

Initial Study/  
Mitigated Negative Declaration

for the

Foothill Trunk Replacement Project

May 2015

*Prepared for:*

South Placer Municipal Utility District  
5807 Springview Drive  
Rocklin, CA 95677

*Prepared by:*

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# PROJECT INFORMATION

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1. **Project Title:** Foothill Trunk Replacement Project
2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:** South Placer Municipal Utility District  
5807 Springview Drive  
Rocklin, CA 95677
3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:** Herb Niederberger, General Manager  
(916) 786-8555
4. **Project Location:** The project area is located in a residential community in the city of Rocklin. It is in Section 20 of Township 11N, Range 7E on the *Rocklin* U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle.
5. **Description of Project:** SPMUD is proposing to replace its Foothill Trunk line, a 12-inch-diameter gravity sewer pipeline, with a new 24-inch-diameter pipeline. The new pipeline would be approximately 2,300 feet long and would be installed either in the same alignment as or parallel to the existing pipeline or along a new alignment at depths of 5–17 feet below the ground surface. The new trunk line would allow SPMUD to meet existing and planned wastewater demands for its service area in eastern Rocklin.
6. **General Plan Designation:** Single and multi-family residential
7. **Zoning:** Lands in the project area in the city of Rocklin are zoned as Single-Family Residential (R1-6, R1-10, PZ-R1-7.5), Planned Development (PD-4), and Use B, Apartments (R-3). Former Placer County lands were zoned as Single-Family Residential, with Agricultural Uses and a provision for non-conforming lot sizes (RS-AG-B-10); these lands are being annexed into the city.
8. **Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:** Residential with open space and a creek corridor.
9. **Other Public Agencies Whose Approval May Be Required:**
  - Army Corps of Engineers
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - National Marine Fisheries Service
  - Regional Water Quality Control Board
  - State Water Resources Control Board
  - State Historic Preservation Office
  - California Department of Fish and Wildlife
  - Placer County Air Pollution Control District
  - City of Rocklin



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# APPENDICES

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## Appendix A Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan



# 1. INTRODUCTION

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## 1.1. Purpose of this Document

The South Placer Municipal Utility District (SPMUD) is proposing to replace the Foothill Trunk line between El Don Drive and a perpendicular sewer line west of Aguilar Road in a residential community in the city of Rocklin, Placer County, California. The proposed pipeline would provide the same service as the existing trunk line, except that it would accommodate more flow by having a larger diameter (24 inches instead of 12 inches). The increase in flow capacity is designed to accommodate existing and planned development in the service area. The proposed project is referred to as the Foothill Trunk Replacement Project. This Initial Study identifies the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project to determine whether the project may have a significant effect on the environment and identifies mitigation measures, where applicable, to reduce or avoid significant effects.

This Initial Study has been prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines (14 California Code of Regulations 1500 et seq.). CEQA requires that all state and local government agencies consider the environmental consequences of projects over which they have discretionary authority before acting on those projects. SPMUD is a public agency with discretionary authority over the project and is the Lead Agency under CEQA.

## 1.2. Document Organization

The remainder of this document is organized into the following sections:

- **Section 2 Project Description** – Describes the proposed project;
- **Section 3 Initial Study Checklist** – Describes the environmental setting and analyzes impacts, with mitigation measures identified where appropriate;
- **Section 4 Determination** – Presents SPMUD’s findings pursuant to CEQA; and
- **Section 5 Report Preparation and References** – Identifies personnel responsible for preparation of this document and lists references cited throughout the document.

## 2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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### 2.1. Location

The project area is located in a residential community in the city of Rocklin, Placer County; a portion of the project area is in the county island that is being annexed into the city. It is in Section 20 of Township 11N, Range 7E on the *Rocklin* U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle (see Figure 1 at the end of this section). The existing Foothill Trunk sewer line extends from El Don Drive to another sewer line that parallels Secret Ravine about 2,300 feet west of El Don Drive and about 650 feet west of Aguilar Road. The proposed replacement sewer line would be either in the same alignment as or parallel to the existing sewer line or would be along a new alignment to minimize environmental concerns and encroachment onto residential properties. The project area encompasses a 20- to 60-foot-wide corridor along the new pipeline alignment, not necessarily centered on the alignment, and a 0.5-acre staging area and totals approximately 4 acres (refer to Figure 2 at the end of this section).

### 2.2. Environmental Setting

The project area is on the western side of the Sierra Nevada foothills north of Folsom Lake and west of the North Fork American River. Elevations in the project area range from approximately 250 to 280 feet above mean sea level. The average annual precipitation for the area is between 20 and 30 inches, most of which falls as rain with occasional snowfall between November and March (Western Regional Climate Center 2009). A tributary to Secret Ravine, known as the Aguilar Road Tributary or Aguilar Creek, flows generally east to west through the project area. Secret Ravine flows north to south just west of the project area. Dominant land uses in the vicinity are single-family residential homes and open space associated with the riparian corridors along the creeks. Sierra College is north of the project area along El Don Drive.

### 2.3. Project Description

SPMUD is proposing to replace an existing 12-inch-diameter gravity sewer trunk line with a 24-inch-diameter pipeline. The existing pipeline conveys wastewater from eastern Rocklin in the southeastern portion of the SPMUD service area to the city of Roseville wastewater treatment facility. It is approximately 40 years old and was installed in the early 1970s. The proposed pipeline would provide the same service as the existing trunk line, except that it would accommodate more flow by having a larger diameter (24 inches instead of 12 inches). The primary objectives of the proposed project are to replace a deteriorating pipeline with a new, larger capacity pipeline and improve flow capacity in the southeastern portion of the SPMUD service area to accommodate existing and planned development.

The new pipeline would be approximately 2,700 feet long and would be installed in the same alignment as or parallel to the existing pipeline and along a new alignment. About 800 feet of the new pipeline from El Don Drive to the existing sewer manhole (No. I10-047) would be constructed as a combination of replace-in-place and parallel alignments; parallel segments would be shifted about 2 feet north/west of the existing pipeline. From the sewer manhole (No. I10-047) to manhole (No. I10-045), approximately 600 feet of the new pipeline would be about 5 feet west of and parallel to the

existing pipeline. From the sewer manhole (No. I10-045), the new pipeline would follow a private road then extend along Arrowhead Drive and Aguilar Road to cross the creek along Aguilar Road. West of Aguilar Road, the new pipeline would follow the north side of the creek and connect with the existing perpendicular sewer line at Secret Ravine about 10 feet south of the existing pipeline. The existing pipeline would be removed where it is exposed during construction and would be capped and abandoned in place in other areas.

The pipeline would be installed at depths of 5–17 feet below the ground surface, depending on the extent and location of granite rock outcrops and bedrock. Where the pipeline is installed under roads, it would be below existing water or storm drain pipelines to meet State requirements for separation of sewer and potable water pipelines. The pipeline has been sized to provide a maximum design flow of 5.36 million gallons per day to serve the existing and planned development in the area. Where open-cut construction is used, the pipeline would be made of polyvinyl chloride or vitrified clay pipe material. For other construction methods, a different type of pipe would be used (e.g., welded steel for pipe ramming, fused polyvinyl chloride for horizontal directional drilling). Pipeline loads and pressure requirements would comply with American Water Works Association guidelines and specifications.

The new pipeline would have up to 15 new sewer manholes and two junction structures at the connection points with the existing adjacent pipelines. Existing sewer manholes would be abandoned in place or removed, as necessary. Existing sewer laterals that serve nearby properties would be reconnected to the new pipeline and into the new manholes. The new pipeline would cross several existing utilities, such as water, gas, overhead electric and telephone, and storm drains. A minimum of 1 foot of clearance would be maintained between the existing utilities and the new pipeline. After pipeline installation under existing paved roads, the roads would be re-paved and re-stripped to match current or better conditions.

## **2.4. Construction Methods**

### **Construction Schedule**

Construction is anticipated to take approximately 3 months (about 60 working days) and would start in spring 2016 once all environmental approvals have been obtained. Pipeline installation is expected to be completed at a rate of about 50 feet per day. Pipeline installation under and near the creek would be scheduled during dry periods, and an in-water diversion would be removed prior to the rainy season. Sewer service to properties served by the existing pipeline would not be disrupted during construction of the new pipeline.

### **Easements and Staging Areas**

SPMUD has a 10-foot-wide easement centered on the existing pipeline. Most of the pipeline would be installed in parallel or new alignments, and new or modified easements would be needed for some pipeline segments. The new permanent easement is expected to be 16 feet wide including the existing 10 feet sewer easement and approximately centered on the new pipeline. Temporary construction easements between 20 and 60 feet wide would also be needed to accommodate staging and construction-related work areas. Staging of equipment and materials for construction would be within the temporary and permanent easements along the proposed pipeline alignment and in designated areas near the pipeline. One 0.5-acre staging area is proposed to be located on the private property east of El Don Drive near the eastern end of the new pipeline. The contractor will coordinate with the property owner to obtain authorization for the staging area. SPMUD will coordinate with property owners to obtain the necessary permanent and temporary construction

easements and authorizations for construction. No activities would take place on adjacent private properties unless specifically authorized by the property owner.

## Construction Methods

The pipeline would be installed primarily using open cut construction. The typical trench width for open cut construction would be approximately 4 feet wide for the majority of the alignment and 6 to 8 feet wide for the deeper pipe segments (up to 17 feet deep). Manhole construction would require trenches of about 8 by 8 feet at each manhole. The trenches would be backfilled with native soil to match the existing contours and grade, and roads would be re-paved and slurry sealed in accordance with City of Rocklin Standards. Trench excavation for the pipeline is expected to result in approximately 2,500 cubic yards of cut material, which would be used to backfill the trench. Any excess material that is not used on site would be exported or removed from the site. Imported material would be hauled to the project area from approved sites in the county or nearby region. Haul trucks would use Aguilar Road, Corona Circle, or El Don Drive to transport the materials. The trench used for pipeline installation would be covered at the end of each workday for security purposes.

General construction steps for open cut construction are:

- remove vegetation and debris from the trench location;
- excavate the trench to an acceptable depth based on existing utilities, bedrock, or other obstructions;
- place bedding material (e.g., 0.5-inch crushed rock) in the trench in accordance with the pipe manufacturer recommendations;
- install pipe segments;
- place intermediate backfill (e.g., imported crushed rock, native fill, slurry fill) over and around pipe to match surrounding grade; and
- compact and grade the filled trench to match pre-disturbance contours.

Trenchless construction may be used to install the new pipeline beneath culverts under Aguilar Road. Options for trenchless construction include a combination of pipe ramming and down-the-hole drilling or small boring unit microtunneling. The first option uses a small diameter drill hole to conform the new pipe alignment and then uses a down-the-hole hammer to fragment through the bedrock for the new pipe. This method requires a minimum of 36-inch casing for a 24-inch carrier pipe, a jacking pit of 20 feet by 30 feet, and a receiving pit of 10 feet by 20 feet. The second option is used for up to 48-inch diameter pipes. It uses a rock cutter in front of the casing pipe that cuts through the bedrock and pushes in the new casing pipe. This method requires a minimum of 36-inch casing for a 24-inch carrier pipe, a jacking pit of 20 feet by 30 feet, and a receiving pit of 10 feet by 20 feet.

A segment of the pipeline would be installed beneath a ponded area of Aguilar Creek. A portion of the pond would be dewatered to allow pipeline installation. A temporary dam would be constructed in the pond to prevent water from entering the work area. This dam would be in place for 10 days and would be removed to return the pond to its pre-disturbance conditions. It may be constructed using sand bags. A pump and discharge dewatering system would be setup to keep the new pipe trench dry during the installation of the new pipeline.

A temporary 24-hour by-pass pumping system would be setup for the sections of the existing pipe that would be removed during the installation of the new sewer line to avoid disruptions to service. Once the new pipeline is installed, tested, and approved by SPMUD and the Engineer, the remaining existing sewer line and manholes would be abandoned in place.

General equipment expected to be used for pipeline installation includes dump trucks, a motor grader, a skip loader, a bull dozer, a backhoe, a rock saw, hydraulic hoe-rams, a striping machine, a paving machine, a pneumatic asphalt compactor, and delivery trucks for asphalt, concrete, and imported fill materials. Construction crews would consist of 5 to 10 workers during a typical workday, with multiple activities being conducted simultaneously where feasible.

Construction vehicles would access the project area from existing roads in the vicinity, likely using Interstate 80 as the main transportation route. Primary access points would be along Aguilar Road, El Don Drive, Corona Circle, and Arrowhead Drive. The parking lot at the apartment complex off Aguilar Road would also be used for access. All vehicles and equipment would stay on existing roads or in designated areas in the temporary construction and permanent easements. Temporary lane closures would be necessary along El Don Drive, Aguilar Road, and Arrowhead Drive during construction, and appropriate detours, signs, and flagging would be provided to alert travelers of the closures. Work along Arrowhead Drive and Aguilar Road is anticipated to last 10 working days, and road closures, with restricted access for residents, are expected until the pipeline is installed along those roads. Residents in and adjacent to the project area would be informed of the construction activities in advance, and residents would be allowed access to their properties at all times during construction.

## **Standard Construction Practices**

The construction contractor will be responsible for complying with all terms of the contract specifications, implementing measures during construction to avoid or minimize adverse effects on the environment, and adhering to conditions of any permits obtained for the project. Pipeline installation will comply with current SPMUD design and construction standards and local City of Rocklin ordinances. Standard construction measures include, but are not limited to:

- Identify locations of other existing underground pipelines or other utility lines in the proposed alignment and take necessary precautions to avoid damaging the lines or interfering with their service. Notify the utility owner of any encroachment on or disturbance to the line.
- Notify and coordinate with law enforcement and emergency service providers prior to the start of construction to ensure minimal disruption to service during construction.
- Follow all safety and health requirements set forth by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.
- Prepare and implement a fire safety plan to prevent fires from construction operations (such as welding).
- Obtain coverage under the State Stormwater Discharge permit, prepare a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, and comply with City of Rocklin grading requirements. The SWPPP will identify appropriate best management practices (BMPs) to implement during construction, which may include, but are not limited to:
  - Use waddles or straw along slopes to prevent runoff from carrying pollutants off-site;
  - Use gravel bags or gutter dams to prevent runoff from carrying pollutants into storm drains;

- Cover and contain dirt piles if erosion and sediment are a threat to any waterways;
  - Stabilize site access points with rock to avoid tracking materials off-site;
  - Use proper materials and waste storage, handling, and disposal practices;
  - Use proper vehicle and equipment cleaning, fueling, and maintenance practices;
  - Control and prevent discharge of all potential construction-related pollutants, such as slurry seal and asphalt oils;
  - Prepare a contingency plan in the event of unexpected rain or a control measure failure.
- Comply with Placer County Air Pollution Control District fugitive dust control requirements, including:
    - Unpaved areas subject to vehicle traffic must be stabilized by being kept wet, treated with a chemical dust suppressant, or covered.
    - The speed of any vehicles and equipment traveling across unpaved areas must be no more than 15 miles per hour unless the road surface and surrounding area is sufficiently stabilized to prevent vehicles and equipment traveling more than 15 miles per hour from emitting dust exceeding Ringelmann 2 or visible emissions that could cross the project boundary line.
    - Storage piles and disturbed areas not subject to vehicular traffic must be stabilized by being kept wet, treated with a chemical dust suppressant, or covered when material is not being added to or removed from the pile.
    - Prior to any ground disturbance, including grading, excavating, and land clearing, sufficient water must be applied to the area to be disturbed to prevent emitting dust exceeding Ringelmann 2 and to minimize visible emissions from crossing the boundary line.
    - Construction vehicles leaving the site must be cleaned to prevent dust, silt, mud, and dirt from being released or tracked off-site.
    - When wind speeds are high enough to result in dust emissions crossing the boundary line, despite the application of dust mitigation measures, grading and earthmoving operations shall be suspended.
    - No trucks are allowed to transport excavated material off-site unless the trucks are maintained such that no spillage can occur from holes or other openings in cargo compartments and loads are either covered with tarps or wetted and loaded such that the material does not touch the front, back, or sides of the cargo compartment at any point less than 6 inches from the top and that no point of the load extends above the top of the cargo compartment.

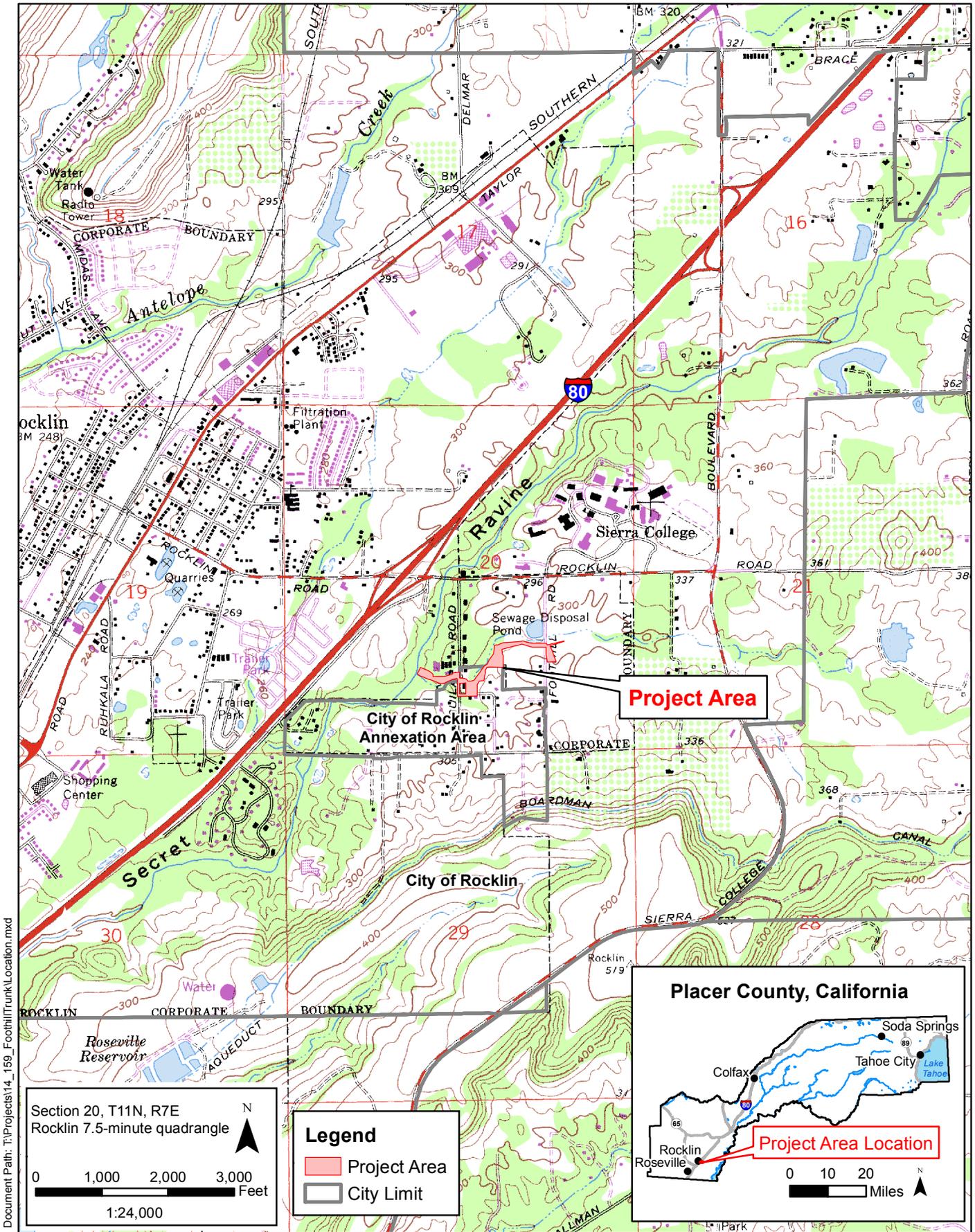
- A person shall take actions, such as surface stabilization, establishment of a vegetative cover, or paving, to minimize wind-driven dust from inactive disturbed surface areas.
- Use traffic cones, signs, lighted barricades, lights, and flagmen as described and specified in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, current edition, California Supplement, Part 6 Temporary Traffic Control to provide for public safety and convenience during construction.
- Provide detours during pipeline installation along roads to allow emergency vehicles access around the work area.
- Comply with City of Rocklin noise policy for construction activities by scheduling construction activities only between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday or 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.
- Maintain all construction equipment in good working order and use factory installed muffling devices to minimize noise generation.
- Cover, fence, and guard, as appropriate, open excavation and ditches across roadways in such a manner as to permit safe traffic flow along roads during hours when no work is being performed and to prevent accidents from people or animals falling into the trenches.
- Use temporary construction fencing around work areas, as appropriate, until completion of the pipeline.
- Use native material to backfill trenches after pipeline installation to the extent possible.
- Restore disturbed areas to pre-disturbance conditions or better.
- Do not store or use hazardous materials, such as for equipment maintenance, where they could affect nearby residences or where they might enter creeks or ditches.
- Immediately contain and clean up all spills of oil and other hazardous materials and properly dispose of the hazardous materials at approved disposal facilities.
- Comply with California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and California Public Resources Code Sections 5097.5, 5097.9 et seq., regarding the discovery and disturbance of cultural materials or human remains, should any be discovered during project construction.
- Halt construction in the vicinity of a potential cultural resources or human remains find and notify SPMUD to allow evaluation of the resource by a qualified archaeologist or the remains by the County coroner prior to resuming construction.
- Comply with project-specific geotechnical recommendations (CGI Technical Services, Inc. 2014) for excavation requirements and fill materials used in the trench.
- Comply with all requirements specified in the Contract Documents for the project; any deviations will be prohibited.

