



COUNTY OF PLACER
Community Development Resource Agency

**ENVIRONMENTAL
COORDINATION
SERVICES**

Michael J. Johnson, AICP
Agency Director

Crystal Jacobsen, Coordinator

**NOTICE OF INTENT
TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

The project listed below was reviewed for environmental impact by the Placer County Environmental Review Committee and was determined to have no significant effect upon the environment. A proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared for this project and has been filed with the County Clerk's office.

PROJECT: American River Headwaters Restoration Project (PLN16-00001)

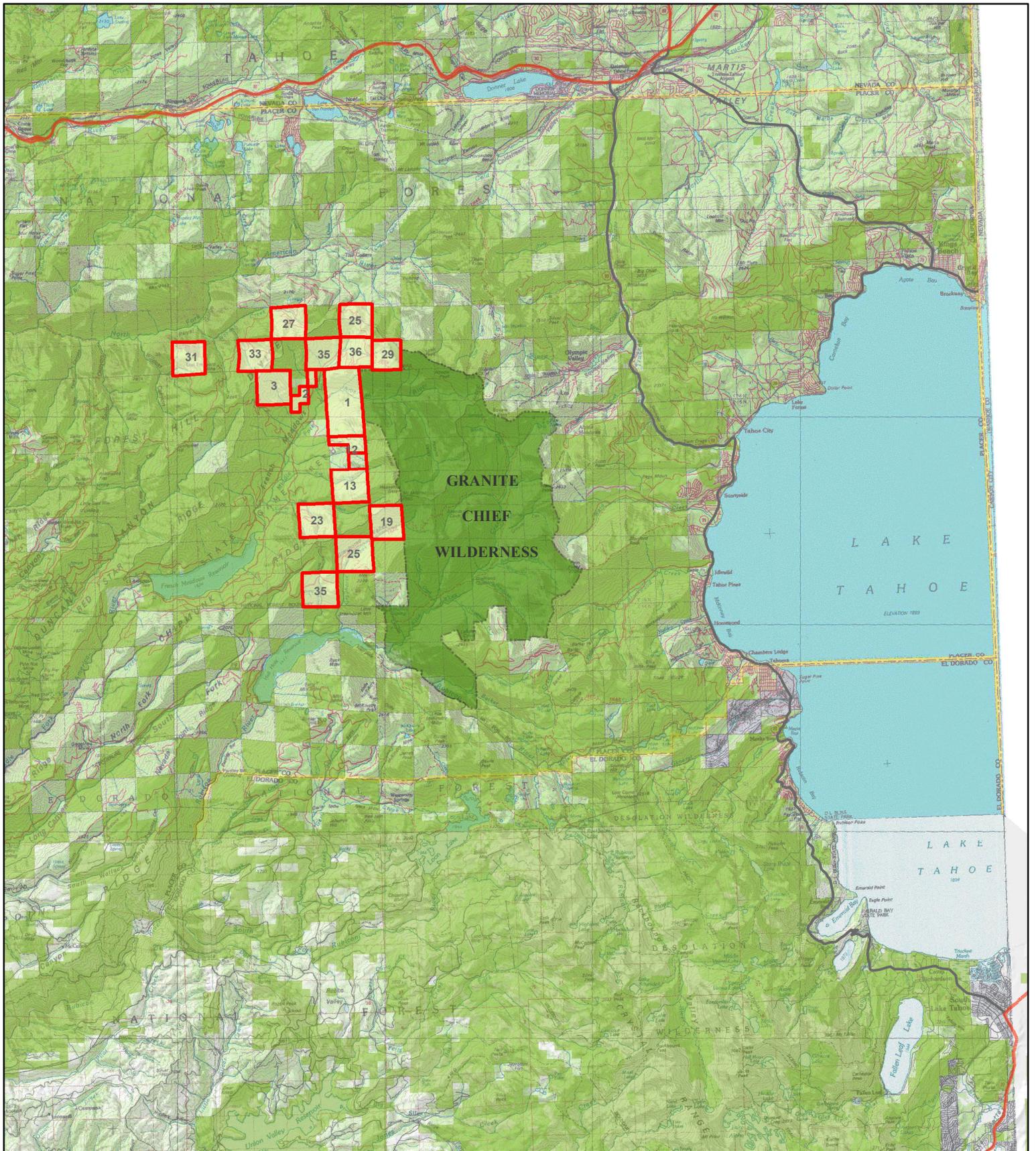
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project proposes to restore production timberland to enhance native forests, reconnect hydrology of mountain meadows and fish passage through the removal of culverts, the decommissioning/obliteration of logging roads, the removal of invasive conifers from wet meadows and the non-commercial thinning of forests from below to restore fire resiliency, species diversity, wildlife habitat, and multiple-age classes of conifers, black oak, cottonwood and aspen, as well as increase public access and habitat connectivity between forest service public lands and private property.

