SODA SPRINGS BRIDGE OVER SOUTH YUBA RIVER REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Nevada County
Bridge No. 17C-0010
BRLO-5917(079)

INITIAL STUDY WITH MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Prepared by Dokken Engineering for the:
Nevada County Department of Public Works

August 2017

COUNTY OF NEVADA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
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MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project Name: Soda Springs Bridge Over South Yuba River Replacement Project
Bridge Number 17C-0010

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the County of Nevada has prepared an Initial Study to determine whether the following project may have a significant adverse effect on the environment. This Mitigated Negative Declaration is comprised of this form along with the Initial Study and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

I. Project Location: Soda Springs Road Bridge over South Yuba River, ≅ 750 feet south of the intersection of Donner Pass Road and Soda Springs Road, within the community of Soda Springs, approximately 6 miles from the town of Truckee, California

II. Project Description: The Nevada County Department of Public Works, in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), is proposing to replace the two-lane Soda Springs Road Bridge (Bridge #17C-0010) over the South Yuba River with a two-lane concrete slab bridge in the unincorporated community of Soda Springs in Nevada County, California. As this bridge serves a rural part of Nevada County, the annual average daily traffic (AADT) is less than 1,000 vehicles per day. The proposed bridge will replace the existing structure with a single-span, approximately 44-foot long by 40-foot wide, cast-in-place reinforced concrete slab bridge. The bridge will accommodate two 12-foot lanes, two 3-foot shoulders, a 6-foot sidewalk, and bridge railings at each edge of deck. The bridge will be supported by two spread footing abutments.

III. CEQA Findings: That the Board of Supervisors has received and considered the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration attached hereto together with all comments received during the public review process; that, based on the entire record before the Board, there is no substantial evidence that the project will have any significant adverse impact on the environment; that the Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment of the Board of Supervisors; that the location and custodian of the documents which constitute the record of these proceedings is the Nevada County Department of Public Works, 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City, California.

IV. Mitigation Measures Included in the Initial Study to Avoid Potentially Significant Effects: Refer to the attached Initial Study and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for mitigation measures to avoid the following impacts: air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, hazards and hazardous waste, hydrology and water quality, and noise.

NEVADA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
INITIAL STUDY with
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Date: August 2017

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Project Location: Soda Springs Road Bridge over South Yuba River Replacement Project is located approximately 750 feet south of the intersection of Donner Pass Road and Soda Springs Road, within the community of Soda Springs, and approximately 6 miles from the town of Truckee, California.

Project Description

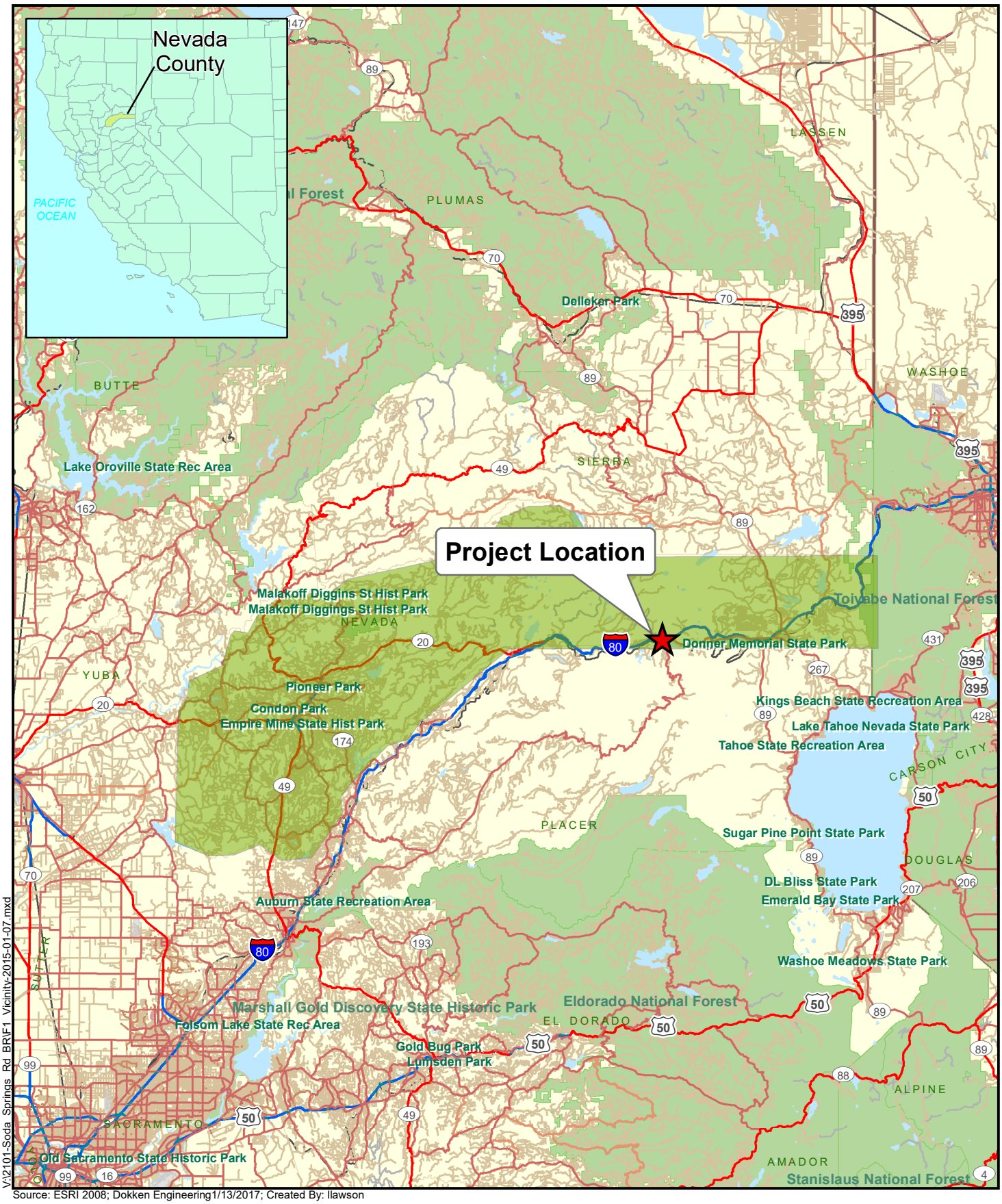
The Nevada County Department of Public Works, in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), is proposing to replace the two lane Soda Springs Road Bridge (Bridge # 17C-0010) over the South Yuba River with a two lane concrete slab bridge in Nevada County, California (Figure 1. Project Vicinity and Figure 2. Project Location). As this bridge serves a rural part of Nevada County, the annual average daily traffic (AADT) is less than 1,000 vehicles per day.

The Soda Springs Road Bridge, constructed in 1965, spans the South Yuba River in a northeast-southwest direction with the river flowing in a southeast-northwest direction. Soda Springs Road has two travel lanes (approximately 12 feet wide). The existing bridge is a two-span continuous steel multi-girder superstructure with a reinforced concrete deck. The spans are 15 feet long and the total bridge length is approximately 32 feet long.

Caltrans maintenance inspection records show that the bridge is structurally deficient due to its deck condition. In response, Nevada County Department of Public Works proposes to replace the bridge and secure a combination of local and Highway Bridge Program funds for preliminary engineering, environmental, right of way acquisition, construction, and construction engineering. The Project Area is approximately 3.18 acres, which will encompass all project activities including potential staging areas, temporary bridge construction, and bridge removal and replacement processes.

Purpose/Need

The purpose of the Soda Springs Road Bridge over the South Yuba River Replacement Project is to replace a structurally deficient bridge by replacing the bridge with a structure that can withstand modern traffic loading demands, that meets modern safety standards, and that accommodates river flows as the existing bridge does not meet hydraulic requirements.



V:\2101-Soda Springs Rd BRIF\1 Vicinity-2015-01-07.mxd

Source: ESRI 2008; Dokken Engineering1/13/2017; Created By: llawson

0 10 20 Miles

FIGURE 1
Project Vicinity
Soda Springs Road over South Yuba River Bridge Replacement Project
Nevada County, California

V:\2101-Soda Springs Rd BRIF2 Location-2015-1-09mxd.mxd

Source: USA Topo Map; Dokken Engineering1/13/2017; Created By: llawson

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

FIGURE 2
Project Location
Soda Springs Road over South Yuba River Bridge Replacement Project
Nevada County, California

The bridge is needed to replace the existing structure that has been determined to be structurally deficient due to the condition of the existing deck. In addition to the deck deficiencies, the bridge replacement is needed to increase the hydraulic capacity of the bridge and improve the functionality and safety of the existing bridge crossing.

Surrounding Land Uses
The bridge serves various residential properties in Nevada County, including the Serene Lakes subdivision, and provides access to the Soda Springs ski resort and a portion of the Tahoe National Forest. The area surrounding the project is primarily "REC" recreation, as designated in the Nevada County General Plan (Nevada County 2014a). Recreation lands are intended to provide for a wide range of recreation uses and supporting services (e.g. ski resorts).

Replacement Alternative
The proposed bridge widening will replace the existing structure with a single span, approximately 44-foot long by 40-foot wide, cast-in-place reinforced concrete slab bridge (Figure 3. Project Features). The bridge will accommodate two 12-foot lanes, two 3-foot shoulders, a 6-foot sidewalk, and bridge railings at each edge of deck. The bridge will be supported by two spread footing abutments.

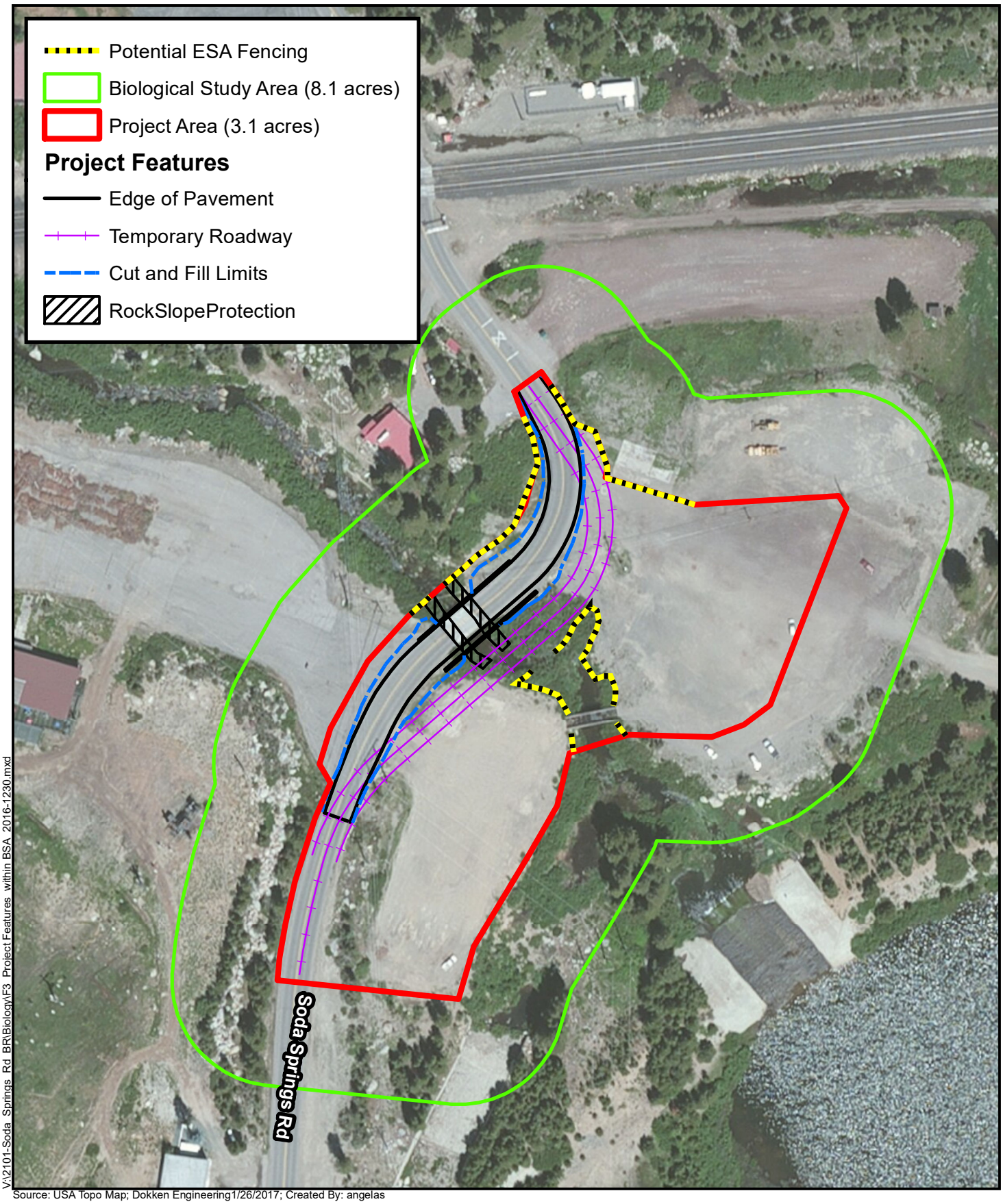
The roadway will be maintained at two travel lanes. At least one lane of Soda Springs Road will remain open during construction, as this road is the only all-weather access to the Serene Lakes residential community. A temporary detour constructed on temporary embankment across the river just upstream of the bridge is anticipated to accommodate traffic during bridge construction.

All roadway and structure improvements are anticipated to fall within existing right-of-way. It is anticipated that the Project will require temporary easements to be acquired for the proposed bridge replacement.

Project Background
The Soda Springs Road Bridge was constructed in 1965. The existing bridge is a two-span continuous steel multi-girder superstructure with a reinforced concrete deck that requires continuous maintenance to manage the delamination of the deck slab. During the winter months, the South Yuba River commonly overtops the bridge, and heavy snowfall is known to block vehicle access. The bridge is the only all season access to the residential community south of the Soda Springs Road Bridge, and is typically used for a high level of bicycle access during the summer months.

Caltrans maintenance inspection records show that the bridge is structurally deficient due to its deck condition. In response, Nevada County Department of Public Works proposes to replace the bridge and secure a combination of local and Highway Bridge Program funds for preliminary engineering, environmental, right of way acquisition, construction, and construction engineering.

Related Projects
The Van Norden Dam Modification Project, currently proposed by Truckee Donner Land Trust (TDLT), would notch the Van Norden Lake dam level approximately 5 feet. In October 2015, TDLT opened the 22-inch culvert below the dam, in part to reduce the potential for dam failure and flooding of downstream uses in anticipation of the 2015/16 El Nino winter season. The valve remains open as of this writing, and this condition was in place during the technical studies prepared for and design of the current Soda Springs Road Bridge project. Increased flows from the Van Norden Dam Modification Project have been considered throughout the project planning process, technical studies, and design of the Soda Spring Road Bridge replacement.



Source: USA Topo Map; Dokken Engineering1/26/2017; Created By: angelas

0 150 300 Feet

FIGURE 3
Project Features Within the BSA
Soda Springs Road at South Yuba River Bridge Replacement Project
Nevada County, California

Other Permits Which May Be Necessary
The following permits may be required from the designated agencies:

1. NPDES General Construction Permit – Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
2. Section 401 Water Quality Certificate – Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
3. Section 404 Permit – US Army Corps of Engineers
4. Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement – California Department of Fish and Wildlife
5. Dust control and operations permits - Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected
All of the following environmental factors have been considered. Those environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is "Less Than Significant with Mitigation" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

	1. Aesthetics		2. Agriculture / Forestry Resources	✓	3. Air Quality
✓	4. Biological Resources	✓	5. Cultural Resources	✓	6. Geology / Soils
	7. Greenhouse Gas Emissions	✓	8. Hazards / Hazardous Materials	✓	9. Hydrology / Water Quality
	10. Land Use / Planning		11. Mineral Resources	✓	12. Noise
	13. Population / Housing		14. Public Services		15. Recreation
	16. Transportation / Circulation	✓	17. Tribal Cultural Resources		18. Utilities / Service Systems
✓	19. Mandatory Findings of Significance				

3. **AIR QUALITY.** To offset the potential air quality impacts associated with the project operation and construction activities, the following avoidance and minimization measures will be required:

Measure 3B: NSAQMD recommendations for level B threshold projects. The following mitigation measures are recommended for level B threshold projects.

AQ-1: Alternatives to open burning of vegetative material will be used unless otherwise deemed infeasible by the District. Among suitable alternatives are chipping, mulching, or conversion to biomass fuel.

AQ-2: A traffic detour shall be provided during all phases of the construction to maintain access.

Measure 3C: Implement dust control measures. To reduce impacts of short-term construction, permits will follow standards to the satisfaction of NSAQMD and the following standard measures will be implemented for dust control during construction, which will be noted on all construction plans:

Recommended Dust Control Plan Conditions

AQ-3: The applicant shall be responsible for ensuring that all adequate dust control measures are implemented in a timely manner during all phases of project development and construction.

AQ-4: All material excavated, stockpiled, or graded shall be sufficiently watered, treated, or covered to prevent fugitive dust from leaving the property boundaries and causing a public nuisance or a violation of an ambient air standard. Watering should occur at least twice daily, with complete site coverage

AQ-5: All areas with vehicle traffic shall be watered or have dust palliative applied as necessary for regular stabilization of dust emissions.

AQ-6: All on-site vehicle traffic shall be limited to a speed of 15 mph on unpaved roads.

AQ-7: All land clearing, grading, earth moving, or excavation activities on a project shall be suspended as necessary to prevent excessive windblown dust when winds are expected to exceed 20 mph.

AQ-8: All inactive portions of the development site shall be covered, seeded, or watered until a suitable cover is established, except for barren areas such as dirt and gravel parking areas. Alternatively, the applicant may apply County-approved nontoxic soil stabilizers (according to manufacturer's specifications) to all inactive construction areas (previously graded areas which remain inactive for 96 hours) in accordance with the local grading ordinance.

AQ-9: All material transported off-site shall be either sufficiently watered or securely covered to prevent public nuisance, and there must be a minimum of six (6) inches of freeboard in the bed of the transport vehicle.

AQ-10: Paved streets adjacent to the project shall be swept or washed at the end of each day, or more frequently if necessary, to remove excessive or visibly raised accumulations of dirt and/or mud which may have resulted from activities at the project site.

AQ-11: Prior to final occupancy, the applicant shall re-establish ground cover on the site through seeding and watering in accordance with the local grading ordinance, except for barren areas such as dirt and gravel parking areas.

4. **BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES.** To offset the potential biological impacts associated with the project construction, the following avoidance and minimization measures will be implemented: (Additional measures may be added for biological resources after Section 7 consultation with USFWS)

Measure 4A: Avoid impacts to riparian and other sensitive biological habitats. Project effects to South Yuba River and associated riparian habitat will be avoided to the greatest extent practicable by implementing the following measures:

BIO-1: Prior to the start of construction activities, the project limits in proximity to jurisdictional waters (South Yuba River) will be marked with high visibility ESA fencing or staking to ensure construction will not further encroach into waters. The project biologist throughout construction will periodically inspect the ESA to ensure sensitive locations remain undisturbed.

BIO-2: Contract specifications will include the following BMPs, where applicable, to reduce erosion during construction:

- Implementation of the project will require approval of a site-specific Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) or Water Pollution Control Program (WPCP) that will implement effective measures to protect water quality, which may include a hazardous spill prevention plan and additional erosion prevention techniques;
- Existing vegetation will be protected in place where feasible to provide an effective form of erosion and sediment control; and
- Stabilizing materials will be applied to disturbed soil surfaces to prevent the movement of dust from exposed soil surfaces on construction sites resulting from wind, traffic, and grading activities.
- Soil exposure must be minimized through the use of temporary BMPs, groundcover, and stabilization measures;
- The contractor must conduct periodic maintenance of erosion- and sediment-control measures.

BIO-3: To conform to water quality requirements, the SWPPP or WPCP will include the following:

- Vehicle maintenance, staging and storing equipment, materials, fuels, lubricants, solvents, and other possible contaminants will be a minimum of 100 feet from surface waters. Any necessary equipment washing will occur where the water cannot flow into surface waters. The project specifications will require the contractor to operate under an approved spill prevention and clean-up plan;
- Construction equipment will not be operated in flowing water;
- Construction work will be conducted according to site-specific construction plans that minimize the potential for sediment input to surface waters;
- Raw cement, concrete or concrete washings, asphalt, paint or other coating material, oil or other petroleum products, or any other substances that could be

hazardous to aquatic life will be prevented from contaminating the soil or entering surface waters;

- Equipment used in and around surface waters will be in good working order and free of dripping or leaking contaminants; and,
- Any surplus concrete rubble, asphalt, or other debris from construction will be taken to an appropriate disposal site.

BIO-4: All riparian areas and streambanks temporarily disturbed during project construction will be restored onsite to pre-project conditions or better prior to project completion. Where possible, vegetation will be trimmed rather than fully removed with the guidance of the project biologist. When feasible riparian vegetation will be cut above soil level.

BIO-5: Prior to arrival at the project site and prior to leaving the project site, construction equipment that may contain invasive plants and/or seeds shall be cleaned to reduce the spreading of noxious weeds.

BIO-6: Should landscaping be installed within the project area, the project must not incorporate Cal-IPC invasive species. Any landscape treatments should incorporate native plant materials to the maximum extent feasible.

Timing: *Prior to and during construction*
Reporting: *Nevada County Department of Public Works*

Measure 4B: Avoid impacts to Special Status Species and local wildlife. Construction activities associated with the proposed project may affect Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog (SNYLF) and/or SNYLF Critical Habitat. As a result, the project will implement the following measures into the project design to minimize and avoid potential effects to aquatic wildlife.

BIO-7: Construction activities will be limited to daylight hours during the SNYLF active period (approximately April-November).

BIO-8: Prior to initial ground disturbance activities, environmental awareness training will be given to all construction personnel by the project biologist to brief them on how to recognize SNYLF, and other sensitive species with potential to occur within the project area. Construction personnel will also be informed that if a SNYLF is encountered in the work area, construction will cease in work area and the USFWS will be called for guidance before any construction activities are resumed. Personnel will sign a form stating they attended environmental awareness training.

BIO-9: No more than 20 working days prior to any ground disturbance, preconstruction SNYLF surveys will be conducted by a USFWS-approved biologist.

BIO-10: Water diversion pumps will utilize screening devices with low entry velocity to minimize removal of aquatic species, including juvenile fish, amphibian egg masses and tadpoles, from aquatic habitats.

BIO-11: If SNYLF are found at any time during project work, construction will stop in the vicinity and USFWS will be contacted immediately for further guidance.

BIO-12: Plastic mono-filament netting (erosion control matting) or similar material containing netting must not be used at the project. Acceptable substitutes include coconut coir matting or tackified hydroseeding compounds.

BIO-13: Vegetation must be removed in the fall before onset of snow or early spring immediately after the snow melts (approximately September 15 – April 15). Vegetation removal will be coordinated with the project biologist and the current seasonal conditions.

BIO-14: If work will occur during the nesting season (April 15 – September 15), a pre-construction nesting migratory bird survey and a pre-construction nesting raptor survey shall be conducted by the project biologist within the project limits (plus an approximate 600 foot buffer for raptors).

A minimum 100-foot no-disturbance buffer will be established around any active nest of migratory birds, and a minimum 300-foot no-disturbance buffer will be established around any nesting raptor. The contractor must immediately stop work in the nesting area until the appropriate buffer is established and is prohibited from conducting work that could disturb the birds (as determined by the project biologist and in coordination with wildlife agencies) in the buffer area until the project biologist determines the young have fledged. A reduced buffer can be established if determined appropriate by the project biologist and approved by CDFW. Should a nesting willow flycatcher or other sensitive bird species be identified within the project area, the project would pause work in the vicinity and coordinate with CDFW for further guidance.

BIO-15: During the environmental phase of the project, a project biologist familiar with the willow flycatcher call will perform two additional surveys between June 1 and July 15 pursuant to the 2003 survey protocol "A Willow Flycatcher Survey Protocol for California". Should surveys identify willow flycatcher within the BSA, the project will conduct additional willow flycatcher coordination with CDFW.

BIO-16: Prior to construction all known nesting cavities within the project limits shall be temporarily sealed with wire mesh to prevent the occupation of cavity nesting birds. Following construction, wire meshing shall be removed. Within the nesting season (April 15 – September 15) the project biologist must confirm each nest cavity is unoccupied within 7 days prior to sealing or removal (if activities require the removal of a utility pole or other structure with a cavity nest). Should relocation of utilities be necessary, the project biologist would coordinate with the appropriate utilities prior to relocation to ensure no cavity nesting birds would be affected.

BIO-17: If construction on the existing bridge is planned to occur during the swallow nesting season, measures will be taken to avoid impacts to migratory swallows. To protect migratory swallows, unoccupied nests must be removed from the existing bridge structure prior to the nesting season (April 15 – September 15). During the nesting season, the bridge structure must be maintained through the active removal of partially constructed nests. Swallows can complete nest construction in approximately 3 days. After a nest is completed, it can no longer be removed until an approved biologist has determined that all birds have fledged and the nest is no longer being used.

BIO-18: If any wildlife is encountered during the course of construction, said wildlife will be allowed to leave the construction area unharmed.