## 2.5. Anticipated Permit Approvals

Applicable federal, state, and local authorizations that may be needed prior to project implementation are identified in Table 1.

**Table 1. Anticipated Permit Approvals**

| Approving Agency  | Permit/Approval   | Required for   |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Federal Agencies</b>   |   |  |
| U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  | Nationwide permit (No. 12) pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act   | Discharge of fill material into waters of the U.S.   |
|   | Consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and State Historic Preservation Officer  | Lead federal agency with discretionary action; compliance with Endangered Species Act and National Historic Preservation Act |
| U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  | Letter of concurrence pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act   | Potential impacts to California red-legged frog and valley elderberry longhorn beetle  |
| National Marine Fisheries Service   | Letter of concurrence pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (if needed)   | Potential impacts to Central Valley steelhead  |
| <b>State Agencies</b>   |   |  |
| State Water Resources Control Board, Regional Water Quality Control Board | Coverage under the General Construction Activity Storm Water Permit (Section 402 of the Clean Water Act, 40 CFR Part 122)     | Storm water discharges associated with construction activity for greater than 1 acre of land disturbance                     |
|   | Water quality certification pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act  | Discharge of fill material into waters of the U.S.   |
|   | General Waste Discharge Requirements (if necessary)   | Dewatering and discharging into Aguilar Creek during trenching   |
| California Department of Fish and Wildlife                                | Streambed Alteration Agreement (Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code)   | Work in and along Aguilar Creek  |
| State Historic Preservation Office  | Letter of concurrence with federal agency finding of effect pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act | Presence of potential historic property in the project area; federal permit needed   |
| <b>Local Agencies</b>   |   |  |
| City of Rocklin   | Encroachment Permit   | Work within City roads   |
|   | Tree Permit   | Removal of native oak trees  |
| Placer County Air Pollution Control District                              | Fugitive Dust Control Requirements  | Rule 228, Fugitive Dust  |
| Private Landowners  | Easements (temporary and/or permanent)  | Construction activities and pipeline installation across private lands   |



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Figure 1. Vicinity Map



## 3. INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

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### 3.1. Initial Study Checklist

This section of the Initial Study incorporates the latest version of the Environmental Checklist contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, except that greenhouse gases are discussed under air quality. Each resource section provides a brief description of the setting, a determination of impact potential, and a discussion of the impacts. Mitigation measures are identified where appropriate for adoption by SPMUD and incorporation into the proposed project and contract documents to reduce potential impacts to less-than-significant levels. The following 16 environmental categories are addressed in this section:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forest Resources
- Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation/Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems

Each of the environmental categories was fully evaluated, and one of the following four determinations was made for each checklist question:

- **“No Impact”** means that no impact to the resource would occur as a result of implementing the project.
- **“Less than Significant Impact”** means that implementation of the project would not result in a substantial and/or adverse change to the resource, and no mitigation measures are required.
- **“Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation is Incorporated”** means that the incorporation of one or more mitigation measures is necessary to reduce the impact from potentially significant to less than significant.
- **“Potentially Significant Impact”** means that there is either substantial evidence that a project-related effect may be significant, or, due to a lack of existing information, could have the potential to be significant.

## 3.2. Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures

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

### Environmental Setting

The project area is in a rural residential area of the city of Rocklin and contains a mixture of open space and residential uses. The primary viewer groups near the project area are nearby residents or travelers along Aguilar Road and El Don Drive. Views of the project area from residences and roads can be somewhat limited in some locations due to intervening vegetation and structures associated with the residences (e.g., fences and walls). The nearby residences provide limited sources of nighttime lighting. No scenic vistas exist in or are visible from the project area, and no scenic highways or routes have been designated in the vicinity.

### Discussion of Impacts

- a, b) **No Impact.** The project would not permanently alter views of scenic vistas in the vicinity of the project area or damage any scenic resources within a state scenic highway.
- c) **Less than Significant Impact.** The proposed project would result in temporary physical changes to the visual character of the project area during construction activities, which would last about 3 months. The project would involve vegetation removal and open cut construction; however, these impacts on visual character would not be substantial. As described in the project description (Section 2.4), approximately 50 feet of pipeline would be constructed per day and the trench would be backfilled as construction progresses, resulting in a minor visual disturbance in any one location at one time. Pipeline installation behind homes west of El Don would be noticeable only to those residents, and the same would be true for work near the apartments west of Aguilar Road. Few people would be affected by the temporary visual changes to the project area during pipeline installation. Staging off El Don would be visible only to motorists along the road. Disturbed areas would be restored to pre-disturbance conditions or better once construction is completed. The pipeline would be underground and would not alter the overall visual character of the project area over the long term. Therefore, the project would not significantly degrade the visual character of the project area.

- d) **Less than Significant Impact.** The project would not create a permanent, new source of light or glare. Temporary lane closures would be necessary along El Don Drive, Aguilar Road, and Arrowhead Drive during construction, and appropriate traffic control measures would be provided to alert travelers of the closures, including lighted barricades and other lighting. This lighting would be temporary and would not substantially affect views in the area. In addition, no nighttime construction would take place; therefore, no nighttime lighting would be needed.

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

## Environmental Setting

The project area does not contain any farmland and is not designated for agricultural use. None of the lands are under Williamson Act contract (California Department of Conservation 2012). No forest land or areas zoned as timberlands are in the vicinity of the project area.

## Discussion of Impacts

- a, b) **No Impact.** No farmland is present in the project area. The proposed project would replace an existing pipeline in or near the existing alignment and would not result in other changes that could convert farmland to non-agricultural uses.
- c, d, e) **No Impact.** Although some oak and pine trees in the project area would need to be removed to install the new pipeline, the proposed project would not result in a loss of forest land or conversion of forest to non-forest use.

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

|   | <i>Potentially Significant Impact</i> | <i>Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i> | <i>Less than Significant Impact</i> | <i>No Impact</i>                    |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?   | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>                                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation?  | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>                                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)? | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>                                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?  | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>                                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?   | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>                                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| f) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?   | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>                                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| g) Conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?   | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>                                      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

### Environmental Setting

The project area is in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin and is under the jurisdiction of the Placer County Air Pollution Control District (APCD). The APCD regulates air quality through the federal and state Clean Air Acts, district rules, and its permit authority.

National and state ambient air quality standards have been adopted by the Environmental Protection Agency and State of California, respectively, for each criteria pollutant: ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide. The County has been designated as nonattainment for both federal and state ozone standards and for the state PM<sub>10</sub> standards and is in attainment or unclassified status for other pollutants (California Air Resources Board 2014).

Sources of pollutants in the vicinity of the project area are vehicle emissions, wood-burning stoves in nearby residences, and construction activities that may take place in the vicinity. The nearest sensitive receptors are residents living adjacent to the project area, recreationists at a small city park (Monte Verde) on the east side of El Don Drive just north of the project area, and students and visitors at Sierra College approximately 1,000 feet to the north of the project area along El Don Drive.

Naturally occurring asbestos is a concern in Placer County because it is known to be present in certain soils and can pose a health risk if released into the air. The County compiled a Naturally Occurring Asbestos Hazard map that identifies those areas of relative likelihood to contain naturally occurring

asbestos (Placer County 2008). The Rocklin area is classified as least likely to contain naturally occurring asbestos.

## Discussion of Impacts

- a, b) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Construction activities would result in short-term increases in emissions from the use of heavy equipment that generates dust, exhaust, and tire-wear emissions; soil disturbance; materials used in construction; and construction traffic. These emissions would include fugitive dust (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>) from ground-disturbing activities associated with pipeline installation and both reactive organic compounds (ROG) and nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) emissions from vehicle and equipment operations. Construction-related emissions would be minimized through compliance with Placer County APCD fugitive dust control requirements, as described in the project description (Section 2.4). Compliance with the fugitive dust control requirements would ensure the emissions do not result in a violation of air quality standards in the air basin or a substantial adverse contribution to air quality in the region, and impacts on air quality would be less than significant. Long-term emissions from pipeline operations and periodic maintenance would be minimal and similar to current conditions.
- c) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** As discussed under items a, b) above, the project would result in minor construction-related emissions. It would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant. The project would cause short-term air quality impacts as a result of construction activities; however, it would not result in long-term or cumulatively considerable increases in air quality pollutant emissions for which Placer County is currently in nonattainment (ozone precursors and PM<sub>10</sub>). The temporary increase in air pollutant emissions associated with construction activities would result in less-than-significant contributions to cumulative pollutant levels in the region.
- d) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** As discussed in a, b) above, construction activities would result in short-term increases in emissions. Residents in homes near the project area could be exposed to temporary air pollutants from construction activities, such as fugitive dust, ROG, NO<sub>x</sub>, and carbon monoxide. Construction activities would be temporary, lasting approximately 3 months total, and would move along the pipeline alignment, minimizing the duration nearby receptors are exposed to emissions. Few sensitive receptors are near the project area, and with the minor increase in emissions, sensitive receptors would not be exposed to substantial pollutant concentrations.
- e) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Construction activities would involve the use of gasoline or diesel-powered equipment that emits exhaust fumes. Construction would also involve asphalt paving, which has a distinctive odor during application. These activities would take place intermittently throughout the workday, and the associated odors are expected to dissipate within the immediate vicinity of the work area. Persons near the construction work area may find these odors objectionable. However, the limited number of receptors, infrequency of the emissions, rapid dissipation of the exhaust into the air, and short-term nature of the construction activities would result in less-than-significant odor impacts.
- f) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are recognized by wide consensus among the scientific community to contribute to global warming/climate change and associated environmental impacts because of their ability to trap heat in the atmosphere and affect climate. The major GHGs that are released from human activity include carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide (Governor's Office of Planning and

Research 2008). The primary sources of GHGs are vehicles (including planes and trains), energy plants, and industrial and agricultural activities (such as dairies and hog farms).

Emissions of GHGs from the project would be produced from the materials during construction as well as construction-related equipment emissions. The project would not increase the generation of emissions after construction is complete because project operations would be similar to current conditions. Emissions of GHGs resulting from construction activities would be short-term and minor. While the project would have an incremental contribution within the context of the county and region, the individual impact is considered less than significant.

- g) **No Impact.** The project would not generate significant emissions of GHGs and, therefore, would not conflict with any applicable plans, policies, or regulations adopted for the purpose of reducing the emission of greenhouse gases.

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

## Environmental Setting

The biological setting is based on background research and database reviews, field surveys conducted for the proposed project, and two reports (biological characterization and delineation of waters of the United States) prepared to support the CEQA and permitting processes (North State Resources, Inc. 2015a and 2015c).

**Habitat Types.** Habitats in the project area include blue oak-foothill pine, valley foothill riparian, fresh emergent wetland, annual grassland, riverine, and urban (Figure 3). Blue oak-foothill pine habitat is the most common habitat and is found in upland areas throughout the project area. Valley foothill riparian habitat, a sensitive natural community, is found in patches along Aguilar Creek. The creek provides riverine habitat and supports fresh emergent wetlands where its gradient is level (e.g., between Aguilar Road and El Don Drive). It also serves as a movement corridor for wildlife through the residential area. A man-made dam in the central portion of the project area creates pond habitat along the creek. West of the dam, the gradient of the stream increases and the channel becomes more confined as it flows into Secret Ravine just west of the project area. Several oxbows are present within the floodplain of the creek west of Aguilar Road. Annual grasslands are present east of El Don Drive. Urban habitat throughout the project area consists of residential structures, streets, lawns, and ornamental landscaping. Invasive plants observed in the project area include Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*) in the riparian habitat and yellow star-thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), and ripgut brome (*Bromus hordeaceus*) in the grasslands. Trees in the oak woodlands and riparian habitat may be protected by the City of Rocklin Oak Tree Preservation ordinance (Chapter 17.77 of the City of Rocklin Municipal Code), which protects oak trees greater than 6 inches diameter at breast height (dbh) and “heritage oak trees” greater than 24 inches dbh.

**Waters of the United States.** Aguilar Creek, a tributary to Secret Ravine, is a water of the United States and a water of the State and is subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the CDFW. The width of the creek at the ordinary high water mark varies along the reach between El Don Drive and Secret Ravine. The creek is widest at the ponded area, where it is about 100 feet across, and the southeastern portion of the pond (about 0.022 acre) falls within the project area boundary. A portion of the creek just upstream of the ponded area encompasses about 0.023 acre in the project area. A side channel, which creates an oxbow, extends into the project area just west of Aguilar Road; it is between 7 and 10 feet wide and encompasses about 0.014 acre. The creek flows under Aguilar Road via a culvert. The rest of the creek is just outside of the project area. Two small patches of riparian wetlands are adjacent to the creek in the project area; they encompass less than 0.01 acre each. The southern extent of a fresh emergent wetland associated with the creek also falls within the project area boundary; it is less than 0.001 acre. A seasonal wetland adjacent to the creek just upstream of the ponded area encompasses approximately 0.016 acre in the project area (Figure 3). The wetlands are also subject to the jurisdiction of the Corps.

**Special-Status Species.** The upland and riparian/wetland habitats in and near the project area could support a variety of special-status plant and wildlife species. No special-status plants were observed in the project area during surveys. Three federally listed species, two state-listed species, and seven California species of special concern may use the habitats in the project area. These species are discussed below; additional details on their potential for occurrence can be found in the biological resources characterization report (North State Resources, Inc. 2015a).

Two blue elderberry shrubs (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*) were identified just north of Aguilar Creek and west of Aguilar Road. These shrubs could provide habitat for the valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*), which is federally listed as threatened. Both shrubs have multiple stems, and no exit holes that may provide evidence of the presence of the beetle

were observed. The westernmost shrub, which is in the project area, has a height of 24 feet and a 22- by 24-foot diameter dripline. The easternmost shrub is just south of the project area and has a height of 15 feet and a 13- by 30-foot diameter dripline.

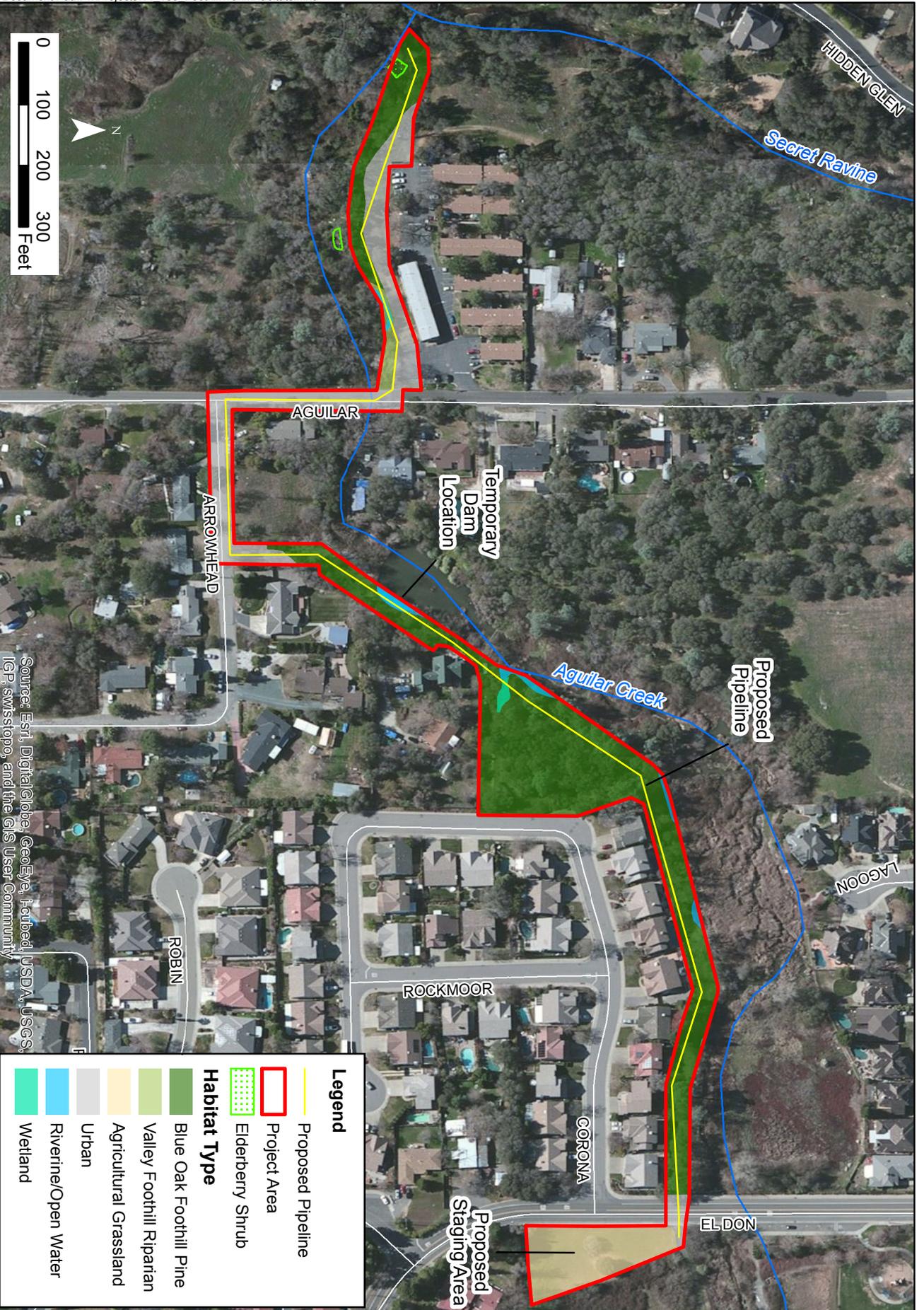
Secret Ravine provides rearing and spawning habitat for Central Valley steelhead Distinct Population Segment (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*), which is federally listed as threatened, and Central Valley fall, late-fall-run Chinook salmon Evolutionary Significant Unit (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), which is a federal and state species of concern. These species may use the lower reaches of Aguilar Creek between the confluence of Secret Ravine and the dam in the central portion of the project area, although the potential for them to occur east of Aguilar Road is consider low due to the low quality of the riverine habitat near the residences. Steelhead could be present year-round, whereas Chinook salmon are more likely to use Secret Ravine during fall and winter months.