PROJECT LOCATION: Headwaters of Middle and North Forks American River, Placer County

APPLICANT: Alan Ehrgott

The comment period for this document closes on **March 28, 2016**. A copy of the Mitigated Negative Declaration is available for public review at the County's web site <http://www.placer.ca.gov/Departments/CommunityDevelopment/EnvCoordSvcs/NegDec.aspx> Community Development Resource Agency public counter, and at the Foresthill and Auburn Public Libraries. For Tahoe area projects, please visit our Tahoe Office, 775 North Lake Blvd., in Tahoe City. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Environmental Coordination Services, at (530)745-3132, between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. Comments may be sent to cdraecs@placer.ca.gov or 3091 County Center Drive, Suite 190, Auburn, CA 95603.

Published in Sacramento Bee, February 29, 2016



**AMERICAN RIVER
CONSERVANCY**



Preserving Rivers and Land for Life

American River Headwaters Project



- Project Parcels (10,115 acres)
- Wilderness Area
- US Forest Service



Map Date: August 19, 2015
 Map Data Courtesy of:
 American River Conservancy
 CalAtlas
 Placer County
 United States Geological Survey
 United States Forest Service



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MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

In accordance with Placer County ordinances regarding implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, Placer County has conducted an Initial Study to determine whether the following project may have a significant adverse effect on the environment, and on the basis of that study hereby finds:

- The proposed project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment; therefore, it does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report and this **Negative Declaration** has been prepared.
- Although the proposed project could have a significant adverse effect on the environment, there will not be a significant adverse effect in this case because the project has incorporated specific provisions to reduce impacts to a less than significant level and/or the mitigation measures described herein have been added to the project. A **Mitigated Negative Declaration** has thus been prepared.

The environmental documents, which constitute the Initial Study and provide the basis and reasons for this determination are attached and/or referenced herein and are hereby made a part of this document.

