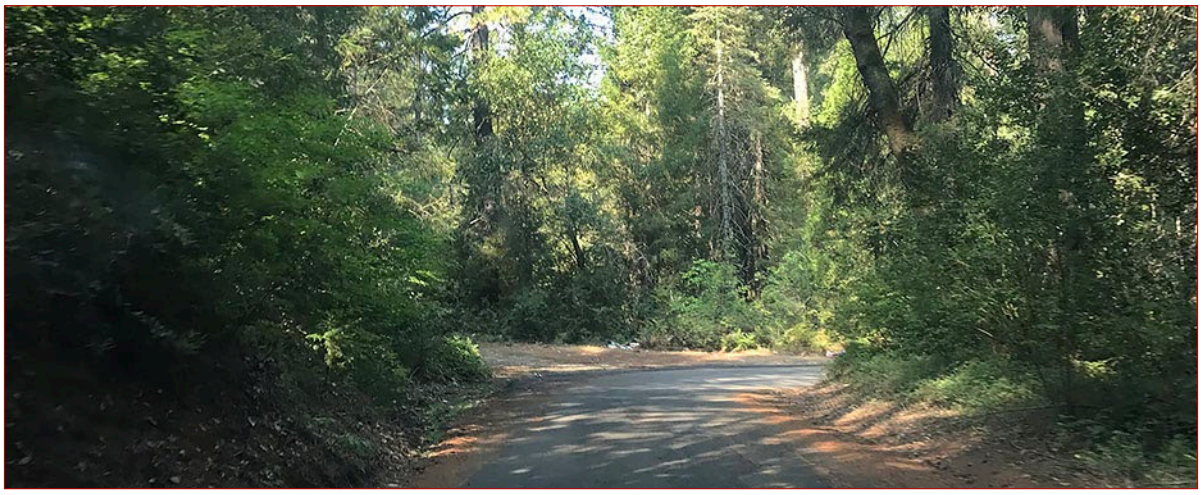
PROJECT-SPECIFIC ANALYSIS AND ADDENDUM TO THE CalVTP PROGRAM EIR

Yuba Roadside Fuel Treatment Project



Prepared for:

Yuba Watershed Protection and Fire Safe Council

— and —

Yuba County

April 2022

PROJECT-SPECIFIC ANALYSIS AND ADDENDUM TO THE CalVTP PROGRAM EIR

Yuba Roadside Fuel Treatment Project

Prepared for:

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20200181.01

April 2022

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CAAQS	California ambient air quality standard
Cal-IPC	California Invasive Plant Council
CalVTP	California Vegetation Treatment Program
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CRHR	California Register of Historical Resources
CRPR	California Rare Plant Ranks
CSA	County Service Area
DBH	diameter at breast height
DPR	California Department of Pesticide Regulation
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's
ESA	Endangered Species Act
ESU	Evolutionarily Significant Unit
Feather River AQMD	Feather River Air Quality Management District
FRAP	Fire and Resource Assessment Program
GHG	greenhouse gas
HCP	habitat conservation plans
IPaC	Information for Planning and Consultation
LRA	Local Responsibility Area
MMRP	mitigation monitoring and reporting program
NAAQS	national ambient air quality standard
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NCCP	natural community conservation plans

NCIC	North Central Information Center
NOA	naturally occurring asbestos
NSAQMD	Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
PEIR	Program Environmental Impact Report
PRC	Public Resources Code
project	Yuba Roadside Fuel Treatment Project
PSA	Project-Specific Analysis
SENL	single event noise levels
SPR	standard project requirements
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
VMT	vehicle miles travelled
WLPZ	Watercourse and Lake Protection Zones
WUI	wildland-urban interface
Yuba FSC	Yuba Watershed Protection and Fire Safe Council

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW AND DOCUMENT PURPOSE

1.1.1 Project Overview

The Yuba Watershed Protection and Fire Safe Council (Yuba FSC) and five local fire districts are proposing fuel reduction treatments along 555 miles of public and private roadways in Yuba County (project). The project would increase the safety of emergency access and evacuation routes and establish fuel breaks along roadways. The proposed project would involve fuels reduction treatments within a 150-foot buffer along County-maintained roads and within a 30-foot buffer along private and County Service Area (CSA)-maintained roads. The project is part of a larger initiative in Yuba County to reduce roadside fuels and establish a network of fuel breaks to protect communities in case of wildfire. The larger initiative would also include fuel reduction activities on federal land, primarily U.S. Forest Service land. The project described and analyzed in this document does not include federal lands.

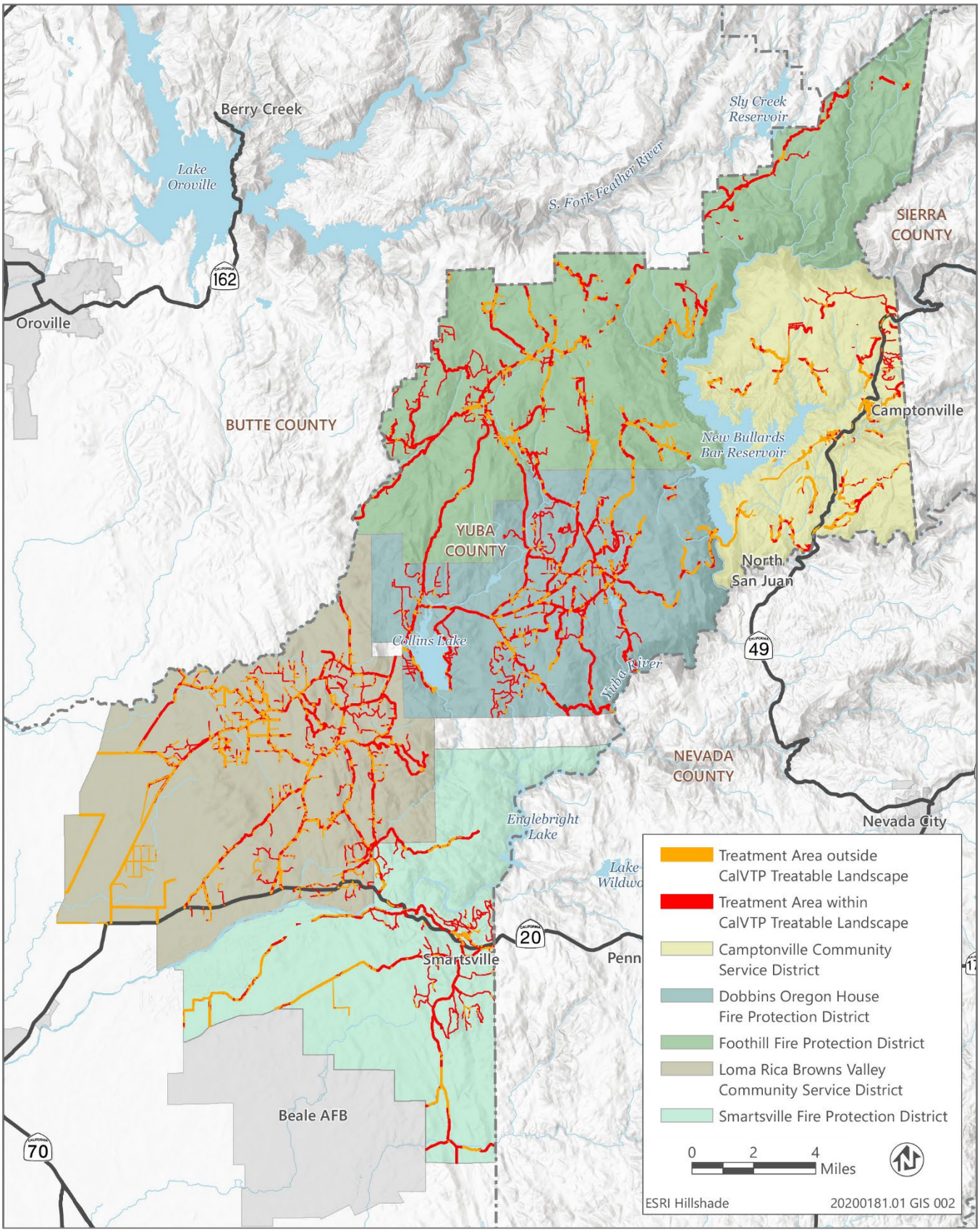
1.1.2 CEQA Lead Agency and Proposed Project

For the purposes of the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) Program EIR (PEIR) and this Project-Specific Analysis (PSA), a project proponent is a public agency that provides funding for vegetation treatment or has land ownership, land management, or other regulatory responsibility in the treatable landscape and is seeking to fund, authorize, or implement vegetation treatments consistent with the CalVTP. This document is being prepared for the Yuba FSC and Yuba County to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the implementation of vegetation treatments that require a discretionary action by a state or local agency. The CEQA lead agency is Yuba County. Yuba County will enter into a partnership with Yuba FSC to implement the proposed treatments. The partnership may entail the provision of resources to Yuba FSC including encroachment permits for county road access and technical input. In this PSA, the Yuba FSC is referred to as the "implementing entity" reflecting its role as the lead implementer of treatments and coordinator with landowners.

The Yuba FSC and five local fire districts propose to implement vegetation treatments on 12,960 acres of land within Yuba County (Figure 1-1). Yuba County, as the lead agency, is conducting environmental review of the project for CEQA compliance as a later activity covered by the CalVTP PEIR, using its Project-Specific Analysis (PSA) checklist. The proposed treatment types (i.e., wildland-urban interface [WUI] and fuel break) and the treatment activities (i.e., manual, mechanical, herbicide, and pile burning treatments) are consistent with those covered in the CalVTP PEIR. Maintenance of the proposed vegetation treatments would involve the same vegetation treatment activities as the original treatment (i.e., manual, mechanical, herbicide, and pile burning treatments).

1.1.3 Purpose of the PSA/Addendum

This document serves as the PSA to evaluate whether the proposed project is within the scope of the CalVTP PEIR. As described above, the treatment types and treatment activities are consistent with the CalVTP. Among the other criteria for determining whether a treatment project is within the scope of the CalVTP PEIR is whether it is within the CalVTP treatable landscape (i.e., the geographic extent of analysis with the State Responsibility Area [SRA] covered in the PEIR). If a proposed vegetation treatment project is covered by the evaluation of environmental effects in the PEIR, it may be approved using a finding that the project is within the scope of the PEIR for its CEQA compliance, consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(c)(2).



Source: Adapted by Ascent Environmental in 2020

Figure 1-1 Project Location of the Yuba Roadside Fuel Treatment Project

Of the total project area of 12,960 acres, the portions of the proposed treatment areas that extend outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape are approximately 4,276 acres; they are dispersed in small sections of treatment areas (Figure 1-1). This scattered array of acres outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape is due to the method by which the CalVTP treatable landscape was digitally developed and the resultant degree of sometimes pixilated mapping resolution. Using desktop applications to apply buffers around geographic and topographic features and to demarcate jurisdictional boundaries (i.e., SRA and Local Responsibility Area [LRA]), the method resulted in some treatable landscape areas that are shown on maps to be disjointed and scattered, and some that are inheld LRA areas surrounded by SRA. If the areas of the proposed project outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape have essentially the same, or substantially similar landscape conditions as the adjacent areas within the treatable landscape, the environmental analysis in the PEIR would be applicable.

An Addendum to an EIR is appropriate where a previously certified EIR has been prepared and some changes or revisions to the project are proposed, or the circumstances surrounding the project have changed, but none of the changes or revisions would result in new or substantially more severe significant environmental impacts, consistent with CEQA Section 21166 and CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162, 15163, 15164, and 15168. In this case, there are no changed circumstances, but the proposed revision or change in the project, compared to the PEIR, is the inclusion of areas of the scattered sections of LRA outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape. The PSA checklist (refer to Section 3, "Addendum/Project-Specific Analysis") includes the criteria to support an Addendum to the CalVTP PEIR for the inclusion of proposed treatment areas outside the CalVTP treatable landscape. The checklist evaluates each resource in terms of whether the later treatment project, including the "changed condition" of additional geographic area, would result in significant impacts that would be substantially more severe than those covered in the CalVTP PEIR and/or would result in any new impacts that were not covered in the PEIR.

This document serves as both a PSA and an Addendum to the CalVTP PEIR to provide CEQA compliance for the proposed vegetation treatments within and outside of the treatable landscape. The project-specific mitigation monitoring and reporting program (MMRP), which includes the CalVTP standard project requirements (SPRs) and mitigation measures applicable to the proposed project, is presented in Attachment A. The SPRs identified in the MMRP have been incorporated into the proposed vegetation treatments as a standard part of treatment design and implementation of the proposed project.

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2 TREATMENT DESCRIPTION

The Yuba Roadside Fuel Treatment (project) is proposed to increase the safety of emergency access and evacuation routes. Objectives for the vegetation treatments are to:

- maintain safe evacuation routes along public and private roadways within Yuba County by reducing hazard trees and flammable vegetation along emergency evacuation routes for the community;
- reduce the risk of lateral wildfire spread to natural resources and/or structures;
- reduce fuel within areas at high risk of wildfire ignition (i.e., roadside vegetation); and
- establish fuel breaks along roadways.

The proposed project would involve fuels reduction treatments within a 150-foot buffer on each side of County-maintained roads as measured from the road centerline (300-foot total area) and within a 30-foot buffer on each side of private and County Service Area (CSA)-maintained roads as measured from the road centerline (60-foot total area). A total of 12,960 acres along 555 miles of roadways would be treated.

The CalVTP treatment types that would be implemented are fuel breaks and wildland-urban interface (WUI), and the proposed treatment activities to implement the project are prescribed fire (pile burning only), manual and mechanical treatments, and herbicide application. The proposed CalVTP treatment areas are shown in Figure 1-1 and are summarized in Table 2-1, below.

2.1 PROPOSED TREATMENTS

2.1.1 Treatment Types

Proposed treatment types are fuel breaks and WUI fuel reduction, as described below.

FUEL BREAKS

In strategic locations, fuel breaks create zones of vegetation removal, often in a linear layout, that reduce wildfire risk and support fire suppression by providing responders with a staging area or access to a remote landscape for fire control actions. They can also provide safe emergency egress during wildfires. In forested areas, ladder fuels would be reduced to decrease fire severity and the tree canopy would be thinned to reduce the potential for a crown fire to move through the canopy. However, trees greater than 12 inches diameter at breast height (DBH) would remain unless considered a hazard. The shade of the retained canopy also helps reduce the potential for rapid regrowth of shrubs and sprouting hardwoods and may reduce rill and gully erosion.

Fuel breaks would include shaded and non-shaded fuel breaks. Shaded fuel breaks are used instead of non-shaded fuel breaks in areas where habitat needs to be retained for sensitive species, where there is the potential for erosion or visual impacts, or the fuel type will support this kind of treatment (e.g., forests). Non-shaded fuel breaks would be implemented in brushy areas with no trees. Downed woody debris greater than 12 inches in diameter would remain unless it is a hazard.

Due to the linear nature of the proposed treatments along existing roads, the roadside fuel reduction would reduce risk of wildfire ignition and spread, improve evacuation route safety as described above, and concurrently create fuel breaks that can support fire suppression efforts. Many of the roads in the Yuba County foothills are located in areas and with orientations that may provide strategic fuel break functions in case of wildfire.

WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE FUEL REDUCTION

Located in WUI-designated areas, fuel reduction would generally consist of strategic removal of vegetation to prevent or slow the spread of non-wind driven wildfire between structures and wildlands, and vice versa. WUI fuel reduction treatments also serve as emergency access points and staging areas for firefighters and equipment and reduce flammable vegetation along emergency evacuation routes for the community. Also, where existing habitat within the WUI is degraded, such as by the infestation of non-native plant species, as well as needing fuel reduction, WUI treatments would also help enhance habitat quality. Trees and snags greater than 12 inches DBH would remain unless considered a hazard (e.g., standing dead or live trees in poor condition; trees that pose a potential threat to high-risk infrastructure, residences or other structures, or public safety). Activities implemented within the WUI fuel reduction treatment type would occur outside of the 100-foot defensible space requirements described in PRC 4291. The WUI fuel reduction treatment type overlaps with the fuel break treatment type for this project.

The Yuba County foothills are almost entirely designated as Wildland-Urban Interface Core, Defense, or Threat zones by the Yuba County Foothills Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). With the relatively high density of human population within the high-risk wildland area, all roadside fuel reduction treatments could interrupt and reduce the spread of wildfire between structures and wildlands, and will be strategic for providing safe evacuation and supporting fire suppression efforts.

2.1.2 Treatment Activities

Proposed treatment activities would include mechanical and manual treatments, herbicide application, and pile burning. No broadcast burning would be implemented. Multiple treatment activities would be applied in some areas.

PRESCRIBED BURNING (PILE BURNING)

Biomass from manual and mechanical treatment will be piled using mechanical equipment or hand crews and burned appropriately. Pile burning would occur in areas with little to no live overstory. Typically, each burn would last 1 day to 1 week. Pile burning would occur outside of watercourse and lake protection zones (WLPZ). Prior to igniting piles, a qualified RPF, biologist, or supervised designee will inspect piles for wildlife occupation. Wildlife will be allowed to leave the area on their own.

MECHANICAL VEGETATION TREATMENT

Mechanical treatments would primarily include cutting or masticating target vegetation and chipping biomass from manual and mechanical treatment activities. Equipment would primarily include masticators, feller bunchers, skidders, and chippers. Typically, treatments would require several days to several months to complete. Equipment would be operated on or within 150 feet of roads. Mechanical activities will be limited within WLPZs.

Vegetation removal would primarily be brush clearing (e.g., removal of invasive plants and native shrubs) and removal of smaller trees. To maintain habitat function for special-status wildlife, live and dead trees greater than 12 inches DBH would be retained within all treatment areas unless considered a physical or fire hazard. Dead trees targeted for removal would typically include snags and those that are dead/dying due to disease or previous wildfire. One to three snags would be retained per acre.

Generally, mechanical treatments would:

- remove invasive plants (e.g., broom, Himalayan blackberry);
- masticate target live woody shrubs and trees up to 12 inches DBH (e.g., manzanita, tanoak, black oak, live oak, ponderosa pine, incense cedar, Douglas fir, gray pine, white fir, sugar pine), unless they are considered a hazard;
- masticate standing dead trees, including snags, and shrubs up to 12 inches DBH, unless they are considered a hazard,
- retaining one to three snags per acre, unless they are considered a hazard;

- retain downed woody debris greater than 12 inches in diameter, such that the forest floor is not completely bare of down wood unless it is considered a hazard; and
- avoid type conversion of chaparral and scrub vegetation and maintain chaparral and coastal sage scrub habitat function.

MANUAL VEGETATION TREATMENT

To implement manual treatments, crew members would use hand tools and hand-operated power tools, including chainsaws, hand saws, brush cutters, and/or loppers to cut, clear, and/or prune trees, herbaceous vegetation, and woody shrubs and increase space between trees. Typically, treatments would require several days to several months to complete, depending on the treatment size, steepness of terrain, and type and density of vegetation. Trees would be removed, thinned, and pruned and herbaceous and woody shrubs would be cut and cleared.

The same general guidelines for tree and vegetation removal and retention would be followed as described above for mechanical treatments.

HERBICIDE APPLICATION

The occasional use of herbicides to treat invasive plant species (e.g., broom, Himalayan blackberry) and to control regrowth of native species (e.g., tanoak, manzanita, black oak, live oak) may be implemented. Consistent with the definitions applied in the CalVTP, invasive species are those plant species identified as invasive by the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) or defined as noxious weeds under California law by the California Department of Food and Agriculture. Only ground-level application would occur; no aerial spraying of herbicides would occur. Herbicide application would be limited to ground-based methods, such as using a backpack sprayer, painting herbicide onto cut stems, or boom sprayers from vehicles (sprayers would be pointing down and only used when the target species occurs throughout the treatment area). Herbicides that may be applied include the following, which are consistent with those considered for use in the CalVTP: glyphosate, triclopyr, and imazapyr.

Herbicide application would comply with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency label directions, as well as California Environmental Protection Agency and California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) label standards. All herbicide application will be performed by certified and licensed pesticide applicators in accordance with all local, state, and federal regulations. Only herbicides labeled for use in aquatic environments will be used when working in riparian habitats or other areas where there is a possibility the herbicide could come into direct contact with water. Only hand application of herbicides will be allowed in riparian habitats and only during low-flow periods or when seasonal streams are dry. No terrestrial or aquatic herbicides will be applied within WLPZs of Class I and II watercourses, if feasible. If this is not feasible, hand application of herbicides labeled for use in aquatic environments may be used within the WLPZ provided that the project proponent notifies the applicable regional water quality control board no fewer than 15 days prior to herbicide application.

In addition, glyphosate, triclopyr, and imazapyr are subject to the California Red-Legged Frog Injunction (Center for Biological Diversity v. U.S. EPA [2006] Case No. 02-1580-JSW), and therefore, specific application requirements apply in areas subject to the injunction. The application of these herbicides is prohibited within 60 feet of California red-legged frog aquatic breeding critical habitat or non-breeding aquatic critical habitat within critical habitat areas for the following uses: localized spot treatments using handheld devices on roadsides and in forests; individual tree removal using cut stump application; and basal bark application to individual plants (EPA 2021). Tree injection applications are exempt from the injunction. In Yuba County, approximately 6,324 acres of critical habitat for California red-legged frog has been designated by USFWS west of New Bullard's Bar Reservoir, including portions of Little Oregon Creek, Burnt Bridge Creek, Oregon Hill Road, Moran Road, Peterson Ridge Road, and Fountain House Road (refer to Section 4.5, "Biological Resources"). The project would comply with all laws and regulations governing the use of herbicides.

BIOMASS DISPOSAL

Biomass from treatments would be disposed of with pile burning consisting of igniting biomass piles constructed either manually by hand-cut and hand-pile or mechanically with a dozer or excavator, by lopping and scattering biomass in areas where material cannot safely be burned, chip and spread, or hauling to a biomass facility, if available. It is estimated that biomass removed would be disposed of as follows:

- chip and spread (50%),
- pile burn (20%),
- biomass facility (20%), and
- lop and scatter (10%).

Invasive plant and noxious weed biomass would be treated onsite to eliminate seeds and propagules or would be disposed of off-site at an appropriate waste collection facility to prevent reestablishment or spread of invasive plants and noxious weeds. Invasive plants and noxious weeds would not be chipped and spread, scattered, or mulched on-site.

EQUIPMENT AND SCHEDULE

The following equipment would be used to implement the proposed treatments:

- up to two feller bunchers;
- up to two masticators;
- up to one chipper or grinder;
- up to two rubber-tire skidders;
- up to two dozers;
- up to one vehicle with boom sprayer;
- up to two excavators/loaders; and
- chainsaws.

Implementation of initial treatments would require between two and 10 crew members depending on the treatment, along with their associated vehicles to travel to and from the treatment areas. Up to four crews could be conducting treatments simultaneously throughout the project area. Treatment activities would occur during the daytime, typically between approximately 6:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., depending on season and proximity to residences.

Treatments would be scheduled to begin in spring of 2022 depending on funding, equipment/contractor availability, weather conditions, and other restrictions. Mechanical treatments could occur year-round, except on days with extreme fire danger. Herbicide could occur year-round, except during rain events. Hand treatments could also occur year-round. Pile burning would only occur in winter and spring and would not occur during designated fire season or no burn season.

Table 2-1 Proposed CalVTP Treatments

CalVTP Treatment Type	Treatment Description	CalVTP Treatment Activity	Equipment used for Treatments
Fuel Breaks	Strategic linear vegetation removal along roads	Prescribed burning (pile burning); manual and mechanical (cutting and masticating); herbicide application	Feller-buncher, masticators, chipper or grinder, rubber-tire skidders, dozer, UTV, excavator/loader, and chainsaw
WUI Fuel Reduction	Fuel reduction in WUI	Prescribed burning (pile burning); manual and mechanical (cutting and masticating); herbicide application	Feller-buncher, masticators, chipper or grinder, rubber-tire skidders, dozer, UTV, excavator/loader, and chainsaw

Source: Provided by Watershed Protection and Fire Safe Council in 2021

2.2 TREATMENT MAINTENANCE

Maintenance, or retreatment, of the areas treated under the proposed project could include the same treatment types (i.e., WUI, fuel break) and the treatment activities (i.e., manual, mechanical, herbicide, and pile burning treatments) as described above for the initial treatments. Retreatment would be dependent on regrowth conditions and would differ by location. However, retreatment is anticipated to occur between five and 10 years.

Prior to implementing a maintenance treatment, the project proponent will verify that the expected site conditions as described in the PSA are present in the treatment area. As time passes, the continued relevance of the PSA will be considered by the project proponent in light of potentially changed conditions or circumstances. Where the project proponent determines the PSA is no longer sufficiently relevant, the project proponent will determine whether a new PSA or other environmental analysis is warranted.

In addition to verifying that the PSA continues to provide relevant CEQA coverage for treatment maintenance, the project proponent will update the PSA at the time a maintenance treatment is needed when more than 10 years have passed since the approval of the PSA or the latest PSA update. For example, the project proponent may conduct a reconnaissance survey to verify conditions are substantially similar to those anticipated in the PSA. Updated information should be documented.

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3 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

VEGETATION TREATMENT PROJECT INFORMATION

1. **Project Title:** Yuba Roadside Fuel Treatment Project
2. **CalVTP I.D. Number:** 2021-01
3. **Implementing Entity's Name and Address:** Yuba Watershed Protection and Fire Safe Council
   P.O. Box 966
   Marysville, CA 95901
4. **Contact Person Information and Phone Number:** Allison Thomson, Executive Director
   (530) 913-4058
   allison@yubafiresafe.org
5. **Project Proponent's Name and Address:** County of Yuba
   915 8th Street
   Marysville, CA 95901
6. **Contact Person Information and Phone Number:** Kevin Perkins, Planning Manager
   (530) 749-5470
   kperkins@co.yuba.ca.us
7. **Project Location:** Yuba County, CA

   The treatments would occur generally in the eastern portions of Yuba County within the jurisdictions of the following fire districts: Dobbins Oregon House Fire Protection District, Foothill Fire Forest Protection District, Loma Rica Browns Valley Community Service District, Smartsville Fire Protection District, and Camptonville Community Service District (Figure 1-1).
8. **Total Area to Be Treated (acres)** up to 12,960 acres
9. **Description of Project**:

   Refer to Chapter 2, "Project Description," above for a detailed description of the proposed project.

   a. Initial Treatment

   Treatment Types

   ☒ Wildland-Urban Interface Fuel Reduction

   ☒ Fuel Break

   ☐ Ecological Restoration

   Treatment Activities

   ☐ Prescribed Burning (Broadcast)

   ☒ Prescribed Burning (Pile Burning), up to 6,500 acres

   ☒ Mechanical Treatment, up to 6,000 acres

   ☒ Manual Treatment, up to 12,700 acres

   ☐ Prescribed Herbivory

   ☒ Herbicide Application, up to 11,400 acres

Fuel Type

☒ Grass Fuel Type

☒ Shrub Fuel Type

☒ Tree Fuel Type

b. Treatment Maintenance

Refer to Chapter 2, "Project Description," above for a detailed description of the proposed project, including maintenance.

