receptors within 1,000 feet of the	

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
					<p>project site. Additionally, the proposed project would not locate new receptors near an existing source of odors.</p> <p>Project construction would also be required to comply with all applicable FRAQMD rules and regulations. The aforementioned regulations would help to minimize air pollutant emissions, as well as any associated diesel related odors. Accordingly, substantial objectionable odors would not be expected to occur during construction activities or affect a substantial number of people due to its rural location.</p> <p>In addition to odors, pollutants of principal concern are emission of dust or emissions considered to constitute air pollutants. Air pollutants have been discussed in sections ‘a’ through ‘c’ above. Therefore, the following discussion focuses on emissions of dust.</p> <p>With respect to dust, as noted previously, all projects under the jurisdiction of FRAQMD are required to complete and submit FRAQMD’s Fugitive Dust Control Plan prior to starting work. With the short duration of construction, and compliance with the fugitive dust control rule and plan, the proposed project would not result in substantial emissions of dust.</p> <p><u>Conclusion</u></p> <p>For the aforementioned reasons, construction of the proposed project would not result in emissions (such as those leading to odors and dust) adversely affecting a substantial number of people.</p> <p><b>Less Than Significant Impact</b></p>	
<b>IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES</b> <i>Would the project:</i>						
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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?		X			<p>The project site consists of two locally common vegetation communities: valley oak foothill riparian and annual grasslands. Valley oak foothill riparian habitat is found along the Feather River along the southern and northwestern portion of the Study Area. Annual grassland habitat is located along the northern and northeastern portion of the Study Area.</p> <p>A Biological Resources Assessment was prepared for the proposed project to evaluate potential impacts to biological resources associated with implementation of the proposed project. In order to determine which species have the potential to occur on-site, a query of the California Department of Fish &amp; Wildlife’s (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s (USFWS) iPAC Database, and California Native Plant Society’s (CNPS) Inventory of Rare &amp; Endangered Plants for special-status species occurring within a five-mile radius around the project site. In addition, a site visit was conducted in June 2023, and involved noting current habitat conditions, vegetation types, hydrologic elements, and surrounding land uses that may contribute to the effects of the project. The results of the database searches and field survey are described below.</p> <p>The remote query revealed 36 special status species that required further investigation to determine their potential to occur on site. Through analyzing these species habitat requirements and conducting a site survey on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, one special status plant species (Sanford’s arrowhead), five federally listed species (giant garter snake, yellow-billed cuckoo, steelhead-central valley DPS, green sturgeon southern DPS, Chinook salmon-central valley spring run, valley elderberry longhorn beetle), two California state-listed species (bank swallow, Swanson’s hawk), three California species of special concern (coastal horned lizard, western pond turtle, western red bat), and one California fully protected species (bald eagle) were determined to have a potential to occur within the project area. Of these species, four of them were determined to be present – the valley elderberry longhorn beetle, Central Valley spring-run ESU chinook salmon, Central Valley DPS steelhead, and southern DPS green sturgeon. Details about each of these species are included</p>	9

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
					<p>below, and more information about all original 36 species is included within the species table in the Biological Resources Assessment.</p> <p><b>Special Plant Species</b></p> <p>One special plant species has the potential to occur within the Permit Area.</p> <p>1. <b><u>Sanford's arrowhead</u></b> (<i>Sagittaria sandfordii</i>):</p> <p>A member of the plantain family, this perennial herb is a 1B.2 rare plant species in California. It has long, narrow leaves which typically grow from a submerged stem. The flowers have green centers, white petals, and are arranged in whorls above the water's surface. This plant is typically found in slow moving or standing freshwater ponds, marshes, and ditches. There is only one recorded CNDDDB occurrence within five miles of the Study Area, 1.99 miles to the south in 1955. As a result, this species has only a very low potential to occur considering there is only marginally suitable habitat along Feather River's riparian banks. <u>No Sanford's arrowhead were observed</u> during Barnett Environmental's May 2023 field survey, which coincided with the blooming period for this species that extends from May through October.</p> <p><b>Federally Listed Species</b></p> <p>Six federally listed animal species have the potential to occur but are not known to occur within the Permit Area. These include:</p> <p>1. <b><u>Giant garter snake</u></b> (<i>Thamnophis gigas</i>):</p> <p>The giant garter snake is a federally-listed threatened species found from sea level to about 160 feet in perennial waters or their immediate environment, but will also inhabit temporary water such as sloughs, irrigation canals, drainage ditches, and flooded rice fields. They show a preference for the slower-flowing sloughs that are not found along major rivers. Giant garter snake habitat is typically devoid of a dense tree canopy and usually contains tule, cattail, blackberry, mustard, various thistles and annual and perennial grasses (CNDDDB 2007). They are typically observed above ground from April until October and spend the remainder of the year in underground winter burrows. By April 15, most of the snakes are actively foraging. Giant garter snakes have a very low potential to occur, given the Study Area provides no areas for basking, and the CNDDDB search contains only two recorded occurrences with the nearest occurrence 3.5 miles southeast (Figure 6). <u>No giant garter snakes were observed</u> during the June 2023 site assessment.</p> <p>2. <b><u>Yellow-billed cuckoo</u></b> (<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>):</p> <p>The yellow-billed cuckoo is a federally-listed threatened species. Yellow-billed cuckoos are medium-sized birds (10.25 to 11.81 inches long, 0.12 to 0.14 pounds) with long tails. They have uniform grayish brown plumage on their head and back, and dull white counterparts. Their tails are long with two rows of four to six large white circles on the underside. The bill of the yellow-billed cuckoo is short to medium in length and curved downwards with an upper mandible and a yellow or orange lower mandible. This species is found in woodland areas with dense cover including low, scrubby, vegetation, overgrown orchards, abandoned farmland, and dense thickets along streams and marshes. Yellow-billed cuckoo has a low potential to occur, given the historical lack of this species along the Feather River and their habitat requirements of large continuous tracks of woodlands with dense scrubby vegetation. In contrast, the riparian area along the river is thinly wooded and prone to human disturbance. In addition, there is a sole CNDDDB occurrence, 4.7 miles to the south of the Study Area in 1987. <u>No yellow-billed cuckoos were observed</u> during the June 2023 site assessment.</p> <p>3. <b><u>Steelhead – Central Valley DPS</u></b> (<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus pop. 11</i>):</p>	

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
					<p>This species is listed as threatened by the federal government. Historically, adult Central Valley steelhead were relatively small compared to coastal steelhead, rarely exceeding 24 inches and a few kg (about 6 pounds) Their slender body type allows them to undertake long and difficult migrations far inland to Central Valley rivers. Today, all adult Central Valley steelhead are winter-run fish, beginning their upstream migrations to fresh water during peak flows between December and February. Returning adults are mostly three to four years old and typically spawn from February to April. Spawning occurs primarily in gravel substrates (particle size range of about 0.2–4.0 inches). Sand-gravel and gravel-cobble substrates are also used, but these must be highly permeable and contain less than 5 percent sand and silt to provide sufficient oxygen to the incubating eggs. Once hatched, young fish move into shallow, slow margins of the stream, and the deeper waters, and as they grow, they move into deeper waters such as riffles, runs, and pools. This species is considered present because upstream fisheries report returning adults from the ocean through the lower Feather River to their home base. However, the lack of gravel substrates in the inlet excludes the possibility of this species finding spawning habitat in the Study Area, and the lack of deep areas preclude habitat for juveniles. There have been two reported CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the Study Area, at an unspecified distance near the Feather River fish hatchery in 2003 through 2019. <u>No Steelhead – Central Valley DPS</u> were observed during the Barnett Environmental’s June 2023 field survey.</p> <p>4. <b><u>Green sturgeon southern DPS</u></b> (<i>Acipenser medirostris</i> pop. 1) :</p> <p>This anadromous species is listed as threatened by the federal government. Living up to 350 pounds, green sturgeon have shark-like tails, sandpaper-textured skin, and five widely separated rows of bony plates called scutes. Adults have long, narrow, shovel-like snouts with whisker-like sensory organs called barbels on the undersides, and toothless “vacuum cleaner” mouths with no teeth. Born in freshwater, this species then migrates to seawater, often feeding in bays or estuaries. Green sturgeon mature at about 15 years of age, when they are able to spawn. In March to June, they migrate into fresh waters to spawn, a cycle which they can repeat every two to six years. There have been several reported CNDDDB recorded occurrences within five miles of the Study Area. In 2003, there were 75 redds – a depression which contains fish eggs - counted, and in 2005-2006, 518 individuals were pit-tagged. There was an average of 1,109 annual hatchery returns between 1967 and 2003, which was reduced by 1% as of 2012. This species is considered present because upstream fisheries report returning adults from the ocean through the lower Feather River to their home base. However, before returning the green sturgeon over summers in deep pools. The Study Area lacks the spawning habitat that this species prefers: cool of deep, turbulent flows and clean, hard substrate consisting of gravel and cobble bottoms where eggs can stick in porous spaces. <u>No green sturgeon southern DPS</u> were observed during Barnett Environmental’s June 2023 field survey.</p> <p>5. <b><u>Chinook salmon - central valley spring-run</u></b> (<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>):</p> <p>This species is listed as threatened by the federal government. Spawning adults are olive to dark maroon in color, without conspicuous streaking or blotches on the sides. Spawning males are darker than females and have a hooked jaw and slightly humped back. There are numerous small black spots in both sexes on the back, dorsal fins, and both lobes of the tail. Data collected on the Feather</p>	