Secret Ravine and Aguilar Creek may serve as dispersal corridors for the California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), which is federally listed as threatened. The nearest known occurrence of the red-legged frog is more than 10 miles southeast of the project area on the far side of Folsom Lake, and no current detections have been reported in western Placer County. Surveys conducted along Secret Ravine have not detected the red-legged frog (Lockhart, pers. comm., 2015). In addition, the project area is on the edge of the species' range and is at a lower elevation range than most detections. The potential for the frog to disperse through the project area is considered low. The frog is also not expected to breed in Aguilar Creek in or near the project area. The developed nature of the area has reduced the quality of the creek habitat and introduced predators (e.g., bull frogs) that likely preclude use of the area by the frog.

The fresh emergent wetlands along Aguilar Creek may provide nesting habitat for California black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus*), a state-listed and fully protected species, and tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), a state-listed species. Additionally, the creek and adjacent uplands may provide nesting and basking habitat for western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*), a California species of special concern. Woodlands and riparian habitat throughout the project area and vicinity provide nesting or roosting habitat for loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), yellow warbler (*Dendroica petechia*), yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*), and western red bat (*Lasiurus blossevillii*); these species are California species of special concern. Annual grasslands in the eastern portion of the project area may provide nesting habitat for grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*), a California species of special concern. Other nesting migratory birds may also use the habitats in or near the project area.

## Discussion of Impacts

- a) **Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.** Pipeline installation would involve vegetation removal and ground disturbance in oak-pine woodlands and the riparian corridor of Aguilar Creek in a rural residential area. A temporary dam would be needed in the ponded area of Aguilar Creek, affecting riverine habitat. These activities could disturb nesting or dispersal activities or otherwise affect 12 special-status wildlife species. No special-status plants would be affected because none are expected to occur in the project area based on the results of field surveys. Construction activities could also disturb nesting activities of migratory birds or raptors, if present nearby during construction.



Foothill Trunk Replacement Project  
**Figure 3. Habitat Types and Wetlands**

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**Federally and State-Listed Species.** Pipeline installation west of Aguilar Road would involve vegetation removal and ground disturbance within 100 feet of two elderberry shrubs, which could result in direct or indirect impacts on the valley elderberry longhorn beetle. Neither shrub would need to be removed to accommodate the new pipeline, but direct impacts could result from trenching within 20 feet of the westernmost elderberry shrub if roots or the shrub becomes damaged. Other construction-related impacts, such as dust, erosion, sedimentation, and hazardous materials spills, could also affect the elderberry shrubs and indirectly affect the beetle. Standard construction practices would be implemented, as described in the project description (see Standard Construction Practices in Section 2.4), to minimize these impacts. To further minimize or avoid direct or indirect impacts on the beetle and compensate for any damaged shrubs, Mitigation Measure BR-1 would be implemented. With the mitigation measure, project-related impacts on the valley elderberry longhorn beetle would be less than significant. The Corps is anticipated to be the lead federal agency that will be responsible for consulting with the USFWS and making a determination of effects on the beetle pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

Segments of the proposed pipeline would be installed along the riparian corridor of Aguilar Creek and could affect riverine habitat for Central Valley steelhead and Central Valley fall, late-fall-run Chinook salmon. A temporary in-water dam would be needed upstream of the man-made dam, but the fish are not expected to use the creek upstream of the man-made dam and direct impacts would not occur. No disturbance would take place in the wetted area of the creek downstream of the man-made dam, although a segment of the pipeline would be installed across an oxbow segment of the creek when the oxbow is dry. Steelhead could be present downstream of the dam during construction activities, but Chinook salmon are not likely to be in the creek in the spring/summer months when construction would be scheduled. Installation and removal of the temporary dam could discharge sediment into the creek, and construction activities adjacent to the creek could affect water quality of the creek as a result of erosion or accidental hazardous materials spills. BMPs for erosion control and water quality protection and standard construction practices for hazardous materials would be implemented during pipeline installation, as described in the project description (see Standard Construction Practices in Section 2.4), to minimize impacts on water quality downstream of the work area. The temporary dam would divert flow away from the work area, and flow in the creek downstream of the work area would be maintained similar to current conditions while the dam is in place. The pipeline crossing of the creek would be under Aguilar Road, avoiding direct impacts on the creek where the fish could occur. Implementation of standard construction practices would minimize the potential for water quality impacts in the creek downstream of the man-made dam, where the fish could occur. Impacts on the steelhead and Chinook salmon would be less than significant. The Corps is also expected to make a determination of effects on the Central Valley steelhead pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

Pipeline installation in and along Aguilar Creek and associated activities (e.g., installation and removal of the temporary dam) could affect dispersal of California red-legged frogs through the project area, if they are present in the work area during construction; however, the potential for the frog to be present in the project area during construction is considered low. Construction activities near the creek could affect water quality in the creek and degrade aquatic dispersal habitat for the frog. No breeding habitat for the California red-legged frog would be affected. BMPs and standard construction practices would be implemented to minimize impacts on water quality of the creek (see Standard

Construction Practices in Section 2.4). To further minimize or avoid impacts on California red-legged frog and its dispersal habitat, Mitigation Measure BR-2 would be implemented. With the mitigation measure, project-related impacts on the California red-legged frog would be less than significant. The Corps is also expected to make a determination of effects on the red-legged frog pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

Nesting activity of California black rail and tricolored blackbird could be disrupted by pipeline installation and associated construction activities east of the man-made dam during the spring and summer, when construction is expected to take place, if the species are nesting nearby. No fresh emergent wetlands would be directly affected by pipeline installation, but indirect impacts from human activity and noise near the wetlands could result in the abandonment of nests or young and the incidental loss of fertile eggs or nestlings. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BR-3 would avoid the potential for indirect impacts on nesting activity of both birds, reducing impacts to less than significant. Incidental take of the species would not occur with implementation of the mitigation measure.

**Other Special-Status Wildlife.** Pipeline installation along Aguilar Creek could result in direct or indirect impacts on western pond turtle, which could be found in the slower moving portions of the creek or in adjacent upland areas. Turtle basking and nesting activities could be disrupted by construction activities near the creek, and individuals in the work area could be injured by equipment. Indirect impacts could result from the degradation of aquatic habitat and water quality due to erosion and sedimentation, accidental fuel leaks or spills, and the removal of vegetation along the creek. BMPs and standard construction practices would be implemented to minimize impacts on water quality of the creek (see Standard Construction Practices in Section 2.4). To further minimize or avoid impacts on western pond turtle and its habitat, Mitigation Measure BR-2 would be implemented. With the mitigation measure, project-related impacts on the western pond turtle would be less than significant.

Nesting activity of loggerhead shrike, yellow warbler, yellow-breasted chat, grasshopper sparrow, and other migratory birds and raptors could be disrupted by construction activities in or near blue oak-foothill pine woodland, riparian, and grassland habitats during the spring and summer (through the end of August for nesting birds), when construction activities are scheduled to take place, if the birds are nesting nearby. Tree removal would be necessary in the oak-pine woodlands along most of the proposed pipeline alignment and may be necessary in the valley foothill riparian habitat west of Aguilar Road. The removal of trees with active nests or roosts of western red bat could adversely affect these species by affecting reproductive success. Only staging would take place in the grasslands east of El Don Drive where the grasshopper sparrow may occur, but these activities could disturb or affect sparrow nests, which may be found on the ground. Indirect impacts from human activity and noise within 250 to 500 feet of an active nest could also result in the abandonment of nests or young and incidental loss of fertile eggs or nestlings. This disturbance would be temporary and would shift along the alignment as the pipeline is installed, minimizing the level of disturbance at any location at any one time. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BR-3 would further reduce the potential for adverse impacts on western red bat and nesting migratory birds during construction, and impacts would be less than significant.

**Invasive Species.** Construction activities could spread invasive plants, such as yellow star-thistle, Bermuda grass, and ripgut brome, in the project area from the transportation of seeds or plant material on equipment between the grasslands and other portions of the project area. Staging would take place in the grasslands, where invasive plants have been documented, and equipment working in riparian and other habitats could transport seeds or plant material or introduce other invasive plant species, resulting in the spread of invasive plant species. Ground disturbance could also encourage the spread of invasive plants already present in the project area by creating conditions that are more favorable for invasive plants than native plants. The spread of invasive plants can degrade habitat for native and special-status species. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BR-4 would reduce the potential for invasive plants to be introduced to or spread in the project area, resulting in a less-than-significant impact.

*Mitigation Measure BR-1: Avoid removal of blue elderberry shrubs and minimize ground disturbance near the shrubs*

SPMUD will require its construction contractor to implement the measures identified below during installation of the pipeline west of Aguilar Road to avoid and minimize impacts on two blue elderberry shrubs, which provide habitat for the federally listed valley elderberry longhorn beetle. These measures were derived from *Conservation Guidelines for the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle*, prepared by the USFWS, July 9, 1999. The measures may be modified or refined by the USFWS during the Endangered Species Act consultation process, which would take place as part of the Corps' Clean Water Act Section 404 permitting process, and any revised measures will supersede the measures identified below.

- Prior to construction activities, a Worker Environmental Awareness Training Program for construction workers will be conducted by a qualified biologist. The program will provide all workers with information on their responsibilities with regard to sensitive biological resources, specifically the status of the valley longhorn elderberry beetle and the need to protect the beetle and its host plant, the elderberry shrub. Written documentation of the training will be submitted to the USFWS within 30 days after its completion.
- Prior to construction activities west of Aguilar Road, an environmentally sensitive area will be designated around the two elderberry shrubs using fencing, signs, and flagging under supervision of a qualified biologist. A 100-foot buffer zone around the elderberry shrubs will be marked with stakes or flags as a minimal disturbance area. Because the pipeline would encroach on the 100-foot buffer zone, a narrower no-disturbance buffer zone will be established in coordination with the USFWS. High visibility orange fencing and/or k-rails will be placed at the greatest possible distance from the driplines of the shrubs, but not less than 20 feet. Signs will be placed in clearly visible locations along the fencing and be readable from a distance of 20 feet. Signs will state: "This area is habitat for the valley longhorn elderberry beetle, a threatened species, and must not be disturbed. This species is protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Violators are subject to prosecution, fines, and imprisonment." Fencing and signs will be maintained throughout construction west of Aguilar Road.
- Any disturbed areas within the 100-foot buffer zone will be revegetated with native plants and stabilized with erosion control measures in accordance with USFWS guidelines. Encroachment into the 20-foot no-disturbance zone must be approved by USFWS in advance and may require monitoring by the biologist.

- No insecticides, herbicides, fertilizers, or other chemicals that might harm the beetle or its host plant will be used within 100 feet of either elderberry shrub.
- The qualified biologist will conduct pre-construction and post-construction surveys of the elderberry shrubs. Pre-construction surveys will document the conditions of the shrubs prior to pipeline installation and compliance with mitigation measures. The post-construction survey will verify that no additional impacts to the elderberry shrubs took place.
- If either shrub becomes damaged during pipeline installation, SPMUD may be required to compensate for the loss of the shrub through compensatory mitigation. Specific compensation will be identified in coordination with the USFWS and will be in accordance with *Conservation Guidelines for the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle*. SPMUD may be required to provide payment into a conservation bank for elderberry shrubs at a ratio consistent with the guidelines and per the USFWS' fee schedule.

*Mitigation Measure BR-2: Conduct pre-construction surveys for California red-legged frog and western pond turtle and implement construction measures to reduce impacts.*

SPMUD will require its construction contractor to implement the measures identified below during installation of the pipeline to avoid and minimize impacts on the federally listed California red-legged frog and the California species of special concern western pond turtle. These measures were derived from the results of previous consultations with the USFWS for projects in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. The measures for the frog may be modified or refined by the USFWS during the Endangered Species Act consultation process, which would take place as part of the Corps' Clean Water Act Section 404 permitting process, and any revised measures will supersede the measures identified below.

- SPMUD will retain a USFWS-approved biologist familiar with California red-legged frog biology and habitat requirements to oversee implementation of the mitigation measures for the proposed project. SPMUD will submit the name and credentials of the biologist(s) to the USFWS for review and approval at least 15 days prior to the onset of construction activities.
- As part of the Worker Environmental Awareness Training Program for the valley elderberry longhorn beetle, the biologist will brief construction personnel on how to recognize California red-legged frogs and western pond turtles and where to find the species. Construction personnel will also be informed that if a California red-legged frog is encountered in the work area, construction must stop, and the USFWS will be contacted immediately to provide further guidance.
- If western pond turtles are encountered during construction and may be harmed by construction activities, a qualified biologist will be contacted to relocate the individual(s) the shortest distance possible to a location that contains suitable habitat and would not be affected by construction activities. If a pond turtle nest is found, the biologist will flag the site and determine if construction activities can avoid affecting the nest. If the nest cannot be avoided, it will be excavated and re-buried at a suitable location outside of the construction impact zone by a qualified biologist. CDFW will be notified when such an activity occurs.
- Aguilar Creek and the adjacent riparian and wetland habitat outside the work area will be designated as environmentally sensitive areas and will be staked, flagged, or signed under supervision of the biologist to avoid encroachment by equipment and construction crews. The number of access routes and the total area of impact near these areas will be limited to

the minimum necessary to achieve the proposed project goal and minimize impacts on California red-legged frog and western pond turtle habitat.

- All refueling and maintenance of equipment and vehicles will be conducted at least 50 feet from riparian habitat and the creek and will not occur at a location where a spill would drain directly toward the creek. Prior to the onset of work, SPMUD will ensure that a spill prevention and clean-up plan is in place for prompt and effective response to any accidental spills. All workers will be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measures to take should a spill occur.
- During construction activities, all trash that may attract predators will be properly contained, removed from the work site, and disposed of regularly. Following construction, all trash and construction debris will be removed from work areas.
- Work areas that are temporarily disturbed will be revegetated with an assemblage of native riparian, wetland, and upland vegetation suitable for the area.
- Upon completion of pipeline installation under Aguilar Creek, the temporary dam will be removed in a manner that would allow flow to resume with the least disturbance to the substrate. Alteration of the streambed will be minimized to the maximum extent possible.

*Mitigation Measure BR-3: Conduct pre-construction surveys for nesting birds and establish construction-free buffer zones around active nest sites.*

SPMUD will require its construction contractor to implement the following measures to avoid or minimize project-related impacts on roosting bats, nesting special-status birds, migratory birds, and raptors:

- Vegetation removal and construction activities should be scheduled outside of the typical breeding season for birds (September 1 – February 14), if feasible, and no further measures for nesting birds would be necessary.
- If vegetation removal and construction activities are scheduled between March 15 and August 31, a qualified biologist will conduct a pre-construction survey in oak-pine, riparian, and grassland habitat within 250 feet of the proposed pipeline for special-status and migratory birds and within 500 feet of the proposed pipeline for raptors. The survey will be conducted no more than two weeks before construction activities begin and will be repeated if construction activities stop for more than two weeks at a time.
- If an active nest is found, a qualified biologist, in consultation with CDFW, will establish a construction-free buffer zone around the nest until the young have fledged. A plan will be developed to monitor whether construction activity is disturbing the reproductive process and to determine when the young have fledged.
- A pre-construction survey will also be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to vegetation removal in riparian habitat to determine if trees are being used by roosting bats. This survey will include a minimum of two night surveys to detect bat activity in trees to be removed. If bat use is not identified or bat use is limited to night roosting, no further measures are necessary. If bat use includes day roosting, vegetation removal will be scheduled before the maternity period and after young are volant (March 1 – July 31). If feasible, trees with day roosting bats may also be removed at dark when the bats have left the roost to forage.

*Mitigation Measure BR-4: Implement measures to prevent the spread of invasive plant species.*

SPMUD will require its construction contractor to implement the following measures to prevent the spread of invasive plant species into the project area:

- All equipment used for off-road construction activities will be weed-free prior to entering the project area. Equipment may need to be washed or inspected for plant material prior to being used.
- If project implementation calls for mulches or fill, they will be weed free.
- Any seed mixes or other vegetative material used for re-vegetation of disturbed sites will consist of locally adapted native plant materials.
- Any gravels or materials used for the temporary dam will be new, from a local source, or properly disinfected or cleaned prior to installation.

b) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** The proposed pipeline would be installed along the riparian corridor of Aguilar Creek, but minimal vegetation removal and ground disturbance would take place in valley foothill riparian habitat adjacent to the creek. A couple of deciduous trees in valley foothill riparian habitat just west of Aguilar Road may need to be removed to accommodate the proposed pipeline, but other disturbance in the riparian habitat would be minimal and temporary. The trench used for pipeline installation would be backfilled and revegetated to match pre-disturbance conditions. Impacts on valley foothill riparian habitat would be less than significant.

c) ***Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.*** Pipeline installation would require the temporary placement of a dam (likely consisting of sandbags) in Aguilar Creek to dewater the work area, and a segment of the pipeline would be installed using open cut construction across a seasonal wetland adjacent to the creek and across an oxbow (side) channel of the creek. Approximately 0.02 acre of the ponded area of the creek would be dewatered during pipeline installation, and the temporary dam would result in the discharge of fill material (sandbags or similar material) along approximately 85 linear feet of the creek. Excavation and backfilling of the trench for the pipeline would result in the discharge of fill material (native and imported fill) into less than 0.01 acre of the seasonal wetland and less than 0.1 acre of a side channel. These impacts would require compliance with Sections 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act, and SPMUD will be required to obtain coverage under a nationwide permit (likely No. 12 for Utility Line Activities) and obtain water quality certification, respectively. Other wetlands would be avoided, and the pipeline would cross Aguilar Creek beneath Aguilar Road to avoid additional direct impacts on the creek. Impacts on the seasonal wetland and side channel would be temporary, and the trench would be backfilled and revegetated to match pre-disturbance conditions. No net loss of wetlands is anticipated. The impacts on the creek could adversely affect water quality and creek functions. BMPs and standard construction practices would be implemented to minimize impacts on water quality (see Standard Construction Practices in Section 2.4). Implementation of Mitigation Measure BR-5 would further reduce the potential for adverse impacts on Aguilar Creek and adjacent wetlands, resulting in a less-than-significant impact.