Treatment Types

☒ Wildland-Urban Interface Fuel Reduction

☒ Fuel Break

☐ Ecological Restoration

Treatment Activities

☐ Prescribed Burning (Broadcast)

☒ Prescribed Burning (Pile Burning), up to 6,500 acres

☒ Mechanical Treatment, up to 6,000 acres

☒ Manual Treatment, up to 12,700 acres

☐ Prescribed Herbivory

☒ Herbicide Application, up to 11,400 acres

Fuel Type

☒ Grass Fuel Type

☒ Shrub Fuel Type

☒ Tree Fuel Type

10. Regional Setting and Surrounding Land Uses:

The project area is situated in eastern Yuba County northeast of Beale Air Force Base. Surrounding land uses include public and private timberland, residential development, New Bullards Reservoir, recreation areas, grazing and agricultural lands, and open space.

11. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval Is Required: (e.g., permits)

Pesticide application permit from Yuba County Agricultural Commissioner

Smoke management plan will be prepared for Feather River Air Quality Management District, when required

Burn permits from Feather River Air Quality Management District

Coastal Act Compliance

☒ The proposed project is NOT within the Coastal Zone

☐ The proposed project is within the Coastal Zone (*check one of the following boxes*)

☐ A coastal development permit been applied for or obtained from the local Coastal Commission district office or local government with a certified Local Coastal Plan, as applicable

☐ The local Coastal Commission district office or local government with a certified Local Coastal Plan (in consultation with the local Coastal Commission district office) has determined that a coastal development permit is not required

12. Native American Consultation. *The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection completed consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1 during preparation of the PEIR; however, CalVTP SPR CUL-2 includes for a requirement for further tribal coordination during PSA preparation.*

Pursuant to CalVTP SPR CUL-2, Native American tribal contacts in Yuba County were contacted on February 17, 2022, and included Clyde Prout, Chairperson, Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe; Glenda Nelson, Chairperson, Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria; Benjamin Clark, Chairperson, Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians; Tina Goodwin, Pakan'yani Maidu of Strawberry Valley Rancheria; Regina Cuellar, Chairperson, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians; Don Ryberg, Chairperson, Tsi Akim Maidu; Gene Whitehouse, Chairperson, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria; Serrell Smokey, Chairperson, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California; and Jesus G. Tarango Jr., Chairperson, Wilton Rancheria. A response was received from United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria. The tribe requested some revisions to the standard project requirements (SPR) to reflect tribal concerns and values, which have been incorporated in the SPRs set forth below. No other tribes responded.

DETERMINATION

On the basis of this PSA and the substantial evidence supporting it:

☒ I find that all of the effects of the proposed project (a) have been covered in the CalVTP PEIR, and (b) all applicable Standard Project Requirements and mitigation measures identified in the CalVTP PEIR will be implemented. The proposed project is, therefore, WITHIN THE SCOPE of the CalVTP PEIR. NO ADDITIONAL CEQA DOCUMENTATION is required.

☒ I find that proposed project areas outside the CalVTP treatable landscape do not result in substantial changes in the project, no substantial changes in circumstances have occurred, and no new information of substantial importance has been identified. The inclusion of project areas outside the CalVTP treatable landscape will not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts. None of the conditions described in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred; therefore, an ADDENDUM is adopted to address the project areas outside geographic extent presented in the PEIR.

☐ I find that the proposed project will have effects that were not covered in the CalVTP PEIR. These effects are less than significant without any mitigation beyond what is already required pursuant to the CalVTP PEIR. A **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.

☐ I find that the proposed project will have effects that were not covered in the CalVTP PEIR or will have effects that are substantially more severe than those covered in the CalVTP PEIR. Although these effects may be significant in the absence of additional mitigation beyond the CalVTP PEIR's measures, revisions to the proposed project or additional mitigation measures have been agreed to by the project partners that would avoid or reduce the effects so that clearly no significant effects would occur. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.

☐ I find that the proposed project will have significant environmental effects that are (a) new and were not covered in the CalVTP PEIR and/or (b) substantially more severe than those covered in the CalVTP PEIR. Because one or more effects may be significant and cannot be clearly mitigated to less than significant, an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** will be prepared.

Signature	Date
Printed Name	Title
Agency	

4 PROJECT-SPECIFIC ANALYSIS/ADDENDUM

4.1 AESTHETICS AND VISUAL RESOURCES

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is This Impact within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact AES-1: Result in Short-Term, Substantial Degradation of a Scenic Vista or Visual Character or Quality of Public Views, or Damage to Scenic Resources in a State Scenic Highway from Treatment Activities	LTS	Impact AES-1, pp. 3.2-16 – 3.2-19	Yes	AD-4 AQ-2 AQ-3 AES-2 REC-1	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact AES-2: Result in Long-Term, Substantial Degradation of a Scenic Vista or Visual Character or Quality of Public Views, or Damage to Scenic Resources in a State Scenic Highway from Wildland Urban Interface Fuel Reduction, Ecological Restoration, or Shaded Fuel Break Treatment Types	LTS	Impact AES-2, pp. 3.2-20 – 3.2-25	Yes	None	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact AES-3: Result in Long-Term Substantial Degradation of a Scenic Vista or Visual Character or Quality of Public Views, or Damage to Scenic Resources in a State Scenic Highway from the Nonshaded Fuel Break Treatment Type	SU	Impact AES-3, pp. 3.2-25 – 3.2-27	Yes	NA	AES-3	SU	No	Yes

[1] NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact. None: there are SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact, but none are applicable to the treatment project.

New Aesthetic and Visual Resource Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to aesthetics and visual resources that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?	☐ Yes	☒ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant
	☐	☐	☐

Discussion

IMPACT AES-1

Initial and maintenance treatments would include mechanical treatment, manual treatment, targeted ground application of herbicides, and pile burning. The potential for these treatment activities to result in short-term degradation of the visual character of a treatment area and degradation of views from a scenic highway were examined in the PEIR. The nearest designated state scenic highway to the treatment area is State Route (SR) 49 (Caltrans 2022). The proposed treatments would occur along public and private roadways within the County, most of which are accessible to the public. In addition, some vegetation treatments would be visible from SR 49. The potential for the project to result in short-term substantial degradation of the visual character of the project area is within the scope of the PEIR because the proposed treatment activities are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing scenic resources are essentially the same within and outside of the treatable landscape; therefore, the short-term aesthetic impact is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to the proposed treatments are AD-4, AQ-2, AQ-3, AES-2, and REC-1. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT AES-2

Initial and maintenance treatments would include WUI fuel reduction and shaded and non-shaded fuel break treatment types. The potential for these treatment types to result in long-term degradation of the visual character of an area was examined in the PEIR. Public viewpoints primarily include the public roadways adjacent to the proposed treatments but would also include some residences, recreation areas, Collins Lake, and New Bullards Bar Reservoir. Some treatments would also be visible from SR 49, which is designated as a state scenic highway. However, WUI fuel reduction and shaded fuel breaks would be implemented in forested areas and would maintain a canopy of trees; new linear edges devoid of vegetation would not be created from implementation of these treatments.

The potential for the project to result in long-term substantial degradation of the visual character of the project area is within the scope of the PEIR because the proposed treatment activities are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing visual character is essentially the same within and outside of the treatable landscape; therefore, the long-term aesthetic impact is also the same, as described above. Implementation of SPRs AES-1 and AES-3, which require breaking up linear edges and screening views of the treatment areas, are not feasible for the proposed treatments because the primary objectives of the project are to maintain safe evacuation routes along public and private roadways and reduce fuel within areas at high risk of wildfire ignition (i.e., roadside vegetation), and the treatments must be implemented adjacent to roadways. Furthermore, non-shaded fuel breaks are only proposed for brushy areas with no trees, and they would not result in the conversion of a forested area to a non-forested area. In addition, most other treatments would occur in forested areas and would maintain a canopy of trees. Thus there would not be a substantial change to the visual character of the project area. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT AES-3

Initial and maintenance treatments would include non-shaded fuel break treatments in brushy areas with no trees. The potential for this treatment type to result in long-term degradation of the visual character of an area was examined in the PEIR. Public viewpoints primarily include the public roadways adjacent to the proposed treatments but would also include some residences, recreation areas, Collins Lake, and New Bullards Bar Reservoir. Some treatments would also be visible from SR 49, which is designated as a state scenic highway.

The potential for the project to result in long-term substantial degradation of the visual character of the project area is within the scope of the PEIR because the proposed treatment activities are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing visual character is essentially the same within and outside of the treatable landscape; therefore, the long-term aesthetic impact is also the same, as described above. No SPRs are applicable to this impact; however, Mitigation Measure AES-3 would apply to this treatment to minimize visual impacts, if feasible, from any heavily used scenic vistas, public trails, recreation areas, and state scenic highways with lengthy views (i.e., longer than a few seconds) of non-shaded fuel breaks. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

NEW AESTHETIC AND VISUAL RESOURCE IMPACTS

The proposed treatments are consistent with the treatment types and activities covered in the CalVTP PEIR. The project proponent has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatments and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.2.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.2.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). The project proponent has also determined that including land from outside the CalVTP treatable landscape in the proposed treatment areas constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental conditions pertinent to aesthetics and visual resources that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts are the same and, for the reasons described above, impacts of the proposed treatment project are consistent with those covered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impact. Therefore, no new impact related to aesthetics and visual resources would occur.

4.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is This Impact within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact AG-1: Directly Result in the Loss of Forest Land or Conversion of Forest Land to a Non-Forest Use or Involve Other Changes in the Existing Environment Which, Due to Their Location or Nature, Could Result in Conversion of Forest Land to Non-Forest Use	LTS	Impact AG-1, pp. 3.3-7 – 3.3-8	Yes	NA	NA	LTS	No	Yes

[1] NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Agriculture and Forestry Resource Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to agriculture and forestry resources that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?	☐ Yes	☒ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant
	☐	☐	☐

Discussion

IMPACT AG-1

Treatments would include WUI fuel reduction and fuel breaks through use of pile burning, mechanical treatment, manual treatment, and targeted ground application of herbicides. Portions of the treatment area are consistent with the definition of forest land as defined in Public Resources Code 12220(g). The project area includes oak woodland and conifer forest. Treatments would include the removal of some trees in the overstory and mid-level canopy to improve forest health and reduce wildfire risk. Mechanical treatment may include the removal of trees that are up to 12 inches DBH. Vegetation remaining after treatment would be consistent with the definition of forest land as defined in Public Resources Code 12220(g). Treatments would not affect the forest stand conditions directly or indirectly in a way that could result in conversion to a non-forest use. Vegetation management has the potential to improve the forest stand conditions by removing competitive vegetation and scarifying the forest floor conditions allowing for natural seeding of tree species. The potential for proposed treatment activities to result in loss or conversion of forest land was examined in the PEIR.

This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the treatment activities and intensity are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing conditions and the composition of forested land as defined in Public Resources Code

12220(g) present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impact to forest land is also the same, as described above. No SPRs are applicable to this impact. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

NEW AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCE IMPACTS

The proposed project is consistent with the treatment types and activities covered in the CalVTP PEIR. The project proponent has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatment project and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.3.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.3.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). The project proponent has also determined that the inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions pertinent to agriculture and forestry resources present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those covered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts not addressed in the PEIR. Therefore, no new impact related to agriculture and forestry resources would occur that is not covered in the PEIR.

4.3 AIR QUALITY

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is This Impact within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact AQ-1: Generate Emissions of Criteria Air Pollutants and Precursors During Treatment Activities that would exceed CAAQS or NAAQS	SU	Impact AQ-1, pp. 3.4-26 – 3.4-32; Appendix AQ-1	Yes	AD-4 AQ-1 through AQ-6	NA (Mitigation infeasible for this project)	SU	No	Yes
Impact AQ-2: Expose People to Diesel Particulate Matter Emissions and Related Health Risk	LTS	Impact AQ-2, pp. 3.4-33 – 3.4-34; Appendix AQ-1	Yes	HAZ-1 NOI-4 NOI-5	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact AQ-3: Expose People to Fugitive Dust Emissions Containing Naturally Occurring Asbestos and Related Health Risk	LTS	Impact AQ-3, pp. 3.4-34 – 3.4-35	Yes	AQ-5	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact AQ-4: Expose People to Toxic Air Contaminants Emitted by Prescribed Burns and Related Health Risk	SU	Impact AQ-4, pp. 3.4-35 – 3.4-37	Yes	AD-4 AQ-2 AQ-3 AQ-6	NA (No feasible mitigation available)	SU	No	Yes
Impact AQ-5: Expose People to Objectionable Odors from Diesel Exhaust	LTS	Impact AQ-5, pp. 3.4-37 – 3.4-38	Yes	HAZ-1 NOI-4 NOI-5	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact AQ-6: Expose People to Objectionable Odors from Smoke During Prescribed Burning	SU	Impact AQ-6; pp. 3.4-38	Yes	AD-4 AQ-2 AQ-3 AQ-6	NA (No feasible mitigation available)	SU	No	Yes

[1] NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact. None: there are SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact, but none are applicable to the treatment project.

New Air Quality Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to air quality that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?	☐ Yes	☒ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant
	☐	☐	☐

Discussion

IMPACT AQ-1

The project area is within the jurisdiction of the Feather River Air Quality Management District (Feather River AQMD). Use of vehicles, mechanical equipment, and pile burning during initial and maintenance treatments would result in emissions of criteria pollutants which could exceed California ambient air quality standard (CAAQS) or national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) thresholds. The potential for emissions of criteria pollutants to exceed CAAQS or NAAQS thresholds was examined in the PEIR. Emissions of criteria air pollutants related to the proposed treatments are within the scope of the PEIR because the associated equipment and duration of use are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The SPRs applicable to this treatment project are AD-4, AQ-1 through AQ-6. Emission reduction techniques included in Mitigation Measure AQ-1 would be infeasible for the project proponent to implement because they are cost prohibitive. The Yuba FSC and other fire safe councils are not-for-profit organizations and will be largely contracting with others to implement the vegetation treatments. It is cost prohibitive for the Yuba FSCs to procure equipment meeting the latest efficiency standards, including meeting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Tier 4 emission standards, using renewable diesel fuel, using electric- and gasoline-powered equipment, and using equipment with Best Available Control Technology. However, the Yuba FSC will encourage, but not require, use of these emission reduction techniques by its contractors, including by stating such in its contractor procurement process. In addition, crew sizes would be small and may not all be employed with the same company. Therefore, carpooling may not be feasible to implement for most of the workers or recommended during a pandemic. For these reasons, and as explained in the PEIR, this impact would remain significant and unavoidable.

The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the air quality conditions present and air basins in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the air quality impact is also the same, as described above. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT AQ-2

Use of vehicles and mechanical equipment during initial and maintenance treatments could expose people, such as recreational users, to diesel particulate matter emissions. However, treatment activities would not take place near the same people for an extended period of time. The potential to expose people to diesel particulate matter emissions was examined in the PEIR. Diesel particulate matter emissions from the proposed treatments are within the scope of the PEIR because the exposure potential is the same as analyzed in the PEIR, and the types and amount of equipment that would be used, as well as the duration of use, during proposed treatments are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the air quality conditions and sensitive receptors (i.e., exposure potential) present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the air quality impact is also the same, as described above. SPRs HAZ-1, NOI-4, and NOI-5 are applicable to this treatment. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT AQ-3

Use of vehicles, mechanical equipment, and pile burning during treatments would involve ground disturbing activities. The potential to expose people to naturally occurring asbestos (NOA)-containing fugitive dust emissions was examined in the PEIR. Most of the treatment areas are not located on soil types where NOA would be present; however, portions of the project area are underlain by serpentine soils. In accordance with SPR AQ-5, no treatments

would occur in these areas. Potential NOA exposure from the proposed treatments is within the scope of the activities and impacts addressed in the PEIR because the exposure potential is essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape and avoidance of treatments in NOA-containing areas is consistent with the impacts analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the air quality impact is also the same, as described above. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT AQ-4

Pile burning during initial and maintenance treatments could expose people to toxic air contaminants, which was examined in the PEIR. This impact was identified as potentially significant and unavoidable in the PEIR because implementation of prescribed burns under the CalVTP could result in the short-term exposure of people to concentrations of toxic air contaminants and associated levels of acute health risk with a Hazard Index greater than 1.0. However, the proposed treatments would only include pile burning, which would result in fewer emissions compared to larger broadcast burns. The duration and parameters of the pile burns would be less than the scope of the activities addressed in the PEIR, however as part of the CalVTP program, this treatment would contribute to the significant impact of the CalVTP identified in the PEIR. Air quality conditions within the Feather River AQMD's jurisdiction and Yuba County are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. Therefore, the potential for exposure to toxic air contaminants is also within the scope of the PEIR. SPRs applicable to these treatment activities are AD-4, AQ-2, AQ-3, and AQ-6. All feasible measures to prevent and minimize smoke exposure are included in SPRs. No additional mitigation measures are feasible, and this impact would remain significant and unavoidable, as explained in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the air quality conditions present and air basins in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the air quality impact is also the same, as described above. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT AQ-5

Use of vehicles and mechanical equipment during initial and maintenance treatments could expose people, such as recreational users or residents, to objectionable odors from diesel exhaust. However, treatment activities would not take place near the same people for an extended period. The potential to expose people to objectionable odors from diesel exhaust was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the exposure potential and the proposed activities, as well as the associated equipment and duration of use, are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, the air quality conditions and sensitive receptors present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the air quality impact is also the same, as described above. SPRs HAZ-1, NOI-4, and NOI-5 are applicable to this treatment. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT AQ-6

Pile burning during initial and maintenance treatments could expose people to objectionable odors. The potential to expose people to objectionable odors from pile burning was examined in the PEIR. The duration and parameters of pile burning, and the exposure potential are consistent with the activities addressed in the PEIR. Therefore, the resultant potential for exposure to objectionable odors from smoke is also within the scope of impacts covered in the

PEIR. SPRs that are applicable to this treatment project are AD-4, AQ-2, AQ-3, and AQ-6. All feasible measures to prevent and minimize smoke odors, as well as exposure to smoke odors, are included in SPRs. No additional mitigation measures are feasible, and this impact would remain significant and unavoidable, as explained in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the air quality conditions present and sensitive receptors in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the air quality impact is also the same, as described above. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

NEW AIR QUALITY IMPACTS

The proposed treatments are consistent with the treatment types and activities covered in the CalVTP PEIR. The project proponent has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatments and determined they are consistent with the applicable regulatory and environmental conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.4.1, "Regulatory Setting," and Section 3.4.2, "Environmental Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). The project proponent has also determined that including land from outside the CalVTP treatable landscape in the proposed treatment areas constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions pertinent to air quality that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts are the same and, for the reasons described above, impacts of the proposed treatment project are consistent with those covered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impact. Therefore, no new impact related to air quality would occur.

4.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL, HISTORICAL, AND TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is This Impact within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact CUL-1: Cause a Substantial Adverse Change in the Significance of Built Historical Resources	LTS	Impact CUL-1, pp. 3.5-14 – 3.5-15	Yes	CUL-1 CUL-7 CUL-8	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact CUL-2: Cause a Substantial Adverse Change in the Significance of Unique Archaeological Resources or Subsurface Historical Resources	SU	Impact CUL-2, pp. 3.5-15 – 3.5-16	Yes	CUL-1 CUL-2 CUL-3 CUL-4 CUL-5 CUL-8	CUL-2	SU	No	Yes
Impact CUL-3: Cause a Substantial Adverse Change in the Significance of a Tribal Cultural Resource	LTS	Impact CUL-3, p. 3.5-17	Yes	CUL-1 CUL-2 CUL-3 CUL-4 CUL-5 CUL-6 CUL-8	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact CUL-4: Disturb Human Remains	LTS	Impact CUL-4, p. 3.5-18	Yes	NA	NA	LTS	No	Yes

[1] NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Archaeological, Historical, and Tribal Cultural Resource Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to archaeological, historical, and tribal cultural resources that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?	☐ Yes	☒ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant
	☐	☐	☐

Discussion

Consistent with SPR CUL-1, a records search of the 12,960-acre project area, including areas within and outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape, was performed by the North Central Information Center (NCIC) on September 2, 2021 (NCIC File No. YUB- 21-33). The search revealed over 335 previously recorded archaeological sites and historic features within the project area. Eighty-five of these are indigenous archaeological sites (bedrock milling features, pestles, and lithic scatters); 237 are either historic-era archaeological sites (abandoned water conveyance systems, mine tailings, trash scatters, roadbeds, structure pads, and railroad grades) or historic-era built environment features (bridges, canals, residences, commercial buildings); and 14 are multi-component sites, meaning they contain both

archaeological and historic features. Six historic-era built environment features (buildings and bridges) have been evaluated as eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR); no archaeological sites have been evaluated as eligible. Thirty-three features have been evaluated as not appearing eligible for listing and therefore not historical resources for the purposes of CEQA; these features are primarily historic-era archaeological sites and historic-era built environment features, one is an indigenous archaeological site, and one is a multi-component site. Two historic-era built environment features are described as needing to be reevaluated and the remainder (295 previously recorded sites and features) have not evaluated for listing in the CRHR.

Consistent with SPR CUL-2, an updated Native American contact list was obtained from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). On February 17, 2022, letters inviting the tribes to consult were emailed to the nine tribal representatives indicated by NAHC. A response was received from the United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC). The tribe requested some project-specific revisions to the SPRs to reflect tribal concerns and values, which have been incorporated in the SPRs set forth below No other tribe responded. An October 8, 2021 search of NAHC's sacred lands database returned positive results. The sacred lands search is conducted at a USGS topographic quadrangle section scale. Each section is approximately 250 acres; for this project, the project site touches 186 sections. This means the sacred lands search included 46,500 acres, an area larger than all of Yuba County. A positive result indicates that a tribe has provided NAHC documentation stating that there is a site they consider sacred in this 46,500-acre search area.

IMPACT CUL-1

Proposed treatment activities include mechanical treatments, which could damage historical resources. The NCIC records search revealed six historical resources have been evaluated as eligible for listing in the CRHR. The search also revealed numerous built environment features that have not been evaluated. Although, it is not known whether the unevaluated features are considered resources under CEQA, all structures (i.e., buildings, bridges, roadways) over 50 years old that are eligible or have not been evaluated for historical significance and are present in the treatment area will be avoided pursuant to SPR CUL-7. The potential for these treatment activities to result in disturbance, damage, or destruction of built-environment structures that have not yet been evaluated for historical significance was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR, because treatment activities and the intensity of ground disturbance of the treatment project are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the treatment area, the potential to encounter built-environment structures that have not yet been evaluated for historical significance in areas outside the treatable landscape is essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the potential impact to historical resources is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this impact are CUL-1, CUL-7, and CUL-8. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT CUL-2

Vegetation treatment would include mechanical treatments using heavy equipment that could churn up the surface of the ground during treatment as vegetation is removed; this may result in damage to known or previously unknown archaeological resources. The NCIC records search revealed 85 indigenous archaeological sites and 197 historic-era archaeological sites. Only 15 of these have been evaluated for eligibility for listing in the CRHR; the 15 sites have been evaluated as not appearing eligible for listing. Therefore, it is not known whether the remainder of these sites (267) are considered resources under CEQA. A survey will be conducted prior to treatment pursuant to SPR CUL-4 to identify any previously unrecorded archeological resources and identified resources will be avoided according to the provisions of SPR CUL-5.

The potential for these treatment activities to result in inadvertent discovery and subsequent damage of unique archaeological resources or subsurface historical resources during vegetation treatment was examined in the PEIR. This impact was identified as significant and unavoidable in the PEIR because of the large geographic extent of the treatable

landscape and the possibility that there could be some rare instances where inadvertent damage of unknown resources may be extensive. SPRs and Mitigation Measure CUL-2 would require identification and protection of resources. With the implementation of these SPRs and Mitigation Measure CUL-2, a substantial adverse change in the significance of a unique archaeological resources or subsurface historical resources is not expected. However, because the project could result in inadvertent discovery and subsequent damage of unique archaeological resources or subsurface historical resources, it would contribute to the environmental significance conclusion in the PEIR; therefore, for purposes of CEQA compliance, this PSA/Addendum notes the impact as potentially significant and unavoidable.

This impact is within the scope of the PEIR, because treatment activities and intensity of ground disturbance of the treatment project are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the treatment area, the potential for discovery of archaeological resources is essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape; therefore, the potential impact to unique archaeological resources or subsurface historical resources is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this treatment include CUL-1 through CUL-5 and CUL-8. Mitigation Measure CUL-2 would also apply to this treatment to protect any inadvertent discovery. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT CUL-3

Native American contacts in Yuba County were contacted on February 17, 2022, and included Clyde Prout, Chairperson, Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe; Glenda Nelson, Chairperson, Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria; Benjamin Clark, Chairperson, Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians; Tina Goodwin, Pakan'yani Maidu of Strawberry Valley Rancheria; Regina Cuellar, Chairperson, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians; Don Ryberg, Chairperson, Tsi Akim Maidu; Gene Whitehouse, Chairperson, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria; Serrell Smokey, Chairperson, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California; and Jesus G. Tarango Jr., Chairperson, Wilton Rancheria. A response was received from UAIC notifying Yuba FSC of the possible presence of tribal cultural resources and recommending measures to avoid impacts to tribal cultural resources. No other tribes responded.

The potential for the proposed treatment activities to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource during implementation of vegetation treatment was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR, because the intensity of ground disturbance of the treatment project is consistent with that analyzed in the PEIR. As explained in the PEIR, while tribal cultural resources may be identified within the treatable landscape during development of later treatment projects, implementation of SPRs would avoid any substantial adverse change to any tribal cultural resource. Specifically, SPR-6 requires that the project proponent, in consultation with the culturally affiliated tribe(s), will develop effective protection measures for important tribal cultural resources located within treatment areas. Accordingly, the UAIC's recommendations have been integrated into SPR CUL-6 and SPR CUL-8. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the tribal cultural affiliations present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the potential impact to tribal cultural resources is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this treatment include CUL-1 through CUL-6 and CUL-8. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT CUL-4

Vegetation treatment activities would include mechanical treatments using heavy equipment; these treatments may use skidders, excavators, dozers, and masticators, which could uncover human remains. The NWIC records search did not reveal any burials or sites containing human remains. The potential for treatment activities to uncover human remains was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR, because the treatment activities and

intensity of ground disturbance are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. Additionally, consistent with the PEIR, the project would comply with California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and PRC Section 5097 in the event of a discovery. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the treatment area, the potential for uncovering human remains during implementation of the treatment project is essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape and treatment activities; therefore, the impact related to disturbance of human remains is also the same, as described above. No SPRs are applicable to this impact. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL, HISTORICAL, AND TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCE IMPACTS

The proposed treatment is consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. The project proponent has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatment project and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.5.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.5.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). The project proponent has also determined that including land from outside the CalVTP treatable landscape in the proposed treatment areas constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the treatment area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions pertinent to archaeological, historical, or tribal cultural resources that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those covered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts. Therefore, no new impact related to archaeological, historical, or tribal cultural resources would occur.