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
					<p>River suggests that the bulk of juvenile emigration occurs during November and December. Chinook salmon generally hold in pools with deep, cool, well-oxygenated waters which have moderate water velocities ranging from 0.5 ft/s to 1.3 ft/s. Spawning habitat for this species is low gradient areas with gravel substrates. There have been two reported CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the Study Area at an unspecified distance near the Feather River fish hatchery in 2015. This species is considered present because upstream fisheries report returning adults from the ocean through the lower Feather River to their home base. However, the boat ramp inlet would not provide holding habitat because of the low velocity and shallow waters. Additionally, there is no spawning habitat because it is primarily filled with sand and silt. No <u>Chinook salmon spring-run</u> were observed during Barnett Environmental's June 2023 field survey.</p> <p>6. <b><u>Valley elderberry longhorn beetle</u></b> (<i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i>):</p> <p>This species is listed as threatened by the federal government. Valley elderberry longhorn beetles are stout-bodied, with males ranging in length from about 1.25–2.5 cm (½–1 in; measured from the front of the head to the end of the abdomen) with antennae about as long as their bodies. Females are slightly more robust than males, measuring about 1.9–2.5 cm (¾–1 in), with somewhat shorter antennae. Adult males have red-orange elytra (wing covers) with four elongate spots and margins. Adult females have dark-colored elytra with reddish margins. The four stages in the animal's life are: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. The species is nearly always found on or close to its host plant, elderberry (<i>Sambucus</i> species), especially in riparian areas. Females lay their eggs on the bark, and larvae hatch and burrow into the stems. The larval stage may last two years, after which the larvae enter the pupal stage and transform into adults. Adults are active from March to June, feeding and mating. To serve as habitat, the shrubs must have stems 2.5 cm (1 in) or greater in diameter at ground level. There are two reported CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the Study Area. The most recent was within 0.629 miles to the west in 2011, and the closest was in 2006, located within the Study Area. Barnett Environmental found three different groves of elderberry bushes in the Study Area, all bordering the parking lot. Within the grove located at the southern border, one bush exhibits a number of VELB exit holes. Accordingly, <u>the species is considered present in the Study Area.</u></p> <p><b>California (State) Listed Species</b></p> <p>State-listed species are plants and animals that are legally protected under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). Two state listed species have the potential to occur but are not known to occur within the Project Area.</p> <p>1. <b><u>Bank swallow</u></b> (<i>Riparia riparia</i>):</p> <p>The bank swallow is listed as a threatened species in California. Bank swallows nest in colonies in vertical banks of sand or dirt that may be along riverbanks, lake shores, road cuts, gravel pits or similar sites. These colonies are often dense with entrances to holes no more than a foot apart. Bank swallows have a low potential to occur due to the lack of sandy beaches and vertical banks in the Study Area. However, this species may find foraging habitat in the riparian zone and in the Feather River, which can offer a wealth of insects. There are nine reported CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the Study Area. The closest was 0.722 miles to the south in 2009, and the most recent was in 2010, 1.42 miles to the south. <u>No bank swallows were observed</u> during the May 2023 site assessment.</p>	

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
					<p>2. <b><u>Swainson's hawk</u></b> (<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>):</p> <p>The Swainson's hawk is a California threatened species. This hawk forages almost exclusively in agricultural row-crops and grasslands. Its favored prey are voles and small rodents that are more readily available in suitable densities on agricultural lands. Unlike some other local raptors, urban areas or dense vegetation do not provide suitable foraging habitat for this hawk. Sacramento, Yolo, and San Joaquin Counties support most of the Central Valley Swainson's hawk breeding population. Swainson's hawk has a high potential to occur, given the Study Area provides suitable nesting habitat along the riparian woodland and foraging habitat in the nearby grasslands and river banks, and that there are 31 CNDDDB recorded occurrences within five miles of the Assessment Area, with the nearest occurrence 0.9 miles southwest. <u>However, no Swainson's hawks were observed</u> during the May 2023 site survey.</p> <p><b>California Species of Special Concern</b></p> <p>There are three California species of special concern with a potential to occur in the Study Area.</p> <p>3. <b><u>Coastal horned lizard</u></b> (<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>):</p> <p>This California Species of Special Concern is a flat-bodied lizard with a wide oval-shaped body, scattered enlarged pointed scales on the upper body and tail, and a large crown of horns or spines on the head. Females are larger in size than males. Color is reddish, brown, yellow, or gray, with dark blotches on the back and large dark spots on the sides of the neck. The belly is cream, beige, or yellow, usually with dark spots, and the belly scales are smooth. This species is found in grasslands, coniferous forests, woodlands, and chaparral, with open areas and patches of loose soil. Often found in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered shrubs and along dirt roads. Often found near ant hills feeding on ants. There are no CNDDDB recorded occurrences within five miles of the Project Area. <u>No coastal horned lizard were observed</u> during the May 2023 site assessment. There is a low potential for this species due to the lack of observances in the species, but the Study Area encompasses suitable habitat, including the wooded riparian area and northern grasslands this lizard prefers.</p> <p>4. <b><u>Western pond turtle</u></b> (<i>Actinemys marmorata</i>):</p> <p>Listed as a California species of special concern in California, the western pond turtle is a small to medium-sized turtle in the Emydidae family, reaching between seven and nine inches in length. Its dorsal color is usually dark brown or dull olive with or without streaking. Adult turtles have a yellowish belly, with dark blotches and black spots or lines on top of their heads. The western pond turtle is found in permanent and intermittent waters of rivers, creeks, small lakes and ponds, marshes, irrigation ditches and reservoirs. They bask on land or near water on logs, branches or boulders. There are no CNDDDB recorded occurrences within five miles of the Project Area, and <u>no western pond turtle were observed</u> during the May 2023 site assessment. However, Feather River provides suitable habitat for this species, and the riparian edge could provide basking opportunities. Accordingly, there is a low potential for this species in the Study Area.</p> <p>5. <b><u>Western red bat</u></b> (<i>Lasiurus blossevillii</i>):</p> <p>This California species of special concern The posterior one-third of the interfemoral membrane is bare or only sparsely haired. The species has a body length about of 4" with an 11-13" wingspan. It has orange-brown to yellow-brown fur with a fully furred tail membrane, long pointed wings, and short rounded ears. Western red bats roost almost exclusively in trees, where their coloring helps them blend among the leaves and branches. This species prefers</p>	



IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
					<p>riparian habitat near water, and roost in sycamore, cottonwood, velvet ash, and elder trees, and could find habitat in the trees along Feather River. There are no CNDDDB recorded occurrences within five miles of the Study Area, and <u>no western red bat were observed</u> during the May 2023 site assessment. This species has a low potential to occur because although the riparian zone could provide potential habitat, the human disturbance in the area could preclude this bat from the Study Area.</p> <p><b>California Fully Protected Species</b></p> <p>There is one California fully protected species with a potential to occur in the Study Area.</p> <p>6. <b>Bald eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>):</b></p> <p>This California fully protected species has white heads and tails with dark brown bodies and wings. Their legs and bills are bright yellow. Immature birds have mostly dark heads and tails; their brown wings and bodies are mottled with white in varying amounts. Young birds attain adult plumage in about five years. It has a heavy body, large head, and long, hooked bill. In flight, a bald eagle holds its broad wings flat like a board. They can be found near lakes, reservoirs, rivers, marshes, and coasts. There are no CNDDDB recorded occurrences within five miles of the Project Area. <u>No bald eagles were observed</u> during the May 2023 site assessment. Although Feather River could provide suitable foraging habitat for this species, the lack of reported CNDDDB occurrences within proximity to the area make the potential for occurrence low.</p> <p>The Biological Resources Assessment identifies the following mitigation measures:</p> <p><b>BIO-1:</b></p> <p>1. It is recommended that a focused survey for special-status plant species be conducted within and surrounding the project areas (within the areas of potential impact) to document any listed species that may be occurring within the proximity of the project site(s). A focused survey is an on-site survey that is limited in scope, content, length and designed to gather information on a specific issue(s). Because of the CNDDDB generated list of focal special status species targeted for this survey, the habitats of potential likelihood of occurrence have been pre-scoped and have been predetermined for their potential presence based on habitat features.</p> <p>Therefore, the list of potentially occurring species has already been generated and a focused rare plant survey is recommended. During the surveys, a botanist(s) is to conduct a systematic search of the project area for target plant species. They may use a variety of techniques, including visual surveys, transect surveys, and quadrat sampling, to detect and document the presence of plant species. In addition to documenting target species, the botanist(s) should also document the overall plant community within the project area, including vegetation cover, plant density, and plant diversity.</p> <p>2. If rare or sensitive plant species are identified during the survey, appropriate mitigation measures will be developed and implemented to avoid or minimize impacts to those species. These measures may include adjusting the project design to avoid impacts to sensitive plant populations or implementing measures to protect the plants during construction activities.</p> <p><b>BIO-2:</b></p> <p>1. For the giant garter snake, construction shall be restricted to occur between May 1 and October 1 to ensure that any snakes in the vicinity are restricted to the immediate environs of the adjacent perennial waterway; or, if construction occurs between October 2 and April 30, construction activities shall not take place within 200 feet of the perennial waterway.</p>	

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
					<p>2. Construction shall not occur within 10 to 15 feet of the nearby watercourse from May 1 to October 1. Alternatively, a qualified biologist shall be onsite during any construction activities that affect the riparian area within 10-15 feet of the river bank.</p> <p><b>BIO-3:</b></p> <p>To ensure no future construction activities occasion to affect any special status species birds or their nests, the following measures are proposed:</p> <p>If any site disturbance or construction activity for any phase of development begins outside the February 1 to August 31 breeding season, a preconstruction survey for active nests shall not be required.</p> <p>2. If any site disturbance or construction activity for any phase of development is scheduled, survey for active tree nests and ground nests from publicly accessible areas within 14 days prior to site disturbance for any phase of development. The survey area shall cover the construction site and a 100-foot radius surrounding the construction site. If no nesting migratory birds are found, then further mitigation measures are not necessary.</p> <p>3. If an active nest of a migratory bird, or other CDFW-protected bird is discovered that may be adversely affected by any site disturbance, or an injured or killed bird is found, the project applicant shall immediately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stop all work within a 100-foot radius of the discovery.</li> <li>• Notify Yuba County Public Works.</li> <li>• Do not resume work within the 100-foot radius until authorized by the biologist</li> <li>• The biologist shall establish a minimum 100-foot Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) around the nest. The ESA may be reduced if the biologist determines that a smaller ESA would still adequately protect the active nest. Further work may not occur within the ESA until the biologist determines that the nest is no longer active.</li> </ul> <p><b>BIO-4:</b></p> <p>Prior to any ground disturbance, the following measures will be taken to protect special species birds:</p> <p>1. A pre-construction nesting bird survey shall be conducted on-site within 15 days prior to construction if construction associated with the project would commence between March 1st and September 1st ("the nesting season"). If disturbance associated with the project would occur outside of the nesting season, no surveys shall be required.</p> <p>2. If Swainson's hawk are identified as nesting on the project site, a non-disturbance buffer of 75- feet shall be established or as otherwise prescribed by a qualified ornithologist. The buffer shall be demarcated with painted orange lath or via the installation of orange construction fencing. Disturbance within the buffer shall be postponed until a qualified ornithologist has determined that the young have attained sufficient flight skills to leave the area or that the nesting cycle has otherwise completed.</p> <p>3. If the proposed project requires a loss of potential foraging habitat than the project proponent shall be responsible for mitigating on the project site at a ratio of 1:1 if the project is within a mile, 0.5:1 ratio if the project is within a half-mile, 0.75:1 ratio if the project is within five miles, and 0.5:1 ratio if the project is within ten miles, per the CDFW's 1994 Guidance on Swainson's Hawk Mitigation.</p> <p><b>BIO-5:</b></p> <p>Protective measures for the valley elderberry longhorn beetle include:</p> <p>1. Fence and flag all areas to be avoided during construction activities. In areas where encroachment on the 100-foot buffer has been approved by the Service,</p>	

