



# City of Placerville

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## INITIAL STUDY/ ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST AND MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM

**Project Title:**

~~Hangtown Creek Water Reclamation Facility Clean Water State Revolving Loan Solar Photovoltaic Facility~~  
Solar Photovoltaic (PV) for the WWTP

**Lead Agency Name and Address:**

City of Placerville  
3101 Center Street  
Placerville, CA 95667

**Contact Person and Phone Number:**

Pierre Rivas, Director  
Development Services Department  
(530) 642-5252

**Project Location:** The proposed project is located approximately 3.5 miles west of downtown Placerville at 2300 Cool Water Court, where the City of Placerville owns and operates the Hangtown Creek Water Reclamation Facility (**Figure 1**). It is located within the Placerville 7.5-minute Quadrangle, in Township 10 North, Range 10 East, Section 11, in the Southwest ¼ of Section 11 (**Figure 2**). The parcel on which the WRF is located (Assessor's parcel Number 23-210-02) comprises 21.72 acres. The City proposes to install a solar photovoltaic system on an approximately 2.88-acre undeveloped portion of the property located in the upper northwest corner. This area is adjacent to and above the FEB (Flow Equalization Basin) and lies just north of Hangtown Creek at an elevation of approximately 1,580 feet above mean sea level. Properties adjacent to the north are large lot single-family residential uses (four homes) with a parking/loading area and Cool Water Court bordering to the east of the project area (**Figure 3**).

**General Plan Designation:** Public Facilities (PF)

**Zoning:** Public Facilities (PF)

**Description of Project:**

The project consists of clearing an approximately 2.88-acre site of existing vegetation in preparation for installation of a solar photovoltaic (PV) system to provide electricity for the operation of the waste water treatment plant. The existing vegetation, primarily dense tree cover, would be removed using mechanical equipment and manual tools. The PV system would be installed on a ground-mounted racking system on piers that would be driven a maximum of eight (8) feet below ground surface (**Figure 4**). Vehicles used for vegetation removal and system installation would utilize low-impact rubber-wheels. Smaller trees, branches and shrubs will be masticated and spread over the site with the larger logs being removed from the site. Following the removal of vegetation, the area would be seeded with an indigenous low-height ground cover. Vegetation consists of common Sierra foothill species of pine, oak, buckbrush, Manzanita, and native and non-native herbaceous plants and grasses.

Grading is expected to occur throughout the approximately 2.88-acre project area to a maximum depth of 6 inches. A maximum of 300 piers will be percussion-driven throughout the project site. Each pier is 6 x 8.5 inches wide and 12 feet long.

The constructed PV system will be connected to the site's existing 2000-amp electrical switchgear system. The PV system will generate useable electricity using solar energy and will be interconnected to the Hangtown Creek Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) main electrical service in the north electrical room of the WRF.

### **Background:**

The City of Placerville is proposing to install and operate a PV system at the WRF to reduce the amount of electricity purchased from Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E). The project objectives are to generate sufficient electricity on-site through a renewable energy technology (solar photovoltaic panels) to allow the City to achieve an approximately 60% or greater reduction in the energy required for municipal wastewater treatment operations. A detailed analysis confirmed that the Solar PV project for the WRF will result in energy savings of approximately 1,385,000 kWh per year. During Year 1, this will result in projected electrical energy cost savings of approximately \$166,000.

This energy efficiency project will significantly advance the City's mission of reducing its demand for traditional electricity generation thereby reducing its impact on the environment while providing improved services more efficiently.

The City is proposing to finance the project through the Small Community Grant and Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan programs administered through the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Financial Assistance.

**Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:** The site (see **Figure 3**) is bounded to the west by Hangtown Creek. It is bounded to the north by large lot single-family residential properties and accessory uses. To the east of the project area, the site is bounded by an unpaved parking and loading area and Coolwater Creek Road and Mallard Lane. To the south, the site is bounded by the WRF, being adjacent to the plant's Flow Equalization Basin.

### **Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):**

State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Financial Assistance: Financing  
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board: Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife: Biological Resources Impact Review  
City of Placerville-Engineering Division: Grading Permit  
City of Placerville-Building Division: Construction Permit

### **List of figures:**

**Figure 1. Project Location – 2300 Cold Water Creek Road, Placerville, CA 95667**  
**Figure 2. 1973 Photo-revised USGS Placerville Quadrangle**  
**Figure 3. Aerial View of Hangtown Creek Water Reclamation Facility and Project Site**  
**Figure 4. Proposed Solar PV Array Layout**  
**Figure 5. Existing General Plan Land Use Map**  
**Figure 6. Existing Zoning Map**

### **Appendices:**

**Appendix A:** *Biological Resources Study for the Hangtown Creek Water Reclamation Facility Small Community Grant/ Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) for the WWTP Project*, October 2018

**Appendix B:** CalEEMod Version: CalEEMod.2016.3.2 – Solar Photovoltaic (PV) at the WWTP – El Dorado-Mountain County County, Annual, May 31, 2018

**Appendix C:** Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board comments dated February 19, 2019

**Appendix D:** State Water Resources Control Board comments received by OPR February 27, 2019

## PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD

The Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) will be circulated for a 30-day review period beginning on January 30, 2019 through February 28, 2019.

1. The Initial Study/ MND and project plan documents may be viewed at the Development Services Department, City Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 3101 Center Street, Placerville, CA 95667 during business hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. These documents may also be viewed from the City's website at:  
<https://www.cityofplacerville.org/environmental-documents>
2. Submittal of written comments regarding the information, analysis, and mitigation measures in the Initial Study/MND may be submitted to Pierre Rivas, City of Placerville, 3101 Center Street, CA 95667. Before the MND is adopted, City staff will revise the draft MND, if necessary, to reflect any concerns raised during the public review period. All written comments will be included as part of the final MND.


## ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

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

## DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation, I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pierre Rivas  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
January 22, 2019  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
City of Placerville  
For

# HCWRF SOLAR PV PROJECT LOCATION MAP

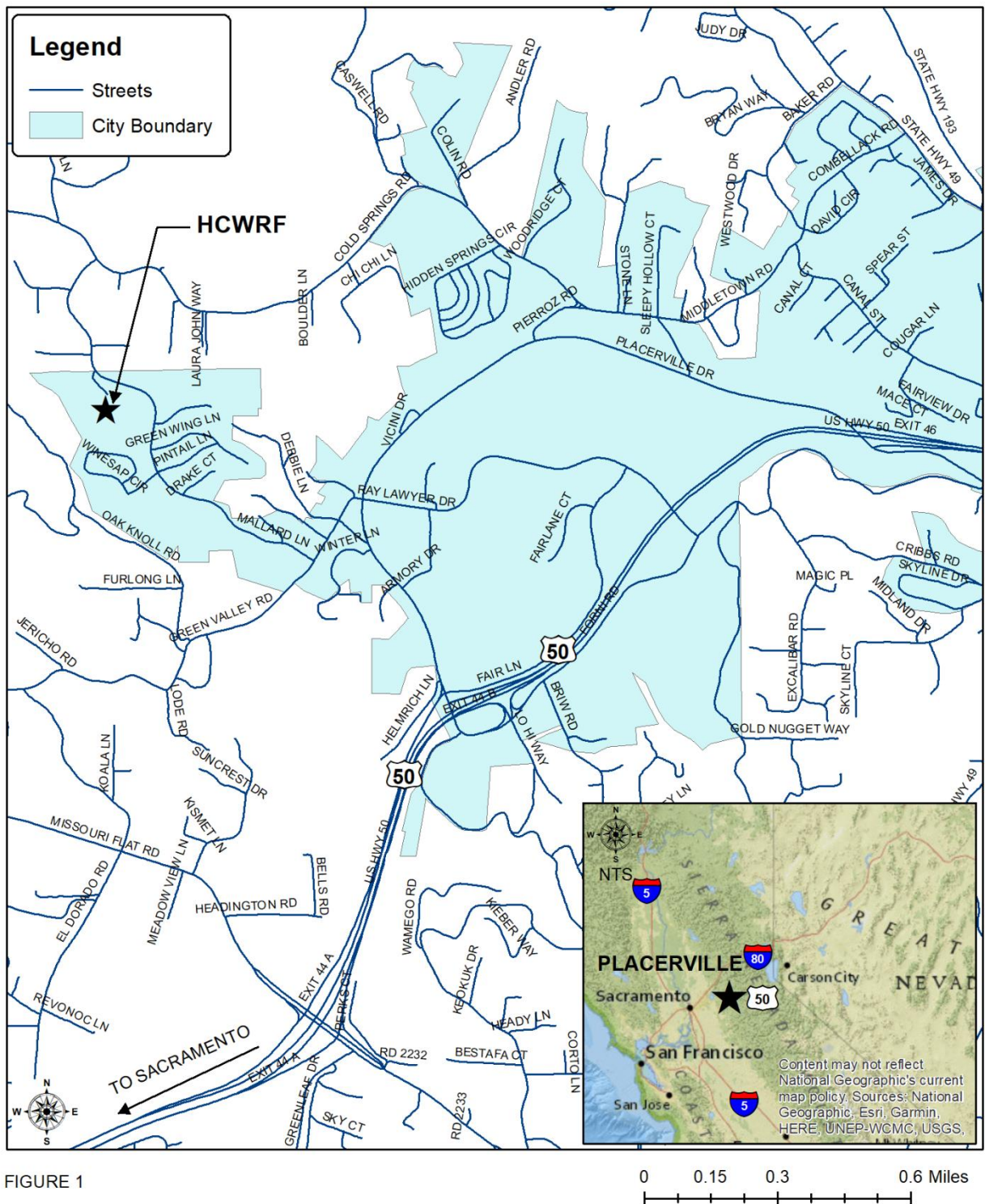


FIGURE 1



Figure 2: Hangtown Creek Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) Placerville 7.5 Minute Quadrangle

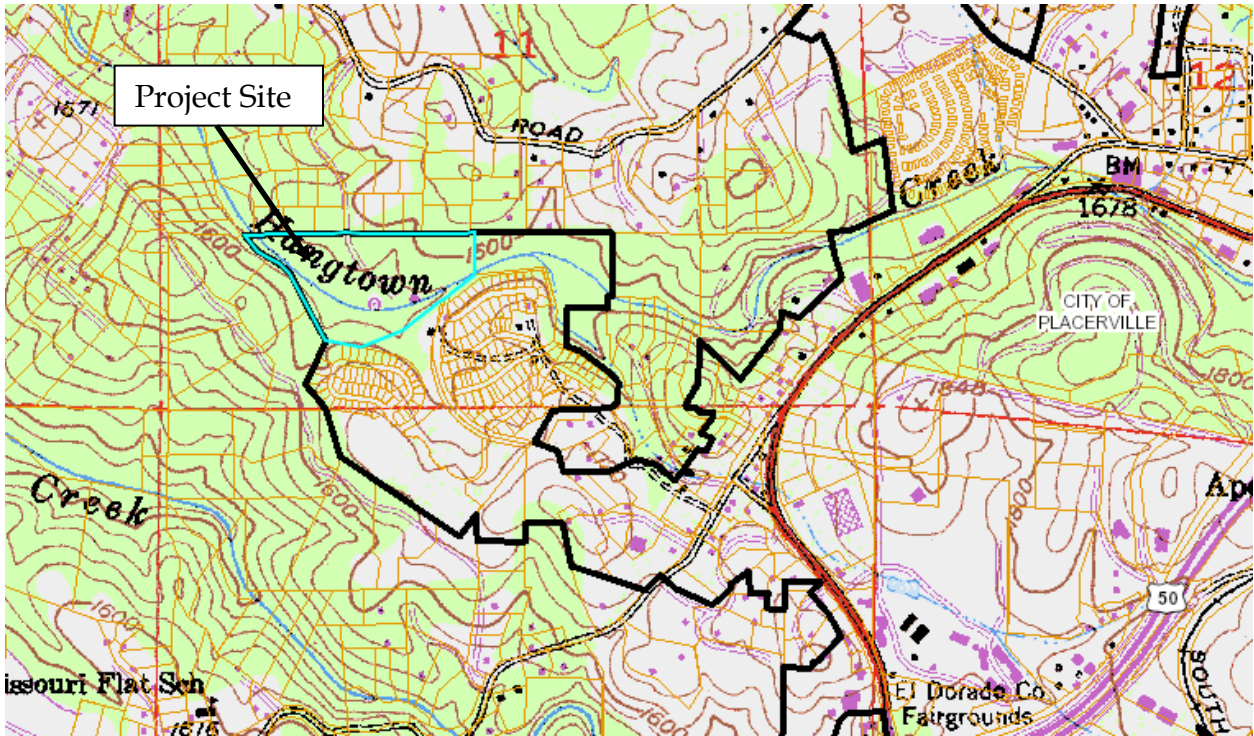
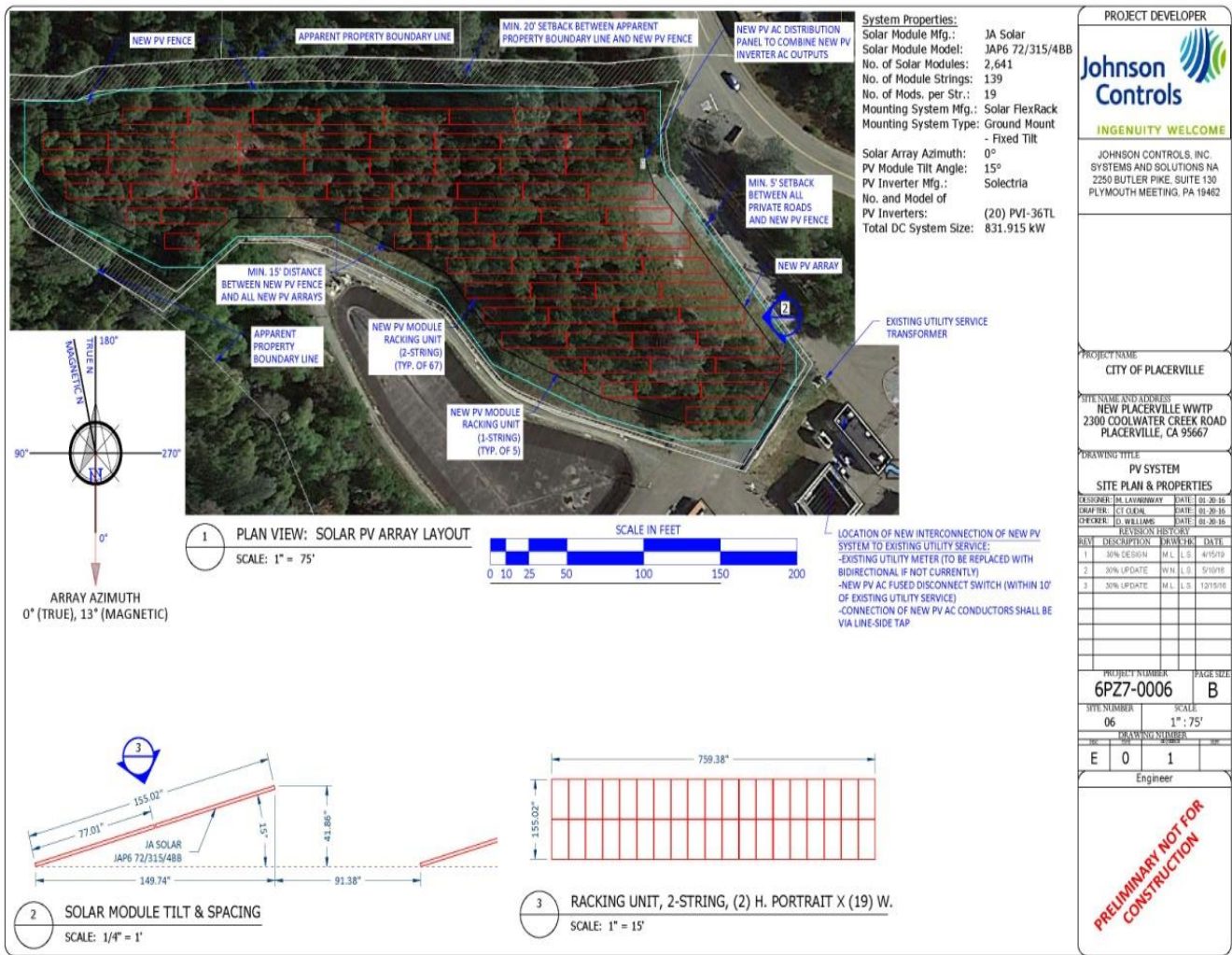