4.5 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is This Impact within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact BIO-1: Substantially Affect Special-Status Plant Species Either Directly or Through Habitat Modifications	LTSM	Impact BIO-1, pp 3.6-131 – 3.6-138	Yes	BIO-1 BIO-2 BIO-7 BIO-9 GEO-1 GEO-3 GEO-4 GEO-5 GEO-7 HYD-4 HYD-5	BIO-1a BIO-1b	LTSM	No	Yes
Impact BIO-2: Substantially Affect Special-Status Wildlife Species Either Directly or Through Habitat Modifications	LTSM (all wildlife species except bumble bees) SU (bumble bees)	Impact BIO-2, pp 3.6-138 – 3.6-184	Yes	BIO-1 BIO-2 BIO-5 BIO-9 BIO-10 GEO-1 HYD-4	BIO-2a BIO-2b BIO-2c	LTSM	No	Yes
Impact BIO-3: Substantially Affect Riparian Habitat or Other Sensitive Natural Community Through Direct Loss or Degradation That Leads to Loss of Habitat Function	LTSM	Impact BIO-3, pp 3.6-186 – 3.6-191	Yes	BIO-1 BIO-2 BIO-3 BIO-4 BIO-5 BIO-6 BIO-9 GEO-1 GEO-3 GEO-4 GEO-5 GEO-7 HAZ-5 HAZ-6 HYD-4 HYD-5	BIO-3a BIO-3b BIO-3c	LTSM	No	Yes
Impact BIO-4: Substantially Affect State or Federally Protected Wetlands	LTSM	Impact BIO-4, pp 3.6-191 – 3.6-192	Yes	BIO-1 BIO-2 BIO-3 BIO-9 GEO-1 GEO-3 GEO-4 GEO-5 GEO-6	BIO-4	LTSM	No	Yes

Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is This Impact within the Scope of the PEIR?
				GEO-7 HAZ-5 HAZ-6 HYD-1 HYD-4 HYD-5				
Impact BIO-5: Interfere Substantially with Wildlife Movement Corridors or Impede Use of Nurseries	LTSM	Impact BIO-5, pp 3.6-192 – 3.6-196	Yes	BIO-1 BIO-2 BIO-3 HYD-4	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact BIO-6: Substantially Reduce Habitat or Abundance of Common Wildlife	LTS	Impact BIO-6, pp 3.6-197 – 3.6-198	Yes	BIO-1 BIO-2 BIO-12	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact BIO-7: Conflict with Local Policies or Ordinances Protecting Biological Resources	NI	Impact BIO-7, pp 3.6-198 – 3.6-199	Yes	AD-3	NA	NI	No	Yes
Impact BIO-8: Conflict with the Provisions of an Adopted Natural Community Conservation Plan, Habitat Conservation Plan, or Other Approved Habitat Plan	NI	Impact BIO-8, pp 3.6-199 – 3.6-200	No	--	--	--	--	--

[1] NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Biological Resources Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to biological resources that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?

☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant
	☐	☐	☐

Discussion

Pursuant to SPR BIO-1, Ascent biologists conducted a data review of project-specific biological resources, including habitat and vegetation types, and special-status plants, special-status wildlife, and sensitive habitats (i.e., sensitive natural communities, wetlands) with potential to occur in the treatment area. CAL FIRE's Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) vegetation layer was used to identify the habitat/vegetation types within the treatment area. The treatment area is approximately 12,960 acres.

The treatment area spans three different ecoregions (from west to east): the Great Valley ecoregion, the Sierra Nevada Foothills ecoregion, and the Sierra Nevada ecoregion. The treatment area ranges in elevation from approximately 70 feet on the western boundary to 4,500 feet on the eastern boundary, and encompasses many

different vegetation types as a result. Vegetation types within the treatment area and total acreage for each type are presented in Table 4.5-1.

Table 4.5-1 Vegetation Types in the Treatment Area

Vegetation Type	Acreage
Forest/Woodland	
Blue Oak Woodland	1,719.0
Douglas Fir	1,395.4
Blue Oak-Foothill Pine	1,256.5
Montane Hardwood	1,085.5
Sierran Mixed Conifer	895.8
Ponderosa Pine	709.9
Montane Hardwood-Conifer	598.0
Valley Oak Woodland	177.9
Coastal Oak Woodland	16.9
White Fir	1.9
Closed-Cone Pine-Cypress	0.9
Forest/Woodland Total	*7,857.7*
Shrub/Scrub	
Mixed Chaparral	111.7
Montane Chaparral	24.5
Coastal Scrub	5.4
Shrub/Scrub Total	*141.6*
Herbaceous	
Annual Grassland	2,373.3
Herbaceous Total	*2,373.3*
Wetland/Riparian	
Valley Foothill Riparian	169.3
Fresh Emergent Wetland	38.8
Riverine	22.4
Lacustrine	19.4
Montane Riparian	16.1
Wet Meadow	0.8
Wetland/Riparian Total	*266.8*
Agricultural	
Cropland	359.4
Pasture	343.7
Rice	206.9
Evergreen Orchard	17.0
Irrigated Row and Field Crops	13.5
Irrigated Grain Crops	7.2

Vegetation Type	Acreage
Deciduous Orchard	6.2
Irrigated Hayfield	5.5
Vineyard	1.5
Dryland Grain Crops	0.4
Agricultural Total	***961.3***
Developed/Disturbed/Barren	
Urban	1,217.1
Barren	142.1
Developed/Disturbed/Barren Total	***1,359.2***
All Vegetation Types Total	**12,959.9**

Source: CAL FIRE FRAP vegetation data, compiled by Ascent Environmental in 2021

A list of special-status plant and wildlife species with potential to occur in the treatment area was compiled by completing a review of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) and California Native Plant Society Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California database records for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangles containing and surrounding the treatment area (28 quadrangles total; CNDDB 2021; CNPS 2021); the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) tool (USFWS 2021); and Appendix BIO-3 (Table 4a, Table 4b, Table 13a, Table 13b, Table 14a, Table 14b, and Table 19) in the PEIR (Volume II) for special-status plants and wildlife that could occur in the Great Valley, Sierra Nevada Foothills, and Sierra Nevada ecoregions. A list of sensitive natural communities with potential to occur within the treatment area was compiled by completing a CNDDB search of the USGS quadrangles containing and surrounding the treatment area (CNDDB 2021) and reviewing Table 3.6-9 (pages 3.6-42 – 3.6-43), Table 3.6-22 (pages 3.6-83 – 3.6-85), and Table 3.6-24 (pages 3.6-88 – 3.6-90) in the PEIR (Volume II) for sensitive natural communities that could occur in the Great Valley, Sierra Nevada Foothills, and Sierra Nevada ecoregions in the vegetation types mapped in the treatment area.

Ascent conducted reconnaissance surveys on September 21, September 22, and September 23, 2021, to identify and document sensitive resources (e.g., aquatic habitat, riparian habitat, sensitive natural communities) and to assess the suitability of habitat in the treatment area for special-status plant and wildlife species. Mapped vegetation types were verified, and incidental wildlife observations were recorded.

Based on implementation of SPR BIO-1, including review of occurrence data, species ranges, habitat requirements for each species, results of reconnaissance-level surveys, and habitat present within the treatment area as assessed during reconnaissance surveys, a complete list of all species with potential to occur in the vicinity of the proposed project was assembled (Attachment B). Thirty-four of the special-status plants and 37 of the special-status wildlife from the complete list of species were determined to have potential to occur in the treatment area (Table 4.5-2). These species are discussed in detail under Impact BIO-1 (special-status plants) and Impact BIO-2 (special-status wildlife).

Table 4.5-2 Special-Status Plant and Wildlife Species That May Occur in the Treatment Area

Species	Listing Status[1]	Listing Status[1]	Listing Status[1]	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence
	Federal	State	CRPR		
Special-Status Plants					
Ferris' milk-vetch *Astragalus tener* var. *ferrisiae*	–	–	1B.1	Subalkaline flats on overflow land in the Central Valley; vernally moist meadows. 15–245 feet in elevation. Blooms April–May. Annual herb.	*May occur.* This species was documented in 1891 in Sutter County near Yuba City, outside of the treatment area (CNDDB 2021). Vernally moist and subalkaline flat habitat potentially suitable for this species is present in Yuba County and may be present within the treatment area.

Species	Listing Status[1]	Listing Status[1]	Listing Status[1]	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence
	Federal	State	CRPR		
Constance's rockcress *Boechera constancei*	–	–	1B.1	Mostly on open, bare, serpentine slopes and outcrops in chaparral and woodland. 3,195–6,645 feet in elevation. Blooms May–July. Perennial herb.	*May occur*. Serpentine habitat potentially suitable for this species is present within the treatment area.
Upswept moonwort *Botrychium ascendens*	–	–	2B.3	Grassy fields, coniferous woods near springs and creeks. 3,655–10,710 feet in elevation. Blooms July–August. Perennial rhizomatous herb.	*May occur*. Grassland and coniferous wood near springs and creek habitat potentially suitable for this species is present within the treatment area.
Mingan moonwort *Botrychium minganense*	–	–	2B.2	Creekbanks in mixed conifer forest. 3,900–10,810 feet in elevation. Blooms July–September. Perennial rhizomatous herb.	*May occur*. Creekbanks in mixed conifer forest habitat potentially suitable for this species is present within the treatment area.
Western goblin *Botrychium montanum*	–	–	2B.1	Creekbanks in old-growth forest. Shady conifer woodland, especially under *Calocedrus* along streams. 4,690–7,970 feet in elevation. Blooms July–September. Perennial rhizomatous herb.	*May occur*. Streamside conifer habitat potentially suitable for this species is present within the treatment area.
Buxbaumia moss *Buxbaumia viridis*	–	–	2B.2	Well-rotted logs and in peaty soil and humus. 3,195–7,215 feet in elevation.	*May occur.* This species was documented in 2005 in Yuba County 2.6 miles east of Strawberry Valley, outside of the treatment area in Plumas National Forest. Decomposing log habitat potentially suitable for this species is present within the treatment area.
Stebbins' morning-glory *Calystegia stebbinsii*	FE	SE	1B.1	On red clay soils of the Pine Hill formation; sometimes on gabbro or serpentine; open areas. 980–2,380 feet in elevation. Blooms April–July. Perennial rhizomatous herb.	*May occur*. Gabbro and serpentine habitat potentially suitable for this species is present within the treatment area.
Dissected-leaved toothwort *Cardamine pachystigma* var. *dissectifolia*	–	–	1B.2	Chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest. Rocky, usually serpentinite. Serpentine outcrops and gravelly serpentine talus. 980–3,120 feet in elevation. Blooms February–May. Perennial rhizomatous herb.	*May occur*. Serpentine habitat potentially suitable for this species is present within the treatment area.
Sierra arching sedge *Carex cyrtostachya*	–	–	1B.2	Lower montane coniferous forest, riparian forest, marshes and swamps, meadows and seeps. Mesic sites. 1,985–4,560 feet in elevation. Blooms May–August. Perennial herb.	*May occur.* This species has five documented occurrences in Yuba County, ranging from 2,180–3,380 feet in elevation, all within close proximity to New Bullards Bar Reservoir (CNDDB 2021). All five occurrences are outside of the treatment area in Plumas National Forest, though some are close in proximity or bordering the treatment area (CNDDB 2021). Mesic habitat potentially suitable for this species is present within the treatment area.

Species	Listing Status[1]	Listing Status[1]	Listing Status[1]	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence
	Federal	State	CRPR		
Chaparral sedge *Carex xerophila*	–	–	1B.2	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest. Serpentinite, gabbroic. 900–2,525 feet in elevation. Blooms March–June. Perennial herb.	*May occur.* This species has three documented occurrences in Yuba County, ranging from 2,010–2,520 feet in elevation, and west of New Bullards Bar Reservoir within the treatment area (CNDDB 2021). Gabbro and serpentine habitat potentially suitable for this species is present within the treatment area.
Mildred's clarkia *Clarkia mildrediae* ssp. *mildrediae*	–	–	1B.3	Cismonte woodland, lower montane coniferous forest. Sandy, usually on decomposed granite; sometimes on roadsides. 800–5,610 feet in elevation. Blooms May–August. Annual herb.	*May occur*. Lower montane coniferous forest and decomposed granite habitat potentially suitable for this species is present within the treatment area.
Mosquin's clarkia *Clarkia mosquinii*	–	–	1B.1	Cismonte woodland, lower montane coniferous forest. Usually on steep, rocky cutbanks and slopes. Roadsides. 605–4,005 feet in elevation. Blooms May–July. Annual herb.	*May occur.* This species was documented 3 miles northeast of Brownsville outside of but near the treatment area in Plumas National Forest (CNDDB). Lower montane coniferous forest and steep rocky slope habitat potentially suitable for this species are present within the treatment area.
Recurved larkspur *Delphinium recurvatum*	–	–	1B.2	Poorly drained, fine, alkaline soils in grassland; often in valley saltbush or valley chenopod scrub. 10–2,595 feet in elevation. Blooms March–June. Perennial herb.	*May occur.* This species was documented around what is now Yuba City in 1900 in Yuba/Sutter Counties, though now assumed extirpated from this location (CNDDB 2021). This occurrence is outside of the treatment area. Grasslands with alkaline soils potentially suitable for this species are present within Yuba County and may be present in the treatment area.
Dwarf downingia *Downingia pusilla*	–	–	2B.2	Vernal lake and pool margins with a variety of associates. In several types of vernal pools. 3–1,610 feet in elevation. Blooms March–May. Annual herb.	*May occur.* This species has two documented occurrences in Yuba County, one east of Marysville at Beale Air Force Base and one 2.5 miles southwest of Browns Valley, the second of which is within the treatment area (CNDDB 2021). Vernal pool habitat potentially suitable for this species is present within the treatment area.
Clifton's eremogone *Eremogone cliftonii*	–	–	1B.3	Lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest, chaparral. Openings; granitic substrates. 1,460–5,810 feet in elevation. Blooms April–September. Perennial herb.	*May occur*. Lower montane coniferous forest habitat with granite substrate potentially suitable for this species is present within the treatment area.
Plumas rayless daisy *Erigeron lassenianus* var. *deficiens*	–	–	1B.3	Gravelly, open sites. Sometimes on serpentine; sometimes on disturbed sites. 4,445–6,515 feet in elevation. Blooms June–September. Perennial herb.	*May occur*. Gravelly and serpentine soil habitat potentially suitable for this species is present within the treatment area.

Species	Listing Status[1]	Listing Status[1]	Listing Status[1]	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence
	Federal	State	CRPR		
Ahart's buckwheat *Eriogonum umbellatum* var. *ahartii*	–	–	1B.2	Cismontane woodland, chaparral. Serpentinite. On slopes, in openings. 900–4,860 feet in elevation. Blooms June–September. Perennial herb.	*May occur.* This species has six documented occurrences in Yuba County, all northeast of Brownsville (CNDDB 2021). Four occurrences are outside of the treatment area in Plumas National Forest, and two are partially in the treatment area. Serpentinite habitat potentially suitable for this species is present within the treatment area.
Fern-leaved monkeyflower *Erythranthe filicifolia*	–	–	1B.2	Usually slow-draining, ephemeral seeps among exfoliating granitic slabs. 1,360–5,610 feet in elevation. Blooms April–June. Annual herb.	*May occur*. Ephemeral seep among granite habitat potentially suitable for this species is present within the treatment area.
Minute pocket moss *Fissidens pauperculus*	–	–	1B.2	Moss growing on damp soil. In dry streambeds and stream banks. 30–3,360 feet in elevation.	*May occur.* This species has three documented occurrences in Yuba County, two west of New Bullards Bar Reservoir and one 8 miles northeast of Challenge on the Yuba/Butte County line (CNDDB 2021). All occurrences are in Plumas National Forest outside of, but near, the treatment area. Stream habitat potentially suitable for this species is present within the treatment area.
Caribou coffeeberry *Frangula purshiana* ssp. *ultramafica*	–	–	1B.2	Lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest, chaparral, meadows and seeps. On serpentine. 2,375–6,005 feet in elevation. Blooms May–July. Perennial deciduous shrub.	*May occur*. Chaparral and forest habitat with serpentine soils potentially suitable for this species is present within the treatment area.
Pine Hill flannelbush *Fremontodendron decumbens*	FE	SR	1B.2	Rocky ridges; gabbro or serpentine endemic; often among rocks and boulders. 1,390–2,510 feet in elevation. Blooms April–July. Perennial evergreen shrub.	*May occur.* This species has two known occurrences in Yuba County, one 1.4 miles southwest of Brownsville and one about 1 mile east of Dobbins within the treatment area (CNDDB 2021). Gabbro and serpentine habitat potentially suitable for this species is present within the treatment area.
Ahart's dwarf rush *Juncus leiospermus* var. *ahartii*	–	–	1B.2	Restricted to the edges of vernal pools in grassland. 95–330 feet in elevation. Blooms March–May. Annual herb.	*May occur.* This species was documented in 1998 in Yuba County 6.3 miles northwest of Browns Valley, within the treatment area (CNDDB 2021). Vernal pool habitat potentially suitable for this species is present within the treatment area.
Legenere *Legenere limosa*	–	–	1B.1	In beds of vernal pools. 3–2,890 feet in elevation. Blooms April–June. Annual herb.	*May occur.* This species has three documented occurrences in Yuba County all located in the northwest corner of Beal Air Force Base just outside the treatment area (CNDDB 2021). Vernal pool habitat potentially suitable for this species is present within the treatment area.
Cantelow's lewisia *Lewisia cantelovii*	–	–	1B.2	Mesic rock outcrops and wet cliffs, usually in moss or clubmoss; on granitics or sometimes on serpentine. 1,080–4,495 feet in elevation. Blooms May–October. Perennial herb.	*May occur.* This species was documented in 2012 in Yuba County near Canyon Creek on the Yuba/Sierra County line, 1.7 miles southwest of Brandy City and outside of the treatment area in Plumas National Forest (CNDDB 2021). Granitics and serpentine habitat suitable for this species is present within the treatment area.

Species	Listing Status[1]	Listing Status[1]	Listing Status[1]	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence
	Federal	State	CRPR		
Inundated bog-clubmoss *Lycopodiella inundata*	–	–	2B.2	Peat bogs, muddy depressions, pond margins. 150–4,020 feet in elevation. Blooms June–September. Perennial rhizomatous herb.	*May occur*. Mesic habitat suitable for this species is present in the treatment area.
Veiny monardella *Monardella venosa*	–	–	1B.1	In heavy clay; mostly with grassland associates. Rediscovered in 1992. 95–1,330 feet in elevation. Blooms May–July. Annual herb.	*May occur.* This species was documented in 1854 in Yuba and Sutter Counties on the plain of the Feather River near Marysville (outside of the treatment area). These occurrences are now thought to be possibly extirpated from this location (CNDDB 2021). Heavy clay grassland habitat potentially suitable for this species is present within Yuba County and may be present within the treatment area
Layne's ragwort *Packera layneae*	FT	SR	1B.2	Ultramafic soil (serpentine or gabbro); occasionally along streams. 655–3,560 feet in elevation. Blooms April–August. Perennial herb.	*May occur.* This species has two documented occurrences in Yuba County located 1- and 1.5-mile(s) southeast of Brownsville in the treatment area (CNDDB 2021). Streamside gabbro and serpentine habitat suitable for this species is present within the treatment area.
Sierra blue grass *Poa sierrae*	–	–	1B.3	Shady, moist, rocky slopes. Often in canyons. 1,195–4,925 feet in elevation. Blooms April–July. Perennial rhizomatous herb.	*May occur*. Mesic, shady, canyon habitat suitable for this species is present within the treatment area.
Flexuose threadmoss *Pohlia flexuosa*	–	–	2B.1	Lower montane coniferous forest. Roadsides, rocky seeps. 3,115–3,365 feet in elevation.	*May occur.* This species was documented in 2007 in Yuba County approximately two miles east of Strawberry Valley, outside the treatment area in Plumas National Forest (CNDDB 2021). This is the only documented occurrence in California (CNDDB 2021). Roadside and rocky seep habitat potentially suitable for this species is present within the treatment area.
Sticky pyrrocoma *Pyrrocoma lucida*	–	–	1B.2	Alkaline clay flats, sagebrush scrub, open forest. 2,490–6,860 feet in elevation. Blooms July–October. Perennial herb.	*May occur.* This species was documented in 1935 in Yuba County near Camptonville (CNDDB 2021). Alkaline soil habitat potentially suitable for this species is present within Yuba County and may be present in the treatment area.
Brownish beaked-rush *Rhynchospora capitellata*	–	–	2B.2	Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps, upper montane coniferous forest. Mesic sites. 145–5,610 feet in elevation. Blooms July–August. Perennial herb.	*May occur.* This species has two documented occurrences in Yuba County located 1.6 miles east of Clipper Mills and 2.8 miles south of Greenville, both outside of the treatment area (CNDDB 2021). Mesic coniferous habitat suitable for this species is present within the treatment area.
Sanford's arrowhead *Sagittaria sanfordii*	–	–	1B.2	In standing or slow-moving freshwater ponds, marshes, and ditches. 0–2,135 feet in elevation. Blooms May–October. Perennial rhizomatous herb.	*May occur.* This species was documented in 1955 in Yuba County approximately 3 miles northwest of the Rio Oso and outside of the treatment area (CNDDB 2021). Freshwater pond, marsh, and ditch habitat suitable for this species is present in the treatment area.

Species	Listing Status[1] Federal	Listing Status[1] State	Listing Status[1] CRPR	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence
Cylindrical trichodon *Trichodon cylindricus*	–	–	2B.2	Moss growing in openings on sandy or clay soils on roadsides, stream banks, trails or in fields. 160–4,920 feet in elevation.	*May occur*. Open sandy or clay soil habitat suitable for this species is present within the treatment area.
Brazilian watermeal *Wolffia brasiliensis*	–	–	2B.3	Shallow freshwater marshes. 65–330 feet in elevation. Blooms April–December. Perennial herb (aquatic).	*May occur*. This species was documented in 2002 in Yuba County approximately 2 miles south of Waldo Junction outside of the treatment area (CNDDB 2021). Freshwater marsh habitat suitable for this species is present within the treatment area.
Special-Status Wildlife					
California red-legged frog *Rana draytonii*	FT	SSC	–	Lowlands and foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation. Requires 11-20 weeks of permanent water for larval development. Must have access to estivation habitat.	*May occur*. There is one known occurrence of California red-legged frog in Yuba County, near Little Oregon Creek west of New Bullards Bar Reservoir (CNDDB 2021). Aquatic habitat, including perennial streams with deep pools, stock ponds, seeps, and wetlands throughout Yuba County may provide habitat suitable for this species.
Coast horned lizard *Phrynosoma blainvillii*	–	SSC	–	Frequents a wide variety of habitats, most common in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes. Open areas for sunning, bushes for cover, patches of loose soil for burial, and abundant supply of ants and other insects.	*May occur*. The range of coast horned lizard includes the portion of Yuba County west of New Bullards Bar Reservoir. Shrub and oak woodland habitat in the County may provide habitat suitable for this species.
Foothill yellow-legged frog *Rana boylii*	–	ST SSC	–	Partly-shaded, shallow streams and riffles with a rocky substrate in a variety of habitats. Need at least some cobble-sized substrate for egg-laying. Need at least 15 weeks to attain metamorphosis.	*May occur*. There are many documented occurrences of foothill yellow-legged frog throughout Yuba County including within the Yuba River, South Honcutt Creek, Dry Creek, Indian Creek, Little Oregon Creek, Brandy Creek, Willow Creek, Grizzly Creek, Oregon Creek, Moonshine Creek, and Yellowjacket Creek (CNDDB 2021). Perennial streams (i.e., Class I streams, Class II streams) in the County may provide habitat suitable for this species.
Giant gartersnake *Thamnophis gigas*	FT	ST	–	Prefers freshwater marsh and low gradient streams. Has adapted to drainage canals and irrigation ditches. This is the most aquatic of the garter snakes in California.	*May occur*. There are two documented occurrences of giant gartersnake in Yuba County: one within marsh habitat approximately 4 miles southwest of Loma Rica and one near the Feather River approximately 0.3 mile south of the Plumas Lake community in southwestern Yuba County (CNDDB 2021). Lowland areas (i.e., less than 300 ft in elevation) in Yuba County with freshwater marsh, wetlands, drainage canals, or irrigation ditches may provide habitat suitable for this species.

Species	Listing Status[1] Federal	Listing Status[1] State	Listing Status[1] CRPR	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence
Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog *Rana sierrae*	FE	ST	–	Lakes, ponds, marshes, meadows, and streams at high elevations (i.e., approximately 3,500–12,000 ft). Almost always encountered within a few feet of water. Tadpoles may require 2 to 4 years to complete their aquatic development.	*May occur*. There is one documented occurrence of Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog within Gold Run Creek in the extreme northeastern portion of the County (CNDDB 2021). The range of this species includes the portion of Yuba County east and northeast of New Bullards Bar Reservoir and aquatic habitats (i.e., lakes, ponds, marshes, meadows, streams) above approximately 3,500 ft in elevation may provide habitat suitable for this species.
Southern long-toed salamander *Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum*	–	SSC	–	High elevation meadows and lakes in the Sierra Nevada, Cascade, and Klamath mountains. Aquatic larvae occur in ponds and lakes. Outside of breeding season adults are terrestrial and associated with underground burrows of mammals and moist areas under logs and rocks.	*May occur*. There is one documented occurrence of southern long-toed salamander within Slate Creek in the extreme northeast portion of the County (CNDDB 2021). The range of this species includes the portion of Yuba County northeast of New Bullards Bar Reservoir and aquatic habitats (i.e., meadows, lakes, ponds, streams) within high elevation (i.e., greater than 3,500 ft) portions of northeastern Yuba County may provide habitat suitable for this species.
Western pond turtle *Actinemys marmorata*	–	SSC	–	Aquatic turtle of ponds, marshes, rivers, streams and irrigation ditches, usually with aquatic vegetation, below 6,000 feet elevation. Need basking sites and suitable (sandy banks or grassy open fields) upland habitat up to 0.5 km from water for egg-laying.	*May occur*. There are several documented occurrences of western pond turtle in Yuba County, including within Dry Creek, Best Slough, and the Yuba River (CNDDB 2021). Aquatic habitat throughout Yuba County, including streams, ponds, lakes, and irrigation ditches, may provide habitat suitable for this species.
Western spadefoot *Spea hammondii*	–	SSC	–	Occurs primarily in grassland habitats, but can be found in valley-foothill hardwood woodlands. Breeding and egg laying occur in shallow, temporary pools formed by heavy winter rains (e.g., vernal pools, seasonal wetlands, tire ruts).	*May occur*. The range of western spadefoot includes low elevation (i.e., less than 1,000 feet) in Yuba County. Low elevation grassland and oak woodland habitat in Yuba County that contains vernal pools or wetlands may provide habitat suitable for this species.
Bald eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	FD	SE FP	–	Ocean shore, lake margins, and rivers for both nesting and wintering. Most nests are within 1 mile of water. Nests in large, old-growth, or dominant live tree with open branches, especially ponderosa pine. Roosts communally in winter.	*May occur*. Nesting bald eagles have been documented near New Bullards Bar Reservoir and Collins Lake (CNDDB 2021). Bald eagles may nest near these lakes or near other large waterbodies in or directly adjacent to Yuba County, including Lake Mildred, Yuba River, Camp Far West Reservoir, or Sly Creek Reservoir.
Bank swallow *Riparia riparia*	–	ST	–	Colonial nester; nests primarily in riparian and other lowland habitats west of the desert. Requires vertical banks/cliffs with fine-textured/sandy soils near streams, rivers, lakes, ocean to dig nesting hole.	*May occur*. Bank swallow colonies have been documented along the Feather River on the border of Yuba County and Sutter County (CNDDB 2021). Some stretches of the Yuba River may provide bank habitat suitable for this species.