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
					<p>provide a minimum setback of at least 20 feet from the dripline of each elderberry plant.</p> <p>2. Brief contractors on the need to avoid damaging the elderberry plants and the possible penalties for not complying with these requirements.</p> <p>3. Erect signs every 50 feet along the edge of the avoidance area with the following information: "This area is habitat of the valley elderberry longhorn beetle, a threatened species, and must not be disturbed. This species is protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Violators are subject to prosecution, fines, and imprisonment." The signs should be clearly readable from a distance of 20 feet and must be maintained for the duration of construction.</p> <p>4. Instruct work crews about the status of the beetle and the need to protect its elderberry host plant</p> <p>Restoration and maintenance measures include:</p> <p>1. Restore any damage done to the buffer area (area within 100 feet of elderberry plants) during construction. Provide erosion control and re-vegetate with appropriate native plants.</p> <p>2. Buffer areas must continue to be protected after construction from adverse effects of the project. Measures such as fencing, signs, weeding, and trash removal are usually appropriate.</p> <p>3. No insecticides, herbicides, fertilizers, or other chemicals that might harm the beetle or its host plant should be used in the buffer areas, or within 100 feet of any elderberry plant with one or more stems measuring 1.0 inch or greater in diameter at ground level.</p> <p>4. The applicant must provide a written description of how the buffer areas are to be restored, protected, and maintained after construction is completed.</p> <p>5. No mowing should occur within five (5) feet of elderberry plant stems. Mowing must be done in a manner that avoids damaging plants (e.g., stripping away bark through careless use of mowing/trimming equipment).</p> <p><b>BIO-6:</b></p> <p>To protect bats, the following mitigation measures shall be taken:</p> <p>(1) limiting project activities to daytime hours and the winter;</p> <p>(2) avoiding the use of lights during nighttime hours;</p> <p>(3) not operating or parking vehicles and equipment with internal combustion engines close to any area where bats are present;</p> <p>(4) planning work to avoid restricting bats' airspace access to roost sites;</p> <p>(5) using exclusion devices when bats are absent to prevent them from occupying the work areas;</p> <p>(6) using fencing or flagging to identify buffer zones around roosting bats as environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs) where work activities and construction personnel are prohibited.</p> <p><b>BIO-7:</b></p> <p>To protect fish species, the following measures shall be implemented:</p> <p>1. In-water construction activities will be restricted to occur between July 1 and August 31.</p> <p>2. Operation of equipment and placement of materials within the channel shall be conducted slowly and deliberately to alert and allow adult and juvenile fish to move away from the work area. When first entering or crossing a channel each day, a construction monitor shall walk ahead of the equipment working to alert any fish and allow them to move from the work area.</p> <p>3. If water is drafted from the Feather River for construction purposes, water pump intakes shall be screened in compliance with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and National Marine Fisheries Service salmonid-screening specifications.</p>	

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
					<p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>The mitigation measures listed above will ensure that there are minimal impacts on any potential listed species that may occur in the area. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is being consulted via the FESA Section 7 Consultation, and the applicant anticipates complying with any mitigation measures related to avoiding the valley elderberry longhorn beetle. Additionally, the applicant is obtaining an LSA agreement from CDFW as compliance with the California Fish and Game Code for their activities in the riparian area. Mitigation measures required in the Biological Opinion from the USFWS will be followed, and a Lake and Streambed Agreement will be obtained for the protection of fish wildlife and their habitats. Thus, a less than significant impact with mitigation will occur.</p> <p><b>Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-3, BIO-4, BIO-5, BIO-6, and BIO-7</b></p>	
<p>b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?</p> <p>c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?</p>		X			<p>While there is elderberry bush habitat in the adjacent riparian area, BIO-5 will minimize any potential impacts on Elderberry Longhorn Beetle habitat. All work will be conducted within the stream, and the mitigation measures listed above will avoid any additional impacts to sensitive areas and species.</p> <p>4.215 acres of wetlands and “other waters of the United States” are within the project area, however, due to the nature of the project pertaining solely to removing accumulated sediment, the permanent impacts will pertain solely to the removal of sediment from the river. The only potentially adverse effects from the project will be the temporary increase in turbidity as a result of the dredge, however, since it will be conducted outside of special status fish species migration periods, any potential impacts will be minimized. The project will also be obtaining the necessary permits, such as a Clean Water Act (CWA) 404 Letter of Permission, CWA 401 Water Certification, Section 408 Central Valley Flood Protection Board Encroachment Permit, and a CDFW 1602 Lake and Streambed Agreement. This project has also received a waiver of waste discharge via the California Regional Water Quality Control Board. The project will abide by the necessary conditions of each permit, and therefore the project will have a less than significant impact with mitigation.</p> <p><b>Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation</b></p>	9
<p>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?</p>		X			<p>In accordance with mitigation measure BIO-7, in-water construction will be restricted between July 1<sup>st</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup> to avoid interfering with the migration periods of special status fish species. A Biological Opinion for the project will also be received, and the conditions outlined by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will be abided to ensure minimal effects on any native, resident, or migratory fish/wildlife species or their corridors or nursery sites. Thus, there will be a less than significant impact with mitigation.</p> <p><b>Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation</b></p>	9
<p>e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?</p>				X	<p>The project will not interfere with any local ordinances, such as local tree ordinances or policies protecting biological resources, and therefore will have no impact.</p> <p><b>No Impact</b></p>	
<p>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?</p>				X	<p>The project site is not located within the boundaries of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. As such, no impact will occur.</p> <p><b>No Impact</b></p>	

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
<b>V. CULTURAL RESOURCES</b> <i>Would the project:</i>						
<p>a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?</p> <p>b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?</p> <p>c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?</p>		X			<p>Historical resources are features that are associated with the lives of historically-important persons and/or historically-significant events, that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region or method of construction, or that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to the pre-history or history of the local area, California, or the nation. Examples of typical historical resources include, but are not limited to, buildings, farmsteads, rail lines, bridges, and trash scatters containing objects such as colored glass and ceramics. Currently, the site is vacant and undeveloped. Thus, the site does not contain any existing structures that may be considered historical.</p> <p>A Cultural Resource Assessment was prepared for the proposed project by Peak &amp; Associates, Inc. According to the Cultural Resource Assessment, the project site is located within the territory of the Nisenan Tribe. While only a few families within the county still identify as Nisenan, the tribe once occupied the Feather river and surrounding area, as well as neighboring counties.</p> <p>As part of the Cultural Resource Assessment, a records search of the California Historic Resources Information System (CHRIS) was performed by the North Central Information Center (NCIC) for cultural resource site records and survey reports within the project area. The NCIC determined that the project site and the surrounding 0.25-mile search radius does contain resources within a one-quarter mile radius. A field survey of the project site was conducted on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to determine whether any resources were located within the project area, and based on the results of the field survey, no evidence of prehistoric or historic period cultural resources were found. Therefore, there will be a less than significant impact.</p> <p>Although Peak and Associates Inc. concluded that there would likely be no impact to cultural resources based off no signs of cultural sites found during the survey, there is a slight possibility that a site may exist and be totally obscured by vegetation, fill, or other historic activities, leaving no surface evidence. For this reason, if buried cultural resources or human remains are discovered then all ground disturbing activities within 100 feet would be halted, Mitigation Measure CR-1 would be implemented and the USFWS Regional archeologist notified immediately. If any changes are made that result in an expansion of the Action Area, additional surveys will be performed, and impacts will be re-assessed. With implementation of this mitigation measure, potential impacts to cultural resources would be less than significant:</p> <p><b>CR-1: Inadvertent Discoveries of Objects of Cultural Significance:</b></p> <p>If archaeological components are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, all ground disturbing work at the find location and 100-foot buffer placed around the area until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the finding and provide (if needed) avoidance and/or data recovery plan.</p> <p>Should artifacts or unusual amounts of stone, bone, or shell be uncovered during construction activities, an archeologist should be consulted for on-the-spot evaluation of the finding. If the bone appears to be human, state law requires that the Yuba County Coroner be contacted. If the Coroner determines that the bone is human and is most likely Native American in origin, he must contact the Native American Heritage Commission (916-322-7791).</p> <p><b>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures CR-1</b></p>	23

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
<b>VI. ENERGY</b> <i>Would the project:</i>						
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?  b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?				X	<p>The proposed project consists of maintenance of the Feather River Boat Ramp via dredging the accumulation of sediment due to high water events in 2019 and the 2022-2023 winter storms. The project would not require the creation of a new permanent source of energy nor require any energy consumption from the power grid. The proposed project will take approximately three weeks to complete, therefore the energy consumption would be short term and would not conflict or obstruct the implementation of a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. As a result, there would be no energy related impacts.</p> <p>Therefore, the project will not conflict with any energy plans, nor will any energy be used other than what is utilized during the short construction period, resulting in no impact.</p> <p><b>No Impact</b></p>	
<b>VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS</b> <i>Would the project:</i>						
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.</li> <li>ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?</li> <li>iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?</li> <li>iv) Landslides?</li> </ul>				X	<p><b>Earthquake Faults and Strong Seismic Ground Shaking</b></p> <p>According to the California Geological Survey Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone Maps, the project site is not located within the vicinity of an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. The nearest fault zone is the Jericho Valley fault, which is over ten miles east of the project site. Therefore, the proposed development would not be subject to risks related to fault rupture or seismic ground shaking.</p> <p><b>Seismic-Related Ground Failure, including Liquefaction.</b></p> <p>Liquefaction is a phenomenon in which granular material is transformed from a solid state to a liquefied state as a consequence of increased pore-water pressure and reduced effective stress. Increased pore-water pressure is induced by the tendency of granular materials to densify when subjected to cyclic shear stresses associated with earthquakes. According to the California Geological Survey's Earthquake Zones of Required Investigation Map, the project site is not located within a Liquefaction Zone.</p> <p><b>Landslides</b></p> <p>Seismically induced landslides are triggered by earthquake ground shaking. The risk of landslide hazard is greatest in areas with steep, unstable slopes. The topography of the project site has 0-1% slopes. Per the California Geologic Survey, the site is not located within a designated seismic hazard zone for landslides.</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Based on the above, the proposed project would not be subject to substantial risks related to fault rupture, strong seismic ground shaking, liquefaction, or landslides. Thus, no impact would occur.</p> <p><b>No Impact</b></p>	13
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			X		<p>As discussed in Section 8.3.7.1c, erosion control measures such as silt fences, wattles, and erosion control mats will be used when necessary to minimize potential erosion. Hydraulic drilling will also be used in conjunction with mechanical dredging when possible to minimize turbidity within the water. Best management practices, such as covering the removed sediment during the period of storage within the parking lot, will take place to ensure minimal erosion and spread of sediment. Since the project's scope is limited to just removing previously eroded sediment, there will be no removal of topsoil and no significant cause for erosion to occur. Thus, a less than significant impact will occur.</p> <p><b>Less Than Significant Impact</b></p>	



IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
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-site or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?				X	Since the project will not include the installation of any new infrastructure, nothing will be built atop any soil that could be potentially unstable and cause landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. Therefore, no impact will occur.  <b>No Impact</b>	
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?				X	Since the project will not include any new installation, nothing will be built atop any soil that could potentially be expansive and cause direct or indirect risks to life or property. Therefore, no impact will occur.  <b>No Impact</b>	
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?				X	Since the project will not include any new installation, nothing will be built atop any soil that would require the capability to support septic tanks or alternative wastewater systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water. Therefore, no impact will occur.  <b>No Impact</b>	
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?				X	The scope of the proposed project will be limited to removing excess sediment from the Feather River and will likely not have any impact on paleontological resources. However, if any are found, work shall stop, and consultation is required to avoid further impacts as is stated within the Yuba County General Plan. As such, there will be no impact.  <b>No Impact</b>	23
<b>VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS</b> <i>Would the project:</i>						
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?			X		Emissions of GHGs contributing to global climate change are attributable in large part to human activities associated with the industrial/manufacturing, utility, transportation, residential, and agricultural sectors. Therefore, the cumulative global emissions of GHGs contributing to global climate change can be attributed to every nation, region, and city, and virtually every individual on Earth. An individual project's GHG emissions are at a micro-scale level relative to global emissions and effects to global climate change; however, an individual project could result in a cumulatively considerable incremental contribution to a significant cumulative macro-scale impact. As such, impacts related to emissions of GHG are inherently considered cumulative impacts.  Implementation of the proposed project would contribute to increases of GHG emissions that are associated with global climate change during construction. Construction of the project would result in GHG emissions primarily through the use of off-road construction equipment, on-road hauling, and worker vehicles. Estimated GHG emissions attributable to the project would be primarily associated with increases of carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ) and, to a lesser extent, other GHG pollutants, such as methane (CH <sub>4</sub> ) and nitrous oxide (N <sub>2</sub> O) associated with mobile sources. The common unit of measurement for GHG is expressed in terms of annual metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> equivalents (MTCO <sub>2e</sub> /yr).  The proposed project is located within the jurisdictional boundaries of FRAQMD and Yuba County. FRAQMD has not adopted a threshold of significance for GHG but FRAQMD's ISR Guide recommends reviewing other agency information when conducting a GHG analysis. The County of Yuba General Plan Public Health and Safety Element includes a discussion on GHG and climate change but does not specifically address GHG emissions	4 & 5

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
					<p>from construction activities or set a numeric threshold to consider a project's impact from construction emissions.</p> <p>In order to provide a conservative evaluation of the proposed project's contribution to cumulative GHG emissions, the analysis incorporates thresholds established by SMAQMD. SMAQMD's thresholds include a 1,100 MTCO<sub>2e</sub> per year threshold for project construction phases.</p> <p>CalEEMod was used to calculate the estimated construction GHG emissions for the proposed project. The project would generate 55.3 MTCO<sub>2e</sub>, which is well below the thresholds established by SMAQMD.</p> <p>The California Air Resources Board's 2022 Scoping Plan does not specifically address project level actions that could be undertaken to reduce construction GHG emissions. The Scoping Plan discusses the State's goal to transition off-road equipment to zero-emissions by 2035 and incentive funding programs in place to assist with that effort. Additionally, the State's In-Use Off-Road Diesel Vehicle Regulation was amended in November 2022, requiring the use of renewable diesel in construction fleets beginning in 2024, which would reduce life-cycle emissions of GHG from construction equipment. The proposed project would not conflict with the 2022 Scoping Plan or the In-Use Off-Road Diesel Vehicle Regulation, assuming the proposed project equipment will comply with State regulations.</p> <p>The proposed project may include an extension request to continue maintenance dredging over 10 years after the initial dredging activity is completed. Maintenance dredging is expected to be similar or less intensive than the activity analyzed herein, therefore emissions in future years from dredging would be similar or less than the 55.3 MTCO<sub>2e</sub> calculated for the project. Construction emissions would not exceed the 1,100 MTCO<sub>2e</sub> threshold in a single year or even over a potential 10-year period of maintenance dredging.</p> <p><u>Conclusion</u> Based on the above discussion, the project's construction emissions are well below thresholds of significance, therefore, the proposed project would not generate GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment, and would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs. Thus, a</p> <p><b>Less Than Significant Impact</b></p>	
<b>IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS</b> <i>Would the project:</i>						
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				X	<p>The dredge material that will be removed and transported at the project site was tested on March 25, 2020 by Partner Engineering and Science, Inc., and came back negative for any hazardous materials. Since the proposed project will not include any new installation, no hazardous materials will be transported, used, or disposed throughout the length of the project. Thus, there will be no impact.</p> <p><b>No Impact</b></p>	24
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment? &				X	<p>Per the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) GeoTracker data management system, hazardous materials sites, including leaking underground storage tank (LUST) sites and Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) cleanup sites, have not been identified on or near the project area. In addition, the project site is not located on or near any hazardous waste sites identified on the Envirostor's Hazardous Waste and Substance Site List.</p> <p>The proposed project uses would not involve any operations that could create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably</p>	18

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
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?					foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the likely release of hazardous materials into the environment. While the project will include the removal and temporary storage of soil within the project area, a soil assessment was conducted on March 25, 2020 by Partner Engineering and Science, Inc., which detected no hazardous materials within the present soil. Therefore, there will be no impact.  <b>No Impact</b>	
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				X	The project site is not located within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school, nor will any hazardous materials be emitted or handled at the site. Thus, no impact would result relating to the emission or handling of hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school.  <b>No Impact</b>	
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 or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?				X	The project is not located within two miles of an airport and/or within an Airport Land Use Plan. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in an airport-related safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area, and no impact would occur.  <b>No Impact</b>	
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				X	Due to the limited scope of the project, the proposed project will not result in any infrastructure or hazards that could potentially interfere with emergency response or evacuation plans, therefore, no impact will occur.  <b>No Impact</b>	
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?				X	Since the project is limited in scope to solely the removal of sediment from Feather River without any new installation, the project will have no impact on exposing people or infrastructure to the risk of wildland fires of any kind.  <b>No Impact</b>	
<b>X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY</b> <i>Would the project:</i>						
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?		X			The proposed project will not result in any excess pollution in the river that may degrade water quality. While there may be a temporary increase of turbidity during the course of construction, performing a mixture of mechanical and hydraulic dredging will ensure that the project will result in a minimal amount of excess turbidity within the river. There are also no water treatment facilities within the vicinity of the project, therefore, the turbidity will have no significant effect on any local water supply. There are locations and scenarios in which suction (hydraulic) dredging alone is not a viable means of sediment removal due to lack of water above prescribed material, too much debris, or too large of rocks for the suction dredge to process. By allowing mechanical dredging any remaining material can be removed despite varying water levels and other site conditions. The use of hydraulic dredging for the majority of the material also allows for a cleaner and more efficient dewatering operation. Less sediment is suspended into the water during hydraulic dredging, lowering turbidity levels, and reducing environmental impacts to the project site.  The project will also be obtaining the necessary permits, such as a Clean Water Act (CWA) 404 Letter of Permission, CWA 401 Water Certification, Section 408 Central Valley Flood Protection Board Encroachment Permit, and a CDFW 1602 Lake and Streambed Agreement. This project has also received a waiver of waste discharge via the California Regional Water Quality Control Board.	

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
					<b>Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation</b>	
<p>b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?</p> <p>e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?</p>				X	<p>Since no new infrastructure will be developed, the proposed project will not result in any discharge of groundwater, nor will it impede sustainable groundwater management. There are also no water treatment facilities within the vicinity of the project, therefore, the dredging will have no significant effect on any local groundwater supply or recharge.</p> <p>The project site is south of the Yuba River, and therefore lies on the South Yuba Subbasin. A Groundwater Sustainability Plan was developed in December 2019 for both North and South Yuba sub-basins. The proposed project will not be permanently adversely affecting water quality, nor groundwater recharge, and therefore will have no impact with regards to local water quality control plans or sustainable groundwater management plans. Thus, there will be no impact.</p> <p><b>No Impact</b></p>	20
<p>c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner that would:</p> <p>i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on-site or off-site;</p> <p>ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite; or</p> <p>iii) 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.</p>		X			<p>The scope of the proposed project is limited to removing eroded sediment from the Feather River and will require no work or grading done on the ground. The work will only be completed within the water, and the dredge material will be placed on a previously constructed impervious surface within the parking lot. However, no new impervious materials will be constructed, and the soil will be removed within six months via the project contractor. Thus, there will be a less than significant impact with mitigation.</p> <p><b>Less Than Significant with Mitigation</b></p>	
<p>c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner that would:</p> <p>iv) impede or redirect flood flows?</p>				X	<p>According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map number 06033CO952D, the project site is located within Floodway Areas in Zone AE. FEMA defines Floodway Areas in Zone AE as an area located inside of the 100-year floodplain, where encroachment must be avoided so that the 1% annual chance flood can be carried without substantial increases in flood heights. However, since no new infrastructure will be developed, the project would not impede or redirect flood flows, and no impact would result.</p> <p><b>No Impact</b></p>	15
<p>d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?</p>				X	<p>Tsunamis are defined as sea waves created by undersea fault movement, whereas a seiche is a long-wavelength, large-scale wave action set up in a closed body of water such as a lake or reservoir. The project site is not located within the vicinity of an ocean or a large, closed body of water. Thus, the project site would not be exposed to flooding risks associated with tsunamis or seiches. Therefore, no impact would occur with development of the project.</p> <p><b>No Impact</b></p>	

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
<b>XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING</b> <i>Would the project:</i>						
a) Physically divide an established community?				X	The proposed project only includes the removal of sediment from the Feather River, and will not introduce any structure, roadway, or other physical barrier that could potentially physically divide an established community. Therefore, there will be no impact.  <b>No Impact</b>	
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				X	The proposed project is located on property that is owned by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and is maintained by Yuba County Public Works. The parcel has a county designation of Exclusive Agricultural District 40 Acres (AE-40) and a general plan designation of Natural Resources. The surrounding parcels also have the same county and land use designations. The proposed project involves permanent impacts from dredging sediment material within the designated portion of the Yuba County Boat Ramp and construction activities will be limited to existing and proposed access routes and proposed staging areas. The project will not involve any land use conversion, nor will it result in conflict with state and local regulations. Therefore, there will be no impacts to land use and planning.  <b>No impact</b>	
<b>XII. MINERAL RESOURCES</b> <i>Would the project:</i>						
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?				X	Yuba County's access channel to the Star Bend Boat Ramp on the Feather River was significantly altered as the riverbed was raised with silt deposits (bedload). The proposed project involves removing approximately 2,000 cubic yards of sediment material brought to the Yuba County Boar Ramp area by high water events in 2019 and the 2022-2023 winter storms. The boat ramp has been routinely maintained since 1961 with the last permitted dredging operation occurring in 2009 with the removal of 2,730 cubic yards. The removal of silt deposits would not result in the loss of availability of known mineral resource that would be of value to the site or the surrounding region. Therefore, there would be no impact on mineral resources.  <b>No Impact</b>	
<b>XIII. NOISE</b> <i>Would the project result in:</i>						
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?		X			Temporary construction noise associated with project construction would be minimal and be conducted solely during daylight hours. The proposed project will compose of mechanical and hydraulic dredging and will not cause a significant increase of noise during construction in comparison to the standard at the site when boats are present. California maintains a max DB limit for motorboats of 88 decibels based off of the Coast Guard's 86 decibel recommendation, and the OSHA standard for construction noise is 90 decibels, which means the project will not significantly exceed the standard noise levels at the site. Since there will be no new development, there will be no permanent increase in ambient noise levels after construction. The impact is still considered potentially significant because there would be increases in noise levels within the Action Area. However, there is limited housing within 0.16 mi of the Action Area and there is minimal recreational (fishing) use during much of the construction season. The impact would be mitigated to a less than significant level with implementation of the following:  <b>NOISE-1 - Reduce Impacts from Noise:</b>  To mitigate noise related impacts, the Project shall require all contractors to comply with the following operational parameters:	