Figure 3: Aerial View of Proposed Solar Array





Figure 4: Plan View Solar PV Array Layout



**I. AESTHETICS.** Would the project:

|  | Potentially<br>Significant<br>Impact | Less than<br>Significant<br>with<br>Mitigation<br>Incorporated | Less than<br>Significant            | No Impact                           |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?  | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway? | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?  | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?                                    | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

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**Analysis**

a) The City of Placerville General Plan Background Report identifies areas that are considered to be especially scenic and worthy of preservation. These areas include primary and secondary ridgelines and primary watercourses. The project site is below a General Plan-identified secondary ridgeline. The solar array would be located on a sloped area above the WRF Flow Equalization Basin (FEB) and below a secondary ridgeline. The only potential visual impacts to the ridgeline or view shed would be from the WRF itself.

b) Existing tree cover consists of mostly native foothill pine and oak trees, native shrubs, non-native grasses, and non-native invasive Himalayan blackberry and Yellow-star thistle. The site is densely covered by tree canopy and understory of shrubs and ground cover. Existing rock outcrops are not readily visible. The project site is not visible from any designated local or state scenic highway. The site is primarily visible from the existing WRF and therefore, the project will have no visual impact directly, indirectly or cumulatively.

c) The site is currently vacant. The visual character that exists is of its undeveloped heavily vegetated condition. Visual impacts resulting from the presence of construction vehicles or ground disturbance may occur during project construction activities; however, construction activities would be temporary. The project will not result in cumulative impacts on visual character or quality because the entire existing viewshed is primarily viewed from the existing WRF and is an expansion to the facility. The viewshed surrounding the project and will not contribute to a cumulative impact for the following reasons: the project will not substantially alter the existing landform, the project does not propose any development on any prominent ridge and the project has a similar bulk and scale of existing structures in the immediate area. Therefore, the project will not result in any adverse project or cumulative level effect on visual character or quality on-site or in the surrounding area.

d) Any outdoor lighting installed will be subject to City Zoning Ordinance requirements (Section 10-4-16) that lighting be located and/or shielded in a manner to ensure that the intensity and direction of lighting does not constitute a nuisance to abutting residential dwellings located adjacent to the project to the north or abutting street rights-of-way.

e) Based on the specifications of the solar PV panels to be used, findings for glare effects of solar PV panel installations, potential Project-related glare effects experienced by viewers from area roadways, pedestrian walkways, or other areas frequently used for outdoor activities on surrounding properties are anticipated to be none to minimal, and no significant glare impacts would occur. Based on available technical evidence evaluating the reflectivity of the solar PV panels, the proposed Project would not install highly reflective building materials that would result in a substantial increase in light or glare that would affect the surrounding area or that would produce reflective light that would create adverse disability or discomfort glare. The proposed Project would be in conformance with the City's Guidelines of Determining Significance for Lighting and Glare.

**Mitigation Measures:** None required.

#### **Sources**

Placerville Municipal Code, *Zoning Ordinance*

City of Placerville Topographical Map

City of Placerville *Development Guide*

California Department of Transportation Website "Scenic Highway Corridor Program"

[http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/16\\_livability/scenic\\_highways/scenic\\_hwy.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/16_livability/scenic_highways/scenic_hwy.htm)



**II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES.** In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:

|  | Potentially<br>Significant<br>Impact | Less than<br>Significant<br>with<br>Mitigation<br>Incorporated | Less than<br>Significant | No Impact                           |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources?   | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?   | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))? | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?   | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?   | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

### Analysis

a & b) The site is currently vacant. Neither the site nor its immediately adjacent parcels are under agricultural cultivation. The California Department of Conservation's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) maps indicate the site is not designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance. The site is not enrolled in a Williamson Act contract. Therefore, the project will have no impact directly, indirectly or cumulatively.

c & d) Timber production, timberland as defined by Public Resources Code Section 12220(g), or agriculture uses have not been conducted in areas surrounding the site due to a lack of harvestable timber and established residential and public park improvements. The site is located within the PF (Public Facilities Zone) and the PF (Public Facility) General Plan Land Use designation. The project is an expansion to the existing WRF. Therefore, the project would not conflict with any zoning designations designed to preserve timber or agricultural resource preservation. Therefore, no impacts will occur from this project directly, indirectly or cumulatively.

e) The City of Placerville has no forest land nor does it have any timberland as described under Section II c & d) of this Initial Study. Therefore, no impacts to forest land or timberland will occur from this project directly, indirectly or cumulatively.

**Mitigation Measures:** None required.

**Sources**

California Resources Agency, *Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program*

Public Resources Code

City of Placerville Municipal Code

City of Placerville General Plan

**III. AIR QUALITY.** Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations.

Would the project:

|   | Potentially<br>Significant<br>Impact | Less than<br>Significant<br>with<br>Mitigation<br>Incorporated | Less than<br>Significant            | No Impact                           |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?   | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation?  | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)? | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?  | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?   | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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**Analysis**

a, b, c & d) The El Dorado County Air Quality Management District (AQMD) in 2002 prepared a *Guide to Air Quality Assessment* intended to be used during the Initial Study phase of the CEQA process. The City of Placerville is located within the El Dorado County AQMD. AQMD boundaries are coterminous with the boundaries of El Dorado County. The City and the western portion of El Dorado County are located within the Mountain Counties Air Basin (MCAB). The MCAB is comprised of Plumas, Sierra, Nevada, Placer (middle portion), El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne and Mariposa Counties.

In April 2014, the California Air Resources Board published area designations for state ambient air quality standards within the Mountain Counties Air Basin. Table 1 contains the attainment status for the Federal Clean Air Act Amendments' criteria air pollutants of 1- and 8-hour O<sub>3</sub> (ozone), PM<sub>10</sub> (particulate matter, 10 microns), PM<sub>2.5</sub> (particulate matter, 2.5 microns), CO (carbon monoxide), NO<sub>2</sub> (nitrogen dioxide) and SO<sub>2</sub> (sulfur dioxide).

**Table 1. Current Air Quality Standards – Mountain Counties Air Basin**

| Pollutant              | Designation / Classification |                 |
|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
|                        | Federal Standards            | State Standards |
| 1 -hour O <sub>3</sub> | No Standard                  | Nonattainment   |
| 8 -hour O <sub>3</sub> | Severe Nonattainment         | Nonattainment   |
| PM <sub>10</sub>       | Unclassified/Attainment      | Nonattainment   |
| PM <sub>2.5</sub>      | Attainment                   | Unclassified    |
| CO                     | Unclassified/Attainment      | Unclassified    |
| NO <sub>2</sub>        | Unclassified/Attainment      | Attainment      |
| SO <sub>2</sub>        | Unclassified/Attainment      | Attainment      |

The local El Dorado County Air Quality Management District (AQMD) assessment threshold of significance screening criteria for reactive organic gas (ROG) and oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>), which are precursors of ozone, is 82 pounds per day. According to AQMD's *Guide to Air Quality Assessment*, apartment development projects containing less than 350 dwelling units are assumed to not exceed the 82 pounds per day emissions thresholds for ROG and NO<sub>x</sub>. In addition, the AQMD's Guide further considers operational project activities for development projects that fall below the 82 pounds per day emission thresholds for ROG and NO<sub>x</sub> to have less than significant carbon monoxide (CO) and nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) impacts, and less than significant PM<sub>10</sub> (particulate matter, 10 microns) and sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) impacts.

Air quality impacts are only expected to occur during the construction phase of the project. As a solar PV project, no air emissions are expected during operation. As a “renewable” energy source, solar energy, the effect would be an expected decrease in the use of fossil fuels.

As recommended by the El Dorado County Air Quality Management District (AQMD), the City utilized the CalEEMod California Emissions Estimator model to estimate construction and operations emissions for the project (CalEEMod Version: CalEEMod.2016.3.2). Based on the model results shown below, the estimated:

- Construction emissions for NO<sub>x</sub> and ROG are below the Thresholds of Significance for those pollutants.
- Construction emissions for CO and SO<sub>2</sub> are very low.
- Operations emissions for CO, NO<sub>x</sub>, ROG, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>, and SO<sub>2</sub> are zero

Although the model does not estimate O<sub>3</sub> emissions, it does estimate NO<sub>x</sub> and ROG emissions. O<sub>3</sub> is a byproduct of NO<sub>x</sub>, ROG and sunlight. As a result, the AQMD regulates O<sub>3</sub> emissions indirectly by regulating emissions of the O<sub>3</sub> precursors (NO<sub>x</sub> and ROG), which are estimated to be below the corresponding Thresholds of Significance.

Based on the model results, resulting emissions from the project are considered insignificant.



**Table 2 CalEEMod California Emissions Estimator Model Results**

| Pollutant  | Federal Status           | Nonattainment Rates | Thresholds of Significance | Construction Emissions (Tons/Year) | Operations Emissions (Tons/Year) |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1-hour Ozone (O <sub>3</sub> )                                   | No standard              |                     |                            |                                    |                                  |
| 8-hour Ozone (O <sub>3</sub> )                                   | Nonattainment            | Severe              |                            |                                    |                                  |
| Carbon Monoxide (CO)   | Unclassified/ Attainment |                     |                            | 0.7663                             | 0                                |
| Oxides of Nitrogen (NO <sub>x</sub> )                            | Unclassified/ Attainment |                     | 82 lbs/day                 | 1.1029                             | 0                                |
| Reactive Organic Gases (ROG)                                     | No standard              |                     | 82 lbs/day                 | 0.1243                             | 0                                |
| Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)                                 | No standard              |                     | 82 lbs/day                 |                                    |                                  |
| Lead (Pb)  | Attainment               |                     |                            |                                    |                                  |
| Particulates less than 2.5 microns diameter (PM <sub>2.5</sub> ) | Attainment               |                     |                            | 0.0564                             | 0                                |
| Particulates less than 10 microns diameter (PM <sub>10</sub> )   | Unclassified/ Attainment |                     |                            | 0.0644                             | 0                                |
| Sulfur Dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> )                                | Unclassified/ Attainment |                     |                            | 1.3700 e-003                       | 0                                |

Therefore, the impact of the project's emissions at the project site on regional air quality under thresholds b), c), and d), and on sensitive receptors, would be less than significant (not cumulatively considerable).

The AQMD has developed a rule (Rule 223-1, Fugitive Dust) to limit the quantity of fugitive dust emissions from construction, and construction related activities. Developing the site for installation of the solar PV system is expected to generate short-term inhalable particulate matter or fugitive dust. This impact is considered potentially significant. The following mitigation measure is expected to minimize construction related fugitive dust emissions to a less than significant level.

#### **Mitigation Measures:**

**AQ-1:** The City shall comply with AQMD Rule 223-1 to reduce construction dust through water application, stabilizing exposed soil and covering loads.

**Timeframe for Implementation:** During pre-construction and construction phases.

**Responsibility for Implementation:** City of Placerville

**Oversight of Implementation:** Engineering Department and the Building Division of the Development Services shall confirm that the grading plan and building plans are in compliance with AQMD Rule 223-1.

The AQMD has developed a rule regarding the discharge to the atmosphere of volatile organic compounds (VOC's) caused by the use or manufacture, mixing, storage and application of Cutback or Emulsified asphalt used for paving, road construction or road maintenance. It is called Rule 224 - Cutback and Emulsified Asphalt Paving Materials. Development on the site does not involve any use of paving of driveways or surfaces that would have the potential to discharge VOC into the atmosphere. Therefore, the project's expected VOC discharge to the atmosphere is less than significant.

e) Project grading, construction and operations activities are not expected to create objectionable odors. Therefore, the project will not cause objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people either directly, indirectly and cumulatively.

