



**RECLAMATION DISTRICT 900**  
EST. 1911

**INITIAL STUDY/  
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
Blacker Ditch Bank Stabilization Project**

**Project title:** Blacker Canal Bank Stabilization and Access Road Improvement Project

**Lead agency name and address:** Reclamation District No. 900 (RD900)  
1420 Merkley Avenue, Suite 4  
West Sacramento, CA 95691

**Contact person and phone:** Tim Mallen, 916-371-1483

**Project sponsor's name and address:** RD 900  
1420 Merkley Avenue, Suite 4  
West Sacramento, CA 95691

**Project Location:** Blacker Canal between Jefferson Boulevard and the Reclamation District 900 Main Drainage Canal, City of West Sacramento, Yolo County, California.

**General Plan Designation:** R-1-B Residential – One Family, C Commercial, RE Residential Rural Estates

**Zoning District:** R-1-B Residential – One Family, C Commercial, RE Residential Rural Estates

**Present Use and Development Surrounding Uses/Zoning:** R-1-B Residential – One Family, C Commercial, RE Residential Rural Estates

**Access:** Linden Road through RD900 locked gate

**Introduction and Project Purpose**

Reclamation District 900 (RD900) has prepared this initial study/mitigated negative declaration (IS/MND) to provide the public, responsible agencies, and trustee agencies with information about potential environmental effects of the proposed Blacker Canal Bank Stabilization and Access Road Improvement Project (Proposed Project). This document has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended (CEQA) (Public Resources Code [Pub. Res. Code] Section 21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (Title 14 California Code of Regulations [CCR] Section 15000 et seq.).

The Proposed Project is centered on the Blacker Canal (aka Morton-Blacker Canal, Blacker Ditch) west of the intersection of Blacker Road and Jefferson Boulevard and east of RD900's Main Canal. The Blacker Canal is an unlined urban drainage, and proposed activities include excavating unsuitable canal bank and channel material along the canal, constructing gabion barriers along the length of the canal, and placing fill behind the barriers to stabilize the canal banks. Bank excavation will occur along the north and south sides of the canal to the west of Linden Road, which roughly bisects the canal, and along the south side of the canal to the east of Linden Road. Excavation depths will vary but will average approximately 4 feet from the current ground surface into the existing canal banks and channel. Gabion walls, measuring an average of 3 feet across and 3 feet high, will be stacked and secured along the banks to conform to the desired slope and backfilled with compacted inorganic fill. A 16-foot wide maintenance road will be graded north of the canal to the west of Linden Road, while the

existing access road south of the canal that extends east and west of Linden Road will be graded to improve maintenance access. The project objectives are to maintain channel capacity and armor banks from further erosion. Vegetation removal is discontinuous along the channel as needed. Some trees will need to be removed.

### **Public Involvement Process**

Public disclosure and dialogue are priorities under CEQA. State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15073 and 15105(b) require that the lead agency designate a period during the IS/MND process when agencies and the public can provide comments on the potential impacts of the Proposed Project. Accordingly, RD900 is circulating this document for a 30-day public and agency review period. The beginning and ending dates of the comment period are identified in the Notice of Intent.

Comments on this IS/MND can be submitted by mail or email to the following contact:

Tim Mallen, Manager  
RD900  
1420 Merkley Avenue, Suite 4  
West Sacramento, CA 95691  
Email: [tmallen@rd900.org](mailto:tmallen@rd900.org)

All comments received before 5:00 p.m. on the date identified for closure of the public comment period in the Notice of Intent will be considered by RD900 during its deliberations on whether to approve the Proposed Project.

### **Project Location**

The Blacker Canal (AKA Blacker Ditch) is located in the City of West Sacramento and encompasses roughly 5,400 feet and has a tributary of 385 acres. The project location is located along the Blacker Canal between Jefferson Boulevard and the Reclamation District 900 (RD900) Main Canal in the city of West Sacramento, Yolo County, California. The project is within the Sacramento West, California 7.5-minute quadrangle (U.S. Geological Survey [USGS] 1992). The approximate center of the project is located at latitude 38.540505° and longitude -121.555818° (NAD83) within the Lower Sacramento Watershed (Hydrologic Unit Code #18020163; USGS 1992).

### **Responsible and Trustee Agencies**

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) defines a responsible agency as a “public agency, other than the lead agency, which has responsibility for carrying out or approving a project” (Public Resource Code [PRC] Section 21069). A trustee agency is a “state agency that has jurisdiction by law over natural resources affected by a project, that are held in trust for the people of the State of California” (PRC Section 21070). For the Proposed Project, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, North Central Region, is considered a trustee agency. Responsible parties for the Proposed Project are the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District.

## Native American Consultation

In January 2020, cultural resources consulting firm, Pacific Legacy, Inc., delivered a letter to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a search of the sacred lands file and a list of Native American contacts. The NAHC responded on February 4, 2020, indicating that a search of the Sacred Lands Files (SLF) produced positive results, along with a list of three parties. The NAHC indicated that the United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) was the appropriate party to contact regarding the positive SLF findings. The contact list included:

- Charlie Wright, Cortina Rancheria-Kletsel Dehe Band of Wintun Indians.
- Gene Whitehouse, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria.
- Anthony Roberts, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation.

On February 7, 2020, on behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Pacific Legacy, Inc., submitted formal consultation letters to the listed parties. Pacific Legacy, Inc. followed up with phone calls and emails on February 14, and March 4, 2020.

In a letter dated February 21, 2020, James Kinter, Tribal Historical Preservation Officer (THPO) of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation indicated that the Tribe was unaware of any cultural resources within the project Area of Potential Effects (APE), and did not advocate for Tribal monitors. None of the other contacted parties expressed any concerns regarding the project.

On September 16, 2020, FEMA submitted an additional written correspondence to Matthew Moore, the UAIC THPO. As of November 2020, no response has been received from Mr. Moore.

On November 30, 2020, formal AB52 consultation letters were delivered to Gene Whitehouse, Chairman of the UAIC, and James Kinter, THPO of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation on behalf of Reclamation District 900. Both parties were requested to supply any information they might have concerning prehistoric sites or traditional use areas within, adjacent or near the project area. To date, no responses have been received from the contacted parties. Since no prehistoric sites were identified within the APE, no additional consultation was undertaken.

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) findings and Assembly Bill 52 (AB52) consultation correspondences have been provided to RD900, the agency which has engaged in formal consultation in compliance with AB52 and CEQA.

## Construction Activities

Construction will take place within the immediate vicinity of the Blacker Canal. Staging areas will be either along the canal or in an area south of the canal and east of the Montessori School located at 2700 Linden Road, West Sacramento, California. Construction vehicles will be operating off-road in the vicinity of the Blacker Canal. Anticipated ground disturbance in the project area will be designed to avoid all large diameter oak trees, cultural resources and sensitive biological resources

## Environmental Setting

The project area is situated at an elevation of approximately 10 feet above mean sea level (MSL) in Yolo County, California. The project area is located in the Great Valley region of the California Floristic Province. This region is characterized by agricultural areas, grasslands, wetlands, and valley oaks. The average annual precipitation for the region is 18.52 inches (with the wettest period during November – March), and the average daily temperatures range from 47.7 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) in winter to 73.8°F in summer for the Sacramento Executive Airport reporting station, approximately three miles southeast of the project area.

The project area is located in a developed setting with surrounding residential and commercial developments. The project area is characterized by a drainage ditch and adjacent developed and ruderal lands. There is a concrete crossing at Linden Road. Linden Road, and the culvert crossing are not a part of the project area. The project area includes the north and south banks west of Linden Road, and only the south bank east of Linden Road. The drainage ditch has a uniform width, approximately 25 feet, with shallow to steep banks, some of which have eroded.

Fauna: Wildlife use of the project area is expected to be low due to the developed surroundings. However, the ditch and overhanging trees in the residential backyards provide habitat, including nesting, for some locally nesting bird species. A few of the bird species observed during onsite surveys included wood duck (*Aix sponsa*), red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), California scrub jay (*Aphelocoma californica*), western bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), and yellow-rumped warbler (*Setophaga coronate*), among others. Urban adapted wildlife found in this setting could include raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), and brown rat (*Rattus norvegicus*). A total of eight special status fish species were evaluated as having the potential to occur in the Blacker Canal. However, upon further analysis and after the 2020 site visit, all eight species were considered to be absent from the canal because there is no direct connection between Blacker Canal and the RD 900 Main Drainage Canal from the Deep Water Channel or the Sacramento River.

Flora: Vegetation within the ditch ranges from absent to dense patches of emergent species such as hardstem bulrush (*Schoenoplectus acutus*) and broadleaf cattail (*Typha latifolia*). The uplands adjacent to the ditch, including the proposed staging area, are comprised of ruderal and developed lands. The ruderal lands include weedy patches of non-native vegetation on constructed levees. Non-native weedy plants found in these ruderal areas include Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*) and wild oats (*Avena fatua*).

Archaeology: Sites identified within the project area were evaluated for significance in relation to CEQA significance criteria. Historical resources per CEQA are defined as buildings, sites, structures, objects, or districts, each of which may have historical, architectural, archaeological, cultural, or scientific significance. CEQA requires that, if a project results in an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, alternative plans or mitigations measures must be considered; however, only significant historical resources need to be addressed.

In addition, CEQA further distinguishes between archaeological sites that meet the definition of a significant historical resource, and “unique archaeological resources.” An archaeological resource is considered “unique” (Section 21083.2(g)) when the resource not merely adds to the body of knowledge, but when there is a high probability that the resource also:

- Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and there is a demonstrable public interest in that information.
- Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type.
- Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person.

In the present case, three (3) resources have been identified as being within, or immediately adjacent to the APE. All three have been subjected to previous recordation and evaluation for significance and eligibility, and all three were recommended not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) due to lack of integrity.

Based on the specific findings detained under Cultural Resources Survey and Cultural Inventory, no significant historical resources or unique archaeological resources are present within the project area and no significant historical resources/unique archaeological resources will be affected by the undertaking, as presently proposed.

## ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The infill Project could potentially result in one or more of the following environmental effects.

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

## DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.



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Signature of preparer, Marcus H. Bole, M.S.  
Principal, Marcus H. Bole & Associates

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12/7/2020  
Date

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Tim Mallen  
Reclamation District 900

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Date

## PURPOSE OF THIS INITIAL STUDY

This Initial Study has been prepared consistent with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15063, to determine if the Blacker Canal Bank Stabilization and Access Road Improvement Project as proposed may have a significant effect upon the environment. Based upon the findings contained within this report, the Initial Study will be used in support of the preparation of a Mitigated Negative Declaration.

## EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account the whole action involved, including offsite as well as onsite, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) "Negative Declaration: Less than significant with mitigation incorporated" applies where the Incorporated of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses," as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
  - a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
  - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
  - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
- 7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 8) The explanation of each issue should identify:
  - a) The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
  - b) The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.