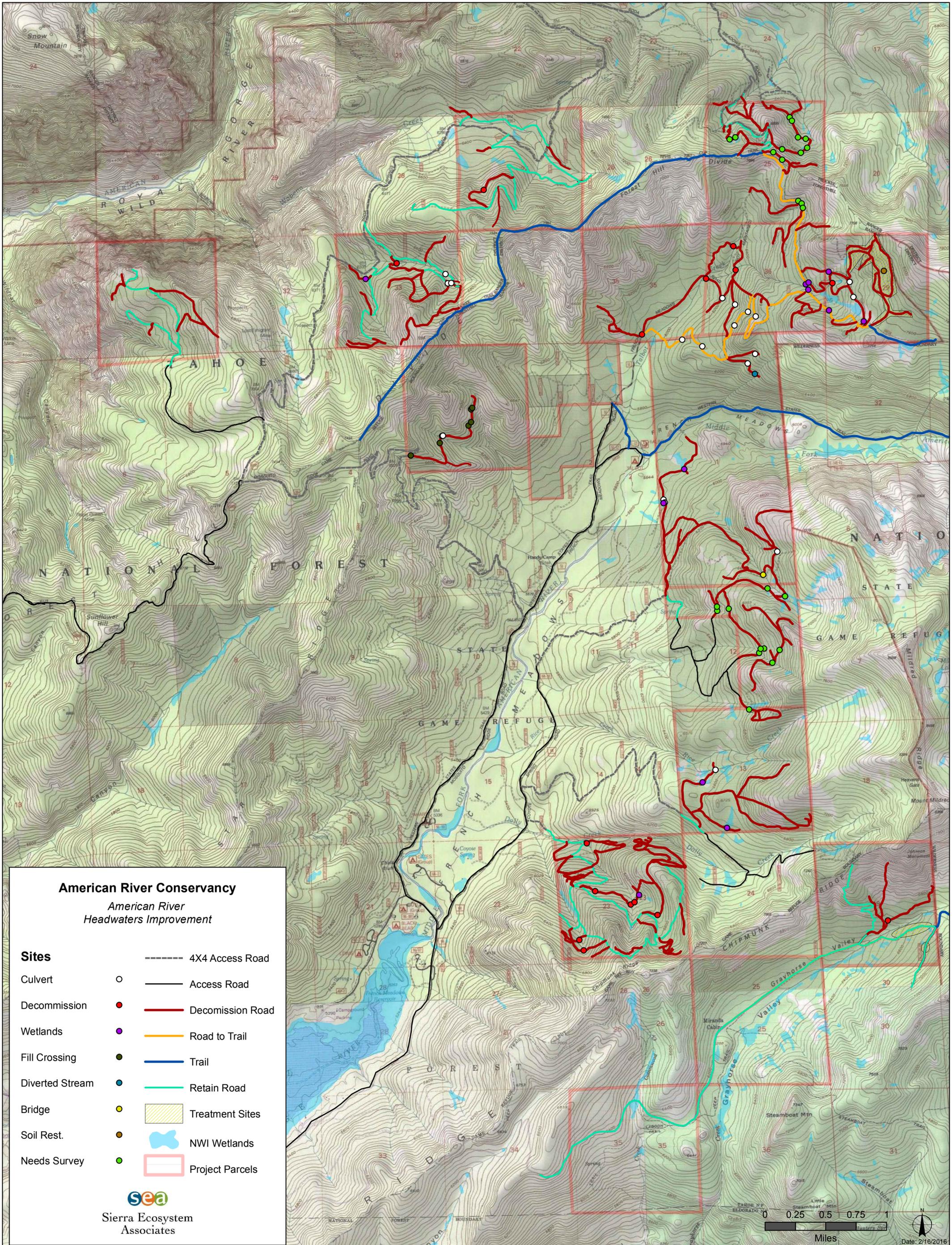
PROJECT INFORMATION

Title: American River Headwaters Restoration Project	Project # PLN16-00001
Description: The project proposes to restore production timberland to enhance native forests, reconnect hydrology of mountain meadows and fish passage through the removal of culverts, the decommissioning/obliteration of logging roads, the removal of invasive conifers from wet meadows and the non-commercial thinning of forests from below to restore fire resiliency, species diversity, wildlife habitat, and multiple-age classes of conifers, black oak, cottonwood and aspen, as well as increase public access and habitat connectivity between forest service public lands and private property.	
Location: Headwaters of Middle and North Forks American River, Placer County	
Project Owner: The American River Conservancy	
Project Applicant: Alan Ehrgott	
County Contact Person: Shirlee I. Herrington	530-745-3132

PUBLIC NOTICE

The comment period for this document closes on **March 28, 2016**. A copy of the Negative Declaration is available for public review at the County's web site (<http://www.placer.ca.gov/Departments/CommunityDevelopment/EnvCoordSvcs/NegDec.aspx>), Community Development Resource Agency public counter, and at the Foresthill and Auburn Public Libraries. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Environmental Coordination Services, at (530)745-3132 between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm at 3091 County Center Drive, Auburn, CA 95603. For Tahoe projects, please visit our Tahoe Office, 775 North Lake Blvd., Tahoe City, CA 96146.