**Sources**

El Dorado County Environmental Management Department Air Quality Management District

El Dorado County Air Pollution Control District, *Guide to Air Quality Assessment*, 2002

CalEEMod Version: CalEEMod.2016.3.2 for Solar Photovoltaic (PV) at the WWTR – El Dorado-Mountain County, Annual model results, May 31, 2018

**IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES.** Would the project:

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

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**Analysis**

a) The project site is located in a developed, industrial site and is surrounded by existing residential uses and public streets. No known endangered, threatened or rare species or their habitats are present on the site or in the immediate project vicinity (General Plan 1990).

Site visit by City staff on January 26 and July 23, 2018 revealed the following plant and animal species:

|                     |                       |                   |                |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Yellow star thistle | Foothill or Grey pine | Blue oak          | coyote bush    |
| Non-native grasses  | Himalayan blackberry  | Interior live oak | Ponderosa pine |
| Buck brush          | Manzanita             | Turkey            | Grey fox       |
| Scrub jay           | Robin                 | ground squirrel   | Mule Deer      |

Raptors such as red tailed hawks, owls and turkey vultures are known to exist within the City. However, no raptors or raptor nests were observed by City staff during its site visit. Raptors are protected under federal law. Therefore, a potential exists that site development could disturb nesting raptor species and other nesting birds that may utilize mature oaks and pines within the project site and adjacent land if they are present during construction activities. The following mitigation measure is expected to minimize potential impacts to nesting raptor and other nesting bird species to a less than significant level.

#### **Mitigation Measures:**

**BIO-1:** If project-related activities are scheduled during the nesting season (February 1 to August 31), a focused survey for nests shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within three (3) days prior to the beginning of project-related activities. The qualified biologist shall survey the area for all nests within a minimum 500-foot radius around the project area. The results of the survey shall be made available upon request. If an active nest is found, the qualified biologist shall establish a non-disturbance buffer sized appropriately for the particular species and level of disturbance around the nest. The buffer shall be maintained until the nest is no longer active. If a lapse in project-related work of fifteen (15) days or longer occurs, another focused survey will be required before project work can be reinitiated.

**Timeframe for Implementation:** Within three (3) days prior to the contractor mobilizing for construction activities

**Responsibility for Implementation:** Engineering Department and Qualified Biologist. Biologist to provide survey results memo to the Engineering Department.

**Oversight of Implementation:** Engineering Department

b & c) No wetlands, marshes, vernal pools, or coastal areas are present on the project site. Hangtown Creek is not part of the project area. There is no riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the US Fish and Wildlife Service present on or adjacent to the site. In the absence of those on-site or near-site resources, no direct or indirect project-related impacts to any waters of the United States are anticipated. Therefore, no impacts will occur from this project directly, indirectly or cumulatively.

d) There are no known migratory fish or wildlife species, established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or native wildlife nursery sites located on the previously developed subject site that is surrounded by developed residential and the existing industrial wastewater treatment facility. Therefore, no impacts will occur from this project directly, indirectly or cumulatively.

e) To develop the site with the solar panel array, trees and shrubs on the site would be expected to be removed. However, the project does not involve a residential subdivision of land. The project therefore it is not subject to City Code Section 8-13-4, the City's Woodland Alteration Permit and Plan regulations.

However, there are two General Plan goals and three policies contained within the Natural, Cultural, and Scenic Resources that do address vegetative cover within Placerville:

*Goal D: To protect Placerville's natural vegetation and diverse wildlife.*

*Policy 3 of Goal D: New development shall be sited to protect native tree species, riparian vegetation, important concentrations of natural plants, and important wildlife habitat, to minimize visual impacts and to provide for continuity of wildlife corridors.*



*Policy 9 of Goal D: The City shall seek to protect and manage Placerville's tree cover to maximize ecological and aesthetic values consistent with the reasonable economic enjoyment of private property. To this end, the City shall adopt and enforce a Historical Tree Ordinance.*

*Goal I: To protect and enhance Placerville's community character and scenic resources.*

*Policy 4 of Goal I: The City shall condition development approvals to protect natural features such as rock outcrops and trees.*

The City of Placerville Development Guide, as amended (2016), contains preservation and protection guidelines for trees, particularly oaks, pines and other native species within hillside areas. These guidelines were developed to implement the City of Placerville General Plan goals and policies related to trees, tree cover and open space. The solar PV project is being developed within the existing wastewater treatment facility site and is not considered an expansion, nor is the project a residential subdivision subject to the City's Woodland Conservation Ordinance.

f) The project site is not subject to any habitat conservation plans or any other regional plans. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with the provisions of any adopted local or regional conservation plans; and would not have an impact directly, indirectly or cumulatively.

### **Sources**

City of Placerville Topographic Map (1982)

Placerville Municipal Code, *Zoning Ordinance*

Placerville *Development Guide*

Department of Fish & Game California Natural Diversity Database website:

[www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/)

*Biological Resources Study for the Hangtown Creek Water Reclamation Facility*, Development Services Department, October 2018

*Small Community Grant/ Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) for the WWTP Project*, October 2018

**V. CULTURAL RESOURCES.** Would the project:

|   | Potentially<br>Significant<br>Impact | Less than<br>Significant<br>with<br>Mitigation<br>Incorporated | Less than<br>Significant            | No Impact                |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines?             | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15064.5? | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?                       | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?  | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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**Analysis**

a) A search of the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register and the City's Historic Resources Inventory revealed that the site or vicinity is not listed on these cultural and historic resource inventories. A cultural resources inventory report was prepared by InContext under contract with the City of Placerville for the Hangtown Creek Water Reclamation Facility, Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan, Solar Photovoltaic Facility in the City of Placerville. This study was conducted in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This report presents the methods and results of a records search and literature review, Section 106 outreach, a pedestrian survey, and archival research. The City of Placerville conducted early consultation with local tribal cultural resources [Pub. Res. Code section 5020.1(k), 5024.1(c)] in their CEQA document.

CEQA requires public or private projects financed or approved by public agencies to assess the effects of the project on cultural resources that might qualify as being historical, as that term is defined by statute. (See Public Resources Code, Section 21084.1.) Potentially historical resources could include buildings, sites, structures, or objects, each of which may have historical, architectural, cultural, or scientific importance. CEQA requires that alternative plans or mitigation measures be considered if a project results in an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource. Prior to the assessment of effects or the development of mitigation measures, it must first be determined whether a particular resource is "historical." The steps that are taken in a cultural resources investigation for CEQA compliance are as follows:

- Evaluate whether potentially historical resources are in fact historical
- Identify potential historical resources
- Evaluate the effects of a project on all historical resources

CEQA guidelines define three ways that a property can qualify as a significant historical resource for the purposes of CEQA review:

- 1) if the resource is listed in or determined eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR);

- 2) if the resource is included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in section 5020.1(k) of the Public Resources Code or identified as significant in an historical resource survey meeting the requirements of section 5024.1(g) of the Public Resources Code unless the preponderance of evidence demonstrates that it is not historically or culturally significant; or
- 3) the lead agency determines the resource to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California, as supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, section 15064.5).

The CRHR was created by the State Legislature in 1992. The eligibility criteria for the CRHR are intended to serve as the definitive criteria for assessing the significance of potential historical resources for purposes of CEQA. For a potential historical resource to be eligible for listing in the CRHR, it must be significant at the local, state, or national level under one or more of the following four criteria:

- Is associated with lives of persons important in our past;
- Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;
- Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual or possesses high artistic values; or
- Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Historical resources automatically listed in the CRHR include those historic properties listed in, or formally determined eligible for listing in, the National Register. Under federal regulations, a project has an effect on a historic property when the project could alter the characteristics of the property that may qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register, including alteration of location, setting, or use. A project may be considered to have an adverse effect on a historic property when the effect may diminish the integrity of the property's location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association. Adverse effects on historic properties include, but are not limited to:

- Physical destruction or alteration of all or part of the property;
- Isolation of the property from, or alteration of, the property's setting when that character contributes to the property's qualifications for listing in the National Register;
- Introduction of visual, audible, or atmospheric elements that are out of character with the property or that alter its setting;
- Neglect of a property resulting in its deterioration or destruction; or
- Transfer, lease, or sale of the property (36 CFR 800.9).

In that the site does not contain cultural or historic resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register or the City's Historic Resources Inventory, potential development resulting from the project on the Project Location is considered less than significant.

b) The City notified California Native American tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project, and who had requested notification of proposed projects by the City per Section 21080.3.1 of the Public Resources Code. The United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) requested that if tribal cultural resources are identified within the project area, that tribal monitors be present for all ground disturbing activities. The UAIC stated their preference is to preserve tribal cultural resources in place and avoid them whenever possible.

No known archaeological resources were identified in the General Plan for the project site. Therefore, the project would not likely impact an archaeological resource. However, there is the possibility of accidental archaeological discoveries during construction-related ground-disturbing activities. The maximum area of all possible ground-disturbing activities is limited to approximately 2.88 acres. Within the Area of Potential Effects (APE), areas of direct impact will be restricted to the installation of piers to a depth of 8 feet below current ground surface. All excavated soil will remain on the property.

Although no cultural resources were identified as a result of the cultural resources inventory report the location is considered moderately sensitive for the presence of Native American associated resources. “Combined with the depth and quantity of ground disturbance activities proposed during pier excavations, the likelihood for uncovering buried resources is also considered moderate.”

This impact is considered potentially significant. To address unanticipated and accidental archaeological discoveries, the following mitigation measure is expected to minimize this potential impact to a less than significant level:

**Mitigation Measures:**

**CR-1:** If during the course of implementing the project, cultural resources (i.e., prehistoric sites, historic sites, and/or isolated artifacts) are discovered, work shall be halted immediately by the development contractor. Temporary orange fencing shall be placed by the development contractor around a culturally significant discovery to prevent unnecessary equipment movement inside these areas during and after a discovery. The City of Placerville Engineering Department and the Cultural Resource Manager of the United Auburn Indian Community shall be notified immediately. The development contractor, their agents or assigns shall retain a professional archaeologist, or qualified cultural resource specialist that meets the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Professional Qualifications in archaeology and/or history. The archaeologist or qualified cultural resource specialist and representatives from the United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) will evaluate the significance of any unanticipated discovery and make recommendations for further evaluation and treatment as necessary.

The City shall consider mitigation recommendations presented by a professional archaeologist that meets the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Professional Qualifications in archaeology and/or history for any unanticipated discoveries. Such measures may include avoidance, preservation in place, excavation, documentation, curation, data recovery, or other appropriate measures. The City shall be required to implement any mitigation necessary for the protection of cultural resources. For any recommendations made by UAIC or other interested Native American Tribes which are not implemented, a justification for why the recommendation was not followed will be provided into the project record.

**Timeframe for Implementation:** During grading and construction activities

**Responsibility for Implementation:** City of Placerville and qualified archaeologist

**Oversight of Implementation:** Engineering Department

c) No known paleontological resources or unique geological features were identified in the General Plan for the project site. There is no indication from soil and geologic information received from the National Resource Conservation Service for this project or the State of California Geologic maps that paleontological resources or unique geologic features exist on the site. The project would not likely impact a paleontological resource or unique geologic features. However, there is the possibility of accidental paleontological discoveries during construction-related ground-disturbing activities. This is considered potentially significant. The following mitigation measure is expected to minimize this potential impact to a less than significant level.

**Mitigation Measures:**

**CR-2:** If, during the course of site development, any paleontological resources (fossils) are discovered, the project contractor shall notify and the City of Placerville Engineering Department. At that time, the City will coordinate any necessary investigation of the discovery with a qualified paleontologist.

The City shall consider the mitigation recommendations of the qualified paleontologist for any unanticipated discoveries of paleontological resources. Such measures may include avoidance, preservation in place, excavation, documentation, curation, data recovery, or other appropriate measures. The City shall be required to implement any mitigation necessary for the adequate protection of paleontological resources.



**Timeframe for Implementation:** During grading and construction activities

**Responsibility for Implementation:** Developer and qualified paleontologist

**Oversight of Implementation:** Development Services – Engineering and Planning Divisions

d) There is no indication from the City's General Plan or Historic Resources Inventory that a cemetery or burial area existed on the site. However, in the unlikely event human remains are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, the following mitigation measure is expected to minimize this potential impact to a less than significant level.

**Mitigation Measures:**

**CR-3:** If, during the course of development of the site, human remains are discovered, all work shall be halted immediately on site. The project contractor shall notify the City of Placerville Engineering Department. The project developer shall also contact the El Dorado County Coroner to investigate and determine that no investigation of the cause of death is required. If the Coroner determines the remains are those of a Native American origin, the coroner must notify the California Native American Heritage Commission, who will notify and appoint a Most Likely Descendent (MLD). The MLD will work with a qualified archaeologist to decide the proper treatment of the human remains and any associated cultural objects.

**Timeframe for Implementation:** During grading and construction activities

**Responsibility for Implementation:** City of Placerville

**Oversight of Implementation:** Engineering Department

**Sources**

*Cultural Resources Inventory Report for the Hangtown Creek Reclamation Facility Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan Solar Photovoltaic Facility*, InContext, May 2018

City of Placerville, General Plan

Correspondence with United Auburn Indian Community

State of California, Code of Regulations

State of California, Public Resources Code

United States Geological Survey, 1950 Placerville Quadrangle

**VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS.** Would the project:

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

**Analysis**

a - i, ii, iii, iv) No Impact. Per the California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology, there are no Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones within the City or El Dorado County. Therefore, the project will have no impact directly, indirectly or cumulatively.