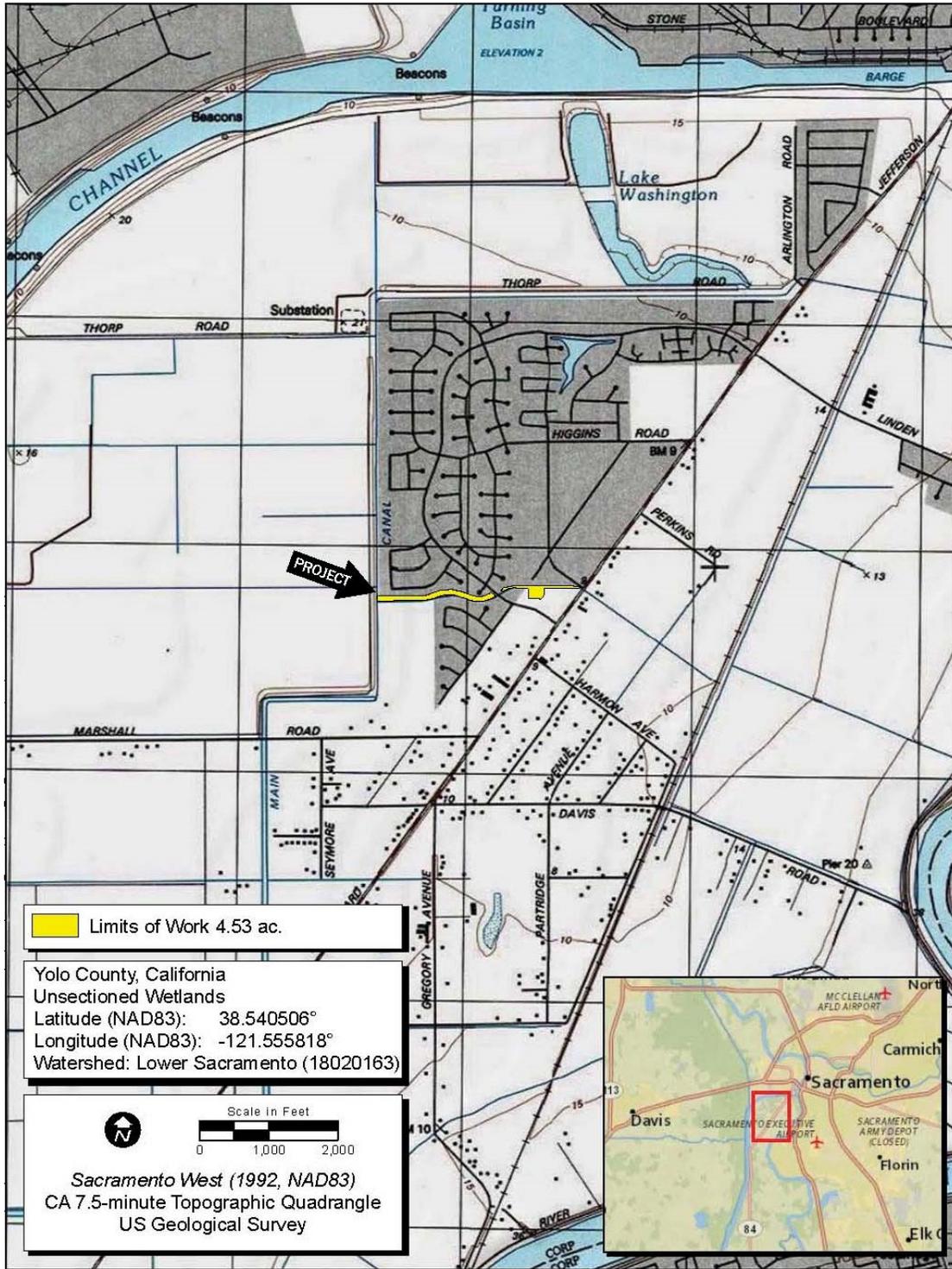


Figure 1: Vicinity Map



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>1 AESTHETICS.</b> Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:				
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) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings? If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<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"/>

**Setting:**

The California Scenic Highway Program, a provision of the Streets and Highways Code, functions to preserve and enhance the natural beauty of California (California Department of Transportation [Caltrans] 2018). The state highway system includes designated scenic highways and those that are eligible for designation as scenic highways. The nearest designated scenic highway is State Route (SR) 160 south of Freeport, approximately 10 miles southeast of the project area (Caltrans 2019).

**Discussion:**

a) **No impact.** A scenic vista is generally considered a view of an area that has remarkable scenery or a natural or cultural resource that is indigenous to the area. No portion of the project area has been designated as, or is located in the vicinity of, a scenic vista. The project area is an urban residential area. Therefore, there would be no impact.

b) **No impact.** The nearest state-designated scenic highway is approximately 10 miles southeast along the Sacramento River at Freeport. No scenic resources are visible from the Blacker Canal Bank Stabilization Project, and no scenic resources are located at or near the project area. Therefore, there would be no impact.

c) **Less than significant impact.** The project area is an urban residential neighborhood. The City of West Sacramento has no zoning or other regulations related to scenic quality that would apply to the Proposed Project or the project area. Some native and non-native landscape trees have grown over a portion of the bank that has become severely eroded and will have to be removed in order to grade the bank and install the rock gabions. RD900 will make every reasonable effort to preserve trees where feasible; however, the nature of the bank stabilization work being proposed allows limited opportunities to avoid impacts. Where feasible, RD900 would also make replacement trees available to homeowners. As a result, the impact of the

Proposed Project on the existing visual character of the project area would be less than significant.

d) **Less than significant impact.** Construction activities would typically be performed Monday through Friday between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. as allowed by City ordinance. Work on Saturdays, Sundays, and state holidays may be permitted on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the City. Therefore, nighttime work would likely be infrequent, and project activities would not generally result in additional lighting in the project area that could affect the surrounding residences. No external changes would result that would involve additional lighting; therefore, no new sources of light or glare would be created. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**2. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES**

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

Would this project:

- |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 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 California Land Conservation Act of 1965 (Williamson Act) contract?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest land use?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

**Setting:**

According to the California Department of Conservation (CDOC), no land within or adjacent to the project area is classified as Important Farmland. The project area is designated as urban or built-up land (CDOC 2017). There are no agricultural areas located in the general vicinity of the project area.

**Discussion**

a, e) **No impact.** No land within or adjacent to the project area is classified as Important Farmland by the CDOC. The project area is designated as urban or built-up land (CDOC 2017). Although landscaped trees are present within the neighborhood, these trees are ornamental and are not part of a stand intended for commercial production. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use or result in conflicts with or loss of agricultural or forest lands. There would be no impact.

b, c) **No impact.** Land use designations in the project area are Residential – One Family (R-1-B), Residential Rural Estates (RE), and Commercial (C). No agricultural or timberland zoning is present in or near the project area. There would be no impact.

d) **No impact.** Because no forest land or timberland is present in the project area, there would be no impact.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**3. AIR QUALITY**

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

a) Conflict with, or obstruct implementation of, the applicable air quality plan?

b) 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?

- |   | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact        | No Impact                |
|---|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people? | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Setting:**

West Sacramento is within the Sacramento Valley Air Basin and is under the jurisdiction of the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District (YSAQMD). The YSAQMD is part of the Sacramento Federal Non-Attainment Area for ground-level ozone and fine particulate matter (i.e., particulate matter less than or equal to 2.5 microns in diameter, or PM2.5).

Air quality plans applicable to the Project site include the Sacramento Regional 2008 National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) 8-hour Ozone Attainment and Reasonable Further Progress (RFP) Plan (YSAQMD 2017) and the PM2.5 Implementation/Maintenance Plan (YSAQMD 2013). The 8-hour Ozone Plan demonstrates how existing and new control strategies will provide the necessary future emission reductions to meet the federal Clean Air Act requirements for reasonable further progress and attainment of the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS for the Sacramento Region. The PM2.5 Plan shows that the region has met the redesignation requirements and requests that the USEPA redesignate the area to attainment. The Plan also analyzes measures that were implemented to achieve attainment and that will provide for maintenance of the PM2.5 NAAQS.

The YSAQMD’s CEQA thresholds of significance are shown in the following table:

Pollutant	Threshold
ROG	10 tons/year
NO <sub>x</sub>	10 tons/year
CO	Violation of a State ambient air quality standard for CO
PM10	80 lbs/day

*Notes: Emissions of CO from construction activities are not considered to be an issue of concern because construction activities are not considered to be a major source of CO. In addition, the YSAQMD is in attainment status for CO. CO= carbon monoxide; lbs/day = pounds per day; NO<sub>x</sub>=nitrogen oxides; PM10=particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in diameter; ROG=reactive organic gases. Source: YSAQMD 2007.*

USEPA and California Air Resources Board (CARB) regulate various stationary sources, area sources, and mobile sources. USEPA has regulations involving performance standards for specific sources that may release toxic air contaminants (TACs), known as hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) at the federal level. In addition, USEPA has regulations involving emission

criteria for off-road sources such as emergency generators, construction equipment, and vehicles. CARB is responsible for setting emission standards for vehicles sold in California and for other emission sources, such as consumer products and certain off-road equipment. CARB also establishes passenger vehicle fuel specifications. Airborne Toxic Control Measures (ATCMs), including the following relevant measures, are implemented to address sources of TACs:

- ATCM for Diesel Particulate Matter from Portable Engines Rated at 50 Horsepower and greater
- ATCM to Limit Diesel-Fueled Commercial Motor Vehicle Idling
- ATCM to Reduce Particulate Emissions from Diesel-Fueled Engines – Standards for Non-vehicular Diesel Fuel
- ATCM for Stationary Compression Ignition Engines
- Asbestos ATCM for Construction, Grading, Quarrying and Surface Mining Operations

CARB has several vehicle fleet regulations that cover fossil-fueled equipment operated at a facility. These regulations require owners of equipment and vehicle fleets to meet fleet-wide specific engine emission levels over time. Obligations include equipment registration, equipment labeling, and reporting requirements. These regulations include the following fleet rules:

- Rule for On-Road Heavy-Duty Diesel-Fueled Public and Utility Fleets,
- Portable Equipment Registration Program (PERP),
- Large Spark-Ignition Engine Fleet Requirements Regulation, and
- In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Regulation.

YSAQMD Rule 403 requires that visible dust beyond the property line emanating from the Project will be prevented to the maximum extent feasible. During clearing, grading, earthmoving, or excavation operations, excessive fugitive dust emissions shall be controlled by regular watering or other dust preventive measures using the following procedures:

- All material excavated or graded will be sufficiently watered to prevent excessive amounts of dust.
- Watering will occur at least twice daily with complete coverage, preferably in the late morning and after work for the day.
- All material transported off-site will be either sufficiently watered or securely covered to prevent excessive amounts of dust.
- The area disturbed by clearing, grading, earthmoving, or excavation operations will be minimized so as to prevent excessive amounts of dust.

YSAQMD recommends that even projects not exceeding district particulate matter (PM) thresholds should implement best management practices (BMPs) to reduce dust emissions and avoid localized health impacts. The recommended BMPs to reduce PM10 include the following:

- Water all active construction sites at least twice daily.
- Haul trucks shall maintain at least 2 feet of freeboard.
- Cover all trucks hauling dirt, sand, or loose materials.
- Apply chemical soil stabilizers or inactive construction area (disturbed lands within construction projects that are unused for at least four consecutive days).
- Cover inactive storage piles.
- Sweep streets if visible soil material is carried out from the construction site.

BMPs to reduce construction equipment exhaust focus on strategies that reduce NOx, ROG, and PM10 emissions. These strategies may include restricting unnecessary vehicle idling to 5 minutes, using reformulated and emulsified fuels, incorporating catalyst and filtration technologies, and modernizing the equipment fleet with cleaner repower and newer engines, among other.

#### **Discussion:**

a) **Less than significant.** The Proposed Project would include improvements to the Canal, which would require excavation and rehabilitation of the currently unstable banks. Work would be completed within the RD900 easement. Construction duration would be approximately four months.

As detailed below in item (b), the Proposed Project would not result in significant air quality impacts and would not increase exposure of sensitive receptors to air pollutants. The Proposed Project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of applicable air quality plans. This impact would be less than significant.

b) **Less than significant.** The Proposed Project involves the maintenance and upgrade of a 5,400 linear foot portion of the Blacker Canal. During construction, short-term degradation of air quality may occur due to the release of particulate emissions generated by excavation. Emissions for construction equipment also are anticipated and would include CO, NOx, ROG, PM10, and toxic air contaminants (e.g., diesel exhaust particulate matter).

Construction-related effects on air quality would be greatest during excavation, handling and transport of soils (if required). If not properly controlled, these activities would temporarily generate PM10, PM2.5, CO, sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), NOx, and volatile organic compounds (VOC). The main source of fugitive dust would be excavated soils. PM10 emissions would vary from day to day, depending on the nature and magnitude of construction activity and local weather conditions. PM10 emissions would also vary depending on soil moisture, the silt content of soil, wind speed, and the amount of equipment operating at the time. Larger dust particles would settle near the source, while fine particles would be dispersed over greater distances.

In addition to dust-related PM10 emissions, heavy trucks and construction equipment powered by gasoline and diesel engines would generate CO, SO<sub>2</sub> is NO<sub>x</sub>, VOCs, PM2.5 and PM10 in exhaust emissions. These emissions would be temporary and limited to the immediate area surrounding the construction site. SO<sub>2</sub> is generated by oxidation during combustion of organic sulfur compounds contained in diesel fuel. Off-road diesel fuel meeting federal standards can contain up to 5,000 parts per million (ppm) of sulfur, whereas on-road diesel is restricted to less than 15 ppm of sulfur. However, under California law and California Air Resources Board regulations, off-road diesel used in California must meet the same sulfur and other standards as on-road diesel fuel; therefor SO<sub>2</sub>-related issues due to diesel exhaust would be minimal.