BIO-19: A pre-construction clearance survey will be conducted by the project biologist to verify that no wildlife is located within the project area.

BIO-20: The contractor must dispose of all food-related trash in closed containers, and must remove it from the project area each day during construction. Construction personnel must not feed or attract wildlife to the project area.

Timing: *Prior to and during construction*
Reporting: *Nevada County Department of Public Works*

5. **CULTURAL RESOURCES.** To offset potentially adverse cultural or historical resources impacts associated with the proposed activities on site, the following avoidance and minimization measures will be required:

Measure 5A: Avoid impacts to sensitive cultural sites and human remains. Halt work and contact the appropriate agencies if cultural resources are discovered during project construction. To prevent cultural resource disturbance the following measures will be implemented.

CUL-1: Prior to construction, environmental awareness training will be provided to all construction workers onsite regarding the possibility of encountering subsurface cultural resources. Native American groups have expressed concerns regarding the Native American resources in the immediate area. Continued consultation will continue throughout the course of the project.

CUL-2: If previously unidentified cultural materials are unearthed during construction, work shall be halted within 200 feet of the affected area until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find and develop a plan for documentation and removal of resources, if necessary. Additional archaeological survey will be needed if project limits are extended beyond the present survey limits.

Measure 5D: Avoid impacts to human remains. Halt work and contact the Nevada County Coroner if human remains are discovered during project construction. To prevent disturbance to previously undiscovered human remains, the following measures will be implemented.

CUL-3: Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code protect Native American burials, skeletal remains and grave goods, regardless of age and provide method and means for the appropriate handling of such remains. If human remains are encountered, California law requires that work should halt in that vicinity and the Nevada County Coroner should be notified immediately to assess the remains. If the coroner determines the human remains to be of Native American origin, the coroner must notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) within twenty-four hours of such identification. The NAHC shall then determine the Most Likely Descendant (MLD) of the human remains and contact the MLD immediately. The County, the MLD, and a professional archaeologist retained by the County shall then consult to determine the appropriate plans for treatment and assessment of the human remains and any associated grave goods.

Timing: *During construction*
Reporting: *Nevada County Department of Public Works*

6. **GEOLOGY AND SOILS.** To offset the potential for adverse soils or erosion impacts to result from project grading and construction activities, the following avoidance and minimization measures will be required:

Mitigation: To offset the potential for significant impacts related to erosion/ sediment transport, soil stabilization discussed in **Measure 4A** and **Measure 9A** will be implemented.

8. **HAZARDS / HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.** To offset the potential for impacts related to storage, use, and transport of hazardous materials, the following avoidance and minimization measures will be required:

Measure 8B: Minimize the release of hazardous materials into the environment. The following measure has been incorporated into the project design to ensure that hazardous materials generated by the project are not released into the environment

HAZ-1: The contractor shall prepare spill and leak prevention procedures prior to the commencement of construction activities. The procedures shall include information on the nature of all hazardous materials that shall be used on-site. The procedures shall also include information regarding proper handling of hazardous materials, and clean-up procedures in the event of an accidental release. The phone number of the agency overseeing hazardous materials and toxic clean-up shall be provided.

HAZ-2: The contractor(s) will prepare and implement an Asbestos Dust Management Plan (ADMP) that describes measures that will be taken to mitigate the potential airborne suspension of NOA-containing dust from the soil/rock as a result of construction excavation activities. Asbestos dust control to be implemented shall be in compliance with the following:

- CCR § 93105 (Asbestos Airborne Toxic Control measure for Construction, Grading, Quarrying, and Surface Mining Operations (ATCM 930105);
- CCR § 93106 ((Asbestos Airborne Toxic control measure for Surfacing Applications (ATCM 93106));
- Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District guidelines;

HAZ-3: According to Title 17 CCR, § 93106(i)(20), the soil/rock material within the southwestern roadway shoulder of the site is considered Restricted Material because the soil/rock material there contains asbestos at 0.25% or greater. Therefore, it cannot be used under the definition of surfacing (Title 17 CCR, § 93106(i)(26)). As required by the Title 17 CCR, § 93105(e)(4)(G), disturbed asbestos-containing material (0.25% asbestos or greater) must be stabilized via options that include paving or covering with at least 3 inches of non-asbestos-containing material (less than 0.25% asbestos).

Any part, other than a permitted landfill, receiving NOA-containing soil must be provided the following warning statement:

"WARNING!

This material may contain asbestos. It is unlawful to use this material for surfacing or any application in which it would remain exposed and subject to possible disturbance. Extreme care should be taken when handling this material to minimize the generation of dust."

HAZ-4: As is the case for any project that proposes excavation, the potential exists for unknown hazardous contamination to be revealed during project construction. For any previously unknown hazardous waste/ material encountered during construction, the procedures outlined in the Caltrans Unknown Hazard Procedures (as seen Table 7-1.1 of the Caltrans 2006 Construction Manual) shall be followed.

Timing: *Prior to and during construction*
Reporting: *Nevada County Department of Public Works*

9. **HYDROLOGY/WATER QUALITY.** To offset the potential for impacts related to alteration of slope and drainage features around the Soda Springs Bridge and storm water quality from operational activities, the following avoidance and minimization measures will be required, except within existing barren parking areas:

Measure 9A: Storm Water Best Management Practices. The proposed project has been designed to minimize storm water impacts to the maximum extent practicable through the use of BMPs and implementation of regulatory permit conditions.

WQ-1: BMPs will be incorporated into project design and project management to minimize impacts on the environment including the release of pollutants (oils, fuels, etc.):

- The area of construction and disturbance would be limited to as small an area as feasible to reduce erosion and sedimentation.
- Measures would be implemented during land-disturbing activities to reduce erosion and sedimentation. These measures may include mulches, soil binders and erosion control blankets, silt fencing, fiber rolls, temporary berms, sediment desilting basins, sediment traps, and check dams.
- Existing vegetation would be protected where feasible to reduce erosion and sedimentation. Vegetation would be preserved by installing temporary fencing, or other protection devices, around areas to be protected.
- Exposed soils would be covered by loose bulk materials or other materials to reduce erosion and runoff during rainfall events.
- Exposed soils would be stabilized, through watering or other measures, to prevent the movement of dust at the project site caused by wind and construction activities such as traffic and grading activities.
- All construction roadway areas would be properly protected to prevent excess erosion, sedimentation, and water pollution.
- All vehicle and equipment maintenance procedures would be conducted off-site. In the event of an emergency, maintenance would occur away from the South Yuba River.
- All concrete curing activities would be conducted to minimize spray drift and prevent curing compounds from entering the waterway directly or indirectly.
- All construction materials, vehicles, stockpiles, and staging areas would be situated outside of the stream channel as feasible. All stockpiles would be covered, as feasible.
- Energy dissipaters and erosion control pads would be provided at the bottom of slope drains. Other flow conveyance control mechanisms may include earth

dikes, swales, or ditches. Stream bank stabilization measures would also be implemented.

- All erosion control measures and storm water control measures would be properly maintained until the site has returned to a pre-construction state.
- All disturbed areas within the channel and associated banks would be restored to pre-construction contours and revegetated, either through hydroseeding or other means, with native or approved non-invasive exotic species.
- All construction materials would be hauled off-site after completion of construction.

WQ-2: Any requirements for additional avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures will be in contained in the permits obtained from all required regulatory agencies. The South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) will be notified of any water quality monitoring efforts required within the permits obtained for the project.

WQ-3: The project limits in proximity to the South Yuba River will be marked as an Environmental Sensitive Area (ESA) or either be staked or fenced with high visibility material to ensure construction activities will not encroach further beyond established limits.

WQ-4: The proposed project would require a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Construction Permit for Discharges of storm water associated with construction activities (Construction General Permit 2012-0006-DWQ). As part of the Permit requirement, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) or Water Pollution Control Program (WPCP) would also be developed and implemented. The SWPPP or WPCP will incorporate all applicable BMPs to ensure that adequate measures are taken during construction to minimize impacts to water quality.

WQ-5: Post-construction storm water control requirements will be addressed in accordance with Caltrans' MS4 permit for areas within Caltrans right-of-way. Permanent treatment control BMPs will be evaluated based on effectiveness and feasibility and incorporated into the final design as applicable.

Timing: *Prior and during construction*
Reporting: *Nevada County Department of Public Works*

12. <u>NOISE</u>. To offset the potential for impacts related to construction related noise, the following avoidance and minimization measures will be required:

Measure 12D: Construction Work Hours. The proposed project has been designed to minimize construction related noise impacts to neighboring residences within the project vicinity.

NOI-1: Project construction activities will be limited to 7:00 am – 7:00 pm Monday to Friday, and 8:00 am – 6:00 pm Saturday and Sunday.

17. <u>TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES</u>. To offset the potential for impacts related to previously undiscovered Tribal Cultural Resources, the following avoidance and minimization measures will be required:

Mitigation: To reduce potentially significant impacts to previously undiscovered TCRs within the Project Area to a less than significant level, **Measure 5A** and **5D** has been incorporated into the project design.

INITIAL STUDY AND CHECKLIST

Introduction

This checklist is to be completed for all projects that are not exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The information, analysis and conclusions contained in the checklist are the basis for deciding whether an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or Negative Declaration is to be prepared. If an EIR is determined to be necessary based on the conclusions of the Initial Study, the checklist is used to focus the EIR on the effects determined to be potentially significant.

This Initial Study uses the following terms to describe the level of significance of adverse impacts. These terms are defined as follows.

- **No Impact**: An impact that would result in no adverse changes to the environment.
- **Less than Significant Impact**: An impact that is potentially adverse but does not exceed the thresholds of significance as identified in the impact discussions. Less than significant impacts do not require mitigation.
- **Less than Significant with Mitigation**: An environmental effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the environment without mitigation, but which is reduced to a level that is less than significant with mitigation identified in the Initial Study.
- **Potentially Significant Impact**: An environmental effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the environment; either additional information is needed regarding the extent of the impact to make the significance determination, or the impact would or could cause a substantial adverse change in the environment. A finding of a potentially significant impact would result in the determination to prepare an EIR.

1. AESTHETICS

Existing Setting: Soda Springs Road is not listed as an officially designated National Scenic Byway or State Scenic Byway. Soda Springs Road provides views of Nevada County's mixed conifer woodland landscapes. The proposed project site has dispersed mixed conifer woodland areas, and small patches of riparian vegetation along the banks of the South Yuba River. Additionally, views consist of a large gravel parking areas to the northeast, southeast and west of the project site as well as filtered views of Lake Van Norden. The proposed project will widen the existing bridge to 40 feet and lengthen the bridge by 12 feet, with two spread footing abutments.

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

Impact Discussion 1a & 1c: The project site contains broken patches of mixed conifer wooded, montane riparian vegetation, and large barren gravel parking areas along Soda Springs Road as it passes over the South Yuba River. The project will permanently affect 0.03 acres of montane riparian woodland during the replacement project by widening the bridge and roadway, but the impact will not significantly change the visual character or quality of the bridge location. The project is not anticipated to result in negative adverse impacts to scenic vistas, views open to the public or the visual character of the site; therefore, impacts to visual character will be ***less than significant***.

Impact Discussion 1b: The project site is not located on a state scenic highway and does not house scenic resources. ***No impact*** related to damaging scenic resources on a state scenic highway will occur.

Impact Discussion 1d**:** The nearest residential uses sensitive to light and glare in the project area are approximately 750 feet away from the project site. This distance would preclude impacts to these receptors. The proposed bridge will be made of similar materials as the existing bridge and would not include lighting. Light and glare impacts from the proposed project are not anticipated; therefore, there would be ***no impact*** related to light and glare.

2. AGRICULTURAL/FORESTRY RESOURCES

Existing Setting: Agriculture and forest resources have been an integral part of Nevada County since the discovery of gold in California. Agriculture in Nevada County is a mosaic of farmland intermingled with other uses in the rural setting which typifies the county (Nevada County 2012). Forest resources within the county consist of timberlands and woodlands. These forest resources provide commercial timber production as well as wildlife habitat, vegetation diversity, watershed protection and recreation (Nevada County 2014a).

The area surrounding the project location is zoned Recreation in the Nevada County Zoning Map in the Nevada County General Plan (Nevada County 2014b). There are no Prime or Unique Farmlands or Farmlands of Statewide Importance within or adjacent to the project area. None of the parcels adjacent to the project area are under Williamson Act contracts (DOC 2015).

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	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 resource Agency, to non-agricultural use?				✓
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or conflict with a Williamson Act contract?				✓
c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?				✓
d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				✓
e. Involve other changes in the existing environment, which due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				✓

Impact Discussion 2a: The project site does not contain any Important Farmlands as identified by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. Therefore, there would be ***no impact*** to farmlands from the proposed project.

Impact Discussion 2b: The project site does not contain agriculture areas and is not zoned for agriculture. The project area and adjacent lands are not zoned or designated as Farmland, nor are within any lands with Williamson Act contracts; therefore, there would be ***no impact*** to farmlands from the proposed project.

Impact Discussion 2c: The project site is not within a Timberland Production Zone. ***No impact*** to timberlands are anticipated.

Impact Discussion 2d: The project site is surrounded by dispersed mixed conifer woodland, but all construction will be concentrated along already disturbed areas including roadways and the bridge structure. No trees designated within a forest will be removed. There will be ***no impact*** on significant timber resources.

Impact Discussion 2e: Project implementation would not result in the conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses as noted above. There will be ***no impact*** to farmlands from this proposed project.

3. AIR QUALITY

Existing Setting: Nevada County is located in the Mountain Counties Air Basin and is within the jurisdiction of the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (NSAQMD). The overall air quality in Nevada County has improved over the past decade, largely due to vehicles becoming cleaner. State and Federal air quality standards have been established for specific "criteria" air pollutants including ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, lead, and particulate matter. In addition, there are State standards for visibility reducing particles, sulfates, hydrogen sulfide, and vinyl chloride. State standards are called California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) (CEPA 2009) and federal standards are called National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) (EPA 2014).

Particulate matter is the primary pollutant of concern in the NSAQMD area. Inhalable particulate or PM10 (particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter) and PM2.5 (particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in diameter) refers to a wide variety of solid or liquid particles in the atmosphere. These include smoke, dust, aerosols, and metallic oxides. Some of these particulates are considered toxic. Although particulates are found naturally in the air, most particulate matter found in the region are emitted either directly or indirectly by motor vehicles, industry, construction, wood burning, re-entrained road dust, and wind erosion of disturbed areas. Most PM2.5 is comprised of combustion products (i.e., soot). High levels of PM10 and PM2.5 can lead to adverse health effects, nuisance, concerns, and reduced visibility. The NSAQMD area is considered a nonattainment area for PM10, relative to the State standard, and unclassified for the federal standards. Additionally, the NSAQMD is listed as a federal nonattainment area for PM2.5, and listed as unclassified as a state criteria pollutant area.

Ozone levels, measured by peak concentrations and the number of days over the State 1-hour standard, have declined substantially as a result of aggressive programs by the NSAQMD and other regional, State and federal agencies. The reduction of peak concentrations represents progress in improving public health; however, the NSAQMD area still exceeds the State standard for 1-hour ozone. The NSAQMD area of Nevada County is currently in nonattainment status for 8-hour ozone for State Designation, while the project area within Eastern Nevada County is unclassified for Federal standards.

Ultramafic rock and its altered form, serpentine rock (or serpentinite), both typically contain asbestos, a cancer-causing agent and may because airborne if disturbed. Ultramafic rock and serpentine exist in several locations in Nevada County, mainly in the western half, but it is unlikely that these materials exist in the project area (USGS 2011).

An evaluation of project impacts related to greenhouse gas emissions is provided in Section 7 of this Initial Study.

Would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?				✓
b. Violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation?		✓		
c. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?		✓		
d. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?		✓		

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?			✓	

Impact Discussion 3a: The project replacement bridge will be wider than the current bridge but will not increase vehicle capacity of the facility. Operational emissions of the roadway are not anticipated to change as a result of the project. The project does not conflict with the County General Plan Air Quality element and will have ***no impact*** on implementation applicable air quality plans.

Impact Discussion 3b: Construction of the proposed project would generate temporary construction emissions. The NSAQMD recommended significance thresholds (Table 1) for project-specific development found in the *Guidelines for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts of Land Use Projects* (NSAQMD, 2016). NSAQMD recommends that these significance thresholds be used during the preparation of initial studies.

Table 1: NSAQMD-Recommended Significance Thresholds

Significance Level	Project-Generated Emissions (lbs/day)		
	NO_x	ROG	PM_{10}
Level A	<24	<24	<79
Level B	24-136	24-136	79-136
Level C	≥136	≥136	≥136

The project's construction emissions were estimated using the Roadway Construction Emission Model by the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD 2016), which is the accepted model for all CEQA roadway projects throughout California. Table 2 shows the results of the model and compares them to the NSAQMD significance thresholds. As summarized in Table 2, construction of the project would not exceed emission thresholds established by the NSAQMD except for Level A of NOx significance thresholds.

Table 2: Total Construction Emissions and Local Thresholds

	Project Total Construction Emissions	Exceed Level A Significance Thresholds?	Exceed Level B Significance Thresholds?	Exceed Level C Significance Thresholds?
NOx	49.43	Yes	No	No
ROG	5.22	No	No	No
PM_{10}	3.87	No	No	No
Source: NSAQMD 2009				

As described in the *Guidelines for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts of Land Use Projects*, a project with emissions meeting Level A thresholds will require the most basic mitigations; projects with projected emissions in the Level B range will be considered potentially significant and require more extensive mitigations; and those projects which exceed Level C thresholds will require the most extensive mitigations and be considered a significant impact. Recommendations from NSAQMD are included in **Measure 3B** to mitigate projects classified within the Level B threshold. Impacts would be ***less than Significant with Mitigation***.

Impact Discussion 3c: The California Clean Air Act (CCAA) of 1988 requires air districts to achieve and maintain air quality standards for the following criteria pollutants: ozone (O_3), carbon monoxide (CO),

dust particles (PM_{10}), fine particles ($PM_{2.5}$), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), lead (Pb), sulfates (SO_{2-4}), hydrogen sulfide (H_2S), and visibility. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is required to designate areas as either attainment or nonattainment or nonattainment for any state standard. An "attainment" designation for an area signifies that pollutant concentrations do not violate the standard for that pollutant in that area. A "nonattainment" designation indicates that a pollutant concentration violated the standard at least once. Nevada County's CARB designated attainment status for each of the CCAA criteria pollutants is shown on Table 3.

Table 3: Nevada County Attainment Status

Pollutant	Federal	State
1-hour Ozone (O_3)	-	Nonattainment
8-hour Ozone (O_3)	Nonattainment	Nonattainment
Coarse Particulate Matter (PM_{10})	Unclassified	Nonattainment
Fine Particulate Matter ($PM_{2.5}$)	Unclassified/Attainment	Unclassified
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	Unclassified/Attainment	Unclassified
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)	Unclassified/Attainment	Attainment
Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2)	Unclassified	Attainment
Hydrogen Sulfide (H_2S)	-	Unclassified

Source: CARB 2015

Nevada County is currently in nonattainment for ozone (O_3) and coarse particulate matter (PM_{10}). Construction of the proposed project would generate short term emissions of the nonattainment criteria pollutants ozone (O_3) and PM_{10} dust. Construction equipment used during construction would be powered by diesel engines. Diesel exhaust contains nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) which readily react in sunlight to form ozone (O_3). Soil disturbance during construction would release windblown PM_{10} dust into the air. Construction related emissions of both of ozone (O_3) and dust particles (PM_{10}) would be temporary.

As described in the *Guidelines for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts of Land Use Projects*, *District Rule 226: Dust Control*, a Dust Control Plan must be submitted to the to the NSAQMD for approval prior to any surface disturbance, including clearing of vegetation. Mitigation **Measure 3C** constitutes an approvable Plan under Rule 226. With implementation of the Recommended Dust Control Plan Conditions, impacts would be ***less than Significant with Mitigation***.

Impact Discussion 3d: Sensitive receptors include: Long-term health care facilities, rehabilitation centers, convalescent centers, retirement homes, residences, schools, playgrounds, child care centers, and athletic facilities. There are no sensitive receptors near the Project Area. Construction emissions will primarily affect construction workers and any inspectors onsite.

The Project would have no impact on long term air quality. All air quality impacts will be related to construction emissions. Construction of the project will temporarily increase diesel exhaust and PM_{10} dust concentrations in the immediate vicinity. Diesel exhaust contains nitrogen oxides (NO_x), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), soot particles, and other compounds that are deleterious to human health (Krivoshto et al. 2008). PM_{10} dust would be released predominantly during grading activities. If inhaled, PM_{10} dust is harmful to the respiratory system. Daily construction emissions of all criteria pollutants would be minimized by implementing Mitigation **Measure 3B**.

Although unlikely, the project site has the potential to contain ultramafic rock. As noted above, ultramafic rock typically contains asbestos, a cancer-causing agent. Disturbance of this rock and adjacent soil during project construction can result in the release of microscopic cancer-causing asbestos fibers into the air, resulting in potential health and safety hazards. Short-term health risks related to potential disturbance of

utramafic rock will minimized by incorporating the Recommended Dust Control Plan Conditions specified in Mitigation **Measure 3C**. Therefore, impacts related to exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.as a result of construction of the Project would be ***less than Significant with Mitigation.***

Impact Discussion 3e: Construction of the Project may generate additional odors associated with diesel exhaust from construction equipment. These odors are not anticipated to affect a substantial number of people as the nearest residence is approximately 750 feet from the Project and odor generation will be temporary. Generation of objectionable odors are anticipated to be ***less than significant***.

Mitigation: To offset the potential air quality impacts associated with the project construction activities, the following avoidance and minimization measures will be required:

Measure 3B: NSAQMD recommendations for level B threshold projects. The following mitigation measures are recommended for level B threshold projects.

AQ-1: Alternatives to open burning of vegetative material will be used unless otherwise deemed infeasible by the District. Among suitable alternatives are chipping, mulching, or conversion to biomass fuel.

AQ-2: Temporary traffic control shall be provided during all phases of the construction to improve traffic flow as deemed appropriate by the County.

Measure 3C: Implement dust control measures. To reduce impacts of short-term construction, permits will follow standards to the satisfaction of NSAQMD and the following standard measures will be implemented for dust control during construction, which will be noted on all construction plans:

Recommended Dust Control Plan Conditions

AQ-3: The applicant shall be responsible for ensuring that all adequate dust control measures are implemented in a timely manner during all phases of project development and construction.

AQ-4: All material excavated, stockpiled, or graded shall be sufficiently watered, treated, or covered to prevent fugitive dust from leaving the property boundaries and causing a public nuisance or a violation of an ambient air standard. Watering should occur at least twice daily, with complete site coverage

AQ-5: All areas with vehicle traffic shall be watered or have dust palliative applied as necessary for regular stabilization of dust emissions.

AQ-6: All on-site vehicle traffic shall be limited to a speed of 15 mph on unpaved roads.

AQ-7: All land clearing, grading, earth moving, or excavation activities on a project shall be suspended as necessary to prevent excessive windblown dust when winds are expected to exceed 20 mph.

AQ-8: All inactive portions of the development site shall be covered, seeded, or watered until a suitable cover is established, except for barren areas such as dirt and gravel parking areas. Alternatively, the applicant may apply County-approved nontoxic soil stabilizers (according to manufacturer's specifications) to all inactive construction areas (previously graded areas which remain inactive for 96 hours) in accordance with the local grading ordinance.

AQ-9: All material transported off-site shall be either sufficiently watered or securely covered to prevent public nuisance, and there must be a minimum of six (6) inches of freeboard in the bed of the transport vehicle.

AQ-10: Paved streets adjacent to the project shall be swept or washed at the end of each day, or more frequently if necessary, to remove excessive or visibly raised accumulations of dirt and/or mud which may have resulted from activities at the project site.

AQ-11: Prior to final occupancy, the applicant shall re-establish ground cover on the site through seeding and watering in accordance with the local grading ordinance.

4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Existing Setting: The project is located along Soda Springs Road where the roadway crosses the South Yuba River. The project area includes all permanent and temporary impacts, including proposed right-of-way, construction easements, temporary access roads, cut and fill limits, and potential staging areas plus an approximate 20 foot buffer. A Biological Study Area (BSA) was delineated with a 50-100 foot buffer around the project area (see Figure 3. Project Features). The BSA is approximately 155 feet long and approximately 7.00 acres in size. The project area is characterized by Sierran mixed conifer forest; however, the project site is moderately disturbed from past road and bridge construction, and barren gravel parking areas. The South Yuba River, and a tributary to South Yuba River occur within the BSA.

Vegetation Communities

The following habitats were classified within the BSA. Classification is based on the CDFW California Wildlife Habitat Relationship Classification Scheme (CDFW 2016b) (Figure 4. Waters and Vegetation Communities within the BSA).

Barren

Barren areas contain rock, gravel, soil, or pavement and are devoid of plant life. Barren areas within the BSA include Soda Springs Road and Soda Springs Mountain Resort unpaved parking lot, which covers approximately 4.8 acres (approximately 68%) of the BSA.