Species	Listing Status[1]	Listing Status[1]	Listing Status[1]	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence
	Federal	State	CRPR		
Burrowing owl *Athene cunicularia*	–	SSC	–	Open, dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation. Subterranean nester, dependent upon burrowing mammals, most notably, the California ground squirrel.	*May occur*. There is one documented occurrence of a nesting burrowing owl in Yuba County near Beale Air Force Base (CNDDB 2021). The year-round range of this species includes lowland areas (i.e., less than approximately 300 ft in elevation) of Yuba County and the winter range of the species includes portions of the county west of Dobbins. Grassland habitat within these portions of the County may provide nesting or wintering habitat suitable for burrowing owls.
California black rail *Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus*	–	ST FP	–	Inhabits freshwater marshes, wet meadows, and shallow margins of saltwater marshes bordering larger bays. Needs water depths of about 1 inch that do not fluctuate during the year and dense vegetation for nesting habitat.	*May occur*. There are many documented occurrences of black rail in Yuba County, all of which are located in lower elevation areas of the County west and south of Collins Lake (CNDDB 2021). Marsh habitat in the western portion of Yuba County may provide habitat suitable for this species.
California spotted owl *Strix occidentalis occidentalis*	–	SSC	–	Mixed conifer forest, often with an understory of black oaks and other deciduous hardwoods. Canopy closure greater than 40 percent. Most often found in deep-shaded canyons, on north-facing slopes, and within approximately 1,000 feet of water.	*May occur*. There are many documented occurrences of nesting California spotted owls in Yuba County, largely concentrated east of Dobbins and Brownsville in the eastern half of the County (CNDDB 2021). Habitat suitable for spotted owls (i.e., forests with canopy closure greater than 40 percent) is present sporadically throughout the eastern half of the County.
Grasshopper sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum*	–	SSC	–	Dense grasslands on rolling hills, lowland plains, in valleys and on hillsides on lower mountain slopes. Favors native grasslands with a mix of grasses, forbs and scattered shrubs. Loosely colonial when nesting.	*May occur*. The documented grasshopper sparrow range includes the western portion of Yuba County, west of Dobbins. Grassland habitat in the western portion of the County may provide habitat suitable for this species.
Great gray owl *Strix nebulosa*	–	SE	–	Resident of mixed conifer or red fir forest habitat, in or on edge of meadows. Requires large diameter snags in a forest with high canopy closure, which provide a cool sub-canopy microclimate.	*May occur*. There is one documented occurrence of great gray owl in Yuba County, approximately 3.8 miles east of New Bullards Bar Reservoir on private timberland (CNDDB 2021). The range of great gray owl includes the eastern half of the County, east of Dobbins and including Brownsville (i.e., areas greater than approximately 1,500 ft in elevation). Forest habitat with large diameter snags throughout the eastern portion of the County may provide habitat suitable for great gray owl.
Loggerhead shrike *Lanius ludovicianus*	–	SSC	–	Broken woodlands, savannah, pinyon-juniper, Joshua tree, and riparian woodlands, desert oases, scrub and washes. Prefers open country for hunting, with perches for scanning, and fairly dense shrubs and brush for nesting.	*May occur*. There are no documented occurrences of nesting loggerhead shrikes in Yuba County; however, nesting habitat suitable for this species is present in the treatment area within woodlands and shrub habitats.

Species	Listing Status[1] Federal	Listing Status[1] State	Listing Status[1] CRPR	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence
Long-eared owl *Asio otus*	–	SSC	–	Riparian bottomlands grown to tall willows and cottonwoods; also, belts of live oak paralleling stream courses. Require adjacent open land productive of mice and the presence of old nests of crows, hawks, or magpies for breeding.	*May occur*. The breeding range of long-eared owl includes the portions of Yuba County greater than approximately 150 feet in elevation (i.e., east of Beale Air Force Base, including Browns Valley). Riparian habitat and oak woodlands adjacent to streams in the County may provide nesting habitat suitable for long-eared owl.
Northern goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*	–	SSC	–	Within, and in vicinity of, coniferous forest. Uses old nests, and maintains alternate sites. Usually nests on north slopes, near water. Red fir, lodgepole pine, Jeffrey pine, and aspens are typical nest trees.	*May occur*. There are no documented occurrences of nesting northern goshawks in Yuba County; however, there are several in Butte and Nevada Counties near the Yuba County border (CNDDB 2021). The range of northern goshawk includes the eastern portion of Yuba County, east of Oregon House, and forest habitat in this portion of the County may provide habitat suitable for this species.
Northern harrier *Circus cyaneus*	–	SSC	–	Coastal salt and fresh-water marsh. Nest and forage in grasslands, from salt grass in desert sink to mountain cienagas. Nests on ground in shrubby vegetation, usually at marsh edge; nest built of a large mound of sticks in wet areas.	*May occur*. There are several documented occurrences of nesting northern goshawks on Beale Air Force Base (CNDDB 2021). The year-round range of this species includes lowland areas (i.e., less than approximately 300 ft in elevation) of Yuba County and the winter range of the species includes portions of the county west of Dobbins. Marsh and grassland habitat within these portions of the County may provide nesting or wintering habitat suitable for northern harrier.
Song sparrow ("Modesto" population) *Melospiza melodia*	–	SSC	–	Emergent freshwater marshes, riparian willow thickets, riparian forests of valley oak, and vegetated irrigation canals and levees.	*May occur*. The range of song sparrow ("Modesto" population) overlaps western Yuba County (i.e., west of Browns Valley, Beale Air Force Base area, west of Beale Air Force Base). Treatment areas within the western portion of Yuba County that contain riparian habitat may provide nesting habitat suitable for song sparrow ("Modesto" population).
Swainson's hawk *Buteo swainsoni*	–	ST	–	Breeds in grasslands with scattered trees, juniper-sage flats, riparian areas, savannahs, and agricultural or ranch lands with groves or lines of trees. Requires adjacent suitable foraging areas such as grasslands, or alfalfa or grain fields supporting rodent populations.	*May occur*. The Swainson's hawk range overlaps western Yuba County (i.e., west of Browns Valley, Beale Air Force Base area, west of Beale Air Force Base). Treatment areas within the western portion of Yuba County may contain nesting habitat suitable for Swainson's hawk.
Tricolored blackbird *Agelaius tricolor*	–	ST SSC	–	Highly colonial species, most numerous in Central Valley and vicinity. Largely endemic to California. Requires open water, protected nesting substrate, and foraging area with insect prey within a few miles of the colony.	*May occur*. There are several documented occurrences of tricolored blackbird colonies in low elevation portions of Yuba County (i.e., less than approximately 100 ft in elevation) near Loma Rica Rd, the Yuba River, and Beale Air Force Base (CNDDB 2021). The range of tricolored blackbird includes the western portion of the County west of Dobbins. Marsh, riparian, or other habitat suitable for this species (e.g., blackberry brambles) in the western portion of Yuba County may provide nesting habitat suitable for this species.

Species	Listing Status[1]	Listing Status[1]	Listing Status[1]	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence
	Federal	State	CRPR		
White-tailed kite *Elanus leucurus*	–	FP	–	Rolling foothills and valley margins with scattered oaks and river bottomlands or marshes next to deciduous woodland. Open grasslands, meadows, or marshes for foraging close to isolated, dense-topped trees for nesting and perching.	*May occur*. There is one documented white-tailed kite nesting occurrence near the Yuba County Airport west of Olivehurst. The range of white-tailed kite includes the western portion of the County, west of Dobbins. Woodland and riparian forest habitat in the western portion of Yuba County may provide nesting habitat suitable for white-tailed kite.
Yellow warbler *Setophaga petechia*	–	SSC	–	Riparian plant associations near water. Also nests in montane shrubbery in open conifer forests in Cascades and Sierra Nevada. Frequently found nesting and foraging in willow shrubs and thickets, and in other riparian plants including cottonwoods, sycamores, ash, and alders.	*May occur*. The breeding range of yellow warbler includes the eastern half of Yuba County. Riparian habitat within the treatment area may provide nesting habitat suitable for this species.
Yellow-breasted chat *Icteria virens*	–	SSC	–	Summer resident; inhabits riparian thickets of willow and other brushy tangles near watercourses. Nests in low, dense riparian, consisting of willow, blackberry, wild grape; forages and nests within 10 feet of ground.	*May occur*. The breeding range of yellow-breasted chat includes the eastern half of Yuba County. Riparian habitat within the treatment area may provide nesting habitat suitable for this species.
Chinook salmon - Central Valley spring-run ESU *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* pop. 6	FT	ST	–	Adult numbers depend on pool depth and volume, amount of cover, and proximity to gravel. Federal listing refers to populations spawning in Sacramento River and tributaries.	*May occur*. In Yuba County, Chinook salmon have been documented west of New Bullards Bar Reservoir in the Yuba River, Deer Creek, and Dry Creek (CNDDB 2021). The historic range of Chinook salmon included streams east of New Bullards Bar Reservoir; however, these streams are now anthropogenically blocked.
Steelhead - Central Valley DPS *Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus* pop. 11	FT	–	–	Sacramento/San Joaquin flowing waters. Populations in the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and their tributaries.	*May occur*. In Yuba County, steelhead have been documented in the Yuba and Feather Rivers, west of New Bullards Bar Reservoir (CNDDB 2021). The historic range of steelhead included streams east of New Bullards Bar Reservoir; however, these streams are now anthropogenically blocked.
Conservancy fairy shrimp *Branchinecta conservatio*	FE	–	–	Endemic to the grasslands of the northern two-thirds of the Central Valley; found in large, turbid pools. Inhabit astatic pools located in swales formed by old, braided alluvium; filled by winter/spring rains, last until June.	*May occur*. The current range of conservancy fairy shrimp overlaps with Yuba County, and is generally limited to areas west of Browns Valley and in areas including and surrounding Beale Air Force Base (south of SR-20). Grassland and oak savanna habitats that contain vernal pools or seasonal wetlands in the western portion of the treatment area may provide habitat suitable for this species.

Species	Listing Status[1] Federal	Listing Status[1] State	Listing Status[1] CRPR	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle *Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*	FT	–	–	Occurs only in the Central Valley of California, in association with blue elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*). Prefers to lay eggs in elderberries 2–8 inches in diameter; some preference shown for "stressed" elderberries.	*May occur*. There are several documented occurrences of valley elderberry longhorn beetle in Yuba County near the Yuba River, Feather River, and South Honcutt Creek (CNDDB 2021). The current range of valley elderberry longhorn beetle overlaps with Yuba County, and is generally limited to areas west of Dobbins and south of Marysville Road. Treatment areas within this portion of Yuba County that contain blue elderberry shrubs may provide habitat suitable for valley elderberry longhorn beetle.
Vernal pool fairy shrimp *Branchinecta lynchi*	FT	–	–	Endemic to the grasslands of the Central Valley, Central Coast mountains, and South Coast mountains, in astatic rain-filled pools. Inhabit small, clear-water sandstone-depression pools and grassed swale, earth slump, or basalt-flow depression pools.	*May occur*. There are many documented occurrences of vernal pool fairy shrimp in Yuba County in the vicinity of Beale Air Force Base (CNDDB 2021). The current range of vernal pool fairy shrimp overlaps with Yuba County, and is generally limited to areas west of Dobbins and Brownsville. Grassland and oak savanna habitats that contain vernal pools or seasonal wetlands in the western portion of the treatment area may provide habitat suitable for this species.
Vernal pool tadpole shrimp *Lepidurus packardi*	FE	–	–	Inhabits vernal pools and swales in the Sacramento Valley containing clear to highly turbid water. Pools commonly found in grass bottomed swales of unplowed grasslands. Some pools are mud-bottomed and highly turbid.	*May occur*. There are many documented occurrences of vernal pool tadpole shrimp in Yuba County in the vicinity of Beale Air Force Base (CNDDB 2021). The current range of vernal pool tadpole shrimp overlaps with Yuba County, and is generally limited to areas west of Marysville Road (north of SR-20) and in areas including and surrounding Beale Air Force Base (south of SR-20). Grassland and oak savanna habitats that contain vernal pools or seasonal wetlands in the western portion of the treatment area may provide habitat suitable for this species.
American badger *Taxidea taxus*	–	SSC	–	Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable soils. Needs sufficient food, friable soils and open, uncultivated ground. Preys on burrowing rodents. Digs burrows.	*May occur*. The range of American badger includes all of Yuba County. Grassland habitat and open woodlands throughout the County may provide habitat suitable for this species.
Pallid bat *Antrozous pallidus*	–	SSC	–	Deserts, grasslands, shrublands, woodlands and forests. Most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting. Roosts must protect bats from high temperatures. Very sensitive to disturbance of roosting sites.	*May occur*. The range of pallid bat includes all of Yuba County. Large trees in woodlands, forests, or rural residential areas or rocky areas within the County may provide roosting habitat suitable for pallid bats.
Ringtail *Bassariscus astutus*	–	FP	–	Riparian habitats, forest habitats, and shrub habitats in lower to middle elevations.	*May occur*. The range of ringtail includes all of Yuba County. Riparian, forest, woodland, and shrub habitats in the County may provide habitat suitable for ringtail.

Species	Listing Status[1] Federal	Listing Status[1] State	Listing Status[1] CRPR	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence
Sierra Nevada mountain beaver *Aplodontia rufa californica*	–	SSC	–	Dense growth of small deciduous trees and shrubs, wet soil, and abundance of forbs in the Sierra Nevada and east slope. Needs dense understory for food and cover. Burrows into soft soil. Needs abundant supply of water. Primarily occurs in areas greater than 2,700 feet in elevation.	*May occur*. The range of Sierra Nevada mountain beaver overlaps the extreme northeastern portion of Yuba County, east of Strawberry Valley. Dense, shrubby habitat associated with creeks in the eastern portion of the treatment area may provide habitat suitable for Sierra Nevada mountain beaver.
Townsend's big-eared bat *Corynorhinus townsendii*	–	SSC	–	Throughout California in a wide variety of habitats. Most common in mesic sites. Roosts in the open, hanging from walls and ceilings. Roosting sites limiting. Extremely sensitive to human disturbance.	*May occur*. The range of Townsend's big-eared bat includes all of Yuba County. Large trees in woodlands, forests, or rural residential areas or human-made structures (e.g., bridges, barns) within the County may provide roosting habitat suitable for Townsend's big-eared bats.
Western red bat *Lasiurus blossevillii*	–	SSC	–	Roosts primarily in trees, 2–40 feet above ground, from sea level up through mixed conifer forests. Prefers habitat edges and mosaics with trees that are protected from above and open below with open areas for foraging.	*May occur*. There is one documented occurrence of western red bat in Yuba County approximately 5 miles east of Browns Valley (CNDDB 2021). Trees in woodlands, forests, riparian corridors, or orchards within the County may provide roosting habitat suitable for western red bat.

1. Legal Status Definitions:

California Rare Plant Ranks (CRPR):

1B Plant species considered rare or endangered in California and elsewhere (protected under CEQA, but not legally protected under ESA or CESA).
2B Plant species considered rare or endangered in California but more common elsewhere (protected under CEQA, but not legally protected under ESA or CESA).

CRPR Threat Ranks:

0.1 Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened; high degree and immediacy of threat)
0.2 Moderately threatened in California (20-80% occurrences threatened; moderate degree and immediacy of threat)
0.3 Not very threatened in California (less than 20% of occurrences threatened / low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known)

State: FP = Fully Protected (legally protected)
SSC = Species of Special Concern (no formal protection other than CEQA consideration)
SE = State Listed as Endangered (legally protected)
ST = State Listed as Threatened (legally protected)
SR = State Listed as Rare (legally protected by NPPA)

Federal: FE = Federally Listed as Endangered (legally protected)
FT = Federally Listed as Threatened (legally protected)
FD = Federally Delisted

CESA = California Endangered Species Act; CEQA = California Environmental Quality Act; CRPR = California Rare Plant Rank; DPS=distinct population segment; ESA = Endangered Species Act; ESU=evolutionarily significant unit

Sources: CNDDB 2021; CNPS 2021; USFWS 2021

IMPACT BIO-1

Initial vegetation treatments and maintenance treatments could result in direct or indirect adverse effects on the 34 special-status plant species with suitable habitat in the treatment area, as described in the following section. Potential impacts resulting from maintenance activities would be generally the same as those resulting from initial vegetation treatments, because the same treatment activities would occur. However, treatment frequency and intensity can determine whether effects on certain plant species are beneficial or adverse. Initial treatment that reduces

overgrowth, opens the tree canopy to allow more light penetration, or removes invasive competitors can be beneficial for special-status plant populations; however, repeated treatments at too frequent intervals can have adverse effects on those same special-status plants.

Thirteen of the special-status plant species for which habitat potentially suitable is present in the treatment area—Ferris' milk-vetch, upswept moonwort, Mingan moonwort, western goblin, Sierra arching sedge, dwarf downingia, fern-leaved monkeyflower, Ahart's dwarf rush, legenere, inundated bog-clubmoss, brownish beaked-rush, Sanford's arrowhead, and Brazilian watermeal—are typically associated with wet areas (e.g., creeks, streams, ponds, seeps, vernal pools, wetlands, marshes, mesic areas in forest or grassland, bogs). Pursuant to SPR HYD-4, Watercourse and Lake Protection Zones (WLPZs) of 50 to 150 feet adjacent to all Class I and Class II streams and lakes (defined under Forest Practice Rules as a permanent natural body of water of any size, or an artificially impounded body of water having a surface area of at least one acre; CAL FIRE 2020) within the treatment area would be implemented and WLPZs of sufficient size to avoid degradation of downstream beneficial uses of water would be established adjacent to all Class III and Class IV (e.g., drainage canals, irrigation ditches) streams for manual, mechanical, herbicide, and pile burning treatments, which would minimize some adverse effects on these species.

However, there may be additional onsite wetland, spring, and seep habitat suitable for special-status plants outside of a WLPZ as well as ponds smaller than one acre (i.e., not considered a lake under Forest Practice Rules). Wetland delineations will be conducted to determine if other wetland, spring, and seep habitats are present within a treatment area, and where aquatic habitats are delineated, no-disturbance buffers of at least 25 feet will be implemented (refer to Impact BIO-4 below). Although these measures would avoid and minimize some adverse effects on special-status plants typically associated with wet areas, all habitat potentially suitable for these 13 species cannot be avoided and existing WLPZs and protective buffers would not fully prevent impacts on the species. Additionally, several of the special-status plant species with potential to occur in the treatment area are associated with disturbed habitats and roadsides, including Mildred's clarkia, Mosquin's clarkia, and Plumas rayless daisy. As a result, SPR BIO-7 would be implemented.

SPR BIO-7 would apply to all treatment activities, including maintenance treatments, and protocol-level surveys for special-status plants would be conducted pursuant to *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities* (CDFW 2018a) prior to implementation of mechanical, manual, pile burning, and herbicide treatments.

Pursuant to SPR BIO-7, surveys would not be required for special-status plants not listed under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) or the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), if the target special-status plant species is an herbaceous annual species, stump-sprouting species, or geophyte species (e.g., perennial rhizomatous herbs), and the treatment is carried out during the dormant season for that species or when the species has completed its annual life cycle provided the treatment would not alter habitat in a way that would make it unsuitable for the special-status plants to reestablish following treatment, or destroy seeds, stumps, or roots, rhizomes, bulbs and other underground parts of special-status plants. Sixteen of the 34 special-status plant species that may occur within the treatment area are herbaceous annual species or geophytes, as indicated in Table 4.5-2. Impacts on these species would be avoided by implementing non-ground-disturbing treatment activities (e.g., manual treatment activities) during the dormant season (i.e., when the plant has no aboveground parts), which would generally occur during the winter. Ground-disturbing treatment activities (i.e., mechanical treatments) and pile burning may result in impacts on these plant species even when dormant, and would not be conducted without prior implementation of SPR BIO-7. If non-ground-disturbing treatments cannot be completed in the dormant season and would be implemented during the growing period of these annual and geophyte species, protocol surveys (per SPR BIO-7) and avoidance of any identified plants (per Mitigation Measures BIO-1a and BIO-1b) must be implemented, as described below. The remaining 18 of the total 34 special-status plant species that have potential to occur within the treatment area are perennial species, which could not be avoided in the same manner as herbaceous annual species or geophytes; therefore, protocol-level surveys under SPR BIO-7 would be necessary to identify and avoid these species prior to implementing treatment activities.

Where protocol-level surveys are required (per SPR BIO-7) and special-status plants are identified during these surveys, Mitigation Measures BIO-1a and BIO-1b would be implemented to avoid loss of identified special-status

plants. Per Mitigation Measures BIO-1a and BIO-1b, if special-status plants are identified during protocol-level surveys, a no-disturbance buffer of at least 50 feet would be established around the area occupied by the species within which mechanical and manual treatments, pile burning, and herbicide application, would not occur unless a qualified RPF or biologist determines, based on substantial evidence, that the species would benefit from treatment in the occupied habitat area. In the case of plants listed pursuant to CESA or ESA, the determination of beneficial effects would need to be made in consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and/or USFWS. If treatments are determined to be beneficial and would be implemented in areas occupied by special-status plants, under the specific conditions described under BIO-1a and BIO-1b, additional impact minimization and avoidance measures or design alternatives to reduce impacts would be identified. An evaluation of the appropriate treatment design and frequency to maintain habitat function for special-status plants will be carried out by a qualified RPF or botanist. Therefore, habitat function for special-status plants would be maintained because treatment activities and maintenance treatments would be designed to ensure that treatments, including follow-up maintenance, retain habitat conditions suitable for the special-status plant species present such that these plants persist.

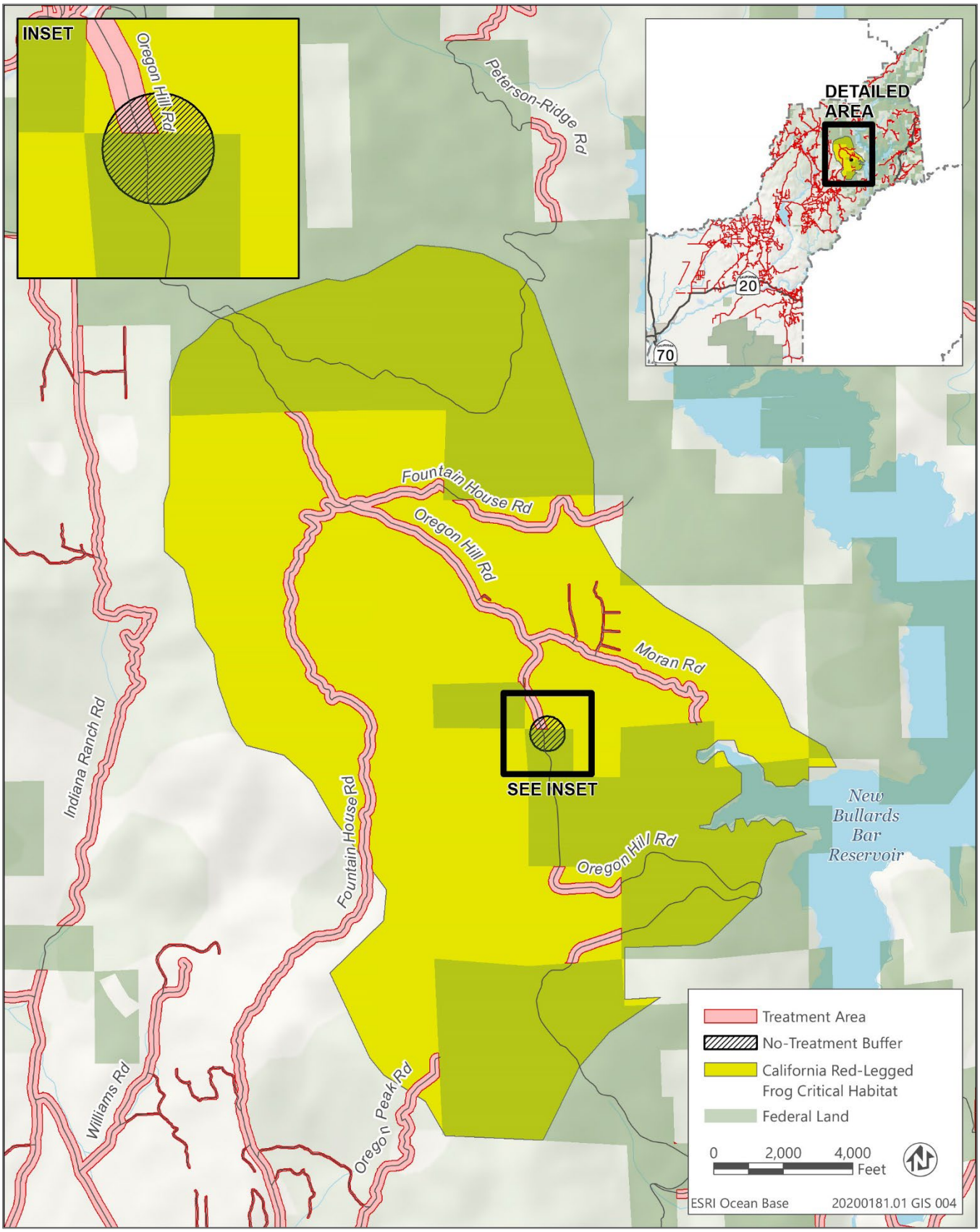
The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on special-status plants was examined in the PEIR. This impact on special-status plants is within the scope of the PEIR, because, within the boundary of the project area, general habitat characteristics are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape (e.g., no resource is affected on land outside the treatable landscape that would not also be similarly affected within the treatable landscape), and the treatment activities and intensity of disturbance as a result of implementing treatment activities are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the potential impact on special-status plants is also the same, as described above. Biological resource SPRs that apply to project impacts under Impact BIO-1 are SPRs BIO-1, SPR BIO-2, SPR BIO-7, SPR BIO-9, SPR GEO-1, SPR GEO-3, SPR GEO-4, SPR GEO-5, SPR GEO-7, SPR HYD-4, and SPR HYD-5. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT BIO-2

Initial vegetation treatments and follow-up maintenance treatments could result in direct or indirect adverse effects on special-status wildlife species and habitat suitable for these species within a treatment area, as described in the following sections. Potential impacts resulting from maintenance activities would generally be the same as those resulting from initial vegetation treatments because the same treatment activities would occur.