A project site may experience the effects of seismic ground shaking based on the proximity of the site to an earthquake fault, the intensity of the seismic event, and the underlying soils. Although no active faults or Earthquake Fault Zones are located on the project site, an inactive geologic fault is located within one mile east of the project site. This pre-Quaternary fault called "Melones" is not expected to involve fault rupture, seismic shaking, ground failure or landslides due to its geologic inactivity. No impacts are anticipated.

b, c) Per the Soil Survey of El Dorado Area, California (Sheet No. 34), the on-site soil type is Diamond Springs – very sandy loam (DfD) 15 – 30% slope. Surface runoff is medium to rapid, and the erosion hazard is high. This soil type is used for woodland and limited range.

The following mitigation is expected to minimize the potential impact of slight and moderate to high soil erosion to a less than significant level.

### **Mitigation Measures:**

**GEO-1** All grading activities on the project site for placement of the solar panel support structures shall conform to the City's Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control regulations (Chapter 7, Title VIII of the City Code) and the El Dorado County Resource Conservation District's Erosion Control Requirements and Specifications for all grading activities. A grading plan shall be prepared and reviewed by the City Engineering Department prior to beginning any grading work. Final grading plans must be approved by the City Engineer prior to any onsite grading. Per the California General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbing Activities Order No. 2009-009-DWQ, a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) shall be prepared and implemented in conjunction with the grading permit.

**Timeframe for Implementation:** During grading and construction activities

**Responsibility for Implementation:** City of Placerville – Engineering Department

**Oversight of Implementation:** Engineering Department – City Engineer.

d) Expansive soils increase in volume when they absorb water and then shrink upon drying out. Soils with high clay content are subject to soil expansion. Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code establishes numerical expansion indices for soil types ranging from very low to very high. Any soil identified in the foundation investigation to have an expansion index greater than 90 (medium) would require specific engineering analysis as required within the Uniform Building Code.

The Soil Survey of El Dorado - Table 6, lists the shrink-swell potential of each soil series found in the County. The amount of clay within the soil series determines the shrink-swell potential. Soils series with low to moderate shrink-swell potential provide sites adequate for placing structures. Review of the Soil Survey of El Dorado County indicates that the on-site soil type (DfD) has a low shrink-swell potential. Based upon this review, the impact from expansive soils is less than significant.

e) The proposed solar project does not involve the installation or use of a septic tank subsurface disposal system. Therefore, on-site wastewater disposal will not be impacted directly, indirectly or cumulatively.

### **Sources**

City of Placerville General Plan (1990)

United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service and Forest Service *Soil Survey of El Dorado County* (April 1974)

Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42, *Fault-Rupture Hazard Zones in California, Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act With Index to Earthquake Fault Zone Maps.*

California Building Code

SWRCB website: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/stormwater/constpermits.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/constpermits.shtml)

**VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.** Would the project:

|  | Potentially Significant Impact | Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less than Significant               | No Impact                           |
|--|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?      | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>                           | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**Analysis**

a) Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. Project construction would temporarily generate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through the use of fossil fuels during construction, thus potentially contributing to cumulative impacts related to global climate change. The primary land-use related greenhouse gases (GHG) are carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxides (N<sub>2</sub>O). Estimated emissions are expressed in annual metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) units.

The project is a solar photovoltaic system that involves installation of a long-term renewable energy source (solar photovoltaic system). The solar photovoltaic system would allow the City to generate sufficient electricity on-site to achieve an approximately 60% reduction in the electricity purchased from PG&E for municipal wastewater treatment. The project adjoins the existing waste water treatment plant and is bounded on the north by existing residential uses and Mallard Lane to the east.

Neither the El Dorado County Air Quality Management District nor the City has adopted GHG emission thresholds for development projects. An assessment of the project's potential GHG emissions during construction was conducted using the California Emissions Estimation Model (CalEEMod) version 2016.3.2, based on the following assumptions: 1) The maximum development potential assumptions of this Initial Study; 2) An approximate eight-month construction period occurring in 2017; 3) Operation of the project beginning in 2019 ; and 4) An assumed 30-year life of the project.

As shown in Table 3 below, the estimated metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) units generated by project construction is 118.9124 metric tons. Because project-related construction emissions are confined to a relatively short period of time in relation to the overall life of the project, construction emissions are amortized to determine the annual construction related GHG emissions over the life of the project. When amortized over a 20-year period (the assumed life of the project), CO<sub>2</sub>e construction emissions equal 5.946 metric tons per year. The emissions shown in table below are rounded to whole numbers.

**Table 3**  
**Estimated Construction Emissions of Greenhouse Gases**

| Year                           | Annual Emissions<br>(Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO <sub>2</sub> e)) |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 2019                           | 119 metric tons   |
|                                |   |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>119 metric tons</b>  |
| <b>Amortized over 20 years</b> | <b>6 metric tons per year</b>                                       |

*See Appendix 2 for CalEEMod Results.*

Operational Emissions include area sources, energy use, solid waste, water use, and transportation emissions. The estimated metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) units generated by the operation of the solar photovoltaic system is 0 metric tons.

As shown below in Table 4, the net combined construction and operational emissions at project completion would be 119 metric tons before mitigation. The emissions shown are rounded to whole numbers. Full results are shown in Appendix B.

**Table 4**  
**Combined Annual Emissions of Greenhouse Gases Before Mitigation**

| <b>Emission Source</b> | <b>Annual Emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>e)</b> |
|------------------------|---|
| Project Construction   | 119 metric tons                           |
| Operational Emissions  | 0 metric tons                             |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>119 metric tons</b>                    |

Estimated annual GHG emissions associated with the proposed solar project with the above mitigation incorporated are summarized in Table 5. As shown in the table, the annual GHG emissions associated with the potential solar project would be 119 CO<sub>2</sub>e with mitigation incorporated.

**Table 5**  
**Combined Annual Emissions of Greenhouse Gases After Mitigation**

| <b>Emission Source</b> | <b>Annual Emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>e)</b> |
|------------------------|---|
| Project Construction   | 119 metric tons                           |
| Operational Emissions  | 0 metric tons                             |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>119 metric tons</b>                    |

The following mitigation measures are incorporated into the project to reduce construction emissions of the proposed solar photovoltaic project on the project site.

**Mitigation Measures:**

**GHG-01:** Only low- and non-VOC-containing paints, sealants, adhesives, and solvents shall be utilized in the construction of the Project.

**Timeframe for Implementation:** During construction activities

**Responsibility for Implementation:** City of Placerville

**Oversight of Implementation:** Engineering Department

**Sources:**

California Emissions Estimation Model (CalEEMod) version 2016.3.2

California Building Code

City of Placerville City Code

El Dorado County Air Pollution Control District, *Guide to Air Quality Assessment*, February 2002

**VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.** Would the project:

|  | Potentially<br>Significant<br>Impact | Less than<br>Significant<br>with<br>Mitigation<br>Incorporated | Less than<br>Significant | No Impact                           |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?  | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?  | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?  | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?                                   | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?  | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?  | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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

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### Analysis

- a) The project use and construction would not involve transport, use or store hazardous materials. Therefore, the project will have no impact directly, indirectly or cumulatively.
- b & c) The project use and construction would not involve transport, use or store hazardous materials. Therefore, the project will have no impact directly, indirectly or cumulatively.
- d) The project site is not included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Therefore, the project will have no impact directly, indirectly or cumulatively.
- e) Zoning for the site is PF (Public Facility). The site is not located within the Placerville Airport Influence Area. Therefore, the project will have no impact directly, indirectly or cumulatively to the Placerville Airport or the Placerville Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan.
- f) There are no private airstrips within the project vicinity. Therefore, the project will have no impact directly, indirectly or cumulatively.
- g) The proposed solar PV project will not impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, the City of Placerville's Emergency Response Plan. Therefore, the project would have no impact directly, indirectly or cumulatively.
- h) Per the Placerville Very High Fire Hazard Area map dated November 17, 2008, the project site is located in the CAL FIRE Very High Fire Severity Zone. Construction of the solar facility requires the removal of most of the existing vegetation on the site reducing or eliminating potential fire fuels.

**Migration Measures:** None required.

### Sources

Placerville Zoning Ordinance  
 City of Placerville Emergency Response Plan  
 California Government Code  
*Placerville Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan*, adopted June 2012.  
 Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention, *Placerville Very High Fire Hazard Area Map*, 2008  
 California Building Code



**IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY.** Would the project:

|   | Potentially<br>Significant<br>Impact | Less than<br>Significant<br>with<br>Mitigation<br>Incorporated | Less than<br>Significant            | No Impact                           |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?   | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)? | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?  | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?   | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?   | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?   | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?  | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?   | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

- |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| j) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving inundation by seiche, tsunami or mudflow?                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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### Analysis

a, f) Grading and construction associated with the proposed solar array would require temporary disturbance of surface soils and removal of vegetative cover which could potentially result in erosion and sedimentation on the site. Erosion and sedimentation constitute potential water quality impacts attributable to construction activities. Increased sedimentation in the existing surface drainage ditch is possible if runoff from the construction site is not managed properly.

Short-term storm water pollutant discharges would be mitigated through compliance with the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Construction General Permit), as well as City of Placerville Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control regulations (City Code Section 8-7-1 to 8-7-35) resulting in a less than significant impact. Permittees must verify compliance with permit requirements by implementing Best Management Practices, monitoring runoff quality, maintaining records, and filing periodic reports.

Development of the project site would disturb more than one acre and would therefore, be required to obtain coverage under the Construction General Permit. Compliance with the permit requirements would prevent sedimentation and soil erosion through development and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and periodic inspections by City staff. A SWPPP is a written document that describes the construction operator's activities to comply with the requirements in the NPDES permit. Required elements of a SWPPP include (1) site description addressing the elements and characteristics specific to the project site; (2) descriptions of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for erosion and sediment controls; (3) BMPs for construction waste handling and disposal; (4) implementation of approved local plans; and (5) proposed post-construction controls, including a description of local post-construction erosion and sediment control requirements. The SWPPP is intended to facilitate a process whereby the operator evaluates potential pollutant sources at the site and selects and implements BMPs designed to prevent or control the discharge of pollutants in storm water runoff.

During the construction period, the construction contractor would use a series of BMPs to reduce erosion and sedimentation. These measures may include the use of gravel bags, silt fences, check dams, hydro-seeding, and soil binders. The construction contractor would be required to operate and maintain these controls throughout the duration of on-site construction activities. In addition, the construction contractor would be required to maintain an inspection log and have the log on site to be reviewed by the City and representatives of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). Incorporation of these requirements as mitigation measures HYD-1 through HYD-3 is designed to track both standard requirements and mitigation measures as part of the project's Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan or Program (MMRP). With implementation of the standard construction-related SWPPP BMPs discussed above, water quality impacts from runoff during temporary construction activities and subsequent long-term operational activities would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:**

**HYD-1:** Prior to the issuance of a grading permit by the City of Placerville, the project City shall file a Notice of Intent (NOI) with the State Water Resources Control Board to be covered under the General Construction Permit.

**Timeframe for Implementation:** Prior to issuance of grading permit

**Responsibility for Implementation:** City of Placerville

**Oversight of Implementation:** Engineering Department and the Central Valley RWQCB

**HYD-2:** Prior to the issuance of a grading permit by the City to the contractor, the City shall require that the project developer prepare and submit a SWPPP to and receive approval from the City Engineer. The SWPPP shall include a surface runoff management plan and an erosion control plan citing specific measures to control on- site and off-site erosion during the entire grading and construction period until the site is stabilized. In addition, the SWPPP shall emphasize structural and nonstructural BMPs to control sediment and non-visible discharges from the site.

**Timeframe for Implementation:** Prior to issuance of grading permit

**Responsibility for Implementation:** City of Placerville-

**Oversight of Implementation:** Engineering Department – City Engineer

**HYD-3:** The City of Placerville shall be responsible for performing and documenting the implementation of the BMPs identified in the SWPPP. Weekly inspections shall be performed on sediment control measures called for in the SWPPP. Monthly reports shall be maintained by the Contractor and available for City inspection. In addition, the Contractor would also be required to maintain an inspection log and have the log on site available for review by the City of Placerville and the representatives of the RWQCB.

**Timeframe for Implementation:** Prior to issuance of grading permit

**Responsibility for Implementation:** City of Placerville

**Oversight of Implementation:** Engineering Department – City Engineer and the Central Valley RWQCB

b) Maintenance of the proposed solar PV system does require a water supply. However, the City does not propose the use of well water. The project site is sloped and is not considered a ground water recharge area. Drainage from the site flows to Hangtown Creek. Therefore, there are no impacts to groundwater or to a groundwater recharge area. Impacts associated with ground water would less than significant.

c, d, e) Water drainage movements across the project area are generally from north to south, down slope to an existing drainage ditch. Site drainage due to existing and surrounding topography is expected to remain unchanged following installation of the solar array system. Clearing, grubbing, and vegetation clearing would include specific design BMPs to ensure that no storm water runoff generated on site (i.e., runoff from solar facility site) would be allowed to leave the site without erosion and sedimentation controls. Adherence to and implementation of mitigation measures HYD-4 and HYD-5 would reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

**Mitigation Measures:**

**HYD-4:** Prior to issuance of a grading permit for the project, a project Drainage Report shall be prepared and submitted to the City Engineer for approval. The Drainage Report shall include all aspects of drainage as discussed herein. The approved Drainage Report will serve as a design guide for the project above ground drainage system(s). The results of the Drainage Report will be considered in final design and construction requirements of the storm drain system for the proposed development.

**HYD-5:** Erosion control measures and re-vegetation of the site shall be designed and included in the final grading plan submittal. Drainage patterns shall be maintained and constructed to keep post-development flows

leaving the site at or below pre-development levels. Drainage calculations will be required to show that these conditions are being met. Changes to historical and existing drainage patterns will not be allowed without specific City approval.

**Timeframe for Implementation of HYD-4 and HYD-5:** Prior to issuance of grading permit

**Responsibility for Implementation:** City of Placerville

**Oversight of Implementation:** Engineering Department

g, h, i) Per the National Flood Insurance Program, the site is located on Map Number 06017C0775E, Panel 0775E, effective September 26, 2008, the site is shown as being in Zone X: “Areas of 0.2% chance flood; areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depths of less than 1 foot or with drainage areas less than 1 square mile; and areas protected by levees from 1% annual chance flood” not identified as being within the 100-year flood zone area. Therefore, the project will have no impact directly, indirectly or cumulatively.

j) The site is not located close to an inland body of water or the Pacific Ocean. Therefore, the proposed project would not be impacted by a seiche or tsunami.