Sierran Mixed Conifer Forest

In the northern Sierra Foothills, common tree species includes ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), California black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*), bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), incense-cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*), white alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*), and dogwood (*Cornus* sp.). The BSA contains highly fragmented conifer stands. Dominant species in this habitat type within the BSA include white alder, white fir (*Abies concolor*), and Jeffrey pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*) canopy and an understory of mountain gooseberry (*Ribes montigenum*). Sierran mixed conifer forest occupies 0.51 acres (approximately 7%) within the BSA.

Riverine

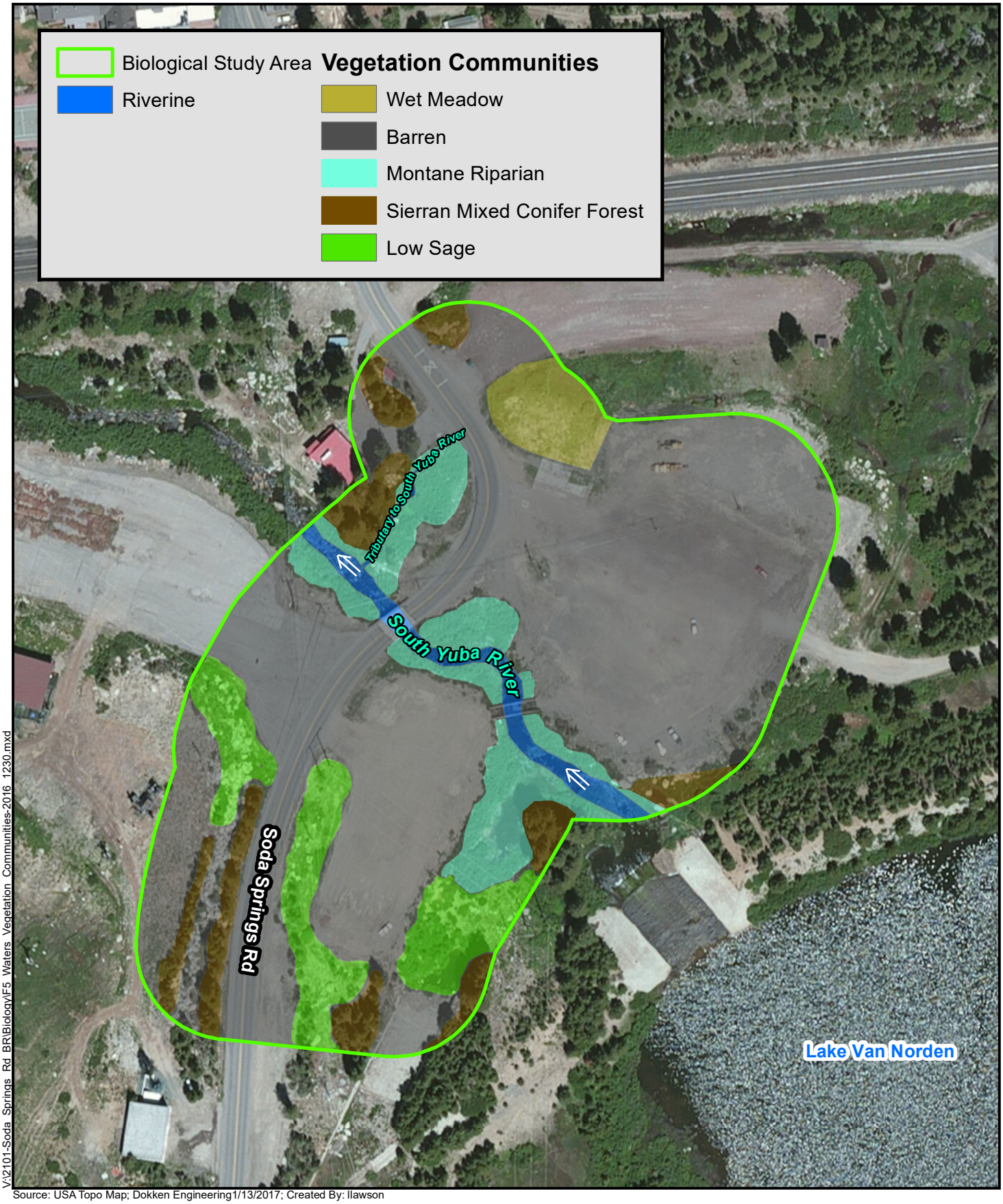
Riverine habitats can occur in association with many terrestrial habitats. Riparian habitats are found adjacent to many rivers and streams. Rivers and streams occur statewide, mostly between sea level and 8,000 feet. Riverine makes up 0.16 acres (approximately 2%) of the BSA.

Montane Riparian

Montane riparian habitat is of critical importance to many amphibian, reptile, bird, and mammal wildlife species that rely on the habitat for food, water, cover, and migration corridors. Within the BSA, montane riparian habitat is found flanking both banks of the South Yuba River, both upstream and downstream of the Soda Springs Road Bridge. Dominant species in this habitat type within the BSA include white alder, red alder (*Alnus rubra*), red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*) and pacific willow (*Salix lasiandra*). Montane riparian makes up approximately 0.72 acres (approximately 10%) of the BSA.

Low Sage

Within the Sierra Nevada, low sage habitats are comprised of low sagebrush (*Artemisia arbuscula*) or black sagebrush (*Artemisia nova*), often in association with Douglas rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus*), or big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentate*); and found adjacent to Mixed Conifer, Jeffery Pine (Pinus jeffreyi), or Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) forests. The BSA contains button brush and Mixed Conifer Forest, including Jeffrey Pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*). Low Sage makes up 0.72 acres (approximately 10%) of the BSA.



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Source: USA Topo Map; Dokken Engineering1/13/2017; Created By: llawson

0 150 300 Feet

FIGURE 4
Waters and Vegetation Communities within the BSA
Soda Springs Road over South Yuba River Bridge Replacement Project
Nevada County, California

Wet Meadow
Wet Meadows hold a great variety of plant species; therefore it is very difficult to generalize species composition. Although species may differ greatly, several genera are shared with Wet Meadows throughout California; Agrostis, Carex, Danthonia, Juncus, Salix, and Scirpus. The BSA contains Lakeshore sedge (*Carex lenticularis*), Common rush (*Juncus effusus*), and Pacific willow (Salix lasiandra). Wet Meadow makes up 0.23 acres (approximately 3%) of the BSA.

A Natural Environmental Study (NES 2017) was prepared for this project and approved in 2016. The NES provides much of the basis of the discussion in this section and may be consulted for further technical background.

Would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**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 Service?		✓		
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?		✓		
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?				✓
d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?			✓	
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				✓
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				✓

Impact Discussion 4a: Plant and wildlife species are considered to have special-status if they have been listed as such by Federal or State agencies or by one or more special interest groups, such as the California Native Plant Society (CNPS). Prior to the field surveys, queries of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) *Information for Planning and Conservation* (IPaC), the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), and CNPS databases were conducted to identify species protected under Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) and the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). A complete list of sensitive species listed returned by database searches can be found in Appendix D. CNDDB and CNPS databases were queried using the USGS 7 ½ minute quadrangles of Soda Springs, Norden, Webber Peak, Cisco Grove, Independence Lake and Royal Gorge. Quadrangles were selected based on proximity to the Project and similarity of the predominant biomes within each quad to the Project Area. The USFWS IPAC species list generator was queried using the footprint of the Biological Study Area.

Database searches identified 47 regional wildlife and plant species of special concern with potential to occur within the project vicinity. An analysis of habitat requirements and recorded occurrences

determined that only four (4) species (Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (*Rana sierrae)*, Southern long-toed salamander (*Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum*), willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*), and yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechial*) have the potential to occur within the BSA. None of the species were observed within the BSA during biological field surveys, but are still considered to have potential to occur within the BSA based on presence of potentially suitable dispersal habitat and regional occurrences.

Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog

The SNYLF is a federally listed endangered species under the FESA, and listed as threatened species under the CESA. Habitat for SNYLF consists of a combination of specific aquatic habitats. SNYLF commonly inhabit lakes, ponds, meadow streams, isolated pools, and sunny riverbanks. The SNYLF is generally diurnal, spending much of its time basking within a normal range of one meter from the water's edge. Gentle slopes up to a depth of 5-8 centimeters seem to be preferred basking locations. Waters that do not freeze to the bottom and which do not dry up are habitat requirements (California Herps 2016). Adults and tadpoles are most frequently found in association with shallow water, presumably because these microhabitats are warmer (Bradford 1984). Reproduction takes place immediately following snowmelt, and clutches of 15 to 350 eggs are laid and attached to aquatic stems, rocks, gravel or other substrates (Stebbins 2003).

Survey Results

Review of available literature and data sources of the species occurrence indicated that SNYLF may have the potential to occur within the South Yuba River. In addition, based on USFWS 2016 Critical Habitat maps, the project is located within designated Critical Habitat for the species (USFWS 2016b and USFWS 2016c). A habitat assessment and focused survey for SNYLF was conducted by ECORP Consulting, Inc in June 2015. No SNYLF were observed during the June 2015 focused surveys (ECORP 2015) and the July 2015 biological surveys. During the June 2015 and July 2015 surveys, small rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) were observed within parts of the South Yuba River. Trout have a predatory nature and their presence within the BSA reduces the potential for SNYLF within the BSA. In addition, with a combination of variables including high volume flows from Lake Van Norden, lack of exposed banks and basking areas, and the project's proximity to urban infrastructure renders the project area marginally suitable for SNYLF.

Five records of SNYLF are documented in the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) within 5 miles of the project area (CNDDB 2016). The closest (CNDDB record #675) is centered approximately 1 mile southeast of the project site at the upstream end of Lake Van Norden. Described as having come from "deep ponds of winding mountain stream," several frogs were collected from this locality in 1958. There are no newer records for this location. The next nearest record is CNDDB record #245, from 1939, which is located approximately 1.5 miles west of the project along the South Yuba River. The best evidence for a nearby population of SNYLF is CNDDB record #686 located at Sand Ridge Lake southwest of Basin Peak. At this locale, approximately 3.5 miles north of the project area, numerous frogs, subadults, and tadpoles have been documented for several years, from 2004 to 2013. However, this extant population is located over the Sand Ridge (beyond Andesite Peak) and in water bodies with no hydric connectivity to the project area. The two other records from within 5 miles (#685 and #680) are from the same general area and are recently reported (2009 and 2012 respectively) (ECORP 2015) (Figure 5 SNYLF Occurrences and Critical Habitat within the Project Vicinity).

Considering the lack of recent occurrences, and the marginal habitat potential as determined by the SNYLF Habitat Assessment, the SNYLF has a low potential of occurring within the BSA. Although no SNYLF was observed during the focused surveys or biological surveys, the species does have a low potential to occur. No direct effects to SNYLF are anticipated; however, should SNYLF occur within the project area during construction, potential direct effects to SNYLF would include potential impairments

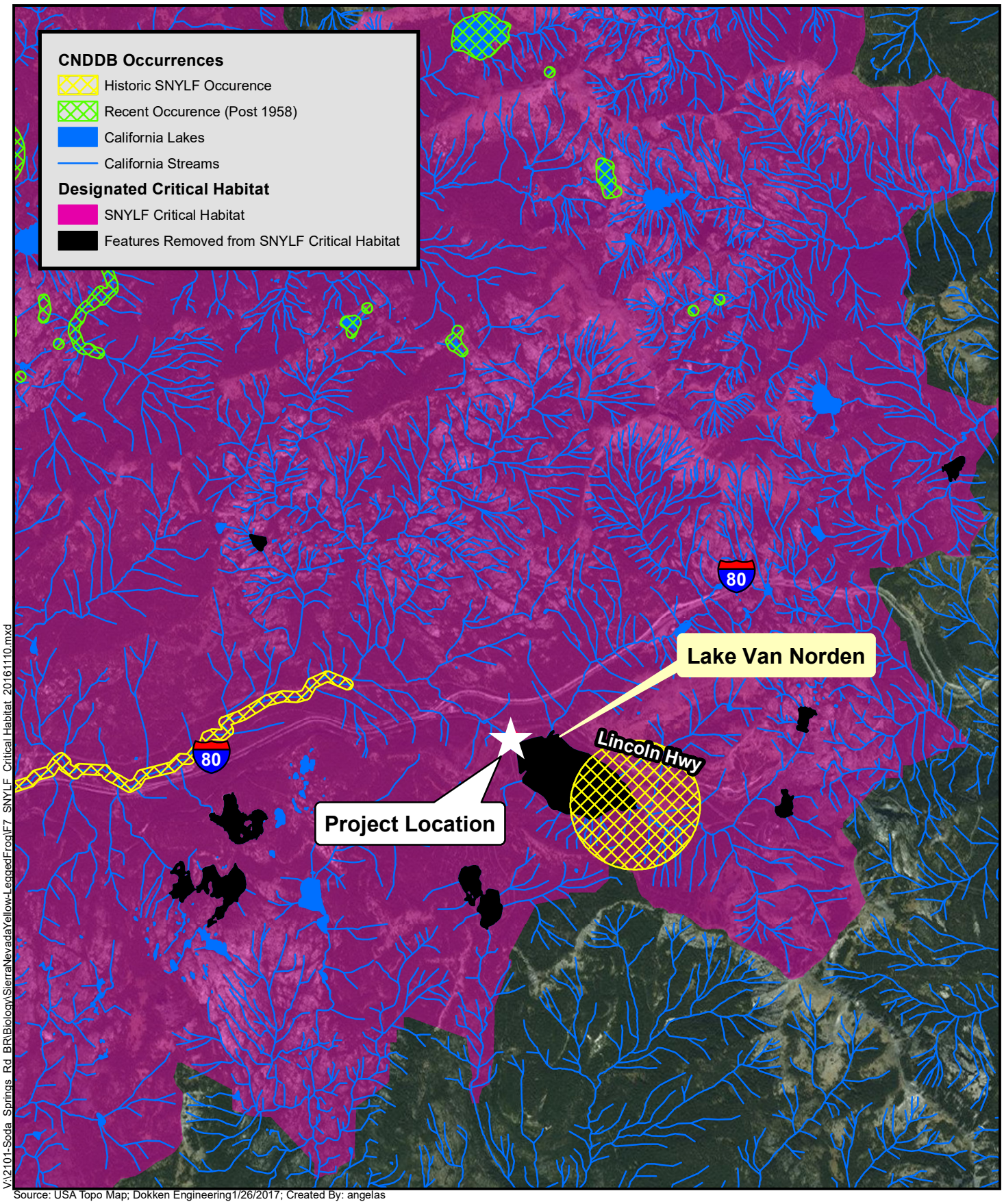


FIGURE 5
SNYLF Occurences and Critical Habitat within the Project Vicinity
Soda Springs Road over South Yuba River Bridge Replacement Project
Nevada County, California

to water quality should potential increases in turbidity and, accidental spills of hazardous chemicals and materials into water. Should SNYLF occur within the project area, indirect effects would be associated with the replacement of the bridge over the natural bottomed South Yuba River and adjacent montane riparian habitat. As discussed in Section 4.1.1.2., the project will have minor temporary and permanent impacts to the South Yuba River and adjacent montane riparian habitat. With the implementation of minimization and avoidance measures, the project will minimize potential effects to SNYLF.

Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog Critical Habitat

Critical Habitat for endangered species is identified by the physical and biological features that are essential to the conservation of the species, and which require special management considerations or protection. On August 26, 2016 USFWS published the Final Rule Critical Habitat designation (50 CFR Part 17) for SNYLF (Figure 5. SNYLF Occurrences and Critical Habitat within the Project Vicinity). Within the Final rule, the USFWS eliminated Lake Van Norden, within the *Subunit 2C. Black Buttes* as Critical Habitat; however, the South Yuba River has been designated as Critical Habitat (USFWS 2016a, USFWS 2013).

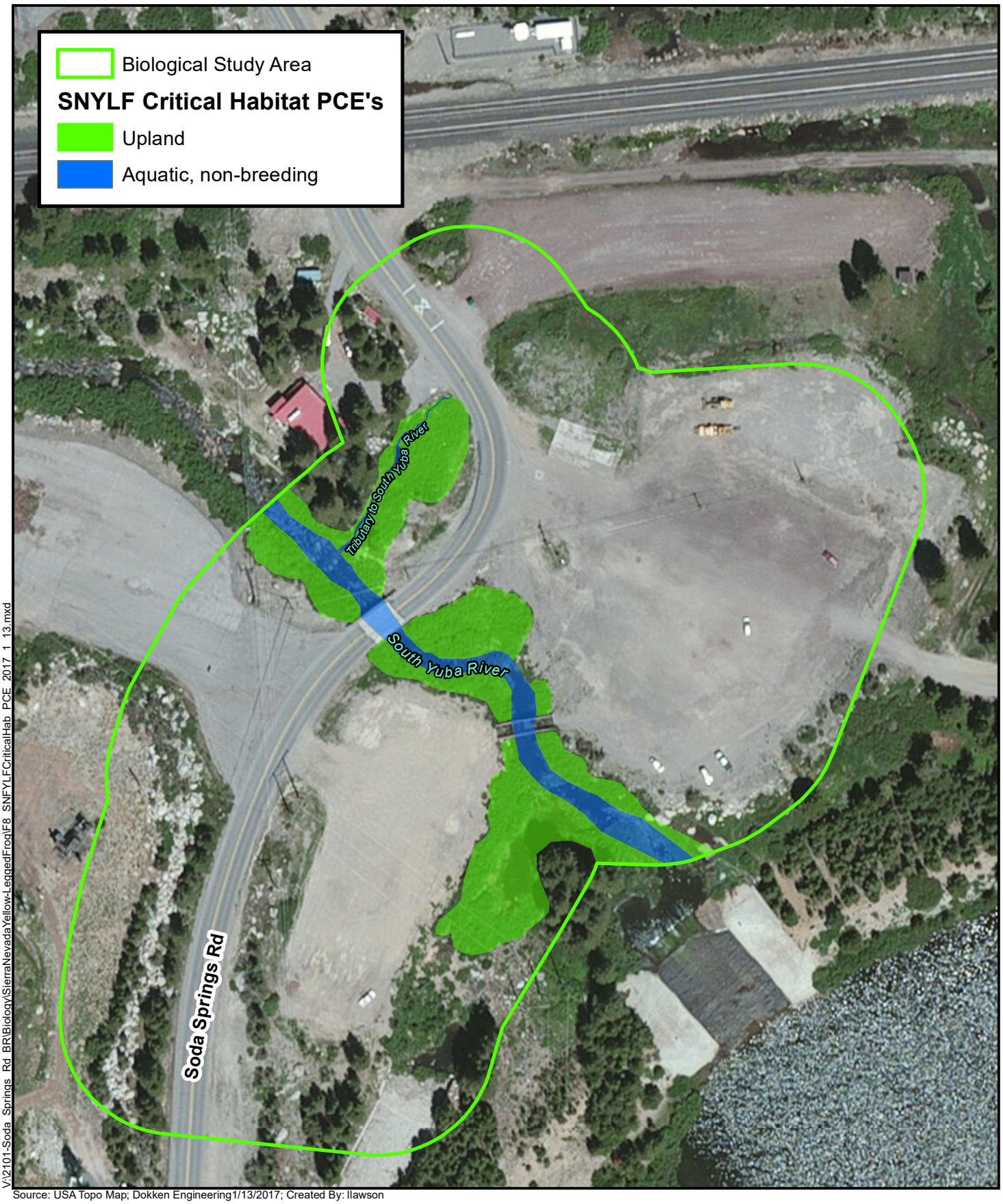
Critical Habitat for the SNYLF within the project area is as permanent high-elevation aquatic habitat and adjacent lands that provide space for normal behavior and population growth. These aquatic habitats must support a sustainable food web with a sufficient prey base, an absence of competition from introduced fishes, exposure to solar radiation for basking, and require conditions that allow for overwinter survival (water bodies that do not freeze to the bottom or refugia within or adjacent to such systems). Additionally, habitats need the persistence of breeding and rearing areas and habitat connectivity of a diverse multi-watershed (generally fish free) system throughout the extant of the species' range (USFWS 2016c).

Based on USFWS 2016 Critical Habitat maps, the project is located within designated Critical Habitat for the species (USFWS 2016b and USFWS 2016c). The South Yuba River potentially affected by the project is designated within SNYLF Critical Habitat 2C (USFWS 2016c) (see Figure 5).

Primary constituent elements (PCEs) are the physical and biological features of that provide for a species' life-history processes and are essential to the conservation of the species. PCE's located within the project area include PCE-2 (*Aquatic, Non-breeding [including over-wintering] Habitat)*, permanent water body (South Yuba River) and PCE-3 (*Upland Areas)* providing movement and feeding (montane riparian) (Figure 6. SNYLF Critical Habitat PCE's within the BSA). However, based on the habitat assessment and focused survey for SNYLF in June 2015, a combination of variables (high volume flows from Lake Van Norden (located less than 500 feet south east of the project area), lack of exposed banks and basking areas, and the Project's proximity to urban infrastructure) reduces the habitat quality of PCEs within the project area.

Conclusion

The BSA is designated within the SNYLF Critical Habitat 2C (USFWS 2016c). The project will have temporary and permanent affects to the South Yuba River and adjacent areas defined as Aquatic Nonbreeding Habitat and Upland Areas Critical Habitat PCE's. The proposed project is anticipated to permanently affect less than 0.01 acres and temporarily affect approximately 0.05 acres of the South Yuba River (Aquatic Nonbreeding Habitat) and would permanently affect approximately 0.03 acres and temporarily affect 0.10 acre of montane riparian (Upland). Therefore, the project would have a total of 0.03 acres of permanent and 0.15 acres of temporary effects to SNYLF Critical Habitat. However, based on the habitat assessment and focused survey for SNYLF in June 2015, habitat quality of the PCEs within the project area is disturbed and marginally suitable for the SNYLF. In addition, the project is less than 500 feet northwest of Lake Van Norden, which the USFWS previously considered during their proposed Critical Habitat ruling, but ultimately determined to eliminate the lake from the Final Critical Habitat designation.



V:\2101-Soda_Springs_Rd_BR\Biology\SierraNevadaYellow-LeggedFrog\F8_SNFYLFCriticalHab_PCE_2017_1_13.mxd

Source: USA Topo Map; Dokken Engineering1/13/2017; Created By: llawson

0 140 280 Feet

FIGURE 6
SNYLF Critical Habitat PCE's within the BSA
Soda Springs Road over South Yuba River Bridge Replacement Project
Nevada County, California

Further, as a benefit to the channel, the project will remove the existing concrete piers from the South Yuba River, creating improved flows and increased hydraulic capacity. Additionally, following construction, the project would restore temporarily disturbed areas to pre-project conditions. The project will be requesting USFWS concurrence with the determination that the project may affect, but is not likely to adversely modify SNYLF Critical Habitat. Caltrans believes this is the appropriate determination based on following reasons: the disturbed habitat value of SNYLF Critical Habitat PCEs, the close proximity to Lake Van Norden (excluded from the Final SNYLF Critical Habitat 2C unit), the small amount of disturbance to the South Yuba River and adjacent riparian habitat, the channel benefits from the permanent removal of the existing concrete piers from the South Yuba River, the planned restoration of temporarily disturbed areas to pre-project conditions, and implementation of site specific avoidance and minimization measures.

To ensure the project minimizes and avoids potential adverse effects to SNYLF, BMP avoidance **Measure 4A** will be implemented. In addition, species-specific mitigation **Measure 4B** has been incorporated to minimize and avoid impacts to SNYLF; therefore, this impact is ***less than significant with mitigation***.

Southern Long-Toed Salamander

The Southern Long-Toed Salamander (*Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum*) is a CDFW species of special concern. Within California, this species occurs in the Northeast and along the Northern Sierra Nevada, south to Garner Meadows and Spicer Reservoir, and in Trinity and Siskiyou Counties near the Trinity Alps. This species inhabits high mountain ponds and lakes, and alpine meadows at elevations up to approximately 10,000 feet. Adults utilize tunnels burrowed out by mammals, such as moles and ground squirrels, and spend much of their lives underground. Fully-developed adults can be found underneath wood, logs, rocks, bark, and other objects in close proximity to breeding sites. Migration of adults and juveniles to breeding sites occur in winter and spring, returning to wintering sites in the fall. Adults become sexually mature between the ages of 1-3 years, with reproduction being fully aquatic and taking place in permanent or temporary ponds, lakes, and flooded meadows (California Herps, 2016).

Survey Result

The South Yuba River is present within the BSA, which can act as suitable breeding habitat for the species. A meadow, located just outside of the BSA, and Lake Van Norden, located approximately 300 feet upstream from the BSA, are suitable habitats for the species as well. The Southern Long-Toed Salamander is considered to a have a low to moderate potential for occurring within the BSA. The species was not observed during biological surveys but may still occur within the BSA due to presence of suitable habitat and nearby recorded occurrences of the species.

Conclusion

Although no southern long-toed salamander was observed during the biological surveys, the species does have a low to moderate potential due to recent known documented occurrences. Potential construction related direct effects to the species include accidental spills of hazardous chemicals and materials into water. Indirect effects include impacts associated with the removal of potential habitat, including rocks, logs, and bark, in close proximity to South Yuba River. With the implementation of minimization and avoidance measures, the project will minimize any potential effects to Southern Long-Toed Salamander.