Construction activities would take place over an approximately 4-month period, and construction contractors would comply with CARB regulations and YSAQMD rules and BMPs as identified above. No operational activities would involve emissions of criterial pollutants beyond the activities taking place under existing conditions. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to emission of criteria pollutants. The impact would be less than significant.

c) **Less than significant.** During construction activities, diesel particulate matter (DPM) and gasoline fuel combustion emissions that are classified as TACs could be emitted from construction equipment. However, as stated above, these emissions would be temporary and less than significant. The soil within the Blacker Canal would not be contaminated as there have been no reports of fuel spills or other contaminates having been introduced into the Canal in the past. Implementing the BMPs described above would ensure that health effects from the Proposed Project are minimized for nearby sensitive receptors. The Proposed Project's effects on nearby sensitive receptors due to construction-related air pollutant emissions would be less than significant.

d) **Less than significant.** Diesel exhaust from excavation activities and backup generators may generate temporary odors while the project is underway. Once activities are completed, these odors would cease. Excavation and repair work would be temporary at any given location, and the nearest sensitive receptors would be at least 50 feet from the construction activities. Impacts related to potential generation of other emissions are thus expected to be temporary and less than significant.

#### 4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<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 a native wildlife nursery site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Setting:**

A reconnaissance-level Biological Resource Assessment (BRA) was conducted by ECORP Consulting, Inc. on September 30, 2020. The purpose of the assessment was to characterize existing conditions and assess the project’s potential to support special-status species. The impact analysis was based on the results of the BRA.

The Proposed Project is located along Blacker Canal between Jefferson Boulevard and the Reclamation District Main Drainage Canal in the City of West Sacramento, Yolo County, California. The Proposed Project includes the south bank of Blacker Canal between Jefferson Boulevard and Linden Road, both the north and south banks between Linden Road and the RD900 Main Canal, and the proposed staging area in an undeveloped lot between the Montessorri School and the market/commercial strip mall on Linden Road. There does not appear to be any “street,” “landmark,” or heritage trees, as defined under the tree preservation ordinance, based on site reconnaissance. There are numerous landscaped trees that were planted in the RD900 easement on the north bank of the Blacker Canal between Linden Road and the RD900 Main Canal. These trees were planted without permission of RD900. Due to the extensive erosion along the north bank of the Blacker Canal, the non-native, landscaped trees may have to be removed in order to stabilize the banks and install the rock gabions required to prevent future erosion. Where feasible, a replanting plan will be proposed by RD900 to replace the non-native trees with native trees that will enhance the riparian character of the Blacker Canal.

Blacker Canal is the only aquatic feature found within the Proposed Project area. A total of 1.459 acres of aquatic resources have been mapped within the Proposed Project area. The Blacker Canal has a uniform width, approximately 25 feet, with shallow to steep banks, most have been eroded by past storm events. Vegetation within the Canal ranges from absent to dense patches of emergent species such as hardstem bulrush (*Schoenoplectus acutus*) and broadleaf cattail (*Typha latifolia*). The uplands adjacent to the Canal, including the proposed staging area, are composed of ruderal and developed lands. The ruderal lands include weedy patches of non-native vegetation on constructed levees. Non-native weedy plants found in these ruderal areas include Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*) and wild oats (*Avena fatua*). There are no natural communities within the project area. The topography is flat, with an elevation range of approximately 10-15 feet above mean sea level.

### **Discussion:**

a) **Less than significant with mitigation incorporated.** The potential for special-status plant and wildlife species to occur within or near the project area was evaluated by determining which special-status occurred in the vicinity of the project area through biological information databases and resources.

Special-status species included those listed as endangered, threatened, rare, or proposed for listing by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). California Native Plant Society (CNPS) plant lists were reviewed.

The Yolo Habitat Conservancy is a joint powers agency comprising the County of Yolo (County) and the cities of Davis, West Sacramento, Winters, and Woodland, along with the University of California, Davis, as an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors (Yolo Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP), a model conservation plan to provide Endangered Species Act permits and associated mitigation for infrastructure (e.g., roads, bridges, and levees) and development activities (e.g., agricultural facilities, housing, commercial buildings) taking place over the next 50 years in Yolo County. The HCP/NCCP was completed in 2018 and implementation began in January 2019. The Yolo HCP/NCCP coordinates mitigation to maximize benefits to 12 identified sensitive species, as well as conserve 8,000 acres of additional habitat conservation beyond mitigation. Table 1 provides a list of the Yolo HCP/NCCP Covered Species.

Table 1. Yolo HCP/NCCP Covered Species				
Common Name	Scientific Name	Status *		
		ESA	CESA	Other Status
Plants				
Palmate-bracted bird's beak	<i>Chloropyron palmatum</i>	E	E	1B
Invertebrates				
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle	<i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i>	T	-	-
Amphibians				
California tiger salamander (Central CA DPS)	<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>	T	T	-
Reptiles				
Giant garter snake	<i>Thamnophis gigas</i>	T	T	-
Northwestern pond turtle	<i>Actinemys marmorata</i>	-	-	SSC
Birds				
Swainson's hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	-	T	-
White-tailed kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	-	-	CFP
Yellow-billed cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	T	E	-
Western burrowing owl	<i>Athene cunicularia hypugaea</i>	-	-	SSC
Least Bell's vireo	<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	T	-	-
Bank swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	-	T	-
Tricolored blackbird	<i>Lepidurus packardi</i>	-	T	-

\* Status Abbreviations:  
E – Endangered  
T – Threatened  
SC – Federal Species of Concern  
SSC – California Species of Special Concern  
CFP – California Fish and Game Code Fully Protected Species  
1B – California Rare Plant Rank, Rare or Endangered in California and elsewhere.

### Special-status Plant Species

Thirty-two special-status plant species were identified in database searches associated with the Proposed Project or have been identified as historically occurring within 5 miles of the project site. No special-status plant species were observed during the reconnaissance-level site visit. The project area occurs mostly within a residential neighborhood that lacks native vegetation communities. The area immediately adjacent to the Blacker Canal contains non-native grasses and forbs and is highly disturbed and would not support suitable habitat for special-status plants. Therefore, no impacts to special-status plants would occur as a result of the Proposed Project.

## Special-status Wildlife Species

Sixty-two special-status wildlife species were identified in database searches associated with the Proposed Project or have been identified as historically occurring within 5 miles of the project site. These species are documented in Table 2, including their potential for occurrence within the project area. No special-status wildlife species were observed during the onsite surveys.

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status			Habitat Description	Survey Period	Potential to Occur Onsite
	ESA	CESA	Other			
<b>Plants</b>						
Depauperate Milk-Vetch ( <i>Astragalus pauperculus</i> )	-	-	4.3	Occurs within vernal mesic and volcanic soils in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and valley and foothill grasslands (197'-3,986')	March-June	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Ferris' milk-vetch ( <i>Astragalus tener</i> var. <i>ferrisiae</i> )	-	-	1B.1	Vernally mesic meadows and seeps and in sub-alkaline flats within valley and foothill grasslands (7'-246').	April-May	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Alkali milk-vetch ( <i>Astragalus tener</i> var. <i>tener</i> )	-	-	1B.2	Playas, mesic areas within valley and foothill grasslands, and alkaline vernal pools (3'-197').	March-June	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Heartscale ( <i>Atriplex cordulata</i> var. <i>cordulata</i> )	-	-	1B.2	Alkaline or saline valley and foothill grasslands, meadows and seeps, and chenopod scrub communities (0'-1,837').	April-October	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.

**Table 2. Special-Status Species Evaluated for the Study Area**

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status			Habitat Description	Survey Period	Potential to Occur Onsite
	ESA	CESA	Other			
Brittlescale ( <i>Atriplex depressa</i> )	-	-	1B.2	Alkaline and clay soils within chenopod scrub, meadows and seeps, playas, valley and foothill grasslands, and vernal pools (3'-1,050').	April–October	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Valley brodiaea ( <i>Brodiaea rosea</i> ssp. <i>vallicola</i> )	-	-	4.2	Occurs in old alluvial terraces and silt, sandy, or gravelly soils in vernal pools and swales within valley and foothill grassland (33'-1,100').	April–May	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Bristly sedge ( <i>Carex comosa</i> )	-	-	2B.1	Coastal prairie, marshes and swamps including lake margins, and in valley and foothill grassland (0'-2,051').	May–September	Low Potential-the ditch represents marginally suitable habitat.
Parry's rough tarplant ( <i>Centromadia parryi</i> ssp. <i>parryi</i> )	-	-	1B.2	Often on alkaline soils within chaparral, coastal prairie, meadows and seeps, coastal salt marshes and swamps, vernal mesic valley and foothill grassland (0'-1,378').	May–November	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Pappose tarplant ( <i>Centromadia parryi</i> ssp. <i>rudis</i> )	-	-	4.2	Alkaline, vernal mesic seeps in valley and foothill grassland and vernal pools, sometimes found on roadsides (0'-328').	May–October	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Palmate-bracted bird's-beak ( <i>Chloropyron palmatum</i> )	FE	CE	1B.1, HCP/ NCCP	Alkaline areas in chenopod scrub and valley and foothill grassland (16'-509').	May–October	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Peruvian dodder ( <i>Cuscuta obtusiflora</i> var. <i>glandulosa</i> )	-	-	2B.2	Freshwater marshes and swamps (49'-919').	July–October	Low Potential-the vegetation in the ditch represent marginally suitable habitat.
Dwarf downingia ( <i>Downingia pusilla</i> )	-	-	2B.2	Mesic areas in valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pools. Species appears to have an affinity for slight disturbance (i.e., scraped depressions, ditches) (Baldwin et al. 2012, CDFW 2018) (3'-1,460').	March–May	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.

**Table 2. Special-Status Species Evaluated for the Study Area**

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status			Habitat Description	Survey Period	Potential to Occur Onsite
	ESA	CESA	Other			
Jepson's coyote thistle ( <i>Eryngium jepsonii</i> )	–	–	1B.2	Clay soils of valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pools (10'–984').	April–August	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
San Joaquin spearscale ( <i>Extriplex joaquinana</i> )	–	–	1B.2	Alkaline soils in chenopod scrub, meadows seeps, playas, and valley and foothill grassland (3'–2,740').	April–October	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Stinkbells ( <i>Fritillaria agrestis</i> )	–	–	4.2	Clay and sometimes serpentinite soils in chaparral, cismontane woodland, pinyon and juniper woodland, and valley and foothill grassland (33'–5,102').	March–June	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Boggs Lake hedge-hyssop ( <i>Gratiola heterosepala</i> )	–	CE	1B.2	Marshes, swamps, lake margins, and vernal pools (33'–7,792').	April–August	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Hogwallow starfish ( <i>Hesperevax caulescens</i> )	–	–	4.2	Sometimes alkaline in mesic areas with clay soil within valley and foothill grassland and shallow vernal pools (0'–1,657').	March–June	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Woolly rose-mallow ( <i>Hibiscus lasiocarpus</i> var. <i>occidentalis</i> )	–	–	1B.2	Marshes and freshwater swamps. Often in riprap on sides of levees (0'–394').	June–September	Low Potential-the ditch represents marginally suitable habitat.
Alkali-sink goldfields ( <i>Lasthenia chrysantha</i> )			1B.1	Alkaline vernal pools (0'–657').	February–April	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Legenere ( <i>Legenere limosa</i> )	–	–	1B.1	Various seasonally inundated areas including wetlands, wetland swales, marshes, vernal pools, artificial ponds, and floodplains of intermittent drainages (USFWS 2005) (3'–2,887').	April–June	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Heckard's pepper-grass ( <i>Lepidium latipes</i> var. <i>heckardii</i> )	–	–	1B.2	Alkaline flats within valley and foothill grasslands (7'–656').	March–May	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.