*Mitigation Measure BR-5: Avoid and protect wetlands during construction activities and comply with permit conditions.*

SPMUD will submit a pre-construction notification to the Corps to obtain coverage under Nationwide Permit 12 and submit a request for water quality certification to the Regional Water Quality Control Board pursuant to Sections 404 and 401, respectively, of the Clean Water Act, prior to any activities that could result in discharge of fill material to wetlands or other waters. In addition, SPMUD will submit a notification package to CDFW pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code prior to construction activities in Aguilar Creek. SPMUD will ensure that all terms and conditions of the required permits and authorizations are met. The mitigation measures identified for California red-legged frog and western pond turtle (Mitigation Measure BR-2) will also protect wetlands and the creek outside the work area. In addition, SPMUD will require its construction contractor to implement any additional measures identified in the permits and authorizations for the project to minimize disturbance in and along Aguilar Creek and protect wetlands outside the work area.

- d) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** The temporary dam in Aguilar Creek would alter flow in the creek for a period of about 10 days and could disrupt use of the creek as a movement corridor by fish and wildlife. Flow would be maintained around the work area, and most of the pond would still be accessible to fish and wildlife. The dam would be removed as soon as pipeline installation beneath the creek is complete to return flow to normal. The pipeline would be installed underground in a residential area and would not impede fish or wildlife movement over the long term. Impacts on fish and wildlife movement would be less than significant.
  
- e) ***Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.*** Pipeline installation would require the removal of several oak trees in the oak-pine woodlands and removal of other species of trees (e.g., pine, fir) in the oak-pine woodlands and valley foothill riparian habitat. Based on preliminary designs for the pipeline, 10 oak trees would be removed and another 24 oak trees may need to be removed. These trees are protected by the City of Rocklin Oak Tree Preservation ordinance. An estimated 23 other trees may also need to be removed. Removal of the oak trees could conflict with the City's ordinance, and SPMUD will be required to obtain a tree removal permit from the City. Compliance with the tree removal permit conditions and implementation of Mitigation Measure BR-6 would ensure that the proposed project does not conflict with the ordinance, resulting in a less-than-significant impact.

*Mitigation Measure BR-6: Minimize oak tree removal and compensate for the loss of oak trees in compliance with the City of Rocklin Oak Tree Preservation ordinance.*

SPMUD will obtain a tree removal permit from the City of Rocklin and comply with all terms and conditions required for compliance with the City's tree ordinance. An arborist survey will be conducted to identify and assess all oak trees subject to protection that are proposed for removal and compile information for the permit application (e.g., tree diameters, health). Once the specific number of oak trees to be removed is confirmed, SPMUD will coordinate with the City to determine the appropriate compensation for removal of the trees. On-site replacement plantings are not likely feasible along the pipeline easement; therefore, SPMUD will likely pay into the City's mitigation fund.

For trees that are not removed, but are near the work area, SPMUD will require its construction contractor to protect the trees with brightly colored, synthetic fencing around the dripline for the duration of construction. A narrower protective zone may be established in coordination with an

arborist and/or the City. Placement of protective fencing may be verified in the field by the City of Rocklin prior to the commencement of construction near the tree(s) and will not be removed until written authorization is received from the City.

- f) **No Impact.** No state, regional, or federal habitat conservation plans or Natural Community Conservation Plans have been adopted for the project area.

| V. CULTURAL RESOURCES — Would the project:   | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less than Significant Impact | No Impact                           |
|--|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as identified in Section 15064.5? | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                    | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5? | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                    | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?              | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>                               | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?                                 | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                    | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

## Environmental Setting

The study area is situated within the traditional territory of the Nisenan who are also referred to as the Southern Maidu (North State Resources, Inc. 2014b). Nisenan territory included the drainages of the Yuba, Bear, and American rivers and the lower drainages of the Feather River, extending from the crest of the Sierra Nevada to the banks of the Sacramento River. Villages, resource processing sites, and interments associated with the Nisenan and their prehistoric ancestors have been documented along Secret Ravine in modern-day Placer County. In general, the valley plain between the Sacramento River and the foothills was utilized as a rich hunting and gathering ground. One tribelet was comprised of people occupying the territory between the Bear River and the middle fork of the American River.

A wave of gold seekers descended upon California and the foothill and mountain regions of the Sierra Nevada following the discovery of gold at Coloma on the South Fork American River in 1848. During the Gold Rush period, the American River was a focal point of extensive mining activity. However, in the vicinity of the project area, little mining activity occurred as the majority of the gold-bearing deposits were located farther to the east, particularly in the Auburn area, and to the south. Roseville, Rocklin, and the surrounding area served more as support areas where farms and ranches provided agricultural products, and quarries sent construction materials to the mines and towns in the Sierra foothills (Davis 1990; ECORP 2006; Motz 1980). The granite quarries in the area were also a major local industry during the middle and latter decades of the 19th century and even supplied material for the lower sections of the State Capitol building in Sacramento (Davis 1990; ECORP 2006; Ruhkala 1975).

Apart from the Rocklin area's prominence as a mining support center during the middle and latter decades of the 1800s, the arrival of the Central Pacific Railroad in 1864 (part of the Transcontinental Railroad as of 1869) in Junction (subsequently known as Rocklin) ushered in a series of historic-era

developments where transportation became the dominant historic-era theme of the region. Junction was selected as the site of an engine terminal where larger locomotives capable of negotiating the steep Sierra grades were coupled with east-bound passenger and freight cars. In 1908, the Southern Pacific, which acquired the Central Pacific in 1884, moved the rail yard to Roseville where another new roundhouse was built.

Based on the results of a record search conducted through the North Central Information Center at California State University, Sacramento, 25 cultural resources investigations have been conducted in and within 0.5 mile of the project area resulting in the documentation of 16 prehistoric and historic-era sites and features. These sites consist of early Native American resource processing sites (bedrock mortars), possible habitation and burial locations, and the remains of historic-era granite quarries. One prehistoric site (CA-PLA-002) was previously documented in the project area. This site was documented several times between 1949 and 2013 and is noted as containing bedrock mortars, artifacts, midden soils, and human remains. CA-PLA-002 appears to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) based on the documented presence of human remains and intact midden deposits capable of retaining important scientific data (NRHP listing criterion D; CRHR listing criterion D), which would qualify CA-PLA-002 as a historical resource under Section 15064.5 of the CEQA guidelines.

North State Resources, Inc. conducted an intensive survey for the proposed project and documented several previously unrecorded prehistoric bedrock mortars and artifacts just outside of the project area. One of these bedrock mortars lies within the presently mapped bounds of CA-PLA-002 but does not appear to have been documented in any of the previous studies. All of the occurrences probably represent a previously undocumented portion of CA-PLA-002.

The density of recorded cultural resources suggests that the project area is highly sensitive for exhibiting traces of early Native American and historic-era habitation and activities. In addition, Secret Ravine is an archaeologically well-known landscape feature and was a major focus of occupation during prehistoric times, further indicating its sensitive nature for containing potentially significant cultural resources (per NRHP/CRHR criteria).

## Discussion of Impacts

- a, b, d) ***Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.*** The segments of the proposed pipeline west of Aguilar Road and near Arrowhead Drive would be installed in the previously recorded boundaries of prehistoric site CA-PLA-002 and in the vicinity of other documented cultural resources that may be associated with the site. Pipeline installation would involve trenching up to 17 feet deep and 8 feet wide, which would require the removal of soil and subsurface material and could involve excavation of granitic rocks. These activities have a high potential to damage or expose artifacts or human remains associated with the prehistoric site. Because of the eligibility of the site for listing to the NRHP and CRHR, impacts on cultural resources associated with the site could cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of the site, resulting in a significant impact. Implementation of Mitigation Measure CR-1 would minimize the potential for cultural resources associated with prehistoric site CA-PLA-002 to be damaged during construction activities and ensure the proposed project does not affect the eligibility of the site for listing, reducing impacts to a less-than-significant level.

Ground-disturbing activities in other portions of the project area could also affect previously undocumented cultural resources or human remains based on the sensitivity of

the area for cultural resources. These resources could be exposed and damaged during trenching for pipeline installation. If affected cultural resources qualify as historical resources under CEQA, their disturbance could result in a significant impact. Implementation of Mitigation Measure CR-2 would reduce the potential for inadvertent disturbance or damage to cultural resources or human remains and protect important resources, reducing impacts to a less-than-significant level.

*Mitigation Measure CR-1: Retain an archaeological monitor and protect cultural resources discovered during ground-disturbing activities in and near prehistoric site CA-PLA-002*

SPMUD will retain a qualified professional archaeologist to monitor all ground-disturbing activities, including open trenching and other excavations, within site CA-PLA-002 as currently mapped and in the area to the north of Arrowhead Drive. SPMUD will coordinate with Native American representatives and tribal organizations to determine the need and logistics of having a Native American monitor present during ground-disturbing activities. If directional drilling or other trenchless methods of pipeline installation are utilized, ground disturbance and staging at the beginning and end points of these activities will be monitored. In the event that archaeological or historical deposits are discovered during construction activities, all work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery will be stopped immediately and the contractor or monitor will notify SPMUD and other agencies as appropriate (e.g., the Corps, the Placer County Coroner). SPMUD will retain an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards in prehistoric or historical archaeology, as appropriate, to evaluate the find and recommend appropriate conservation measures in coordination with the Corps and State Historic Preservation Officer. The conservation measures, which may include recording the resources, test excavation, or data recovery, will be implemented prior to reinitiation of activities in the immediate vicinity of the discovery. This measure may be modified or refined by the State Historic Preservation Officer during the National Historic Preservation Act consultation process, which would take place as part of the Corps' Clean Water Act Section 404 permitting process, and more stringent measures will supersede this mitigation measure.

*Mitigation Measure CR-2: Protect previously undocumented cultural resources and human remains discovered during ground-disturbing activities*

In the event that previously undocumented archaeological or historical resources are discovered during construction activities, all work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery will be stopped immediately and the contractor will notify SPMUD and other agencies as appropriate (e.g., the Corps, the Placer County Coroner). SPMUD will retain an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards in prehistoric or historical archaeology, as appropriate, to evaluate the find and recommend appropriate conservation measures in coordination with the Corps and State Historic Preservation Officer. The conservation measures, which may include recording the resources, test excavation, or data recovery, will be implemented prior to reinitiation of activities in the immediate vicinity of the discovery.

If human remains are discovered during construction activities, all activities in the vicinity of the find will be suspended and SPMUD will immediately notify the Placer County Medical Examiner–Coroner pursuant to Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code and Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code. If the coroner determines that the remains may be those of a Native American, the coroner will contact the Native American Heritage Commission. Treatment of Native American human remains will be conducted in accordance with the direction of the Most Likely Descendant and/or Native American tribe, as appropriate.

- c) **No Impact.** Geologic units in the project area have a low potential for containing fossil-bearing resources (UC Museum of Paleontology 2015). The pipeline would be installed near the same depth as the existing pipeline, and some segments of the new pipeline would be installed in previously disturbed areas containing primarily imported or previously excavated fill materials. Based on the depth of the proposed pipeline and the nature of the fill material and soils, no impacts to paleontological resources are anticipated.

| VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS — Would the project:  | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | 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?             | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>                               | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>                               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>                               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| iv) Landslides?   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>                               | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>                               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse? | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>                               | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code, creating substantial risks to life or property?   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>                               | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>                               | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

## Environmental Setting

The project area is located in the Sacramento Valley at the eastern margin of the Great Valley Physiographic province and western margin of the Sierra Nevada province (CGI Technical Services, Inc. 2014). The Great Valley Province is a large northwest-trending asymmetric structural trough that has been filled with a thick sequence of sediments ranging from Jurassic to recent. Sediment thicknesses of up to 10 miles are reported within the Sacramento Valley; however, in the project area, being at the eastern margin of the valley, those thicknesses have been projected to be less than one mile and likely less than a few hundred feet. Sediments within the Great Valley consist of both marine and continental deposits, with most of the sediments underlying the project area consisting of

continental deposits. The Sierra Nevada Province is dominated by the strongly asymmetric mountain range of the Sierra Nevada, which has a long, gentle western slope and a high, steep eastern escarpment (Bateman and Wahrhaftig 1966). The Sierra Nevada Province consists of Pliocene and older deposits that have been uplifted as a result of plate tectonics, granitic intrusion, and volcanic activity. Subsequent glaciation and additional volcanic activity led to the general east-west orientation of stream channels. The project area is located on the Mio-Pliocene Mehrten formation volcanic sediments overlying Jurassic metamorphic and granitic rocks of the Rocklin Plutons. Granitic rock outcrops are present throughout the project area, and the depth to bedrock is likely shallow in most of the project area.

### ***Seismicity and Fault Systems***

Seismicity is defined as the geographic and historical distribution of earthquake activity. Seismic activity may result in geologic and seismic hazards including seismically induced fault displacement and rupture, ground shaking, liquefaction, lateral spreading, landslides, avalanches, and structural hazards. No known active faults pass through the project area; however, several potentially active and active faults are located in the region. The closest mapped potentially active fault (evidence of displacement during late Quaternary time) is located about 8 miles northeast of the project area.

Although the potential for fault activity is considered low (CGI Technical Services, Inc. 2014), seismic activity from faults in this system could result in moderate damage to structures from ground shaking in the project area. There is no evidence of past slope failures along the existing or proposed pipeline alignments and the potential for a landslide to occur is considered low. In addition, the soils and geologic conditions in the vicinity of the project area are such that the potential for liquefaction is low. No Alquist-Priolo faults have been identified in the vicinity of the project area.

### ***Soils***

Two soil types are present in the project area: Andregg coarse sandy loam, 2 to 9 percent slopes, and Xerofluvents, frequently flooded (Natural Resources Conservation Service 2014). The Andregg soil type dominates the project area, and the Xerofluvents soil type is found primarily along drainages. In addition to the two primary soil types in the project area, alluvial soils are present along local portions of the existing pipeline alignment and artificial fill is present beneath roadways, developments, pond embankments, and at other local areas. Characteristics of the primary soil types are described below:

- **Andregg coarse sandy loam, 2 to 9 percent slopes (map unit 106):** The soil occurs on hills and is derived from residuum weathered from granite. It is well drained and has a depth to bedrock at about 29 to 33 inches. The soil has moderately rapid permeability and slow to rapid runoff with a moderate erosion hazard and a low shrink/swell potential. Typical use of this soil type is for rangeland with some urban uses.
- **Xerofluvents, frequently flooded (map unit 194):** The soil occurs in drainageways and is derived from alluvial parent material. The soil is somewhat poorly drained and is frequently flooded. This soil has a slight erosion hazard and a low shrink/swell potential. This soil is associated with floodplains and is not typically used for other uses due to the flooding potential.

### **Discussion of Impacts**

a-i, iv) ***No Impact.*** The project area is not near any Alquist-Priolo faults, and the potential for seismic-related ground failure or landslides is considered low based on soil and geologic

conditions. The project would not expose people to seismic-related soil or geologic hazards.

- a-ii, iii) **Less than Significant Impact.** Seismic activity associated with faults in the San Francisco Bay or Basin and Range areas could cause ground shaking in the project area and could damage the pipeline or create a risk for construction workers. The potential for this type of risk is considered low based on historical activity. The design of the pipeline would adhere to California Building Code requirements for Seismic Zone 2 and would comply with project-specific geotechnical recommendations for excavation requirements and fill materials used in the trench.
- b) **Less than Significant Impact.** The project would require excavation along the pipeline alignment to install the pipeline and backfilling to restore the trench to current contours and conditions. As described in the project description (Section 2.4), a SWPPP and applicable BMPs would be implemented to reduce the potential for soil erosion during construction activities. The cut and fill on-site would be balanced to the extent feasible, and the re-paving of the roads and re-vegetation of disturbed areas would reduce the potential for long-term soil disturbance or erosion.
- c, d, e) **No Impact.** The soil types and geologic units underlying the project area are not considered unstable or expansive. The project would not create risks from unstable or expansive soil or geologic conditions. The project does not involve construction of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems.

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

| <b>VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS —</b>   |                          | <i>Potentially<br/>Significant<br/>Impact</i> | <i>Potentially<br/>Significant<br/>Unless<br/>Mitigation<br/>Incorporated</i> | <i>Less than<br/>Significant<br/>Impact</i> | <i>No Impact</i>         |
|--|--------------------------|---|---|---|--------------------------|
| Would the project:   |                          |   |   |   |                          |
| f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/>                    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### Environmental Setting

The release of hazardous materials into the environment could contaminate soils, surface water, and groundwater supplies. Under Government Code Section 65962.5, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control maintains a list of hazardous substance sites. This list, referred to as the “Cortese List,” includes CALSITE hazardous material sites, sites with leaking underground storage tanks, and landfills with evidence of groundwater contamination. In addition, the State Water Resources Control Board maintains files on hazardous material sites. The Placer County Environmental Health Division, Hazardous Materials Section serves as the Certified Unified Program Agency in the county, with the exception of the city of Roseville, and is responsible for inspecting hazardous material sites and enforcing hazardous material laws and regulations.

No hazardous materials sites from the Cortese List have been identified within the vicinity of the project area (California Department of Toxic Substances Control 2014). All previous hazardous sites in the vicinity have been cleaned up and their cases have been closed (State Water Resources Control Board 2014).

The project area is located in a Local Responsibility Area and is not mapped as having a very high potential for fire hazards (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection 2008). The City of Rocklin operates three fire stations, which are responsible for fire and emergency services within the city limits.

### Discussion of Impacts

- a, b) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** Small amounts of hazardous materials would be used during construction activities for equipment maintenance (e.g., fuel and solvents) and repaving the roads. Use of hazardous materials would be limited to the construction phase and would comply with applicable local, state, and federal standards associated with the handling and storage of hazardous materials. As described in the project description, hazardous materials would not be stored or used, such as for equipment maintenance, near creeks or ditches to prevent accidental discharge of hazardous materials into the water. Also, the contractor would be required to immediately clean up any spills and properly dispose of all wastes and used spill control materials. In addition, a SWPPP will

be prepared for the project and would specify BMPs to implement during construction, which would further reduce the potential for a hazardous material spill.