Potential effects to southern long-toed salamander would be minimized and avoided through the use of project **Measure 4A** and **Measure 4B**; therefore, this impact is ***less than significant with mitigation***.

Willow Flycatcher

The willow flycatcher is state listed as endangered. Nesting habitat for willow flycatcher consists of dense riparian systems comprised of willows, alders, cottonwoods or other riparian deciduous vegetation in close proximity to water features including ponds, wetlands and backwaters. Diet for willow flycatcher is

predominately flying insects with elderberry or blackberry when in season (Craig 1998). Breeding occurs between April to August. The decline of the species is commonly due to parasitism by brown-headed cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*) and a loss of habitat.

Survey Results

The BSA contains dense riparian vegetation dominated by willows and alders along both banks of the South Yuba River upstream and downstream of the proposed bridge. Several occurrences of the species have been documented along Lake Van Norden marsh habitat within dense willow shrubs (ebird 2016 and CNDDB 2016). The habitat within the BSA lacks marsh environments preferred by the species; however, the BSA does contain dense willow and alder riparian corridor along the South Yuba River adjacent to the existing bridge. The BSA contains a small area of potentially suitable foraging and nesting habitat for the species; therefore the species has a potential to occur. During the July 2015 biological surveys, no willow flycatcher was observed or heard.

Conclusion

The project will affect potentially suitable foraging and nesting habitat. However, during the project biological surveys, no willow flycatcher was observed or heard within the BSA. Considering all vegetation suitable for willow flycatcher nesting would be removed outside the nesting season and the implementation of project specific minimization and avoidance measures, the project will not result in take of willow flycatcher.

Potential effects to willow flycatcher would be minimized and avoided through the use of project **Measure 4B**; therefore, this impact is ***less than significant with mitigation***.

Yellow Warbler

The yellow warbler is a CDFW Species of Special Concern. The species occurs in riparian woodlands, montane chaparral, and open ponderosa pine and mixed conifer habitats with substantial amounts of brush. Diet of the yellow warbler consists of insects including caterpillars, beetles, wasps and other insects. Breeding occurs between mid-April to early August with a peak in June. The decline of the species is commonly due to the parasitism by the brown-headed cowbirds.

Survey Results

The BSA contains riparian vegetation and mixed conifer habitats within the BSA. The nearest occurrences of the species have been documented approximately 3.9 miles south of the project site. The habitat within the BSA contains riparian environments preferred by the species and the South Yuba River, potentially suitable for foraging and nesting; therefore, the species has a high potential to occur within the BSA. During the July 2015 biological surveys, no yellow warbler was observed or heard.

Conclusion

The project will affect potentially suitable foraging and nesting habitat. However, during the project biological surveys, no willow flycatcher was observed or heard within the BSA. Considering all vegetation suitable for willow flycatcher nesting would be removed outside the nesting season and the implementation of project specific minimization and avoidance measures, the project will not result in take of willow flycatcher.

Potential effects to yellow warbler would be minimized and avoided through the use of project **Measure 4B**; therefore, this impact is ***less than significant with mitigation***.

Impact Discussion 4b: Field surveys identified approximately 0.72 acres of montane riparian vegetation within the BSA. The montane riparian vegetation is located adjacent to South Yuba River (see Figure 4: Waters and Vegetation Communities within the BSA). The project will permanently affect 0.03 acres and temporarily affect 0.10 acres of montane riparian habitat. The proposed project will minimize impacts to

montane riparian area with the use of avoidance and minimization **Measure 4A**; therefore, this impact is ***less than significant with mitigation***.

Impact Discussion 4c: No wetland features are within the BSA. The proposed project would not result in the direct removal, fill or hydrological interruption of federally protected wetland; therefore, ***no impact*** is anticipated to federally protected wetlands.

Impact Discussion 4e: The South Yuba River may serve as a migration corridor for aquatic and terrestrial species within the region, and may serve as an important dispersal corridor for aquatic animals such as fish, turtles, and amphibians. Although Environmentally Sensitive Area fencing will be constructed along project boundaries to protect the South Yuba River and montane riparian habitat, the remainder of the project will remain open for wildlife movement. Additionally, no new lighting on the bridge is anticipated. Multiple impassible barriers to migrating fish exclude anadromous fish from the project. Therefore, the project affects to migratory wildlife corridors is ***less than significant***.

Impact Discussion 4f: A number of local policies and ordinances that protect biological resources exist in Nevada County; however, they are not applicable to the project. Therefore, ***no impact*** will conflict with any local policies or ordinances.

Impact Discussion 4g: The proposed project will result in a temporary increase in noise and human activity during the construction phase of the project. The project area is located along an existing county road and construction activities would occur during daylight hours. Daytime noise impacts on wildlife from construction activities are not anticipated to be substantial because most activities would occur near the existing roadway with the nearest residence approximately 750 feet away where noise and activity already commonly occurs (see Noise Section 12). Therefore, this impact would be ***less than significant***.

Mitigation: To offset the potential biological impacts associated with the project construction, the following avoidance and minimization measures will be required for all biological communities except barren areas:

Measure 4A: Avoid impacts to riparian and other sensitive biological habitats. Project effects to South Yuba River and associated riparian habitat will be avoided to the greatest extent practicable by implementing the following measures:

BIO-1: Prior to the start of construction activities, the project limits in proximity to jurisdictional waters (South Yuba River) will be marked with high visibility ESA fencing or staking to ensure construction will not further encroach into waters. The project biologist throughout construction will periodically inspect the ESA to ensure sensitive locations remain undisturbed.

BIO-2: Contract specifications will include the following BMPs, where applicable, to reduce erosion during construction:

- Implementation of the project will require approval of a site-specific Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) or Water Pollution Control Plan (WPCP) that would implement effective measures to protect water quality, which may include a hazardous spill prevention plan and additional erosion prevention techniques;
- Existing vegetation will be protected in place where feasible to provide an effective form of erosion and sediment control; and

- Stabilizing materials will be applied to disturbed soil surfaces to prevent the movement of dust from exposed soil surfaces on construction sites resulting from wind, traffic, and grading activities.
- Roughening and/or terracing will be implemented to create unevenness on bare soil through the construction of furrows running across a slope, creation of stair steps, or by utilization of construction equipment to track the soil surface. Surface roughening or terracing reduces erosion potential by decreasing runoff velocities, trapping sediment, and increasing infiltration of water into the soil, and aiding in the establishment of vegetative cover from seed.
- Soil exposure must be minimized through the use of temporary BMPs, groundcover, and stabilization measures;
- The contractor must conduct periodic maintenance of erosion- and sediment-control measures.

BIO-3: To conform to water quality requirements, the SWPPP or WPCP will include the following:

- Vehicle maintenance, staging and storing equipment, materials, fuels, lubricants, solvents, and other possible contaminants will be a minimum of 100 feet from surface waters. Any necessary equipment washing will occur where the water cannot flow into surface waters. The project specifications will require the contractor to operate under an approved spill prevention and clean-up plan;
- Construction equipment will not be operated in flowing water;
- Construction work will be conducted according to site-specific construction plans that minimize the potential for sediment input to surface waters;
- Raw cement, concrete or concrete washings, asphalt, paint or other coating material, oil or other petroleum products, or any other substances that could be hazardous to aquatic life will be prevented from contaminating the soil or entering surface waters;
- Equipment used in and around surface waters will be in good working order and free of dripping or leaking contaminants; and,
- Any surplus concrete rubble, asphalt, or other debris from construction will be taken to an appropriate disposal site.

BIO-4: All riparian areas and streambanks temporarily disturbed during project construction will be restored onsite to pre-project conditions or better prior to project completion. Where possible, vegetation will be trimmed rather than fully removed with the guidance of the project biologist. When feasible riparian vegetation will be cut above soil level.

BIO-5: Prior to arrival at the project site and prior to leaving the project site, construction equipment that may contain invasive plants and/or seeds must be cleaned to reduce the spreading of noxious weeds.

BIO-6: Should revegetation be installed within the project area, the project must not incorporate Cal-IPC invasive species. Any revegetation treatments should incorporate native plant materials to the maximum extent feasible.

Timing: *Prior to and during construction*
Reporting: *Nevada County Department of Public Works*

Measure 4B: Avoid impacts to Special Status Species and local wildlife. Construction activities associated with the proposed project may affect SNYLF and/or SNYLF Critical Habitat. As a result, the project will implement the following measures into the project design to minimize and avoid potential effects to aquatic wildlife.

BIO-7: Construction activities will be limited to daylight hours during the SNYLF active period (approximately April-November).

BIO-8: Prior to initial ground disturbance activities, environmental awareness training will be given to all construction personnel by the project biologist to brief them on how to recognize SNYLF, and other sensitive species with potential to occur within the project area. Construction personnel will also be informed that if a SNYLF is encountered in the work area, construction will cease in work area and the USFWS will be called for guidance before any construction activities are resumed. Personnel will sign a form stating they attended environmental awareness training.

BIO-9: No more than 20 working days prior to any ground disturbance, preconstruction SNYLF surveys will be conducted by a USFWS-approved biologist.

BIO-10: Water diversion pumps will utilize screening devices with low entry velocity to minimize removal of aquatic species, including juvenile fish, amphibian egg masses and tadpoles, from aquatic habitats.

BIO-11: If SNYLF are found at any time during project work, construction will stop in the vicinity and USFWS will be contacted immediately for further guidance.

BIO-12: Plastic mono-filament netting (erosion control matting) or similar material containing netting must not be used at the project. Acceptable substitutes include coconut coir matting or tackified hydroseeding compounds.

BIO-13: Vegetation must be removed in the fall before onset of snow or early spring immediately after the snow melts (approximately September 16th – April 14th). Vegetation removal will be coordinated with the project biologist and the current seasonal conditions.

BIO-14: If work will occur during the nesting season (April 15th – September 15th), a pre-construction nesting migratory bird survey and a pre-construction nesting raptor survey must be conducted by the project biologist within the project limits (plus an approximate 600 foot buffer for raptors). A minimum 100 foot no-disturbance buffer will be established around any active nest of migratory birds and a minimum 300 foot no-disturbance buffer will be established around any nesting raptor. The contractor must immediately stop work in the nesting area until the appropriate buffer is established and is prohibited from conducting work that could disturb the birds (as determined by the project biologist and in coordination with wildlife agencies) in the buffer area until the project biologist determines the young have fledged. A reduced buffer can be established if determined appropriate by the project biologist and approved by CDFW. Should a nesting willow flycatcher or other sensitive bird species be identified within the project area, the project would pause work in the vicinity and coordinate with CDFW for further guidance.

BIO-15: During the environmental phase of the project, a project biologist familiar with the willow flycatcher call will perform two additional surveys between June 1 and July 15th pursuant to the 2003 survey protocol "A Willow Flycatcher Survey Protocol for California". Should surveys identify willow flycatcher within the BSA, the project will conduct additional willow flycatcher coordination with CDFW.

BIO-16: Prior to construction all known nesting cavities within the project limits must be temporarily sealed with wire mesh to prevent the occupation of cavity nesting birds. Following construction, wire meshing would be removed. Within the nesting season (April 15th – September 15th) the project biologist must confirm each nest cavity is unoccupied within 7 days prior to sealing or removal (if activities require the removal of a utility pole or other structure with a cavity nest). Should relocation of utilities be necessary, the project biologist would coordinate with the appropriate utilities prior to relocation to ensure no cavity nesting birds would be affected.

BIO-17: If construction on the existing bridge is planned to occur during the swallow nesting season, measures will be taken to avoid impacts to migratory swallows. To protect migratory swallows, unoccupied nests must be removed from the existing bridge structure prior to the nesting season (April 15th – September 15th). During the nesting season, the bridge structure must be maintained through the active removal of partially constructed nests. Swallows can complete nest construction in approximately 3 days. After a nest is completed, it can no longer be removed until an approved biologist has determined that all birds have fledged and the nest is no longer being used.

BIO-18: If any wildlife is encountered during the course of construction, said wildlife will be allowed to leave the construction area unharmed.

BIO-19: A pre-construction clearance survey will be conducted by the project biologist to verify that no wildlife is located within the project area.

BIO-20: The contractor must dispose of all food-related trash in closed containers, and must remove it from the project area each day during construction. Construction personnel must not feed or attract wildlife to the project area.

Timing: *Prior to and during construction*
Reporting: *Nevada County Department of Public Works*

5. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Existing Setting:
The project vicinity was home to the Washoe Native American people. Washoe subsistence was marked by adjusting resource exploitation dependent on the seasons. The Washoe left the Lake Tahoe area in late summer and early fall to disperse in small groups to the valleys east of the Sierra to hunt antelope and rabbit. The Washoe collected pine nuts along the eastern face of the Sierra and in the Pine Nut Mountains, with deer hunting serving as an important ancillary activity in these locations.

During historic times, the discovery of gold caused an influx of miners into the Nevada County area. Donner Pass was used by the California Trail, First Transcontinental Railroad, and the Lincoln Highway to cross the mountains. The first group to cross this area was the Stephens-Townsend-Murphy Party in November 1844.

The Soda Springs area has been a popular resting stop along the trail as early as 1864. Joseph Tinker and Thomas Fenton, two of the original founding members of Soda Springs, built a hotel that year, called Tinker's Hotel at the intersection of the Dutch Flat Donner Lake Toll Wagon Road and a north/south trail that corresponds with modern day Soda Springs Road.

The first ski resort in the area was Soda Springs Ski Area opened in 1926, which is southwest of the project area. Opened by Oscar and Herstel Jones attracted winter sports enthusiasts by packing ski trails and offering sleigh rides and is the longest running ski resort in California.

A Historic Property Survey Report (HPSR) and an Archeological Survey Report (ASR) were prepared to document cultural resources within the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE). The HPSR/ASR provides much of the information used in this section; however, due to sensitive and confidential information within the documents, they are not available for public review.

Would the proposed project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines?		✓		
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines?		✓		
c. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?		✓		
d. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?		✓		

Impact Discussion 5a-c: Archaeological surveys and search of archaeological site records and survey reports on file at the North Central Information Center indicated that there were no cultural resources within the area of potential effect (APE). On March 2, 2015, Dokken Engineering sent a letter and a map of the project vicinity to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in West Sacramento, in order to review sacred land files for any Native American cultural resources that might be affected by the project. On March 19, 2015, Katy Sanchez informed Dokken Engineering via fax that a review of the sacred lands file failed to indicate the presence of Native American cultural resources in the "immediate project area". Native American consultation letters were sent out on April 6, 2015 to the Native American individuals on the list provided by the NAHC. For those who did not respond by letter a phone call was placed on June 8, 2015 and June 18, 2015. No Native American individuals requested further consultation on the project. In addition, an archaeological field investigation was conducted on July 1, 2015 by Brian Marks (Ph.D.), and did not result in the identification of any cultural resources. The proposed project

would be situated entirely within an area previously disturbed by construction and maintenance of the existing bridge, roadway, and parking lot construction. As with any project that involves subsurface excavation, there is the potential for accidental discovery of previously unidentified cultural resources. Inclusion of **Measure 5A** into the project design will reduce potentially significant impacts to ***less than significant levels with mitigation*** incorporated.

Impact Discussion 5d: Disturbance to human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries is not anticipated because no cemetery is documented within the Project Area. The Project Area is previously disturbed from previous roadway construction, and there are no documented historic resources within 1/2-mile of the project APE. With the inclusion of **Measure 5D**, project impacts to human remains are anticipated to be ***less than significant with mitigation*** incorporated.

Mitigation: To offset potentially adverse cultural or historical resource impacts associated with the proposed activities on site, the following avoidance and minimization measure will be required:

Measure 5A: Avoid impacts to sensitive cultural resources. Halt work and contact the appropriate agencies if cultural resources are discovered during project construction. To prevent cultural resource disturbance the following measures will be implemented.

CUL-1: Prior to construction, environmental awareness training will be provided to all construction workers onsite regarding the possibility of encountering subsurface cultural resources. Native American groups have expressed concerns regarding the Native American resources in the immediate area. The Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe will be notified at least 2 weeks prior to construction to allow for the tribe to monitor, if they choose to do so. Continued consultation will continue throughout the course of the project.

CUL-2: If previously unidentified cultural materials are unearthed during construction, work shall be halted in that area until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find and develop a plan for documentation and removal of resources, if necessary. Additional archaeological survey will be needed if project limits are extended beyond the present survey limits.

Measure 5D: Avoid impacts to human remains. Halt work and contact the Nevada County Coroner if human remains are discovered during project construction. To prevent disturbance to previously undiscovered human remains, the following measures will be implemented.

CUL-3: Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code protect Native American burials, skeletal remains and grave goods, regardless of age and provide method and means for the appropriate handling of such remains. If human remains are encountered, California Law requires that work should halt in that vicinity and the Nevada County Coroner should be notified immediately to assess the remains. If the coroner determines the human remains to be of Native American origin, the coroner must notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) within twenty-four hours of such identification. The NAHC shall then determine the Most Likely Descendant (MLD) of the human remains and contact the MLD immediately. The County, the MLD, and a professional archaeologist retained by the County shall then consult to determine the appropriate plans for treatment and assessment of the human remains and any associated grave goods.

Timing: *During construction*
Reporting: *Nevada County Department of Public Works*

6. GEOLOGY / SOILS

Existing Setting: The geology of the area consists of Mesozoic Metavolconic rocks, granitic formations, and glacial deposits. The BSA is in the Soda Springs USGS 7½ minute quadrangle (T17N & R14E, S23). Mountains and lakes including Lake Van Norden approximately 480 feet south of the project area characterize topographical features in the project vicinity. Soil units within the BSA include Aquolls and Borolls, 0 to 5 percent slopes, and Tallac-Cryumbrepts, wet complex, 2 to 30 percent slopes. Soils within the BSA are very poorly drained to moderately well drained and have a medium runoff class. Depth to water table is more than 130 inches (NRCS 2016). The County's Master Environmental Inventory shows the project site as being in an area of low potential for landslide or erosion activity and does not map the site as being near a known earthquake fault (DOC 2010).

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	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?				✓
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?				✓
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				✓
iv) Landslides?				✓
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?		✓		
c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?		✓		
d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?				✓
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?				✓

Impact Discussion 6a.i: The Project Area is not located on or near any known earthquake fault identified on the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map. The nearest fault zone is approximately 30 miles from the project area (CGS 2015). ***No impact*** to known faults are anticipated.

Impact Discussion 6a.ii: The Project may generate minor amounts of surface ground shaking during bridge demolition, but the nearest residence is approximately 750 feet from the project area. Any ground shaking or vibration generated by the project is expected to dissipate and have ***no impact*** on local residents.

Impact Discussion 6a.iii: Liquefaction is most commonly caused by strong seismic shaking affecting saturated fine sand, silt or clay soils. Soils within the BSA are very poorly drained to moderately well drained and have a medium runoff class. Lateral spreading, ground failure, or liquefaction are not anticipated and the project will have ***no impact*** on seismic related ground failure.

Impact Discussion 6a.iv: The Project area is substantially flat other than minor slopes of the South Yuba River banks. Additionally, the Project is not within a known area prone to landslide (CGS 2015);

therefore, ***No impact*** to exposure of humans or structures to landslides is anticipated.

Impact Discussion 6b: The Project will remove vegetation on the banks of the South Yuba River, potentially destabilizing these slopes. BMPs described in **Measure 4A** will minimize potential for erosion and sediment transport during and post construction. In addition, the Project Area is greater than 1 acre in size and the County will be required to obtain a 402 general construction permit for the Project. As a part this permitting process, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be developed to protect surface waters and prevent erosion and sediment transport. The Project related loss of topsoil or erosion will be ***less than significant with mitigation*** incorporated.

Impact Discussion 6c: Soil units within the Project Area are considered stable and not prone to lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse. The Project Area is not located on or near any large slopes susceptible to landslides. Vegetation will be removed from the banks of South Yuba River within the Project Area, potentially destabilizing the soil; however, BMPs and post construction re-vegetation efforts described in **Measure 4A** will ensure that long-term project impacts to unstable soils will be ***less than significant with mitigation***.

Impact Discussion 6d: Expansive soils are typically comprised of heavy clays that expand and contract as water content changes. The soil types found within the Project Area typically well drained and not classified as expansive soils. The project would have ***no impact*** on creating risk associated with expansive soils.

Impact Discussion 6e: The project site does not have septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems and will not add such facilities. ***No impact*** is anticipated to result from project implementation to soils supporting the use of septic tanks or wastewater disposal systems.

Mitigation: To offset the potential for significant impacts related to erosion/sediment transport and landslides, soil stabilization discussed in **Measure 4A** will be implemented.

7. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Existing Setting: Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are those gases that trap heat in the atmosphere. GHGs are emitted by natural and industrial processes, and the accumulation of GHGs in the atmosphere regulates the earth's temperature. GHGs that are regulated by the State and/or Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6) and nitrous oxide (NO_2). CO_2 emissions are largely from fossil fuel combustion. In California, approximately 43 percent of the CO_2 emissions come from cars and trucks. Electricity generation is another important source of CO_2 emissions. Agriculture is a major source of both methane and NO_2, with additional methane coming primarily from landfills. Most HFC emissions come from refrigerants, solvents, propellant agents and industrial processes, and persist in the atmosphere for longer periods of time and have greater effects at lower concentrations compared to CO_2. The adverse impacts of global warming include impacts to air quality, water supply, ecosystem balance, sea level rise (flooding), fire hazards, and an increase in health related problems.

Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32), the California Global Warming Solutions Act, was adopted in September 2006 and requires that statewide GHG emissions be reduced to 1990 levels by the year 2020. This reduction will be accomplished through regulations to reduce emissions from stationary sources and from vehicles. The California Air Resources Board (ARB) is the State agency responsible for developing rules and regulations to cap and reduce GHG emissions. In addition, the Governor signed Senate Bill 97 in 2007 directing the California Office of Planning and Research to develop guidelines for the analysis and mitigation of the effects of greenhouse gas emissions and mandating that GHG impacts be evaluated in CEQA documents. CEQA Guidelines Amendments for GHG Emissions were adopted by OPR on December 30, 2009. The NSAQMD has prepared a guidance document, *Guidelines for Assessing Air Quality Impacts of Land Use Projects*. Therefore, in order to satisfy CEQA requirements, projects should make a reasonable attempt to quantify, minimize and mitigate GHG emissions as feasible.

Would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			✓	
b. Conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?			✓	

Impact Discussion 7a-b: CO2e is Carbon Dioxide Equivalent, a measurement that expresses units of different greenhouse gases as equivalent to units of carbon dioxide in the ability to affect global warming. For that reason, CO_2e is evaluated here.

Given the complex interactions between various global and regional-scale physical, chemical, atmospheric, terrestrial, and aquatic systems, it is not possible to determine to what extent this project's CO_2 emissions would result in any altered physical conditions. Typically, cumulative impacts are analyzed and mitigated in the County's General Plan and associated EIR. In this case, the General Plan for Nevada County does not address GHG Emissions. Additionally, no thresholds have been adopted by the County, the NSAQMD, or the State, for project-specific greenhouse gas emission impacts. However, it is possible to determine the level of GHG emissions that would result from the project and to disclose that figure and its potential impact using other jurisdictions' adopted thresholds. Several air districts in the State of California have adopted thresholds in the range of 1,100 MT CO_2e/year for *de minimis* impacts (i.e., project impacts below 1,100 MT CO2e/year would be less than significant) and 10,000 MT

CO2e/year for significant and unavoidable impacts. These standards apply to both construction and operation of project.

The proposed project is anticipated to result in temporary increases in CO_2e levels due to construction equipment. Equipment anticipated for construction includes an excavator, concrete truck, transportation truck, and backhoes. The total site disturbance will be approximately 3.18 acres and will include grading for the roadway, fill for the bridge structure and storage areas. Total CO_2e generated by project construction would be approximately 385.49 metric tons (MT) per year. Long-term operational impacts related to CO_2e emissions are not anticipated to be higher than under existing conditions because the bridge improvement project would facilitate circulation and movement and would not increase density or development potential. Therefore, both construction and operational greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the project are anticipated to be ***less than significant***.

8. HAZARDS / HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Existing Setting: The property is not within or adjacent to any hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 (DTSC 2014), and is not located on an abandoned solid waste disposal site known to the County Nevada County. The project area is designated as a High Fire Hazard Area for wildland fire, and is bordered by Very High Fire Hazard Areas (Nevada County 2017).

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

Impact Discussion 8a: No additional transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials is anticipated as a result of the project; therefore, there will be ***no impact*** to the public or environment related to hazardous materials.

Impact Discussion 8b: A search of federal, state, and local regulatory agency databases was conducted by Environmental Data Resources, Inc. (EDR) for records of hazardous material within the study area. Search distances varied for different databases, with a minimum search distance of 1/4-mile from the study area. In addition, a visual survey of the project area was conducted on March 14, 2015 to identify potentially hazardous materials within the Project Area. According to the EDR report, a Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) site is shown to be within the study area. However, the LUST site is listed as the Soda Springs Ski Area, which is immediately adjacent southwest of the actual study area and not actually within it. Therefore, the proposed project would not impact a known hazardous waste site and no known hazardous waste sites exist within the study area.