California Red-Legged Frog

California red-legged frog historically occupied portions of the western slope of the Sierra Nevada from Shasta County south to Tulare County; however, these populations have been fragmented and nearly eliminated (USFWS 2002). There is one documented occurrence of California red-legged frog in the project area, within spring-fed tailings ponds near Little Oregon Creek west of New Bullards Bar Reservoir (CNDDB 2021, Table 4.5-2). This occurrence was last verified in 2003 (CNDDB 2021). Approximately 6,324 acres of critical habitat for the species has been designated by USFWS in the area surrounding the documented occurrence, including portions of Little Oregon Creek, Burnt Bridge Creek, Oregon Hill Road, Moran Road, Peterson Ridge Road, and Fountain House Road (Figure 4.5-1). Because there is only one documented occurrence in Yuba County and because the California red-legged frog population in the Sierra Nevada Foothill region is known to be small and fragmented, it is unlikely that the project area supports a large population of California red-legged frogs. However, while California red-legged frogs have not been documented elsewhere in the project area, surveys have not been conducted throughout much of the area (e.g., within privately-owned land), and aquatic habitat, including perennial streams with deep pools, stock ponds, seeps, and wetlands throughout the treatment area may provide habitat suitable for this species. The potential for initial treatment activities and maintenance treatments to result in adverse effects on California red-legged frogs was examined in the PEIR.



Sources: Data downloaded from CDFW and USFWS in 2021; adapted by Ascent in 2021

Figure 4.5-1 California Red-Legged Frog

Aquatic and Upland Habitat

Studies have demonstrated that California red-legged frogs remain very close to breeding ponds during the nonbreeding season and typically do not move more than a few hundred feet into upland habitats (Bulger et al. 2003; Fellers and Kleeman 2007). Pursuant to SPR HYD-4, a WLPZ of 50 to 150 feet adjacent to all Class I and Class II streams and lakes would be implemented and WLPZs of sufficient size to avoid degradation of downstream beneficial uses of water would be established adjacent to all Class III and Class IV streams (e.g., drainage canals, irrigation ditches). Also pursuant to SPR HYD-4, pile burning will be conducted outside of the WLPZs. Wetland delineations will be conducted to determine if other wetland, spring, and seep habitats are present within a treatment area, and where aquatic habitats are delineated, no-disturbance buffers of at least 25 feet will be implemented (refer to Impact BIO-4 below). However, these measures may not avoid impacts on California red-legged frogs if frogs are present outside of established WLPZs or buffers (e.g., greater than 150 feet from aquatic habitat), are present within ponds smaller than one acre (i.e., not considered a lake under Forest Practice Rules), or if manual treatment activities implemented within the WLPZ resulted in injury or mortality of frogs.

Per SPR BIO-1, no treatment activities would occur adjacent to the documented California red-legged frog occurrence (Figure 4.5-1). Due to the uncertainty of the exact location of this occurrence, a no-disturbance buffer of 500 feet will be established around the reported location of the occurrence to facilitate complete avoidance of frogs within this documented aquatic habitat (Figure 4.5-1). If it is not feasible to meet the objectives of the project and maintain the 500-foot buffer, the project proponent will contact U.S. Forest Service district biologists to obtain more accurate location information, and a qualified RPF or biologist will determine an appropriate no-disturbance buffer (e.g., 300-foot no-disturbance buffer), which will be implemented around the more accurate location.

The targeted use of the herbicides glyphosate, triclopyr, and imazapyr may be used (refer to Section 2.1.2, "Treatment Activities"). These herbicides are subject to the California Red-Legged Frog Injunction (Center for Biological Diversity v. U.S. EPA [2006] Case No. 02-1580-JSW), which limits the use of herbicides within and adjacent to critical habitat areas (EPA 2021). The application of the proposed herbicides is prohibited within 60 feet of California red-legged frog aquatic breeding critical habitat or non-breeding aquatic critical habitat within critical habitat areas for the following uses: localized spot treatments using handheld devices on roadsides and in forests; individual tree removal using cut stump application; and basal bark application to individual plants. Tree injection applications are exempt from the injunction. SPR HAZ-5 and SPR HAZ-6 require safe handling of herbicides (e.g., spill prevention, spill response) and compliance with current regulations for the application of herbicides, including the California Red-Legged Frog Injunction. SPR HYD-5 requires herbicide mixing sites be located away from non-target vegetation and waterways, use of dye in herbicides to avoid inadvertent overspray, restrictions on application in windy conditions, and restrictions on application during precipitation events. As a result, herbicide application (other than tree injection applications) will not occur within 60 feet of designated aquatic critical habitat for California red-legged frog. Designated critical habitat for California red-legged frog includes aquatic and upland habitats. Pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-4, described above, prior to implementing herbicide treatments within this designated critical habitat, the project proponent will delineate the boundaries of aquatic habitat within the critical habitat boundary and will implement a 60-foot buffer within which herbicides subject to the California Red-Legged Frog Injunction will not be applied (not including the 300- to 500-foot buffer established around the documented occurrence, in which no activities would occur).

As noted above, in addition to the area of the documented occurrence, aquatic breeding habitat potentially suitable for California red-legged frog is present in perennial streams with deep pools and stock ponds throughout the treatment area. Aquatic nonbreeding habitat potentially suitable for California red-legged frog is also potentially present (e.g., streams without deep pools, other wetlands). California red-legged frogs have not been documented in other ponds or streams in the treatment area and populations have been fragmented and nearly eliminated from the region (USFWS 2002); as a result, injury or mortality of California red-legged frogs is unlikely to occur as a result of treatments near these suitable habitats outside the documented occurrence. Nonetheless, per SPR BIO-1, protective buffers will be implemented surrounding these habitats prior to commencement of treatment activities to further reduce the likelihood of impacts. To avoid injury or mortality of California red-legged frogs in aquatic habitat during the wet season (i.e., starting with the first frontal rain system depositing a minimum of 0.25 inch of rain after October 15 and ending on April 15), the following measures will be implemented: 1) a 300-foot no-disturbance buffer will be

applied to Class I streams, Class II streams with water, permanent ponds, and wetlands which meet the definition of aquatic breeding habitat suitable for the species as determined by a qualified RPF or biologist; 2) a 30-foot no-disturbance buffer will be applied to Class I streams that do not meet the definition of aquatic breeding habitat suitable for the species as determined by a qualified RPF or biologist, dry Class II streams, and Class III streams; and 3) no mechanical treatments will occur within 75 feet of Class I streams that do not meet the definition of aquatic breeding habitat suitable for the species as determined by a qualified RPF or biologist, and dry Class II streams. During the dry season (i.e., starting April 15 and ending with the first frontal rain system depositing a minimum of 0.25 inch of rain after October 15), a 30-foot no-disturbance buffer will be applied to all Class I, Class II and Class III streams, permanent ponds, and wetlands, which meet the definition of aquatic habitat suitable for California red-legged frog as determined by a qualified RPF or biologist. Further, year-round measures would require all trees to be felled away from habitat suitable for California red-legged frogs, and no pile burning within 300 feet of these aquatic habitats year-round.

If these buffers are determined to be infeasible for certain treatments, then SPR BIO-10 would apply, and protocol-level surveys for California red-legged frog would be conducted by a qualified RPF or biologist pursuant to the *Revised Guidance on Site Assessments and Field Surveys for the California Red-Legged Frog* (USFWS 2005) within aquatic habitat potentially suitable for the species. If California red-legged frogs are not detected within the treatment area during protocol-level surveys, then no mitigation for the species would be required and the buffers would not be required. If California red-legged frogs are identified during focused surveys, then a no-disturbance buffer of at least 300 feet would be implemented as described above for occupied habitat. If California red-legged frogs are detected, all treatment activities will pause, and USFWS will be contacted pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-2a to provide further guidance regarding avoidance measures.

Dispersal and Migration

While California red-legged frogs generally remain close to breeding ponds during the nonbreeding season, adults and juveniles are known to travel through upland habitat (e.g., riparian, woodland, grassland) to move between breeding and nonbreeding sites (e.g., other ponds, deep pools in streams, moist and cool riparian understory, burrows) for access to refugia and foraging habitat, or to disperse to new breeding locations. Movements through upland habitat are typically up to approximately 1.6 kilometers (1 mile) over the course of a wet season (Bulger et al. 2003). During migration, California red-legged frogs may travel long distances from aquatic habitat and typically travel in straight lines irrespective of vegetation types and have been documented to move over 1.7 miles between aquatic habitat sites (Bulger et al. 2003). The distance between the next nearest documented California red-legged frog occurrence and the occurrence near Little Oregon Creek is approximately 14 miles, substantially greater than the typical dispersal distance of the species (CNDDB 2021). It is unlikely that California red-legged frogs would migrate between these two locations. However, there are many additional potential aquatic breeding sites (e.g., ponds, streams) to which frogs from the documented occurrence within the treatment area could disperse.

California red-legged frogs generally make overland movements (i.e., dispersal, migration) during the wet season (i.e., October to May) and these movement are typically made at night (Bulger et al. 2003). Treatment activities would be limited to daytime hours (i.e., 0600–1500, typically). As noted above, it is unlikely that the treatment area supports a large population of California red-legged frogs, and as a result, upland habitat use by the species would likely be concentrated in areas within the typical dispersal distance of the documented occurrence west of New Bullards Bar Reservoir. The USFWS recovery plan for California red-legged frog describes designated critical habitat as aquatic and upland areas where suitable breeding and nonbreeding habitat is interspersed throughout the landscape and is interconnected by unfragmented dispersal habitat (i.e., "primary constituent elements;" USFWS 2002). The designated critical habitat for California red-legged frog is a reasonably suitable proxy for identifying potentially high-quality movement habitat in the treatment area.

Pursuant to SPR GEO-1, mechanical treatments and herbicide application would be suspended if it is raining, soils are saturated, or soils are wet enough to mobilize herbicides or be compacted by mechanical activities. Further, mechanical treatments may not resume until precipitation stops and soils are no longer saturated or very wet. However, these measures may not entirely avoid adverse effects on California red-legged frogs if they are dispersing or migrating in habitat near the documented occurrence (i.e., within suitable habitat in the designated critical habitat).

Per SPR BIO-1, to fully avoid potentially occupied upland habitat, a limited operating period will be implemented during the wet season within the portions of designated critical habitat for California red-legged frog outside of the 500-foot no-disturbance buffer surrounding the documented occurrence (Figure 4.5-1). The wet season starts with the first frontal rain system depositing a minimum of 0.25 inch of rain after October 15 and ends on April 15. During this limited operating period, ground disturbance will not occur, and treatments will be limited to manual treatments.

If this limited operating period is determined to be infeasible for certain treatments, then Mitigation Measure BIO-2a for this species would be implemented. SPR BIO-10 would not apply, because designated critical habitat is assumed to be occupied. Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2a, the project proponent would require biological monitoring by a qualified RPF or biologist for all treatments conducted in designated California red-legged frog critical habitat during the wet season. The qualified RPF or biologist will survey the treatment area prior to all treatment activities and will walk in front of heavy equipment, conducting visual searches for adult California red-legged frogs, to ensure that inadvertent injury or mortality of frogs does not occur. Additional measures recommended by USFWS may be necessary to avoid injury to or mortality of California red-legged frog. If impacts would remain significant under CEQA and the project proponent determines that additional mitigation is necessary to reduce significant impacts, Mitigation Measure BIO-2c would be required, and incidental take permitting under ESA may be required pursuant to consultation with USFWS.

Habitat Function

Habitat function for California red-legged frogs would be maintained because implementation of SPRs, mitigation measures, and protective measures would result in retention of habitat features important to the species. Treatment activities and maintenance treatments would not occur within aquatic habitat; WLPZs of 50-300 feet adjacent to all Class I and Class II streams and lakes would be implemented within which treatments would be limited (e.g., no mechanical treatment, retention of at least 75 percent surface cover); WLPZs of sufficient size to avoid degradation of downstream beneficial uses of water would be established adjacent to all Class III and Class IV (e.g., drainage canals, irrigation ditches) would be implemented; pile burning will be conducted outside of the WLPZs; no-disturbance buffers of at least 25 feet will be implemented surrounding other wetland, spring, and seep habitats; a 300- to 500-foot no-disturbance buffer surrounding the documented occurrence would be implemented; and application of certain herbicides subject to the California Red-Legged Frog Injunction would not be applied within 60 feet of aquatic critical habitat. Additionally, downed woody debris greater than 12 inches in diameter would be retained within the treatment area, with a preference for retaining the largest logs and those with cavities. Chipped and masticated biomass will not exceed 4 inches in depth within California red-legged frog critical habitat or within the 50-300-foot WLPZs; a depth of 4 inches or less would avoid suppression of seed germination in areas where the species may require vegetative cover. Finally, within California red-legged frog critical habitat and within the 50-300-foot WLPZs, removal of understory vegetation will occur in a mosaic pattern, where some herbaceous understory remains such that cover is still available for California red-legged frog, with a minimum retention of 10 percent relative cover per acre.

If Mitigation Measure BIO-2a is required for treatment activities (as described above), the project proponent would contact USFWS to seek technical input on their proposed avoidance measures and their determination that habitat function would be maintained for California red-legged frog. Mitigation Measure BIO-2a requires the project proponent to consult with USFWS for technical input on their proposed measures to avoid injury to or mortality of California red-legged frog and their determination for California red-legged frog habitat function maintenance. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog and Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog

Aquatic habitat potentially suitable for foothill yellow-legged frog and Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog is present within Class I and Class II streams (both species), as well as marshes and ponds (Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog only) in the treatment area. Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog would be limited to areas greater than approximately 3,500 feet in elevation in the eastern portion of the treatment area. Foothill yellow-legged frog is known to occur within upland habitat up to approximately 200 feet away, but typically no more than 50 to 70 feet away, from aquatic

habitat (CDFW 2018b). Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog is a more aquatic species and typically is not found more than 4 feet from aquatic habitat (USFWS 2020).

Pursuant to SPR HYD-4, a WLPZ of 50 to 150 feet adjacent to all Class I and Class II streams and lakes would be implemented. However, these measures may not result in full avoidance of foothill yellow-legged frogs or Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs, if frogs are present within ponds smaller than one acre (i.e., not considered a lake under Forest Practice Rules) or if manual activities implemented within the WLPZ resulted in injury or mortality of frogs. The potential for treatment activities, including maintenance treatments, to result in adverse effects on foothill yellow-legged frog and Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog was examined in the PEIR.

Per SPR BIO-1, to fully avoid habitat potentially suitable for foothill yellow-legged frog and Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, a 200-foot no-disturbance buffer would be implemented prior to commencement of treatment activities by flagging along perennial streams (Class I and Class II) adjacent to the treatment area, as well as ponds and lakes in areas greater than approximately 3,500 feet in elevation in the eastern portion of the treatment area. If the 200-foot no-disturbance buffer is determined to be infeasible for certain treatments, then SPR BIO-10 would apply, and focused visual encounter surveys for foothill yellow-legged frog and Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog would be conducted by a qualified RPF or biologist within suitable habitat areas prior to treatment activities. If foothill yellow-legged frogs or Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs are not detected within the treatment area during focused surveys, then no mitigation for the species would be required. If foothill yellow-legged frogs or Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs are identified during focused surveys, Mitigation Measure BIO-2a for these species would be implemented.

Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2a, the project proponent would require flagging areas for avoidance in which no treatment activities would occur, biological monitoring, and/or other measures recommended by a qualified RPF or biologist as necessary to avoid injury to or mortality of these species. The project proponent may consult with CDFW (for both species) and USFWS (for Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog only) for technical information regarding appropriate measures. If impacts would remain significant under CEQA and the project proponent determines that additional mitigation is necessary to reduce significant impacts, Mitigation Measure BIO-2c would be required, and incidental take permitting under CESA (both species) or ESA (Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog only) may be required pursuant to consultation with CDFW and USFWS, respectively.

Habitat function for foothill yellow-legged frog and Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog would be maintained because treatment activities and maintenance treatments would not occur within aquatic habitat, and pursuant to SPR HYD-4 treatments within stream WLPZs adjacent to the treatment area would be limited (e.g., no mechanical treatment, retention of at least 75 percent surface cover). Additionally, downed woody debris greater than 12 inches in diameter would be retained within the treatment area, with a preference for retaining the largest logs and those with cavities. Chipped and masticated biomass will not exceed 4-6 inches in depth within WLPZs to prevent suppression of seed germination in areas where amphibians may require vegetative cover. Finally, within WLPZs, removal of understory vegetation will occur in a mosaic pattern, where some herbaceous understory remains such that cover is still available for amphibians, with a minimum retention of 10 percent relative cover per acre.

Pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-2a, the project proponent must consult with USFWS and/or CDFW for technical input on their proposed measures to avoid injury to or mortality of foothill yellow-legged frog and Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog and their determination for maintenance of habitat function for these species. Therefore, if Mitigation Measure BIO-2a is required for treatment activities, the project proponent would contact CDFW and USFWS to seek technical input on the determination that habitat function would be maintained for foothill yellow-legged frog and Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

Western Spadefoot

Western spadefoot has potential to occur in low-elevation (i.e., less than approximately 1,000 feet) grassland and oak woodland habitats in the treatment area that contains vernal pools, wetlands, or other temporary pool habitat formed by winter rains (e.g., tire ruts) (Table 4.5-2). One recent study demonstrated that western spadefoot adults may burrow in upland habitat up to approximately 860 feet from breeding ponds (Baumberger et al. 2019).

Wetland delineations will be conducted to determine if seasonal wetland or vernal pool habitats are present within a treatment area, and where aquatic habitats are delineated, no-disturbance buffers of at least 25 feet will be implemented (refer to Impact BIO-4 below). Although these measures would avoid and minimize some adverse effects on western spadefoot toads, 25-foot buffers would not be sufficient to prevent impacts on the species, especially if ground disturbing activities (e.g., mechanical treatments) would occur within 25 feet of vernal pools or seasonal wetlands. The potential for treatment activities and maintenance treatments to result in adverse effects on western spadefoot was examined in the PEIR.

Per SPR BIO-1, if it is determined that adverse effects on western spadefoot can be clearly avoided by physically avoiding the habitat suitable for these species, then no additional measures would be required. However, because western spadefoot may be present relatively large distances (i.e., up to 860 feet) from breeding pools throughout the grassland and oak woodland habitat in low-elevation areas of the treatment area, it is unlikely that all habitat potentially suitable for this species can be avoided. As a result, SPR BIO-10 would apply, and focused surveys for western spadefoot would be conducted by a qualified RPF or biologist within habitat suitable for these species prior to implementation of mechanical, manual, pile burning, and herbicide treatments.

If western spadefoot toads are not detected within the treatment area during focused surveys, then no mitigation for the species would be required. If western spadefoot toads are detected during focused surveys, then Mitigation Measure BIO-2b would be implemented. Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2b, the project proponent would require flagging areas for avoidance, relocation of individual animals by a qualified RPF or biologist with a valid CDFW scientific collecting permit, and/or other measures recommended by a qualified RPF or biologist as necessary to avoid injury to or mortality of this species. The project proponent may consult with CDFW for technical information regarding appropriate measures.

Habitat function for western spadefoot would be maintained because treatment activities and maintenance treatments would not occur within aquatic habitat, and pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-4 (refer to Impact BIO-4 below), impacts on wetlands would be avoided through establishment of no-disturbance buffers. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

Southern Long-Toed Salamander

Southern long-toed salamander has potential to occur in high-elevation (i.e., greater than approximately 3,500 feet) meadows, lakes, ponds, and streams in the treatment area (Table 4.5-2). Adult southern long-toed salamanders can also be found under wood, logs, rocks, bark, or underground in animal burrows near aquatic breeding sites.

Pursuant to SPR HYD-4, a WLPZ of 50 to 150 feet adjacent to all Class I and Class II streams and lakes would be implemented. However, these measures may not result in full avoidance of southern long-toed salamanders if individuals are present further than 150 feet from streams or lakes, or if manual activities implemented within the WLPZ resulted in injury or mortality of salamanders. The potential for treatment activities and maintenance treatments to result in adverse effects on southern long-toed salamander was examined in the PEIR.

Per SPR BIO-1, if it is determined that adverse effects on southern long-toed salamanders can be clearly avoided by physically avoiding the habitat suitable for these species, then no mitigation would be required. However, because southern long-toed salamanders may be present relatively large distances (i.e., greater than 150 feet) from aquatic habitat in the treatment area, and because this distance is not well-defined, it is unlikely that all habitat potentially suitable for the species can be avoided. As a result, SPR BIO-10 would apply, and focused surveys for southern long-toed salamanders would be conducted by a qualified RPF or biologist within habitat suitable for the species prior to implementation of mechanical, manual, pile burning, and herbicide treatments.

If southern long-toed salamanders are not detected within the treatment area during focused surveys, then no mitigation for the species would be required. If the species is detected during focused surveys, then Mitigation Measure BIO-2b would be implemented. Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2b, the project proponent would require flagging areas for avoidance, relocation of individual animals by a qualified RPF or biologist with a valid CDFW scientific collecting permit, and/or other measures recommended by a qualified RPF or biologist as necessary to

avoid injury to or mortality of southern long-toed salamanders. The project proponent may consult with CDFW for technical information regarding appropriate measures.

Habitat function for southern long-toed salamanders would be maintained because treatment activities and maintenance treatments would not occur within aquatic habitat, and treatments within WLPZs adjacent to the treatment area would be limited pursuant to SPR HYD-4 (e.g., no mechanical treatment, retention of at least 75 percent surface cover). Additionally, downed woody debris greater than 12 inches in diameter would be retained within the treatment area, with a preference for retaining the largest logs and those with cavities. Chipped and masticated biomass will not exceed 4-6 inches in depth within WLPZs to prevent suppression of seed germination in areas where amphibians may require vegetative cover. Finally, within WLPZs, removal of understory vegetation will occur in a mosaic pattern, where some herbaceous understory remains such that cover is still available for amphibians, with a minimum retention of 10 percent relative cover per acre. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

Coast Horned Lizard

Coast horned lizard has potential to occur in the western half of the treatment area (i.e., west of New Bullards Bar Reservoir) within shrub habitat (e.g., mixed chaparral, montane chaparral, coastal scrub) or oak woodland habitat. Treatment activities, including manual and mechanical treatments, prescribed burning, and herbicide application would be implemented within these habitat types. Because these habitats would not be avoided through implementation of other measures, adverse effects on coast horned lizard could occur. The potential for treatment activities and maintenance treatments to result in adverse effects on coast horned lizard was examined in the PEIR.

Per SPR BIO-1, if it is determined that adverse effects on coast horned lizard can be clearly avoided by physically avoiding the habitat suitable for these species, then no mitigation would be required. However, because coast horned lizards may be present within several habitats that would be treated, it is unlikely that all habitat potentially suitable for the species can be avoided. As a result, SPR BIO-10 would apply, and focused surveys for coast horned lizard would be conducted by a qualified RPF or biologist within habitat suitable for the species prior to implementation of mechanical, manual, pile burning, and herbicide treatments.

If coast horned lizards are not detected within the treatment area during focused surveys, then no mitigation for the species would be required. If the species is detected during focused surveys, then Mitigation Measure BIO-2b would be implemented. Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2b, the project proponent would require flagging areas for avoidance, relocation of individual animals by a qualified RPF or biologist with a valid CDFW scientific collecting permit, and/or other measures recommended by a qualified RPF or biologist as necessary to avoid injury to or mortality of coast horned lizards. The project proponent may consult with CDFW for technical information regarding appropriate measures.

Habitat function for coast horned lizard would be maintained because under SPR BIO-5, treatments implemented in chaparral will be designed to avoid type conversion of chaparral vegetation (the optimal habitat for this species) and to maintain chaparral habitat function. This will include determining the minimum percent cover of mature native shrubs to maintain habitat function, identifying the appropriate percent cover specific to the vegetation alliances present, and retaining a mix of middle to older aged shrubs to maintain heterogeneity. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

Giant Gartersnake

Giant gartersnake has potential to occur in lowland areas of the treatment area (i.e., less than approximately 300 ft in elevation) that contain freshwater marsh, wetlands, drainage canals, or irrigation ditches (Table 4.5-2). Upland habitat for giant gartersnake generally includes habitat up to 200 feet from occupied aquatic habitat (USFWS 1997).

Pursuant to SPR HYD-4, a WLPZ of 50 to 150 feet adjacent to all Class I and Class II streams and lakes would be implemented, and WLPZs of sufficient size to avoid degradation of downstream beneficial uses of water would be established adjacent to all Class III and Class IV (e.g., drainage canals, irrigation ditches) streams within the treatment

area. Additionally, wetland delineations will be conducted to determine if seasonal wetland or freshwater marsh habitats are present within a treatment area, and where aquatic habitats are delineated, no-disturbance buffers of at least 25 feet will be implemented (refer to Impact BIO-4 below). Although these measures would avoid and minimize some adverse effects on giant gartersnakes, these measures may not result in full avoidance of giant gartersnakes, if snakes are present further than 25 feet of wetland habitat or 150 feet of stream habitat (especially if ground disturbing activities [e.g., mechanical treatments] would occur) or if manual activities implemented within the WLPZ resulted in injury or mortality of snakes. The potential for treatment activities, including maintenance treatments, to result in adverse effects on giant gartersnakes was examined in the PEIR.

Per SPR BIO-1, to fully avoid habitat potentially suitable for giant gartersnakes, a 200-foot no-disturbance buffer would be implemented prior to commencement of treatment activities by flagging along all streams, drainage canals, irrigation ditches, wetlands, and marsh habitat in lowland portions (i.e., less than approximately 300 feet in elevation) of the treatment area. If the no-disturbance buffer is determined to be infeasible, then consultation with CDFW and USFWS would be initiated, as USFWS does not accept presence/absence surveys (e.g., conducted under SPR BIO-10) as proof of absence for giant gartersnake. Through consultation with CDFW and USFWS, Mitigation Measure BIO-2a for giant gartersnake may be required.

Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2a, the project proponent would require flagging areas for avoidance in which no treatment activities would occur, biological monitoring, and/or other measures recommended by CDFW and USFWS as necessary to avoid injury to or mortality of these species. If impacts would remain significant under CEQA and the project proponent determines that additional mitigation is necessary to reduce significant impacts, Mitigation Measure BIO-2c would be required, and incidental take permitting under CESA and ESA may be required pursuant to consultation with CDFW and USFWS, respectively.