Per the City’s Health and Safety Element, the project site is not within a seismic hazard area. Therefore, the site would not be impacted by mudflows.

#### **Sources**

Placerville Municipal Code

National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (current edition), adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board

F.E.M.A. Flood Insurance Rate Map, Community Map Number 06017C0752E, Panel 0775-E (September 26, 2008)

**X. LAND USE AND PLANNING.** Would the Project:

|   | Potentially<br>Significant<br>Impact | Less than<br>Significant<br>with<br>Mitigation<br>Incorporated | Less than<br>Significant | No Impact                           |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Physically divide an established community?  | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?   | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**Analysis**

a) Physical division of the community typically occurs by the construction of a major highway, a storm channel, the closing of roads or the construction of utility transmission lines. The construction of the proposed solar PV facility is directly adjacent to and within the existing WRF and does not involve constructing of a highway, storm channel, or the closing of roads or the construction of utility transmission lines. No physical divisions have been identified. No impacts are therefore anticipated.

b) The site is designated and zoned PF (Public Facilities) by the City of Placerville General Plan Land Use Map and the Zoning Map. The solar PV project is located within the existing facility site and does not involve the acquisition of additional property.

c) The proposed project would not conflict with any applicable adopted habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan since no such plans exist within the City. In the absence of an applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan, the project would not result in any conflicts with an adopted habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan. Therefore, the project will have no impact directly, indirectly or cumulatively.

**Mitigation Measures:** None required.

**Sources**

City of Placerville *General Plan* (1990)  
Placerville Municipal Code, *Zoning Ordinance*

FIGURE 5

PLACERVILLE GENERAL PLAN LAND USE MAP

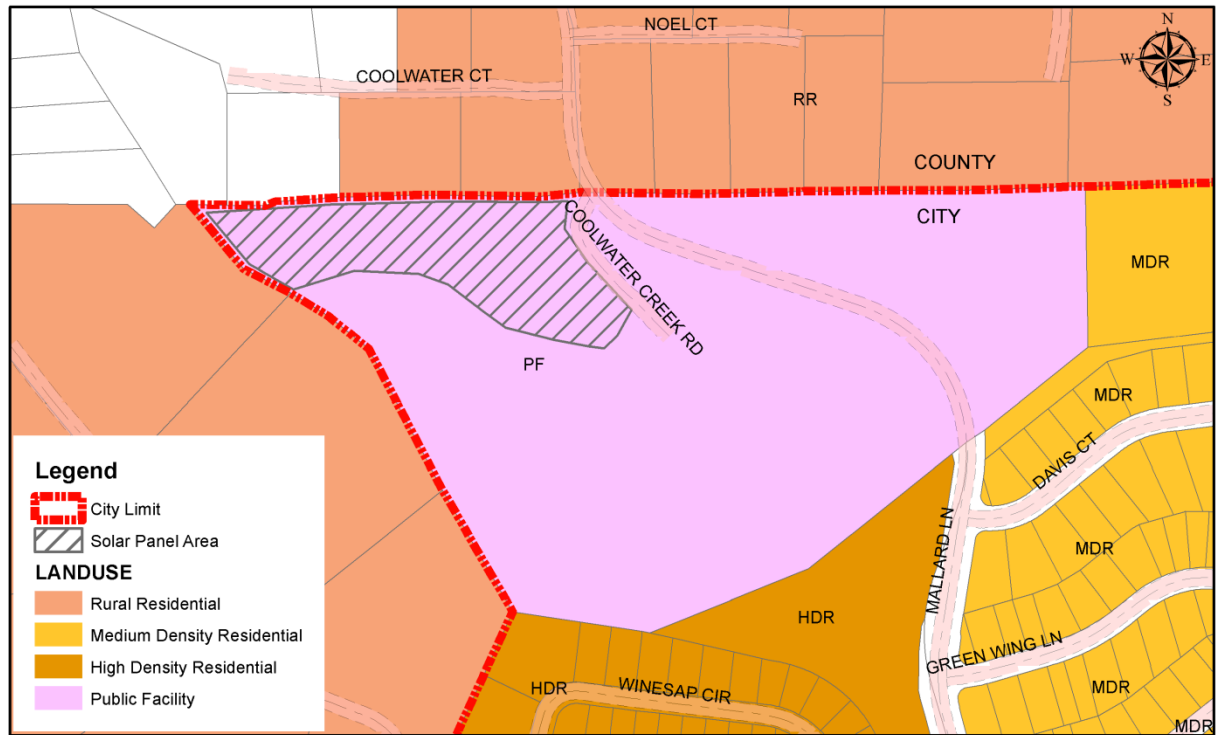
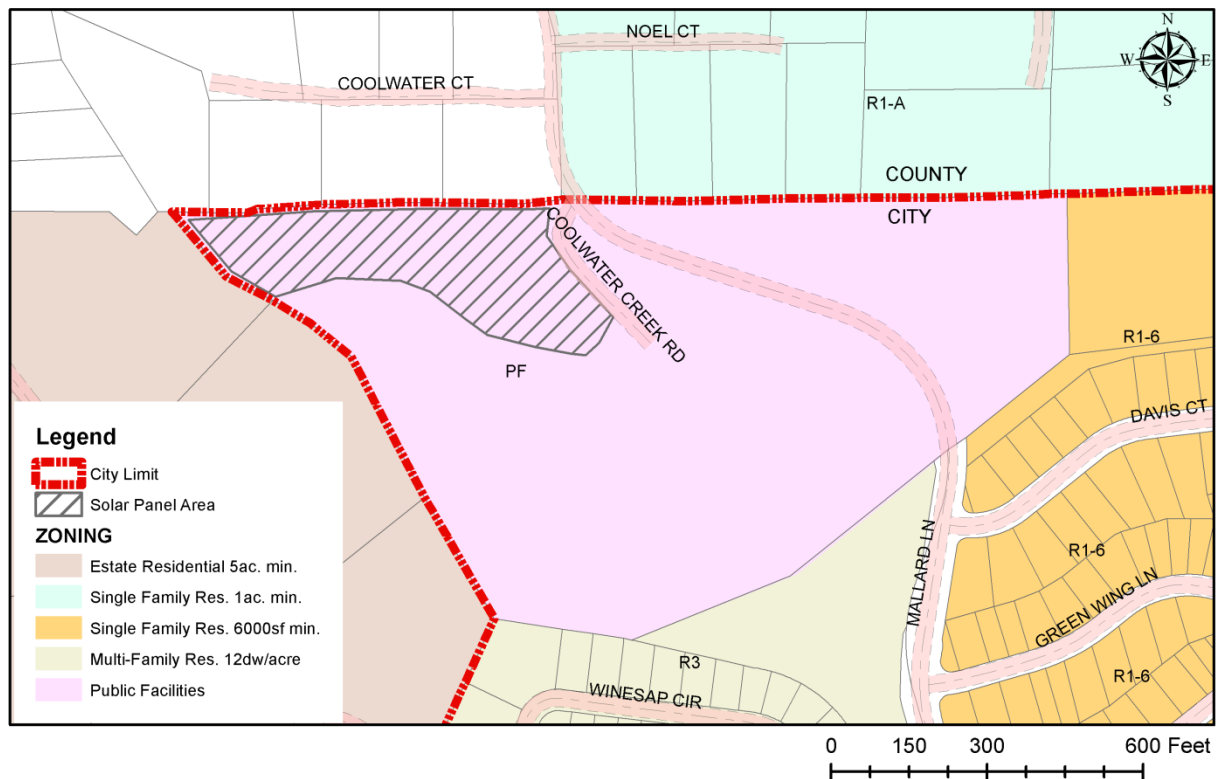


FIGURE 6

PLACERVILLE ZONING MAP



**XI. MINERAL RESOURCES.** Would the project:

|   | Potentially<br>Significant<br>Impact | Less than<br>Significant<br>with<br>Mitigation<br>Incorporated | Less than<br>Significant | No Impact                           |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?                                | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan? | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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**Analysis**

a, b) The State Geologist Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ) Maps for El Dorado County were reviewed to determine if the project would have potential impacts to mineral resources such as limestone, salt, gold, silver, sand and gravel. According to the MRZ maps, the project site is not in an area where significant, measured or indicated mineral deposit resources of limestone, salt, gold, silver, sand or gravel are present. Therefore, the project will have no impact directly, indirectly or cumulatively.

**Mitigation Measures:** None required.

**Source**

California Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey, Mineral Land Classification of El Dorado County, California, CGS Open-File Report 2000-03 (2001)



**XII. NOISE.** Would the project:

|   | Potentially<br>Significant<br>Impact | Less than<br>Significant<br>with<br>Mitigation<br>Incorporated | Less than<br>Significant            | No Impact                           |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?   | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?   | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?  | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?  | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?  | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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**Analysis**

a, d) Noise generated from equipment, tools, and vehicles used for site clearing of trees and vegetation, grading, and the construction of the solar project has the potential to cause a temporary increase in the ambient noise level of the site and immediate surroundings. These activities will be temporary in that they will not be present upon completion of the project. The temporary increase is expected to be minimized to a less than significant level upon adherence to the following mitigation measure.

**Mitigation Measures:**

**NOI-1:** Project construction is limited to the hours between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. No construction shall be allowed on Sunday, or on City-recognized or federally-recognized holidays. A note to this effect shall be placed on the construction plans.

**Timeframe for Implementation:** During construction activities

**Responsibility for Implementation:** City of Placerville  
**Oversight of Implementation:** Engineering Department

b) During project construction activities, ground borne vibration or shaking may be generated from grading equipment and during the construction of the solar project. Strict adherence to the time and days specified in Mitigation Measure NOI-1 would limit the ground shaking effects in the project area to a less than significant level.

c) Construction equipment on the site would expect to increase the ambient noise level for the site and the adjacent residential uses adjacent to the project site. The increase in ambient noise is not expected to be substantial for the existing residential uses located to the north and east of the site. Impact is considered less than significant.

e) Placerville Airport is located approximately 5.4 miles east of the site. The site is not situated within the Placerville Airport Influence Area; therefore the project will have no impact directly, indirectly or cumulatively to the Placerville Airport.

f) There are no known private airstrips within the vicinity of the project site. As a result, the project would not expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels from a private airstrip. Therefore, the project will have no impact directly, indirectly or cumulatively.

#### **Sources**

Staff Determination

*Placerville Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan*

City of Placerville General Plan

**XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING.** Would the project:

|   | Potentially<br>Significant<br>Impact | Less than<br>Significant<br>with<br>Mitigation<br>Incorporated | Less than<br>Significant | No Impact                           |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)? | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?   | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?   | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**Analysis**

a) The proposed solar project is an industrial expansion to the existing waste water treatment facility and would not increase the employment requirements of any significance that would increase the local population. Therefore, the project would not induce substantial growth directly or indirectly, and potential impacts, if any, are considered less than significant.

b) The project site is vacant. The project would therefore not displace existing housing. Therefore, the project will have no impact directly, indirectly or cumulatively.

c) The project site is vacant. The project would therefore not displace people as a result. Therefore, the project will have no impact directly, indirectly or cumulatively.

**Migration Measures:** None required.

**Sources**

Placerville Municipal Code, *Zoning Ordinance*  
City of Placerville Zoning Map  
City of Placerville General Plan Land Use Map  
United States 2010 Census

#### XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES.

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

|                          | Potentially<br>Significant<br>Impact | Less than<br>Significant<br>with<br>Mitigation<br>Incorporated | Less than<br>Significant            | No Impact                           |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Fire protection?         | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Police protection?       | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Schools?                 | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Parks?                   | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other public facilities? | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

#### Analysis

*Fire Protection:* The site is located within the El Dorado County Fire Protection District. The District's Station 25, located at 3034 Sacramento St., is 4.15 miles east of the site. Per the Fire District, Station 25 is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by an Engine Company and a Medic Unit. The engine is staffed with one Captain-EMT or Captain-Paramedic, one Firefighter-EMT or Firefighter-Paramedic, and one Apprentice Firefighter. The medic unit is staffed with a Firefighter-Paramedic and either a second Firefighter-Paramedic or a Firefighter-EMT. Volunteers and off-duty personnel staff other apparatus housed at Station 25 when the need warrants. Response time to the site would be approximately seven minutes. The project would therefore not necessitate a need for new facilities.

*Police Protection:* Police services for the site and other areas within the City are provided by the City of Placerville Police Department. The need for a new or expanded police station or a potential degradation of response time or personnel services resulting from the proposed project is not anticipated in that the Police Department is located within 5.20 miles east of the site. Therefore, the project will have no impact directly, indirectly or cumulatively.

*Schools:* The solar photovoltaic project is an industrial facility creating no increase in student population.

*Parks:* The solar photovoltaic project is an industrial facility creating no increase in population, thus, no increase in recreational needs.

*Traffic Impact:* Additional trips to project site will be generated during construction, estimated at 10 to 25 trips per day. However, those impacts will be temporary and have minimal impacts on public roadways. The additional trips generated by the solar PV facility after construction and during operation is considered negligible, estimated at 4 additional trips per month.

*Other Public Utilities:* The project requires no water or sewer service to the solar array.

**Mitigation Measures:** None required.

**Sources**

El Dorado County Fire District website: <http://eldoradocountyfire.com/>

El Dorado County Office of Education website: <http://edcoe.org/administrative-services/developer-fees>

Placerville City Code

## XV. RECREATION.

|  | Potentially<br>Significant<br>Impact | Less than<br>Significant<br>with<br>Mitigation<br>Incorporated | Less than<br>Significant | No Impact                           |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?                        | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

### Analysis

- a-b) The project involves installation and operation of a solar array. The project will not contribute to any increase in population growth that would increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities in the vicinity. Potential impacts to recreation are therefore there would be no impact to recreational facilities.