On August 6, 2015 Entek assessed existing paints and applied coatings in an effort to determine if lead

was present in these materials and conducted an asbestos inspection of the existing concrete associated with the bridge structure. No paints or coatings associated with the bridge structure were observed. In addition, on August 6, 2015 Entek took four (4) bulk samples of various materials suspected to contain asbestos. The samples were evaluated and none were determined to contain detectable asbestos.

Further analysis and evaluation of sources of aerially deposited lead (ADL) were conducted on June 6th, 2016 by Geocon Consultants, Inc. Eleven (11) soil samples were collected for lead analysis and based on testing results, no hazardous levels of ADL were identified within the project limits.

Geocon Consultants identified a potential recognized environmental condition (REC) with respect to Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) through testing of soil samples from hand augured borings and determined a potential for aerial dispersion of NOA as a result of construction activities. Based on the presence of fill containing serpentinized rocks and the associated presence of NOA, engineering controls may be required for work at the site to minimize the potential aerial dispersion of NOA as described in CCR 93105. Mitigation **Measure 8B** will be implemented to avoid and minimize any impacts from hazardous NOA materials.

Concrete, gasoline, diesel fuel, paint, oil, and other petroleum products will be used during construction of the project but would be transported in less than reportable quantities. The County and the contractor would be responsible for preventing harmful chemicals including gasoline, diesel fuel, paint, oil, other petroleum products, and other substances that could be deleterious to aquatic life from contaminating the soil and/or entering South Yuba River. Mitigation **Measure 8B**, will be implemented to prevent and minimize impacts if any spill of contaminants occur during construction, and to minimize the potential for impacting public health by use of a spill cleanup kit. Release of hazardous materials is anticipated to be ***less than significant with mitigation*** incorporated.

Impact Discussion 8c: The project area is not within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. Therefore, there would be ***no impact*** related to hazardous emissions or substances near a school.

Impact Discussion 8d: The proposed project site is not included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment and will have ***no impact***.

Impact Discussion 8e-f: The proposed project is not located within an airport land use plan and is not located within 2 miles of a public airport or private air strip. The project will have ***no impact*** on public safety in the vicinity of an airport or air strip.

Impact Discussion 8g: Soda Springs Road is the only year round access to the rural community south of the Project Area from Donner Pass Road. Soda Springs Road is anticipated to remain open to traffic during construction. The replacement bridge will be wider than existing conditions and will not restrict emergency responders or emergency evacuation plans. The project will not impair long term emergency use of the facility and is anticipated to have a ***less than significant*** impact to emergency use during construction.

Impact Discussion 8h: The project area and surrounding area are considered high-risk areas for wildfires; however, the project only involves replacing a roadway facility and will not increase exposure of people and structures to fires. The project will have ***no impact*** to exposure of people or structures to fires.

Mitigation: To offset the potential for impacts related to storage, use, and transport and hazardous materials, the following avoidance and minimization measures will be required:

Measure 8B: Minimize the release of hazardous materials into the environment. The following

measure has been incorporated into the project design to ensure that hazardous materials generated by the project are not released into the environment

HAZ-1: The contractor shall prepare spill and leak prevention procedures prior to the commencement of construction activities. The procedures shall include information on the nature of all hazardous materials that shall be used on-site. The procedures shall also include information regarding proper handling of hazardous materials, and clean-up procedures in the event of an accidental release. The phone number of the agency overseeing hazardous materials and toxic clean-up shall be provided.

HAZ-2: The contractor(s) will prepare and implement an Asbestos Dust Management Plan (ADMP) that describes measures that will be taken to mitigate the potential airborne suspension of NOA-containing dust from the soil/rock, as a result of construction excavation activities. Asbestos dust control to be implemented shall be in compliance with the following:

- CCR § 93105 (Asbestos Airborne Toxic Control measure for Construction, Grading, Quarrying, and Surface Mining Operations (ATCM 930105);
- CCR § 93106 ((Asbestos Airborne Toxic control measure for Surfacing Applications (ATCM 93106));
- Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District guidelines;

HAZ-3: According to Title 17 CCR, § 93106(i)(20), the soil/rock material within the southwestern roadway shoulder of the site is considered Restricted Material because the soil/rock material there contains asbestos at 0.25% or greater. Therefore, it cannot be used under the definition of surfacing (Title 17 CCR, § 93106(i)(26)). As required by the Title 17 CCR, § 93105(e)(4)(G), disturbed asbestos-containing material (0.25% asbestos or greater) must be stabilized via options that include paving or covering with at least 3 inches of non-asbestos-containing material (less than 0.25% asbestos).

Any part, other than a permitted landfill, receiving NOA-containing soil must be provided the following warning statement:

"WARNING!

This material may contain asbestos.

It is unlawful to use this material for surfacing or any application in which it would remain exposed and subject to possible disturbance.

Extreme care should be taken when handling this material to minimize the generation of dust."

HAZ-4: As is the case for any project that proposes excavation, the potential exists for unknown hazardous contamination to be revealed during project construction. For any previously unknown hazardous waste/ material encountered during construction, the procedures outlined in the Caltrans Unknown Hazard Procedures (as seen Table 7-1.1 of the Caltrans Construction Manual) shall be followed.

Timing: *Prior to and during construction*
Reporting: *Nevada County Department of Public Works*

9. HYDROLOGY / WATER QUALITY

Existing Setting: The proposed project is within the designated South Yuba Hydrologic Area (HA), which is within the greater Rattlesnake Creek-South Yuba River Hydrologic Unit (HU) subwatershed of the Upper South Yuba River Watershed (Caltrans, 2016). The Rattlesnake Creek-South Yuba River HU drains an area of approximately 97 thousand acres and extends 15 miles from Donner Pass within the Sierra Nevada Mountains to Lake Spaulding.

South Yuba River is located within the project area. The South Yuba River originates approximately 3 miles east of the project from Lake Angela. South Yuba River flows into Lake Van Norden, outfalls the lake 200 feet to the southeast of the project area, and flows through the project area.

A Water Quality Assessment Report (Dokken Engineering, 2017) was prepared to document water quality information within the project area. The Water Quality Assessment provides much of the information used in this section and may be consulted for further technical background.

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

Impact Discussion 9a: The project will disturb greater than one acre; therefore, a Construction Storm Water General Permit is required, consistent with Construction General Permit Order No. 2009-009-DWQ, issued by the State Water Resources Control Board to address storm water runoff. The permit will

address clearing, grading, grubbing, and disturbances to the ground, such as stockpiling, or excavation. This permit will also require the County to prepare and implement a SWPPP or WPCP to minimize erosion, sediment transport, and other water quality impacts. In addition to the BMPs described in **Measure 4A,** additional water quality BMPs discussed in **Measure 9A** have been incorporated into the project design. Project impacts to water quality and water quality standards will be ***less than significant with mitigation***.

Impact Discussion 9b: The proposed project would not directly or indirectly result in the construction of uses that would utilize groundwater supplies. Therefore, there would be ***no impact*** related to depletion of groundwater supplies or interference with groundwater recharge.

Impact Discussion 9c-d: No substantial alterations of the existing drainage patterns on site will occur. Drainage on the site will remain along natural drainage courses, similar to prior construction conditions. The project storm water drainage would be designed consistent with County requirements and Caltrans Project Planning and Design Guide and Storm Water Management Plan and will remain natural. The project is anticipated to have a ***less than significant*** impact to erosion or flooding as a result of altered drainage patters.

Impact Discussion 9e-f: The Project Area is not located within a developed area and does not flow into a storm drain system. The project would result in an increase in paved surface area, which would increase the volume of storm water runoff from the roadways surface that could eventually enter South Yuba River. Roadways may contain oil, grease, petroleum projects, zinc, copper, lead, cadmium, iron, and other trace metals, which could harm wildlife. Concentrations of these pollutants in storm water runoff would be greatest during storm events. The project will not increase traffic capacity of the facility and additional operational pollutant concentrations are not expected.

Construction activities associated with the project would include disturbances to the ground surface from demolition and removal of the existing bridge, grading, and new bridge construction. Removal of the existing riparian vegetation would increase the potential for slope erosion and suspended sediment load in South Yuba River. In addition, operation of mechanized equipment near South Yuba River may increase the risk of petroleum products, paints, and other construction related chemicals from accidentally entering South Yuba River and negatively impacting wildlife, groundwater, and downstream water quality. Any accidental spill would be minimal and not cause long-term water quality impacts.

The project may have short-term impacts associated with sediment and runoff during grading and construction. Compliance with existing regulations and implementation of BMPs would reduce potentially significant impacts associated erosion or siltation on- or offsite to levels less than significant. Water quality BMPs discussed in **Measure 4B** and **Measure 9A** have been incorporated into the project design. Project generated polluted runoff is anticipated to be ***less than significant with mitigation*** incorporated.

Impact Discussion 9g: The project does not include construction of housing. ***No impact*** to housing within the 100-year floodplain is anticipated.

Impact Discussion 9h: According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), the project area is not located within a 100-year flood area of concern. The project is within Zone D, which is an area that remains undetermined as a flood risk because no assessment has been complete, and Lake Van Norden is typically inundated with large rain and snow events. Impacts to floodplain would be reduced due to the project design in removing the existing in channel pier, creating improved flows and increased hydraulic capacity. The project would not place any structures within a 100-year flood hazard area; therefore, the project would have ***no impact*** related to impeding or redirect flood flows.

Impact Discussion 9i: The project does not involve work on or near levees or dams, and would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam. The project will have ***no impact*** to levees or dams.

Impact Discussion 9j: The project area is not located near any lake susceptible to seiche fluctuations and is located approximately 6,760 feet above mean sea level and 160 miles from the coast, well above the reach of tsunamis. The project area is not located on any steep slopes that would put downslope properties at risk of mudflows if destabilized. The Project is anticipated to have ***no impact*** on exposing people or structures to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

Mitigation: To offset the potential for impacts related to alteration of slope and drainage features around the Soda Springs Bridge and storm water quality from operational activities, the following avoidance and minimization measures will be required, except within existing barren parking areas:

Measure 9A: Storm Water Best Management Practices. The proposed project has been designed to minimize storm water impacts to the maximum extent practicable through the use of BMPs and implementation of regulatory permit conditions.

WQ-1: BMPs will be incorporated into project design and project management to minimize impacts on the environment including the release of pollutants (oils, fuels, etc.):

- The area of construction and disturbance would be limited to as small an area as feasible to reduce erosion and sedimentation.
- Measures would be implemented during land-disturbing activities to reduce erosion and sedimentation. These measures may include mulches, soil binders and erosion control blankets, silt fencing, fiber rolls, temporary berms, sediment desilting basins, sediment traps, and check dams.
- Existing vegetation would be protected where feasible to reduce erosion and sedimentation. Vegetation would be preserved by installing temporary fencing, or other protection devices, around areas to be protected.
- Exposed soils would be covered by loose bulk materials or other materials to reduce erosion and runoff during rainfall events.
- Exposed soils would be stabilized, through watering or other measures, to prevent the movement of dust at the project site caused by wind and construction activities such as traffic and grading activities.
- All construction roadway areas would be properly protected to prevent excess erosion, sedimentation, and water pollution.
- All vehicle and equipment maintenance procedures would be conducted off-site. In the event of an emergency, maintenance would occur away from the South Yuba River.
- All concrete curing activities would be conducted to minimize spray drift and prevent curing compounds from entering the waterway directly or indirectly.
- All construction materials, vehicles, stockpiles, and staging areas would be situated outside of the stream channel as feasible. All stockpiles would be covered, as feasible.
- Energy dissipaters and erosion control pads would be provided at the bottom of slope drains. Other flow conveyance control mechanisms may include earth

dikes, swales, or ditches. Stream bank stabilization measures would also be implemented.

- All erosion control measures and storm water control measures would be properly maintained until the site has returned to a pre-construction state.
- All disturbed areas within the channel and associated banks would be restored to pre-construction contours and revegetated, either through hydroseeding or other means, with native or approved non-invasive exotic species.
- All construction materials would be hauled off-site after completion of construction.

WQ-2: Any requirements for additional avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures will be in contained in the permits obtained from all required regulatory agencies. The South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) will be notified of any water quality monitoring efforts required within the permits obtained for the project.

WQ-3: The project limits in proximity to the South Yuba River will be marked as an Environmental Sensitive Area (ESA) or either be staked or fenced with high visibility material to ensure construction activities will not encroach further beyond established limits.

WQ-4: The proposed project would require a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Construction Permit for Discharges of storm water associated with construction activities (Construction General Permit 2012-0006-DWQ). As part of the Permit requirement, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) or Water Pollution Control Program (WPCP) would also be developed and implemented. The SWPPP or WPCP will incorporate all applicable BMPs to ensure that adequate measures are taken during construction to minimize impacts to water quality.

WQ-5: Post-construction storm water control requirements will be addressed in accordance with Caltrans' MS4 permit for areas within Caltrans right-of-way. Permanent treatment control BMPs will be evaluated based on effectiveness and feasibility and incorporated into the final design as applicable.

Timing: *Prior and during construction*
Reporting: *Nevada County Department of Public Works*

10. LAND USE / PLANNING

Existing Setting: The project is located in the eastern side of Nevada County. The project is approximately 750 feet south of the Lincoln Highway/Donner Pass Road and approximately 0.75 miles southeast from Interstate-80. The topographic features in the project vicinity are characterized by Sierra Nevada Mountains and water features. The project site contains the existing water feature, South Yuba River. According to the Soda Springs Area Plan (2016), the project site and surrounding area is located within the Soda Springs Rural Center. The Soda Springs Area Plan has recently updated land use designations within the Plan Area. With these updates, the project site is specifically located in a Recreation (REC) land use designation, with adjacent land uses of Urban Single Family (R1), Urban Medium Density (R2-RC), Neighborhood Commercial (C1), Community Commercial (CC), and Forest 40-acre (FOR-40). The Soda Springs Area Plan updated land use designations are displayed in Figure 7 Soda Springs Area Plan Land Use Designations.

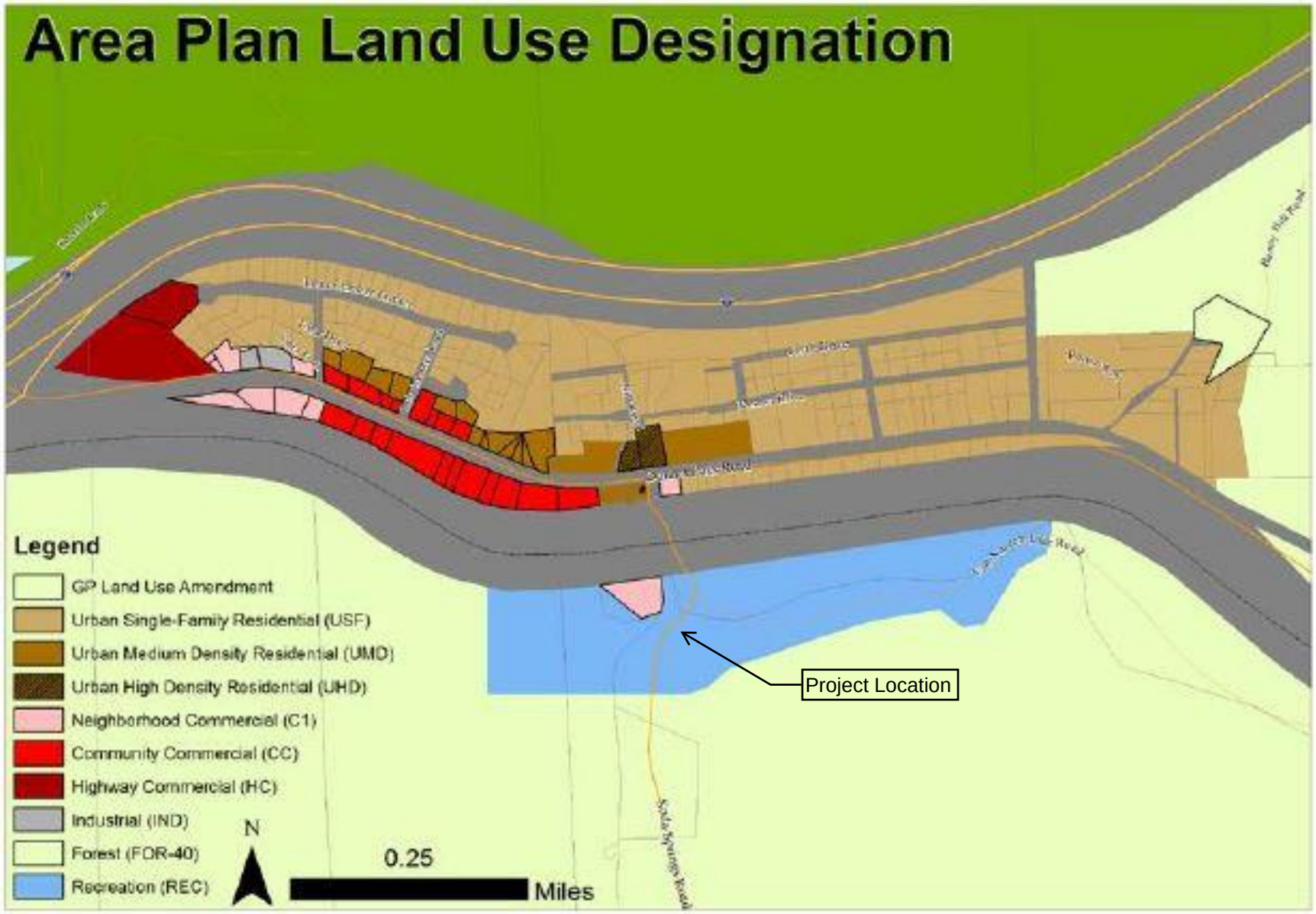
Would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a. Physically divide an established community?				✓
b. Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the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

Impact Discussion 10a: The Project consists of the replacement of an existing structure, which is compatible with the existing land use. The roadway will remain open for the duration of construction and will not divide any established community present along Soda Springs Road. The project would have ***no impact*** on dividing communities.

Impact Discussion 10b: The Project will not affect land use, either in the surrounding area or regionally. The new bridge will benefit the local and visiting recreation users and replace the structurally deficient current bridge. ***No impact*** to the general plan is anticipated.

Impact Discussion 10c: There are no habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans within Nevada County. ***No impact*** to habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans will occur.

Figure 7. Soda Springs Area Plan Land Use Designations



11. MINERAL RESOURCES

Existing Setting: Nevada County was part of the California gold rush in the late 1840s and early 1850s with numerous historic mines throughout western Nevada County. The Project Area is not zoned for mineral extraction nor are any adjacent lands within the project vicinity in mineral extraction land use designations. The nearest mineral resource zone MRZ-2 land is located just outside of Truckee about 8.5 miles east of the project area. The nearest mineral extraction combining district is about 17 miles east.

Would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**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?				✓
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?				✓

Impact Discussion 11 a-b: The proposed project is not located within or near a mineral extraction combining district. Mineral resources are not presumed to be present within the Project Area and the Project would not change existing land uses on the project site. ***No impact*** to mineral resources are anticipated.

12. NOISE

Existing Setting: The project area is within a rural-residential area of Nevada County, which is an area with moderate levels of existing noise due to existing commercial areas and roadways. The Nevada County Noise Standards (Nevada County Land Use and Development Code, Section L-II 4.1.7) establish exterior noise limits ranging from 40-90 dBA (A-weighted decibel) depending on land use categories (rural, residential and public, commercial and recreation, business park, and industrial) (see Table below).

Nevada County Noise Standards

Exterior Noise Limits				
Land Use Category	**Zoning Districts**	**Time Period**	**Noise Level, dBA**	
			L_{eq}	L_{max}
Rural	AG, TPZ, AE, OS, FR, IDR	7am - 7pm 7pm - 10pm 10pm – 7am	55 50 40	75 65 55
Residential and Public	RA, R1, R2, R3, P	7am - 7pm 7pm - 10pm 10pm – 7am	55 50 45	75 65 55
Commercial and Recreation	C1, CH, CS, C2, C3, OP, REC	7am - 7pm 7pm - 10pm	70 65	90 75
Business Park	BP	7am - 7pm 7pm - 10pm	65 60	85 70
Industrial	M1, M2	Anytime	80	90

Construction noise is exempt from these standards. The nearest sensitive noise receptor to the project vicinity is a single-family residence approximately 750 feet to the northeast of the project area. This receiver is sufficiently far from the project area that no significant noise impact will occur.

Would the project result in:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**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?				✓
b. Expose persons to or generate excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels (e.g., blasting)?				✓
c. A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?				✓
d. A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?		✓		
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				✓
f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				✓

Impact Discussion 12a: The project would replace the existing bridge with a facility in approximately the

same location and will not increase the traffic capacity of the roadway. All noise impacts will be related to construction of the project. Construction noise is exempt from local standards and ordinances; therefore, the proposed project would not expose persons to noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, and no impacts would occur.

Impact Discussion 12b: The proposed project would not result in blasting or other activities that could cause substantial vibration impacts. Therefore, there would be ***no impact*** related to ground borne vibration.

Impact Discussion 12c: The replacement bridge will be in approximately the same vertical and horizontal alignment and will not increase the traffic capacity of the roadway. ***No impact*** from long-term or operational noise is anticipated.

Impact Discussion 12d: The nearest potential noise receptor to the project site is a rural residence approximately 750 feet to the northeast of the project area. Construction of the Project would result in a temporary increase in the noise environment. During construction of the project, noise from construction activities may intermittently dominate the noise environment in the immediate area of construction. Construction equipment is expected to generate noise levels ranging from 70 to 90 dB at a distance of 50 feet, and noise produced by construction equipment would be reduced over distance at a rate of about 6 dB per doubling of distance. At a distance of 750 feet, construction related noise will decrease by approximately 20 dBA and is anticipated to be less than the 75 dBA L_{max}; therefore anticipated temporary construction noise would be less than L_{max} standards set for Nevada County, and construction activities will not be continuous or significantly raise L_{eq}. Additionally, construction activities are exempt from County noise standards; however, given the increase in temporary noise from existing levels and to minimize impacts to neighbors, Mitigation **Measure NOI-1** will be implemented and impacts related to temporary noise would be ***less than significant with mitigation***.

Impact Discussion 12e - f: The project is not located in or within 2 miles of an airport boundary or in the vicinity of a private air strip. ***No impact*** is anticipated.

Mitigation: To offset the potential for significant impacts related to the addition of temporary construction noise within the vicinity of the project, the following measures will be required:

Measure 12D: Construction Work Hours. The proposed project has been designed to minimize construction related noise impacts to neighboring residences within the project vicinity.

NOI-1: Project construction activities will be limited to 7:00 am – 7:00 pm Monday to Friday, and 8:00 am – 6:00 pm Saturday and Sunday.

13. POPULATION / HOUSING

Existing Setting: The project is within unincorporated Nevada County, which, according to the 2010 U.S. Census, has a total population of 98,764. The project area and surrounding area contains fewer than 20 persons per square mile, which is considered to be low-density (U.S. Census, 2014). Population of the County is concentrated within the City of Grass Valley and the Town of Truckee, where population densities are between 2,711 and 500 persons per square mile, respectively. The population within the County has grown 14% since 2000 (U.S. Census 2014).

Within the Nevada County General Plan (Nevada County 2014b), the Project Area is designated as Recreation, and is also zoned for this category. Directly adjacent land use areas area designated and zoned for Forest, Urban Single-Family Residential, and Neighborhood Commercial. Recreation lands are characterized as parcels that support recreation and associated services. The parcels in the general vicinity support the Soda Springs ski resort and associated parking.

Would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**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)?				✓
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				✓
c. Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				✓

Impact Discussion 13a-c: The project is located in a commercial-residential area of the Soda Springs Rural Center, which supports low- and medium-density family housing, commercial areas, and recreational opportunities. The project does not directly involve construction of any new housing and would not indirectly promote future growth because the project does not increase the traffic capacity of the roadway. The project would not result in population growth or displacement of housing or people and will have ***no impact*** related to these issues.

14. PUBLIC SERVICES

Existing Setting: No public services are located within the project area; however, within the Nevada County General Plan (Nevada County 2014b), the Project Area is zoned and designated for Recreation, with surrounding areas zoned for Forest, Neighborhood Commercial, and Urban Single-Family Residential. Recreation lands are characterized as parcels that support recreation and associated services. The parcels in the general vicinity support the Soda Springs ski resort and associated parking.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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:				
1. Fire protection?			✓	
2. Police protection?			✓	
3. Schools?			✓	
4. Parks?			✓	
5. Other public services or facilities?			✓	

Impact Discussion 14a.1-5: The proposed project is located in commercial-residential Nevada County which consists of forest lands, neighborhood commercial and single-family residences. No public services are located within the project; however, Soda Springs Road is an important access route for emergency services that may need to access areas south of the Project Area. During construction, a temporary crossing will be in place that will allow traffic to remain open over the South Yuba River for the duration of construction, as this road is the only all-weather access to Donner Pass Road, and access to Interstate 80. Project impacts to public services are anticipated to be ***less than significant***.

15. RECREATION

Existing Setting: There are no recreational facilities that occur within the project area; however, within the Nevada County General Plan (Nevada County 2014b) and Nevada County Zoning Ordinance, the Project Area is zoned and designated for Recreation, and the parcels in the general vicinity support the Soda Springs ski resort and associated parking.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	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?				✓
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?				✓

Impact Discussion 15a-c: The proposed project would replace the existing structurally deficient Soda Springs Road Bridge. The bridge replacement is located outside of all recreational facilities, and the project would not result in effects to recreational uses or increase demand for recreational uses. The roadway will be maintained at two lanes and capacity will not be increasing. Therefore, the proposed project would have ***no impact*** related to these issues.