**Table 2. Special-Status Species Evaluated for the Study Area**

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status			Habitat Description	Survey Period	Potential to Occur Onsite
	ESA	CESA	Other			
Mason's lilaepsis ( <i>Lilaeopsis masonii</i> )	–	CR	1B.1	Brackish or freshwater marshes or swamps and riparian scrub (0'–33').	April–November	Low Potential-the ditch represents marginally suitable habitat.
Little mouseltail ( <i>Myosurus minimus</i> ssp. <i>apus</i> )	–	–	3.1	Vernal pools (alkaline), valley and foothill grassland (66'–2,100').	March–June	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Baker's navarretia ( <i>Navarretia leucocephala</i> ssp. <i>bakeri</i> )	–	–	1B.1	Vernal pools and mesic areas within cismontane woodlands, lower montane coniferous forests, meadows and seeps, and valley and foothill grasslands (16'–5,709').	April–July	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Colusa grass ( <i>Neostapfia colusana</i> )	FT	CE	1B.1	Large vernal pools with adobe soils (16'–656').	May–August	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Bearded popcornflower ( <i>Plagiobothrys hystriculus</i> )	–	–	1B.1	Often in vernal swales, and in mesic areas of valley and foothill grassland and vernal pool margins (0'–899').	April–May	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
California alkali grass ( <i>Puccinellia simplex</i> )	–	–	1B.2	Alkaline, vernal mesic areas in sinks, flats and lake margins in chenopod scrub, meadows and seeps, valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pools (7'–3,051').	March–May	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Sanford's arrowhead ( <i>Sagittaria sanfordii</i> )	–	–	1B.2	Shallow marshes and freshwater swamps (0'–2,133').	May–October	Potential-there is suitable habitat present onsite.
Keck's checkerbloom ( <i>Sidalcea keckii</i> )	FE	–	1B.1	Serpentinite and clay soils within cismontane woodland and valley and foothill grasslands (246'–2,133').	April–May	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Suisun marsh aster ( <i>Symphotrichum lentum</i> )	–	–	1B.2	Brackish and freshwater marshes and swamps (0'–10').	May–November	Low Potential-the ditch represents marginally suitable habitat.
Saline clover ( <i>Trifolium hydrophilum</i> )	–	–	1B.2	Marshes and swamps, mesic and alkaline areas in valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pools (0'–984').	April–June	Low Potential-the ditch represents marginally suitable habitat.

**Table 2. Special-Status Species Evaluated for the Study Area**

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status			Habitat Description	Survey Period	Potential to Occur Onsite
	ESA	CESA	Other			
Solano grass <i>(Tuctoria mucronata)</i>	FE	CE	1B.1	Vernal pools and other mesic areas of valley and foothill grasslands (16'-33').	April–August	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
<b>Invertebrates</b>						
Crotch bumble bee <i>(Bombus crotchii)</i>	-	CC	-	Primarily nests underground in open grassland and scrub habitats from the California coast east to the Sierra Cascade and south to Mexico.	March - September	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Western bumble bee <i>(Bombus occidentalis)</i>	-	CC	-	Meadows and grasslands with abundant floral resources. Primarily nests underground. Largely restricted to high elevation sites in the Sierra Nevada, although rarely detected on the California coast.	April - November	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle <i>(Desmocerus californicus dimorphus)</i>	FT	-	HCP/ NCCP	Elderberry shrubs.	Any season	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Conservancy fairy shrimp <i>(Branchinecta conservatio)</i>	FE	-	-	Vernal pools/wetlands.	November-April	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Vernal pool fairy shrimp <i>(Branchinecta lynchi)</i>	FT	-	-	Vernal pools/wetlands.	November-April	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Vernal pool tadpole shrimp <i>(Lepidurus packardi)</i>	FE	-	-	Vernal pools/wetlands.	November-April	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
<b>Fish</b>						
Delta smelt <i>(Hypomesus transpacificus)</i>	FT	CE	-	Sacramento-San Joaquin delta.	N/A	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Chinook salmon (Central Valley spring-run Evolutionarily Significant Unit [ESU]) <i>(Oncorhynchus tshawytscha)</i>	FT	CT	-	Undammed rivers, streams, creeks.	N/A	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.

**Table 2. Special-Status Species Evaluated for the Study Area**

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status			Habitat Description	Survey Period	Potential to Occur Onsite
	ESA	CESA	Other			
Chinook salmon (Sacramento River winter-run ESU)  <i>(Oncorhynchus tshawytscha)</i>	FE	CE	-	Undammed rivers, streams, creeks.	N/A	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Green sturgeon (Southern Distinct Population Segments [DPS])  <i>(Acipenser medirostris)</i>	FT	-	SSC, NMFS	Anadromous; waters north of Point Conception	N/A	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Longfin smelt  <i>(Spirinchus thaleichthys)</i>	FC	CT	SSC	Freshwater and seawater estuaries.	N/A	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Sacramento splittail  <i>(Pogonichthys macrolepidotus)</i>	-	-	SSC	San Francisco bay estuary. Spawns in upstream floodplains and backwater sloughs.	N/A	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Sacramento perch  <i>(Archoplites interruptus)</i>	-	-	SSC	Ponds, rivers, backwaters, and lakes.	N/A	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Steelhead (CA Central Valley DPS)  <i>(Oncorhynchus mykiss)</i>	FT	-	-	Undammed rivers, streams, creeks.	N/A	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
<b>Amphibians</b>						
California red-legged frog  <i>(Rana draytonii)</i>	FT	-	SSC	Lowlands or foothills at waters with dense shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation. Adults must have aestivation habitat to endure summer dry down.	May 1- November 1	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
California tiger salamander (Central California DPS)  <i>(Ambystoma californiense)</i>	FT	CT	SSC, HCP/ NCCP	Vernal pools, wetlands (breeding) and adjacent grassland or oak woodland; needs underground refuge (e.g., ground squirrel and/or gopher burrows). Largely terrestrial as adults.	March-May	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.

**Table 2. Special-Status Species Evaluated for the Study Area**

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status			Habitat Description	Survey Period	Potential to Occur Onsite
	ESA	CESA	Other			
<b>Reptiles</b>						
Giant garter snake <i>(Thamnophis gigas)</i>	FT	CT	HCP/ NCCP	Freshwater ditches, sloughs, and marshes in the Central Valley. Almost extirpated from the southern parts of its range.	April-October	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite. The developed/urban setting, presence of predatory fish, and periodic ditch maintenance activities precludes the potential for GGS occurrence.
Northwestern pond turtle <i>(Actinemys marmorata)</i>	-	-	SSC, HCP/ NCCP	Requires basking sites and upland habitats up to 0.5 km from water for egg laying. Uses ponds, streams, detention basins, and irrigation ditches.	April- September	Potential-the ditch is potential habitat for this species.
<b>Birds</b>						
Clark's grebe <i>(Aechmophorus clarkii)</i>	-	-	BCC	Winters on salt or brackish bays, estuaries, sheltered sea coasts, freshwater lakes, and rivers. Breeds on freshwater to brackish marshes, lakes, reservoirs and ponds, with a preference for large stretches of open water fringed with emergent vegetation.	June-August (breeding)	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.

**Table 2. Special-Status Species Evaluated for the Study Area**

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status			Habitat Description	Survey Period	Potential to Occur Onsite
	ESA	CESA	Other			
Yellow-billed cuckoo <i>(Coccyzus americanus)</i>	FT	CE	BCC, HCP/ NCCP	Breeds in California, Arizona, Utah, Colorado, and Wyoming. In California, they nest along the upper Sacramento River and the South Fork Kern River from Isabella Reservoir to Canebrake Ecological Reserve. Other known nesting locations include Feather River (Butte, Yuba, Sutter counties), Prado Flood Control Basin (San Bernardino and Riverside County), Amargosa River and Owens Valley (Inyo County), Santa Clara River (Los Angeles County), Mojave River and Colorado River (San Bernardino County). Nests in riparian woodland. Winters in South America.	June 15-  August 15	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Costa's hummingbird <i>(Calypte costae)</i>	-	-	BCC	In California, breeds in coastal scrub and chaparral communities from Santa Barbara County south into Baja California; from Mexico north into Mojave desert scrub of Eastern Sierra Nevada;	February-June	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Rufous hummingbird <i>(Selasphorus rufus)</i>	-	-	BCC	Breeds in British Columbia and Alaska (does not breed in California). Winters in coastal Southern California south into Mexico. Common migrant during March-April in Sierra Nevada foothills and June-August in Lower Conifer to Alpine zone of Sierra Nevada. Nesting habitat includes secondary succession communities and openings, mature forests, parks and residential area.	April-July	Absent-this species does not nest in the region.

**Table 2. Special-Status Species Evaluated for the Study Area**

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status			Habitat Description	Survey Period	Potential to Occur Onsite
	ESA	CESA	Other			
California black rail <i>(Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus)</i>	-	CT	BCC, CFP	Salt marsh, shallow freshwater marsh, wet meadows, and flooded grassy vegetation. In California, primarily found in coastal and Bay-Delta communities, but also in Sierran foothills (Butte, Yuba, Nevada, Placer, El Dorado counties)	March-September (breeding)	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Mountain plover <i>(Charadrius montanus)</i>	-	-	BCC, SSC	Breeds in the Great Plains/Midwestern US; winters in California, Arizona, Texas, and Mexico; wintering habitat in California includes tilled fields, heavily grazed open grassland, burned fields, and alfalfa fields.	September-March (wintering)	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Western snowy plover <i>(Charadrius nivosus nivosus)</i>	FT	-	BCC, SSC	Nests on the ground, on open sandy coastal beaches, barrier islands, barrens shores of inland saline lakes, on river bars, and man-made ponds such as wastewater ponds, dredge spoils, and salt evaporation ponds.	March-September	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Whimbrel <i>(Numenius phaeopus)</i>	-	-	BCC	Nesting occurs in Alaska and northern Canada; winters in coastal Oregon, California, south to Central America; wintering habitat includes tidal mudflats, coral reefs, lagoons, marshes, swamps, estuaries, sandy beaches, and rocky shores.	October-March	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.

**Table 2. Special-Status Species Evaluated for the Study Area**

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status			Habitat Description	Survey Period	Potential to Occur Onsite
	ESA	CESA	Other			
Long-billed curlew <i>(Numenius americanus)</i>	-	-	BCC	Breeds east of the Cascades in Washington, Oregon, northeastern California (Siskiyou, Modoc, Lassen counties), east-central California (Inyo County), through Great Basin region into Great Plains. Winters in California, Texas, and Louisiana. Wintering habitat includes tidal mudflats and estuaries, wet pastures, sandy beaches, salt marsh, managed wetlands, evaporation ponds, sewage ponds, and grasslands.	September-March (wintering)	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Marbled godwit <i>(Limosa fedoa)</i>	-	-	BCC	Nests in Montana, North and South Dakota, Minnesota, into Canada. Winter range along Pacific Coast from British Columbia south to Central America, with small numbers wintering in interior California. Wintering habitat includes coastal mudflats, meadows, estuaries, sandy beaches, sandflats, and salt ponds.	August-April (Migrant/Wintering in CA)	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Short-billed Dowitcher <i>(Limnodromus griseus)</i>	-	-	BCC	Nests in Canada, southern Alaska; winters in coastal California south to South America; wintering habitat includes coastal mudflats and brackish lagoons	wintering/migrant period: late-August-May	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Willet <i>(Tringa semipalmata)</i>	-	-	BCC	Breeds locally in interior of western North America. In California, breeding range includes the Klamath Basin and Modoc Plateau and portions of Mono and possibly Inyo counties. Breeding habitat includes prairies, Breeds in wetlands and grasslands on semiarid plains; in uplands near brackish or saline wetlands; prefers temporary, seasonal, and alkali wetlands over semipermanent and permanent wetlands.	April-August	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.

**Table 2. Special-Status Species Evaluated for the Study Area**

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status			Habitat Description	Survey Period	Potential to Occur Onsite
	ESA	CESA	Other			
Great blue heron ( <i>Ardea herodias</i> )	-	-	CNDDDB*	Colonial nester; prefers to nest in vegetation on islands or in swamps but may also be found in upland habitats in trees, bushes, on the ground and on artificial structures. Foraging habitat is widely diverse and includes swamps, coastlines, estuaries, beaches, pastures, cultivated fields, and riparian areas.	February-July	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Great egret ( <i>Ardea alba</i> )	-	-	CNDDDB	Colonial nester; nests in woody vegetation, shrubs and trees usually near lakes, ponds, marshes estuaries, human-made impoundments, or natural and human-made islands.	March-July	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Snowy egret ( <i>Egretta thula</i> )	-	-	CNDDDB	Colonial nester; nests in coastal and inland wetlands in isolated sites. Nesting habitat includes a variety of trees, including cactus, along large rivers, reservoirs/lakes, grassy marshes, wet meadows, irrigation channels, and estuaries.	March-August	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Black-crowned night heron ( <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> )	-	-	CNDDDB	Colonial nester; Nests in trees, usually above water, within open shrub/grassland, wetlands, riparian, urban habitats, and in rocky crevices on islands.	March-August	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
White-faced ibis ( <i>Plegadis chihi</i> )	-	-	CDFW WL	Colonial nester; Nests in shallow marshes with islands of emergent vegetation, flooded shoals and mangrove swamps.	May-August	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
White-tailed kite ( <i>Elanus leucurus</i> )	-	-	CFP, HCP/ NCCP	Nesting occurs within trees in low elevation grassland, agricultural, wetland, oak woodland, riparian, savannah, and urban habitats.	March-August	Potential-trees onsite represent potential nesting habitat.