If you wish to appeal the appropriateness or adequacy of this document, address your written comments to our finding that the project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment: (1) identify the environmental effect(s), why they would occur, and why they would be significant, and (2) suggest any mitigation measures which you believe would eliminate or reduce the effect to an acceptable level. Regarding item (1) above, explain the basis for your comments and submit any supporting data or references. Refer to Section 18.32 of the Placer County Code for important information regarding the timely filing of appeals.





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INITIAL STUDY & CHECKLIST

This Initial Study has been prepared to identify and assess the anticipated environmental impacts of the following described project application. The document may rely on previous environmental documents (see Section C) and site-specific studies (see Section I) prepared to address in detail the effects or impacts associated with the project.

This document has been prepared to satisfy the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR 15000 et seq.) CEQA requires that all state and local government agencies consider the environmental consequences of projects over which they have discretionary authority before acting on those projects.

The Initial Study is a public document used by the decision-making lead agency to determine whether a project may have a significant effect on the environment. If the lead agency finds substantial evidence that any aspect of the project, either individually or cumulatively, may have a significant effect on the environment, regardless of whether the overall effect of the project is adverse or beneficial, the lead agency is required to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), use a previously-prepared EIR and supplement that EIR, or prepare a Subsequent EIR to analyze the project at hand. If the agency finds no substantial evidence that the project or any of its aspects may cause a significant effect on the environment, a Negative Declaration shall be prepared. If in the course of analysis, the agency recognizes that the project may have a significant impact on the environment, but that by incorporating specific mitigation measures the impact will be reduced to a less than significant effect, a Mitigated Negative Declaration shall be prepared.

Project Title: American River Headwaters Restoration Project	Project # PLN16-00001
Entitlement(s): Grading Permit	
Site Area: 10,115 acres	APN: Various
Location: Headwaters of Middle and North Forks American River, Placer County	

A. BACKGROUND:

Project Description:

The project proposed to restore production timberland to enhance native forests, reconnect hydrology of mountain meadows and fish passage through the removal of culverts, the decommissioning/obliteration of logging roads, the removal of invasive conifers from wet meadows and the non-commercial thinning of forests from below to restore fire resiliency, species diversity, wildlife habitat, and multiple-age classes of conifers, black oak, cottonwood and aspen, as well as increase public access and habitat connectivity between forest service public lands and private property.

Project Site (Background/Existing Setting):

The American River Headwaters Restoration Project (ARHRP) area (10,115 acres) is rural, forested lands located between 4,800 feet and 8,150 feet in elevation, immediately upstream of French Meadows and Hell Hole Reservoirs which are principal water storage facilities for the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA). Four sections (the northern half of Section 25, and all of Sections 27, 31 and 35) drain into the Wild and Scenic North Fork American River at Royal Gorge. The remaining twelve sections drain into the Upper Middle Fork American River. The subject land is largely surrounded by Tahoe National Forest. It is bordered on the east by the Granite Chief Wilderness and to the northwest by the Wild and Scenic North Fork American River. Subject lands provide important wildlife linkage between these two roadless areas. Project lands provide habitat for sensitive species

including American marten, California spotted owl and northern goshawk. The entire project area is prime black bear habitat and contains critical summer mule deer habitat. A majority of the subject land is contained within a State Wildlife Refuge overlay which was created in 1911 to protect mountain meadows and the fawning ground of a regional deer herd.

These lands also contain several hundred acres of stringer meadows and alder thickets that could support rare and declining species such as Willow Flycatcher. While this project largely focuses on restoration goals that address landscape-scale climate adaptation, project planning and design have also evaluated impacts to individual species and/or specific ecosystems in order to better identify adaptation strategies. Restoration targets for this project include: (1) old growth red fir and white pine forests that provide habitat for American marten; (2) rivers, creeks and associated habitat for native rainbow trout; and (3) high elevation meadows that support biodiversity and provide water storage and year-round stream flows. Data shows that high elevation meadows are utilized at some point during the year by almost every bird species that breeds or migrates through the Sierra Nevada (Sierra Nevada Avian Monitoring Information Network – SNAMIN 2014).