- c, d, e, f) **No Impact.** The project area is not within 0.25 miles of a school or an airport. No hazardous waste or substance sites have been identified in the project area or its vicinity. Therefore, the project would not expose people to hazards associated with airports or hazardous waste site activity.
- g) **Less than Significant Impact.** The proposed project would not interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Construction activities would require temporary lane or road closures and detours around the work area for approximately 10 working days. Minor delays may be experienced for emergency access to the residences adjacent to the work area. Detours would be available throughout the construction period in the event of an emergency to allow vehicles to drive around the work area, which would ensure the project does not prevent emergency access to the residences. As described in the project description, SPMUD or its construction contractor will coordinate with law enforcement and emergency service providers prior to the start of construction to ensure minimal disruption to service during construction.
- h) **No Impact.** The project area is not in a high or very fire hazard severity zone, and the surrounding area is developed or contains modified landscapes associated with rural residential uses with corridors of riparian and oak woodlands. As described in the project description, a fire safety plan will be in place during construction to prevent fires from construction activities such as welding. The project would not increase the risk of wildfire near an urban area.

| <b>IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY —</b>  |                          | <i>Potentially<br/>Significant<br/>Impact</i> | <i>Potentially<br/>Significant<br/>Unless<br/>Mitigation<br/>Incorporated</i> | <i>Less than<br/>Significant<br/>Impact</i> | <i>No Impact</i> |
|---|--------------------------|---|---|---|------------------|
| Would the project:  |                          |   |   |   |                  |
| a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/>                    |                  |
| b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/>                    |                  |
| c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/>                    |                  |
| d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/>                    |                  |

| <b>IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY —</b>  | <i>Potentially<br/>Significant<br/>Impact</i> | <i>Potentially<br/>Significant<br/>Unless<br/>Mitigation<br/>Incorporated</i> | <i>Less than<br/>Significant<br/>Impact</i> | <i>No Impact</i>                    |
|---|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| IX. <b>HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY —</b><br>Would the project:  |   |   |   |                                     |
| e) Create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff? | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?   | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?                  | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?   | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>         | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?                    | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>         | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| j) Inundation of seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?   | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

## Environmental Setting

The project area is in the Lower American River watershed, which is part of the Sacramento River Basin. Aguilar Creek, also referred to as the Aguilar Road Tributary, is a perennial creek that flows east to west through the project area into Secret Ravine, just west of the project area. Water quality of the creeks is generally good except for issues with sedimentation and toxicity from heavy metals as a result of past mining activity in the region. The creek receives runoff from adjacent lands and water from old sewage treatment ponds, both of which affect water quality. Beneficial uses of the Lower American River (Folsom Dam to Sacramento River), as identified in the *Fourth Edition of the Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) For the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins*, include Municipal and Domestic Supply, Irrigation, Service Supply, Power Generation, Contact Recreation, Canoeing, and Rafting, Other Noncontact Recreation, Warm and Cold Freshwater Habitat, Warm and Cold Water Spawning, and Wildlife Habitat.

The North American Subbasin of the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin underlies the project area. Depth to groundwater in the region varies from 15 to 161 feet, but the depth to groundwater in the project area is unknown (CGI Technical Services, Inc. 2014). Groundwater is likely at relatively shallow depths within alluvial soils, which are primarily along the existing pipeline. Groundwater is also likely shallow in granodioritic rocks close to the creek.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (Flood Insurance Rate Map Numbers 06061C0477G and 06061C0481G), Aguilar Creek is classified as a hazard area (Zone AE) and is subject to inundation by the 100-year flood (Federal Emergency Management Agency 2001). The width of the flood zone in the vicinity of the project area ranges from 60 to 200 feet. The City defines a special flood hazard area as an area in the floodplain subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year. These areas are shown on Flood Insurance Rate Maps and Flood Boundary and Floodway Maps as Zone A, AO, A1-A30, AE, A99, or AH. The City has adopted

floodplain management regulations and requires permits for development in special flood hazard areas.

## Discussion of Impacts

- a) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** Construction activities would involve trenching and other ground-disturbing activities that would expose soils and could discharge pollutants or sediment into Aguilar Creek via runoff during precipitation or storm events. Activities upstream of the man-made dam are not likely to affect water quality of Secret Ravine or other downstream waters because the dam and ponded area serve as a retention area that likely minimizes discharge of sediment and pollutants downstream of the dam. SPMUD would comply with the Statewide General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity, Order No. 99-08 DWQ and the Stormwater Management Plan for Placer County. A SWPPP will be prepared for the project, and BMPs will be implemented during construction activities to minimize the potential for sediment or pollutants to enter Aguilar Creek and affect water quality downstream of the work area. Pipeline installation beneath the creek would take place in the dry portion of the creek once a temporary dam is in place to avoid discharge of pollutants directly into the creek. Trench dewatering may require pumping water into the creek, and SPMUD would comply with waste discharge requirements for the dewatering. Pumped water may contain small quantities of sediment from the trench, but the dewatering is not expected to affect water quality of the creek. If slurry or another substance is used during pipeline installation using trenchless methods, necessary precautions would be taken to ensure the substance does not enter the creek. The project would not affect beneficial uses of downstream waters within the Lower American River watershed and would result in a less-than-significant impact on water quality.
- b) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** The project would not affect groundwater recharge over the long term because it would not increase the amount of impervious surfaces in the project area. Temporary dewatering activities in the trench during pipeline installation could affect groundwater recharge in localized areas. Groundwater is likely to be encountered during trenching in alluvial soils and granodiorite rocks near Aguilar Creek. As described in the project description (Section 2.4), the construction contractor will comply with project-specific geotechnical recommendations for excavation requirements, which includes recommendations for local dewatering during trenching, and water would likely be pumped out of the trench onto adjacent land or into the creek. Temporary dewatering would have a less-than-significant impact on groundwater recharge during construction. SPMUD may also need to comply with Waste Discharge Requirements for Dewatering and Other Low Threat Discharges to Surface Waters if water in the trench is pumped into the creek.
- The project would not require the use of groundwater supplies.
- c, d) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** The use of a temporary dam during pipeline installation under Aguilar Creek would temporarily alter flows in the creek for a period of about 10 days. Flow would be diverted away from the work area, but would be maintained similar to current conditions downstream of the temporary dam. Pipeline installation beneath the creek is not expected to discharge pollutants or sediment into the creek because all work would be done in the dewatered portion of the creek. Furthermore, the temporary diversion is not expected to result in flooding upstream of the temporary dam because instream activities would occur during the dry season. The ponded portion of the creek

would be returned to pre-disturbance conditions after the pipeline is installed, and a minor increase in sediment in the creek may occur as flows are restored to the dewatered area. The pipeline would not affect creek flows or drainage patterns over the long term because it will be underground. Impacts on creek flows would be less than significant.

- e, f) **No Impact.** The project would not have other water quality impacts beyond those discussed under item a) above and would not contribute runoff to a storm drain system.
- g) **No Impact.** The project would not involve the construction of housing.
- h, i) **Less than Significant Impact.** The proposed pipeline would be partially installed within the special flood hazard area of Aguilar Creek where it follows the existing pipeline alignment behind the homes west of El Don Drive and near the apartments west of Aguilar Road. Portions of Aguilar Creek and the pond would be temporarily dammed and dewatered to allow for pipeline installation. The temporary dam is not expected to affect flood flows because it would only be in place for approximately 10 days during the summer, when the potential for a flood is lower. The crossing at Aguilar Creek on Aguilar Road may be installed via trenchless construction below an existing culvert and would not alter or impede flood flow in the creek. Once construction is complete, the pipeline would be underground and would not impede flood flows; however, a substantial flood could expose and possibly damage the pipeline. Any pipeline damage would be repaired by SPMUD to maintain operations.
- j) **No Impact.** The project would not expose people or structures to risks from inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

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

## Environmental Setting

Land uses in the project area are primarily rural residential and undeveloped open space consisting of urban riparian and urban woodlands. The central portion of the project area is part of a small island of previously unincorporated land that is being annexed into the city of Rocklin. The area is within the city’s sphere of influence as designated by the Placer County Local Agency Formation Commission, and the Commission is expected to approve the annexation prior to project implementation. For the purposes of this IS/MND, it is assumed that the City of Rocklin will have completed the annexation process before final project approvals are obtained.

The City of Rocklin Zoning Ordinance provides direction on allowable uses and facilities in the city. Lands in the project area are zoned as: Single-Family Residential (R1-6, R1-10, PZ-R1-7.5), Planned Development (PD-4), and Use B, Apartments (R-3). Land uses and zoning in the annexed portion of the project area are expected to be similar to the uses and zoning of adjacent lands in the city, once the annexation process is complete. Land ownership in and adjacent to the project area is private, but the City of Rocklin maintains a drainage easement along the creek across private properties. SPMUD also has a 10-foot-wide easement along the existing pipeline across the private properties.

**Discussion of Impacts**

- a) **No Impact.** The project involves construction of an underground pipeline in approximately the same alignment as an existing pipeline. The project would not physically divide an established community.
- b) **Less than Significant Impact.** The majority of the new pipeline would be installed in existing SPMUD easements for the Foothill Trunk line. However, SPMUD would need to obtain new temporary easements for construction and permanent easements from private landowners in portions of the project area where SPMUD does not currently have any utility easements. In addition, the segment of the pipeline along Aguilar Creek would be in the City’s drainage easement. SPMUD will obtain necessary approvals from the City and easements from property owners prior to construction. The new pipeline would be similar to the existing pipeline; it would not conflict with the current uses or zoning of the lands and would not alter uses of the lands to be inconsistent with the current uses.
- c) **No Impact.** No habitat conservation plans or natural communities conservation plans cover the project area.

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

**Environmental Setting**

Placer County has a variety of mineral deposits and active quarries and mining sites. Common deposits include clay, stone, gold, sand, and gravel. The project area is not identified in the Placer County General Plan as containing potentially-significant mineral deposits, is not designated as a Mineral Resource Zone, and does not contain any active quarry or mining sites (Placer County 2013).

**Discussion of Impacts**

- a, b) **No Impact.** The project area is not in or adjacent to any important mineral resource areas identified by the State of California or Placer County. Pipeline installation would require

the use of imported material, such as crushed rock, to backfill the trench; this material would be hauled to the project area from approved sites in the county or nearby region and would not affect availability of an important mineral resources.

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

## Environmental Setting

The City of Rocklin’s General Plan Noise Element identifies policies to maintain noise levels below acceptable standards (City of Rocklin 2012); however, the Noise Element does not specify noise standards for construction activities. The City of Rocklin has established a noise policy on all construction projects within or near residential areas which prohibits construction noise on weekdays before 7 a.m. or after 7 p.m. and on weekends before 8 a.m. or after 7 p.m.

The project area is in a rural residential community with primarily residential noise sources and moderate noise levels. Vehicles using nearby roads are the main noise source near the project area. Residents adjacent to the project area, as well as Monte Verde park visitors and students at Sierra College, may be sensitive to high noise levels.

## Discussion of Impacts

- a, d) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** Construction activities would temporarily increase noise levels in the vicinity of the project area from the use of heavy equipment. Actual noise levels would depend on the type of construction equipment involved, distance to the source of the noise, time of day, and similar factors. As stated in the project description (Section 2.4), the project would comply with City of Rocklin’s noise policy for

construction activities by scheduling construction activities only between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday or 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. This would minimize potential impacts associated with construction noise. In addition, SPMUD would notify residents prior to the start of construction activities, which would help to avoid potential noise complaints. Impacts from construction-generated noise would be less than significant.

- b) **Less than Significant Impact.** Trenchless construction may be used to install the new pipeline beneath culverts under Aguilar Road. Options for trenchless construction include a combination of pipe ramming and down-the-hole drilling or small boring unit microtunneling. Trenchless construction could result in the generation of groundborne vibrations. In addition, if any granite outcrops are encountered during construction, groundborne vibrations could be generated during excavation of the rock. The construction contractor will comply with project-specific geotechnical recommendations for excavation requirements as described in the project description (Section 2.4). Few receptors would be affected by groundborne vibrations from construction activities, and vibrations are not expected to result in structural damage to any nearby homes or other structures. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.
- c) **No Impact.** The pipeline would be underground once construction activities are complete. The project would not result in a permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity.
- e, f) **No Impact.** The project area is not near a public or private airport or airstrip. The project would not expose people to noise from airport activities.

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

## Environmental Setting

As of January 2012, Rocklin had a population of 58,295 residents, representing a growth of 8 percent since 2008 (City of Rocklin 2013). Rocklin offers a mix of housing types, including single-family homes, townhomes, apartments, condominium developments, and mobile homes. According to the California Department of Finance, of the 22,372 units in the city as of January 2012, 76 percent were single-family homes, 22 percent were multi-family units, and 2 percent were mobile homes. According to the City of Rocklin’s 2013 – 2021 Housing Element, a total of 3,813 new housing units

are needed for the 2013 to 2021 period across five income categories. This equates to an expected population increase of approximately 17 percent by 2021.

The project is in a rural residential area and is surrounded by residences and open space. Most of the project area encompasses the existing pipeline alignment along easements granted to SPMUD by the land owners or public ROWs. The SPMUD Wastewater Collection System Master Plan evaluates the capacity of the existing wastewater collection system, identifies planned and recommended improvements to correct existing deficiencies, and identifies planned and recommended improvements to accommodate future development within the service area. The plan concludes that the system has capacity for average dry weather flows throughout the system, and no overflows or surcharges are predicted with long-range development in the western portion of the system, where the project area is located.

### Discussion of Impacts

- a) **No Impact.** The replacement of the Foothill Trunk line would improve sewer service in SPMUD’s service area in eastern Rocklin by providing for increased flow to accommodate existing and planned wastewater collection demands. The proposed project is not designed to encourage new, unplanned development and would not induce growth.
- b, c) **No Impact.** The new pipeline would generally follow the alignment of the existing pipeline with a minor re-route along roads. No housing would be affected.

| XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES — Would the project:  | <i>Potentially<br/>Significant<br/>Impact</i> | <i>Potentially<br/>Significant<br/>Unless<br/>Mitigation<br/>Incorporated</i> | <i>Less than<br/>Significant<br/>Impact</i> | <i>No Impact</i>                    |
|--|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| a) 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: |   |   |   |                                     |
| Fire protection?   | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Police protection?   | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Schools?   | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Parks?   | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other public facilities?   | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

### Environmental Setting

The City of Rocklin and/or Placer County provide local fire, police, and recreation facilities and service for residents adjacent to the project area. No public facilities are located within the project area, although a small city park (Monte Verde) is on the east side of El Don Drive just north of the

project area. Sierra College is located approximately 1,000 feet to the north of the project area along El Don Drive, and several elementary schools are located approximately 0.5 mile to the northwest.

### Discussion of Impact

- a) **No Impact.** The project would not affect public services in the local communities, increase the demand for public services, or require construction of new governmental facilities.

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

### Environmental Setting

No designated recreation or park facilities are present in or near the project area, but a small city park (Monte Verde) is on the east side of El Don Drive just north of the project area.

### Discussion of Impacts

- a, b) **No Impact.** The project would not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities in the region. The project does not include the construction of any recreational facilities, nor would it require the expansion of existing recreational facilities.

|  | <i>Potentially<br/>Significant<br/>Impact</i> | <i>Potentially<br/>Significant<br/>Unless<br/>Mitigation<br/>Incorporated</i> | <i>Less than<br/>Significant<br/>Impact</i> | <i>No Impact</i>                    |
|--|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| <b>XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC</b> — Would the project:  |   |   |   |                                     |
| a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume-to-capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)? | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>         | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?   | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

|   | <i>Potentially Significant Impact</i> | <i>Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i> | <i>Less than Significant Impact</i> | <i>No Impact</i>                    |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC</b> — Would the project:   |                                       |   |                                     |                                     |
| c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks? | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>                                      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Substantially increase hazards to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?              | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>                                      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Result in inadequate emergency access?   | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>                                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?   | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>                                      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?                                | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>                                      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

## Environmental Setting

The project area is within the I-80 Designated Transit Development Corridor, which is intended to facilitate the development of land use and design standards that promote the viability of high-capacity transit in those corridors where a significant amount of undeveloped or redevelopable land exists. I-80 is a transcontinental limited-access highway that runs from San Francisco, California to Teaneck, New Jersey and is the main east/west highway in Placer County. In 2009, average annual daily traffic on I-80 near the project area was approximately 122,000 trips (City of Rocklin 2012). Public and private roads provide access to residential and commercial areas in Rocklin. Roads in and near the project area are owned and maintained by the City of Rocklin or private residents. The main public roads in the project area are Aguilar Road, El Don Drive, and Arrowhead Drive. No designated bike lanes or paths exist along the roads in the project area, but bicyclists may use the roads for transportation.

## Discussion of Impacts

- a) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** Construction traffic (equipment and materials transport and daily worker traffic) would increase traffic on local roads during the construction phase. Temporary construction traffic would be limited to equipment and material transport periodically during the construction phase, primarily at the beginning and end of construction, and a few vehicles daily during the construction phase. The temporary construction-related traffic would not result in a noticeable increase in traffic on local roads and is not expected to reduce the levels of service for the roads. Large vehicles transporting equipment and materials to the project area could cause slight delays for travelers as they turn off the main roads. Lane and road closures would also require travelers to detour around the project area or expect delays while traveling through the project area. Traffic control measures would be in place during the construction phase to alert travelers to potential delays and identify detour routes, as described in the project description. With these measures and the temporary nature of construction-related traffic, impacts on traffic would be less than significant.

- b) **No Impact.** The project would not increase traffic on local roads or highways to a level that would affect the level of service of the roadway. It would not result in long-term traffic increases.
- c) **No Impact.** The project would not affect air traffic patterns and would have no effect on air traffic levels or safety.
- d) **No Impact.** The project would not involve activities that could increase hazards due to a design feature or incompatible uses.
- e) **Less than Significant Impact.** Construction activities would require temporary lane or road closures and detours around the work area for approximately 10 working days. Minor delays may be experienced for emergency access to the residences adjacent to the work area. Detours would be available throughout the construction period in the event of an emergency to allow vehicles to drive around the work area, which would ensure the project does not prevent emergency access to the residences. As described in the project description, SPMUD or its construction contractor will coordinate with law enforcement and emergency service providers prior to the start of construction to ensure minimal disruption to service during construction. Residents will also be notified in advance of construction, and limited access would be allowed for residents accessing their properties throughout the construction phase. Impacts relating to emergency access would be less than significant.
- f) **Less than Significant Impact.** The project does not include or require on-street or off-street parking, other than temporary construction parking in designated staging areas. The parking lot at the apartment complex off Aguilar Road would be used for access, which could temporarily affect parking for residents. However, construction access would be needed for less than 3 months and would not result in inadequate parking capacity for nearby residences.
- g) **No Impact.** The project would not conflict with alternative transportation policies, programs, or plans for the region.

| <b>XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS</b> — Would the project:  | <i>Potentially Significant Impact</i> | <i>Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i> | <i>Less than Significant Impact</i> | <i>No Impact</i>                    |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?  | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>                                      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>                                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?          | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>                                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

| <b>XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS</b> — Would the project:   | <i>Potentially Significant Impact</i> | <i>Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i> | <i>Less than Significant Impact</i> | <i>No Impact</i>                    |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?  | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>                                      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments? | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>                                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?  | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>                                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?   | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>                                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

## Environmental Setting

SPMUD provides sewer collection and maintenance service to the city of Rocklin, town of Loomis, community of Penryn, and a portion of Granite Bay. Its service area covers approximately 18,560 acres with approximately 20,000 connections, representing more than 29,000 equivalent dwelling units. The SPMUD collection system includes more than 250 miles of pipe with more than 5,000 manholes and 13 pump stations. The system connects to two major pipelines that convey sewer flows to the Roseville Dry Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant or the newly constructed Pleasant Grove Wastewater Treatment Plant, both in the city of Roseville. The SPMUD Wastewater Collection System Master Plan provides recommendations on improvements to the system to continue serving the communities.

The Foothill Trunk line consists of approximately 2,275 feet of 12-inch-diameter gravity sewer trunk line. It is approximately 40 years old and was installed in the early 1970s. Other utilities are present underground including storm drains and pipelines to residences.