16. TRANSPORTATION / CIRCULATION

Existing Setting: The project is located on Soda Springs Road, 750 feet south of the intersection of Donner Pass Road and Soda Springs Road. The Soda Springs Road Bridge is the only all-weather access to the Serene Lakes residential community, and Soda Springs Ski Resort. No public transportation occurs on Soda Springs Road.

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

Impact Discussion 16a-c: The proposed bridge widening will replace the existing structurally deficient Soda Springs Road Bridge with a single span, approximately 44-foot long by 40-foot wide, cast-in-place reinforced concrete slab bridge The bridge will accommodate two 12-foot lanes, two 3-foot shoulders, a 6-foot sidewalk, and bridge railings at each edge of deck. The roadway will be maintained at two travel lanes. At least one lane of Soda Springs Road will remain open during construction, as this road is the only all-weather access to the Serene Lakes residential community. A temporary detour constructed on temporary embankment across the river just upstream of the bridge is anticipated to accommodate traffic during bridge construction. Traffic control as stated as in AQ- 2 will help reduce any traffic issues during construction. All roadway and structure improvements are anticipated to fall within existing right-of-way. Soda Springs Road is currently a County maintained road access for residences and will continue after construction. This project will have ***no impact*** on increased traffic and public or private road maintenance.

Impact Discussion 16b: Soda Springs Road is designated as a minor collector roadway in the County's General Plan. The road serves local residents living along Soda Springs Road and its feeder streets, and is not subject to a congestion management plan. In addition, the Project will not alter the number of through lanes on the roadway and will have ***no impact*** on long term traffic demand.

Impact Discussion 16c: The Project is related to a local roadway and will have ***no impact*** on air traffic patterns.

Impact Discussion 16d: The new bridge will be approximately 12 feet wider than the existing bridge structure and will be in approximately the same alignment. The Project Area does not contact significant sharp curves or dangerous intersection and the proposed project will no increase hazards along Soda Springs Road. ***No impact*** to hazardous design features will occur.

Impact Discussion 16e: The Project will replace the existing bridge with a wider structure in approximately the same alignment. No long term or operational impacts to emergency access will occur. Soda Springs Road will remain open during construction, as this road is the only all-weather access from Donner Pass Road to many properties. At least one lane of Soda Springs Road will remain open during construction, as this road is the only all-weather access to the Serene Lakes residential community. A temporary detour constructed on temporary embankment across the river just upstream of the bridge is anticipated to accommodate traffic during bridge construction. Emergency access may be slightly impaired during construction if the speed limit of the temporary creek crossing is lower than the design speed of Soda Springs Road. Any impediments will be temporary, minor and have a ***less than significant*** impact on emergency access.

Impact Discussion 16f: There are no mass transit routes along Soda Springs Road and the Project Area is not included in the County's Bicycle Master Plan (Nevada County 2007). Pedestrians and cyclists utilize the existing bridge, which does not have sidewalks or bike lanes. The replacement bridge will be construct 3-foot shoulders and 6-foot sidewalk with bridge railings along each edge of deck, which will increase pedestrian and bicycle safety by allowing motor vehicles to pass pedestrians and bicyclists safely. The new sidewalk and should will accommodate the connection of the Van Norden History Trail around Lake Van Norden and other bicycle and multi-use trails with proximity to the project. ***No impact*** to bicycle or pedestrian safety is anticipated.

17. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Existing Setting: Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) was passed by the State Assembly and signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown in 2014. AB 52 created a new requirement for lead agencies to evaluate potential impacts to Tribal Cultural resources (TCRs) as part of the CEQA process. As part of the AB 52 process, CEQA lead agencies consult directly with California Native American Tribes for potential project related impacts to TCRs separately from pre-existing Native American consultation processes (i.e. Section 106).

As discussed in Section 5, there are no documented archaeological sites within ½ mile of the Project Area; however, Native Americans were present within the region and previously unidentified cultural resources may be present within the Project Area.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
i. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or		✓		
ii. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.		✓		

Impact Discussion 17a.i & 17a.ii: A record search was conducted through the NCIC to identify tribal cultural resources (TCRs) within ½ mile of the APE. No TCRs were identified through the NCIC record search. In addition, the Native American Heritage Commission reviewed the Sacred Lands File and did not detect TCRs within the APE.

Brian Marks, Ph.D. (Archaeologist), conducted a pedestrian surface survey on July 1, 2015 to identify and record potential archaeological resources. No TCRs were identified during the survey. In 2015, the County reached out to local Native American tribes for input on potential project impacts to TCRs. As with any project that involves subsurface excavation, there is the potential for accidental discovery of previously unidentified TCRs. **Measures 5A** and **5D** for accidental discovery of cultural resources has been incorporated into the project design to reduce potential project related impacts to TCRs to ***less than significant with mitigation***.

Mitigation: To reduce potentially significant impacts to previously undiscovered TCRs within the Project Area to a less than significant level, **Measures 5A** and **5D** have been incorporated into the project design.

18. UTILITIES / SERVICE SYSTEMS

Existing Setting: No utilities or service systems are located within the project.

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

Impact Discussion 18a-g: As a non-capacity increasing transportation project, the project would not promote future growth or require expansion of services. In addition, no sewer or septic facilities are present within the Project Area. Construction of the Project would not generate substantial solid waste during operation. Bridge demolition would generate concrete debris; however, the amount generated would not exceed landfill intake capabilities at the Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal, Eastern Regional Landfill Materials Recovery Facility and Transfer Station, located at 900 Cabin Creek Road on State Highway 89. Additionally, the project will comply with all federal, state, local statutes and regulation related to solid waste. Therefore, the project would have ***no impact*** related to utilities or public service systems.

19. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	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 major periods of California's history or prehistory?		✓		
b. Does the project have environmental effects that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of the project are considered when viewed in connection with the effects of past, current, and probable future projects.)			✓	
c. Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?			✓	

Impact Discussion 19a: Development of the proposed project would comply with all local, state, and federal laws governing general welfare and environmental protection. The project will not substantially reduce habitat for fish or wildlife, cause wildlife populations to decrease, threaten plant and animal communities, restrict plant and animals range, or eliminate important examples of California's history or prehistory. During construction, the project has the potential for significant impacts to biological and cultural resources. With the implementation of **Measures 4A**, **4B**, **5A, 5D**, **8B**, and **9A** these potential project impacts will be reduced to a less than significant level. The project would have impacts of ***less than significant with mitigation*** related to biological and cultural resources.

Impact Discussion 19b: The proposed project is not growth inducing; thus, it would not contribute to the cumulative effects of population growth. Potentially significant impacts to air quality, biological resources, cultural and tribal resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, and noise would be reduced to less than significant levels by adhering to local, regional, state, and federal impact standards and by the adherence to the project-specific mitigation measures outlined in this Initial Study. However, the project will have an individually limited but cumulatively considerable effect on hydrology when considering the future impacts of the Van Norden Dam Modification Project. Results of Bridge Design Hydraulic Study Report (2016) found that the Soda Springs Road Bridge Replacement Project will meet Caltrans standard freeboard for both current and dam removal scenarios, and would reduce water surface elevations upstream of the bridge by 2 feet. Hydrology impacts and flood risk would not be increased by the bridge replacement when cumulatively considered with the Van Norden Dam Modification Project. Collectively, these potentially negative impacts would be ***less than significant***, and no additional mitigation is required.

Impact Discussion 19c: The proposed project would comply with all local, state, and federal laws governing general welfare and environmental protection. Project implementation would not substantially degrade the quality of the existing environment, since the proposed project is a replacement of an existing structure and would not result in any significant adverse and un-mitigatable impacts that could cause adverse effects to humans. Therefore, project impacts on human beings would be ***less than significant***, and no additional mitigation is required.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE PROJECT PLANNER

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

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

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

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

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

_____ _____

Joshua Pack, P.E. Project Manager **Date**

APPENDIX A – REFERENCE SOURCES

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APPENDIX B – ACRONYMS

AB 52	Assembly Bill 52
ADL	Aerially Deposited Lead
APE	Area of Potential Effects
ARB	California Air Resources Board
ASR	Archeological Survey Report
BMPs	Best Management Practices
BSA	Biological Study Area
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
Cal-IPC	California Invasive Plant Council
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CH_4	Methane
CO_2	Carbon dioxide
dBA	Weighted decibel
DOC	California Department of Conservation
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substance Control
EDR	Environmental Data Resources, Inc.
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FESA	Federal Endangered Species Act
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
HFCs	Hydrofluorocarbons
HPSR	Historic Property Survey Report
LUST	Leaking Underground Storage Tank
mph	Mile per hour
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NES	Natural Environmental Study
NO_2	Nitrogen oxide
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NSAQMD	Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
PCEs	Primary Constituent Elements
PFC	Perfluorocarbons
PM (2.5 and 10)	Particulate matter
REC	Recognized Environmental Condition
SF_6	Sulfur hexafluoride
SNYLF	Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
VOC	Volatile organic compounds
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service

APPENDIX C – FTIP and RTP PAGES

2014/15-2019/20 Highway Bridge Program

This report includes projects that may be programmed under the Local Bridge lump sum grouping in the FSTIP. This list identifies projects that are in the Non-MPO regions of the State.

District: 03 County: Nevada

Responsible Agency	HBP-ID	Project Description
Nevada County	4148	BRIDGE NO. 17C0010, SODA SPRINGS RD, OVER SOUTH YUBA RIVER, NEAR VAN NORDEN LAKE RD. Replace the existing 2 lane structurally deficient bridge with a new 2 lane bridge. 10/21/2013: Toll Credits programmed for PE, R/W, & CON.

Project #: 5917(079)

Phase Summary:	Prior	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	Beyond	Total
PE	200,000		138,750						338,750
R/W							50,000		50,000
CON								1,829,250	1,829,250
Total	200,000		138,750				50,000	1,829,250	2,218,000

Fund Source Summary:	Prior	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	Beyond	Total
Fed $	200,000		138,750				50,000	1,829,250	2,218,000
Local Match									
LSSRP Bond									
Local AC									
Total	200,000		138,750				50,000	1,829,250	2,218,000

PE Summary:	Prior	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	Beyond	Total
Fed $	200,000		138,750						338,750
Local Match									
LSSRP Bond									
Local AC									
Total	200,000		138,750						338,750

R/W Summary:	Prior	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	Beyond	Total
Fed $							50,000		50,000
Local Match									
LSSRP Bond									
Local AC									
Total							50,000		50,000

CON Summary:	Prior	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	Beyond	Total
Fed $								1,829,250	1,829,250
Local Match									
LSSRP Bond									
Local AC									
Total								1,829,250	1,829,250

APPENDIX D – SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES POTENTIAL TABLE

Table 3: Special Status Species with Potential to Occur in the Project Vicinity

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status		General Habitat Description	Habitat Present/ Absent	Potential for Occurrence and Rationale
Amphibian Species						
Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog	*Rana sierrae*	Fed: State: CDFW:	E T SSC	The species exists in montane regions of Sierra Nevada, historically inhabiting lakes, ponds, marshes, meadows and streams at elevations ranging from 4,500 – 12,000 feet. The species is highly aquatic and rarely found more than 4 feet from water. At lower elevations the species is associated with rocky streambeds and mesic meadows within coniferous forests.	HP	**Low to Moderate Potential:** Habitat Assessments conducted June 2015 determined marginally suitable high elevation stream channel and montane riparian is present within the BSA. The site was determined to contain only marginal habitat for the species based on lack of exposed banks, basking sites, unsuitable volume and velocity of water, and the site's proximity to urban infrastructure. In addition, the BSA is located within designated Critical Habitat and there are numerous occurrences of the species within 5 miles of the project area. However, the nearest occurrences with 2 miles are historic occurrences (dating back approximately 60 to 80 years). The nearest known recent population is approximately 3.5 miles north of the project and is located over the Sand Ridge (beyond Andesite Peak). There is no hydric connectivity to the BSA to any recent SNYLF occurrences.
Southern long toed salamander	*Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum*	Fed: State: CDFW:	-- -- SSC	Species predominately live under wood, logs, rocks, bark or burrows excavated by ground squirrel and moles in close proximity to breeding sites (ponds, lakes and streams). Breeding requires permanent or temporary ponds, lakes and flooded meadows.	HP	**Low to Moderate Potential**: The South Yuba River and a wet meadow habitat are present within the BSA, which can act as suitable breeding habitat for the species. Lake Van Norden, approximately 300 feet upstream of the BSA, is suitable habitat for the species as well. Nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 2.7 miles east of

						the project area near Donner Pass (2005).
Bird Species						
Bald eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	Fed: State: CDFW:	DL E FP	Species occurs near ocean shores, lakes, rivers, rangelands and coastal wetlands for nesting and wintering. Nesting occurs within 1 mile of a water source with abundant fish near mountain forests and woodlands. Species prefers ponderosa pines for nesting.	A	**Presumed Absent:** No suitable nesting habitat or foraging habitat occurs within the BSA. However, Lake Van Norden which lies approximately 300 feet upstream of the BSA may provide suitable foraging habitat and established lodgepole pines, Jeffery pines and white firs adjacent to the BSA may provide suitable roosting habitat for bald eagle. No current or historic nests were observed within the BSA or the immediate vicinity. The nearest occurrence of the species has been recorded along Lake Van Norden (ebird 2016). The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 6.3 miles east of the project area near Donner Lake.
Black swift	*Cypseloides niger*	Fed: State: CDFW:	-- -- SSC	Returns to California in May where the species breeds locally in the San Gabriel Mountains from June through August. Nests in small colonies within moist crevices or caves on sea cliffs over the surf, or within cliffs of deep canyons behind or immediately adjacent to waterfalls; species very specific with requisite nesting conditions. Species forages over many habitats and may undergo long distance foraging flights.	A	**Presumed Absent:** The BSA does not contain moist crevices, caves, or waterfall habitat commonly associated with the species. A single occurrence of the species recorded in 1956 was found within the search quads approximately 1 mile from the BSA along the east shore of Lake Van Norden. The species is not common in the Sierra Nevada.
Greater sandhill crane	*Grus canadensis tabida*	Fed: State: CDFW:	-- T FP	The species nests and forages in mesic meadows, bogs, fens, marshes, and grasslands. Prefers grain fields and irrigated pastures within 4 miles of a shallow body of water. It California, the species is a winter resident in the Honey Lake Basin, Imperial Valley, and parts of the Sacramento Valley.	A	**Presumed Absent:** The BSA is predominately disturbed land lacking any suitable nesting or foraging habitat for the species. The nearest occurrence of the species is approximately 11 miles from the BSA within Sierra County. No local occurrences of the species have been

				In Spring, the species migrates north through much of the state to summer breeding grounds throughout Central and Northern Canada.		documented within Placer and Nevada County.
Harlequin duck	*Histrionicus histrionicus*	Fed: -- State: -- CDFW: SSC		This small coastal duck migrates inland in late spring to nest along fast flowing mountain streams throughout Western Alaska and British Colombia. The species rarely nests as far south as the western slope of the Sierra Nevada in California. The species prefers densely vegetated stream banks and usually nests within 7 feet of water. Breeding occurs from mid-April to September in the Sierra Nevada.	A	**Presumed Absent:** The BSA does not contain fast flowing stream habitat during the breeding season for the species and is not located on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada. A single occurrence of the species was recorded approximately 6 miles south of the BSA along the American River below 5,000 feet with dense riparian vegetation and fast flowing water.
Northern goshawk	*Accipiter gentilis*	Fed: -- State: -- CDFW: SSC		Species inhabits dense, mature conifer and deciduous forest, with meadows, other openings, and riparian areas of north coast coniferous forest, subalpine coniferous forest and upper montane coniferous forest communities. In winter may occur along the north coast throughout foothills, and in northern deserts, in pinyon-juniper and low-elevation riparian habitats. Nesting habitat includes north-facing slopes near water; breeds in June April. Occurs at mid to high elevations.	A	**Presumed Absent:** The BSA does not contain dense mature coniferous forest nesting habitat required by the species. Several occurrences occur within 10 miles of the BSA within suitable habitat, the nearest of which is approximately 4 miles from the BSA.
Willow flycatcher	*Empidonax traillii*	Fed: -- State: E CDFW: --		Requires dense riparian systems or willow thickets in proximity to wetlands, ponds or backwaters for nesting and roosting. Found at elevations up to 8,000 feet. Breeds April-August.	HP	**Low to Moderate Potential:** The BSA does not contain wetlands, ponds, or backwaters; however, the BSA does contain riparian vegetation along the South Yuba River. The nearest occurrence of the species is approximately 1 mile from the BSA in a large meadow with discontinuous clumps of dense willow.
Yellow warbler	*Setophaga petechia*	Fed: -- State: --		Breeds in riparian woodlands from coastal and desert lowlands up to 8,000 feet in Sierra Nevada. Also breeds in montane	HP	**High Potential:** The BSA contains riparian vegetation and mixed conifer forest habitat

		CDFW:	SSC	chaparral, and in open ponderosa pine and mixed conifer habitats with substantial amounts of brush. Breeds from mid-April into early August with peak activity in June, and susceptible to brood parasitism by brown-headed cowbirds		potentially suitable for the species. The nearest occurrence of the species is approximately 4 miles from the BSA.
Fish Species						
Central Valley Steelhead	*Oncorhynchus mykiss*	Fed: State: CDFW:	T -- --	Spawning occurs in small tributaries on coarse gravel beds in riffle areas. Central Valley steelhead are found in the Sacramento River system; the principal remaining wild populations spawn annually in Deer and Mill Creeks in Tehama County, in the lower Yuba River, a small population in the lower Stanislaus River.	A	**Presumed Absent:** Multiple impassible barriers to migrating fish exclude anadromous fish from the BSA including the Camp Far West Spillway, Lake Spaulding Dam, and Englebright Dam. There are no occurrences of the species within the search quads.
Chinook Salmon (Winter-run)	*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*	Fed: State: CDFW:	E -- --	Spawning occurs in rivers and streams with cool, clear, water and suitable substrate. Winter-run Chinook salmon include all naturally spawned populations of winter-run Chinook salmon in the Sacramento River and its tributaries in California, as well as two artificial propagation programs.	A	**Presumed Absent:** Multiple impassible barriers to migrating fish exclude anadromous fish from the BSA, including the Camp Far West Spillway, Lake Spaulding Dam, and Englebright Dam. There are no occurrences of the species within the search quads.
Delta smelt	*Hypomesus transpacificus*	Fed: State: CDFW:	T E --	Occurs within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and seasonally within the Suisun Bay, Carquinez Strait and San Pablo Bay. Most often occurs in partially saline waters.	A	**Presumed Absent:** Multiple impassible barriers to migrating fish exclude anadromous fish from the BSA including the Camp Far West Spillway, Lake Spaulding Dam, and Englebright Dam. Additionally, the project is located outside the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and lacks partially saline waters. There are no occurrences of the species within the search quads.

Lahontan cutthroat trout	*Oncorhynchus clarkii henshawi*	Fed: State: CDFW:	T -- --	This completely land locked salmonid is endemic to the Lahontan Basin in Northern Nevada including Pyramid and Walker Lakes and associated tributaries. Major threats to the species include habitat alteration or destruction and hybridization with introduced non-native species of trout.	A	**Presumed Absent:** The project is located on the west side of the Sierra crest and no surface water connection between surface waters within the BSA and the Lahontan basin where the species is endemic.
Mammal Species						
American badger	*Taxidea taxus*	Fed: State: CDFW:	-- -- SSC	Prefers treeless, dry, open stages of most shrub and herbaceous habitats with friable soils and a supply of rodent prey. Species also inhabits forest glades and meadows, marshes, brushy areas, hot deserts, and mountain meadows. Species maintains burrows within home ranges estimated between 338-1,700 acres, dependent on seasonal activity. Burrows are frequently re-used, but new burrows may be created nightly. Young are born in March and April within burrows dug in relatively dry, often sandy, soil, usually in areas with sparse overstory cover. Species is somewhat tolerant of human activity, but is sensitive to automobile mortality, trapping, and persistent poisons (up to 12,000 feet).	A	**Presumed Absent:** Large tracks of treeless shrubby habitat are absent from the BSA and the surrounding area. Additionally, the BSA lacks a sufficient rodent prey base to support the species. No suitable habitat for the species is present within the BSA. The nearest occurrence of the species is approximately 14 miles from the BSA.
California wolverine	*Gulo gulo ssp. luscus*	Fed: State: CDFW:	-- T FP	Wolverines are opportunistic omnivores found in a wide variety of alpine, boreal and arctic habitats throughout North America. The main habitat requirement for the species are caves, logs, burrows and deep persistent snow sufficient for maternal den construction so the species is limited to high elevation alpine habitats within the contiguous United States. The species also requires open areas for hunting and are easily disturbed by human presence.	HP	**Presumed Absent:** The BSA does contain potentially suitable alpine habitat and sufficient snow depth to sustain the species; however, the BSA is located along a busy road near Soda Springs ski resort and close proximity to human residences. Reference occurrences of the species occur in isolated locations lacking human presence. The nearest occurrence of the species is approximately 1.5 miles from the BSA.

Fisher - West Coast DPS	*Pekania pennanti*	Fed: State: CDFW:	PT CT SSC	Inhabits mature, dense habitats of north coast coniferous forest and old growth and riparian forest communities with a high percent of canopy closure, large trees and snags with cavities and other deformities, large diameter downed wood and multiple canopy layers. Forest structural composition is critical for species; diversity in tree size and shape, light gaps and associated understory vegetation, natural structures (downed trees, broken limbs, snags, etc.) and limbs close to the ground. Breeds from late February to late April (1,970-8530 feet).	A	**Presumed Absent:** The BSA does not contain mature dense coniferous forests with closed multiple layered canopy and snags with cavities required by the species. The BSA and adjacent areas have largely been cleared of large trees to facilitate parking for the Soda Springs Ski Resort. There are numerous occurrences of the species within 10 miles of the BSA but all of these are located far from human development. The nearest occurrence of the species was recorded in 1969 and is approximately 6 miles from the BSA.
Sierra Nevada mountain beaver	*Aplodontia rufa californica*	Fed: State: CDFW:	-- -- SSC	The species is found in deciduous and coniferous forests, wet soils and seepage areas, and abundance of forbs within the Sierra Nevada, primarily concentrated in the Tahoe/Truckee Region. The species requires dense understory of coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*), blackberry (*Rubus* sp.), and poison oak (*Toxicodendrom diversilobum*) with succulent plants for food and cover and soft soil for burrowing in sheltered gulches, steep north facing slopes or old dune systems. The species is not related to true beavers but is still generally found in proximity to water due to an inability to concentrate urine. The species does not hibernate and is poor at conserving body heat and is not found in extremely cold climates.	A	**Presumed Absent:** The project is located within the Tahoe/Truckee Region where the species is concentrated. The BSA contains wet soils and abundance of forbs in proximity to the South Yuba River; however, the BSA lacks sheltered gulches, steep north facing slopes with dense understory of species required vegetation and soft soils. The nearest recorded occurrence of the species is approximately 9 miles from the BSA.
Sierra Nevada red fox	*Vulpes vulpes necator*	Fed: State: CDFW:	C T --	The species is found within the Sierra Nevada and Southern Cascade Ranges in open coniferous woodlands and meadows near the treeline. Diet consists of small	A	**Presumed Absent:** No open coniferous woodland or meadow habitat is found within the BSA. The majority of the BSA is heavily disturbed with compacted soils and a lack of

				mammals including mice, ground squirrels, and, gophers. Threats to the species likely include competition with coyotes and disease spread from domestic dogs.		burrowing species required by the species. No suitable habitat for the species is present within the BSA. The nearest occurrence of the species is approximately 5 miles from the BSA.
Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare	*Lepus americanus tahoensis*	Fed: -- State: -- CDFW:	SSC	The species occurs in high elevation riparian habitats above the yellow pine zone, approximately 7,500 feet. Typical habitat is characterized by dense thickets of deciduous trees and shrubs. Predators include bobcats, red foxes, coyotes, hawks and owls. The primary threat to the species is loss of high elevation riparian habitat.	A	**Presumed Absent:** The BSA is below the species' elevation range. The nearest occurrence of the species is approximately 8 miles from the BSA. For this reason, the species is presumed absent.
Plant Species						
Alder buckthorn	*Rhamnus alnifolia*	Fed: -- State: -- CNPS:	2B.2	A perennial shrub found within moist areas of red fir forests or lodge pole forest In the High Sierra Nevada. Blooms May – July (3,700 – 6,600 feet).	A	**Presumed Absent:** The BSA and surrounding areas have been cleared to provide parking for the adjacent Soda Springs Ski Resort and do not contain red fir or lodge pole forest habitat required for the species. No suitable habitat for the species is present within the BSA. The nearest occurrence of the species is approximately 7 miles from the BSA.
Austin's astragalus	*Astragalus austiniae*	Fed: -- State: -- CNPS:	1B.3	A perennial herb found along exposed ridges and meadows within subalpine forests or above the treeline. Blooms July – September (7,600 – 9,000 feet).	A	**Presumed Absent:** The BSA does not contain exposed ridge or alpine ridge habitat for the species and the BSA is approximately 900 feet below the lower elevation range of the species. The nearest occurrence of the species is approximately 2 miles from the BSA.
Broad-nerved hump moss	*Meesia uliginosa*	Fed: -- State: -- CNPS:	2B.2	A moss found on damp soils within bogs, fens, meadows and seeps within subalpine coniferous forest and upper montane coniferous forest. Reproduces in October	A	**Presumed Absent:** Although the BSA does contain meadow habitat required for the species and is within the species' elevation

				(4,200 – 9,200 feet).		range, no individuals were identified during the focused botanical survey conducted July, 2015. The nearest occurrence of the species is approximately 8 miles from the BSA.
Common moonwort	*Botrychium lunaria*	Fed: -- State: -- CNPS:	2B.3	A fern found in meadows or wetland margins within coniferous forests in the High Sierra Nevada. Reproduces in August (7,500 – 11,150 feet).	A	**Presumed Absent:** Although the BSA does contain meadow required by the species, the BSA is approximately 900 feet below the lower elevation range of the species. The nearest occurrence of the species is approximately 11 miles from the BSA.
Davy's sedge	*Carex davyi*	Fed: -- State: -- CNPS:	1B.3	A perennial herb found in dry often sparse meadows and open slopes within subalpine forest and red fir forest. Blooms May – August (4,600 – 11,000 feet).	A	**Presumed Absent:** The BSA does not contain dry meadow or open slope habitat required by the species. The nearest occurrence of the species is approximately 10 miles from the BSA.
Donner Pass buckwheat	*Eriogonum umbellatum var. torreyanum*	Fed: -- State: -- CNPS:	1B.2	A perennial herb found in meadows within lodgepole forests and red fir forests on steep slopes and ridgetops with rocky, volcanic soils in the High Sierra Nevada. Blooms July – September (6,200 – 8,600 feet).	A	**Presumed Absent:** Although the BSA does contain meadow habitat and is within the species' elevation range, no individuals were identified during the blooming season focused botanical survey conducted in July, 2015. The nearest occurrence of the species is approximately 2 miles from the BSA.
English sundew	*Drosera anglica*	Fed: -- State: -- CNPS:	2B.3	A perennial carnivorous herb found within high elevation meadows, bogs and fens within yellow pine forest and wetland-riparian communities within calcium rich soils. In California, the species ranges from the Northern Sierra Nevada (North of Lake Tahoe) through the Southern Cascade Ranges. Blooms June - August (4,200 – 7,500 feet).	A	**Presumed Absent:** The BSA does contain meadow habitat required for the species and is within the species' habitat range. However, no individuals were identified during the blooming season focused botanical survey, conducted in July, 2015. All recorded occurrences of the species within the search quads were recorded in 1975, the nearest of which is approximately 9.5 miles from the BSA.