**Mitigation Measures:** None required.

### Sources

*Placerville Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan, 2009*

**XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC.** Would the project:

|   | Potentially<br>Significant<br>Impact | Less than<br>Significant<br>with<br>Mitigation<br>Incorporated | Less than<br>Significant            | No Impact                           |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system?                                | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the City for designated roads or highways?                           | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks? | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?          | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Result in inadequate emergency access?   | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?   | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?                                | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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**Analysis**

a-b) The proposed solar project is not a trip generator and would not create any additional trips except during construction and for monthly inspections to be conducted following implementation to clean the panels and effect maintenance.

c) The project would have no affect on the County Placerville Airport and the subject property is not within the Airport Overlay Zone and not subject to the Placerville Airport Land Use Plan. Therefore, the project will have no impact directly, indirectly or cumulatively.

d) The project would not increase hazards due to a roadway design feature since no additional road sections are to be constructed as part of the project.

e) The project location within the existing waste water treatment plant would not create nor would the project hinder emergency access to the proposed solar PV facility or the waste water treatment plant.

f) The solar project would not create the need for additional parking and the project does not displace any existing parking area.



g) As a solar PV project, the proposal would not conflict with any adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation.

**Mitigation Measures:** None required.

**Sources:**

City of Placerville Zoning Ordinance and Maps

*El Dorado County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan*, June 28, 2012

**XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS.** Would the project:

|   | Potentially<br>Significant<br>Impact | Less than<br>Significant<br>with<br>Mitigation<br>Incorporated | Less than<br>Significant | No Impact                           |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?   | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?                            | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?                                     | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?  | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments? | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?  | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?   | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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**Analysis**

a, b, e) The solar PV project will not contribute to the generation of waste water or require use of potable water except for periodic array cleaning (three times per year). Therefore, the project will have no impact directly, indirectly or cumulatively.

c) The solar PV project is located within the existing waste water treatment facility on a slope above the FEB and will utilize the existing drainage ditches. The project developer will use BMPs for control of erosion and will employ planting of low growing drought tolerant vegetation to manage storm water runoff and prevent erosion during and following construction of the project. Therefore, the project will have no impact directly, indirectly or cumulatively on storm drainage facilities.

d) The project will only use water for periodic array cleaning (three times per year); therefore, the project will have no impact directly, indirectly or cumulatively on water supplies.

f) The project will involve the removal of the existing site vegetation, which includes trees and shrubs. Smaller trees, branches and shrubs will be masticated and spread over the site. Only the logs may be hauled away to a landfill. However, the landfill impacts will be minimal. Therefore, the project will have no impact directly, indirectly or cumulatively on landfill capacity.

g) The proposed solar project will not generate solid waste in the near term. The facility has a 30-year life expectancy. At that time, various components of the solar PV system may have to be replaced. Therefore, the project will have no impact directly, indirectly or cumulatively.

**Mitigation Measures:** None required.

**Sources**

City of Placerville Municipal Code

## XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.

|  | Potentially<br>Significant<br>Impact | Less than<br>Significant<br>with<br>Mitigation<br>Incorporated | Less than<br>Significant            | No Impact                           |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?   | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?  | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

### Analysis

a) Based on the analysis contained in this Initial Study, impacts to Aesthetics, Agriculture and Forestry Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation/Traffic, Utilities and Service Systems would have a less than significant on the environment.

Impacts to Biological Resources (tree cover, nesting birds) would be significant unless mitigated. Mitigation Measure BIO-1 is required of the project.

Impacts to Cultural Resources (archeological and paleontological) would be significant unless mitigated. Mitigation Measures CR-1, CR-2, and CR-3 is required of the project.

Impacts to Geology and Soils (erosion and sediment control) would be significant unless mitigated. Therefore, Mitigation Measure GEO-1 is required of the project.

Impacts to Greenhouse Gas Emissions (volatile organic compounds) would be less than significant. To further reduce potential VOC emissions, Mitigation Measures GHG-1 is required of the project.

Impacts to Hydrology and Water Quality would be less than significant. To further reduce potential impacts, Mitigation Measures HYD-1 through HYD-5 is required of the project.

Impacts from Noise (temporary construction activity) would be significant unless mitigated. Mitigation Measure NOI-1 is required of the project.

The implementation and mitigation monitoring of the Mitigation Measures identified above would result in less than significant impacts to Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hydrology and Water Quality, and Noise.

b) No impacts have been identified resulting from the project that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable.

c) Based on the analysis contained in this Initial Study and the mitigation measures for Section III: Air Quality, Section IV: Biological Resources, Section VI: Geology and Soils, Section IX: Hydrology and Water Quality, and Section XII: Noise; the mitigation measures incorporated are expected to minimize potential environmental impacts to a less than significant level.

Biological Resources Study  
for the  
Hangtown Creek Water Reclamation Facility  
Small Community Grant/  
Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan  
SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) for the WWTP Project

City of Placerville, California

Prepared for

California State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Project No. 8374-110

Prepared by

City of Placerville Development Services Department  
3101 Center Street, Placerville, CA 95667  
Pierre Rivas, B.A.

October 2018

## I. Location

The proposed project is located approximately 3.5 miles west of downtown Placerville at 2300 Coolwater Creek Road, where the City of Placerville owns and operates the Hangtown Creek Water Reclamation Facility (WRF). It is located within the Placerville 7.5-minute Quadrangle, in Township 10 North, Range 10 East, in the Southwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 11 (**Figure 1**). The parcel on which the WRF is located (Assessor's Parcel Number 23-210-02) comprises 21.72 acres. The City proposes to install a solar photovoltaic system on an approximately 3.5 acre undeveloped portion of the property located in the upper northwest corner. This area is adjacent to and above the WRF FEB (Flow Equalization Basin) and lies just north of Hangtown Creek at an approximate elevation of 1,580 feet above mean sea level. Properties adjacent to the north are large lot single-family residential uses (four homes) with a parking and loading area and Coolwater Creek Road bordering to the east of the project area.

## II. Project Description

The project consists of clearing a ~~3.5~~ 2.88-acre site of existing vegetation in preparation for installation of a Solar Photovoltaic (PV) system to provide electricity for the operation of the waste water treatment plant (**Figure 2**). The existing vegetation, primarily dense tree cover, would be removed using mechanical equipment and manual tools. Existing vegetation consists

of common Sierra foothill species of pine, oak, buckbrush, Manzanita, and native and non-native herbaceous plants and grasses.

The PV system would be constructed by installing ground-mounted arrays on a racking system placed on piers that would be driven a maximum of eight (8) feet below ground surface. Vehicles used for vegetation removal and system installation would utilize low-impact rubber-wheels. Smaller trees, branches and shrubs will be masticated and spread over the site with the larger logs being removed from the site.

Grading is expected to occur throughout the project area to a maximum depth of 6 inches. A maximum of 300 piers will be percussion-driven throughout the project site. Each pier is 6 x 8.5 inches wide and 12 feet long.

The constructed PV system will be connected to the WRF's existing 2,000 amp electrical switchgear system. The PV system will generate useable electricity using solar energy and will be interconnected to the WRF's main electrical service.

Following installation of the arrays, the disturbed area would be seeded with an indigenous low-height ground cover.

## II. Environmental Setting

The project area is a heavily vegetated undeveloped portion of the Hangtown Creek Water Reclamation Facility site. The site is north of Hangtown Creek, a year round surface waterway, bounded on the south by the WRF. Large-lot residential uses are located to the north and a graveled parking and loading area and two-lane driveway is located to the east (**Figures 3, 4 and 5**). The project area and surrounds are located within the northern Sierra Nevada foothills region of California. This region lies between the Great Central Valley and the high Sierra Nevada mountains and lies within a climate zone typically characterized by hot dry summers and moderately cold wet winters. The region is defined by canyons and valleys formed by the American River and its tributaries and is considered a transitional area of the Sierra Nevada foothills with a combination of lower elevation habitats, such as oak woodland, bordered by higher elevation pine and fir forests.

## III. Habitat Type

The site vegetation, dominated by mature trees, is a mix of plant species found at both higher and lower elevations providing for a broad representation of Sierra foothill species. The habitat type can be characterized as Montane Hardwood-Conifer Forest or more precisely; a Blue Oak Foothill Pine Woodland. The site is dominated by blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*), interior live oak (*Quercus wislizeni*), and foothill grey pine (*Pinus sabiniana*) with associated tree species comprising ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and California black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*). With the exception of a small eastern portion of the site serving as a graveled parking and loading area and the southern perimeter comprising non-native grasses; the site is heavily wooded with an understory comprising native shrubs, herbaceous plant species, and Himalayan blackberry bramble (**Figure 6**). Also see **Figures 3, 4 and 5**.

Of special note are the 'landmark' foothill grey pines of impressive stature located on the site. Two grey pines measured 111 inches or 3.0 feet DBH and another measured 140 inches or 3.8 feet DBH.



Dominant shrubs in the understory include typical chaparral species such as whiteleaf Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos viscid*), buck brush (*Ceanothus cuneatus*), and toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*).

The herbaceous layer is present in openings within the shrub and tree canopy layers. In addition to various grasses, impressive stands of fern and soaproot were observed in the winter season (**Figures 7 and 8**).

The west end of the site consists of a small area serving as a graveled parking and loading area comprising a ruderal plant community characteristic of disturbed roadside habitats such as tar weed and dove weed.

#### IV. Waters of the U.S.

Waters of the U.S in the project vicinity include Hangtown Creek located to the southwest of the project site. An existing drainage ditch rims the toe of the subject property above the FEB and service road. The entire project site is moderately sloped and contains no seeps, wetland areas or Waters of the U.S.

#### V. Wildlife Corridors

The project site does not serve as an important wildlife corridor because the site does not connect two or more larger areas of habitat that would otherwise be isolated from one another. Larger animals such as mule deer, fox, and coyote have been observed within the site and may access the Hangtown Creek canyon area to the east by crossing Mallard Lane. The area is an undeveloped 'pocket' within the WRF property and between it and residential properties to the north and Mallard Lane to the east.

#### VI. Nesting Raptors

Although no nests of birds or raptors were observed, the presence of mature trees, some of significant height could serve as suitable nesting areas. Birds of prey are frequently observed in the area as are other resident and migratory birds.

#### VII. Special Status Plants

There are five species of special status plants that may occur in the project area. These are the Nissenan manzanita (*Arctostaphylos nissenana*), Pleasant Valley mariposa lily (*Calochortus Clavatus* var. *avius*), Brandegee's clarkia (*Clarkia biloba* ssp. *Brandegeeae*), Parry's horkelia (*Horkelia parryi*), and oval-leaved viburnum (*Viburnum ellipticum*). These plants are not federally- or state-listed, but are considered rare by the California Native Plant Society. All of these plants may occur in the understory of Montane Hardwood-Conifer Forests. None of these plants were identified during the two field surveys conducted.

The Nissenan Manzanita is a California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) 1B listed plant. All of the plants constituting California Rare Plant Rank 1B meet the definitions of the California

Endangered Species Act of the California Fish and Game Code, and are eligible for state listing. Impacts to these species or their habitat must be analyzed during preparation of environmental documents relating to CEQA, or those considered to be functionally equivalent to CEQA, as they meet the definition of Rare or Endangered under CEQA Guidelines §15125; (c) and/or §15380. Although Nissenan Manzanita has been previously identified in the eastern portion of Placerville, none were identified within the project site.

## VIII. Special Status Wildlife

### Special Status Birds:

Three bird species of special concern may utilize the project site for nesting and foraging. These are the Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*), and potentially the California spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis*).

Other protected raptor species may forage and nest in the project area include the red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), and great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*).

Figure 1: Hangtown Creek Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) Placerville 7.5 Minute Quadrangle