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
					<p>• Restrict construction activities to time periods between 7:00 am and 5:00 pm when there is the least potential for disturbance.</p> <p><b>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Measure NOISE-1</b></p>	
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			X		<p>While the hydraulic and mechanical dredging will cause noise at the project site, it will not substantially exceed the standard noise levels at the site when boats are present. Therefore, vibration associated with proposed construction activities would result in a less-than-significant impact.</p> <p><b>Less Than Significant Impact</b></p>	
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or 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?				X	<p>The project area is located more than 3 miles from the nearest airport. The proposed project would not establish new noise-sensitive land uses that could be exposed to airstrip noise. The project would not expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels. Therefore, there would be no impact.</p> <p><b>No Impact</b></p>	
<b>XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING</b> <i>Would the project:</i>						
a) Induce substantial unplanned 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)?				X	<p>The proposed project does not propose any new infrastructure such as residential or commercial buildings and associated public roads. The proposed project would only employ existing local contractors and would not increase population growth within the city of Olivehurst nor the surrounding cities and towns. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact on population and housing.</p> <p><b>No Impact</b></p>	
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X	<p>Given that the scope of the project is limited to the removal of sediment from the Feather River, no additional development of any kind will occur and therefore there will be no displacement of existing people or housing within the area, either directly or indirectly.</p> <p><b>No Impact</b></p>	
<b>XV. PUBLIC SERVICES</b> <i>Would the project:</i>						
<p>Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, 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:</p> <p>a) Fire Protection? b) Police Protection?</p>				X	<p>Since the project will only need 15-20 days of construction, and not result in any new development, the project not result in any impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, 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 fire protection and/or police protection.</p> <p><b>No Impact</b></p>	
Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the				X	<p>The proposed project would not include any residential development and, thus, would not result in population growth such that demand for schools, parks, or other public facilities would increase substantially. Therefore, the proposed</p>	

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, 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:  c) Schools? d) Parks? e) Other Public Facilities?					project would have no impact related to the need for new or physically altered schools, parks, or other public facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts.  <b>No Impact</b>	
<b>XVI. RECREATION</b> <i>Would the project:</i>						
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) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				X	The proposed project will not include any new infrastructure, such as recreational or residential development, and therefore would not have an adverse physical effect on the environment, nor would it increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks, or other recreational facilities. Therefore, there will be no impact.  <b>No Impact</b>	
<b>XVII. TRANSPORTATION</b> <i>Would the project:</i>						
a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?				X	Since the scope of the project is limited to the removal of sediment from the Feather River and will not include any new development, there will be no conflict with any program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities within Yuba County. Therefore, there will be no impact.  <b>No Impact</b>	
b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?			X		Section 15064.3 of the CEQA Guidelines provides specific considerations for evaluating a project's transportation impacts. Pursuant to Section 15064.3 of the CEQA Guidelines, analysis of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) attributable to a project is the most appropriate measure of transportation impacts. Other relevant considerations may include the effects of the project on transit and non-motorized travel.  Pursuant to Section 15064.3(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, a lead agency may analyze a project's VMT qualitatively based on the availability of transit, proximity to destinations, etc. Methods such as carpooling to and from the site will take place to minimize VMT. Outside of the minimal additional VMT needed to complete the short construction period, the proposed project will not have any impact on VMT once completed, due to no new development occurring. Thus, there will be a less significant impact.  <b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous				X	The proposed project would not include any new infrastructure, and as such, there will be no hazards due to geometric design features or incompatible uses, nor any effect on emergency access. Therefore, there will be no impact.	



IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?  d) Result in inadequate emergency access?					<b>No Impact</b>	
<b>XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES</b> <i>Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:</i>						
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or			X		<p>As noted in Section V, Cultural Resources, of the IS/MND, a Cultural Resource Assessment was prepared for the project. According to such, a site survey concluded that recorded cultural resources do not exist on-site. However, the project site is known to be located in an area that was historically occupied by the Nisenan Tribe.</p> <p>In addition, the UAIC conducted background research for the identification of Tribal Resources for this project which included a review of pertinent literature, historic maps, and a records search using UAIC's Tribal Historic Information System (THRIS). UAIC's THRIS database is composed of UAIC's areas of oral history, ethnographic history, and places of cultural and religious significance, including UAIC's Sacred Lands that are submitted to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). The THRIS resources shown in this region also include previously recorded indigenous resources identified through the California Historic Resources Information System Center (CHRIS) as well as historic resources and survey data.</p> <p><b>Less Than Significant Impact</b></p>	23
b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.		X			<p>Yuba County Planning Department requested AB-52 consultation with the United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC), due to their request for consultation on all discretionary projects within Yuba County. The United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) is a federally recognized Tribe comprised of both Miwok and Maidu (Nisenan) Tribal members who are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area. The Tribe has a deep spiritual, cultural, and physical ties to their ancestral land and are contemporary stewards of their culture and landscapes. The Tribal community represents a continuity and endurance of their ancestors by maintaining their connection to their history and culture. It is the Tribe's goal to ensure the preservation and continuance of their cultural heritage for current and future generations.</p> <p>The UAIC responded to the AB-52 consultation request on November 14, 2023. The UAIC requested a site inspection that was performed on November 17<sup>th</sup> 2023. Following the site inspection, Anna Starkey, with the UAIC made a request to add mitigation measures for tribal monitoring, unanticipated/inadvertent discoveries of TCRs, and treatment and disposition of cultural objects.</p> <p>As a result, the following mitigation measures have been added to address avoidance and preservation in place as the preferred manner of mitigating impacts to tribal cultural and cultural resources (CEQA Guidelines §21083.2(b)). This can be accomplished by the following:</p> <p><b>TCR-1:Tribal Monitoring</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project proponent and its construction contractor(s) shall implement the following measure to identify these resources at the earliest possible time during project-related earthmoving activities:</li> <li>Tribal Representatives and Tribal Monitors act as a representative of their Tribal government and are qualified professionals that have the authority and expertise to identify sites or objects of cultural value to Native American Tribes and recommend appropriate treatment of such sites or objects.</li> <li>Appropriate treatment of objects may include:</li> </ul>	

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
					<p>a) Recordation of the resource</p> <p>b) Reburial onsite of the cultural objects in a designated area of no future disturbance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consulting Tribes shall be contacted at least 2 weeks prior to project ground-disturbing activities and will be invited to observe construction activities. The duration of the monitoring and construction schedule shall be determined at this time.</li> <li>To track the implementation of this measure, field-monitoring activities will be documented on a Tribal Monitor log. The total time commitment of the Tribal Monitor will vary depending on the intensity and location of construction and the sensitivity of the area, including the number of finds.</li> <li>A contracted Tribal Monitor/s from geographically and culturally affiliated Native American Tribes shall monitor the vegetation grubbing, stripping, grading, and other ground-disturbing activities in the project area. The types of ground-disturbing activities requiring monitoring may be determined in advance through tribal consultation.</li> <li>The Tribal Monitor/s shall wear the appropriate safety equipment.</li> <li>Tribal Monitors or Tribal Representatives have the authority to request that work be temporarily paused, diverted, or slowed within 100 feet of the direct impact area if sites or objects of significance are identified.</li> <li>Only a Tribal Monitor or Representative from a culturally and geographically affiliated tribe has the expert opinion to identify TCRs, or objects associated with TCRs, and will recommend appropriate treatment and final disposition of TCRs, cultural, or archaeological resources, based on tribal cultural significance.</li> </ul> <p><b>TCR-2: Unanticipated/Inadvertent Discoveries Of TCRs</b></p> <p>If any suspected TCRs are discovered during ground disturbing construction activities, all work shall cease within 100 feet of the find, or an agreed upon distance based on the project area and nature of the find. A Tribal Representative from a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with a geographic area shall be immediately notified and shall determine if the find is a TCR (PRC §21074). The Tribal Representative will make recommendations for further evaluation and treatment as necessary. When avoidance is infeasible, preservation in place is the preferred option for mitigation of TCRs under CEQA and UAIC protocols, and every effort shall be made to preserve the resources in place, including through project redesign, if feasible. Culturally appropriate treatment may be, but is not limited to, processing materials for reburial, minimizing handling of cultural objects, leaving objects in place within the landscape, or returning objects to a location within the project area where they will not be subject to future impacts. Permanent curation of TCRs will not take place unless approved in writing by UAIC or by the California Native American Tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area.</p> <p>The contractor shall implement any measures deemed by the CEQA lead agency to be necessary and feasible to preserve in place, avoid, or minimize impacts to the resource, including, but not limited to, facilitating the appropriate tribal treatment of the find, as necessary. Treatment that preserves or restores the cultural character and integrity of a TCR may include Tribal Monitoring, culturally appropriate recovery of cultural objects, and reburial of cultural objects or cultural soil.</p> <p>Work at the discovery location cannot resume until all necessary investigation and evaluation of the discovery under the requirements of the CEQA, including AB52, have been satisfied.</p> <p><b>TRC-3:Treatment and Disposition of Cultural Objects</b></p> <p>Cultural objects, including isolated artifacts of indigenous origin, are significant Tribal Cultural Resources to UAIC and have been identified, or have the potential to be identified, within the project area. Impacts to such objects shall be mitigated by implementing culturally appropriate treatment of such objects when they are encountered during construction activities or when they are recovered as part of cultural resource surveys or identification efforts.</p>	