**Table 2. Special-Status Species Evaluated for the Study Area**

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status			Habitat Description	Survey Period	Potential to Occur Onsite
	ESA	CESA	Other			
Golden eagle ( <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> )	-	-	BCC, CFP	Nesting habitat includes mountainous canyon land, rimrock terrain of open desert and grasslands, riparian, oak woodland/savannah, and chaparral. Nesting occurs on cliff ledges, river banks, trees, and human-made structures (e.g. windmills, platforms, and transmission towers). Breeding occurs throughout California, except the immediate coast, Central Valley floor, Salton Sea region, and the Colorado River region, where they can be found during Winter.	Nest (February-August); winter CV (October-February)	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Cooper's hawk ( <i>Accipiter cooperii</i> )	-	-	CDFW WL	Nests in trees in riparian woodlands in deciduous, mixed and evergreen forests, as well as urban landscapes	March-July	Potential-trees onsite represent potential nesting habitat.
Bald eagle ( <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> )	Delisted	CE	CFP, BCC	Typically nests in forested areas near large bodies of water in the northern half of California; nest in trees and rarely on cliffs; wintering habitat includes forest and woodland communities near water bodies (e.g. rivers, lakes), wetlands, flooded agricultural fields, open grasslands	February – September (nesting); October-March (wintering)	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Swainson's hawk ( <i>Buteo swainsoni</i> )	-	CT	BCC, HCP/ NCCP	Nesting occurs in trees in agricultural, riparian, oak woodland, scrub, and urban landscapes. Forages over grassland, agricultural lands, particularly during disking/harvesting, irrigated pastures	March-August	Potential-larger trees onsite represent potential nesting habitat.

**Table 2. Special-Status Species Evaluated for the Study Area**

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status			Habitat Description	Survey Period	Potential to Occur Onsite
	ESA	CESA	Other			
Ferruginous hawk <i>(Buteo regalis)</i>	-	-	BCC, CDFW WL	Rarely breeds in California (Lassen County); winter range includes grassland and shrubsteppe habitats from Northern California (except northeast and northwest corners) south to Mexico and east to Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Texas.	September-March (wintering)	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Burrowing owl <i>(Athene cunicularia)</i>	-	-	BCC, SSC, HCP/ NCCP	Nests in burrows or burrow surrogates in open, treeless, areas within grassland, steppe, and desert biomes. Often with other burrowing mammals (e.g. prairie dogs, California ground squirrels). May also use human-made habitat such as agricultural fields, golf courses, cemeteries, roadside, airports, vacant urban lots, and fairgrounds.	February-August	Potential-scattered California ground squirrel burrows and some burrow surrogates onsite represent potential habitat.
Lewis' woodpecker <i>(Melanerpes lewis)</i>	-	-	BCC	In California, breeds in Siskiyou and Modoc Counties, Warner Mountains, inner coast ranges from Tehama to San Luis Obispo Counties, San Bernardino Mountains, and Big Pine Mountain (Inyo County); nesting habitat includes open ponderosa pine forest, open riparian woodland, logged/burned forest, and oak woodlands. Does not breed on the west side of Sierran crest (Beedy and Pandalfino 2013).	April-September (breeding); September-March (winter in Central Valley).	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Nuttall's woodpecker <i>(Dryobates nuttallii)</i>	-	-	BCC	Resident from northern California south to Baja California. Nests in tree cavities in oak woodlands and riparian woodlands.	April-July	Potential-trees onsite represent potential nesting habitat.

**Table 2. Special-Status Species Evaluated for the Study Area**

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status			Habitat Description	Survey Period	Potential to Occur Onsite
	ESA	CESA	Other			
Merlin <i>(Falco columbarius)</i>	-	-	CDFW WL	Breeds in Oregon, Washington north into Canada. Winters in southern Canada to South America, including California. Breeds near forest openings, fragmented woodlots, and riparian areas. Wintering habitat includes wide variety, open forests, grasslands, tidal flats, plains, and urban settings.	September-April (wintering in the Central Valley); does not breed in California	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Least Bell's vireo <i>(Vireo bellii pusillus)</i>	FE	CE	BCC, HCP/ NCCP	In California, breeding range includes Ventura, Los Angeles, Riverside, Orange, San Diego, and San Bernardino counties, and rarely Stanislaus and Santa Clara counties. Nesting habitat includes dense, low shrubby vegetation in riparian areas, brushy fields, young second-growth woodland, scrub oak, coastal chaparral and mesquite brushland. Winters in southern Baja California Sur.	April 1-July 31	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Yellow-billed magpie <i>(Pica nuttalli)</i>	-	-	BCC	Endemic to California; found in the Central Valley and coast range south of San Francisco Bay and north of Los Angeles County; nesting habitat includes oak savannah with large in large expanses of open ground; also found in urban parklike settings.	April-June	Potential-trees onsite represent potential nesting habitat.
Bank swallow <i>(Riparia riparia)</i>	-	CT	HCP/ NCCP	Nests colonially along coasts, rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands in vertical banks, cliffs, and bluffs in alluvial, friable soils. May also nest in sand, gravel quarries and road cuts. In California, breeding range includes northern and central California.	May-July	Low Potential-exposed banks of the ditch represent marginally suitable nesting habitat.

**Table 2. Special-Status Species Evaluated for the Study Area**

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status			Habitat Description	Survey Period	Potential to Occur Onsite
	ESA	CESA	Other			
Purple martin <i>(Progne subis)</i>	-	-	SSC	In California, breeds along coast range, Cascade-northern Sierra Nevada region and isolated population in Sacramento. Nesting habitat includes montane forests, Pacific lowlands with dead snags; the isolated Sacramento population nests in weep holes under elevated highways/bridges. Winters in South America.	May-August	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Oak titmouse <i>(Baeolophus inornatus)</i>			BCC	Nests in tree cavities within dry oak or oak-pine woodland and riparian; where oaks are absent, they nest in juniper woodland, open forests (gray, Jeffrey, Coulter, pinyon pines and Joshua tree)	March-July	Potential-trees onsite represent potential nesting habitat.
Wrentit <i>(Chamaea fasciata)</i>	-	-	BCC	Coastal sage scrub, northern coastal scrub, chaparral, dense understory of riparian woodlands, riparian scrub, coyote brush and blackberry thickets, and dense thickets in suburban parks and gardens.	March-August	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
California thrasher <i>(Toxostoma redivivum)</i>	-	-	BCC	Resident and endemic to coastal and Sierra Nevada-Cascade foothill areas of California. Nests are usually well hidden in dense shrubs, including scrub oak, California lilac, and chamise.	February-July	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.

**Table 2. Special-Status Species Evaluated for the Study Area**

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status			Habitat Description	Survey Period	Potential to Occur Onsite
	ESA	CESA	Other			
Lawrence's goldfinch <i>(Spinus lawrencei)</i>	-	-	BCC	Breeds in Sierra Nevada and inner Coast Range foothills surrounding the Central Valley and the southern Coast Range to Santa Barbara County east through southern California to the Mojave Desert and Colorado Desert into the Peninsular Range. Nests in arid and open woodlands with chaparral or other brushy areas, tall annual weed fields, and a water source (e.g. small stream, pond, lake), and to a lesser extent riparian woodland, coastal scrub, evergreen forests, pinyon-juniper woodland, planted conifers, and ranches or rural residences near weedy fields and water.	March-September	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Grasshopper sparrow <i>(Ammodramus savannarum)</i>	-	-	SSC	In California, breeding range includes most coastal counties south to Baja California; western Sacramento Valley and western edge of Sierra Nevada region. Nests in moderately open grasslands and prairies with patchy bare ground. Avoids grasslands with extensive shrub cover; more likely to occupy large tracts of habitat than small fragments; removal of grass cover by grazing often detrimental.	May-August	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.

**Table 2. Special-Status Species Evaluated for the Study Area**

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status			Habitat Description	Survey Period	Potential to Occur Onsite
	ESA	CESA	Other			
Black-chinned sparrow ( <i>Spizella atrogularis</i> )	-	-	BCC	In California, breeds in inner Coast Ranges, Transverse Range, and Peninsular Range, west slope of Sierra Nevada from Kern County to Mariposa County and mountains of southeastern California. Nesting habitat includes moderately dense tall brush on rugged mountain slopes with rocky outcrops and scattered large trees. Prefers young stands with openings.	April-August	Absent-there is no suitable habitat onsite.
Song sparrow "Modesto" ( <i>Melospiza melodia heermanni</i> )	-	-	BCC, SSC	Resident in central and southwest California, including Central Valley; nests in marsh, scrub habitat	April-June	Potential-dense emergent vegetation within the ditch represents potential nesting habitat.
San Clemente spotted towhee ( <i>Pipilo maculatus clementae</i> )	-	-	BCC, SSC	Resident on Santa Catalina and Santa Rosa Islands; extirpated on San Clemente Island, California. Breeds in dense, broadleaf shrubby brush, thickets, and tangles in chaparral, oak woodland, island woodland, and Bishop pine forest.	Year round resident; breeding season is April-July	Absent-this subspecies is not found in the region.
Yellow-headed blackbird ( <i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i> )	-	-	SSC	In California, breeds in the Great Basin region, along Colorado River south to Baja California, Salton Sea, Kern, Ventura, Riverside, San Diego and possibly Orange, Lake counties and locally in the Central Valley, Nests are constructed over deep water in emergent vegetation of prairie wetlands, quaking aspen parklands, mountain meadows, forest edges, large lakes.	April-July	Potential-emergent vegetation within the ditch represents potential nesting habitat.

**Table 2. Special-Status Species Evaluated for the Study Area**

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status			Habitat Description	Survey Period	Potential to Occur Onsite
	ESA	CESA	Other			
Tricolored blackbird <i>(Agelaius tricolor)</i>	-	CT	BCC, SSC, HCP/ NCCP	Breeds locally west of Cascade-Sierra Nevada and southeastern deserts from Humboldt and Shasta Cos south to San Bernardino, Riverside and San Diego Counties. Central California, Sierra Nevada foothills and Central Valley, Siskiyou, Modoc and Lassen Counties. Nests colonially in freshwater marsh, blackberry bramble, milk thistle, triticale fields, weedy (mustard, mallow) fields, giant cane, safflower, stinging nettles, tamarisk, riparian scrublands and forests, fiddleneck and fava bean fields.	March-August	Potential-emergent vegetation within the ditch represents potential nesting habitat.
Saltmarsh common yellowthroat <i>(Geothlypis trichas sinuosa)</i>	-	-	BCC, SSC	Breeds in salt marshes of San Francisco Bay; winters San Francisco south along coast to San Diego County.	March-July	Absent-this subspecies is not found in the region.
<b>Mammals</b>						
Pallid bat <i>(Antrozous pallidus)</i>	-	-	SSC	Crevice in rocky outcrops and cliffs, caves, mines, trees (e.g. basal hollows of redwoods, cavities of oaks, exfoliating pine and oak bark, deciduous trees in riparian areas, and fruit trees in orchards). Also roosts in various human structures such as bridges, barns, porches, bat boxes, and human-occupied as well as vacant buildings (WBWG 2020).	April-September	Low Potential-the culvert/bridge crossing at Linden Road represents marginally suitable roosting habitat for this species.

**Table 2. Special-Status Species Evaluated for the Study Area**

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status			Habitat Description	Survey Period	Potential to Occur Onsite
	ESA	CESA	Other			
American badger <i>(Taxidea taxus)</i>	-	-	SSC	Drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats with friable soils.	Any season	Absent-there is not suitable habitat onsite.

Status Codes:

ESA	Endangered Species Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
FE	ESA listed, Endangered.
FT	ESA listed, Threatened.
FC	Candidate for FESA listing as Threatened or Endangered.
BCC	USFWS Bird of Conservation Concern (USFWS 2002).
NMFS	NOAA/NMFS species of concern
CC	Candidate for CESA listing as Endangered or Threatened.
CE	CESA or NPPA listed, Endangered.
CR	CESA- or NPPA-listed, Rare.
CT	CESA or NPPA listed, Threatened.
CFP	California Fish and Game Code Fully Protected Species (§ 3511-birds, § 4700-mammals, §5 050-reptiles/amphibians).
CDFW WL	CDFW Watch List
SSC	CDFW Species of Special Concern
CNDDDB	Species that is tracked by CDFW's CNDDDB but does not have any of the above special-status designations otherwise.
HCP/NCCP	Yolo Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan Covered Species
WBWG	Western Bat Working Group
1B	California Rare Plant Ranks (CRPRs)/Rare or Endangered in California and elsewhere.
2B	CRPR /Rare or Endangered in California, more common elsewhere.
3	CRPR/Plants About Which More Information is Needed – A Review List.
4	CRPR/Plants of Limited Distribution – A Watch List.
0.1	Threat Rank/Seriously threatened in California (over 80 percent of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat)
0.2	Threat Rank/Moderately threatened in California (20-80 percent occurrences threatened / moderate degree and immediacy of threat)

With implementation of **Mitigation Measures BIO-1 (Compliance with the Requirements of the Yolo HCP/NCCP for Swainson’s Hawk and White-Tailed Kite) and Bio-2 (Conduct Preconstruction Surveys for Nesting Birds and Implement Non-disturbance Buffer Areas)**, the Proposed Project would avoid impacts to nesting birds by identifying and avoiding disturbance to occupied nests.