Private lands border the subject property on the north and west. Land uses on adjoining private and National Forest lands include production timberland, open space, grazing and recreation.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

Location	Zoning	General Plan/Community Plan Designations	Existing Conditions and Improvements
Site	TPZ and FOR 160	Ag/Timberland w/ 80 ac. Min.	Production timberland (historic use)
North	TPZ	Ag/Timberland	Production Timberland, open space, grazing and recreation.
South	TPZ	Ag/Timberland	Production timberland, open space, grazing and recreation.
East	TPZ	Ag/Timberland	Production timberland, open space, grazing and recreation.
West	TPZ	Ag/Timberland	Production timberland, open space, grazing and recreation.

C. PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT:

The County has determined that an Initial Study shall be prepared in order to determine whether the potential exists for unmitigatable impacts resulting from the proposed project. Relevant analysis from the County-wide General Plan and Community Plan Certified EIRs, and other project-specific studies and reports that have been generated to date, were used as the database for the Initial Study. The decision to prepare the Initial Study utilizing the analysis contained in the General Plan and Specific Plan Certified EIRs, and project-specific analysis summarized herein, is sustained by Sections 15168 and 15183 of the CEQA Guidelines.

Section 15168 relating to Program EIRs indicates that where subsequent activities involve site-specific operations, the agency would use a written checklist or similar device to document the evaluation of the site and the activity, to determine whether the environmental effects of the operation were covered in the earlier Program EIR. A Program EIR is intended to provide the basis in an Initial Study for determining whether the later activity may have any significant effects. It will also be incorporated by reference to address regional influences, secondary effects, cumulative impacts, broad alternatives, and other factors that apply to the program as a whole.

The following documents serve as Program-level EIRs from which incorporation by reference will occur:
 ➔ Placer County General Plan EIR

Section 15183 states that “projects which are consistent with the development density established by existing zoning, community plan or general plan policies for which an EIR was certified shall not require additional environmental review, except as may be necessary to examine whether there are project-specific significant effects which are peculiar to the project or site.” Thus, if an impact is not peculiar to the project or site, and it has been addressed as a significant effect in the prior EIR, or will be substantially mitigated by the imposition of uniformly

applied development policies or standards, then additional environmental documentation need not be prepared for the project solely on the basis of that impact.

The above stated documents are available for review Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm, at the Placer County Community Development Resource Agency, 3091 County Center Drive, Auburn, CA 95603. For Tahoe projects, the document will also be available in our Tahoe Division Office, 565 West Lake Blvd., Tahoe City, CA 96145.

D. EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

The Initial Study checklist recommended by the State of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines is used to determine potential impacts of the proposed project on the physical environment. The checklist provides a list of questions concerning a comprehensive array of environmental issue areas potentially affected by the project (see CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G). Explanations to answers are provided in a discussion for each section of questions as follows:

- a) A brief explanation is required for all answers including "No Impact" answers.
- b) "Less Than Significant Impact" applies where the project's impacts are insubstantial and do not require any mitigation to reduce impacts.
- c) "Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less than Significant Impact." The County, as 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 may be cross-referenced).
- d) "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.
- e) All answers must take account of the entire action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts [CEQA Guidelines, Section 15063(a)(1)].
- f) 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 [CEQA Guidelines, Section 15063(c)(3)(D)]. A brief discussion should be attached addressing the following:
 - ➔ **Earlier analyses used** – Identify earlier analyses and state where they are available for review.
 - ➔ **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. Also, state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - ➔ **Mitigation measures** – For effects that are checked as "Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures," 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.
- g) References to information sources for potential impacts (i.e. General Plans/Community Plans, zoning ordinances) should be incorporated into the checklist. Reference to a previously-prepared or outside document should include a reference to the pages or chapters where the statement is substantiated. A source list should be attached and other sources used, or individuals contacted, should be cited in the discussion.