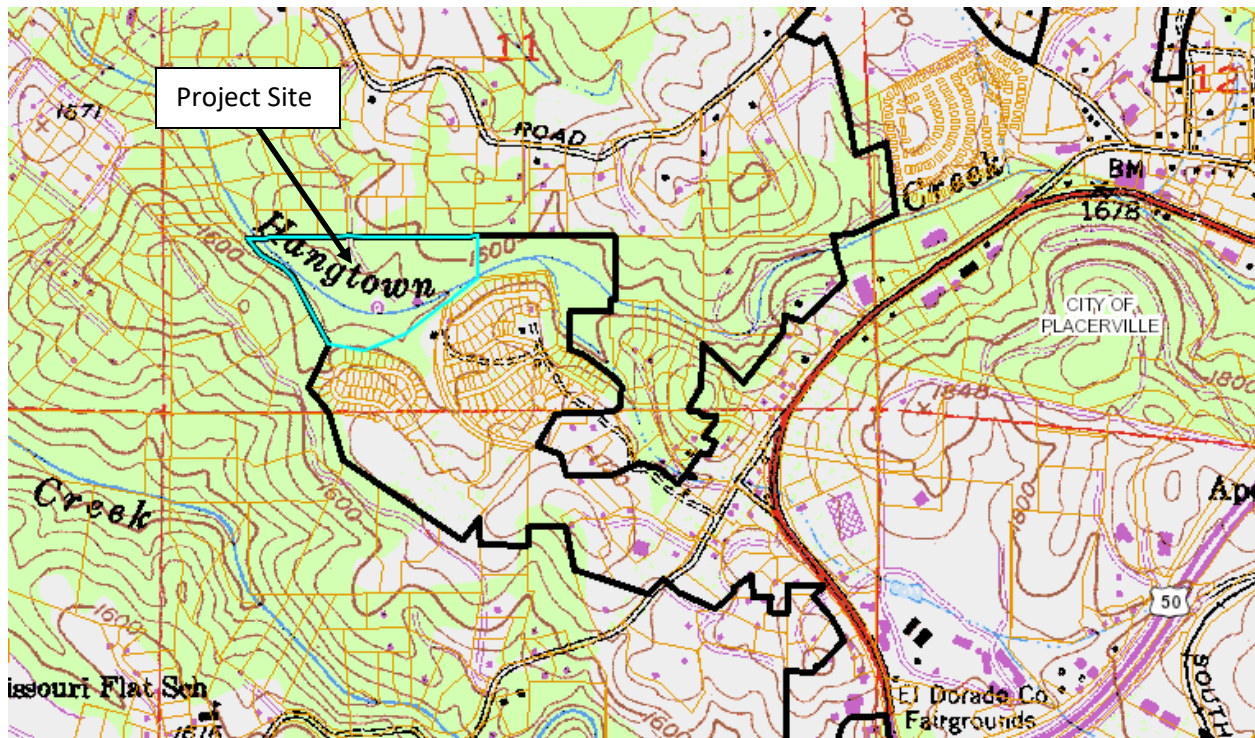


Figure 2: Aerial View of Proposed Solar Array

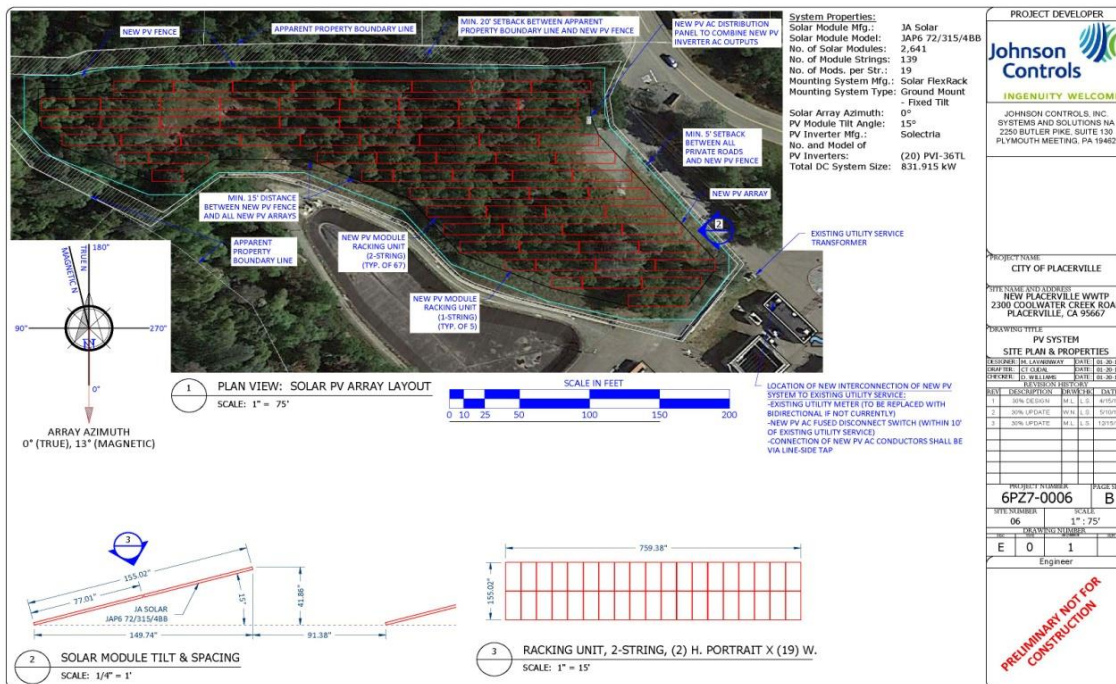




Figure 3: Site View Looking Northeast



Figure 4: Site View Looking North





Figure 5: Site View Looking Northwest – Landmark Foothill Pine



Figure 6: Site Interior – Mixed Pine and Oak





Figure 7: California Soaproot, *Chlorogalum pomeridianum*



Figure 8: California polypody fern, *Polypodium californicum*





## Appendix A - Species List

Field surveys were conducted on January 26, 2018 and on July 23, 2018

### I. Plant Species

#### Trees:

**Foothill Grey Pine**, *Pinus sabiniana*, with the common names ghost pine, gray pine, California foothill pine, and the more historically and internationally used digger pine, is a pine endemic to California in the United States. It is also known as foothill pine, bull pine, and nut pine.

**Ponderosa Pine**, *Pinus ponderosa*, commonly known as the ponderosa pine, bull pine, blackjack pine, or western yellow-pine, is a very large pine tree species of variable habitat native to the western United States and Canada. It is the most widely distributed pine species in North America.

**California Black Oak**, *Quercus kelloggii*, the California black oak, also known as simply black oak, or Kellogg oak, is an oak in the red oak section (*Quercus* sect. *Lobatae*), native to western North America. It is a close relative of the black oak found in eastern and central North America.

**Blue Oak**, *Quercus douglasii*, known as blue oak, is a species of oak endemic to California, common in the Coast Ranges and foothills of the Sierra Nevada. It is occasionally known as mountain oak and iron oak.

**Interior Live Oak**, *Quercus wislizeni*, known by the common name interior live oak, is an evergreen oak, highly variable and often shrubby, found in many areas of California in the United States continuing south into northern Baja California in Mexico.

**Canyon Live Oak**, *Quercus chrysolepis*, commonly termed canyon live oak, canyon oak, golden cup oak or maul oak, is a North American species of evergreen oak that is found in Mexico and in the western United States, notably in the California Coast Ranges.

#### Shrubs:

**Toyon**, *Heteromeles arbutifolia*, commonly known as toyon, is a common perennial shrub native to extreme southwest Oregon, California, Baja California, and British Columbia. It is the sole species in the genus *Heteromeles*.

**Coyote Brush**, *Baccharis pilularis*, called coyote brush, chaparral broom, and bush baccharis, is a shrub in the daisy family native to California, Oregon, Washington, and Baja California. There are reports of isolated populations in New Mexico, most likely introduced.

**Whiteleaf Manzanita**, *Arctostaphylos viscida*, with the common names whiteleaf manzanita and sticky manzanita, is a species of Manzanita common in chaparral and coniferous forests at some elevation and is native to California and Oregon.

**Buckbrush**, *Ceanothus cuneatus* is a species of flowering shrub known by the common names buckbrush and wedgeleaf ceanothus. This species of *Ceanothus* is native to Oregon, California and northern Baja California where it can be found in a number of habitats, especially chaparral.

**Poison Oak**, *Toxicodendron diversilobum*, commonly named Pacific poison oak or western poison oak, is a woody vine or shrub in the sumac family, Anacardiaceae. It is widely distributed in western North America, inhabiting conifer and mixed broadleaf forests, woodlands, grasslands, and chaparral biomes.

#### Vines:

**California Honeysuckle**, the perennial vine *Lonicera hispidula* is a species of honeysuckle known as pink honeysuckle and, less often, California honeysuckle. It is a low-elevation woodlands shrub or vine found on the West Coast of the United States.

#### Herbaceous plants:

**California polypody**, *Polypodium californicum* is a species of fern known by the common name California polypody. It is native to Baja California and California, where it grows along the coastline as well as in moist spots in coastal foothills and mountain ranges in the southern part of its distribution.

**California Soaproot**, *Chlorogalum pomeridianum*, the wavy-leafed soap plant, California soaproot, or Amole, is the most common and most widely distributed of the soap plants, soaproots or amoles, which make up the genus *Chlorogalum* of flowering plants. The juices of the bulb contain saponins that form a lather when mixed with water, and both Native American people (e.g. Miwok tribe) and early European settlers used the bulbs as a kind of soap which is the origin of the plant's name.

**Dove Weed**, *Croton setigerus* is a species of plant known by the common names dove weed and turkey mullein. It is native to western North America, such as Montana and California. It has naturalized elsewhere, including parts of Australia. This is a squat plant with furry, feltlike, hexagon shaped leaves, pale pink green in color.

**Yellow Star Thistle**, *Centaurea solstitialis*, yellow star-thistle, is a member of the family Asteraceae, native to the Mediterranean Basin region. The plant is also known as golden star thistle, yellow cockspur and St. Barnaby's thistle. The plant is a thorny winter annual species in the knapweed genus. The Yellow-star thistle is an invasive exotic.

**Himalayan Blackberry**, *Rubus armeniacus*, the Himalayan blackberry or Armenian blackberry, is a species of *Rubus* in the blackberry group *Rubus* subgenus *Rubus* series *Discolores* Focke. It is native to Armenia and Northern Iran, and widely naturalized elsewhere. The Himalayan blackberry is an invasive exotic.

**Tarweed**, *Madia* spp., *Madia* is a genus of flowering plant in the aster family known by the common names grassy tarweed, slender tarweed, and gumweed *madia*.

#### Grasses:

**Common Wild Oat**, *Avena fatua* is a species of grass in the oat genus. It is known as the common wild oat. This oat is native to Eurasia but it has been introduced to most of the other temperate regions of the world. It is naturalized in some areas and considered a noxious weed in others.

Other introduced European species of grasses were observed on the site. No indigenous grass species were observed.



## II. Animal Species

No animals were observed during the January 26, 2018 and July 23, 2018 site visits except the birds and reptiles listed below. The other “observed” animal species listed below are those observed on a regular basis by the Hangtown Creek Water Reclamation Facility staff.

### Mammal Observed:

Mule Deer, *Odocoileus hemionus*

Gray Fox, *Urocyon cinereoargenteus*

Coyote, *Canis latrans*

Western Grey Squirrel, *Sciurus griseus*

### Mammals Species Likely to Frequent Site:

Striped Skunks, *Mephitis mephitis*

Raccoon, *Procyon lotor*

Bobcat, *Lynx rufus*

North American Opossum or Virginia opossum, *Didelphis virginiana*

### Birds Observed:

California Scrub Jay, *Aphelocoma californica*

Common Raven, *Corvus corax*

White-Crowned Sparrow, *Zonotrichia leucophrys*

Spotted Towhee, *Pipilo maculatus*

Rio Grande Wild Turkey, *Meleagris gallopavo intermedia*

### Reptiles Observed:

Western Fence Lizard, *Sceloporus occidentalis*

### Amphibians Observed:

No amphibians have been observed on the site.

## APPENDIX B

Solar Photovoltaic (PV) at the WWTP - El Dorado-Mountain County County, Annual

CalEEMod Version: CalEEMod.2016.3.2 Date: 5/31/2018 3:54 PM



# APPENDIX C



GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR



JARED BLUMENFELD  
SECRETARY FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

19 February 2019

Pierre Rivas  
City of Placerville  
3101 Center Street  
Placerville, CA 95667

RECEIVED

FEB 25 2019

CITY OF PLACERVILLE  
COMMUNITY DEV. DEPT.

CERTIFIED MAIL

7018 1830 0001 0062 4135

### COMMENTS TO REQUEST FOR REVIEW FOR THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION, HANGTOWN CREEK WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITY PROJECT, SCH#2019012043, EL DORADO COUNTY

Pursuant to the State Clearinghouse's 25 January 2019 request, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has reviewed the *Request for Review for the Mitigated Negative Declaration* for the Hangtown Creek Water Reclamation Facility Clean Water State Revolving Loan Photovoltaic Facility Project, located in El Dorado County.

Our agency is delegated with the responsibility of protecting the quality of surface and groundwaters of the state; therefore our comments will address concerns surrounding those issues.

#### I. Regulatory Setting

##### Basin Plan

The Central Valley Water Board is required to formulate and adopt Basin Plans for all areas within the Central Valley region under Section 13240 of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Each Basin Plan must contain water quality objectives to ensure the reasonable protection of beneficial uses, as well as a program of implementation for achieving water quality objectives with the Basin Plans. Federal regulations require each state to adopt water quality standards to protect the public health or welfare, enhance the quality of water and serve the purposes of the Clean Water Act. In California, the beneficial uses, water quality objectives, and the Antidegradation Policy are the State's water quality standards. Water quality standards are also contained in the National Toxics Rule, 40 CFR Section 131.36, and the California Toxics Rule, 40 CFR Section 131.38.

The Basin Plan is subject to modification as necessary, considering applicable laws, policies, technologies, water quality conditions and priorities. The original Basin Plans were adopted in 1975, and have been updated and revised periodically as required, using Basin Plan amendments. Once the Central Valley Water Board has adopted a Basin Plan amendment in noticed public hearings, it must be approved by the State Water Resources

KARL E. LONGLEY ScD, P.E., CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

11020 Sun Center Drive #200, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 | [www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley)

Control Board (State Water Board), Office of Administrative Law (OAL) and in some cases, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Basin Plan amendments only become effective after they have been approved by the OAL and in some cases, the USEPA. Every three (3) years, a review of the Basin Plan is completed that assesses the appropriateness of existing standards and evaluates and prioritizes Basin Planning issues.

For more information on the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins*, please visit our website:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/basin\\_plans/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/)

### **Antidegradation Considerations**

All wastewater discharges must comply with the Antidegradation Policy (State Water Board Resolution 68-16) and the Antidegradation Implementation Policy contained in the Basin Plan. The Antidegradation Implementation Policy is available on page 74 at:  
[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/basin\\_plans/sacsjr\\_201805.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/sacsjr_201805.pdf)

In part it states:

*Any discharge of waste to high quality waters must apply best practicable treatment or control not only to prevent a condition of pollution or nuisance from occurring, but also to maintain the highest water quality possible consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the State.*

*This information must be presented as an analysis of the impacts and potential impacts of the discharge on water quality, as measured by background concentrations and applicable water quality objectives.*

The antidegradation analysis is a mandatory element in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and land discharge Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) permitting processes. The environmental review document should evaluate potential impacts to both surface and groundwater quality.