**Mitigation Measure BIO-1. Compliance with the Requirements of the Yolo HCP/NCCP for Swainson’s Hawk and White-Tailed Kite.**

The Yolo HCP/NCCP contains avoidance and minimization measures that Reclamation District 900 shall adopt for Swainson’s hawk and white-tailed kite. Specifically, implementation of Avoidance and Minimization Measure 15 of the Yolo HCP/NCCP will:

- Identify and quantify (in acres) Swainson’s hawk and white tailed kite habitat in and within 1,320 feet of the project footprint, and identify suitable nest trees.
- Avoid potential nesting trees, within 1,320-foot setbacks from the trees during nesting, to the extent practicable.
- During construction, if activities would occur within 1,320 feet of nesting habitat between March 15 and August 30, preconstruction surveys would be conducted for active nests consistent with the Swainson’s Hawk Technical Advisory Committee (2000). For operation and maintenance, if activities involve pruning or removal of suitable nest trees, preconstruction surveys will be conducted for active nests, consistent with the Swainson’s Hawk Technical Advisory Committee (2000).
- For construction activities occurring from March 15 to August 30, no activities will occur within 1,320 feet of active nests, unless a qualified biologist has determined that the young have fledged and the nest is no longer active or the Yolo Habitat Conservancy, USFWS, and CDFW agree to a lesser buffer distance. For operations and maintenance, if occupied nest sites are present with 1,320 feet, tree pruning and removal will be deferred until the nest is no longer being used by adults and young.

**Mitigation Measure BIO-2. Conduct Preconstruction Surveys for Nesting Birds and Implement Non-disturbance Buffer Areas.**

To the extent feasible, all vegetation removal shall occur between September 1 and January 31, outside the bird/raptor nesting season, to avoid potential impacts on nesting birds. If construction activities (including staging and tree or vegetation removal) will occur during the nesting season (February 1 through August 31), RD900 shall retain a qualified wildlife biologist to conduct focused surveys for active bird nests in the project areas and within a 250-foot buffer no more than 7 days before initiation of construction activities. If no work occurs for a period of 5 days during the nesting season, repeat surveys must be performed before work within 250 feet of suitable nesting substrate is resumed. If the survey indicates that no active nests are present, no further mitigation shall be required.

If an active bird or raptor nest is located during preconstruction surveys, a qualified biologist shall establish appropriate species-specific non-disturbance buffer zones in consultation with USFWS and /or CDFW (typical buffers are 250 feet for passerines and 500 feet for raptors). No project-related activity shall commence within the non-disturbance buffer until the qualified biologist confirms that the nest is no longer active.

**Conclusion**

As described above, the Proposed Project would have no impact on special-status plants, natural communities, amphibians, reptiles, fish, mammals, and invertebrates. Impacts on nesting birds would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-2. Overall, the impact to special-status species would be less than significant with mitigation.

b) **No impact.** The few landscaped ornamental trees planted along the north bank of the Blacker Canal between Linden Road and the Main Canal do not constitute substantial riparian habitat. The Project Area does not contain sensitive natural communities as identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the CDFW or the USFWS.

c) **Less than significant with mitigation incorporated.** A delineation of Waters of the U.S., and a plant, animal, and habitat survey was conducted by ECORP Consulting, Inc. The federal jurisdictional status of the Blacker Canal has not been requested from the United States Army Corp of Engineers due their exemption for maintenance of drainage ditches under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The Blacker Canal is a Waters of the State of California. As a result, a Streambed Alteration Agreement, Section 1600 Permit, will be obtained from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife prior to construction. Likewise, the Regional Water Quality Control Board will be notified and permits will be obtained prior to construction.

With implementation of **Mitigation Measures BIO-3 (Compliance with the Requirements of the California Department of Fish & Wildlife and Regional Water Quality Control Board permitting requirements)**, the Proposed Project would mitigate for impacts to Waters of the State.

d) **Less than significant with mitigation incorporated.** The project area is located within a residential neighborhood and surrounded by developed urban areas on all sides. Implementation of the Proposed Project would not interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory wildlife species because the project area supports limited to no value as a wildlife movement corridor. The area does not provide an important connection for any other special-status species or any areas of natural habitat that would otherwise be isolated, nor does it occur along any established wildlife migration routes. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not interfere with the movement of any native or migratory wildlife species. The Sacramento River corridor, located approximately two miles to the east, and the Deep Water Ship Channel, approximately 1.5 miles to the west with their established riparian habitats, are examples of migration corridors within the vicinity of the project. Neither of these features would be affected by the project activities.

If birds nest within the project area, the project area could be considered as a native wildlife nursery. As discussed above **Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-2** would ensure that preconstruction surveys are conducted for nesting birds and buffers are implemented, if necessary, to avoid or minimize potential impacts on nesting birds. Overall, the impact of the Proposed Project on wildlife corridors and nurseries would be less than significant with mitigation.

e) **Less than significant impact.** There are no significant conflicts with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. The few trees along the north bank of the Canal between Linden Road and the Main Canal do not appear to be any “street,” “landmark,” or “heritage,” trees, as defined under the tree preservation ordinance. However, should RD900 agree to replace the ornamental trees that have to be removed to stabilize the banks of the Blacker Canal, a tree replacement plan should focus on native trees that are drought resistant.

f) **Less than significant with mitigation incorporated.** The project is under the jurisdiction of the Yolo Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP). Two species (Swainson’s hawk and white-tailed kite) covered in the HCP/NCCP have been

identified in the CNDDDB and USFWS database searches as occurring within the vicinity of the project area. It is possible that both species could utilize trees within the project area for nesting. Construction activities occurring within the project area would be covered under the HCP/NCCP. **Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-2** would ensure the Proposed Project proceeds in accordance with requirements of the Yolo HCP/NCCP. Therefore, the impact would be less than significant with mitigation.

**5. CULTURAL RESOURCES**

Would the Project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §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 §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Setting:**

Sites identified within the project area were evaluated for significance in relation to CEQA significance criteria. Historical resources per CEQA are defined as buildings, sites, structures, objects, or districts, each of which may have historical, architectural, archaeological, cultural, or scientific significance. CEQA requires that, if a project results in an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, alternative plans or mitigations measures must be considered; however, only significant historical resources need to be addressed.

In addition, CEQA further distinguishes between archaeological sites that meet the definition of a significant historical resource, and “unique archaeological resources.” An archaeological resource is considered “unique” (Section 21083.2(g)) when the resource not merely adds to the body of knowledge, but when there is a high probability that the resource also:

- Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and there is a demonstrable public interest in that information.
- Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type.
- Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person.

In the present case, three (3) resources have been identified as being within, or immediately adjacent to the APE. All three have been subjected to previous recordation and evaluation for

significance and eligibility, and all three were recommended not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) due to lack of integrity.

Based on the specific findings detained under Cultural Resources Survey and Cultural Inventory, no significant historical resources or unique archaeological resources are present within the project area and no significant historical resources/unique archaeological resources will be affected by the undertaking, as presently proposed.

#### **Discussion:**

a) **Less than significant with mitigation incorporated.** Three (3) resources have been identified as being within, or immediately adjacent to the APE. All three have been subjected to previous recordation and evaluation for significance and eligibility, and all three were recommended not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) due to lack of integrity. Damage to, or destruction of, such resources is considered a potentially significant impact. Implementation of **Mitigation Measure CR-1** would reduce this impact to a less than significant level.

b) **Less than significant with mitigation incorporated.** Three (3) resources have been identified as being within, or immediately adjacent to the APE. All three have been subjected to previous recordation and evaluation for significance and eligibility, and all three were recommended not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) due to lack of integrity. The Proposed Project is not expected to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource. However, the records search provided by the North Central Information Center identified the area as having a moderate-to-high potential for prehistoric-or ethnohistoric-period Native American sites in the area. Because the Project requires altering the natural ground surface, and because subsurface findings cannot be determined prior to ground disturbance, the possibility remains that archaeological sites now buried or obscured by vegetation would be exposed and damaged during construction activities. Damage to, or destruction of, such resources is considered a potentially significant impact. Implementation of **Mitigation Measure CR-1** would reduce this impact to a less than significant level.

c) **Less than significant with mitigation incorporated.** Interred human remains are not known to be located within or near the Project Area; thus, no significant impacts are anticipated. However, it is possible that construction activities could result in the inadvertent discovery of remains during construction activities. This potential impact could potentially be significant. The impact will be reduced to a **less than significant** level with the implementation of **Mitigation Measure CR-2**.

**Mitigation and Residual Impact:** The following mitigation measures would reduce impacts to cultural resources to a less than significant level:

**MM CR-1.** The present evaluation is based on findings of an inventory-level surface survey only. There is always the possibility that important unidentified cultural materials could be encountered on or below the surface during the course of future canal bank stabilization activities. This possibility is particularly relevant considering the constraints generally to archaeological field survey, and particularly where past ground disturbances (e.g., canal excavation and realignment) have partially obscured historic ground surface visibility, as in the present case. In the event of an inadvertent discovery of previously unidentified cultural material, archaeological consultation should be sought immediately.

**MM CR-2.** In the event that human remains are inadvertently encountered during excavation or other ground-disturbing activity or at any time subsequently, State law shall be followed, which includes but is not limited to immediately contacting the County Coroner's office upon any discovery of human remains.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>6. ENERGY</b>				
Would the Project:				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion:**

b) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would involve maintenance upgrades to 5,400 linear feet of the Blacker Canal. Project-related construction activities would comply will all local, state and federal requirements for control of air pollutant emissions and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Operations and maintenance of the Proposed Project would not involve additional consumption of energy resources beyond existing conditions. Therefore, the Proposed Project would have no impact on energy resources.

b) **No Impact.** As stated in item (a) above, project-related construction activities would comply will all local, state and federal requirements for control of air pollutant emissions and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and no additional consumption of energy would result from operational activities. Therefore, the Proposed Project would have no impact related to state or local plans for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

**7. GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

Would the Project:

a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone Map issued by the State Geologist for the area, or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geological unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>

**Discussion:**

a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

i) **No Impact.** According to the Fault Activity Map of California (California Division of Mines and Geology 2007), no active faults or Earthquake Fault Zones (Special Studies Zones) are located on the project site. The nearest active faults (Dunnigan Hills, Midland Fault and Green Valley Fault) are all over twenty miles from the project site. Likewise, all potentially active faults (Bear Mountain Fault Zone-West, Bear Mountain Fault Zone-East, Maidu Fault, Vaca Fault and Deadman Fault) are over twenty miles from the project site. Based on the distances and activity of nearby faults, the Proposed Project would have no impact related to seismic-related rupture.

ii) **No Impact.** The severity of ground shaking experienced at a specific location depends on a variety of factors, such as the magnitude and duration of the seismic event, fault type associated with the event, distance from the epicenter, and physical properties of the underlying geology and soils. Because the project site is not located near any known active faults and is not in a seismically active region, the area is not likely to experience significant ground shaking. No Impact would result.

iii) **No Impact.** Liquefaction can occur when water-saturated, loose sandy soils lose cohesion during seismic shaking. The primary factor that triggers liquefaction is moderate to strong ground shaking. Physical properties that increase susceptibility to liquefaction are relatively clean/loose granular soils, and a shallow depth to groundwater and/or saturated conditions. The project site is not located in a designated liquefaction zone nor is it in a seismically active area. As such, it is unlikely to experience liquefaction. The Proposed Project would not expose people or structures to substantial adverse effects from liquefaction. Therefore, No Impact would occur.

iv) **No Impact.** The project site is in a flat, developed area in the City of West Sacramento. The potential for landslides to occur in this location is very low. No Impact related to landslides would result.

b) **Less than Significant.** The Proposed Project's construction activities would occur exclusively within an urban residential neighborhood. Within this area, the work would take place in, on and immediately adjacent to the Blacker Canal. Very little loss of topsoil would occur, as very little topsoil would be disturbed by project activities.

c) **Less than Significant.** The project area is in a topographically flat region and is therefore not susceptible to landslides. The risk of lateral spreading is low, as the project area does not consist of fill material. No slopes of engineering significance are present or anticipated on the site following construction activities.

d) **Less than Significant.** Onsite materials encountered during field investigations were generally non-plastic (sand and non-plastic silt). The non-plastic materials are generally considered to be non-expansive; therefore no special design considerations would be required for the design or construction of the bank stabilization of the Blacker Canal.

e) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project involves the repair and upgrade to the banks of the Blacker Canal. Neither septic tanks nor alternate wastewater disposal systems are present in the project area.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**8. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

Would the Project:

- |  |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Discussion:**

a) **Less than significant impact.** Global Warming is a public health and environmental concern around the world. The predominant opinion within the scientific community is that global warming is currently occurring, and that it is being caused and/or accelerated by human activities, primarily the generation of "greenhouse gases" (GHG).