Habitat function for giant gartersnake would be maintained because treatment activities and maintenance treatments would not occur within aquatic habitat; pursuant to SPR HYD-4, treatments within stream WLPZs adjacent to the treatment area would be limited (e.g., no mechanical treatment, retention of at least 75 percent surface cover); pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-4 (refer to Impact BIO-4 below), impacts on wetlands would be avoided through establishment of no-disturbance buffers; and all habitat potentially suitable for giant gartersnake would be avoided by a no-disturbance buffer of at least 200 feet.

If avoidance under SPR BIO-1 is infeasible, the project proponent must consult with USFWS and CDFW for technical input on their proposed measures to avoid injury to or mortality of giant gartersnake and their determination for maintenance of habitat function for these species, pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-2a. Therefore, if Mitigation Measure BIO-2a is required for treatment activities, the project proponent would contact CDFW and USFWS to seek technical input on the determination that habitat function would be maintained for giant gartersnake. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

Western Pond Turtle

Aquatic habitat potentially suitable for western pond turtle is present within ponds and streams in and adjacent to the treatment area, and this species could use upland habitat within treatment area in the vicinity of these features. Western pond turtles may be present within upland habitat up to approximately 1,500 feet from water.

Pursuant to SPR HYD-4, a WLPZ of 50 to 150 feet adjacent to all Class I and Class II streams and lakes would be implemented, and WLPZs of sufficient size to avoid degradation of downstream beneficial uses of water would be established adjacent to all Class III and Class IV (e.g., drainage canals, irrigation ditches) streams. However, these measures may not avoid impacts on western pond turtles if turtles are present further than 150 feet from stream or lake habitat, are present within ponds smaller than one acre (i.e., not considered a lake under Forest Practice Rules), or if manual activities implemented within the WLPZ resulted in injury or mortality of turtles. The potential for treatment activities and maintenance treatments to result in adverse effects on western pond turtle was examined in the PEIR.

Per SPR BIO-1, if it is determined that adverse effects on western pond turtles can be clearly avoided by physically avoiding the habitat suitable for these species, then no mitigation would be required. However, because western pond turtles may be present relatively large distances (i.e., up to approximately 1,500 feet) from aquatic habitat in the treatment area, it is unlikely that all habitat potentially suitable for the species can be avoided. As a result, SPR BIO-10 would apply, and focused visual encounter surveys for western pond turtle would be conducted by a qualified RPF or biologist within upland habitat areas suitable for the species prior to ground-disturbing treatment activities (i.e., mechanical treatments) and pile burning. If western pond turtles are identified during focused surveys, Mitigation Measure BIO-2b for this species would be implemented.

Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2b, the project proponent would require flagging areas for avoidance, relocation of individual animals by a qualified RPF or biologist with a valid CDFW scientific collecting permit, and/or other measures recommended by a qualified RPF or biologist as necessary to avoid injury to or mortality of western pond turtles. The project proponent may consult with CDFW for technical information regarding appropriate measures.

Habitat function for western pond turtle would be maintained because treatment activities and maintenance treatments would not occur within aquatic habitat, and pursuant to SPR HYD-4 treatments within stream WLPZs adjacent to the treatment area would be limited (e.g., no mechanical treatment, retention of at least 75 percent surface cover). This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

California Spotted Owl

Most of the treatment area does not contain nesting habitat suitable for California spotted owl, due to the proximity to roads and existing level of disturbance. However, portions of the treatment area include infrequently-traveled private roads surrounded by dense forest that may contain nesting habitat suitable for California spotted owl due to the age and composition of the forest stands. There are many documented occurrences of nesting California spotted owls in Yuba County, largely concentrated east of Dobbins and Brownsville in the eastern half of the County (CNDDB 2021). Habitat suitable for spotted owls (i.e., forests with canopy closure greater than 40 percent) is present sporadically throughout the eastern half of the County. Several private and public roads within the eastern half of the treatment area are located within 0.25 mile of documented California spotted owl nesting occurrences. Up to 0.25 mile is the widely-accepted distance within which the species could be disturbed by noise and human activity (USFS 1993).

Treatment activities are unlikely to result in removal of California spotted owl nesting habitat or direct removal of active nests, because nesting habitat suitable for the species is generally not present within the treatment area. However, treatment activities that include the use of heavy equipment, multiple vehicles, or loud hand tools (e.g., chain saws) could result in disturbance of nesting California spotted owls in adjacent suitable habitat, if these activities occur during the sensitive nesting season (March 1–August 15). The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on special-status birds was examined in the PEIR.

Per SPR BIO-1, if it is determined that adverse effects on habitat suitable for California spotted owl can be clearly avoided by conducting treatments outside of the season of sensitivity (i.e., nesting season), then further mitigation would not be required. Because California spotted owl nesting occurrences are widespread throughout the eastern portion of Yuba County, to determine whether a documented California spotted owl nesting occurrence is present within 0.25 mile of the treatment area under SPR BIO-1, a qualified RPF or biologist will review California spotted owl occurrence data in the CNDDB and the project proponent will contact U.S. Forest Service biologists from Tahoe National Forest or Plumas National Forest, as applicable, to obtain any recent survey and occurrence data for California spotted owl that have not been made publicly available (e.g., in the CNDDB). If present, potential impacts on the nesting occurrence will be avoided by implementing a limited operating period within 0.25 mile of the occurrence during the spotted owl nesting season (March 1–August 15) for mechanical treatments, manual treatments, and pile burning activities. Herbicide application would not result in adverse effects on nesting spotted owls in adjacent suitable habitat because this activity would not involve the use of loud equipment or tools or visual disturbance stimuli (e.g., crews would typically include fewer than 10 people).

If the limited operating period is determined to be infeasible, then SPR BIO-10 would apply, and protocol-level surveys for California spotted owl would be conducted by a qualified RPF or biologist within a 0.25-mile buffer surrounding the

treatment area in habitat suitable for the species prior to implementation of treatment activities. Surveys for California spotted owl will be conducted pursuant to the *Protocol for Surveying for Spotted Owls in Proposed Management Activity Areas and Habitat Conservation Areas* (USFS 1993). If nesting California spotted owls are not identified during protocol-level surveys, then further mitigation for the species would not be required. If nesting California spotted owls are identified during protocol-level surveys, Mitigation Measure BIO-2b would be implemented.

Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2b, a no disturbance buffer of 0.25 mile would be established around active California spotted owl nests and no treatment activities would occur within this buffer. A no-disturbance buffer of 0.25 mile has been established for the species and is larger than the general no-disturbance buffer of 100 feet provided in Mitigation Measure BIO-2b to provide adequate protection such that impacts would be maintained at less than significant, consistent with the PEIR.

Habitat function for California spotted owl would be maintained because treatment activities would not result in removal of trees (i.e., conifers, hardwoods) or snags greater than 12 inches diameter at breast height (DBH), which would be the most likely features to be used by this species due to the cover provided by larger trees.

Special-Status Birds

Sixteen additional special-status bird species may occur within the treatment area: bald eagle, bank swallow, burrowing owl, California black rail, grasshopper sparrow, great gray owl, loggerhead shrike, long-eared owl, northern goshawk, northern harrier, song sparrow ("Modesto" population), Swainson's hawk, tricolored blackbird, white-tailed kite, yellow warbler, and yellow-breasted chat (Table 4.5-2).

Treatment activities, including mechanical treatments, manual treatments, and pile burning conducted during the nesting bird season (February 1–August 31) could result in direct loss of active nests if trees or shrubs containing nests or ground nests are removed or burned. For nests within vegetation that would not be removed, treatment activities including mechanical treatments, manual treatments, pile burning, and herbicide application, could result in disturbance to active nests from auditory and visual stimulus (e.g., heavy equipment, chain saws, vehicles, personnel) potentially resulting in abandonment and loss of eggs or chicks. The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on special-status birds was examined in the PEIR.

Per SPR BIO-1, if it is determined that adverse effects on habitat suitable for nesting special-status birds can be clearly avoided by physically avoiding habitat suitable the species or conducting treatments outside of the season of sensitivity (i.e., nesting bird season), then no mitigation would be required. Adverse effects on nesting special-status birds would be clearly avoided for treatments that would occur outside of the nesting bird season (February 1–August 31).

If conducting some treatments outside of the nesting bird season is determined to be infeasible, then SPR BIO-10 would apply, and focused nesting bird surveys for bald eagle, bank swallow, burrowing owl, California black rail, grasshopper sparrow, great gray owl, loggerhead shrike, long-eared owl, northern goshawk, northern harrier, song sparrow ("Modesto" population), Swainson's hawk, tricolored blackbird, white-tailed kite, yellow warbler, and yellow-breasted chat would be conducted by a qualified RPF or biologist prior to implementation of treatment activities. Established survey protocols will be followed for certain species including but not limited to burrowing owl (CDFW 2012), great gray owl (USFS 2016), northern goshawk (USFS 2006), and Swainson's hawk (Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory Committee 2000). Two special-status bird species, great gray owl and northern goshawk, are associated with mature forest habitats which are most likely to be present within U.S. Forest Service land adjacent to the treatment area. Prior to implementing SPR BIO-10 for these species, the project proponent will contact U.S. Forest Service biologists from Tahoe National Forest or Plumas National Forest, as applicable, to obtain any recent survey and occurrence data for great gray owl and northern goshawk that have not been made publicly available (e.g., in the CNDDB).

If no active bird nests are observed during focused surveys, then additional avoidance measures for these species would not be required. If active special-status bird nests are observed during focused surveys, then Mitigation Measures BIO-2a (for bald eagle, bank swallow, California black rail, great gray owl, Swainson's hawk, tricolored blackbird, and white-tailed kite) and BIO-2b (for burrowing owl, grasshopper sparrow, loggerhead shrike, long-eared owl, northern goshawk, song sparrow ("Modesto" population), yellow warbler, and yellow-breasted chat) would be implemented.

Under Mitigation Measures BIO-2a or BIO-2b, a no-disturbance buffer of at least 0.5 mile would be established around active bald eagle nests; 0.25 mile for Swainson's hawk, white-tailed kite, great gray owl, and northern goshawk nests; 164 feet for burrowing owl; and at least 100 feet around the nests of other special-status birds, and no treatment activities would occur within this buffer until the chicks have fledged as determined by a qualified RPF or biologist. Additionally, trees containing bald eagle nests would not be removed pursuant to the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

Habitat function for special-status birds would be maintained because treatment activities would not result in removal of trees (i.e., conifers, hardwoods) or snags greater than 12 inches DBH, which would be the most likely features to be used by these species due to the cover provided by larger trees. Additionally, treatments within riparian habitat (which provides nesting habitat for several of the special-status bird species that may occur in the treatment area [e.g., song sparrow ("Modesto" population), tricolored blackbird, yellow warbler, yellow-breasted chat]) that is included within a WLPZ would be limited pursuant to SPR HYD-4 (e.g., no mechanical treatment, retention of at least 75 percent surface cover). Pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-2a, this determination for bald eagle, bank swallow, California black rail, great gray owl, Swainson's hawk, tricolored blackbird, and white-tailed kite must be made by the project proponent in consultation with CDFW. Therefore, if Mitigation Measure BIO-2a is required for treatment activities, the project proponent would contact CDFW to seek technical input on the determination that habitat function would be maintained for bald eagle, bank swallow, California black rail, great gray owl, Swainson's hawk, tricolored blackbird, and white-tailed kite. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

Special-Status Fish

Two special-status fish species may occur within the treatment area: Chinook salmon – Central Valley spring-run Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) and steelhead – Central Valley DPS (Table 4.5-2). The potential for treatment activities and maintenance treatments to result in adverse effects on special-status fish and California freshwater shrimp was examined in the PEIR.

Per SPR BIO-1, if it is determined that adverse effects on special-status fish can be clearly avoided by physically avoiding habitat for these species, then mitigation would not be required. Pursuant to SPR HYD-4, a WLPZ of 50 to 150 feet adjacent to all Class I and Class II streams and lakes would be implemented. Adverse effects on special-status fish would be clearly avoided through implementation of these SPRs and further mitigation would not be required.

Habitat function for special-status fish would be maintained because treatment activities and maintenance treatments would not occur within aquatic habitat and treatments within WLPZs adjacent to the treatment area would be limited pursuant to SPR HYD-4 (e.g., no mechanical treatment, retention of at least 75 percent surface cover). This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

Special-Status Vernal Pool Branchiopods

Three special-status vernal pool branchiopods may occur within the western, low-elevation (i.e., west of Marysville Road) portion of the treatment area where vernal pool grasslands are present: Conservancy fairy shrimp, vernal pool fairy shrimp, and vernal pool tadpole shrimp (Table 4.5-2). The potential for treatment activities and maintenance treatments to result in adverse effects on Conservancy fairy shrimp, vernal pool fairy shrimp, and vernal pool tadpole shrimp was examined in the PEIR.

Wetland delineations will be conducted to determine if seasonal wetland or vernal pool habitats are present within a treatment area, and where aquatic habitats are delineated, no-disturbance buffers of at least 25 feet will be implemented (refer to Impact BIO-4 below). Although these measures would avoid and minimize some adverse effects on special-status vernal pool branchiopods, 25-foot buffers would not be sufficient to prevent impacts on these species, especially if ground disturbing activities (e.g., mechanical treatments) would occur.

Per SPR BIO-1, to fully avoid impacts on special-status vernal pool branchiopods, presence of vernal pool branchiopods would be assumed within suitable vernal pool and wetland habitats identified during implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-4 (refer to Impact BIO-4 below), and SPR HYD-4 will be refined for specific application to this project to

include a 250-foot no-disturbance buffer (as recommended by USFWS) around all seasonal wetland and vernal pool habitat in low-elevation, grassland and oak savanna portions of the treatment area. The 250-foot no-disturbance buffer would be implemented prior to commencement of treatment activities and the buffer would be demarcated with flagging or high-visibility fencing.

Habitat function for Conservancy fairy shrimp, vernal pool fairy shrimp, and vernal pool tadpole shrimp would be maintained because treatment activities and maintenance treatments would not occur within aquatic habitat and pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-4 (refer to Impact BIO-4 below), impacts on wetlands would be avoided through establishment of no-disturbance buffers. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle

Valley elderberry longhorn beetle may be present in the western half of the treatment area (i.e., west of Dobbins, south of Marysville Road) in association with blue elderberry shrubs, which is the obligate host plant for this species (Table 4.5-2). Blue elderberry shrubs may be present within riparian habitat as well as chaparral, coastal scrub, grassland, and open woodland (e.g., oak woodlands, oak savanna) habitats. This species is also commonly found along roadsides. Treatment activities, including manual and mechanical treatments, pile burning, and herbicide application could result in removal or damage of blue elderberry shrubs, which could constitute an adverse effect on valley elderberry longhorn beetle. The potential for treatment activities and maintenance treatments to result in adverse effects on valley elderberry longhorn beetle was examined in the PEIR.

SPR BIO-10 would apply, and surveys would be conducted by a qualified RPF or biologist prior to treatment activities to identify any blue elderberry shrubs within or adjacent to (i.e., within 165 feet [50 meters]) the treatment area. If no blue elderberry shrubs are present in the treatment area or within 165 feet of the treatment area, or treatments can be modified to avoid all elderberry shrubs by at least 165 feet, then further mitigation would not be required. If blue elderberry shrubs are present in the treatment area or within 165 feet of the treatment area, and treatments cannot be modified to avoid these shrubs by at least 165 feet, then implementation of SPR BIO-10 would also include protocol-level surveys following the protocol outlined in USFWS *Framework for Assessing Impacts to the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle* (USFWS 2017) to determine whether the blue elderberry shrubs are likely occupied by valley elderberry longhorn beetle (e.g., within riparian, within historic riparian, containing exit holes). Potential occupation of elderberry shrubs by valley elderberry longhorn beetles may also be presumed, in which case, surveys under SPR BIO-10 would not be required. If the blue elderberry shrubs are determined to be likely occupied or presumed to be occupied by valley elderberry longhorn beetle, then Mitigation Measure BIO-2a and BIO-2d for valley elderberry longhorn beetle would be implemented.

Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2a and BIO-2d, if blue elderberry shrubs potentially occupied by valley elderberry longhorn beetles can be avoided by a distance greater than 165 feet, then further mitigation would not be required. For all blue elderberry shrubs within 165 feet of the treatment area, the project proponent would require protective measures for the shrubs, including fencing and flagging a minimum avoidance area of 20 feet from the dripline of all shrubs within 165 feet of the treatment area and biological monitoring by a qualified RPF, biologist, or biological technician during treatment activities.

Habitat function for valley elderberry longhorn beetle would be maintained because treatment activities and maintenance treatments would not result in removal of potentially occupied blue elderberry shrub habitat pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-2d. Pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-2a for species listed under ESA, which includes valley elderberry longhorn beetle, the project proponent must consult with USFWS for technical input on their proposed measures to avoid injury to or mortality of valley elderberry longhorn beetles and their determination for valley elderberry longhorn beetles habitat function maintenance Therefore, if protective measures and biological monitoring under Mitigation Measure BIO-2d are required for treatment activities, presence of valley elderberry longhorn beetles would be assumed, and the project proponent would contact USFWS to seek technical input on the determination that habitat function would be maintained for valley elderberry longhorn beetle and input on their proposed measures to avoid injury to or mortality of this species. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

American Badger

Habitat potentially suitable for American badger is present within grassland and open woodlands in the treatment area. Treatment activities, including mechanical treatments and pile burning could result in direct loss of active dens and potential loss of young. Manual treatments and some herbicide application treatments are not expected to result in adverse effects on American badger dens because these treatments would typically occur within habitats where American badger dens are unlikely to occur (e.g., forest habitat), and because personnel would conduct these activities on foot, and the likelihood of a den being inadvertently crushed or otherwise destroyed would be very low. The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on American badger was examined in the PEIR.

Per SPR BIO-1, if it is determined that adverse effects on American badger can be clearly avoided by conducting treatments outside of the season of sensitivity or physically avoiding habitat for these species, then mitigation would not be required. However, because American badgers may use a den year-round, and because focused surveys for American badgers have not been conducted, implementation of SPR BIO-10 would be required prior to mechanical treatments and pile burning. Under SPR BIO-10, focused surveys would be conducted for American badger dens within habitat suitable for the species (i.e., grasslands, open woodland) by a qualified RPF or biologist. If American badger dens are not detected during focused surveys, then further mitigation for the species would not be required. If American badger dens are detected during focused surveys, Mitigation Measure BIO-2b would be implemented. Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2b, a no-disturbance buffer would be established around the den, the size of which would be determined by the qualified RPF or biologist and no treatment activities would occur within this buffer.

Habitat function for American badger would be maintained because habitat suitable for the species (i.e., grasslands, open woodlands) would be maintained and additional open woodland habitat would likely be restored through thinning and removal of ladder fuels. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

Ringtail

Ringtail is primarily nocturnal, and typically occurs in riparian areas, forests (including stands of various ages), and shrub habitats. Potential denning habitat includes rock outcrops, crevices, snags, large hardwoods, large conifers, and brush. Most of these habitats would be avoided, as live trees larger than 12 inches DBH would not be removed during treatment or maintenance activities and because rocky areas would not be targeted for vegetation treatment; however, brush would be targeted for treatment and would not be avoided through implementation of other measures. The potential for treatment activities, including maintenance treatments, to result in adverse effects on ringtail was examined in the PEIR.

Per SPR BIO-1, if it is determined that adverse effects on ringtail can be clearly avoided by conducting treatments outside of the season of sensitivity (i.e., maternity season), then mitigation would not be required. Outside of the breeding season, resting ringtails would likely flee due to the presence of equipment, vehicles, or personnel, and injury or mortality would not be expected. Manual treatments and herbicide application treatments are not expected to result in adverse effects on ringtail dens because personnel would conduct these activities on foot, and the likelihood of a den being inadvertently crushed or otherwise destroyed would be very low. However, mechanical treatments conducted during the ringtail maternity season (i.e., the period during which young would be present in a den, approximately April 15–June 30) could result in destruction of active dens within brush habitat or disturbance to active dens potentially resulting in abandonment and loss of young, which may not yet be capable of fleeing. Adverse effects on ringtail would be clearly avoided for mechanical treatments that would occur outside of the ringtail maternity season (April 15–June 30) under SPR BIO-1.

If conducting some mechanical treatments outside of the ringtail maternity season is determined to be infeasible for certain treatments, then SPR BIO-10 would apply, and presence of ringtail would be assumed, or focused surveys for ringtail would be conducted within the treatment area prior to implementation of treatment activities. Surveys for ringtail will include the use of trail cameras, track plates, and other non-invasive survey methods to determine whether ringtails are present within the treatment area and would be conducted by a qualified RPF or biologist. If baited trail cameras are used, the qualified professionals should obtain a valid CDFW Scientific Collecting Permit. If ringtails are not detected during focused surveys, then further mitigation for the species would not be required. If

ringtails are detected during focused surveys, then additional surveys would be required to determine whether an active ringtail den is present within the treatment area. If an active den is identified by a qualified RPF or biologist, Mitigation Measure BIO-2a would be implemented. Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2a, a no-disturbance buffer would be established around the den, the size of which would be determined through consultation with CDFW. No treatment activities would occur within this buffer.

If the presence of ringtail within the treatment area is assumed, then implementation of avoidance and minimization measures would be required pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-2a prior to and during implementation of mechanical treatments between April 15 and June 30. Avoidance and minimization measures would include but not be limited to pre-treatment den surveys, daily sweeps of the treatment area, and biological monitoring.

Habitat function for ringtail would be maintained because treatment activities and maintenance treatments would not result in removal of living trees (i.e., conifers, hardwoods) or snags greater than 12 inches DBH, which would be the most likely features to be used by this species due to the cover provided by larger trees, and rocky areas would not be targeted for vegetation treatment. Pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-2a, this determination must be made by the project proponent in consultation with CDFW. Therefore, if Mitigation Measure BIO-2a is required for treatment activities, the project proponent would contact CDFW to seek technical input on the determination that habitat function would be maintained for ringtail and input on their proposed measures to avoid injury to or mortality of this species. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

Sierra Nevada Mountain Beaver

Habitat potentially suitable for Sierra Nevada mountain beaver is only present in the extreme northeastern portion of Yuba County, east of Strawberry Valley (Table 4.5-2). Sierra Nevada mountain beaver is associated with dense, shrubby habitat adjacent to creeks. This species is generally considered to be closely associated with aquatic habitat and is not found far from water.

Pursuant to SPR HYD-4, a WLPZ of 50 to 150 feet adjacent to all Class I and Class II streams and lakes would be implemented, and WLPZs of sufficient size to avoid degradation of downstream beneficial uses of water would be established adjacent to all Class III and Class IV (e.g., drainage canals, irrigation ditches) streams. However, these measures may not avoid impacts on Sierra Nevada mountain beaver, if manual activities implemented within the WLPZ resulted in injury or mortality of mountain beavers. The potential for treatment activities and maintenance treatments to result in adverse effects on Sierra Nevada mountain beaver was examined in the PEIR.

Per SPR BIO-1, if it is determined that adverse effects on Sierra Nevada mountain beaver can be clearly avoided by conducting treatments outside of the season of sensitivity (i.e., maternity season), then mitigation would not be required. Outside of the breeding season, adult Sierra Nevada mountain beavers would likely flee due to the presence of equipment, vehicles, or personnel, and injury or mortality would not be expected. However, treatment activities, including manual and mechanical treatments, pile burning, and herbicide treatments conducted within 200 feet of aquatic habitat suitable for Sierra Nevada mountain beavers (e.g., Class I and Class II streams with dense riparian vegetation and friable soils) during the Sierra Nevada mountain beaver maternity season (i.e., the period during which young would be present in a den, approximately February 1–July 31) could result in destruction of active burrows or disturbance to active burrows potentially resulting in abandonment and loss of young, which may not yet be capable of fleeing. Adverse effects on Sierra Nevada mountain beaver would be clearly avoided for all treatments within 200 feet of aquatic habitat that would occur outside of the maternity season (February 1–July 31) under SPR BIO-1. This limited operating period would only apply to the portion of the treatment area within the range of Sierra Nevada mountain beaver east of Strawberry Valley.

If conducting some treatments within 200 feet of aquatic habitat outside of the Sierra Nevada mountain beaver maternity season is determined to be infeasible for certain treatments, then SPR BIO-10 would apply, and focused surveys (i.e., burrow searches) for Sierra Nevada mountain beavers would be conducted in areas up to 200 feet from aquatic habitat within the treatment area prior to implementation of treatment activities. If Sierra Nevada mountain beaver burrows are not detected during focused surveys, then further mitigation for the species would not be required. If Sierra Nevada mountain beaver burrows are detected during focused surveys, then additional surveys

would be required to determine whether the burrow is active. If an active burrow is identified by a qualified RPF or biologist, Mitigation Measure BIO-2b would be implemented. Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2b, a no-disturbance buffer of at least 250 feet would be established around the burrow, and no treatment activities would occur within this buffer. A no-disturbance buffer of 250 feet is necessary to protect active Sierra Nevada mountain beaver burrows; this buffer size was adjusted to be larger than the general no-disturbance buffer of 100 feet provided in Mitigation Measure BIO-2b in order to provide adequate protection such that impacts would be less than significant under CEQA.

Habitat function for Sierra Nevada mountain beaver would be maintained because pursuant to SPR HYD-4, treatments within stream WLPZs adjacent to the treatment area would be limited (e.g., no mechanical treatment, retention of at least 75 percent surface cover) which would result in retention of habitat suitable for this species. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

Special-Status Bats

Habitat potentially suitable for three special-status bat species—pallid bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, and western red bat—is present within forest habitat, rocky areas, and human-made structures (e.g., barns, bridges) in the treatment area. Per SPR BIO-1, if it is determined that adverse effects on special-status bats can be clearly avoided by conducting treatments outside of the season of sensitivity (i.e., maternity season), then mitigation would not be required. Adverse effects on special-status bat maternity roosts would be clearly avoided by conducting initial and maintenance treatments outside of the bat maternity season (April 1–August 31; Caltrans 2004).

Treatment activities, including mechanical treatments, manual treatments, and pile burning conducted within habitat suitable for bats during the bat maternity season (April 1–August 31) could disturb active bat roosts from auditory and visual stimuli (e.g., heavy equipment, chain saws, vehicles, personnel) or smoke (e.g., pile burning) potentially resulting in abandonment of the roost and loss of young. Herbicide treatments that would occur away from established roads would be limited to ground-based methods, such as using a backpack sprayer or painting herbicide onto cut stems and would be conducted by crews of 1-5 people; thus, these treatments would not be expected to result in substantial disturbance to special-status bat roosts. The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on special-status bats was examined in the PEIR.

If conducting some mechanical or manual treatments, or pile burning would occur during the bat maternity season, then SPR BIO-10 would apply, and focused surveys for these species would be conducted by a qualified RPF or biologist within suitable habitat areas prior to initiation of manual, mechanical, and pile burning treatments. If special-status bat roosts are identified during focused surveys, Mitigation Measure BIO-2b for special-status bats would be implemented.

Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2b, a no-disturbance buffer of 250 feet would be established around active pallid bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, or western red bat roosts and mechanical treatments, manual treatments, and pile burning would not occur within this buffer. A no-disturbance buffer of 250 feet is necessary to protect sensitive roosts in order to provide adequate protection such that impacts would be less than significant under CEQA.

Habitat function for special-status bats would be maintained because treatment activities and maintenance treatments would not result in removal of living trees (i.e., conifers, hardwoods) and snags greater than 12 inches DBH, which would be the most likely features to be used by this species due to the cover provided by larger trees. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

Conclusion

The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on special-status wildlife was examined in the PEIR. This impact on special-status wildlife is within the scope of the PEIR, because, within the boundary of the project area, general habitat characteristics are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape (e.g., no resource is affected on land outside the treatable landscape that would not also be similarly affected within the treatable landscape), and the treatment activities and intensity of disturbance as a result of implementing treatment activities are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside

the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the potential impact on special-status wildlife is also the same, as described above. Biological resource SPRs that apply to project impacts under Impact BIO-2 are SPR BIO-1, SPR BIO-2, SPR BIO-5, SPR BIO-9, SPR BIO-10, SPR GEO-1, and SPR HYD-4. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT BIO-3

Initial vegetation treatments and maintenance treatments could result in direct or indirect adverse effects on sensitive habitats, including designated sensitive natural communities. Potential impacts resulting from maintenance activities would be generally the same as those resulting from initial vegetation treatments because the same treatment activities are proposed; however, retreatment at too great a frequency could result in additional adverse effects. The potential for treatment activities, including maintenance treatments, to result in adverse effects on sensitive habitats was examined in the PEIR.

Based on the vegetation types present in the treatment area and the reconnaissance-level survey conducted pursuant to SPR BIO-1, 40 sensitive natural communities (i.e., natural communities with a rarity rank of S1, S2, or S3) may be present in the treatment area. The sensitive natural communities, the associated rarity rank, and the vegetation type within which the communities may occur are presented in Table 4.5-3, below. In addition, several oak woodland and forest types (i.e., blue oak woodland, blue oak-foothill pine, coastal oak woodland, valley oak woodland), which are sensitive habitats pursuant to the Oak Woodlands Conservation Act and Public Resources Code Section 21083.4, have been mapped in treatment area.

Table 4.5-3 Sensitive Natural Communities Documented or with Potential to Occur in the Treatment Area

Sensitive Natural Community[1]	Rarity Rank[2]	CWHR Type	Occurrence Potential
Forest/Woodland			
Bigleaf Maple Forest	S3	Douglas Fir, Montane Hardwood-Conifer, Montane Hardwood	May Occur
California Bay Forest	S3	Coastal Oak Woodland	May Occur
California Buckeye Grove	S3	Montane Hardwood	May Occur
Douglas Fir – Tanoak Forest	S3	Douglas Fir	May Occur
Incense Cedar Forest	S3	Sierran Mixed Conifer	May Occur
Madrone Forest	S3.2	Coastal Oak Woodland	May Occur
McNab Cypress Woodland	S3	Closed-Cone Pine-Cypress	May Occur
Tanoak Forest	S3.2	Montane Hardwood	May Occur
Valley Oak Woodland	S3	Valley Oak Woodland	Known to Occur
Shrub/Scrub			
Bush Monkeyflower Scrub	S3	Coastal Scrub	May Occur
Oak Gooseberry Thicket	S2	Mixed Chaparral	May Occur
Wright's Buckwheat – Heerman's Buckwheat – Utah Butterfly-Bush Scrub	S3	Coastal Scrub	May Occur
Herbaceous			
California Button-celery Patch	S2	Annual Grassland	May Occur
Fremont's Goldfields – Downingia Vernal Pools	S2	Annual Grassland	May Occur

Sensitive Natural Community[1]	Rarity Rank[2]	CWHR Type	Occurrence Potential
Fremont's Goldfields – Salt Grass Alkaline Vernal Pool	S2	Annual Grassland	May Occur
Fremont's Tidy-tips – Blow Wives Vernal Pool	S3	Annual Grassland	May Occur
Goldenaster Patch	S3	Annual Grassland, Coastal Scrub	May Occur
Needle Spike Rush Stand	S2	Annual Grassland	May Occur
Smooth Goldfields Vernal Pool Bottom	S2	Annual Grassland	May Occur
Tar Plant Field	S2	Annual Grassland	May Occur
Water Blinks – Annual Checkerbloom Vernal Pool	S2	Annual Grassland	May Occur
White-tip Clover Swales	S3	Annual Grassland	May Occur
Riparian			
Black Cottonwood Forest	S3	Montane Riparian, Valley Foothill Riparian	May Occur
Box-Elder Forest	S2.2	Valley Foothill Riparian	May Occur
Button Willow Thicket	S2	Valley Foothill Riparian	May Occur
California Sycamore Woodland	S3	Valley Foothill Riparian	May Occur
California Rose Briar Patch	S3	Valley Foothill Riparian	May Occur
Fremont Cottonwood Forest	S3.2	Montane Riparian, Valley Foothill Riparian	May Occur
Hind's Walnut and Related Stand	S1.1	Montane Riparian	May Occur
Interior Rose Thicket	S3	Montane Riparian	May Occur
Lemmon's Willow Thicket	S3	Montane Riparian	May Occur
Mountain Alder Thicket	S3	Montane Riparian	May Occur
Oregon Ash Grove	S3.2	Montane Riparian, Valley Foothill Riparian	May Occur
Red Osier Thicket	S3	Montane Riparian, Valley Foothill Riparian	May Occur
Red Willow Thicket	S3	Valley Foothill Riparian	May Occur
Rocky Mountain Maple Thicket	S3	Montane Riparian	May Occur
Shining Willow Groves	S3.2	Valley Foothill Riparian	May Occur
Torrent Sedge Patch	S3	Montane Riparian, Valley Foothill Riparian	May Occur
Western Labrador-tea Thicket	S2	Montane Riparian	May Occur
Wild Grape Shrubland	S3	Montane Riparian, Valley Foothill Riparian	May Occur

[1] These are designated sensitive natural communities with a state rarity rank of S1 (critically imperiled), S2 (imperiled), or S3 (vulnerable)

[2] Older ranks, which need to be updated, may still contain a decimal "threat" rank of .1, .2, or .3, where .1 indicates very threatened status, .2 indicates moderate threat, and .3 indicates few or no current known threats

Source: Sawyer et al. 2009, Compiled by Ascent Environmental in 2021

During the reconnaissance-level survey conducted pursuant to SPR BIO-1, several species associated with these sensitive natural communities were observed, including northern California black walnut (*Juglans hindsii*), blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*), valley oak (*Quercus lobata*), interior live oak (*Quercus wislizeni*), California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*), wild grape (*Vitis californica*), madrone (*Arubutus menziesii*), incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*), Douglas

fir (*Psuedotsuga menziesii*), dogwood (*Cornus* spp.), bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), tanoak (*Notholithocarpus densiflorus*), and willow (*Salix* spp.). While all dominant species associated with sensitive natural communities included in Table 4.5-3 were not observed during the reconnaissance-level survey, these communities may be present. As a result, prior to implementation of treatment activities, SPR BIO-3 would be implemented and a qualified RPF or biologist would identify sensitive natural communities in the treatment area to the alliance level pursuant to *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities* (CDFW 2018a).

Riparian habitat is present within the treatment area adjacent to streams, lakes, and ponds. Under SPR HYD-4, a WLPZ of 50 to 150 feet adjacent to all Class I and Class II streams and lakes would be implemented for manual and mechanical treatments, pile burning, and herbicide application, which would limit the extent of treatment activities within riparian habitat. While these SPRs would reduce potential impacts on riparian habitat, the extent of riparian habitat within the treatment area has not been mapped and riparian habitat may be present outside of the areas incorporated within WLPZs. As a result, prior to implementation of treatment activities, SPR BIO-3 would need to be implemented to identify and map the extent of riparian habitat within the treatment area. As required under SPR BIO-4, treatments in riparian habitats would retain at least 75 percent of the overstory and 50 percent of the understory canopy of native riparian vegetation and would be limited to removal of uncharacteristic fuel loads (e.g., dead or dying vegetation, invasive plants). Additionally, prior to any treatments in riparian habitat, the project proponent would notify CDFW pursuant to California Fish and Game Code 1602, when required.

As described above, chaparral habitat (i.e., mixed chaparral, montane chaparral) and coastal scrub (also known as coastal sage scrub) habitat is present in the treatment area. As required under SPR BIO-5, treatments implemented in chaparral and coastal scrub will be designed to avoid type conversion of chaparral and scrub vegetation and to maintain chaparral and coastal sage scrub habitat function. This will include determining the minimum percent cover of mature native shrubs to maintain habitat function, identifying the appropriate percent cover specific to the vegetation alliances present, and retaining a mix of middle to older aged shrubs to maintain heterogeneity. The project proponent will demonstrate with substantial evidence that the habitat function of chaparral and coastal sage scrub would be maintained or enhanced by the treatments applied.

The project proponent would retain vegetation types with characteristics qualifying as sensitive natural communities to the extent possible; however, if treatment activities within identified sensitive natural communities or oak woodlands cannot be avoided, then Mitigation Measure BIO-3a would apply in these areas. Under Mitigation Measure BIO-3a, a qualified RPF or biologist would determine the natural fire regime, condition class, and fire return interval for each sensitive natural community and oak woodland type. Initial and maintenance treatment activities in sensitive natural communities and oak woodlands would be designed to restore the natural fire regime and return vegetation composition and structure to their natural condition to maintain or improve habitat function. If habitat function of sensitive natural communities or oak woodlands would not be maintained through implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-3a, then Mitigation Measure BIO-3b and Mitigation Measure BIO-3c would apply, and unavoidable losses of these resources would be compensated through restoration or preservation of these vegetation types within or outside of the treatment area.

The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on sensitive habitats, as described above, was examined in the PEIR. This impact on sensitive habitats is within the scope of the PEIR, because, within the boundary of the project area, general habitat characteristics are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape (e.g., no resource is affected on land outside the treatable landscape that would not also be similarly affected within the treatable landscape), and the treatment activities and intensity of disturbance as a result of implementing treatment activities are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the potential impact on sensitive habitats is also the same, as described above. Biological resource SPRs that apply to project impacts under Impact BIO-3 are SPR BIO-1, SPR BIO-2, SPR BIO-3, SPR BIO-4, SPR BIO-5, SPR BIO-6, SPR BIO-9, SPR GEO-1, SPR GEO-3, SPR GEO-4, SPR GEO-5, SPR GEO-7, SPR HAZ-5, SPR HAZ-6, SPR HYD-4, and SPR HYD-5.

This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT BIO-4

Initial vegetation treatments and maintenance treatments could result in direct or indirect adverse effects on state or federally protected wetlands. Potential impacts resulting from maintenance activities would be similar to those resulting from initial vegetation treatments because the same treatment activities are proposed. The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on state or federally protected wetlands was examined in the PEIR.

During the reconnaissance-level survey conducted pursuant to SPR BIO-1, many different types of aquatic habitat were observed including creeks of various sizes, seasonal wetlands, roadside ditches containing cattails (*Typha latifolia*), vernal pools, stock ponds, rivers, and reservoirs. CAL FIRE's FRAP vegetation data for the treatment area includes 38.8 acres of fresh emergent wetland habitat, 22.4 acres of riverine habitat (i.e., rivers, streams), 19.4 acres of lacustrine habitat (i.e., reservoirs, lakes, ponds), and 0.8 acre of wet meadow habitat (Table 4.5-1).

Pursuant to SPR HYD-4, a WLPZ of 50 to 150 feet adjacent to all Class I and Class II streams and lakes would be implemented, and WLPZs of sufficient size to avoid degradation of downstream beneficial uses of water would be established adjacent to all Class III and Class IV streams within the treatment area for manual, mechanical, herbicide, and pile burning treatments. Establishment of WLPZs would result in avoidance of all stream and pond habitat for manual, mechanical, herbicide, and pile burning treatments.

Additional wetlands may be present throughout the treatment area that have not been identified or mapped as well as ponds smaller than one acre (i.e., not considered a lake under Forest Practice Rules). Mitigation Measure BIO-4 would apply for all treatment activities, and a qualified RPF or biologist would delineate the boundaries of these features; establish an appropriate buffer (with a minimum of 25 feet) around seasonal wetlands, springs, and seeps; and mark the buffer boundary with high-visibility flagging, fencing, stakes, or clear, existing landscape demarcations (e.g., edge of a roadway). A larger buffer may be required if wetlands or other aquatic habitats contain habitat potentially suitable for special-status plants or special-status wildlife (e.g., California red-legged frog, vernal pool branchiopods; see Impact BIO-2).

The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on state or federally protected wetlands was examined in the PEIR. This impact on wetlands is within the scope of the PEIR, because, within the boundary of the project area, general habitat characteristics are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape (e.g., no resource is affected on land outside the treatable landscape that would not also be similarly affected within the treatable landscape), and the treatment activities and intensity of disturbance as a result of implementing treatment activities are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the potential impact on wetlands is also the same, as described above. Biological resource SPRs that apply to project impacts under Impact BIO-4 are SPR BIO-1, SPR BIO-2, SPR BIO-3, SPR BIO-9, SPR GEO-1, SPR GEO-3, SPR GEO-4, SPR GEO-5, SPR GEO-6, SPR GEO-7, SPR HAZ-5, SPR HAZ-6, SPR HYD-1, SPR HYD-4, and SPR HYD-5. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT BIO-5

Initial vegetation treatments and maintenance treatments could result in direct or indirect adverse effects on wildlife movement corridors and nurseries because habitat suitable for wildlife is present in the treatment area. Potential impacts resulting from maintenance activities would be similar to those resulting from initial vegetation treatments because the same treatment activities are proposed. The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on wildlife movement corridors and nurseries was examined in the PEIR.

Based on review and survey of project-specific biological resources (SPR BIO-1), there is one essential connectivity area in Yuba County, that follows the Yuba River east to west and creek tributaries to the Yuba River north to south along the Yuba County–Nevada County border (CDFW 2021). Natural landscape blocks in the County include portions of the Spenceville Wildlife Area (east of Beale Air Force Base, managed by CDFW); areas adjacent to the Yuba River (i.e., overlapping essential connectivity areas) as well as tributary creeks in the northeastern portion of the County; and natural habitat areas surrounding Browns Valley, Collins Lake, Brownsville, and Challenge (CDFW 2021). Portions of the treatment area not included in essential connectivity areas or natural landscape blocks contain natural habitat and are likely used as wildlife movement corridors to some degree, especially streams and associated riparian corridors.

Treatment activities would occur along existing roads between 30 and 150 feet on either side of the road. The size and traffic level of these roads varies; however, there is a baseline level of disturbance along each road (e.g., vehicle traffic, ongoing maintenance) and some level of wildlife habitat fragmentation (albeit minor for unpaved private roads) due to initial road construction. Additionally, inherent hazards to wildlife exist along these roads, including vehicle collisions. While habitat directly adjacent to roads would not be considered optimal habitat, wildlife may move through these areas, or use some habitats for cover or as nursery sites, especially in relatively undeveloped areas.

Pursuant to SPR HYD-4, a WLPZ of 50 to 150 feet adjacent to all Class I and Class II streams and lakes would be implemented, which would limit the extent of treatment activities within riparian habitat (e.g., no mechanical treatment, retention of at least 75 percent surface cover) that would likely function as a wildlife movement corridor. SPR BIO-12 would be implemented for treatments that would occur during the nesting bird season and would result in identification and avoidance of any common bird nursery sites (e.g., heron rookeries, egret rookeries). Trees and snags larger than 12 inches would be retained and pursuant to SPRs BIO-3, BIO-4, and BIO-5, treatments in sensitive natural communities, riparian habitat, and chaparral or coastal scrub habitat, respectively, would be designed to maintain habitat function of these communities. Treatments would include shaded fuel breaks that would retain forest canopy and forest structure. With implementation of SPRs and due to the nature of the proposed treatment activities and their proximity to roads, habitat function within the treatment area would be maintained and there would not be a substantial change in the existing conditions that facilitate wildlife movement in the treatment area.

The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on wildlife movement corridors and nurseries was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR, because, within the boundary of the project area, general habitat characteristics are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape (e.g., no resource is affected on land outside the treatable landscape that would not also be similarly affected within the treatable landscape), and the treatment activities and extent of expected disturbance as a result of implementing treatment activities are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the potential impact on wildlife movement corridors is also the same, as described above. Biological resource SPRs that apply to project impacts under Impact BIO-5 are SPR BIO-1, SPR BIO-2, SPR BIO-3, and SPR HYD-4. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT BIO-6

Initial treatment and maintenance treatments could result in direct or indirect adverse effects resulting in reduction of habitat or abundance of common wildlife, including nesting birds, because nesting habitat suitable for birds is present throughout the treatment area. Treatment activities, including mechanical treatments, manual treatments, pile burning, and herbicide application, conducted during the nesting bird season (February 1–August 31) could result in direct loss of active nests or disturbance to active nests from auditory and visual stimulus (e.g., heavy equipment, chain saws, vehicles, personnel) potentially resulting in abandonment and loss of eggs or chicks.

SPR BIO-12 would apply, and for treatments implemented during the nesting bird season, a survey for common nesting birds will be conducted within the treatment area by a qualified RPF or biologist prior to treatment activities. If no active bird nests are observed during focused surveys, then additional mitigation would not be required. If active nests of common birds or raptors are observed during focused surveys, disturbance to the nests will be avoided by establishing an appropriate buffer around the nests, modifying treatments to avoid disturbance to the nests, or deferring treatment until the nests are no longer active as determined by a qualified RPF or biologist.

The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on these resources was examined in the PEIR. The potential for adverse effects on common wildlife, including nesting birds, is within the scope of the PEIR, because, within the boundary of the project area, general habitat characteristics are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape (e.g., no resource is affected on land outside the treatable landscape that would not also be similarly affected within the treatable landscape), and the treatment activities and extent of expected disturbance as a result of implementing treatment activities are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the potential impact on common wildlife, including nesting birds is also the same, as described above. Biological resource SPRs that apply to project impacts under Impact BIO-6 are SPR BIO-1, SPR BIO-2, SPR BIO-3, and SPR BIO-12. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT BIO-7

The only applicable local ordinance relevant to biological resources is the Yuba County General Plan Natural Resources Element, which contains an oak woodlands and tree preservation action (Action NR10.1). This action states that the County will adopt and implement a tree preservation and mitigation ordinance, which will implement state requirements for oak woodlands mitigation as required by Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21083.4. The County has not adopted or implemented a tree preservation and mitigation ordinance. Despite the fact that this ordinance has not been adopted, SPR BIO-1, SPR BIO-3, and Mitigation Measure BIO-3a would be implemented under Impact BIO-3, and these SPRs and measures would provide protection for oak woodland habitat (i.e., blue oak woodland, blue oak-foothill pine, coastal oak woodland, valley oak woodland) within the treatment area. There would be no conflict with local ordinances as a result of implementation of treatment activities.

The potential for treatment activities to result in conflict with local policies or ordinances was examined in the PEIR. The potential for the treatment project to conflict is within the scope of the PEIR because vegetation treatment projects implemented under the CalVTP that are subject to local policies or ordinances would be required to comply with any applicable county, city, or other local policies, ordinances, and permitting procedures related to protection of biological resources, per SPR AD-3. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing regulatory conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the potential for conflicts with local policies or ordinances is also the same, as described above. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT BIO-8

Implementation of the proposed vegetation treatment and maintenance treatments would not result in a conflict with adopted habitat conservation plans (HCP) or natural community conservation plans (NCCP), because the treatment area is not within the plan area of any adopted HCP or NCCP. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing regulatory conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the potential for

conflicts with an adopted HCP or NCCP is also the same, as described above. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

NEW BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE IMPACTS

The proposed treatment is consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. The project proponent has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatment project and determined that they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.5.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.5.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). The project proponent has also determined that including land from outside the CalVTP treatable landscape in the proposed treatment area constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions pertinent to biological resources that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those considered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts not addressed in the PEIR. Therefore, no new impact related to biological resources would occur that is not covered in the PEIR.

4.6 ENERGY RESOURCES

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is This Impact within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact ENG-1: Result in Wasteful, Inefficient, or Unnecessary Consumption of Energy	LTS	Impact ENG-1, pp. 3.9-7 – 3.9-8	Yes	NA	NA	LTS	No	Yes

[1] NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Energy Resource Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to energy resources that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?	☐ Yes	☒ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant
	☐	☐	☐

Discussion

IMPACT ENG-1

Use of vehicles and mechanical equipment during treatment activities would result in the consumption of energy through the use of fossil fuels. The use of fossil fuels for equipment and vehicles was examined in the PEIR. The consumption of energy during implementation of the treatment project is within the scope of the PEIR because the existing energy consumption is essentially the same within and outside the CalVTP treatable landscape, and the types of activities, as well as the associated equipment and duration of proposed use, are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, the existing conditions present outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the energy impact is also the same, as described above. No SPRs are applicable to this impact. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than covered in the PEIR.

NEW ENERGY RESOURCE IMPACTS

The project proponent has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatment project and determined they are consistent with the applicable regulatory and environmental conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.9.1, "Regulatory Setting," and Section 3.9.2, "Environmental Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). The project proponent has also determined that the inclusion of land outside the treatable landscape in the proposed treatment area constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions related to energy consumption present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those considered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts not addressed in the PEIR. Therefore, no new impact related to energy resources would occur that is not covered in the PEIR.

4.7 GEOLOGY, SOILS, PALEONTOLOGY, AND MINERAL RESOURCES

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is This Impact within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact GEO-1: Result in Substantial Erosion or Loss of Topsoil	LTS	Impact GEO-1, pp. 3.7-26 – 3.7-29	Yes	GEO-1 through GEO-8 AQ-4	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact GEO-2: Increase Risk of Landslide	LTS	Impact GEO-2, pp. 3.7-29 – 3.7-30	Yes	AQ-3 GEO-1 GEO-4 GEO-7 GEO-8	NA	LTS	No	Yes

[1] NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Geology, Soils, Paleontology, and Mineral Resource Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to geology, soils, paleontology, and mineral resources that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?	☐ Yes	☒ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant
	☐	☐	☐

Discussion

The project area is located within the Sierra Nevada physiographic and geologic province. The geology of this province has also evolved through other smaller-scale local processes, such as mass wasting, weathering, erosion, and sedimentation changing the landscape. Uplift along the eastern Sierra Nevada margin produced erosion and resulted in the predominantly east-to-west trends of incised drainages. The bedrock geology in the project area is composed of Paleozoic metasediments and metavolcanics, Paleozoic and Mesozoic granitics (i.e., Valley Pluton, Cascade Pluton, Yuba Rivers Pluton, and a Mesozoic ophiolite complex (Day 1992, Day and Bickford 2004). Within the project area, granodiorite and mafic volcanics are generally found east of Brownsville, with large areas of gabbro rock found between Brownsville and Rackerby and in the Dobbins area (CGS 1992). Tertiary auriferous (gold-bearing) sediments, including auriferous river gravels deposited by the ancestral Yuba River, are present in the eastern portions of the project area. While eastern Yuba County soils on steep topography are the most prone to erosion when disturbed, the highest erosion hazards are located along the Yuba River between Smartsville and the northeast boundary of the county.

IMPACT GEO-1

Treatments would include WUI fuel reduction and fuel breaks through use of pile burning, mechanical treatment, manual treatment, and targeted ground application of herbicides. All of these activities would result in vegetation removal and soil disturbance. The potential for these treatment activities to cause substantial erosion or loss of

topsoil was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the soil characteristics of the project area are essentially the same within and outside the CalVTP treatable landscape and the use and type of equipment, extent of vegetation removal, and intensity of pile burning are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the potential impact related to soil erosion is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this treatment project are GEO-1 through GEO-8 and AQ-4. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT GEO-2

While treatments would include vegetation removal in areas with steep slopes, project area has a low landslide potential with only a small portion near the town of Strawberry Valley having a moderate landslide potential (Yuba County 2021). No active landslides have been documented within the project area (Yuba County 2021). However, given the remoteness of the area, small slip outs and slumps, steep terrain, and wet winter conditions, landslides have the potential to impact geologic resources. The potential for treatment activities to increase landslide risk was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the extent of vegetation removal, intensity of treatment activities, and required avoidance of steep slopes and areas of instability are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the potential impact related to landslide risk is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this treatment project are AQ-3, GEO-1, GEO-4, GEO-7, and GEO-8. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

NEW GEOLOGY, SOILS, PALEONTOLOGY, AND MINERAL RESOURCE IMPACTS

The proposed treatment is consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. The project proponent has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatment project and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.7.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.7.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). The project proponent has also determined that the inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions pertinent to geology, soils, paleontology, and mineral resources that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those covered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts not addressed in the PEIR. Therefore, no new impact related to geology, soils, paleontology, or mineral resources would occur that is not covered in the PEIR.

4.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is This Impact within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact GHG-1: Conflict with Applicable Plan, Policy, or Regulation of an Agency Adopted for the Purpose of Reducing the Emissions of GHGs	LTS	Impact GHG-1, pp. 3.8-10 – 3.8-11	Yes	None	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact GHG-2: Generate GHG Emissions through Treatment Activities	SU	Impact GHG-2, pp. 3.8-11 – 3.8-17	Yes	None	GHG-2	SU	No	Yes

[1] NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact. None: there are SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact, but none are applicable to the treatment project.

New GHG Emissions Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to GHG emissions that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?	☐ Yes	☒ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant
	☐	☐	☐

Discussion

IMPACT GHG-1

Use of vehicles and mechanical equipment and pile burning during initial and maintenance treatments would result in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Consistency of treatments under the CalVTP with applicable plans, policies, and regulations aimed at reducing GHG emissions was examined in the PEIR. Consistent with the PEIR, although GHG emissions would occur from equipment and vehicles used to implement treatments, the purpose of the proposed project is to reduce wildfire risk, which could reduce GHG emissions and increase carbon sequestration over the long term. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the proposed activities, as well as the associated equipment, duration of use, and resultant GHG emissions, are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the same plans, policies, and regulations adopted to reduce GHG emissions apply in the areas outside the treatable landscape, as well as areas within the treatable landscape; therefore, the GHG impact is also the same, as described above. SPR GHG-1 is not applicable to the proposed project because this project is not a registered offset project under the Board's Assembly Bill 1504 Carbon Inventory Process. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT GHG-2

Use of vehicles and mechanical equipment and pile burning during initial and maintenance treatments would result in GHG emissions. The potential for treatments under the CalVTP to generate GHG emissions was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the proposed activities, as well as the associated equipment and duration of use, and the intent of the treatments to reduce wildfire risk and GHG emissions related to wildfire are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. Mitigation Measure GHG-2 would be implemented and would reduce GHG emissions associated with the pile burning. However, emissions generated by the treatments would still contribute to the annual emissions generated by the CalVTP, and this impact would remain significant and unavoidable, consistent with, and for the same reasons described in, the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the climate conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the GHG impact is also the same, as described above. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

NEW IMPACTS RELATED TO GHG EMISSIONS

The proposed treatments are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. The project proponent has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatments and determined they are consistent with the applicable regulatory and environmental conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.8.1, "Regulatory Setting," and Section 3.8.2, "Environmental Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). The project proponent has also determined that including land from outside the CalVTP treatable landscape in the proposed treatment areas constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental conditions pertinent to the climate conditions that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts are the same and, for the reasons described above, impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those covered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts. Therefore, no new impact related to GHG emissions would occur.