The City of Rocklin is served by one landfill, the Western Regional Sanitary Landfill, located near Highway 65 between Roseville and Lincoln. The current space available, together with recovery efforts, will enable the landfill to accept waste well into the 21st century.

## Discussion of Impacts

- a, d) **No Impact.** The project would not involve the treatment of wastewater or require a new water supply. No new water supply facilities would be constructed or needed as part of the project. If water supply is needed for dust control, it would be provided by existing service providers and would not exceed allotted limits.
- b, c) **Less than Significant Impact.** The project involves installation of a new sewer pipeline in place of an existing pipeline, which would involve temporary construction impacts. Sewer service to properties served by the existing pipeline would not be disrupted during construction of the new pipeline with use of a temporary bypass system. Existing utilities

in the roads would be avoided, to the extent feasible, and if relocation is needed, SPMUD will coordinate with the appropriate provider to ensure minimal disruptions to other services. Culverts under Aguilar Road would not be affected by pipeline installation, which would likely take place using trenchless methods to install the pipe below the culverts.

- e) **Less than Significant Impact.** The new pipeline has been sized to accommodate existing and planned sewer flows from the community and would improve wastewater collection service for residents. Although sewer flows may increase as new development increases in the community, the project is not designed to accommodate unplanned growth and would not convey flows to the wastewater treatment plant beyond its capacity. The pipeline would improve the service capability of SPMUD.
- f, g) **Less than Significant Impact.** Solid waste generated during construction (e.g., old pipe segments, manholes) would be properly disposed or recycled in a nearby landfill or disposal facility with capacity to receive the waste, such as the Western Regional Sanitary Landfill. Any hazardous materials used during construction would be properly disposed in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations.

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

## Discussion

- a) **Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.** Construction activities could result in impacts on sensitive biological resources, known cultural resources, and previously undiscovered cultural resources. Standard construction practices and mitigation measures described in this Initial Study would be implemented to ensure minimal impacts to biological and cultural resources.

- b) ***Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.*** The proposed project could result in cumulatively considerable impacts on special-status wildlife species and cultural resources. Standard construction practices and mitigation measures identified in this Initial Study would ensure effects on these resources are less than significant, and no long-term adverse impacts are anticipated. With the implementation of standard construction practices in Section 2.4 and mitigation measures in Section 3, the project would result in individually minor impacts and would not contribute substantially to cumulative impacts, resulting in a less than significant impact.
  
- c) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The construction phase of the proposed project would result in a variety of temporary impacts to human beings. The implementation of standard construction practices would ensure construction-related impacts on human beings are less than significant, and no long-term impacts are anticipated.

## 4. DETERMINATION

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This Initial Study has determined that the proposed project would not result in significant impacts for any of the resources listed below. The project includes measures that would avoid or minimize potentially significant impacts, and no additional mitigation measures have been identified in this Initial Study.

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

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the 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 project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the project MAY have a “Potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the 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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Name and Title: **John Murdock**  
**SPMUD Board President**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## 5. REPORT PREPARATION AND REFERENCES

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### 5.1. Report Preparation

#### *South Placer Municipal Utility District – CEQA Lead Agency*

Herb Niederberger, General Manager  
Sam Rose, Assistant Superintendent  
Eric Nielsen, District Engineer

#### *Water Works Engineers*

Mike Fisher, P.E., Project Manager  
Jigar Shah, P.E., Project Engineer  
Tim Lewis, E.I.T., Project Engineer

#### *North State Resources, Inc.*

Leslie Perry, Project Manager  
Andrew Minks, Environmental Analyst  
Heather Kelly, Biologist  
Paul Kirk, Botanist  
Brian Ludwig, Cultural Resources Specialist/Principal Investigator

### 5.2. References

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APPENDIX A

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Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan



**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan**  
for the  
**Foothill Trunk Replacement Project**

**CEQA Lead Agency:**  
**South Placer Municipal Utility District**

**Prepared: May 2015**



# Introduction

## Purpose

The South Placer Municipal Utility District (SPMUD) has prepared an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the proposed Foothill Trunk Replacement Project. The proposed project consists of replacing a 12-inch-diameter gravity sewer pipeline (known as the Foothill Trunk line) in Rocklin, Placer County, California, with a 24-inch-diameter pipeline to meet existing and planned wastewater demands for the SPMUD service area in eastern Rocklin. The proposed project is described in more detail in the IS/MND.

As described in the IS/MND, the proposed project includes several construction measures and specifications to minimize or prevent adverse effects on the environment (see below for list of these measures). The IS/MND also identified several mitigation measures that are required to reduce potentially significant impacts to levels that are less than significant (see below for list of these measures). This Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) describes a program for ensuring that the construction measures and additional mitigation measures are implemented in conjunction with the proposed project. In addition to the measures identified herein, permitting agencies, such as the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, may identify additional measures to implement as part of the permits they issue, and those measures will also need to be implemented in conjunction with the proposed project and monitored to ensure implementation. Monitoring and reporting requirements will be identified in the respective permits.

SPMUD, as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is responsible for overseeing the implementation and administration of this MMRP. SPMUD will designate a staff member to manage the MMRP. Duties of the staff member responsible for plan coordination will include conducting routine inspections and reporting activities, coordinating with the project construction contractor, coordinating with regulatory agencies, and ensuring enforcement measures are taken.

## Regulatory Framework

California Public Resources Code Section 21081.6 and California Code of Regulations Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15097 require public agencies to adopt mitigation monitoring or reporting plans when they approve projects under a MND. The reporting and monitoring plans must be adopted when a public agency makes its findings pursuant to CEQA so that the mitigation requirements can be made conditions of project approval.

## Format of This Plan

The MMRP describes the construction measures included in the proposed project and the mitigation measures identified in the IS/MND. This MMRP also includes a summary statement of the impact discussed in the IS/MND to correspond with the mitigation measure(s). Mitigation measures are followed by an implementation description, the criteria used to determine the effectiveness of the

mitigation, the timeframe for implementation, and the party responsible for monitoring implementation of the measure.

Implementation of mitigation measures is ultimately the responsibility of SPMUD; during construction, the delegated responsibility is shared by the construction contractor. Each mitigation measure in this plan contains a “Verified By” signature line, which will be signed by the SPMUD project manager when the measure has been fully implemented and no further actions or monitoring are necessary for the implementation or effectiveness of the measure.

## Measures Included in the Proposed Project

The construction contractor will be responsible for complying with all terms of the contract specifications, implementing measures during construction to avoid or minimize adverse effects on the environment, and adhering to conditions of any permits obtained for the project. Pipeline installation will comply with current SPMUD design and construction standards and local City of Rocklin ordinances. Standard construction measures include, but are not limited to:

- Identify locations of other existing underground pipelines or other utility lines in the proposed alignment and take necessary precautions to avoid damaging the lines or interfering with their service. Notify the utility owner of any encroachment on or disturbance to the line.
- Notify and coordinate with law enforcement and emergency service providers prior to the start of construction to ensure minimal disruption to service during construction.
- Follow all safety and health requirements set forth by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.
- Prepare and implement a fire safety plan to prevent fires from construction operations (such as welding).
- Obtain coverage under the State Stormwater Discharge permit, prepare a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, and comply with City of Rocklin grading requirements. The SWPPP will identify appropriate best management practices (BMPs) to implement during construction, which may include, but are not limited to:
  - Use waddles or straw along slopes to prevent runoff from carrying pollutants off-site;
  - Use gravel bags or gutter dams to prevent runoff from carrying pollutants into storm drains;
  - Cover and contain dirt piles if erosion and sediment are a threat to any waterways;

- Stabilize site access points with rock to avoid tracking materials off-site;
  - Use proper materials and waste storage, handling, and disposal practices;
  - Use proper vehicle and equipment cleaning, fueling, and maintenance practices;
  - Control and prevent discharge of all potential construction-related pollutants, such as slurry seal and asphalt oils;
  - Prepare a contingency plan in the event of unexpected rain or a control measure failure.
- Comply with Placer County Air Pollution Control District fugitive dust control requirements, including:
    - Unpaved areas subject to vehicle traffic must be stabilized by being kept wet, treated with a chemical dust suppressant, or covered.
    - The speed of any vehicles and equipment traveling across unpaved areas must be no more than 15 miles per hour unless the road surface and surrounding area is sufficiently stabilized to prevent vehicles and equipment traveling more than 15 miles per hour from emitting dust exceeding Ringelmann 2 or visible emissions that could cross the project boundary line.
    - Storage piles and disturbed areas not subject to vehicular traffic must be stabilized by being kept wet, treated with a chemical dust suppressant, or covered when material is not being added to or removed from the pile.
    - Prior to any ground disturbance, including grading, excavating, and land clearing, sufficient water must be applied to the area to be disturbed to prevent emitting dust exceeding Ringelmann 2 and to minimize visible emissions from crossing the boundary line.
    - Construction vehicles leaving the site must be cleaned to prevent dust, silt, mud, and dirt from being released or tracked off-site.
    - When wind speeds are high enough to result in dust emissions crossing the boundary line, despite the application of dust mitigation measures, grading and earthmoving operations shall be suspended.
    - No trucks are allowed to transport excavated material off-site unless the trucks are maintained such that no spillage can occur from holes or other openings in cargo compartments and loads are either covered with tarps or wetted and loaded such that the material does not touch the front, back, or sides of the cargo compartment at any point less than 6 inches from the top and that no point of the load extends above the top of the cargo compartment.

- A person shall take actions, such as surface stabilization, establishment of a vegetative cover, or paving, to minimize wind-driven dust from inactive disturbed surface areas.
- Use traffic cones, signs, lighted barricades, lights, and flagmen as described and specified in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, current edition, California Supplement, Part 6 Temporary Traffic Control to provide for public safety and convenience during construction.
- Provide detours during pipeline installation along roads to allow emergency vehicles access around the work area.
- Comply with City of Rocklin noise policy for construction activities by scheduling construction activities only between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday or 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.
- Maintain all construction equipment in good working order and use factory installed muffling devices to minimize noise generation.
- Cover, fence, and guard, as appropriate, open excavation and ditches across roadways in such a manner as to permit safe traffic flow along roads during hours when no work is being performed and to prevent accidents from people or animals falling into the trenches.
- Use temporary construction fencing around work areas, as appropriate, until completion of the pipeline.
- Use native material to backfill trenches after pipeline installation to the extent possible.
- Restore disturbed areas to pre-disturbance conditions or better.
- Do not store or use hazardous materials, such as for equipment maintenance, where they could affect nearby residences or where they might enter creeks or ditches.
- Immediately contain and clean up all spills of oil and other hazardous materials and properly dispose of the hazardous materials at approved disposal facilities.
- Comply with California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and California Public Resources Code Sections 5097.5, 5097.9 et seq., regarding the discovery and disturbance of cultural materials or human remains, should any be discovered during project construction.
- Halt construction in the vicinity of a potential cultural resources or human remains find and notify SPMUD to allow evaluation of the resource by a qualified archaeologist or the remains by the County coroner prior to resuming construction.
- Comply with project-specific geotechnical recommendations (CGI Technical Services, Inc. 2014) for excavation requirements and fill materials used in the trench.

- Comply with all requirements specified in the Contract Documents for the project; any deviations will be prohibited.

## Impacts and Associated Mitigation Measures

### **Impact BR-1: Potential removal of blue elderberry shrubs and impacts on valley elderberry longhorn beetle, a federally listed species**

*Mitigation Measure BR-1: Avoid removal of blue elderberry shrubs and minimize ground disturbance near the shrubs*

SPMUD will require its construction contractor to implement the measures identified below during installation of the pipeline west of Aguilar Road to avoid and minimize impacts on two blue elderberry shrubs, which provide habitat for the federally listed valley elderberry longhorn beetle. These measures were derived from *Conservation Guidelines for the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle*, prepared by the USFWS, July 9, 1999. The measures may be modified or refined by the USFWS during the Endangered Species Act consultation process, which would take place as part of the Corps' Clean Water Act Section 404 permitting process, and any revised measures will supersede the measures identified below.

- Prior to construction activities, a Worker Environmental Awareness Training Program for construction workers will be conducted by a qualified biologist. The program will provide all workers with information on their responsibilities with regard to sensitive biological resources, specifically the status of the valley longhorn elderberry beetle and the need to protect the beetle and its host plant, the elderberry shrub. Written documentation of the training will be submitted to the USFWS within 30 days after its completion.
- Prior to construction activities west of Aguilar Road, an environmentally sensitive area will be designated around the two elderberry shrubs using fencing, signs, and flagging under supervision of a qualified biologist. A 100-foot buffer zone around the elderberry shrubs will be marked with stakes or flags as a minimal disturbance area. Because the pipeline would encroach on the 100-foot buffer zone, a narrower no-disturbance buffer zone will be established in coordination with the USFWS. High visibility orange fencing and/or k-rails will be placed at the greatest possible distance from the driplines of the shrubs, but not less than 20 feet. Signs will be placed in clearly visible locations along the fencing and be readable from a distance of 20 feet. Signs will state: "This area is habitat for the valley longhorn elderberry beetle, a threatened species, and must not be disturbed. This species is protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Violators are subject to prosecution, fines, and imprisonment." Fencing and signs will be maintained throughout construction west of Aguilar Road.
- Any disturbed areas within the 100-foot buffer zone will be revegetated with native plants and stabilized with erosion control measures in accordance with USFWS guidelines.

Encroachment into the 20-foot no-disturbance zone must be approved by USFWS in advance and may require monitoring by the biologist.

- No insecticides, herbicides, fertilizers, or other chemicals that might harm the beetle or its host plant will be used within 100 feet of either elderberry shrub.
- The qualified biologist will conduct pre-construction and post-construction surveys of the elderberry shrubs. Pre-construction surveys will document the conditions of the shrubs prior to pipeline installation and compliance with mitigation measures. The post-construction survey will verify that no additional impacts to the elderberry shrubs took place.
- If either shrub becomes damaged during pipeline installation, SPMUD may be required to compensate for the loss of the shrub through compensatory mitigation. Specific compensation will be identified in coordination with the USFWS and will be in accordance with *Conservation Guidelines for the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle*. SPMUD may be required to provide payment into a conservation bank for elderberry shrubs at a ratio consistent with the guidelines and per the USFWS' fee schedule.

**Implementation:** SPMUD will retain a qualified biologist to assist with implementing the measures. The construction contractor will be responsible for implementing the measures.

**Timing:** Prior to and during construction

**Effectiveness Criteria:** Documentation of the USFWS consultation will be in the project file. Goals are no adverse impacts on valley elderberry longhorn beetles (i.e., no take of the beetle) and no compliance actions from USFWS.

**Monitoring:** SPMUD will prepare and keep on file documentation verifying the implementation of the above referenced measure.

**Verified By:** \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
SPMUD Project Manager

**Impact BR-2: Potential construction-related impacts on California red-legged frog, a federally listed species, and western pond turtle, a California species of special concern**

*Mitigation Measure BR-2: Conduct pre-construction surveys for California red-legged frog and western pond turtle and implement construction measures to reduce impacts.*

SPMUD will require its construction contractor to implement the measures identified below during installation of the pipeline to avoid and minimize impacts on the federally listed California red-legged frog and the California species of special concern western pond turtle. These measures were derived from the results of previous consultations with the USFWS for projects in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. The measures for the frog may be modified or refined by the USFWS during the Endangered Species Act consultation process, which would take place as part of the Corps' Clean

Water Act Section 404 permitting process, and any revised measures will supersede the measures identified below.

- SPMUD will retain a USFWS-approved biologist familiar with California red-legged frog biology and habitat requirements to oversee implementation of the mitigation measures for the proposed project. SPMUD will submit the name and credentials of the biologist(s) to the USFWS for review and approval at least 15 days prior to the onset of construction activities.
- As part of the Worker Environmental Awareness Training Program for the valley elderberry longhorn beetle, the biologist will brief construction personnel on how to recognize California red-legged frogs and western pond turtles and where to find the species. Construction personnel will also be informed that if a California red-legged frog is encountered in the work area, construction must stop, and the USFWS will be contacted immediately to provide further guidance.
- If western pond turtles are encountered during construction and may be harmed by construction activities, a qualified biologist will be contacted to relocate the individual(s) the shortest distance possible to a location that contains suitable habitat and would not be affected by construction activities. If a pond turtle nest is found, the biologist will flag the site and determine if construction activities can avoid affecting the nest. If the nest cannot be avoided, it will be excavated and re-buried at a suitable location outside of the construction impact zone by a qualified biologist. CDFW will be notified when such an activity occurs.
- Aguilar Creek and the adjacent riparian and wetland habitat outside the work area will be designated as environmentally sensitive areas and will be staked, flagged, or signed under supervision of the biologist to avoid encroachment by equipment and construction crews. The number of access routes and the total area of impact near these areas will be limited to the minimum necessary to achieve the proposed project goal and minimize impacts on California red-legged frog and western pond turtle habitat.
- All refueling and maintenance of equipment and vehicles will be conducted at least 50 feet from riparian habitat and the creek and will not occur at a location where a spill would drain directly toward the creek. Prior to the onset of work, SPMUD will ensure that a spill prevention and clean-up plan is in place for prompt and effective response to any accidental spills. All workers will be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measures to take should a spill occur.
- During construction activities, all trash that may attract predators will be properly contained, removed from the work site, and disposed of regularly. Following construction, all trash and construction debris will be removed from work areas.
- Work areas that are temporarily disturbed will be revegetated with an assemblage of native riparian, wetland, and upland vegetation suitable for the area.

- Upon completion of pipeline installation under Aguilar Creek, the temporary dam will be removed in a manner that would allow flow to resume with the least disturbance to the substrate. Alteration of the streambed will be minimized to the maximum extent possible.

**Implementation:** SPMUD will retain a qualified biologist to assist with implementing the measures. The construction contractor will be responsible for implementing the measures.

**Timing:** Prior to and during construction

**Effectiveness Criteria:** Documentation of the USFWS consultation will be in the project file. Goals are no adverse impacts on California red-legged frog (i.e., no take of the frog), no direct impacts on western pond turtle, and no compliance actions from USFWS or CDFW.

**Monitoring:** SPMUD will prepare and keep on file documentation verifying the implementation of the above referenced measure.

**Verified By:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
SPMUD Project Manager

**Impact BR-3: Disturbance to nesting birds during construction activities in the nesting season**

*Mitigation Measure BR-3: Conduct pre-construction surveys for nesting birds and establish construction-free buffer zones around active nest sites.*

SPMUD will require its construction contractor to implement the following measures to avoid or minimize project-related impacts on roosting bats, nesting special-status birds, migratory birds, and raptors:

- Vegetation removal and construction activities should be scheduled outside of the typical breeding season for birds (September 1 – February 14), if feasible, and no further measures for nesting birds would be necessary.
- If vegetation removal and construction activities are scheduled between March 15 and August 31, a qualified biologist will conduct a pre-construction survey in oak-pine, riparian, and grassland habitat within 250 feet of the proposed pipeline for special-status and migratory birds and within 500 feet of the proposed pipeline for raptors. The survey will be conducted no more than two weeks before construction activities begin and will be repeated if construction activities stop for more than two weeks at a time.
- If an active nest is found, a qualified biologist, in consultation with CDFW, will establish a construction-free buffer zone around the nest until the young have fledged. A plan will be developed to monitor whether construction activity is disturbing the reproductive process and to determine when the young have fledged.