In 2006, the California State Legislature adopted AB32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in California. Greenhouse gases, as defined under AB32, include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydro-fluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride. AB32 required the California Air Resources Board (ARB), the State agency charged with regulating statewide air quality, to adopt rules and regulations that would achieve greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to statewide levels in 1990 by 2020. However, to date, no threshold has been established for what would constitute a cumulatively increase in greenhouse gases for individual construction projects. The major objective of this Project is to repair and upgrade the banks of the Blacker Canal.

There will be indirect emissions as a result of construction related activities such as emissions from equipment exhaust. Construction activities would take place over an approximately 4-month period, and construction contractors would comply with all BMPs. No operational activities would involve emissions of greenhouse gases beyond the activities taking place under existing conditions. The impact would be less than significant.

b) **Less than significant impact.** A project is deemed inconsistent with air quality and greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction plans if it would result in population and/or employment growth that exceeds growth estimates included in the applicable air quality plan, in turn, would generate emissions not accounted for in the applicable quality plan budget. Therefore, projects need to be evaluated to determine whether they would generate growth rates included in the relevant air quality and GHG reduction plans. The Proposed Project involves the repair and upgrade of the banks of the Blacker Canal. Therefore, the Proposed Project would be consistent with local plans for growth, traffic, and air quality and would have a less than significant impact to GHG emissions.

**9. HAZARDS/HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

Would the Project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials?	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Setting:**

The California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) has been granted primary responsibility by USEPA for administering and enforcing hazardous materials management plans within California. CalEPA defines a hazardous material as a material that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released (26 California Code of Regulations [CCR] 25501).

CalEPA delegates responsibility for many of its programs to local governments through certification as a Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA). A CUPA is responsible for implementing a unified hazardous materials and hazardous waste management program. As the designated CUPA for Yolo County, the Environmental Health Services Division of Yolo

County is responsible for performing all assessments of environmental contamination and/or human exposure, providing oversight of cleanup activity, and coordinating with the lead state agency having cleanup jurisdiction.

As discussed in the section “Hydrology and Water Quality”, a project that would disturb one acre or more of soil must obtain coverage under General Permit Order 2010-0014-DWQ. Coverage under General Permit requires the implementation of a SWPPP. A SWPPP includes plans for erosion and sediment control and adheres to the County’s grading ordinance and BMPs.

**Discussion:**

a) **Less than Significant.** Construction activities for the Proposed Project would require routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials (e.g., fuel, oil, petroleum products). The contractor would be required by existing regulations to implement standard BMPs and SWPPP measures to control erosion, sediment, and runoff in the project area during construction. In the event of releases of hazardous materials into the environment, the CUPA would provide oversight of any necessary cleanup activities.

The Proposed Project would be consistent with the City of West Sacramento General Plan, which requires compliance with existing regulations. Existing regulations and BMPs would ensure that the sites containing hazardous materials are cleaned up to existing standards. This impact would be less than significant.

b) **Less than Significant.** Construction equipment has the potential to release oils, greases, solvents, and other finishing materials through accidental spills. Given the nature of hazardous materials that would be used, stored or disposed of (e.g., materials for construction equipment), there is a possibility for upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. Accidental releases of small quantities of these substances could contaminate soils and degrade the quality of surface water, resulting in a public safety hazard. However, the handling and disposal of these materials would be governed according to regulations enforced by the West Sacramento Fire Department, the CUPA, California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA), and DTSC. In addition, regulations under the federal Clean Water Act require contractors to avoid allowing the release of materials into surface waters as part of their SWPPP and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit requirements. Therefore, the use of hazardous materials during construction would not result in a reasonable foreseeable upset or accident condition that would cause significant hazard to the public or environment. Based on the existing regulatory scheme, this impact would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

c) **Less than Significant.** There are no public schools located with ¼ mile of the Proposed Project. The closest private school is the Portside Montessori School serving children six weeks to six years old. The Montessori School is approximately 50 feet from the proposed construction zone. As stated above, the projects use of small quantities of hazardous materials during construction would not result in a reasonable foreseeable upset or accident condition that would cause significant hazard to the public or environment. The staff of the Montessori School will be given a minimum of two weeks’ notice prior to construction. Construction activities in the near vicinity of the Montessori School are not anticipated to last more than one week. Therefore the impact would be less than significant.

d) **No Impact.** No hazardous materials sites included on a list compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 are present within the city boundaries, and no Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (Superfund) or other National Priorities List sites are within the city limits. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in a significant hazard to the public or the environment through exposure to such sites.

e) **No Impact.** The nearest airports to the Proposed Project area are Sacramento Executive Airport located 8 miles southeast on the east side of the Sacramento River at 6151 Freeport Boulevard; and Sacramento International Airport, located approximately 14 miles north on I-5 between Sacramento and Woodland. The project site is not located within 2 miles of an airport or within an airport land use area. There would be no impact.

f) **No Impact.** Project activities are limited to the immediate area of the Blacker Canal. Existing City requirements for construction projects require signage and an access plan to ensure continued emergency access during construction. There would be no impact.

g) **No Impact.** The project area is in an urban neighborhood that is fully developed. No Impact related to wildland fires would result.

**10. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY**

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially decrease ground water supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<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 or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or				
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Setting:**

Given its proximity to the Sacramento River, West Sacramento is located in the river’s floodplain. The city is surrounded by levees that are maintained by the State and local reclamation districts. The Federal Emergency Management Agency is currently reevaluating flood zone designation maps in West Sacramento. In addition, the City is concurrently working to complete levee improvements to increase flood protection within West Sacramento. At this time, most of the city, including the project site, is classified as Zone X. Flood Zone X has no statutory requirement for flood insurance and allows new construction and expansion of existing structures without being subject to elevation and flood proofing requirements. The Proposed Project provides a substantial contribution to providing stormwater drainage protection for the surrounding neighborhoods. Storm damage over the past few years have reduced the ability of the Blacker Canal to provide efficient drainage of the several hundred acres of watershed associated with the surrounding neighborhoods. Unstable banks caused by erosion will continue to progressively collapse unless the proposed repairs and upgrades are completed as soon as possible.

**Discussion:**

a) **Less than significant.** Construction activities for the Proposed Project would require excavation, grading, and compaction of onsite soils. Any soil removed during construction would be stored and controlled to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation within the Blacker Canal. Pollutants and hazardous materials, such as gasoline, diesel fuel, oil, solvents, and trash stored and used during construction, would be subject to State and local regulations. Compliance with these regulations would reduce the potential for materials to enter the Blacker Canal and degrade water quality. The development and implementation of a SWPPP would be required under the Construction General Permit. The SWPPP would identify BMPs that the discharger would use to control release of pollutants in stormwater runoff. In addition, the project would comply with the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins and would therefore not violate any water quality standards for regulations. The project would result in a less than significant impact related to water quality standards or waste discharge requirements.

b) **Less than significant.** The Proposed Project would involve repairs and upgrades to increase the efficiency of the Blacker Canal. Therefore, the Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact on groundwater supplies and groundwater recharge.

c) **Less than significant impact.**

(i.) Construction activities for the Proposed Project would involve excavation within the Blacker Canal. Exposure of subsurface soils during the rainy season could result in erosion and siltation of runoff. All construction activities would be conducted in compliance with the City's standards and applicable State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) requirements, including preparation of a SWPPP, which would prevent runoff from causing substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site. Therefore, the impact of the Proposed Project related to erosion or siltation would be less than significant.

(ii.) As previously described, the primary focus of the Proposed Project is the rehabilitation of the storm damaged Blacker Canal. The project area is within a fully developed urban neighborhood that requires efficient control of surface runoff to prevent flooding. The proposed repairs and upgrades to the Blacker Canal will provide efficient stormwater flows during storm events with minimum erosion or siltation. Therefore, the Proposed Project would have a positive effect on the amount of surface runoff that can be handled. No impact.

iii.) The Proposed Project is designed to improve stormwater drainage capacity. No impact.

iv.) The overall risk of flooding in the project area is extremely minor because the area is protected by levees certified by Federal Emergency Management to protect against the 100-year flood events. Upgrades to the Blacker Canal will increase the ability of the stormwater drainage system to handle potential flood events. No Impact.

d) **Less than significant impact.** West Sacramento is not at risk for tsunamis, and the area is not adjacent to a body of water that could experience seiche. The city is located near the confluence of the American and Sacramento Rivers, and the Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel meets the Sacramento River just south of Stone Boulevard. As a result, flooding is a concern in parts of West Sacramento. The Proposed Project area is protected by a levee certified by FEMA to provide 100-year protection. The contractor would be required to obtain a permit from the Central Valley RWQCB detailing a plan to control any spills that occur during construction. The plan would describe the construction activities to be performed, BMPs that would be implemented to prevent discharges of contaminated stormwater into the Blacker Canal, and inspection and monitoring activities that would be conducted. Compliance with state and local regulations and implementation of a SWPPP would result in a less than significant impact.

e) **No Impact.** As previously stated, the Proposed Project involves the repair and upgrade of the Blacker Canal to facilitate the improvement of water quality within the Canal. All construction activities would be conducted in compliance with City standards, including the preparation of a SWPPP with a monitoring program and a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan. No additional use of groundwater would be required for construction or operation of the Proposed Project. Therefore, the Proposed Project would have no impact on water quality control plans and sustainable groundwater management plans.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**11. LAND USE AND PLANNING**

Would the project:

- |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Physically divide an established community?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**Discussion:**

a) **No impact.** The Project will not physically divide an established community, as the Project Area is currently an urban developed neighborhood. The Project would not physically divide an established community.

b) **No impact.** Implementation of the Propose Project would benefit residents of the surrounding area by improving stormwater runoff. These improvements would comply with the City’s construction standards and regulatory requirements. The impact would be less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**12. MINERAL RESOURCES**

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**Discussion:**

a-b) **No impact.** The project area is in a fully developed residential neighborhood in an urban environment. The City of West Sacramento General Plan identifies no mineral resources or locally important mineral resources within the city. There would be no impact.

**13. NOISE**

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Would the project result in:

- |  |                          |                                     |                          |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**Setting:**

The City’s General Plan Safety Element (City of West Sacramento 2016) identifies Goal S-7: “To protect city residents from the harmful effects of excessive noise and vibration.” Policies S-7.1 through S-7.10 are outlined to achieve the City’s goal; however, these policies are directed primarily to new development. The City’s performance standards for noise and vibration, found in Chapter 17.28.110 and Chapter 17.28.140 of its Municipal Code, are the primary enforcement tool for the operation of locally regulated noise sources, such as construction activity or outdoor recreational facilities. These sections of the Municipal Code set noise level performance standards for non-transportation noise sources, such as construction equipment; industrial operations, outdoor recreational facilities; heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning units; and loading docks. Because the City’s performance standards do not specify an exemption for temporary daytime construction activity, the daytime (7 a.m. – 10 p.m.) and nighttime (10 p.m. – 7 a.m.) limits specified in the City’s performance standards for noise apply to all construction activities in West Sacramento.

**Discussion:**

**a) Less than significant impact with Mitigation.**

Normal construction activity may generate high noise levels from an active construction area. Equipment includes backhoes, compactors, and dump trucks. Typical operating cycles for these types of construction equipment may involve 1 or 2 minutes at full-power operation followed by 3 to 4 minutes at lower power settings. Noise associated with the use of construction equipment is estimated between 55 and 85 dBA Lmax at a distance of 50 feet from each piece of equipment. Single-family residential units are considered sensitive receptors, and the project area is within a fully developed residential area. In general, construction activities related to canal upgrades would take place immediately adjacent to the banks of the canal, approximately 50 feet from the outside wall of the nearest residents. Some residential sensitive

noise receptors could be exposed to short-term noise impacts that would exceed the City's daytime exterior noise level standards for residential uses. In all, active construction would take place near each affected resident for approximately 6 days over a 4-month construction period.