Fell-fields claytonia	*Claytonia megarhiza*	Fed: -- State: -- CNPS:	2B.3	A perennial herb found on gravely soils, talus, fell fields, or in crevices within lodgepole or subalpine forest in the High Sierra Nevada. Blooms July-August (8,100-10,800 feet).	A	**Presumed Absent:** The BSA does not contain gravely soils, talus, or fell field habitat suitable for the species. In addition, the BSA is approximately 1,400 feet below the elevation range of the species. The nearest recorded occurrence of the species is approximately 8 miles from the BSA.
Hiroshi's flapwort	*Nardia hiroshii*	Fed: -- State: -- CNPS:	2B.3	A liverwort found on damp granitic bedrock within meadows and seeps. Species is a relatively recent discovery in California and is currently only known near the community of Norden, Nevada County but may be present elsewhere in the state.	A	**Presumed Absent:** The BSA does contain damp soils associated with the South Yuba River, as well as meadow habitat; however, the BSA does not seep habitat with granitic bedrock required by the species. The nearest occurrence of the species is approximately 2.5 miles from the BSA. Additionally, during rare plant surveys, the species was not observed.
Hutchison's lewisia	*Lewisia kelloggii ssp.hutchisonii*	Fed: -- State: -- CNPS:	3.2	A perennial herb endemic to the high Sierra Nevada within California. The species is found on granitic, volcanic or slate soils within coniferous forest. Blooms July – August (5,200 – 7,300 feet).	A	**Presumed Absent:** The BSA is located in the High Sierra Nevada; however, the site does not contain granitic or slate soils within coniferous forest habitat. No recorded occurrences have been located in the vicinity of the project.
Kellogg's lewisia	*Lewisia kelloggii' ssp.kelloggii*	Fed: -- State: -- CNPS:	3.2	A perennial herb endemic to the High Sierra Nevada and Cascade Range within California. The species is found on slate or sometimes rhyolite tuff rocks within openings on ridgetops with coniferous forest. Blooms June-July (4,500 – 7,700 feet).	A	**Presumed Absent:** The BSA does not contain slate and rhyolite tuff rock, ridgetop habitat required by the species. No recorded occurrences have been located in the vicinity of the project.
Long-petaled lewisia	*Lewisia longipetala*	Fed: -- State: -- CNPS:	1B.3	A perennial herb found on granitic soils within alpine boulder and rock fields and crevices. The species is also found in rocky mesic subalpine forest. Blooms July –	A	**Presumed Absent:** The BSA is primarily disturbed barren lands and does not contain rock fields or granitic soils with crevices. The nearest occurrence of the species is more

				August (6,200 – 9,600 feet).		than 4 miles from the BSA.
Mingan moonwort	*Botrychium minganense*	Fed: -- State: -- CNPS: 2B.2		A rhizomoatous fern inhabiting mesic soils of bogs and fens, lower montane coniferous forests, meadow and seeps edges and upper montane coniferous forest communities. Spores produced July-September (4,773-10,170 feet).	A	**Presumed Absent:** The BSA contain meadow habitat required by the species and is within the species' elevation range. No individuals were identified during the blooming season, focused botanical survey conducted July, 2015. The nearest, most recent occurrence of the species is approximately 7 miles southeast from the BSA (2013).
Mud sedge	*Carex limosa*	Fed: -- State: -- CNPS: 2B.2		A perennial rhizomatous herb found in bogs and fens within red fir forest and yellow pine forest. Within California, the species is limited to the High Sierra Nevada. Blooms July – August (3,900 – 8,900 feet).	A	**Presumed Absent:** The BSA does not contain bog and fen habitats required by the species. The nearest occurrence of the species is approximately 10 miles from the BSA.
Plumas ivesia	*Ivesia sericoleuca*	Fed: -- State: -- CNPS: 1B.2		A perennial herb found in vernally mesic areas, usually dry volcanic meadows within the High Sierra Nevada south of the Modoc Plateau. Blooms May – September (4,300 – 7,600 feet).	A	**Presumed Absent:** The BSA does not contain vernally mesic areas or dry meadow habitat suitable for the species. . The nearest occurrence of the species is more than 11 miles from the BSA.
Rayless mountain ragwort	*Packera indecora*	Fed: -- State: -- CNPS: 2B.2		A perennial herb found in damp areas including meadows or seeps. In California, the species is restricted to the High Sierra Nevada and Modoc Plateau. Blooms July – August (5,250 – 6,560 feet).	A	**Presumed Absent:** Although the BSA does contain meadow habitat potentially suitable for the species, the BSA is located approximately 200 feet above the species' elevation range. The only recorded occurrence of the species within the search quads is approximately 11 miles from the BSA within Sierra County and was recorded in 1912.
Robbins' pondweed	*Potamogeton robbinsii*	Fed: -- State: -- CNPS: 2B.3		A perennial rhizomatous herb found in deep water habitat within freshwater marshes and lakes in the High Sierra Nevada. Blooms in August (5,100 – 10,800 feet).	A	**Presumed Absent:** The BSA does not contain deep water marsh or lake habitat. No suitable habitat for the species is present within the BSA. The nearest recorded occurrence of the species is approximately

						10 miles from the BSA.
Sagebrush bluebells	*Mertensia oblongifolia var. oblongifolia*	Fed: -- State: -- CNPS: 2B.2		A perennial herb found on open slopes, dry meadows or sagebrush scrub. In California, the species ranges from the High Sierra Nevada through the Modoc Plateau. Blooms April – June (5,300 – 8,300 feet).	A	**Presumed Absent:** The BSA does not contain open slope, dry meadow and sagebrush scrub habitats required by the species. The nearest occurrence of the species is approximately 13 miles from the BSA.
Santa Lucia dwarf rush	*Juncus luciensis*	Fed: -- State: -- CNPS: 1B.2		An annual herb found in wet sandy soils of seeps, meadows, vernal pools, streams and roadsides. Blooms April – July (1,000 – 6,200 feet).	A	**Presumed Absent:** The BSA contains potentially suitable stream margin habitat but the BSA is more than 500 feet above the elevation range of the species. The nearest occurrence of the species is approximately 3 miles from the BSA.
Scalloped moonwort	*Botrychium crenulatum*	Fed: -- State: -- CNPS: 2B.2		A rhizomatous fern found in saturated hard water seeps, stream margins, meadows, freshwater marshes, bogs and fens. Blooms June – September (4,900 – 11,800 feet).	A	**Presumed Absent:** The BSA contains stream margin and meadow habitats potentially suitable for the species and is located within the elevation range of the species. The nearest occurrence of the species is more than 7 miles from the BSA. During focused rare plant surveys taken in July within the species blooming period, the species was not observed.
Starved daisy	*Erigeron miser*	Fed: -- State: -- CNPS: 1B.3		A perennial herb limited to crevices and rocky soils and granitic outcrops in upper montane coniferous forests within the High Sierra Nevada. Blooms July – October (5,700 – 8,100 feet).	A	**Presumed Absent:** The BSA is heavily disturbed and barren and does not contain granitic outcrops or naturally rocky soils required by the species. . While there are numerous historic occurrences of the species within 1 mile of the BSA, the nearest recent occurrence is approximately 3 miles from the BSA within granitic outcrops unlike the BSA During rare plant surveys, the species was not observed.

Stebbins' phacelia	*Phacelia stebbinsii*	Fed: -- State: -- CNPS:	1B.2	An annual herb endemic to Nevada, Placer, and El Dorado Counties. Species is associated with gravelly soils and benches, meadows, lower montane coniferous forests, and yellow pine forest. Blooms May – July (2,000 – 6,600 feet).	A	**Presumed Absent:** Although the BSA does not contain meadow habitat associated with the species, the BSA is located slightly above the elevation range of the species. The nearest recorded occurrence of the species is approximately 10 miles from the BSA.
Threetip sagebrush	*Artemisia tripartita ssp. tripartita*	Fed: -- State: -- CNPS:	2B.3	A perennial shrub found in openings of upper montane coniferous forests on rocky volcanic soils. Blooms in August (7,200 – 8,500 feet).	A	**Presumed Absent:** The BSA does not contain rocky forest opening habitat suitable for the species. Additionally, the BSA is approximately 450 feet below the elevation range of the species. The nearest recorded occurrence of the species is approximately 3.5 miles from the BSA.
Upswept moonwort	*Botrychium ascendens*	Fed: -- State: -- CNPS:	2B.3	A perennial rhizomatous herb found in moist meadows, open woodlands near streams or seeps. Blooms in July-August (4,990-10,500 feet).	A	**Presumed Absent:** The BSA does contain a moist meadow required by the species and is within the species' elevation range, however no individuals were identified during the blooming season focused botanical survey conducted July, 2015. The nearest recorded CNDDB occurrence of the species is approximately 13 miles south of the project area (2002).
Vernal barley	*Hordeum intercedens*	Fed: -- State: -- CNPS:	3.2	An annual herb found in coastal dunes, coastal scrub, valley foothill grassland and Vernal pools. Blooms March – June (0 – 3,300 feet).	A	**Presumed Absent:** The BSA does not contain coastal or valley foothill grassland habitat suitable for the species and is approximately 3,400 feet above the elevation range of the species. A single occurrence of the species was recorded in 1881 approximately 200 feet from the BSA. This is the only recorded occurrence of this species within the Sierra Nevada Mountains in the CNPS or CalFlora Databases and may represent a misidentification. There are no occurrences of the species within the

						CNDDB database. Focused floral surveys occurred just outside blooming season; however species would have been visible during surveys, however no individuals were identified.
Water bulrush	*Schoenoplectus subterminalis*	Fed: -- State: -- CNPS:	2B.3	A perennial rhizomatous herb found in bogs, fens, marshes and swamps and montane lake margins. Blooms June – August (0 – 7,500 feet).	A	**Presumed Absent:** The BSA does not contain bog, fen, marsh, swamp, or lake margin habitat suitable for the species. The nearest occurrence of the species is approximately 11 miles from the BSA.
white beaked-rush	*Rhynchospora alba*	Fed: -- State: -- CNPS:	2B.2	A perennial rhizomatous herb found in open areas of bogs, fens, marshes, swamps, meadows, and seeps. Blooms July – August (0 – 6,700 feet).	A	**Presumed Absent:** The BSA does contain meadow habitat suitable for the species and is within the species' elevation range, however no individuals were identified during the blooming season focused botanical survey conducted July, 2015. The only occurrence of the species is approximately 11 miles from the BSA.
white-stemmed pondweed	*Potamogeton praelongus*	Fed: -- State: -- CNPS:	2B.3	A perennial rhizomatous herb found in deep water areas of marshes, swamps, and lakes. In California, the species is limited to the High Sierra Nevada. Blooms July – August (2,200 – 9,800 feet).	A	**Presumed Absent:** The BSA does not contain deep water marsh, swamp, or lake habitat. The nearest occurrence of the species is approximately 11.5 miles from the BSA.

Federal Designations (Fed): (FESA, USFWS) **E:** Federally listed, endangered **T:** Federally listed, threatened **C:** Candidate **CT:** Federal candidate, threatened **PT:** Federally proposed, threatened **DL**: Delisted	**State Designations (CA):** (CESA, CDFW) **E:** State-listed, endangered **T:** State-listed, threatened **CT:** State-candidate, threatened **R:** State-designated, rare
Other Designations CDFW_SSC: CDFW Species of Special Concern CDFW_FP: CDFW Fully Protected **California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Designations:** ***Note: according to CNPS (Skinner and Pavlik 1994), plants on Lists 1B and 2 meet definitions for listing as threatened or endangered under Section 1901, Chapter 10 of the California Fish and Game Code. This interpretation is inconsistent with other definitions.*** **1A:** Plants presumed extinct in California. **1B:** Plants rare and endangered in California and throughout their range. **2:** Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere in their range. **3:** Plants about which need more information; a review list. **Plants 1B, 2, and 3 extension meanings:** **_.1** Seriously endangered in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat) **_.2** Fairly endangered in California (20-80% occurrences threatened) **_.3** Not very endangered in California (<20% of occurrences threatened or no current threats known)	
Habitat Potential Absent [A] - No habitat present and no further work needed. Habitat Present [HP] - Habitat is, or may be present. The species may be present. Critical Habitat [CH] – Project is within designated Critical Habitat.	
Potential for Occurrence Criteria: **Present**: Species was observed on site during a site visit or focused survey. **High**: Habitat (including soils and elevation factors) for the species occurs on site and a known occurrence has been recorded within 5 miles of the site. **Low-Moderate**: Either low quality habitat (including soils and elevation factors) for the species occurs on site and a known occurrence exists within 5 miles of the site; or suitable habitat strongly associated with the species occurs on site, but no records were found within the database search. **Presumed Absent**: Focused surveys were conducted and the species was not found, or species was found within the database search but habitat (including soils and elevation factors) do not exist on site, or the known geographic range of the species does not include the survey area.	
Sources: Bennet 2005, CDFG 2010, CDFG 2010b, CDFW 2016, CNDDB 2016, CNPS 2016, Hickman 1996, IUCN 2016, [NMFS 2005, 2009, 2012], Placer County, 2014, Popper et al. 2006, Sullivan 1996, [USFWS 1995, 2007, 2014, 2015], Wang 2010, Zeiner 1988-1990	

APPENDIX E – DISTRIBUTION LIST

21995 Lincoln Highway LLC
In Care Of Cliff Busby
P.O. Box 979
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Adele V Larson:
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14227 Mandolin Way
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Alexander J Medveczky
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Andrei Gorbatenko
266 30th Ave
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Ayame O Flint
2646 Vallejo St
San Francisco, Ca 94123

Bens Truck & Equipment Inc
P.O. Box 732
Red Bluff, Ca 96080

Boreal Ridge Corp In Care Of Marvin F Poer & Company
18818 Teller Ave #277
Irvine Ca., 92612

Daniel H Anderson
P.O. Box 1321
Susanville, Ca 96130

Hans R & Marian Z Baldauf
165 Edgewood Ave
San Francisco, Ca 94117

Herbert J & Anne M Busboom
16148 Fairway Glen Pl
Grass Valley, Ca 95949

James R Ullom
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Jeffrey J & Ursula Heffernon
1115 Silverado Dr
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John A & Linda Myers
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John M & Melinda Munoz
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In Care Of Scarpello & Alling Ltd
600 E. William #300
Carson City, Nv 89701

Lee Slaughter
P.O. Box 267
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Marin Ski Club Inc A Corp
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Mark & Rena Lantz
11521 Mother Lode Cir
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Norman L Sayler
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Oblates Of St Joseph A Corp: In Care Of Fr. Johh Warburton Osj
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Ryan Amborn
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Atascadero, Ca 93422

Sean Lenihan
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Albany, Ca 94706

Shatterhand Holding Co Llc
P.O. Box 29177
San Francisco, Ca 94129

Southern Pacific Trans Co: In Care Of Union Pacific Railroad Company
1400 Douglas St #1640
Omaha, Ne 68179

Thomas Hallendorf
5500 Spanish Dry Diggins Rd
Georgetown, Ca 95634

Thomas R Jacobson
15053 Arrowhead Ln
Grass Valley, Ca 95945

Thomas S & Elaine C Mcmahon
1085 Royal Acres Ct
San Jose, Ca 95136

Truckee Donner Land Trust
P.O. Box 8816
Truckee, Ca 96162

Twyla L Royer
7721 Oakwood Ln
Citrus Heights, Ca 95621

Venkat S G & Blanca I Maktal
175 W. Saint James St #606
San Jose, Ca 95110

Wiese Investments Inc
5120 Manzanita Ave #120
Carmichael, Ca 95608

William J & Nancy C Oudegeest
P.O. Box 728
Soda Springs, Ca 95728

William T & Ella M Douglas
2218 Rainbow Ave
Sacramento, Ca 95821

Yuba River Holdings Llc
244 Mullen Ave
San Francisco, Ca 94110

Kevin Johnston
2288 Buena Vista Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550

APPENDIX F – MITIGATION AND MONITORING REPORTING PROGRAM

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM FOR THE SODA SPRINGS BRIDGE OVER SOUTH YUBA RIVER REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Mitigation Measure	Reporting Milestone	Reporting / Responsible Party	VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE	
			Initials	Date
AIR QUALITY **AQ-1:** Alternatives to open burning of vegetative material will be used unless otherwise deemed infeasible by the District. Among suitable alternatives are chipping, mulching, or conversion to biomass fuel.	During construction	County and Contractor		
AQ-2: A traffic detour shall be provided during all phases of the construction to maintain access.	During construction	County and Contractor		
AQ-3: The applicant shall be responsible for ensuring that all adequate dust control measures are implemented in a timely manner during all phases of project development and construction.	Prior to and During construction	County and Contractor		
AQ-4: All material excavated, stockpiled, or graded shall be sufficiently watered, treated, or covered to prevent fugitive dust from leaving the property boundaries and causing a public nuisance or a violation of an ambient air standard. Watering should occur at least twice daily, with complete site coverage	During construction	Contractor		
AQ-5: All areas with vehicle traffic shall be watered or have dust palliative applied as necessary for regular stabilization of dust emissions.	During construction	Contractor		
AQ-6: All on-site vehicle traffic shall be limited to a speed of 15 mph on unpaved roads.	During construction	Contractor		
AQ-7: All land clearing, grading, earth moving, or excavation activities on a project shall be suspended as necessary to prevent excessive windblown dust when winds are expected to exceed 20 mph.	During construction	Contractor		

Mitigation Measure	Reporting Milestone	Reporting / Responsible Party	VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE	
			Initials	Date
AQ-8: All inactive portions of the development site shall be covered, seeded, or watered until a suitable cover is established. Alternatively, the applicant may apply County-approved nontoxic soil stabilizers (according to manufacturer's specifications) to all inactive construction areas (previously graded areas which remain inactive for 96 hours) in accordance with the local grading ordinance.	During construction	County and Contractor		
AQ-9: All material transported off-site shall be either sufficiently watered or securely covered to prevent public nuisance, and there must be a minimum of six (6) inches of freeboard in the bed of the transport vehicle.	During Construction	Contractor		
AQ-10: Paved streets adjacent to the project shall be swept or washed at the end of each day, or more frequently if necessary, to remove excessive or visibly raised accumulations of dirt and/or mud which may have resulted from activities at the project site.	During Construction	Contractor		
AQ-11: Prior to final occupancy, the applicant shall re-establish ground cover on the site through seeding and watering in accordance with the local grading ordinance.	During Construction	Contractor		
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES **BIO-1:** Prior to the start of construction activities, the project limits in proximity to jurisdictional waters (South Yuba River) will be marked with high visibility ESA fencing or staking to ensure construction will not further encroach into waters. The project biologist throughout construction will periodically inspect the ESA to ensure sensitive locations remain undisturbed.	Prior to Construction	County and Contractor		
BIO-2: Contract specifications will include the following BMPs, where applicable, to reduce erosion during construction: • Implementation of the project will require approval of a site-specific Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) or Water Polution Control Program (WPCP) that would implement effective measures to protect water quality, which may include a hazardous spill prevention plan and additional erosion prevention techniques; • Existing vegetation will be protected in place where feasible to provide an	Prior to and During Construction	County and Contractor		

Mitigation Measure	Reporting Milestone	Reporting / Responsible Party	VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE	
			Initials	Date
effective form of erosion and sediment control; and • Stabilizing materials will be applied to disturbed soil surfaces to prevent the movement of dust from exposed soil surfaces on construction sites resulting from wind, traffic, and grading activities. • Soil exposure must be minimized through the use of temporary BMPs, groundcover, and stabilization measures; • The contractor must conduct periodic maintenance of erosion- and sediment-control measures.				
BIO-3: To conform to water quality requirements, the SWPPP or WPCP will include the following: • Vehicle maintenance, staging and storing equipment, materials, fuels, lubricants, solvents, and other possible contaminants will be a minimum of 100 feet from surface waters. Any necessary equipment washing will occur where the water cannot flow into surface waters. The project specifications will require the contractor to operate under an approved spill prevention and clean-up plan; • Construction equipment will not be operated in flowing water; • Construction work will be conducted according to site-specific construction plans that minimize the potential for sediment input to surface waters; • Raw cement, concrete or concrete washings, asphalt, paint or other coating material, oil or other petroleum products, or any other substances that could be hazardous to aquatic life will be prevented from contaminating the	Prior to and During Construction	County and Contractor		

Mitigation Measure	Reporting Milestone	Reporting / Responsible Party	VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE	
			Initials	Date
soil or entering surface waters; • Equipment used in and around surface waters will be in good working order and free of dripping or leaking contaminants; and, • Any surplus concrete rubble, asphalt, or other debris from construction will be taken to an appropriate disposal site.				
BIO-4: All riparian areas and streambanks temporarily disturbed during project construction will be restored onsite to pre-project conditions or better prior to project completion. Where possible, vegetation will be trimmed rather than fully removed with the guidance of the project biologist. When feasible riparian vegetation will be cut above soil level.	Prior, During, and Post Construction	County And Contractor		
BIO-5: Prior to arrival at the project site and prior to leaving the project site, construction equipment that may contain invasive plants and/or seeds must be cleaned to reduce the spreading of noxious weeds.	Prior to and During Construction	Contractor		
BIO-6: Should landscaping be installed within the project area, the project must not incorporate Cal-IPC invasive species. Any landscape treatments should incorporate native plant materials to the maximum extent feasible.	Prior to Construction	County and Contractor		
BIO-7: Construction activities will be limited to daylight hours during the SNYLF active period (approximately April-November).	During Construction	Contractor		
BIO-8: Prior to initial ground disturbance activities, environmental awareness training will be given to all construction personnel by the project biologist to brief them on how to recognize SNYLF, and other sensitive species with potential to occur within the project area. Construction personnel will also be informed that if a SNYLF is encountered in the work area, construction will cease in work	Prior to Construction	County		