- A pre-construction survey will also be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to vegetation removal in riparian habitat to determine if trees are being used by roosting bats. This survey will include a minimum of two night surveys to detect bat activity in trees to be removed. If bat use is not identified or bat use is limited to night roosting, no further measures are necessary. If bat use includes day roosting, vegetation removal will be scheduled before the maternity period and after young are volant (March 1 – July 31). If feasible, trees with day roosting bats may also be removed at dark when the bats have left the roost to forage.

**Implementation:** SPMUD or its contractor will schedule work to avoid the nesting bird season or retain a biologist to assist with implementing the measures. The construction contractor will comply with no-disturbance buffer zones, if applicable.

**Timing:** Prior to and during construction

**Effectiveness Criteria:** Documentation of schedule and surveys, if needed, will be in project file. Goals are to avoid disturbance to bird nesting activity and have no compliance actions from USFWS or CDFW.

**Monitoring:** SPMUD will prepare and keep on file documentation verifying the implementation of the above referenced measure.

**Verified By:** \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
SPMUD Project Manager

**Impact BR-4: Spread of invasive plants**

*Mitigation Measure BR-4: Implement measures to prevent the spread of invasive plant species.*

SPMUD will require its construction contractor to implement the following measures to prevent the spread of invasive plant species into the project area:

- All equipment used for off-road construction activities will be weed-free prior to entering the project area. Equipment may need to be washed or inspected for plant material prior to being used.
- If project implementation calls for mulches or fill, they will be weed free.
- Any seed mixes or other vegetative material used for re-vegetation of disturbed sites will consist of locally adapted native plant materials.
- Any gravels or materials used for the temporary dam will be new, from a local source, or properly disinfected or cleaned prior to installation.

**Implementation:** The construction contractor will implement the measures.

**Timing:** During construction

**Effectiveness Criteria:** Documentation of methods used to avoid spreading or introducing invasive plants will be in project file. Goal is to have no new invasive plants introduced and not spread any existing invasive plants in the project area.

**Monitoring:** SPMUD will prepare and keep on file documentation verifying the implementation of the above referenced measure.

**Verified By:** \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
SPMUD Project Manager

**Impact BR-5: Construction-related impacts on wetlands and streams**

*Mitigation Measure BR-5: Avoid and protect wetlands during construction activities and comply with permit conditions.*

SPMUD will submit a pre-construction notification to the Corps to obtain coverage under Nationwide Permit 12 and submit a request for water quality certification to the Regional Water Quality Control Board pursuant to Sections 404 and 401, respectively, of the Clean Water Act, prior to any activities that could result in discharge of fill material to wetlands or other waters. In addition, SPMUD will submit a notification package to CDFW pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code prior to construction activities in Aguilar Creek. SPMUD will ensure that all terms and conditions of the required permits and authorizations are met. The mitigation measures identified for California red-legged frog and western pond turtle (Mitigation Measure BR-2) will also protect wetlands and the creek outside the work area. In addition, SPMUD will require its construction contractor to implement any additional measures identified in the permits and authorizations for the project to minimize disturbance in and along Aguilar Creek and protect wetlands outside the work area.

**Implementation:** SPMUD will obtain all required biological permits, and the contractor will implement measures to protect wetlands and the creek.

**Timing:** Prior to and during construction

**Effectiveness Criteria:** Copies of permits will be in the project file. Goal is no net loss of wetlands, no noticeable water quality impacts in the creek, and no complaints or compliance actions from Corps, RWQCB, or CDFW.

**Monitoring:** SPMUD will prepare and keep on file documentation verifying the implementation of the above referenced measure.

**Verified By:** \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
SPMUD Project Manager

**Impact BR-6: Removal or disturbance near oak trees**

*Mitigation Measure BR-6: Minimize oak tree removal and compensate for the loss of oak trees in compliance with the City of Rocklin Oak Tree Preservation ordinance.*

SPMUD will obtain a tree removal permit from the City of Rocklin and comply with all terms and conditions required for compliance with the City's tree ordinance. An arborist survey will be conducted to identify and assess all oak trees subject to protection that are proposed for removal and compile information for the permit application (e.g., tree diameters, health). Once the specific number of oak trees to be removed is confirmed, SPMUD will coordinate with the City to determine the appropriate compensation for removal of the trees. On-site replacement plantings are not likely feasible along the pipeline easement; therefore, SPMUD will likely pay into the City's mitigation fund.

For trees that are not removed, but are near the work area, SPMUD will require its construction contractor to protect the trees with brightly colored, synthetic fencing around the dripline for the duration of construction. A narrower protective zone may be established in coordination with an arborist and/or the City. Placement of protective fencing may be verified in the field by the City of Rocklin prior to the commencement of construction near the tree(s) and will not be removed until written authorization is received from the City.

**Implementation:** SPMUD will obtain a tree removal permit, and the contractor will implement measures to protect oak trees.

**Timing:** Prior to and during construction

**Effectiveness Criteria:** Copy of permit will be in the project file. Goal is to minimize tree removal, protect trees outside work area, and not have compliance actions from the City regarding tree removal.

**Monitoring:** SPMUD will prepare and keep on file documentation verifying the implementation of the above referenced measure.

**Verified By:** \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
SPMUD Project Manager

### **Impact CR-1: Ground disturbance in and near prehistoric site CA-PLA-002**

*Mitigation Measure CR-1: Retain an archaeological monitor and protect cultural resources discovered during ground-disturbing activities in and near prehistoric site CA-PLA-002*

SPMUD will retain a qualified professional archaeologist to monitor all ground-disturbing activities, including open trenching and other excavations, within site CA-PLA-002 as currently mapped and in the area to the north of Arrowhead Drive. SPMUD will coordinate with Native American representatives and tribal organizations to determine the need and logistics of having a Native American monitor present during ground-disturbing activities. If directional drilling or other trenchless methods of pipeline installation are utilized, ground disturbance and staging at the beginning and end points of these activities will be monitored. In the event that archaeological or historical deposits are discovered during construction activities, all work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery will be stopped immediately and the contractor or monitor will notify SPMUD and other agencies as appropriate (e.g., the Corps, the Placer County Coroner). SPMUD will retain an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards in prehistoric or historical archaeology, as appropriate, to evaluate the find and recommend appropriate

conservation measures in coordination with the Corps and State Historic Preservation Officer. The conservation measures, which may include recording the resources, test excavation, or data recovery, will be implemented prior to reinitiation of activities in the immediate vicinity of the discovery. This measure may be modified or refined by the State Historic Preservation Officer during the National Historic Preservation Act consultation process, which would take place as part of the Corps' Clean Water Act Section 404 permitting process, and more stringent measures will supersede this mitigation measure.

**Implementation:** SPMUD will retain a qualified archaeologist to monitor ground disturbance in the site. The construction contractor will be responsible for protecting discovered cultural resources.

**Timing:** During construction

**Effectiveness Criteria:** Documentation of the consultation between the Army Corps and State Historic Preservation Officer will be in the project file. Goals are no adverse impacts on the prehistoric site and no compliance actions from either agency.

**Monitoring:** SPMUD will prepare and keep on file documentation verifying the implementation of the above referenced measure.

**Verified By:** \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
SPMUD Project Manager

**Impact CR-2: Construction-related disturbance on other cultural resources or human remains**

*Mitigation Measure CR-2: Protect previously undocumented cultural resources and human remains discovered during ground-disturbing activities*

In the event that previously undocumented archaeological or historical resources are discovered during construction activities, all work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery will be stopped immediately and the contractor will notify SPMUD and other agencies as appropriate (e.g., the Corps, the Placer County Coroner). SPMUD will retain an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards in prehistoric or historical archaeology, as appropriate, to evaluate the find and recommend appropriate conservation measures in coordination with the Corps and State Historic Preservation Officer. The conservation measures, which may include recording the resources, test excavation, or data recovery, will be implemented prior to reinitiation of activities in the immediate vicinity of the discovery.

If human remains are discovered during construction activities, all activities in the vicinity of the find will be suspended and SPMUD will immediately notify the Placer County Medical Examiner–Coroner pursuant to Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code and Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code. If the coroner determines that the remains may be those of a Native American, the coroner will contact the Native American Heritage Commission. Treatment of Native American human remains will be conducted in accordance with the direction of the Most Likely Descendant and/or Native American tribe, as appropriate.

**Implementation:** SPMUD or its contractor will retain a qualified archaeologist, as needed, to evaluate discovered cultural resources, and the construction contractor will implement protection measures for cultural resources.

**Timing:** During construction

**Effectiveness Criteria:** Documentation of any cultural resources discovered during construction will be in the project file. Goal is no disturbance to cultural resources.

**Monitoring:** SPMUD will prepare and keep on file documentation verifying the implementation of the above referenced measure.

**Verified By:** \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
SPMUD Project Manager

## TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

**Date:** September 17, 2015  
**To:** Eric Nielson, South Placer Municipal Utility District  
**CC:** Mike Fisher and Jigar Shah, Water Works Engineers  
**From:** Leslie Perry, North State Resources  
**Subject:** Foothill Trunk Replacement Project IS/MND (SCH#2015062042) – Responses to Comments

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### Introduction

This memorandum provides responses to comments received on the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Foothill Trunk Replacement Project. An IS/MND is an informational document prepared by a Lead Agency, in this case, South Placer Municipal Utility District (SPMUD), that provides environmental analysis for public review and for the agency decision-makers to consider before taking discretionary actions related to any proposed project that may have a significant effect on the environment. The IS/MND analyzes the impacts resulting from the proposed project and where applicable, identifies mitigation measures to minimize the impacts to less-than-significant levels. The IS/MND was circulated for a 30-day period beginning on June 15, 2015 and ending on July 14, 2015. A newspaper notice was published on June 18, 2015 notifying the public of the availability of the IS/MND for review (see attached proof of publication), and SPMUD sent letters to property owners in the project area notifying them of the project and opportunity to review and comment on the IS/MND.

Although the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and CEQA Guidelines do not require a Lead Agency to prepare written responses to comments received on an IS/MND (this requirement applies only to environmental impact reports [see CEQA Guidelines Section 15088]), SPMUD has elected to prepare the following written responses with the intent of conducting a comprehensive and meaningful evaluation of the proposed project. The SPMUD Board of Directors will review the IS/MND and these responses to comments when considering whether to approve the project and adopt the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan appended to the IS/MND as part of the final steps of the CEQA process.

### Responses to Comments

During the public review period, three comment letters were received from the State Water Resources Control Board, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, and private landowners (Jamar and Pace families) (see attachments at the end of this memo). Based on a review of the comments received, no new, potentially significant impacts beyond those identified in the Draft IS/MND would occur, no mitigation measures or project revisions must be added to reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level, and none of the grounds for recirculation of an IS/MND as specified in CEQA Guidelines Section 15073.5 have been identified. All potential impacts identified in the Draft IS/MND were determined to be less than significant.

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5000 Bechelli Lane-Suite 203  
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Sacramento, California 95811  
Phone (916) 446-2566  
Fax (916) 446-2792

2595 Ceanothus Ave, Suite 182  
Chico, California 95973  
Phone (530) 345-4552  
Fax (530) 345-4805

Responses to comments in the three letters are provided below. Each letter is numbered in order of the date it was sent, and comments are numbered on the attached comment letters to correspond with the responses.

## **Letter 1: State Water Resources Control Board**

- Response to Comment 1-1:** SPMUD is not planning on using Clean Water State Revolving Fund financing for the Foothill Trunk Replacement Project. If such funding is considered on future projects, SPMUD will coordinate with the State Water Resources Control Board to ensure its compliance requirements are met.
- Response to Comment 1-2:** See response to Comment 1-1.
- Response to Comment 1-3:** As described in Section 2.4, Construction Methods, in the Draft IS/MND, construction is expected to start in spring 2016 and be complete in 3 months (summer 2016). This construction schedule overlaps with the bird nesting season.
- Response to Comment 1-4:** Air quality modeling was not conducted for the project because of the nature of the project and short-term construction period.
- Response to Comment 1-5:** See response to Comment 1-1.
- Response to Comment 1-6:** Raptors that may use the habitats in the project area or vicinity include red-shouldered hawk, Cooper's hawk, various owls, and possibly red-tailed hawk. No raptors were observed during field surveys.
- Response to Comment 1-7:** As noted in the biological resources section of the Draft IS/MND (IV. Biological Resources), biological surveys were conducted in the project area. Surveys included a biological characterization, habitat assessment for special-status species, and delineation of waters of the United States. These surveys were conducted in November 2014 and January 2015.
- Response to Comment 1-8:** The records search conducted for the project through the North Central Information Center was done on November 13, 2014.
- Response to Comment 1-9:** The Native American Heritage Commission was contacted as part of the cultural resources study to obtain a list of Native American individuals and organizations who may be interested in the project. The Commission was contacted on November 7, 2014 and responded on November 24, 2014.
- Response to Comment 1-10:** Site CA-PLA-002 has not been officially listed or formally recommended eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, but for purposes of the analyses in the Draft IS/MND, SPMUD has treated the site as being eligible for listing.

**Response to Comment 1-11:** See response to Comment 1-1.

**Response to Comment 1-12:** Cultural resource surveys (pedestrian) were conducted on November 22 and 23, 2014 by qualified archaeologists.

**Response to Comment 1-13:** See response to Comment 1-1.

**Response to Comment 1-14:** See response to Comment 1-1.

## **Letter 2: Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board**

**Response to Comment 2-1:** SPMUD acknowledges the need to obtain coverage under the General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activities and will ensure its contractor prepares and implements a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan for the project.

**Response to Comment 2-2:** SPMUD will ensure compliance with the City of Rocklin Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit, as applicable.

**Response to Comment 2-3:** The project is in a residential area and would not involve industrial stormwater discharge.

**Response to Comment 2-4:** SPMUD acknowledges the need to obtain a permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the discharge of fill material into wetlands and other waters and to submit a notification to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding streambed alterations associated with the project. A Section 404 permit application and notification of streambed alteration will be submitted in the fall 2015. All terms of the permit and agreement will be adhered to during project implementation.

**Response to Comment 2-5:** SPMUD acknowledges the need to obtain a water quality certification from the Regional Water Board if a Section 404 permit is needed. A request for certification will be submitted at the same time as the permit application for the Section 404 permit.

**Response to Comment 2-6:** SPMUD will coordinate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to review the delineation of waters of the United States prepared for the project and confirm the jurisdiction of the waters in the project area. If determined necessary, SPMUD will obtain a Waste Discharge Requirement permit from the Central Valley Regional Water Board.

**Response to Comment 2-7:** The project area does not contain commercially irrigated agriculture.

**Response to Comment 2-8:** SPMUD acknowledges the need to obtain coverage under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit for dewatering during construction activities. A request for coverage will be submitted to the Regional Water Board once additional project details are available.

### **Letter 3: Jamar and Pace Families**

**Response to Comment 3-1:** SPMUD appreciates the property owners' support of updating the pipeline and is coordinating with the property owners along the proposed alignment regarding easements. SPMUD representatives met with members of the Pace and Jamar families, as well as the neighboring property owner (Rossman), on the evening of Monday August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 to review the proposed project and discuss their concerns. Subsequent to this meeting, SPMUD provided the residents copies of alignment details they requested. SPMUD representatives met again with Rossman midday on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 to provide additional information about the project and provide clarification regarding the final grade and condition that the properties would be left in after the work. The following is a summary of the project as it relates to the concerns and comments laid out in Letter 3: Jamar and Pace Families.

When designing the project, environmental constraints were taken into account in the selection of the preferred pipeline alignment. Biological and cultural resources studies and geotechnical investigations were conducted to identify sensitive resources and geologic and soil conditions that might affect construction of the project. As described in the IS/MND, the removal of oak trees along the pipeline was identified as a potentially significant impact, and Mitigation Measure BR-6 will be implemented to ensure compliance with the City of Rocklin Oak Tree Preservation ordinance. The number and types of trees proposed for removal has been minimized to the fewest necessary to install the pipeline. Also, the pipeline alignment along Arrowhead Drive would avoid the need to unnecessarily disturb Aguilar Creek beyond the impacts disclosed in the IS/MND. Based on the cultural resource study, the analysis in the IS/MND also identified impacts on cultural resources (which includes Nisenan Indian artifacts) as potentially significant, and Mitigation Measures CR-1 and CR-2 will be implemented to minimize disturbance of cultural resources and protect these resources if uncovered during construction.

As described in the IS/MND, construction activities would last about 3 months, once all required permits and approvals have been received, and standard construction practices, including traffic control measures, will be implemented to avoid or minimize disruptions to daily activities near the work area. Access to the adjacent properties will be available throughout

construction, with only minor temporary delays in access while the pipeline is installed near the residences. The Contractor will be required to provide immediate emergency vehicle access to all residences where minor temporary delays in access might occur. Once installed, the new pipeline will be below ground and require only periodic preventative maintenance (typically annual maintenance manhole access to assess the operating condition of the line). The alignment along the roads is also preferred to provide a route that allows for all-season access for future maintenance when needed. The design incorporates hydraulic design components to ensure wastewater can be conveyed by gravity flow (no pumps) through the system, so the alignment along the roads is not an issue from this perspective.

**Response to Comment 3-2:** Section 2.5, Anticipated Permit Approvals, in the IS/MND identifies a list of permits expected to be required for the proposed project, including a Streambed Alteration Agreement. SPMUD will prepare a notification package to submit to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and comply with terms of the agreement with the Department prior to, during, and following construction of the project. The IS/MND discloses potential impacts on special-status fish and other wildlife (e.g., western pond turtle) and identifies mitigation measures to avoid or minimize adverse impacts on these species (refer to Mitigation Measures BR-1 through BR-4). SPMUD will obtain other required permits for the project, such as a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit from the Army Corps of Engineers, and coordinate with the Corps to ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act for impacts on federally listed species and with the National Historic Preservation Act for impacts on historic properties.

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNORMATTHEW RODRIGUEZ  
SECRETARY FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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**State Water Resources Control Board****JUL 03 2015**

Herb Niederberger  
South Placer Municipal Utility District  
5807 Springview Drive  
Rocklin, CA 95677

Dear Mr. Niederberger:

INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (IS/MND) FOR SOUTH PLACER MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT (DISTRICT); FOOTHILL TRUNK REPLACEMENT PROJECT (PROJECT); PLACER COUNTY; STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO.2015062042

We understand that the District may be pursuing Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) financing for this Project. As a funding agency and a state agency with jurisdiction by law to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is providing the following information and comments for the environmental document prepared for the Project.

The State Water Board, Division of Financial Assistance, is responsible for administering the CWSRF Program. The primary purpose for the CWSRF Program is to implement the Clean Water Act and various state laws by providing financial assistance for wastewater treatment facilities necessary to prevent water pollution, recycle water, correct nonpoint source and storm drainage pollution problems, provide for estuary enhancement, and thereby protect and promote health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the state. The CWSRF Program provides low-interest funding equal to one-half of the most recent State General Obligation Bond Rates with a 30-year term. Applications are accepted and processed continuously. Please refer to the State Water Board's CWSRF website at:

[www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/srf/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/index.shtml).