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
					<p>Culturally appropriate treatment includes (but is not limited to) minimizing handling of cultural objects and leaving such objects in place within the landscape, if feasible. Culturally inappropriate treatment includes curation of such objects at museums or collection of objects for personal use (only applies to private property). If such objects have been identified, or have already been removed from the project area, then culturally appropriate treatment includes the return of such objects to the project area and placement in a location not subject to future impacts. Per the inadvertent discoveries mitigation measure, the CEQA lead agency representative shall notify UAIC whenever cultural objects are found, and coordinate culturally appropriate treatment in coordination with a representative from UAIC.</p> <p>The UAIC has closed consultation with the aforementioned mitigation measures added to the project.</p> <p><b>Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures TRC-1, TRC-2, and TRC-3</b></p>	
<b>XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS</b> <i>Would the project:</i>						
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?				X	<p>The proposed project will not construct or relocate any expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities which could cause significant environmental effects, therefore there will be no impact.</p> <p><b>No Impact</b></p>	
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?				X	<p>The proposed project would not include any new infrastructure, and as such, will not include or utilize any additional water supplies during or after construction. Therefore, there will be no impact.</p> <p><b>No Impact</b></p>	
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which 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?				X	<p>The proposed project would not include any new infrastructure, and as such, will not include or utilize any additional wastewater treatment during or after construction. Therefore, there will be no impact.</p> <p><b>No Impact</b></p>	
<p>d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?</p> <p>e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?</p>				X	<p>The proposed project would not include any new infrastructure, and as such, will not result in any additional solid waste during or after construction. Porta-potties will be brought to the site and used during construction, and there will be no substantial excess waste generated. Therefore, it will also comply with federal, state, and local management, reduction statutes, and regulations regarding solid waste, so there will be no impact.</p> <p><b>No Impact</b></p>	
<b>XX. WILDFIRE</b> <i>If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:</i>						
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				X	<p>According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Fire and Resource Assessment Program, the project site is not located within a State Responsibility Area with portions designated as Moderate, High, and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. Since there will be no new infrastructure developed and the dredging will not occur near any area of</p>	19

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
<p>b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?</p> <p>c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?</p> <p>d) 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?</p>					<p>concern, there will be no impact on any emergency plans, wildfire, flooding, or landslide risks.</p> <p><b>No impact</b></p>	
<b>XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>						
<p>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, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?</p>		X			<p>As discussed in Section IV, Biological Resources, of this IS/MND, while the potential exists for Sanford's arrowhead, giant garter snake, yellow-billed cuckoo, steelhead-central valley DPS, green sturgeon southern DPS, Chinook salmon-central valley spring run, valley elderberry longhorn beetle, two California state-listed species bank swallow, Swainson's hawk, coastal horned lizard, western pond turtle, western red bat, and bald eagle, Mitigation Measures BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-3, BIO-4, BIO-5, BIO-6, and BIO-7 would ensure that impacts to special-status species would be less than significant. The project will also obtain the necessary permits, such as a Clean Water Act (CWA) 404 Letter of Permission, CWA 401 Water Certification, Section 408 Central Valley Flood Protection Board Encroachment Permit, and a CDFW 1602 Lake and Streambed Agreement. This project has also received a waiver of waste discharge via the California Regional Water Quality Control Board. The project will abide by the necessary conditions of each permit in order to ensure minimal impacts on any species and their suitable habitats.</p> <p>The project site may contain historic or prehistoric resources. As discussed in the Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources section, construction could potentially impact cultural resources. Proposed mitigation measures in CR-1, TCR-1, TCR-2, and TCR-3, would reduce the impacts to less than significant with mitigation.</p> <p>Considering the above, with the listed mitigation measures outlined within the BRA, the proposed project would not significantly: 1) degrade the quality of the environment; 2) substantially reduce or impact the habitat of fish or wildlife species; 3) cause fish or wildlife populations to drop below self-sustaining levels; 4) threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community; 5) reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal; or 6) eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact with mitigation would occur.</p> <p><b>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation</b></p>	ALL
<p>b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively</p>		X			<p>As demonstrated in this IS/MND, all potential environmental impacts that could occur as a result of the proposed project, including those with the potential to result in cumulative impacts, would be reduced to a less-than-</p>	ALL

IMPACT CATEGORIES*	1	2	3	4	All determinations need explanation. Reference to documentation, sources, notes and correspondence.	Source Number**
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)?					<p>significant level with implementation of project-specific mitigation measures and compliance with General Plan policies and other applicable local, State, and federal regulations. In addition, cumulative impacts associated with transportation would not occur, as the proposed project’s contribution to such would be less than significant and the project site is located within a rural location. The proposed mitigation measure NOISE-1 would reduce any potential noise impacts related to construction.</p> <p>Finally, as discussed in Section XI, Land Use and Planning, of this IS/MND, the proposed project would be consistent with the site’s current General Plan land use and zoning designations and would not include any new development. As such, development of the proposed project would not contribute to cumulative impacts in the County, and the impact would be less than significant.</p> <p><b>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation</b></p>	
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?			X		<p>As described in this IS/MND, the proposed project would comply with all applicable General Plan policies, County Code standards, other applicable local and State regulations, and mitigation measures included herein. In addition, as discussed in the Air Quality, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Noise sections of this IS/MND, the proposed project would not cause substantial effects to human beings, which cannot be mitigated to less-than-significant levels, including effects related to exposure to air pollutants, geologic hazards, GHG emissions, hazardous materials, and excessive noise. Therefore, the proposed project’s impact would be less than significant.</p> <p><b>Less Than Significant Impact</b></p>	ALL

\* Impact Categories defined by CEQA

**\*\*Source List**

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  12. California Energy Commission. *2022 Building Energy Efficiency Standards Summary*. August 2021.
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**MITIGATION MONITORING PLAN**  
**CEQA-23-0011 (YUBA COUNTY STAR BEND BOAT RAMP)**

**BIO-1**

1. It is recommended that a focused survey for special-status plant species be conducted within and surrounding the project areas (within the areas of potential impact) to document any listed species that may be occurring within the proximity of the project site(s). A focused survey is an on-site survey that is limited in scope, content, length and designed to gather information on a specific issue(s). Because of the CNDDB generated list of focal special status species targeted for this survey, the habitats of potential likelihood of occurrence have been pre-scoped and have been predetermined for their potential presence based on habitat features.

Therefore, the list of potentially occurring species has already been generated and a focused rare plant survey is recommended. During the surveys, a botanist(s) is to conduct a systematic search of the project area for target plant species. They may use a variety of techniques, including visual surveys, transect surveys, and quadrat sampling, to detect and document the presence of plant species. In addition to documenting target species, the botanist(s) should also document the overall plant community within the project area, including vegetation cover, plant density, and plant diversity.

2. If rare or sensitive plant species are identified during the survey, appropriate mitigation measures will be developed and implemented to avoid or minimize impacts to those species. These measures may include adjusting the project design to avoid impacts to sensitive plant populations or implementing measures to protect the plants during construction activities.

<b>Timing/Implementation</b> Upon start of construction activities.	<b>Enforcement/Monitoring</b> Qualified Botanist & Yuba County Public Works Department	
<b>Performance Criteria</b> N/A	<b>Verification Cost</b> N/A	
		<b>Date Complete</b> (If applicable)



**MITIGATION MONITORING PLAN**  
**CEQA-23-0011 (YUBA COUNTY STAR BEND BOAT RAMP)**

<b>BIO-2:</b>  1. For the giant garter snake, construction shall be restricted to occur between May 1 and October 1 to ensure that any snakes in the vicinity are restricted to the immediate environs of the adjacent perennial waterway; or, if construction occurs between October 2 and April 30, construction activities shall not take place within 200 feet of the perennial waterway.  2. Construction shall not occur within 10 to 15 feet of the nearby watercourse from May 1 to October 1. Alternatively, a qualified biologist shall be onsite during any construction activities that affect the riparian area within 10-15 feet of the river bank.		
<b>Timing/Implementation</b> Upon start of construction activities.	<b>Enforcement/Monitoring</b> A Qualified Biologist & Yuba County Public Works Department	
<b>Performance Criteria</b> N/A	<b>Verification Cost</b> N/A	
		<b>Date Complete</b> (If applicable)

**MITIGATION MONITORING PLAN**  
**CEQA-23-0011 (YUBA COUNTY STAR BEND BOAT RAMP)**

**BIO-3:**

To ensure no future construction activities occasion to affect any special status species birds or their nests, the following measures are proposed:

1. If any site disturbance or construction activity for any phase of development begins outside the February 1 to August 31 breeding season, a preconstruction survey for active nests shall not be required.
2. If any site disturbance or construction activity for any phase of development is scheduled, survey for active tree nests and ground nests from publicly accessible areas within 14 days prior to site disturbance for any phase of development. The survey area shall cover the construction site and a 100-foot radius surrounding the construction site. If no nesting migratory birds are found, then further mitigation measures are not necessary.
3. If an active nest of a migratory bird, or other CDFW-protected bird is discovered that may be adversely affected by any site disturbance, or an injured or killed bird is found, the project applicant shall immediately:
  - Stop all work within a 100-foot radius of the discovery.
  - Notify Yuba County Public Works.
  - Do not resume work within the 100-foot radius until authorized by the biologist
  - The biologist shall establish a minimum 100-foot Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) around the nest. The ESA may be reduced if the biologist determines that a smaller ESA would still adequately protect the active nest. Further work may not occur within the ESA until the biologist determines that the nest is no longer active.

**Timing/Implementation**

14 days prior to construction activities.

**Enforcement/Monitoring**

Yuba County Public Works Department

**Performance Criteria**

N/A

**Verification Cost**

N/A

**Date Complete** (If applicable)

**MITIGATION MONITORING PLAN**  
**CEQA-23-0011 (YUBA COUNTY STAR BEND BOAT RAMP)**

**BIO-4:**

Prior to any ground disturbance, the following measures will be taken to protect special species birds:

1. A pre-construction nesting bird survey shall be conducted on-site within 15 days prior to construction if construction associated with the project would commence between March 1st and September 1st ("the nesting season"). If disturbance associated with the project would occur outside of the nesting season, no surveys shall be required.
2. If Swainson's hawk are identified as nesting on the project site, a non-disturbance buffer of 75- feet shall be established or as otherwise prescribed by a qualified ornithologist. The buffer shall be demarcated with painted orange lath or via the installation of orange construction fencing. Disturbance within the buffer shall be postponed until a qualified ornithologist has determined that the young have attained sufficient flight skills to leave the area or that the nesting cycle has otherwise completed.
3. If the proposed project requires a loss of potential foraging habitat than the project proponent shall be responsible for mitigating on the project site at a ratio of 1:1 if the project is within a mile, 0.5:1 ratio if the project is within a half-mile, 0.75:1 ratio if the project is within five miles, and 0.5:1 ratio if the project is within ten miles, per the CDFW's 1994 Guidance on Swainson's Hawk Mitigation.

**Timing/Implementation**

15 days prior to construction activities.