## **II. Permitting Requirements**

### **Construction Storm Water General Permit**

Dischargers whose project disturb one or more acres of soil or where projects disturb less than one acre but are part of a larger common plan of development that in total disturbs one or more acres, are required to obtain coverage under the General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activities (Construction General Permit), Construction General Permit Order No. 2009-009-DWQ. Construction activity subject to this permit includes clearing, grading, grubbing, disturbances to the ground, such as stockpiling, or excavation, but does not include regular maintenance activities performed to

restore the original line, grade, or capacity of the facility. The Construction General Permit requires the development and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

For more information on the Construction General Permit, visit the State Water Resources Control Board website at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/stormwater/constpermits.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/constpermits.shtml)

#### **Phase I and II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permits<sup>1</sup>**

The Phase I and II MS4 permits require the Permittees reduce pollutants and runoff flows from new development and redevelopment using Best Management Practices (BMPs) to the maximum extent practicable (MEP). MS4 Permittees have their own development standards, also known as Low Impact Development (LID)/post-construction standards that include a hydromodification component. The MS4 permits also require specific design concepts for LID/post-construction BMPs in the early stages of a project during the entitlement and CEQA process and the development plan review process.

For more information on which Phase I MS4 Permit this project applies to, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/storm\\_water/municipal\\_permits/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/storm_water/municipal_permits/)

For more information on the Phase II MS4 permit and who it applies to, visit the State Water Resources Control Board at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/stormwater/phase\\_ii\\_municipal.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/phase_ii_municipal.shtml)

#### **Industrial Storm Water General Permit**

Storm water discharges associated with industrial sites must comply with the regulations contained in the Industrial Storm Water General Permit Order No. 2014-0057-DWQ.

For more information on the Industrial Storm Water General Permit, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/storm\\_water/industrial\\_general\\_permits/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/storm_water/industrial_general_permits/index.shtml)

#### **Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit**

If the project will involve the discharge of dredged or fill material in navigable waters or wetlands, a permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act may be needed from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). If a Section 404 permit is required by

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<sup>1</sup> Municipal Permits = The Phase I Municipal Separate Storm Water System (MS4) Permit covers medium sized Municipalities (serving between 100,000 and 250,000 people) and large sized municipalities (serving over 250,000 people). The Phase II MS4 provides coverage for small municipalities, including non-traditional Small MS4s, which include military bases, public campuses, prisons and hospitals.

the USACE, the Central Valley Water Board will review the permit application to ensure that discharge will not violate water quality standards. If the project requires surface water drainage realignment, the applicant is advised to contact the Department of Fish and Game for information on Streambed Alteration Permit requirements.

If you have any questions regarding the Clean Water Act Section 404 permits, please contact the Regulatory Division of the Sacramento District of USACE at (916) 557-5250.

**Clean Water Act Section 401 Permit – Water Quality Certification**

If an USACE permit (e.g., Non-Reporting Nationwide Permit, Nationwide Permit, Letter of Permission, Individual Permit, Regional General Permit, Programmatic General Permit), or any other federal permit (e.g., Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act or Section 9 from the United States Coast Guard), is required for this project due to the disturbance of waters of the United States (such as streams and wetlands), then a Water Quality Certification must be obtained from the Central Valley Water Board prior to initiation of project activities. There are no waivers for 401 Water Quality Certifications.

For more information on the Water Quality Certification, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/water\\_quality\\_certification/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/water_quality_certification/)

**Waste Discharge Requirements – Discharges to Waters of the State**

If USACE determines that only non-jurisdictional waters of the State (i.e., “non-federal” waters of the State) are present in the proposed project area, the proposed project may require a Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) permit to be issued by Central Valley Water Board. Under the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, discharges to all waters of the State, including all wetlands and other waters of the State including, but not limited to, isolated wetlands, are subject to State regulation.

For more information on the Waste Discharges to Surface Water NPDES Program and WDR processes, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/waste\\_to\\_surface\\_water/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/waste_to_surface_water/)

**Dewatering Permit**

If the proposed project includes construction or groundwater dewatering to be discharged to land, the proponent may apply for coverage under State Water Board General Water Quality Order (Low Risk General Order) 2003-0003 or the Central Valley Water Board's Waiver of Report of Waste Discharge and Waste Discharge Requirements (Low Risk Waiver) R5-2013-0145. Small temporary construction dewatering projects are projects that discharge groundwater to land from excavation activities or dewatering of underground utility vaults. Dischargers seeking coverage under the General Order or Waiver must file a Notice of Intent with the Central Valley Water Board prior to beginning discharge.

For more information regarding the Low Risk General Order and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/water\\_quality/2003/wqo/wqo2003-0003.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2003/wqo/wqo2003-0003.pdf)

For more information regarding the Low Risk Waiver and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/waivers/r5-2013-0145\\_res.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/waivers/r5-2013-0145_res.pdf)

### **Regulatory Compliance for Commercially Irrigated Agriculture**

If the property will be used for commercial irrigated agricultural, the discharger will be required to obtain regulatory coverage under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. There are two options to comply:

1. **Obtain Coverage Under a Coalition Group.** Join the local Coalition Group that supports land owners with the implementation of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. The Coalition Group conducts water quality monitoring and reporting to the Central Valley Water Board on behalf of its growers. The Coalition Groups charge an annual membership fee, which varies by Coalition Group. To find the Coalition Group in your area, visit the Central Valley Water Board's website at: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/irrigated\\_lands/regulatory\\_information/for\\_growers/coalition\\_groups/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/regulatory_information/for_growers/coalition_groups/) or contact water board staff at (916) 464-4611 or via email at [IrrLands@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:IrrLands@waterboards.ca.gov).
2. **Obtain Coverage Under the General Waste Discharge Requirements for Individual Growers, General Order R5-2013-0100.** Dischargers not participating in a third-party group (Coalition) are regulated individually. Depending on the specific site conditions, growers may be required to monitor runoff from their property, install monitoring wells, and submit a notice of intent, farm plan, and other action plans regarding their actions to comply with their General Order. Yearly costs would include State administrative fees (for example, annual fees for farm sizes from 11-100 acres are currently \$1,277 + \$8.53/Acre); the cost to prepare annual monitoring reports; and water quality monitoring costs. To enroll as an Individual Discharger under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, call the Central Valley Water Board phone line at (916) 464-4611 or e-mail board staff at [IrrLands@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:IrrLands@waterboards.ca.gov).

### **Limited Threat General NPDES Permit**

If the proposed project includes construction dewatering and it is necessary to discharge the groundwater to waters of the United States, the proposed project will require coverage under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Dewatering discharges are typically considered a low or limited threat to water quality and may be

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covered under the General Order for *Limited Threat Discharges to Surface Water* (Limited Threat General Order). A complete Notice of Intent must be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board to obtain coverage under the Limited Threat General Order.

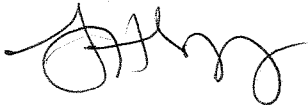
For more information regarding the Limited Threat General Order and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:  
[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/general\\_orders/r5-2016-0076-01.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2016-0076-01.pdf)

**NPDES Permit**

If the proposed project discharges waste that could affect the quality of surface waters of the State, other than into a community sewer system, the proposed project will require coverage under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. A complete Report of Waste Discharge must be submitted with the Central Valley Water Board to obtain a NPDES Permit.

For more information regarding the NPDES Permit and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:  
<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/help/permit/>

If you have questions regarding these comments, please contact me at (916) 464-4812 or [Jordan.Hensley@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jordan.Hensley@waterboards.ca.gov).



Jordan Hensley  
Environmental Scientist

cc: State Clearinghouse unit, Governor's Office of Planning and Research, Sacramento



# APPENDIX D



late  
2/25/19  
E



GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR



JARED BLUMENFELD  
SECRETARY FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

## State Water Resources Control Board

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Pierre Rivas  
City of Placerville  
3101 Center Street  
Placerville, CA 95667

FEB 27 2019  
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Dear Mr. Rivas:

INITIAL/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (MND) FOR CITY OF PLACERVILLE (CITY); HANGTOWN CREEK WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITY (PROJECT); EL DORADO COUNTY; STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2019012043

We understand that the City is pursuing Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) financing for this Project (CWSRF No. C-06-8374-110). As a funding agency and a state agency with jurisdiction by law to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is providing the following information on the MND to be prepared for the Project.

The State Water Board, Division of Financial Assistance, is responsible for administering the CWSRF Program. The primary purpose for the CWSRF Program is to implement the Clean Water Act and various state laws by providing financial assistance for wastewater treatment facilities necessary to prevent water pollution, recycle water, correct nonpoint source and storm drainage pollution problems, provide for estuary enhancement, and thereby protect and promote health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the state.

The CWSRF Program is partially funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and requires additional "California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)-Plus" environmental documentation and review. Three enclosures are included that further explain the CWSRF Program environmental review process and the additional federal requirements. For the complete environmental application package please visit:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/srf/srf\\_forms.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/srf_forms.shtml). The State Water Board is required to consult directly with agencies responsible for implementing federal environmental laws and regulations. Any environmental issues raised by federal agencies or their representatives will need to be resolved prior to The State Water Board approval of a CWSRF financing commitment for the proposed Project. For further information on the CWSRF Program, please contact Mr. Brian Cary, at (916) 449-5624.

It is important to note that prior to a CWSRF financing commitment, projects that are subject to provisions of the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), must obtain Section 7 clearance from the United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and/or the United States Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for any potential effects to special-status species.

Please be advised that the State Water Board will coordinate with the USEPA to consult with the USFWS, and/or the NMFS regarding all federal special-status species that the Project has the potential to impact if the Project is to be financed by the CWSRF Program. The City will need to identify whether the Project will involve any direct effects from construction activities, or indirect effects such as growth inducement, that may affect federally listed threatened, endangered, or candidate species that are known, or have a potential to occur in the Project site, in the surrounding areas, or in the service area, and to identify applicable conservation measures to reduce such effects.

In addition, CWSRF projects must comply with federal laws pertaining to cultural resources, specifically Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106). The State Water Board has responsibility for ensuring compliance with Section 106, and must consult directly with the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). The SHPO consultation is initiated when sufficient information is provided by the CWSRF applicant. If the City decides to pursue CWSRF financing, please retain a consultant that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards ([http://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/arch\\_stnds\\_9.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/arch_stnds_9.htm)) to prepare a Section 106 compliance report.

Note that the City will need to identify the Area of Potential Effects (APE), including construction and staging areas, and the depth of any excavation. The APE is three-dimensional and includes all areas that may be affected by the Project. The APE includes the surface area and extends below ground to the depth of any Project excavations. The records search request should extend to a ½-mile beyond project APE. The appropriate area varies for different projects but should be drawn large enough to provide information on what types of sites may exist in the vicinity.

Other federal environmental requirements pertinent to the Project under the CWSRF Program include the following (for a complete list of all federal requirements please visit: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/srf/docs/forms/application\\_environmental\\_package.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/docs/forms/application_environmental_package.pdf)):

- A. An alternative analysis discussing environmental impacts of the Project in either the CEQA document (Negative Declaration, MND or Environmental Impact Report) or in a separate report.
- B. A public hearing or meeting for adoption of CEQA documents except for those with little or no environmental impacts.
- C. Compliance with the Federal Clean Air Act: (a) Provide air quality studies that may have been done for the Project; and (b) if the Project is in a nonattainment area or attainment area subject to a maintenance plan; (i) provide a summary of the estimated emissions (in tons per year) that are expected from both the construction and operation of the Project for each federal criteria pollutant in a nonattainment or maintenance area, and indicate if the nonattainment designation is moderate, serious, or severe (if applicable); (ii) if emissions are above the federal de minimis levels, but the Project is sized to meet only the needs of current population projections that are used in the approved State Implementation Plan for air quality, quantitatively indicate how the proposed capacity increase was calculated using population projections.
- D. Compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act: Identify whether the Project is within a coastal zone and the status of any coordination with the California Coastal Commission.
- E. Protection of Wetlands: Identify any portion of the proposed Project area that should be evaluated for wetlands or United States waters delineation by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), or requires a permit from the USACE, and identify the status of coordination with the USACE.

FELICIA MARCUS, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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- F. Compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act: Identify whether the Project will result in the conversion of farmland. State the status of farmland (Prime, Unique, or Local and Statewide Importance) in the Project area and determine if this area is under a Williamson Act Contract.
- G. Compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act: List any birds protected under this act that may be impacted by the Project and identify conservation measures to minimize impacts.
- H. Compliance with the Flood Plain Management Act: Identify whether or not the Project is in a Flood Management Zone and include a copy of the Federal Emergency Management Agency flood zone maps for the area.
- I. Compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act: Identify whether or not any Wild and Scenic Rivers would be potentially impacted by the Project and include conservation measures to minimize such impacts.

Following are specific comments on the City's draft MND:

1. The CEQA project title is quite long. Please consider naming the CEQA document the same as the project name of the documents submitted for the City's CWSRF project application. The CWSRF Program's required technical documents must match the CEQA project. Currently the CWSRF project title is "Solar Photovoltaic (PV) for the WWTP."
2. Page 2 of the MND indicates that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is anticipated to provide comments/review regarding the "Biological Resources Impact Review." Please share any impact assessments and/or required permits with the Division of Financial Assistance, Environmental Review Unit to aid the CWSRF review process.

Please provide us with the following documents applicable to the proposed Project following the City's CEQA process: (1) one copy of the draft and final MND, (2) the resolution adopting the MND and making CEQA findings, (3) all comments received during the review period and the City's response to those comments, (4) the adopted Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program and (5) the Notice of Determination filed with the El Dorado County Clerk and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse. In addition, we would appreciate notices of any hearings or meetings held regarding environmental review of any projects to be funded by the State Water Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the City's draft MND. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (916) 341-6983, or by email at [Cedric.Irving@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Cedric.Irving@waterboards.ca.gov), or contact Brian Cary at (916) 449-5624, or by email at [Brian.Cary@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Brian.Cary@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

  
Cedric Irving  
Environmental Scientist

Enclosures (3):

1. Clean Water State Revolving Fund Environmental Review Requirements
2. Quick Reference Guide to CEQA Requirements for State Revolving Fund Loans
3. Basic Criteria for Cultural Resources Reports

FELICIA MARCUS, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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cc: State Clearinghouse  
(Re: SCH# 2019012043)  
P.O. Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

bcc: Brian Cary, Division of Financial Assistance  
Cedric Irving, Division of Financial Assistance  
Andrew Cooper, Division of Financial Assistance

FELICIA MARCUS, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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