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

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/srf/srf\\_forms.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/srf_forms.shtml). The

State Water Board is required to consult directly with agencies responsible for implementing federal environmental laws and regulations. Any environmental issues raised by federal agencies or their representatives will need to be resolved prior to State Water Board approval of a CWSRF financing commitment for the proposed Project. For further information on the CWSRF Program, please contact Mr. Ahmad Kashkoli, at (916) 341-5855.

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FELICIA MARCUS, CHAIR | THOMAS HOWARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 | Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, Ca 95812-0100 | [www.waterboards.ca.gov](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov)

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

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

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

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

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

- A. Compliance with the Federal Clean Air Act: (a) Provide air quality studies that may have been done for the Project; and (b) if the Project is in a nonattainment area or attainment area subject to a maintenance plan; (i) provide a summary of the estimated emissions (in tons per year) that are expected from both the construction and operation of the Project for each federal criteria pollutant in a nonattainment or maintenance area, and indicate if the nonattainment designation is moderate, serious, or severe (if applicable); (ii) if emissions are above the federal de minimis levels, but the Project is sized to meet only the needs of current population projections that are used in the approved State Implementation Plan for air quality, quantitatively indicate how the proposed capacity increase was calculated using population projections.
- B. Compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act: Identify whether the Project is within a coastal zone and the status of any coordination with the California Coastal Commission.

- C. Protection of Wetlands: Identify any portion of the proposed Project area that should be evaluated for wetlands or United States waters delineation by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), or requires a permit from the USACE, and identify the status of coordination with the USACE.
- D. Compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act: Identify whether the Project will result in the conversion of farmland. State the status of farmland (Prime, Unique, or Local Statewide Importance) in the Project area and determine if this area is under a Williamson Act Contract.
- E. Compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act: List any birds protected under this act that may be impacted by the Project and identify conservation measures to minimize impacts.
- F. Compliance with the Flood Plain Management Act: Identify whether or not the Project is in a Flood Management Zone and include a copy of the Federal Emergency Management Agency flood zone maps for the area.
- G. Compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act: Identify whether or not any Wild and Scenic Rivers would be potentially impacted by the Project and include conservation measures to minimize such impacts.

Following are specific comments on the District's draft IS/MND:

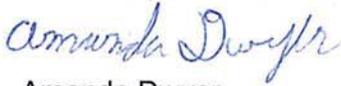
- 1. If the District decides to come to the State Water Board for funding for the Project, please supply a copy of all permits for the Project to the State Water Board; | 1-2
- 2. When is Project construction likely to occur? Would it occur during the wet season, bird nesting season, or salmon spawning season? | 1-3
- 3. Has the District used a model to estimate air emissions for the Air Quality section beginning on page 14? | 1-4
- 4. If coming for funding, please provide an assessment of the direct/indirect impacts on protected species that have been identified on three species lists (from the USFWS, California Natural Diversity Database, and the California Native Plant Society Rare Finds database) that are less than a year old. This is usually seen in a table with column headings that read species name, list/protection status, habitat preferences, and the possibility of occurrence or disturbance. Please also provide copies of these lists to the State Water Board if pursuing CWSRF funding; | 1-5
- 5. Page 18 states that nesting birds and raptors could be disturbed if present during construction. What species of raptors have been identified to be present, or have the possibility to be present, in the Project area? | 1-6
- 6. Was a biological survey completed for the Biological Resources section of the report, beginning on page 16? | 1-7
- 7. Page 29 mentions that a records search was conducted through the North Central Information Center. What is the date of when the record search was completed? | 1-8
- 8. Was the Native American Heritage Commission contacted regarding the Project? If so, on what date? | 1-9
- 9. Page 29 mentions the "eligibility of [CA-PLA-002] for listing to the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources." Does this mean that the resource is already listed as eligible to be placed on one of these lists, or that the District has considered its eligibility and is treating the resource as eligible?; | 1-10
- 10. Please provide the Cultural Report for the Project, if one was completed, and if the District is pursuing funding; | 1-11
- 11. Was a pedestrian survey conducted in the Project area for cultural resources? and | 1-12
- 12. If coming for funding, please provide the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan that is mentioned on page 34. | 1-13

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

1-14

Thank you for the opportunity to review the District's draft IS/MND. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (916)341-5686, or by email at [Amanda.Dwyer@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Amanda.Dwyer@waterboards.ca.gov), or contact Ahmad Kashkoli at (916)341-5855 or by email at [ahmad.kashkoli@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:ahmad.kashkoli@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Amanda Dwyer  
Environmental Scientist

Enclosures (3)

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

cc: State Clearinghouse  
(Re: SCH# 2015062042)  
P.O. Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

# California Environmental Quality Act Requirements

State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Financial Assistance

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Division of Financial Assistance, administers the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Program. The CWSRF Program is partially funded by grants from the United States Environmental Protection Agency. All applicants seeking CWSRF financing must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and provide sufficient information so that the State Water Board can document compliance with federal environmental laws. The "Environmental Package" provides the forms and instructions needed to complete the environmental review requirements for CWSRF Program financing. It is available at:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/srf/srf\\_forms.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/srf_forms.shtml)



We've got the **green...**  
to keep California's **water clean.**  
CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND

**Contact Information:** For more information related to the CWSRF Program environmental review process and requirements, please contact your State Water Board Project Manager or Mr. Ahmad Kashkoli at 916-341-5855 or [Ahmad.Kashkoli@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Ahmad.Kashkoli@waterboards.ca.gov)

## LEAD AGENCY

The applicant is usually the "Lead Agency" and must prepare and circulate an environmental document before approving a project. Only a public agency, such as a local, regional or state government, may be the "Lead Agency" under CEQA. If a project will be completed by a non-governmental organization, "Lead Agency" responsibility goes to the first public agency providing discretionary approval for the project.

## RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

The State Water Board is generally a "Responsible Agency" under CEQA. As a "Responsible Agency," the State Water Board must make findings based on information provided by the "Lead Agency" before financing a project.

## ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The State Water Board's environmental review of the project's compliance with both CEQA and federal cross-cutting regulations must be completed before a project can be financed by the CWSRF Program.

## DOCUMENT REVIEW

Applicants are encouraged to consult with State Water Board staff early during preparation of CEQA document if considering CWSRF financing. Applicants shall also send their environmental documents to the State Water Board, Environmental Review Unit during the CEQA public review period. This way, any environmental concerns can be addressed early in the process.

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The Environmental Review Unit requires the documents listed below to make findings and complete its environmental review. Once the State Water Board receives all the required documents and makes its own findings, the environmental review for the project will be complete.

- ✓ Draft and Final Environmental Documents: Environmental Impact Report, Negative Declaration, and Mitigated Negative Declaration as appropriate to the project
- ✓ Resolution adopting/certifying the environmental document, making CEQA findings, and approving the project
- ✓ All comments received during the public review period and the "Lead Agency's" responses to those comments
- ✓ Adopted Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan, if applicable
- ✓ Date-stamped copy of the Notice of Determination or Notice of Exemption filed with the County Clerk(s) and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research
- ✓ CWSRF Evaluation Form for Environmental Review and Federal Coordination with supporting documents



STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS

[waterboards.ca.gov](http://waterboards.ca.gov)

# Basic Criteria for Cultural Resources Report Preparation

State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Financial Assistance

For Section 106 Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) under the National Historic Preservation Act

## CULTURAL RESOURCES REPORT

The Cultural Resources Report must be prepared by a qualified researcher that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards. Please see the Professional Qualifications Standards at the following website at: [http://www.cr.nps.gov/local-law/arch\\_stnds\\_9.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/local-law/arch_stnds_9.htm)

The Cultural Resources Report should include one of the four "findings" listed in Section 106. These include:

### ***"No historic properties affected"***

(no properties are within the area of potential effect (APE; including below the ground).

### ***"No effect to historic properties"***

(properties may be near the APE, but the project will not have any adverse effects).

### ***"No adverse effect to historic properties"***

(the project may affect "historic properties", but the effects will not be adverse).

### ***"Adverse effect to historic properties"***

Note: Consultation with the SHPO will be required if a "no adverse effect to historic properties" or an "adverse effect to historic properties" determination is made, to develop and evaluate alternatives or modifications to the proposed project that could avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects on "historic properties."

## RECORDS SEARCH

- A records search (less than one year old) extending to a half-mile beyond the project APE from a geographically appropriate Information Center is required. The records search should include maps that show all recorded sites and surveys in relation to the APE for the proposed project, and copies of the confidential site records included as an appendix to the Cultural Resources Report.
- The APE is three-dimensional (depth, length and width) and all areas (e.g., new construction, easements, staging areas, and access roads) directly affected by the proposed project.



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## NATIVE AMERICAN and INTERESTED PARTY CONSULTATION

- Native American and interested party consultation should be initiated at the planning phase of the proposed project to gather information to assist with the preparation of an adequate Cultural Resources Report.
- The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) must be contacted to obtain documentation of a search of the Sacred Lands Files for or near the project APE.
- All local Native American tribal organizations or individuals identified by the NAHC must be contacted by certified mail, and the letter should include a map and a description of the proposed project.
- Follow-up contact should be made by telephone and a phone log maintained to document the contacts and responses.
- Letters of inquiry seeking historical information on the project area and local vicinity should be sent to local historical societies, preservation organizations, or individual members of the public with a demonstrated interest in the proposed project.

Copies of all documents mentioned above (project description, map, phone log and letters sent to the NAHC and Native American tribal organizations or individuals and interested parties) must be included in the Cultural Resources Report.

**Contact Information:** For more information related to the CWSRF Program Cultural Resources and Requirements, please contact Mr. Ahmad Kashkoli at 916-341-5855 or [Ahmad.Kashkoli@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Ahmad.Kashkoli@waterboards.ca.gov)

## PRECAUTIONS

A finding of ***“no known resources”*** without supporting evidence is unacceptable. The Cultural Resources Report must identify resources within the APE or demonstrate with sufficient evidence that none are present.

***“The area is sensitive for buried archaeological resources,”*** followed by a statement that ***“monitoring is recommended.”*** Monitoring is not an acceptable option without good-faith effort to demonstrate that no known resource is present.

If ***“the area is already disturbed by previous construction”*** documentation is still required to demonstrate that the proposed project will not affect “historic properties.” An existing road can be protecting a buried archaeological deposit or may itself be a “historic property.” Additionally, previous construction may have impacted an archaeological site that has not been previously documented.

## SHPO CONSULTATION LETTER

Submit a draft consultation letter prepared by the qualified researcher with the Cultural Resources Report to the State Water Resources Control Board. A draft consultation letter template is available for download on the State Water Board webpage at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/cwsrf\\_requirements.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/cwsrf_requirements.shtml)



## National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)

Section 106 of the NHPA requires an analysis of the effects on "historic properties." The Section 106 process is designed to accommodate historic preservation concerns for federal actions with the potential to affect historic properties. Early consultation with appropriate government agencies, Indian tribes, and members of the public, will ensure that their views and concerns are addressed during the planning phase.

Historic properties (i.e., buildings, structures, objects, and archaeological sites 50 years or older) are properties that are included in the National Register of Historic Places or meet the criteria for the National Register.

### Required Documents:

- ✓ A draft State Historic Preservation Officer consultation request letter; and
- ✓ A cultural resources report on historic properties conducted according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, including:
  - A clearly defined Area of Potential Effect (APE), specifying the length, width, and depth of excavation, with a map clearly illustrating the project APE;
  - A records search, less than one year old, extending to a half-mile beyond the project APE;
  - Written description of field methods;
  - Identification and evaluation of historic properties within the project's APE; and
  - Documentation of consultation with the Native American Heritage Commission and local Native American tribes.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If your project has the potential to affect biological resources or historic properties, the consultation process can be lengthy. Please contact the State Water Board staff early in your planning process to discuss what additional information may be needed for your specific project.

Please contact your State Water Board Project Manager or Mr. Ahmad Kashkoli at (916) 341-5855 or [Ahmad.Kashkoli@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Ahmad.Kashkoli@waterboards.ca.gov) for more information related to the CWSRF Program environmental review process and requirements.



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# Environmental Review Requirements

State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Financial Assistance

# ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Program is partially funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and is subject to federal environmental regulations as well as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). All applicants seeking CWSRF financing must comply with both CEQA and the federal cross-cutting regulations. The "Environmental Package" provides the forms and instructions needed to complete the environmental review requirements for CWSRF financing. The forms and instructions are available at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/srf/srf\\_forms.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/srf_forms.shtml).

## Lead Agency/Applicant

The applicant will generally act as the "Lead Agency" for environmental review. It will prepare, circulate, and consider the environmental documents prior to approving the project. It also provides the State Water Board with copies of the CEQA documents, and a completed "Environmental Evaluation Form for Environmental Review and Federal Coordination" ([http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/srf/docs/forms/application\\_environmental\\_package.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/docs/forms/application_environmental_package.pdf)) with supporting documents as part of the "Environmental Package."

## Responsible Agency/State Water Board

The State Water Board acts on behalf of EPA to review and consider the environmental documents before approving financing. The State Water Board may require additional studies or documentation to make its own CEQA findings, as well as circulate CEQA documents and other environmental reports to relevant agencies for consultation before making a determination about the project financing.

The Applicant must address all relevant federal agencies' comments before project financing is approved.

# FEDERAL CROSS-CUTTING REGULATIONS

The CWSRF Program requires consultation with relevant federal agencies on the following federal environmental regulations, if applicable to the project:

- Clean Air Act
- Coastal Barriers Resources Act
- Coastal Zone Management Act
- Endangered Species Act
- Environmental Justice
- Farmland Protection Policy Act
- Floodplain Management
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- National Historic Preservation Act
- Protection of Wetlands
- Safe Drinking Water Act,
- Sole Source Aquifer Protection
- Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

The following is a brief overview of requirements for some of the key regulations.

## Clean Air Act (CAA)

The CAA general conformity analysis only applies to projects in areas not meeting the National Ambient Air Quality Standards or subject to a maintenance plan.

If project emissions are below the federal "de minimis" levels then:

- A general conformity analysis is not required.

If project emissions are above the federal "de minimis" levels then:

- A general conformity determination for the project must be made. A general conformity determination can be made if facilities are sized to meet the needs of current population projections used in an approved State Implementation Plan for air quality.

- Using population projections, applicants must explain how the proposed capacity increase was calculated.

An air quality modeling analysis is necessary of all projects for the following criteria pollutants, regardless of attainment status:

- Carbon monoxide
- Lead
- Oxides of nitrogen
- Ozone
- Particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10)
- Sulfur dioxide

## Endangered Species Act (ESA)

The ESA requires an analysis of the effects on federally listed species. The State Water Board will determine the project's potential effects on federally listed species, and will initiate informal/formal consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service, as necessary under Section 7 of the ESA.

## Required Documents:

- ✓ A species list, less than one year old, from the USFWS and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Natural Diversity Database;
- ✓ A biological survey conducted during the appropriate time of year;
- ✓ Maps or documents (biological reports or biological assessments, if necessary); and
- ✓ An assessment of the direct or indirect impacts to any federally listed species and/or critical habitat. If no effects are expected, explain why and provide the supporting evidence.



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNORMATTHEW RODRIGUEZ  
SECRETARY FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

7 July 2015

Herb Niederberger  
South Placer Municipal Utility District  
5807 Springview Drive  
Rocklin, CA 95677

CERTIFIED MAIL  
7014 2870 0000 7535 4210

### COMMENTS TO REQUEST FOR REVIEW FOR THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION, FOOTHILL TRUCK REPLACEMENT PROJECT, SCH# 2015062042, PLACER COUNTY

Pursuant to the State Clearinghouse's 15 June 2015 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 Foothill Truck Replacement Project, located in Placer 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.

#### **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).

2-1

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

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

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

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

2-2

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

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

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

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

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

Storm water discharges associated with industrial sites must comply with the regulations contained in the Industrial Storm Water General Permit Order No. 97-03-DWQ.

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

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

2-3

### **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.

2-4

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.

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

### **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 9 from the United States Coast Guard), is required for this project due to the disturbance of waters of the United States (such as streams and wetlands), then a Water Quality Certification must be obtained from the Central Valley Water Board prior to initiation of project activities. There are no waivers for 401 Water Quality Certifications.

2-5

### **Waste Discharge Requirements**

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 will 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.

2-6

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](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/help/business_help/permit2.shtml).

### **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](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](mailto:IrrLands@waterboards.ca.gov).
2. **Obtain Coverage Under the General Waste Discharge Requirements for Individual Growers, General Order R5-2013-0100.** Dischargers not participating in a third-party group (Coalition) are regulated individually. Depending on the specific site conditions, growers may be required to monitor runoff from their property, install monitoring wells, and submit a notice of intent, farm plan, and other action plans regarding their actions to comply with their General Order. Yearly costs would include State administrative fees (for example, annual fees for farm sizes from 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

2-7



Program, call the Central Valley Water Board phone line at (916) 464-4611 or e-mail board staff at IrrLands@waterboards.ca.gov.

2-7  
cont.

**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.

2-8

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](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](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2013-0073.pdf)

If you have questions regarding these comments, please contact me at (916) 464-4684 or [tcleak@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:tcleak@waterboards.ca.gov).



Trevor Cleak  
Environmental Scientist

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

SPMUD  
5807 Springview Drive  
Rocklin, CA 95677

Jamar and Pace Families  
4645 and 4635 Arrowhead Drive  
Rocklin, CA 95677  
July 9, 2015

SPMUD,

We are writing today concerning your trunk replacement proposal and project in our neighborhood of Arrowhead and Aguilar Roads.

We understand the reason for SPMUD to up-date the line. For several reasons, we oppose your proposal to re-route the line from its present path. For several reasons, we will NOT grant you an easement for the proposed re-route of the trunk line.

We oppose the re-route proposal that moves the trunk line from its present path to a new path that would pass directly through our property that is our ONLY access to and from Arrowhead Drive. This new routing would block the only way in and out of our houses for emergency vehicles, family members and friends. In addition, the proposed new route would destroy many existing, mature trees, including oak trees. Be aware that there are significant Nisenen Indian artifacts in this area that should be preserved. Have you considered the ramifications in that Arrowhead Drive is a private road and every property owner along the road will be involved?

3-1

There is no logic in your proposal to move the trunk line from its present path. The pipe crossing the stream has never been a problem. That route is level and the necessary easements are in place and have been agreed upon for many years. The re-route also makes no sense considering the formidable task of pushing sewage up the slope for a connection on Arrowhead Drive.

We are concerned with any disturbance near the stream that you are calling Aguilar Creek. This stream is a salmon spawning tributary to the Secret Ravine Creek. We have consulted with the California Fish and Wildlife Department and find that your proposal for a mitigated negative declaration for the trunk replacement, without a stream alteration permit, is not in compliance with their regulations.

A permit is required for any disturbance or alteration of this tributary. And that would certainly occur with this replacement project. A few of the considerations are any diversion, obstruction, channel or bank disturbance, deposit of debris, waste or other material - these possibilities require a permit. For more specific information, you may contact Patrick Moeszinger, Environmental Scientist for Fish and Wildlife at 916 358 2850.

3-2

In addition to the impact on salmon is the effect on a multitude of other critters in our area. Just one of these is the Western Pond turtle, of which there are many - they are on the endangered species list according to the Center for Biological Diversity.

We urge you to carefully reconsider the proposed rerouting of this trunk line.

*Jamar, Pace Families*