**Enforcement/Monitoring**

Yuba County Public Works Department

**Performance Criteria**

N/A

**Verification Cost**

N/A

**Date Complete** (If applicable)

**MITIGATION MONITORING PLAN**  
**CEQA-23-0011 (YUBA COUNTY STAR BEND BOAT RAMP)**

**BIO-5:**

Protective measures for the valley elderberry longhorn beetle include:

1. Fence and flag all areas to be avoided during construction activities. In areas where encroachment on the 100-foot buffer has been approved by the Service, provide a minimum setback of at least 20 feet from the dripline of each elderberry plant.
2. Brief contractors on the need to avoid damaging the elderberry plants and the possible penalties for not complying with these requirements.
3. Erect signs every 50 feet along the edge of the avoidance area with the following information: "This area is habitat of the valley elderberry longhorn beetle, a threatened species, and must not be disturbed. This species is protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Violators are subject to prosecution, fines, and imprisonment." The signs should be clearly readable from a distance of 20 feet and must be maintained for the duration of construction.
4. Instruct work crews about the status of the beetle and the need to protect its elderberry host plant

Restoration and maintenance measures include:

1. Restore any damage done to the buffer area (area within 100 feet of elderberry plants) during construction. Provide erosion control and re-vegetate with appropriate native plants.
2. Buffer areas must continue to be protected after construction from adverse effects of the project. Measures such as fencing, signs, weeding, and trash removal are usually appropriate.
3. No insecticides, herbicides, fertilizers, or other chemicals that might harm the beetle or its host plant should be used in the buffer areas, or within 100 feet of any elderberry plant with one or more stems measuring 1.0 inch or greater in diameter at ground level. 4. The applicant must provide a written description of how the buffer areas are to be restored, protected, and maintained after construction is completed. 5. No mowing should occur within five (5) feet of elderberry plant stems. Mowing must be done in a manner that avoids damaging plants (e.g., stripping away bark through careless use of mowing/ trimming equipment).

**Timing/Implementation**

Upon start of construction activities.

**Enforcement/Monitoring**

Yuba County Public Works Department

**Performance Criteria**

N/A

**Verification Cost**

N/A

**Date Complete** (If applicable)

**MITIGATION MONITORING PLAN**  
**CEQA-23-0011 (YUBA COUNTY STAR BEND BOAT RAMP)**

**BIO-6:**

To protect bats, the following mitigation measures shall be taken:

- (1) limiting project activities to daytime hours and the winter;
- (2) avoiding the use of lights during nighttime hours;
- (3) not operating or parking vehicles and equipment with internal combustion engines close to any area where bats are present;
- (4) planning work to avoid restricting bats' airspace access to roost sites; (5) using exclusion devices when bats are absent to prevent them from occupying the work areas;
- (6) using fencing or flagging to identify buffer zones around roosting bats as environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs) where work activities and construction personnel are prohibited.

**Timing/Implementation**

Upon start of construction activities.

**Enforcement/Monitoring**

Yuba County Public Works Department

**Performance Criteria**

N/A

**Verification Cost**

N/A

**Date Complete** (If applicable)

**MITIGATION MONITORING PLAN**  
**CEQA-23-0011 (YUBA COUNTY STAR BEND BOAT RAMP)**

**BIO-7:**

To protect fish species, the following measures shall be implemented:

1. In-water construction activities will be restricted to occur between July 1 and August 31.
2. Operation of equipment and placement of materials within the channel shall be conducted slowly and deliberately to alert and allow adult and juvenile fish to move away from the work area. When first entering or crossing a channel each day, a construction monitor shall walk ahead of the equipment working to alert any fish and allow them to move from the work area.
3. If water is drafted from the Feather River for construction purposes, water pump intakes shall be screened in compliance with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and National Marine Fisheries Service salmonid-screening specifications.

**Timing/Implementation**

Upon start of water construction activities.

**Enforcement/Monitoring**

Yuba County Public Works Department

**Performance Criteria**

N/A

**Verification Cost**

N/A

**Date Complete** (If  
applicable)

**MITIGATION MONITORING PLAN**  
**CEQA-23-0011 (YUBA COUNTY STAR BEND BOAT RAMP)**

**CR-1: Inadvertent Discoveries of Objects of Cultural Significance**

If archaeological components are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, all ground disturbing work at the find location and 100-foot buffer placed around the area until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the finding and provide (if needed) avoidance and/or data recovery plan.

Should artifacts or unusual amounts of stone, bone, or shell be uncovered during construction activities, an archeologist should be consulted for on-the-spot evaluation of the finding. If the bone appears to be human, state law requires that the Yuba County Coroner be contacted. If the Coroner determines that the bone is human and is most likely Native American in origin, he must contact the Native American Heritage Commission (916-322-7791).

**Timing/Implementation**

Prior to the start of, and during, construction activities.

**Enforcement/Monitoring**

Yuba County Public Works Department

**Performance Criteria**

N/A

**Verification Cost**

N/A

**Date Complete** (If applicable)



**MITIGATION MONITORING PLAN**  
**CEQA-23-0011 (YUBA COUNTY STAR BEND BOAT RAMP)**

**NOISE-1: Reduce Impacts From Noise**

To mitigate noise related impacts, the Project shall require all contractors to comply with the following operational parameters:

- Restrict construction activities to time periods between 7:00 am and 5:00 pm when there is the least potential for disturbance.

**Timing/Implementation**

Prior to the start of, and during, construction activities.

**Enforcement/Monitoring**

Yuba County Public Works Department

**Performance Criteria**

N/A

**Verification Cost**

N/A

**Date Complete** (If  
applicable)

**MITIGATION MONITORING PLAN**  
**CEQA-23-0011 (YUBA COUNTY STAR BEND BOAT RAMP)**

**TCR-1: Tribal Monitoring**

The project proponent and its construction contractor(s) shall implement the following measure to identify these resources at the earliest possible time during project-related earthmoving activities:

- Tribal Representatives and Tribal Monitors act as a representative of their Tribal government and are qualified professionals that have the authority and expertise to identify sites or objects of cultural value to Native American Tribes and recommend appropriate treatment of such sites or objects.
- Appropriate treatment of objects may include:
  - a) Recordation of the resource
  - b) Reburial onsite of the cultural objects in a designated area of no future disturbance.
- Consulting Tribes shall be contacted at least 2 weeks prior to project ground-disturbing activities and will be invited to observe construction activities. The duration of the monitoring and construction schedule shall be determined at this time.
- To track the implementation of this measure, field-monitoring activities will be documented on a Tribal Monitor log. The total time commitment of the Tribal Monitor will vary depending on the intensity and location of construction and the sensitivity of the area, including the number of finds.
- A contracted Tribal Monitor/s from geographically and culturally affiliated Native American Tribes shall monitor the vegetation grubbing, stripping, grading, and other ground-disturbing activities in the project area. The types of ground-disturbing activities requiring monitoring may be determined in advance through tribal consultation.
- The Tribal Monitor/s shall wear the appropriate safety equipment.
- Tribal Monitors or Tribal Representatives have the authority to request that work be temporarily paused, diverted, or slowed within 100 feet of the direct impact area if sites or objects of significance are identified.
- Only a Tribal Monitor or Representative from a culturally and geographically affiliated tribe has the expert opinion to identify TCRs, or objects associated with TCRs, and will recommend appropriate treatment and final disposition of TCRs, cultural, or archaeological resources, based on tribal cultural significance.

**Timing/Implementation**

2 weeks prior project-related earthmoving activities.

**Enforcement/Monitoring**

Tribal Representatives and Tribal Monitors and Yuba County Public Works Department

**Performance Criteria**

N/A

**Verification Cost**

N/A

**Date Complete (If applicable)**

**MITIGATION MONITORING PLAN**  
**CEQA-23-0011 (YUBA COUNTY STAR BEND BOAT RAMP)**

**TCR-2: Unanticipated/Inadvertent Discoveries Of TCRs**

If any suspected TCRs are discovered during ground disturbing construction activities, all work shall cease within 100 feet of the find, or an agreed upon distance based on the project area and nature of the find. A Tribal Representative from a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with a geographic area shall be immediately notified and shall determine if the find is a TCR (PRC §21074). The Tribal Representative will make recommendations for further evaluation and treatment as necessary.

When avoidance is infeasible, preservation in place is the preferred option for mitigation of TCRs under CEQA and UAIC protocols, and every effort shall be made to preserve the resources in place, including through project redesign, if feasible. Culturally appropriate treatment may be, but is not limited to, processing materials for reburial, minimizing handling of cultural objects, leaving objects in place within the landscape, or returning objects to a location within the project area where they will not be subject to future impacts. Permanent curation of TCRs will not take place unless approved in writing by UAIC or by the California Native American Tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area.

The contractor shall implement any measures deemed by the CEQA lead agency to be necessary and feasible to preserve in place, avoid, or minimize impacts to the resource, including, but not limited to, facilitating the appropriate tribal treatment of the find, as necessary. Treatment that preserves or restores the cultural character and integrity of a TCR may include Tribal Monitoring, culturally appropriate recovery of cultural objects, and reburial of cultural objects or cultural soil.

Work at the discovery location cannot resume until all necessary investigation and evaluation of the discovery under the requirements of the CEQA, including AB52, have been satisfied.

<b>Timing/Implementation</b> Prior to the start of, and during, construction activities.	<b>Enforcement/Monitoring</b> Yuba County Public Works Department	
<b>Performance Criteria</b> N/A	<b>Verification Cost</b> N/A	
		<b>Date Complete (If applicable)</b>

**MITIGATION MONITORING PLAN**  
**CEQA-23-0011 (YUBA COUNTY STAR BEND BOAT RAMP)**

**TRC-3: Treatment and Disposition of Cultural Objects**

Cultural objects, including isolated artifacts of indigenous origin, are significant Tribal Cultural Resources to UAIC and have been identified, or have the potential to be identified, within the project area. Impacts to such objects shall be mitigated by implementing culturally appropriate treatment of such objects when they are encountered during construction activities or when they are recovered as part of cultural resource surveys or identification efforts. Culturally appropriate treatment includes (but is not limited to) minimizing handling of cultural objects and leaving such objects in place within the landscape, if feasible. Culturally inappropriate treatment includes curation of such objects at museums or collection of objects for personal use (only applies to private property). If such objects have been identified, or have already been removed from the project area, then culturally appropriate treatment includes the return of such objects to the project area and placement in a location not subject to future impacts. Per the inadvertent discoveries mitigation measure, the CEQA lead agency representative shall notify UAIC whenever cultural objects are found, and coordinate culturally appropriate treatment in coordination with a representative from UAIC.

**Timing/Implementation**

7 days prior to the start of, and during, construction activities.