	Mitigation Measure	Reporting Milestone	Reporting / Responsible Party	VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE	
				Initials	Date
	area and the USFWS will be called for guidance before any construction activities are resumed. Personnel will sign a form stating they attended environmental awareness training.				
BIO-9:	No more than 20 working days prior to any ground disturbance, preconstruction SNYLF surveys will be conducted by a USFWS-approved biologist.	Prior to Construction	County		
BIO-10:	Water diversion pumps will utilize screening devices with low entry velocity to minimize removal of aquatic species, including juvenile fish, amphibian egg masses and tadpoles, from aquatic habitats.	During Construction	Contractor		
BIO-11:	If SNYLF are found at any time during project work, construction will stop in the vicinity and USFWS will be contacted immediately for further guidance.	During Construction	County and Contractor		
BIO-12:	Plastic mono-filament netting (erosion control matting) or similar material containing netting must not be used at the project. Acceptable substitutes include coconut coir matting or tackified hydroseeding compounds.	During Construction	Contractor		
BIO-13:	Vegetation must be removed in the fall before onset of snow or early spring immediately after the snow melts (approximately September 16nd – April 14th). Vegetation removal will be coordinated with the project biologist and the current seasonal conditions.	Prior to and During Construction	County and Contractor		
BIO-14:	If work will occur during the nesting season (April 15th – September 15th), a pre-construction nesting migratory bird survey and a pre-construction nesting raptor survey must be conducted by the project biologist within the project	Prior to and During Construction	County and		

Mitigation Measure		Reporting Milestone	Reporting / Responsible Party	VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE	
				Initials	Date
	limits (plus an approximate 600 foot buffer for raptors). A minimum 100 foot no-disturbance buffer will be established around any active nest of migratory birds and a minimum 300 foot no-disturbance buffer will be established around any nesting raptor. The contractor must immediately stop work in the nesting area until the appropriate buffer is established and is prohibited from conducting work that could disturb the birds (as determined by the project biologist and in coordination with wildlife agencies) in the buffer area until the project biologist determines the young have fledged. A reduced buffer can be established if determined appropriate by the project biologist and approved by CDFW. Should a nesting willow flycatcher or other sensitive bird species be identified within the project area, the project would pause work in the vicinity and coordinate with CDFW for further guidance.		Contractor		
BIO-15:	During the environmental phase of the project, a project biologist familiar with the willow flycatcher call will perform two additional surveys between June 1 and July 15th pursuant to the 2003 survey protocol "A Willow Flycatcher Survey Protocol for California". Should surveys identify willow flycatcher within the BSA, the project will conduct additional willow flycatcher coordination with CDFW.	Prior to Construction	County		
BIO-16:	Prior to construction all known nesting cavities within the project limits must be temporarily sealed with wire mesh to prevent the occupation of cavity nesting birds. Following construction, wire meshing would be removed. Within the nesting season (April 15th – September 15th) the project biologist must confirm each nest cavity is unoccupied within 7 days prior to sealing or removal (if activities require the removal of a utility pole or other structure with a cavity nest). Should relocation of utilities be necessary, the project biologist would coordinate with the appropriate utilities prior to relocation to ensure no cavity nesting birds would be affected.	Prior to and Post Construction	County and Contractor		
BIO-17:	If construction on the existing bridge is planned to occur during the swallow nesting season, measures will be taken to avoid impacts to migratory swallows. To protect migratory swallows, unoccupied nests must be removed from the existing bridge structure prior to the nesting season (April 15th – September 15th). During the nesting season, the bridge structure must be	Prior to and During Construction	County and Contractor		

Mitigation Measure	Reporting Milestone	Reporting / Responsible Party	VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE	
			Initials	Date
maintained through the active removal of partially constructed nests. Swallows can complete nest construction in approximately 3 days. After a nest is completed, it can no longer be removed until an approved biologist has determined that all birds have fledged and the nest is no longer being used.				
BIO-18: If any wildlife is encountered during the course of construction, said wildlife will be allowed to leave the construction area unharmed.	During Construction	Contractor		
BIO-19: A pre-construction clearance survey will be conducted by the project biologist to verify that no wildlife is located within the project area.	Prior to Construction	County		
BIO-20: The contractor must dispose of all food-related trash in closed containers, and must remove it from the project area each day during construction. Construction personnel must not feed or attract wildlife to the project area.	During Construction	Contractor		
CULTURAL RESOURCES **CR-1:** Prior to construction, environmental awareness training will be provided to all construction workers onsite regarding the possibility of encountering subsurface cultural resources. Native American groups have expressed concerns regarding the Native American resources in the immediate area. The Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe will be notified at least 2 weeks prior to construction to allow for the tribe to monitor, if they choose to do so. Continued consultation will continue throughout the course of the project.	Prior to Construction	County and Contractor		
CR-2: If previously unidentified cultural materials are unearthed during construction, work shall be halted within 200 feet of the affected area until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find and develop a plan for documentation and removal of resources, if necessary. Additional archaeological survey will be needed if project limits are extended beyond the present survey limits.	Prior to and During Construction	County and Contractor		
CR-3: Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code protect Native American burials, skeletal remains and grave goods, regardless of age and provide method and means for the appropriate handling of such remains. If human remains are encountered, work should halt in that vicinity and the county coroner should be	During Construction	County and Contractor		

Mitigation Measure	Reporting Milestone	Reporting / Responsible Party	VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE	
			Initials	Date
notified immediately. At the same time, an archaeologist should be contacted to evaluate the situation. If the human remains are of Native American origin, the coroner must notify the Native American Heritage Commission within twenty-four hours of such identification. CEQA details steps to be taken if human burials are of Native American origin.				
HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS WASTE **HAZ-1:** The contractor shall prepare spill and leak prevention procedures prior to the commencement of construction activities. The procedures shall include information on the nature of all hazardous materials that shall be used on-site. The procedures shall also include information regarding proper handling of hazardous materials, and clean-up procedures in the event of an accidental release. The phone number of the agency overseeing hazardous materials and toxic clean-up shall be provided.	Prior to During Construction	Contractor		
HAZ-2: The contractor(s) will prepare and implement an Asbestos Dust Management Plan (ADMP) that describes measures that will be taken to mitigate the potential airborne suspension of NOA-containing dust from the soil/rock as a result of construction excavation activities. Asbestos dust control to be implemented shall be in compliance with the following: • CCR § 93105 (Asbestos Airborne Toxic Control measure for Construction, Grading, Quarrying, and Surface Mining Operations (ATCM 930105); • CCR § 93106 ((Asbestos Airborne Toxic control measure for Surfacing Applications (ATCM 93106)); • Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District guidelines;	Prior to During Construction	Contractor		
HAZ-3: According to Title 17 CCR, § 93106(i)(20), the soil/rock material within the southwestern roadway shoulder of the site is considered Restricted Material because the soil/rock material there contains asbestos at 0.25% or greater. Therefore, it cannot be used under the definition of surfacing (Title 17 CCR, § 93106(i)(26)). As required by the Title 17 CCR, § 93105(e)(4)(G), disturbed asbestos-containing material (0.25% asbestos or greater) must be stabilized via options that include paving or covering with at least 3 inches of non-asbestos-containing material (less than 0.25% asbestos).	During Construction	County and Contractor		

	Mitigation Measure	Reporting Milestone	Reporting / Responsible Party	VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE	
				Initials	Date
	Any part, other than a permitted landfill, receiving NOA-containing soil must be provided the following warning statement: **"WARNING!** **This material may contain asbestos.** **It is unlawful to use this material for surfacing or any application in which it would remain exposed and subject to possible disturbance.** **Extreme care should be taken when handling this material to minimize the generation of dust."**				
HAZ-4:	As is the case for any project that proposes excavation, the potential exists for unknown hazardous contamination to be revealed during project construction. For any previously unknown hazardous waste/ material encountered during construction, the procedures outlined in the Caltrans Unknown Hazard Procedures (as seen Table 7-1.1 of the Caltrans Construction Manual) shall be followed.	During Construction	Contractor		

Mitigation Measure	Reporting Milestone	Reporting / Responsible Party	VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE	
			Initials	Date
HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY **WQ-1:** BMPs will be incorporated into project design and project management to minimize impacts on the environment including the release of pollutants (oils, fuels, etc.): • The area of construction and disturbance would be limited to as small an area as feasible to reduce erosion and sedimentation. • Measures would be implemented during land-disturbing activities to reduce erosion and sedimentation. These measures may include mulches, soil binders and erosion control blankets, silt fencing, fiber rolls, temporary berms, sediment desilting basins, sediment traps, and check dams. • Existing vegetation would be protected where feasible to reduce erosion and sedimentation. Vegetation would be preserved by installing temporary fencing, or other protection devices, around areas to be protected. • Exposed soils would be covered by loose bulk materials or other materials to reduce erosion and runoff during rainfall events. • Exposed soils would be stabilized, through watering or other measures, to prevent the movement of dust at the project site caused by wind and construction activities such as traffic and grading activities. • All construction roadway areas would be properly protected to prevent excess erosion, sedimentation, and water pollution. • All vehicle and equipment maintenance procedures would be conducted off-site. In the event of an emergency, maintenance would occur away from the South Yuba River. • All concrete curing activities would be conducted to minimize spray drift and	During Construction	Contractor		

Mitigation Measure	Reporting Milestone	Reporting / Responsible Party	VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE	
			Initials	Date
prevent curing compounds from entering the waterway directly or indirectly. • All construction materials, vehicles, stockpiles, and staging areas would be situated outside of the stream channel as feasible. All stockpiles would be covered, as feasible. • • Energy dissipaters and erosion control pads would be provided at the bottom of slope drains. Other flow conveyance control mechanisms may include earth dikes, swales, or ditches. Stream bank stabilization measures would also be implemented. • • All erosion control measures and storm water control measures would be properly maintained until the site has returned to a pre-construction state. • All disturbed areas within the channel and associated banks would be restored to pre-construction contours and revegetated, either through hydroseeding or other means, with native or approved non-invasive exotic species. • All construction materials would be hauled off-site after completion of construction.				
WQ-2: Any requirements for additional avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures will be in contained in the permits obtained from all required regulatory agencies. The South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) will be notified of any water quality monitoring efforts required within the permits obtained for the project.	Prior to Construction	County		
WQ-3: The project limits in proximity to the South Yuba River will be marked as an Environmental Sensitive Area (ESA) or either be staked or fenced with high visibility material to ensure construction activities will not encroach further beyond established limits.	Prior to Construction	County and		

Mitigation Measure	Reporting Milestone	Reporting / Responsible Party	VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE	
			Initials	Date
		Contractor		
WQ-4: The proposed project would require a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Construction Permit for Discharges of storm water associated with construction activities (Construction General Permit 2012-0006-DWQ). As part of the Permit requirement, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) or Water Pollution Control Program (WPCP) would also be developed and implemented. The SWPPP or WPCP will incorporate all applicable BMPs to ensure that adequate measures are taken during construction to minimize impacts to water quality.	Prior to and During Construction	County and Contractor		
WQ-5: Post-construction storm water control requirements will be addressed in accordance with Caltrans' MS4 permit for areas within Caltrans right-of-way. Permanent treatment control BMPs will be evaluated based on effectiveness and feasibility and incorporated into the final design as applicable.	Prior to and During Construction	County and Contractor		
NOISE **NOI-1:** Project construction activities will be limited to 7:00 am – 7:00 pm Monday to Friday, and 8:00 am – 6:00 pm Saturday and Sunday.	During Construction	Contractor		

APPENDIX G – RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

This appendix contains the comments received during the public circulation and comment period from July 17, 2017, to August 17, 2017. A response follows each comment presented.

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Comment A: Bill Oudegeest, received via email (June 18, 2017)

From: Bill Oudegeest [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, June 18, 2017 12:50 PM
To: Joshua Pack <redacted>
Subject: Soda Springs Bridge

Mr. Pack,

Thank you for sending our the IS/MND notices for the bridge at Soda Springs ski area.

I applaud the specifics listed on the website.

I do have a question the answer to which I did not find in the report:

what provisions will there be in the design to better accommodate the flow of the Yuba River? Will the bridge be longer or higher? That spot has flooded a number of times in the 38 years I've lived here and although removing the central pier is good, it won't be enough when we get another flood situation. Even if the TDLT gets permission to notch the dam that will not affect the amount of water coming through there and which will flood.

Thank you for your time.

Bill Oudegeest

Response A1: Thank you for your comments. The design is anticipated to replace the existing bridge with a bridge that would free-span the river channel, therefore removing the existing piers in the water. This would improve the flows and prevent any flooding of the river during either the 50-year of 100-year storm events. Hydraulic analysis was conducted for conditions with both the existing Van Norden dam and with removal of the Van Norden dam, which concluded that the proposed bridge replacement would accommodate up to 100-year storm events and minimize the risk of flood.

Comment B: Native American Heritage Commission, Frank Lienert, received via mail (July 6, 2017)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION
Environmental and Cultural Department
1550 Harbor Blvd., Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95691
Phone (916) 373-3710
Fax (916) 373-5471

Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor

July 6, 2017

Joshua Pack
Nevada County Public Works
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959

Sent via e-mail: Joshua.pack@co.nevada.ca.us

Re: SCH# 2017062043, Soda Springs Road over South Yuba River Replacement Project, Community of Soda Springs; Nevada County, California

Dear Mr. Pack:

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) has reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the project referenced above. The review included the Project Description, the Mitigation Measures, section 5, Cultural Resources, and the Initial Study Environmental Checklist, section 5, Cultural Resources prepared by Dokken Engineering for Nevada County Public Works. We have the following concerns:

1. There is no Tribal Cultural Resources section or subsection in the Executive Summary or Environmental Checklist as per California Natural Resources Agency (2016) "Final Text for tribal cultural resources update to Appendix G: Environmental Checklist Form," http://resources.ca.gov/ceqa/docs/ab52/Clean-final-AB-52-App-G-text-Submitted.pdf

2. There is no documentation of **government-to-government consultation by the lead agency** under AB-52 with Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated to the project area as required by statute, or that mitigation measures were developed in consultation with the tribes. Discussions under AB-52 may include the type of document prepared; avoidance, minimization of damage to resources; and proposed mitigation. *Contact by consultants is not formal consultation.*

3. There are no mitigation measures specifically addressing Tribal Cultural Resources separately. Mitigation measures must take Tribal Cultural Resources into consideration as required under AB-52, **with or without consultation** occurring. Mitigation language for archaeological resources is not always appropriate for or similar to measures specifically for handling Tribal Cultural Resources.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)[1], specifically Public Resources Code section 21084.1, states that a project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment.[2] If there is substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before a lead agency, that a project may have a significant effect on the environment, an environmental impact report (EIR) shall be prepared.[3] In order to determine whether a project will cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, a lead agency will need to determine whether there are historical resources with the area of project effect (APE).

CEQA was amended in 2014 by Assembly Bill 52. (AB 52).[4] **AB 52 applies to any project for which a notice of preparation or a notice of negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration is filed on or after July 1, 2015.** AB 52 created a separate category for "tribal cultural resources"[5], that now includes "a project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment.[6] Public agencies shall, when feasible, avoid damaging effects to any tribal cultural resource.[7] Your project may also be subject to **Senate Bill 18 (SB 18)** (Burton, Chapter 905, Statutes of 2004), Government Code 65352.3, if it also involves the adoption of or amendment to a general plan or a specific plan, or the designation or proposed designation of open space. **Both SB 18 and AB 52 have tribal consultation requirements**. Additionally, if your project is also subject to the federal National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.) (NEPA), the tribal consultation requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966[8] may also apply.

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[1] Pub. Resources Code § 21000 et seq.
[2] Pub. Resources Code § 21084.1; Cal. Code Regs., tit.14, § 15064.5 (b); CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 (b)
[3] Pub. Resources Code § 21080 (d); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15064 subd.(a)(1); CEQA Guidelines § 15064 (a)(1)
[4] Government Code 65352.3
[5] Pub. Resources Code § 21074
[6] Pub. Resources Code § 21084.2
[7] Pub. Resources Code § 21084.3 (a)
[8] 154 U.S.C. 300101, 36 C.F.R. § 800 et seq.

Consult your legal counsel about compliance with AB 52 and SB 18 as well as compliance with any other applicable laws.

Agencies should be aware that AB 52 does not preclude agencies from initiating tribal consultation with tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with their jurisdictions before the timeframes provided in AB 52. For that reason, we urge you to continue to request Native American Tribal Consultation Lists and Sacred Lands File searches from the NAHC. The request forms can be found online at: http://nahc.ca.gov/resources/forms/. Additional information regarding AB 52 can be found online at http://nahc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/AB52TribalConsultation_CalEPAPDF.pdf, entitled "Tribal Consultation Under AB 52: Requirements and Best Practices".

The NAHC recommends lead agencies consult with all California Native American tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of your proposed project as early as possible in order to avoid inadvertent discoveries of Native American human remains and best protect tribal cultural resources.

A brief summary of portions of AB 52 and SB 18 as well as the NAHC's recommendations for conducting cultural resources assessments is also attached.

Please contact me at gayle.totton@nahc.ca.gov or call (916) 373-3710 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Gayle Totton, B.S., M.A., Ph.D
Associate Governmental Project Analyst

Attachment

cc: State Clearinghouse

Response B1: Thank you for your comments. For all discussion relating to consultation with Native American tribes under Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) relating to Tribal Cultural Resources, please see Section 17, Tribal Cultural Resources, of this document.

Comment C: CVRWQCB, Stephanie Tadlock, received via mail (July 11, 2017)

CALIFORNIA Water Boards

RECEIVED
JUL 14 2017
PUBLIC WORKS

Edmund G. Brown Jr. Governor
Matthew Rodriquez Secretary for Environmental Protection

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

11 July 2017

Joshua Pack
Nevada County Public Works
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959

CERTIFIED MAIL
91 7199 9991 7035 8361 5486

COMMENTS TO REQUEST FOR REVIEW FOR THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION, SODA SPRINGS ROAD OVER SOUTH YUBA RIVER REPLACEMENT PROJECT, SCH# 2017062043, NEVADA COUNTY

Pursuant to the State Clearinghouse's 16 June 2017 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 Soda Springs Road over South Yuba River Replacement Project, located in Nevada 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 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/.

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 Policy is available on page IV-15.01 at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalleywater_issues/basin_plans/sacsjr.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.

Phase I and II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permits[1]
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/.

For more information on the Caltrans Phase I MS4 Permit, visit the State Water Resources Control Board at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/caltrans.shtml.

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

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.

[1] 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.

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 (USACOE). If a Section 404 permit is required by the USACOE, 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 USACOE at (916) 557-5250.

Clean Water Act Section 401 Permit – Water Quality Certification

If an USACOE 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 (i.e., discharge of dredge or fill material) 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.

Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs)

Discharges to Waters of the State

If USACOE 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.

Land Disposal of Dredge Material

If the project will involve dredging, Water Quality Certification for the dredging activity and Waste Discharge Requirements for the land disposal may be needed.

Local Agency Oversite

Pursuant to the State Water Board's Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Policy (OWTS Policy), the regulation of septic tank and leach field systems may be regulated under the local agency's management program in lieu of WDRs. A county environmental health department may permit septic tank and leach field systems designed for less than 10,000 gpd. For more information on septic system regulations, visit the Central Valley Water Board's website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/owts/sb_owts_policy.pdf

For more information on the Water Quality Certification and WDR processes, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/help/business_help/permit2.shtml.

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

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

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: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/app_approval/index.shtml; or contact water board staff at (916) 464-4611 or via email at 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 10-100 acres are currently $1,084 + $6.70/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.

Low or 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 covered under the General Order for *Dewatering and Other Low Threat Discharges to Surface Waters* (Low Threat General Order) or the General Order for *Limited Threat Discharges of Treated/Untreated Groundwater from Cleanup Sites, Wastewater from Superchlorination Projects, and Other Limited Threat Wastewaters to Surface Water* (Limited Threat General Order). A complete application must be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board to obtain coverage under these General NPDES permits.

For more information regarding the Low Threat General Order and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2013-0074.pdf

For more information regarding the Limited Threat General Order and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2013-0073.pdf

NPDES Permit

If the proposed project discharges waste that could affect the quality of the 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:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/help/business_help/permit3.shtml

If you have questions regarding these comments, please contact me at (916) 464-4644 or Stephanie.Tadlock@waterboards.ca.gov.

Stephanie Tadlock

Stephanie Tadlock
Environmental Scientist

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

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Response C: Thank you for your comments. They have been included within the Final Environmental Document.

The CVRWQCB letter is a standard comment letter listing state permits and regulations that potentially apply to the project. A NPDES Permit and 1602 Certification will be obtained for this project.

Comment D: South Yuba River Citizens League, Rachel Hutchinson, received via mail (July 17, 2017)

July 17, 2017

Joshua Pack
Principal Civil Engineer
Nevada County Public Works
950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Mr. Pack,

The South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) is writing in response to the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed Soda Springs Bridge over South Yuba River Replacement Project (Bridge Number 17C-0010).

The project location is of importance to SYRCL and the Yuba watershed as it is in the headwaters of the South Yuba River and the subwatershed sustains multiple impacts to the river system from Interstate 80, Van Norden Dam, the incised channels through Van Norden Meadow, a series of ski resorts, and diversions associated with the railroad and road systems. SYRCL has been monitoring water quality near the proposed project site monthly from March through November since 2001 (http://yubashed.org/viewdata/sites/39) as part of its citizen science based River Monitoring Program.

SYRCL appreciates the work of the county to upgrade this bridge as we are aware that its current configuration has led to issues related to snow and ice accumulation during heavy snow years that may increase localized erosion within the South Yuba River. In addition, this project appears to put in place multiple BMP's that would protect the water quality, air quality, cultural resources, wildlife, and vegetation within the riparian corridor. Once the NPDES and SWPPP are obtained, we would like to be notified of any water quality monitoring efforts that are required to monitor potential sediment inputs to the South Yuba River.

Sincerely,

Rachel Hutchinson
River Science Director
rachel@syrcl.org
530-265-5961 x 205

Response D: Thank you for your comments. They have been included within the Final Environmental Document.

Measure WQ-2 has been updated to notify the SYRCL of any water quality monitoring efforts required within the permits obtained for the project.

Comment E: State Clearinghouse, received via mail (July 18, 2017)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE *of* PLANNING AND RESEARCH
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AND PLANNING UNIT

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

KEN ALEX
DIRECTOR

July 18, 2017

RECEIVED
JUL 20
PUBLIC WORKS

Joshua Pack
Nevada County
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959

Subject: Soda Springs Road Over South Yuba River Replacement Project
SCH#: 2017062043

Dear Joshua Pack:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named Mitigated Negative Declaration to selected state agencies for review. On the enclosed Document Details Report please note that the Clearinghouse has listed the state agencies that reviewed your document. The review period closed on July 17, 2017, and the comments from the responding agency (ies) is (are) enclosed. If this comment package is not in order, please notify the State Clearinghouse immediately. Please refer to the project's ten-digit State Clearinghouse number in future correspondence so that we may respond promptly.

Please note that Section 21104(c) of the California Public Resources Code states that:

> "A responsible or other public agency shall only make substantive comments regarding those activities involved in a project which are within an area of expertise of the agency or which are required to be carried out or approved by the agency. Those comments shall be supported by specific documentation."

These comments are forwarded for use in preparing your final environmental document. Should you need more information or clarification of the enclosed comments, we recommend that you contact the commenting agency directly.

This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. Please contact the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Scott Morgan
Director, State Clearinghouse

Enclosures
cc: Resources Agency

1400 10th Street P.O. Box 3044 Sacramento, California 95812-3044
(916) 445-0613 FAX (916) 323-3018 www.opr.ca.gov

Document Details Report
State Clearinghouse Data Base

SCH# 2017062043
Project Title Soda Springs Road Over South Yuba River Replacement Project
Lead Agency Nevada County

Type MND Mitigated Negative Declaration

Description The proposed bridge would replace the existing structure with a single-span, approx 44-ft long by 40-ft wide, cast-in-place reinforced concrete slab bridge. The bridge would accommodate two 12-ft lanes, two 3-ft shoulders, a 6-ft sidewalk, and bridge railings at each edge of deck. The bridge would be supported by two spread footing abutments.

Lead Agency Contact

Name Joshua Pack
Agency Nevada County
Phone (530) 265-7059 **Fax**
email
Address 950 Maidu Avenue
City Nevada City **State** CA **Zip** 95959

Project Location

County Nevada
City
Region
Lat / Long 39° 19' 17.2" N / 121° 22' 43.5" W
Cross Streets Approx 750 ft south of Donner Pass Rd and Soda Springs Rd intersection
Parcel No. 47-440-20-000
Township 17N **Range** 14E **Section** 23 **Base** MD

Proximity to:

Highways 80
Airports
Railways
Waterways South Yuba River
Schools
Land Use REC

Project Issues Aesthetic/Visual; Agricultural Land; Air Quality; Archaeologic-Historic; Biological Resources; Cumulative Effects; Drainage/Absorption; Flood Plain/Flooding; Forest Land/Fire Hazard; Geologic/Seismic; Growth Inducing; Landuse; Minerals; Noise; Population/Housing Balance; Public Services; Recreation/Parks; Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading; Solid Waste; Toxic/Hazardous; Traffic/Circulation; Vegetation; Water Quality; Wetland/Riparian

Reviewing Agencies Resources Agency; Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 2; Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Water Resources; California Highway Patrol; Caltrans, District 3 N; Regional Water Quality Control Bd., Region 5 (Sacramento); Air Resources Board, Transportation Projects; Native American Heritage Commission

Date Received 06/16/2017 **Start of Review** 06/16/2017 **End of Review** 07/17/2017

Note: Blanks in data fields result from insufficient information provided by lead agency.

Response E: The State Clearinghouse letter acknowledges that Nevada County has complied with review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. Two agencies (CVRWQCB and NAHC) provided comments on the document through the State Clearinghouse, which can be found above.