4.9 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered In the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is This Impact within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact HAZ-1: Create a Significant Health Hazard from the Use of Hazardous Materials	LTS	Impact HAZ-1, pp. 3.10-14 – 3.10-15	Yes	HAZ-1	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact HAZ-2: Create a Significant Health Hazard from the Use of Herbicides	LTS	Impact HAZ-2, pp. 3.10-15 – 3.10-18	Yes	HAZ-5 through HAZ-9	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact HAZ-3: Expose the Public or Environment to Significant Hazards from Disturbance to Known Hazardous Material Sites	LTSM	Impact HAZ-3, pp. 3.10-18 – 3.10-19	Yes	NA	HAZ-3	LTSM	No	Yes

[1] NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Hazardous Materials, Public Health and Safety Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts related to hazardous materials, public health and safety that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?	☐ Yes	☒ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant
	☐	☐	☐

Discussion

IMPACT HAZ-1

Initial and maintenance treatments would include mechanical treatments, manual treatments, herbicide application, and pile burning. These treatment activities would require the use of fuels and related accelerants, which are hazardous materials. The potential for treatment activities to cause a significant health hazard from the use of hazardous materials was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the types of treatments and associated equipment and types of hazardous materials that would be used are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, the exposure potential and regulatory conditions are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape; therefore, the hazardous material impact is also the same, as described above. SPR HAZ-1 is applicable to this treatment. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT HAZ-2

Treatments would include herbicide application to target plant species using ground-based methods, such as using a UTV or backpack sprayer or painting herbicide onto cut stems. No aerial spraying of herbicides would occur. The

potential for treatment activities to cause a significant health hazard from the use of herbicides was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the types of herbicides (i.e., glyphosate, triclopyr, and imazapyr) and application methods (i.e., ground-level application) that would be used are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the hazardous materials impact is also the same, as described above. SPRs HAZ-5 through HAZ-9 are applicable to this treatment. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT HAZ-3

Initial and maintenance treatments would include soil disturbance and pile burning, which could expose workers, the public, or the environment to hazardous materials if a contaminated site is present within the project area. The potential for workers participating in treatment activities to encounter contamination that could expose them, the public, or the environment to hazardous materials was examined in the PEIR. This impact was identified as potentially significant in the PEIR because hazardous materials sites could be present within treatment sites throughout the large geographic extent of the treatable landscape, and the feasibility of implementing mitigation for exposure of people or the environment to hazards resulting from soil disturbance or burning in a hazardous materials site was uncertain.

As directed by Mitigation Measure HAZ-3, database searches for hazardous materials sites within the project area have been conducted. Eleven sites were identified within the project area that have been remediated and closed. In addition, two sites that are actively being remediated are located within the project area (Reinke's Chevron (T0611500088) and Strawberry Valley General Store (T0611500080)) (DTSC 2022; SWRCB 2022) (Attachment C). Because active remediation sites have been identified within the project area that have the potential to have contaminated soil, these areas will be marked and no pile burning or soil disturbing treatment activities will occur within 100 feet of the site boundaries in accordance with Mitigation Measure HAZ-3. If it is determined through coordination with landowner(s) or after review of the Cortese List that no potential or known contamination is located on a project site, the project may proceed as planned.

The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the potential to encounter hazardous materials and the regulatory conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the hazardous materials impact is also the same, as described above. No SPRs are applicable to this impact, and no additional mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

NEW HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPACTS

The proposed treatments are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. The project proponent has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatments and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.10.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.10.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). The project proponent has also determined that including land from outside the CalVTP treatable landscape in the proposed treatment areas constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions pertinent to hazardous materials that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts are the same and, for the reasons described above, impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those covered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts. Therefore, no new impact related to hazardous materials, public health, or safety would occur.

4.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is This Impact within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact HYD-1: Violate Water Quality Standards or Waste Discharge Requirements, Substantially Degrade Surface or Ground Water Quality, or Conflict with or Obstruct the Implementation of a Water Quality Control Plan Through the Implementation of Prescribed Burning	LTS	Impact HYD-1, pp. 3.11-25 – 3.11-27	Yes	HYD-1 HYD-4 BIO-4 GEO-4 GEO-6	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact HYD-2: Violate Water Quality Standards or Waste Discharge Requirements, Substantially Degrade Surface or Ground Water Quality, or Conflict with or Obstruct the Implementation of a Water Quality Control Plan Through the Implementation of Manual or Mechanical Treatment Activities	LTS	Impact HYD-2, pp. 3.11-27 – 3.11-29	Yes	HYD-1 HYD-2 HYD-4 HYD-5 HYD-6 GEO-1 through GEO-5 GEO-7 GEO-8 BIO-1 HAZ-1 HAZ-5	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact HYD-3: Violate Water Quality Standards or Waste Discharge Requirements, Substantially Degrade Surface or Ground Water Quality, or Conflict with or Obstruct the Implementation of a Water Quality Control Plan Through Prescribed Herbivory	LTS	Impact HYD-3, p. 3.11-29	No	--	--	--	--	--
Impact HYD-4: Violate Water Quality Standards or Waste Discharge Requirements, Substantially Degrade Surface or Ground Water Quality, or Conflict with or Obstruct the Implementation of a Water Quality Control Plan Through the Ground Application of Herbicides	LTS	Impact HYD-4, pp. 3.11-30 – 3.11-31	Yes	HYD-1 HYD-5 BIO-4 HAZ-5 HAZ-6 HAZ-7	NA	LTS	No	Yes

Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is This Impact within the Scope of the PEIR?
Impact HYD-5: Substantially Alter the Existing Drainage Pattern of a Treatment Site or Area	LTS	Impact HYD-5, p. 3.11-31	Yes	HYD-4 HYD-6 GEO-1 GEO-2 GEO-5	NA	LTS	No	Yes

[1] NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Hydrology and Water Quality Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to hydrology and water quality that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?	☐ Yes	☒ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant
	☐	☐	☐

Discussion

The project area is located within the Yuba and Feather River watersheds which are both part of the Sacramento River watershed. The climate in the project area is Mediterranean with cool, rainy winter months and a dry summer season. Most of the year's rain falls from late October through early April (Yuba County 2021). Significant hydrologic features in the project area include New Bullards Bar Reservoir, Collins Lake Reservoir, several small reservoirs, and Yuba River. Numerous intermittent and ephemeral drainages are scattered throughout the project area; these drainages capture winter and spring rains but stop flowing in the dry summer months.

IMPACT HYD-1

Initial and maintenance treatments would include pile burning. Ash and debris from treatment areas could be washed by runoff into adjacent drainages and streams. Pile burning would only occur outside of WLPZs, and WLPZs ranging from 50 to 150 feet will be implemented for Class I and Class II streams or lakes that are within treatment areas pursuant to SPR HYD-4. In addition, SPR HYD-4 requires the implementation of WLPZs for Class III and Class IV watercourses that are of a size to sufficiently prevent the degradation of downstream beneficial uses of water. The potential for pile burning activities to cause runoff and violate water quality regulations or degrade water quality was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the use of pile burns and associated impacts to water quality are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the surface water conditions are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape; therefore, the water quality impact from pile burning is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this treatment are HYD-1, HYD-4, BIO-4, GEO-4, and GEO-6. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT HYD-2

Initial treatment would include mechanical and manual treatments. Although most treatment areas have been designed to avoid streams and watercourses, WLPZs will be implemented for any watercourses or lakes that are within treatment areas pursuant to SPR HYD-4. The potential for mechanical and manual treatment activities to violate water quality regulations or degrade water quality was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the use of heavy equipment and hand-held tools to remove vegetation and associated impacts to water quality are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the surface water conditions are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape; therefore, the water quality impact from manual and mechanical treatments is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this treatment are HYD-1, HYD-2, HYD-4 through HYD-6, GEO-1 through GEO-5, GEO-7, GEO-8, BIO-1, HAZ-1, and HAZ-5. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT HYD-3

This impact does not apply to the proposed project because prescribed herbivory is not a proposed treatment activity.

IMPACT HYD-4

Initial and maintenance treatments would include the occasional use of herbicides to treat invasive plant species (e.g., broom, Himalayan blackberry) and to control regrowth of native species. Herbicide application would be limited to ground-based methods, such as a using targeted spray from a backpack or reservoir carried by a UTV, or painting herbicide onto cut stems. All herbicide application would comply with EPA and California Department of Pesticide Regulation label standards. The potential for the use of herbicides to violate water quality regulations or degrade water quality was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the use of herbicides to remove vegetation and associated impacts to water quality are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, surface water conditions are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape; therefore, the water quality impact from use of herbicides is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this treatment are HYD-1, HYD-5, BIO-4, HAZ-5, HAZ-6, and HAZ-7. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT HYD-5

Initial and maintenance treatments could cause ground disturbance and erosion, which could directly or indirectly modify existing drainage patterns. The potential for treatment activities to substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of a project site was examined in the PEIR. This impact to site drainage is within the scope of the PEIR because the types of treatments and treatment intensity are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, surface water conditions are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape; therefore, the impact related to alteration of site drainage patterns is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this treatment are HYD-4, HYD-6, GEO-1, GEO-2, and GEO-5. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

NEW HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY IMPACTS

The proposed treatment is consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. The project proponent has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatment project and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.11.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.11.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). The project proponent has also determined that including land from outside the CalVTP treatable landscape in the proposed treatment areas constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions pertinent to hydrology and water quality that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those covered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts. Therefore, no new impact related to hydrology and water quality would occur.

4.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING, POPULATION AND HOUSING

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is This Impact within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact LU-1: Cause a Significant Environmental Impact Due to a Conflict with a Land Use Plan, Policy, or Regulation	LTS	Impact LU-1, pp. 3.12-13 – 3.12-14	Yes	AD-3	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact LU-2: Induce Substantial Unplanned Population Growth	LTS	Impact LU-2, pp. 3.12-14 – 3.12-15	Yes	NA	NA	LTS	No	Yes

[1] NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Land Use and Planning, Population and Housing Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to land use and planning, population and housing that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?	☐ Yes	☒ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant
	☐	☐	☐

Discussion

IMPACT LU-1

Treatment activities would occur adjacent to private and public roadways. The potential for vegetation treatment activities to cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with a land use plan, policy, or regulation was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the land uses of the project area are essentially the same within and outside the CalVTP treatable landscape and treatment types and activities are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent considered in the PEIR. However, the existing environmental conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the land use impact is also the same, as described above. SPR AD-3 requires that the Yuba FSC complies with applicable Yuba County plans, policies, and ordinances, such as those pertaining to noise, biological resources, and water resources. No conflict would occur because the project proponent would adhere to SPR AD-3. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT LU-2

The potential for treatments to result in substantial population growth as a result of increases in demand for employees was examined in the PEIR. Implementation of initial treatments would require between two and 10 crew members depending on the treatment, along with their associated vehicles to travel to and from the treatment areas. Up to four crews could be conducting treatments simultaneously throughout the project area. Crew sizes would be consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. Impacts associated with short-term increases in the demand for workers during implementation of the treatment project are within the scope of the PEIR because the number of workers required for implementation of the treatments is consistent with the crew sizes analyzed in the PEIR for the types of treatments proposed. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the population and housing impact is also the same, as described above. No SPRs are applicable to this impact. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than covered in the PEIR.

NEW LAND USE AND PLANNING, POPULATION AND HOUSING IMPACTS

The proposed project is consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. The project proponent has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatment project and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.12.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.12.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). The project proponent has also determined that the inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing conditions that are pertinent to land use, planning, population, and housing that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those covered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts not addressed in the PEIR. Therefore, no new impact related to land use and planning, population and housing would occur that is not covered in the PEIR.

4.12 NOISE

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is This Impact within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact NOI-1: Result in a Substantial Short-Term Increase in Exterior Ambient Noise Levels During Treatment Implementation	LTS	Impact NOI-1, pp. 3.13-9 – 3.13-12; Appendix NOI-1	Yes	AD-3 NOI-1 through NOI-6	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact NOI-2: Result in a Substantial Short-Term Increase in Truck-Generated Single-Event Noise Levels During Treatment Activities	LTS	Impact NOI-2, p. 3.13-12	Yes	NOI-1	NA	LTS	No	Yes

[1] NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Noise Impacts: Would the treatment result in other noise-related impacts that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?	☐ Yes	☒ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant
	☐	☐	☐

Discussion

IMPACT NOI-1

Initial and maintenance treatments would require heavy, noise-generating equipment. The potential for a substantial short-term increase in ambient noise levels from use of heavy equipment was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the number and types of equipment proposed, and the duration of equipment use, are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The proposed treatments would not require the use of helicopters, which was the loudest type of equipment evaluated in the PEIR. Treatments may be located near residences; however, treatment activities would occur during daytime hours, typically between approximately 6:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., depending on season and proximity to residences. This would avoid the potential to cause sleep disturbance to residents during the more noise-sensitive evening and nighttime hours. In addition, treatments would be dispersed throughout the county so noise increases at any one sensitive receptor would be limited. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the exposure potential to any sensitive receptors present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the noise impact is also the same, as described above. SPRs AD-3 and NOI-1 through NOI-6 are applicable to this treatment. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT NOI-2

Initial and maintenance treatments would involve large trucks hauling heavy equipment to the project area. These haul truck trips would be dispersed on area roadways providing access to the project area including SR 20, SR 49, and public and private roadways throughout the county. Haul trucks on area highways is not expected to generate a noticeable increase in traffic-related noise. Haul truck trips on the local roadways could pass by residential receptors and the event of each truck passing by could increase the single event noise levels (SENL). The potential for a substantial short-term increase in SENL was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the number and types of equipment proposed are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The haul trips associated with the treatment would occur during daytime hours, which would avoid the potential to cause sleep disturbance to residents during the more noise-sensitive evening and nighttime hours. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the exposure potential is essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape; therefore, the noise impact is also the same, as described above. SPR NOI-1 is applicable to this treatment. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

NEW NOISE IMPACTS

The proposed treatments are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. The project proponent has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatments and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.13.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.13.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). The project proponent has also determined that including land from outside the CalVTP treatable landscape in the proposed treatment areas constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions pertinent to noise that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts are the same and, for the reasons described above, impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those covered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts. Therefore, no new impact related to noise would occur.

4.13 PUBLIC SERVICES, UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is This Impact within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact UTIL-1: Result in Physical Impacts Associated with Provision of Sufficient Water Supplies, Including Related Infrastructure Needs	LTS	Impact UTIL-1, p. 3.16-9	Yes	NA	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact UTIL-2: Generate Solid Waste in Excess of State Standards or Exceed Local Infrastructure Capacity	SU	Impact UTIL-2, pp. 3.16-10 – 3.16-12	Yes	UTIL-1	NA	SU	No	Yes
Impact UTIL-3: Comply with Federal, State, and Local Management and Reduction Goals, Statutes, and Regulations Related to Solid Waste	LTS	Impact UTIL-2, p. 3.16-12	Yes	UTIL-1	NA	LTS	No	Yes

[1] NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Public Services, Utilities and Service System Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to public services, utilities and service systems that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?	☐ Yes	☒ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant
	☐	☐	☐

Discussion

IMPACT UTIL-1

Treatments would include WUI fuel reduction and fuel breaks through use of pile burning, mechanical treatment, manual treatment, and targeted ground application of herbicides. There is a potential that pile burning may require an on-site water supply if the burn goes out of prescription. If needed, water would be supplied from water trucks. The potential increased demand for water was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the activities and impacts addressed in the PEIR because the size of the area proposed for pile burn treatments, amount of water required for pile burning, and water source type are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental conditions present in the areas

outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the water supply impact is also the same, as described above. No SPRs are applicable to this impact. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT UTIL-2

Treatments would generate biomass as a result of vegetation removal within the treatment areas. Biomass generated by mechanical and manual treatments would be disposed of by pile burning, lop and scatter, chip and spread, or hauling to a biomass facility, if available. This impact was identified as potentially significant and unavoidable in the PEIR because biomass hauled offsite in some parts of the PEIR's program area (i.e., treatable landscape) could exceed the capacity of existing infrastructure for handling biomass. For the proposed treatment project, it is estimated that up to 20 percent of the biomass could be hauled offsite. While the amount of biomass generated is not expected to exceed the capacity of existing local infrastructure in Yuba County, because the project would generate biomass needing offsite disposal, it would contribute to the environmental significance conclusion in the PEIR; therefore, for purposes of CEQA compliance, this PSA/Addendum notes the impact as potentially significant and unavoidable. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, conditions related to biomass in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, impacts related to biomass are also the same, as described above. SPR UTIL-1 would be applicable to the proposed treatments if biomass is hauled offsite. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT UTIL-3

Biomass generated by mechanical and manual treatments would be disposed of with pile burning, mulching/chipping, or lopping and scattering biomass in areas where material cannot safely be burned. As discussed above, initial and maintenance treatments would haul up to 20 percent of the biomass generated off-site. Invasive plant and noxious weed biomass would also be treated onsite, when possible. The project proponent would comply with all federal, state, and local management and reduction goals, statutes, and regulations related to solid waste. Compliance with reduction goals, statutes, and regulations related to solid waste was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the activities and impacts addressed in the PEIR because the biomass that would need to be hauled offsite is consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the biomass conditions in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, impacts related to biomass are also the same, as described above. SPR UTIL-1 would be applicable to the proposed treatments because biomass would be hauled offsite. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

NEW IMPACTS ON PUBLIC SERVICES, UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

The proposed treatments are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. The project partners have considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatments and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.16.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.16.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental conditions pertinent to public services, utilities, and service systems that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those covered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts not addressed in the PEIR. Therefore, no new impact related to public services, utilities, or service systems would occur that is not covered in the PEIR.

4.14 RECREATION

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is This Impact within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact REC-1: Directly or Indirectly Disrupt Recreational Activities within Designated Recreation Areas	LTS	Impact REC-1, pp. 3.14-6 – 3.14-7	Yes	REC-1	NA	LTS	No	Yes

[1] NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Recreation Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to recreation that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?	☐ Yes	☒ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant
	☐	☐	☐

Discussion

IMPACT REC-1

Recreational areas in the project area include Lake Francis, Collins Lake, Yuba River, Spenceville Wildlife Area, and the Yuba Goldfields recreation area. Recreational activities within these areas include day use activities, boating, fishing, camping, and hunting. Land surrounding the New Bullards Bar Reservoir, which is predominantly US Forest Service land, is not included in the project but does provide recreational activities adjacent to the project area. Dispersed recreation occurs on the Plumas National Forest, adjacent to treatment areas. Treatment activities would include WUI fuel reduction and fuel breaks through use of pile burning, mechanical treatment, manual treatment, and targeted ground application of herbicides, and would not restrict access to or otherwise affect any nearby recreation areas. The potential for vegetation treatment activities to disrupt recreation activities was examined in the PEIR. The potential for the proposed treatment project to impact recreation is within the scope of the PEIR because the availability of recreational resources within the project area is essentially the same within and outside the CalVTP treatable landscape and the treatment activities and intensity are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, the existing environmental conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impact to recreation is also the same, as described above. The SPR applicable to this treatment is REC-1. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than covered in the PEIR.

NEW RECREATION IMPACTS

The proposed project is consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. The project proponent has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatment project and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.12.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.12.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). The project proponent has also determined that the inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental conditions pertinent to recreation that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those covered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts not addressed in the PEIR. Therefore, no new impact related to recreation would occur that is not covered in the PEIR.

4.15 TRANSPORTATION

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is This Impact within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact TRAN-1: Result in Temporary Traffic Operations Impacts by Conflicting with a Program, Plan, Ordinance, or Policy Addressing Roadway Facilities or Prolonged Road Closures	LTS	Impact TRAN-1, pp. 3.15-9 – 3.15-10	Yes	AD-3 TRAN-1	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact TRAN-2: Substantially Increase Hazards due to a Design Feature or Incompatible Uses	LTS	Impact TRAN-2, pp. 3.15-10 – 3.15-11	Yes	AD-3 HYD-2 TRAN-1	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact TRAN-3: Result in a Net Increase in VMT for the Proposed CalVTP	SU	Impact TRAN-3, pp. 3.15-11 – 3.15-13	Yes	NA	NA (Mitigation infeasible for this project)	SU	No	Yes

[1] NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Transportation Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to transportation that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?	☐ Yes	☒ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant
	☐	☐	☐

Discussion

IMPACT TRAN-1

Initial and maintenance treatments would temporarily increase vehicular traffic along roadways throughout the project area, including SR 20, SR 49, and various public and private roadways. The potential for a temporary increase in traffic to conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing roadway facilities or prolonged road closures was examined in the PEIR. The proposed treatments would be short term, and temporary increases in traffic related to treatments are within the scope of the PEIR because the treatment duration and limited number of vehicles (i.e., heavy equipment transport, crew vehicles for crew members) associated with the proposed treatments are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. In addition, the proposed treatments would not all occur concurrently and because of the linear nature of fuel breaks, increases in vehicle trips associated with the treatments would not affect any one roadway segment for a long period of time. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR.

However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing transportation conditions (e.g., roadways and road use) present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the transportation impact is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this treatment are AD-3 and TRAN-1. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT TRAN-2

Treatments would not require the construction or alteration of any roadways. However, the proposed treatments would include pile burning, which would produce smoke and could potentially affect visibility along adjacent roadways such that a transportation hazard could occur. The potential for smoke to affect visibility along roadways during implementation of the treatment project was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the activities and impacts addressed in the PEIR because the burn duration is consistent with that analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing transportation conditions (e.g., roadways and road use) present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the transportation impact is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this treatment are AD-3, HYD-2, and TRAN-1. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT TRAN-3

Treatments could temporarily increase vehicle miles travelled (VMT) above baseline conditions because the project area is dispersed throughout the county and would require vehicle trips to access the treatment areas. This impact was identified as potentially significant and unavoidable in the PEIR because implementation of the CalVTP would result in a net increase in VMT. As noted under Impact TRAN-3 in the PEIR, individual vegetation treatment projects under the CalVTP are likely to generate fewer than 110 trips per day, which would be considered a less-than-significant transportation impact for specific later activities, as described in the *Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts*, published by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR 2018). Treatments are expected to require between two and 10 crew members depending on the treatment, along with their associated vehicles to travel to and from the treatment areas. Up to four crews could be conducting treatments simultaneously throughout the project area. Therefore, even if the maximum number of treatments occur simultaneously, the crew sizes are sufficiently small that the total increase in VMT would not likely exceed 110 trips per day. In addition, as mentioned above, the increase in vehicle trips would be dispersed to multiple roadways. However, individual treatment projects would contribute to the overall annual net increase in VMT generated by the CalVTP. Vehicular travel reduction techniques included in Mitigation Measure AQ-1 would be infeasible for the project proponent to implement because of the rural, dispersed nature of the project. The Yuba FSC and other fire safe councils are not-for-profit organizations and will be largely contracting with others to implement the vegetation treatments. Crew sizes would be small and may not all be employed with the same company, and the treatment areas are dispersed throughout the county. Therefore, carpooling may not be feasible to implement for most of the workers or recommended during a pandemic. While the net increase in VMT is not expected to generate greater than 110 trips per day, because the project would contribute to the overall annual net increase in VMT generated by the CalVTP, it would contribute to the environmental significance conclusion in the PEIR; therefore, for purposes of CEQA compliance, this PSA/Addendum notes the impact as potentially significant and unavoidable.

Temporary increases in VMT is within the scope of the activities and impacts addressed in the PEIR because the number and duration of increased vehicle trips is consistent with that analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing transportation conditions (e.g., roadways and road use) present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those

within the treatable landscape; therefore, the transportation impact is also the same, as described above. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

NEW IMPACTS ON TRANSPORTATION

The proposed treatments are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. The project proponent has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatments and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.15.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.15.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). The project partners have also determined that the inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions pertinent to transportation that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts are the same and, for the reasons described above, impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those covered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts not addressed in the PEIR. Therefore, no new impact related to transportation would occur that is not covered in the PEIR.

4.16 WILDFIRE

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is This Impact within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact WIL-1: Substantially Exacerbate Fire Risk and Expose People to Uncontrolled Spread of a Wildfire	LTS	Impact WIL-1, pp. 3.17-14 – 3.17-15	Yes	AD-3 HAZ-2 HAZ-3 HAZ-4	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact WIL-2: Expose People or Structures to Substantial Risks Related to Postfire Flooding or Landslides	LTS	Impact WIL-2, pp. 3.17-15 – 3.17-16	Yes	GEO-3 GEO-4 GEO-5 GEO-8	NA	LTS	No	Yes

[1] NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Wildfire Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts related to wildfire that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?	☐ Yes	☒ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant
	☐	☐	☐

Discussion

IMPACT WIL-1

Treatments would include WUI fuel reduction and fuel breaks through use of pile burning, mechanical treatment, manual treatment, and targeted ground application of herbicides. Pile burning and mechanical treatments using heavy equipment could pose a risk of fire ignition or risk of a prescribed fire that could escape its control lines. The potential increase in exposure to wildfire during implementation of treatments was examined in the PEIR. Increased wildfire risk associated with pile burning and use of heavy equipment in vegetated areas are within the scope of the PEIR because the wildfire risk of the project area is essentially the same within and outside the CalVTP treatable landscape and the types of equipment and treatment duration of the proposed project are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the wildfire impact is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this treatment are AD-3, HAZ-2, HAZ-3, and HAZ-4. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT WIL-2

Treatments would include pile burning, and steep slopes exist within the treatment area. The potential for post-fire landslides was examined in the PEIR. Potential exposure of people or structures to post-fire landslides are within the PEIR because the post-fire landslide risk of the project area is essentially the same within and outside the CalVTP treatable landscape and the severity and duration of the proposed pile burns are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the wildfire impact is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this impact are GEO-3, GEO-4, GEO-5, and GEO-8. This determination is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than covered in the PEIR.

NEW IMPACTS ON WILDFIRE

The project proponent has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatment project and determined they are consistent with the applicable regulatory and environmental conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.9.1, "Regulatory Setting," and Section 3.9.2, "Environmental Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). The project proponent has also determined that the inclusion of land in the proposed treatment area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the PEIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions pertinent to wildfire that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those covered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts not addressed in the PEIR. Therefore, no new impact related to wildfire risk would occur that is not covered in the PEIR.

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