**Enforcement/Monitoring**

Yuba County Public Works Department

**Performance Criteria**

N/A

**Verification Cost**

N/A

**Date Complete** (If applicable)

**Fisher, Ciara**

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**From:** Dhatt, Satwinder K@DOT <satwinder.dhatt@dot.ca.gov> on behalf of D3 Local Development@DOT <D3.local.development@dot.ca.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 8, 2023 11:43 AM  
**To:** Fisher, Ciara  
**Cc:** Arnold, Gary S@DOT  
**Subject:** RE: Initial Study/MND for CEQA-23-0011 - Yuba Co. Star Bend Boat Ramp

Hi Ciara,

Thank you for including California Department of Transportation in the review process for Yuba Co. Star Bend Boat Ramp Project. We wanted to reach out and let you know we have no comments at this time.

Please provide our office with copies of any further actions regarding this proposal. We would appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on any changes related to this development.

Should you have questions please contact me, Local Development Review, Equity and System Planning Coordinator, by phone (530) 565-3994 or via email at [D3.local.development@dot.ca.gov](mailto:D3.local.development@dot.ca.gov).

Thank you!

**Satwinder Dhatt**  
**Local Development Review, Equity and Complete Streets**  
**Division of Planning, Local Assistance, and Sustainability**  
**California Department of Transportation, District 3**  
**703 B Street, Marysville, CA 95901**  
**(530) 821-8261**

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**From:** Fisher, Ciara <cfisher@CO.YUBA.CA.US>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 6:02 PM  
**Subject:** Initial Study/MND for CEQA-23-0011 - Yuba Co. Star Bend Boat Ramp

**EXTERNAL EMAIL. Links/attachments may not be safe.**

Good afternoon everyone,

Please review the revised Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) and Mitigation Measures (MMs) for the Yuba County Public Works Department's Star Bend Boat Ramp Project (CEQA-23-0011) to remove built up sediment in the existing concrete boat ramp. The project is scheduled for January 4, 2024 Development Review Committee meeting. Kindly provide any comments or recommendations for the environmental document by **January 2nd, 2024**.

Please let me know if you have any questions.



December 22, 2023

Ciara Fisher  
County of Yuba  
915 8<sup>th</sup> St, Ste 123  
Marysville, CA 95901

Re: CEQA-23-0011  
Yuba Co. Star Bend Boat Ramp

Dear Ciara Fisher,

Thank you for providing PG&E the opportunity to review the proposed plans for CEQA-23-0011 dated 12/5/2023. Our review indicates the proposed improvements do not appear to directly interfere with existing PG&E facilities or impact our easement rights.

Please note this is our preliminary review and PG&E reserves the right for additional future review as needed. This letter shall not in any way alter, modify, or terminate any provision of any existing easement rights. If there are subsequent modifications made to the design, we ask that you resubmit the plans to the email address listed below.

If the project requires PG&E gas or electrical service in the future, please continue to work with PG&E's Service Planning department: <https://www.pge.com/cco/>.

As a reminder, before any digging or excavation occurs, please contact Underground Service Alert (USA) by dialing 811 a minimum of 2 working days prior to commencing any work. This free and independent service will ensure that all existing underground utilities are identified and marked on-site.

If you have any questions regarding our response, please contact the PG&E Plan Review Team at [pgeplanreview@pge.com](mailto:pgeplanreview@pge.com).

Sincerely,

PG&E Plan Review Team  
Land Management

**Fisher, Ciara**

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**From:** Anna Starkey <astarkey@auburnrancheria.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 1:08 PM  
**To:** Fisher, Ciara  
**Cc:** Rene Guerrero  
**Subject:** RE: CEQA-23-0011 Star Bend Boat Ramp Restoration Project  
**Attachments:** 2\_TribalMonitor.pdf; UAIC\_Unanticipated Discoveries\_MM.pdf; 10\_CEQA\_Cultural Objects\_Isolates.pdf

Hi Ciara,

I'm following up after the tribal survey to provide our mitigation measures and recommendations. Due to the sensitivity of the area, Tribal Monitoring is required to spot check during dredge work, spot monitoring to review spoils pile with test screening and possibility for more extensive screening and monitoring if anything is found. If cultural soils are exposed and in the dredge piles, we request Security in place and survey of bank after work is complete to ensure that no cultural soils are exposed.

I do not have a specific boiler plate MM for spot monitoring, but have attached our standard one that can be modified to our recommendations above.

After I review the MMRP and TCR chapter and we are in agreement with the mitigation measures, AB52 consultation can be closed.

Thank you,  
Anna



**Anna M. Starkey**

Cultural Regulatory Specialist  
Tribal Historic Preservation Department  
United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria  
**Email:** [astarkey@auburnrancheria.com](mailto:astarkey@auburnrancheria.com)

[www.auburnrancheria.com/programs-services/tribal-preservation](http://www.auburnrancheria.com/programs-services/tribal-preservation)  
10720 Indian Hill Road  
Auburn, CA 95603

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**From:** Rene Guerrero <rguerrero@auburnrancheria.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 12:37 PM  
**To:** Fisher, Ciara <cfisher@CO.YUBA.CA.US>; Rene Guerrero <rguerrero@auburnrancheria.com>  
**Cc:** Anna Starkey <astarkey@auburnrancheria.com>  
**Subject:** Re: CEQA-23-0011 Star Bend Boat Ramp Restoration Project

Hello Ciara,

I have included Anna on this email and she will be following up with you on the consultation.

Thank you and see you at the next site visit.

René Guerrero



## Tribal Monitoring

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The following measure<sup>1</sup> is intended to minimize impacts to existing or previously undiscovered Tribal Cultural Resources (TCRs), archaeological, or cultural resources during a project's ground disturbing activities. The project proponent and its construction contractor(s) shall implement the following measure to identify these resources at the earliest possible time during project-related earthmoving activities:

- Tribal Representatives and Tribal Monitors act as a representative of their Tribal government and are qualified professionals that have the authority and expertise to identify sites or objects of cultural value to Native American Tribes and recommend appropriate treatment of such sites or objects.
- Appropriate treatment of objects may include:
  - a. Recordation of the resource
  - b. Reburial onsite of the cultural objects in a designated area of no future disturbance.
- Consulting Tribes shall be contacted at least 2 weeks prior to project ground-disturbing activities to retain the services of a paid/contracted Tribal Monitor/s. The duration of the monitoring and construction schedule shall be determined at this time.
- To track the implementation of this measure, field-monitoring activities will be documented on a Tribal Monitor log. The total time commitment of the Tribal Monitor will vary depending on the intensity and location of construction and the sensitivity of the area, including the number of finds.
- A contracted Tribal Monitor/s from geographically and culturally affiliated Native American Tribes shall monitor the vegetation grubbing, stripping, grading, and other ground-disturbing activities in the project area. The types of ground-disturbing activities requiring monitoring may be determined in advance through tribal consultation.
- The Tribal Monitor/s shall wear the appropriate safety equipment.
- Tribal Monitors or Tribal Representatives have the authority to request that work be temporarily paused, diverted, or slowed within 100 feet of the direct impact area if sites or objects of significance are identified.
- Only a Tribal Monitor or Representative from a culturally and geographically affiliated tribe has the expert opinion to identify TCRs, or objects associated with TCRs, and will recommend appropriate treatment and final disposition of TCRs, cultural, or archaeological resources, based on tribal cultural significance.



<sup>1</sup> This proposed measure includes the suggested template language to assist lead agencies, and their consultants, in understanding the Tribe's policies and expectations. All measures are subject to periodic review and change by the consulting Tribe to reflect best practices and to be worded on a project scope and site specific basis.

## Treatment and Disposition of Cultural Objects

Cultural objects, including isolated artifacts of indigenous origin, are significant Tribal Cultural Resources to UAIC and have been identified, or have the potential to be identified, within the project area. Impacts to such objects shall be mitigated by implementing culturally appropriate treatment of such objects when they are encountered during construction activities or when they are recovered as part of cultural resource surveys or identification efforts. Culturally appropriate treatment includes (but is not limited to) minimizing handling of cultural objects and leaving such objects in place within the landscape, if feasible. Culturally inappropriate treatment includes curation of such objects at museums or collection of objects for personal use (only applies to private property). If such objects have been identified, or have already been removed from the project area, then culturally appropriate treatment includes the return of such objects to the project area and placement in a location not subject to future impacts. Per the inadvertent discoveries mitigation measure, the CEQA lead agency representative shall notify UAIC whenever cultural objects are found, and coordinate culturally appropriate treatment in coordination with a representative from UAIC.



## United Auburn Indian Community Tribal Cultural Resources Unanticipated Discoveries

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The following mitigation measure<sup>1</sup> is intended to address the evaluation and treatment of inadvertent/unanticipated discoveries of potential tribal cultural resources (TCRs), archaeological, or indigenous cultural resources or belongings during a project's ground disturbing activities.

If any suspected TCRs are discovered by any person on site during ground disturbing construction activities all work shall cease within 100 feet of the find, or an agreed upon distance based on the project area and nature of the find. A Tribal Representative from the consulting Tribe or a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with a geographic area shall be immediately notified and shall determine if the find is a TCR (PRC §21074). The Tribal Representative will make recommendations for further evaluation and treatment as necessary.

Preservation in place is the preferred option for mitigation of TCRs under CEQA and Tribal protocols, and every effort shall be made to preserve the resources in place, including through project redesign. If adverse impacts to TCRs, unique archeology, or other cultural resources occurs, then consultation with Tribes regarding mitigation contained in the Public Resources Code §21084.3(a) and (b) and CEQA Guidelines §15370 should occur, in order to coordinate for compensation for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

Culturally appropriate treatment may be, but is not limited to, processing materials for reburial, minimizing handling of cultural objects, leaving objects in place within the landscape, or returning objects to a location within the project area where they will not be subject to future impacts. Permanent curation of TCRs and cultural belongings will not take place unless approved in writing by the consulting Tribe.

Treatment that preserves or restores the cultural character and integrity of a TCR may include paid Tribal Monitoring, culturally appropriate recovery of cultural objects, and reburial of cultural objects or cultural soil. These recommendations will be documented in the project record. For any recommendations made by traditionally and culturally affiliated Native American Tribes that are not implemented, a justification for why the recommendation was not followed will be provided in the project record.

The contractor/project proponent shall implement any measures deemed by the CEQA lead agency to be necessary and feasible to preserve in place, avoid, or minimize impacts to the resource, including, but not limited to, facilitating the appropriate Tribal treatment of the find, as necessary. Treatment that preserves or restores the cultural character and integrity of a TCR may include Tribal Monitoring, culturally appropriate recovery of cultural objects, and reburial of cultural objects and belongings or cultural soil.

Work at the discovery location cannot resume until all necessary investigation and evaluation of the discovery under the requirements of CEQA, including AB52, have been satisfied.

<sup>1</sup> Proposed Mitigation Measure includes suggested template language to assist lead CEQA agencies, and their consultants, in understanding the Tribe's policies and expectations. All measures are subject to periodic review and change by the consulting Tribe to reflect best practices and to be worded on a project scope and site specific basis.