Following the completion of construction, the Propose Project would not generate new or increased noise sources or increase long-term noise levels above existing conditions. Implementation of the following Mitigation Measures would reduce noise levels at the sensitive receptors to the extent feasible. Therefore, construction noise impacts on sensitive receptors would be less than significant with mitigation.

**Mitigation Measure NOI-1. Equip Construction Equipment with Mufflers.**

Prior to any construction activity, the construction contractor (confirmed by RD900) shall equip all construction equipment, fixed or mobile, with properly operating and maintained mufflers, consistent with manufacturers' standards.

**Mitigation Measure NOI-2. Locate Staging Areas Away from Residences.**

Prior to and during construction activity, the construction contractor (confirmed by RD900) shall locate equipment staging in areas that would create the greatest possible distance between construction-related sources and residences.

**Mitigation Measure NOI-3. Limit Construction Hours.**

The construction contractor, through enforcement by RD900, shall ensure that all general construction-related activities be restricted to daytime hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. Construction activities shall be restricted from occurring on weekend (Saturday and Sunday) and on holidays.

**Mitigation Measure NOI-4. Notify Residents Before Active Construction Begins.**

At least 2 weeks (14 days) prior to commencement of construction activities within 100 feet of residences, RD900 (in coordination with the contractor) shall provide written notification to those residences of construction activities, the intended length of occurrence, the potential for short-term noise level increases, and RD900 liaison contact information. The written notification may be distributed to residences in person or by mail.

b) **Less than significant impact with mitigation.** Ground vibrations from construction activities do not often reach levels that can damage structures, but they can achieve audible and feelable ranges in buildings very close to the site. Implementation of Mitigation Measure NOI-1 through NOI-4 would reduce construction noise levels at the sensitive receptors to the extent feasible. Therefore, the construction noise impacts for such sensitive receptors would be less than significant with mitigation.

c) **No Impact.** The project area is not within an airport land use plan or within 2 miles of a public airport; therefore, no impact would occur.

**14. POPULATION AND HOUSING**

Would the project:

a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and business) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and business) 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 people or existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

b) Displace substantial numbers of people or existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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**Discussion:**

a) **No impact.** The Proposed Project would involve the repair and upgrade to the banks of the Blacker Canal. Therefore, no potential for population growth would result from the Proposed Project and there would be no impact.

b) **No impact.** The Proposed Project would involve the repair and upgrade to the banks of the Blacker Canal. Therefore, the Proposed Project would have no impact related to displacement of people or housing.

**15. PUBLIC SERVICES**

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

i) Fire protection?

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
i) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ii) Police protection?

ii) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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iii) Schools?

iii) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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iv) Parks?

iv) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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v) Other public facilities?

v) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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**Discussion:**

**a) No Impact.**

i.) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would involve the repair and upgrade to the banks of the Blacker Canal. Therefore, the Proposed Project would have no impact on fire protection services.

ii.) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would involve the repair and upgrade to the banks of the Blacker Canal. Therefore, the Proposed Project would have no impact on police protection.

iii.) **No Impact.** The Project does not include the construction of any housing and would not generate any students. The project would not increase the demand on school districts.

iv.) **No impact.** The Project does not include the construction of housing and would not generate an increased demand for parks.

v.) **No impact.** Since there is no development proposed by the project, there would be no increased demand for these services. The temporary traffic generated by construction activities would not generate any additional roadway maintenance.

**16. RECREATION**

a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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**Discussion:**

a-b) **No impact.** The Proposed Project would involve the repair and upgrade to the banks of the Blacker Canal. The project does not include the construction of any housing and therefore would not increase the demand for parks or recreational facilities. The Project also does not include the construction of any new recreational facilities.

**17. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC**

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric 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"/>
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Setting:**

The Propose Project would take place entirely within a limited area adjacent to the banks of the Blacker Canal. Approximately 8 to 10 construction workers would commute to and from the project site each day over the approximately 4-month work period. Following the completion of the construction activities, no increase in traffic would result in the long term.

**Discussion:**

a) **No impact.** The Proposed Project would involve the repair and upgrade to the banks of the Blacker Canal. The Proposed Project would not conflict with any applicable plan, ordinance, or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system. No impact would result.

b) **No impact.** The Proposed Project would increase construction vehicle traffic in the short term during construction activities; however, would not result in long-term vehicle trips. As a result, there would be no impact related to vehicle miles traveled as a result of the Proposed Project.

c) **No impact.** Construction activities would generate an increase in vehicular traffic associated with construction equipment/trucks and personnel traveling to and from the project site. All equipment and vehicles will be parked off-road, therefore there would be hazards for vehicles and pedestrians related to obstructed views on public streets. No Impact.

d) **No impact.** Construction of the Proposed Project would not require roadway closure or detours. There would be no impact of emergency access.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**18. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES**

Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of size and scope of the landscape, scared place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

(a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in the local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k), or

(b) A resource determined by the lead agency, at its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subsection (c) of the Public Resources Code Section 5024.1 in applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1 the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

**Setting:**

In January 2020, cultural resources consulting firm, Pacific Legacy, Inc., delivered a letter to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a search of the sacred lands file and a list of Native American contacts. The NAHC responded on February 4, 2020, indicating that a search of the Sacred Lands Files (SLF) produced positive results, along with a list of three parties. The NAHC indicated that the United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) was the appropriate party to contact regarding the positive SLF findings. The contact list included:

- Charlie Wright, Cortina Rancheria-Kletsel Dehe Band of Wintun Indians.
- Gene Whitehouse, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria.
- Anthony Roberts, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation.

On February 7, 2020, on behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Pacific Legacy, Inc., submitted formal consultation letters to the listed parties. Pacific Legacy, Inc. followed up with phone calls and emails on February 14, and March 4, 2020.

In a letter dated February 21, 2020, James Kinter, THPO of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation indicated that the Tribe was unaware of any cultural resources within the project Area of Potential Effects (APE), and did not advocate for Tribal monitors. None of the other contacted parties expressed any concerns regarding the project.

On September 16, 2020, FEMA submitted an additional written correspondence to Matthew Moore, the UAIC THPO. As of November 2020, no response has been received from Mr. Moore.

On November 30, 2020, formal AB52 consultation letters were delivered to Gene Whitehouse, Chairman of the UAIC, and James Kinter, THPO of the Yoche Dehe Wintun Nation on behalf of Reclamation District 900. Both parties were requested to supply any information they might have concerning prehistoric sites or traditional use areas within, adjacent or near the project area. To date, no responses have been received from the contacted parties. Since no prehistoric sites were identified within the APE, no additional consultation was undertaken.

The NAIC findings and AB52 consultation correspondences have been provided to RD900, the agency which has engaged in formal consultation in compliance with AB52 and CEQA.

The development of the project site will not impact tribal cultural resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 21074. The property is not listed in the California Register of Historical Resources or in the local register of historical resources.

### **Discussion:**

a) **Less than significant impact with mitigation.** Three (3) resources have been identified as being within, or immediately adjacent to the APE. All three have been subjected to previous recordation and evaluation for significance and eligibility, and all three were recommended not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) due to lack of integrity. Damage to, or destruction of, such resources is considered a potentially significant impact. Implementation of **Mitigation Measure CR-1** would reduce this impact to a less than significant level.

b) **Less than significant impact with mitigation.** On February 7, 2020, on behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Pacific Legacy, Inc., submitted formal consultation letters to the listed parties. Pacific Legacy, Inc. followed up with phone calls and emails on February 14, and March 4, 2020.

In a letter dated February 21, 2020, James Kinter, THPO of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation indicated that the Tribe was unaware of any cultural resources within the project Area of Potential Effects (APE), and did not advocate for Tribal monitors. None of the other contacted parties expressed any concerns regarding the project.

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Implementation of **Mitigation Measure CR-1** would reduce this impact to a less than significant level.

**19. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS**

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new water or wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it had adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion:**

a-e) **No impact.** The Project does not require hook-up to wastewater or domestic water facilities. The purpose of the Proposed Project is to repair and upgrade Blacker Canal, a main facility to handle the City's stormwater. The Project will incur some solid waste disposal needs as part of the construction process. However, the impacts will be temporary, occurring only during construction activities, and will not have a significant impact on the capacity of the applicable landfill. All material for disposal resulting from the Project's construction activities will be disposed of in compliance with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations. No impact is anticipated.

**20. WILDFIRE**

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the Project:

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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- |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water resources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**Discussion:**

**a-d) No Impact.** The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has classified the City of West Sacramento as a Local Responsibility Area – Unzoned with regard to fire hazard severity (CAL FIRE 2007). In 2008, CAL FIRE determined that Yolo County has no Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (CAL FIRE 2008). Therefore, the question in this section “WILDFIRE” of the Environmental Checklist do not apply and the Proposed Project would have no impact related to very high fire hazard severity zone.

**21. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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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, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are significant 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"/>
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c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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a) **Less than significant with mitigation incorporated.** Implementation of the Proposed Project would not adversely affect sensitive natural communities or special-status animals, but would have the potential to affect nesting birds and previously undiscovered cultural resources and/human remains. With implementation of the mitigation measures identified in this IS/MND, compliance with City General Plan policies, and application of standard BMPs during construction, development of the project would not:

- Degrade the quality of the environment;
- Substantially reduce or impact the habitat of fish or wildlife species;
- Cause fish or wildlife populations 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.

b) **Less than significant with mitigation incorporated.** The impacts of the Proposed Project would be individually limited and not cumulatively considerable. The Proposed Project would involve repairs and upgrades to the Blacker Canal. All environmental impacts that could occur as a result of the Proposed Project would be less than significant with mitigation recommended throughout this IS/MND. When viewed in conjunction with other closely related past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future projects, development of this Proposed Project would not make a significant contribution to significant cumulative impacts

c) **Less than significant with mitigation incorporated.** The purpose of the Proposed Project is to repair and upgrade the drainage functions of Blacker Canal. As described in this IS/MND, implementation of the Proposed Project could result in temporary biology, cultural, geology, soils, seismicity, noise, and tribal cultural resource impacts during the construction period. Implementation of the mitigation measures recommended in the IS/MND, compliance with City regulations, and application of standard construction practices would ensure the Proposed Project would not result in environmental impacts that would cause substantial direct or indirect adverse impacts on human beings. The impact would be less than significant with mitigation recommended throughout is IS/MND.

## **22. Administrative Record (to date)**

1. ECORP Consulting, Inc. November 25, 2020. Biological Resources Assessment, Blacker Ditch Bank Stabilization Project, Yolo County, California. Prepared for Reclamation District 900.
2. Genesis Society, Sean Michael Jensen, M.A., Cultural Resources Inventory Survey, Blacker Canal Bank Stabilization Project, circa 4.5 acres, Yolo County, California. December 2, 2020. Prepared for Marcus H. Bole & Associates.
3. MHM Engineering & Surveying, Reclamation District No. 900 South Area Drainage Basin, Project Plans for Construction on Blacker Drainage Ditch Slope Maintenance Project, Yolo County, California. September 9, 2016.

## 23. References Cited

California Department of Transportation. 2018. Scenic Highways –Frequently Asked Questions. Available at: [dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways-faq2](http://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways-faq2).

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Yolo Habitat Conservancy. 2019. Overview of the Yolo HCP/NCCP. Available at: [https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/8f41bd\\_b1473daf3a204203a0af03da879411c1.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/8f41bd_b1473daf3a204203a0af03da879411c1.pdf).

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**24. Recommendations**

**On the basis of the Initial Study, RD900 staff recommends the following:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Finds that the proposed Project WILL NOT have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, recommends that a Negative Declaration ("ND") be prepared.

X  Finds that although the proposed Project could have a significant effect on the environment there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures incorporated will successfully mitigate the potentially significant impacts. Staff recommends the preparation of a Mitigated Negative Declaration.

\_\_\_\_\_ Finds that the proposed Project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and recommends that an Environmental Impact Report ("EIR") be prepared.

\_\_\_\_\_ Finds from existing documents (previous EIRs, etc.) that a subsequent document (containing updated and site-specific information, etc.) pursuant to CEQA Sections 15162/15163/15164 should be prepared.

Previous Documents:  None

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