I. AESTHETICS – Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista? (PLN)				X
2. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings, within a state scenic highway? (PLN)				X
3. Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings? (PLN)				X
4. Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area? (PLN)				X

Discussion Item I-1, 2, 3, 4:

The proposed restoration project proposes to decommission approximately 43 miles of logging roads, remove 23 culverts, and repair creek crossings that cause erosion and siltation in order to restore the natural hydrological connectivity and improve watershed function. The proposed project location is remote and no commercial or residential areas are in the vicinity. No scenic resources would be affected due to the remote location of the proposed project, and no highways, roadways or private property will be affected. The visual character of the project area and its surroundings will not be degraded, and through timberland restoration efforts, would actually be improved. No historic buildings within a state scenic highway exist in the project area and therefore will not be impacted. No scenic vistas including trees, rock outcroppings or historic buildings will be impacted. The ARHR project will not create any new sources of light since no new construction will occur that requires any light and no new light-generating sources are proposed as part of the project. All proposed work is restoration. Therefore, there is no impact.

II. AGRICULTURAL & FOREST RESOURCES – Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide or Local 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? (PLN)				X
2. Conflict with General Plan or other policies regarding land use buffers for agricultural operations? (PLN)				X
3. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, a Williamson Act contract or a Right-to-Farm Policy? (PLN)				X
4. 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))? (PLN)				X
5. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in the loss or conversion of Farmland (including livestock grazing) or forest land to non-agricultural or non-forest use? (PLN)				X

Discussion Item II-1, 2, 3, 4, 5:

The project area is unsuitable for agricultural uses due to steep slopes, thin volcanic soil types, and slow and short growing seasons. The proposed project would have no impact to agricultural resources and will not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance or Locally Important Farmland. The project area will not conflict with an existing agricultural use, as logging operations have not occurred there since the late 1990s. Two parcels adjacent to the project area are under Williamson Act Contract PAGP 160. Road decommissioning will occur near the west property line that separates the parcels; however restoration activities will remain within the confines of the subject parcels and will not encroach into the parcels under Williamson Act contract.

Because the parcels have not been utilized for timber operations since the late 1990s and the steep topography renders the area difficult to log, the proposed restoration and road decommissioning project does not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural and timberland operations. The parcels within the project area are zoned Timberland Production Zone (TPZ), and one parcel, 070-020-007-000 is zoned FOR 160 AC MIN (Forestry, 160 Acre Minimum). The project will not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use and no new construction will occur as part of the proposed project.

All forests will remain in a natural state. The only tree removal will be done to manage the forest for fire resiliency, wildlife habitat and biodiversity. All tree removal will be guided by a Registered Professional Forester who specializes in restoration ecology. No Timber Harvest plans will be filed for the subject project. Therefore, there is no impact.

III. AIR QUALITY – Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan? (PLN, Air Quality)			X	
2. Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation? (PLN, Air Quality)		X		
3. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)? (PLN, Air Quality)		X		
4. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations? (PLN, Air Quality)			X	
5. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people? (PLN, Air Quality)			X	

Discussion Item III-1:

The project is located within the Mountain County Air Basin (MCAB) portion of Placer County within the jurisdiction of the Placer County Air Pollution Control District (District). The MCAB is designated as nonattainment for federal and state ozone (O₃) standards, and nonattainment for the state particulate matter standard (PM₁₀). The MCAB is also designated as nonattainment for the federal standard for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}).

The project consists of a restoration effort to remove former logging roads, including culverts and stream crossings, in order to eliminate past evidence of logging, restore stream function, stabilize hillsides and re-establish the habitat that naturally occurs on the project site and in the vicinity. Based on the project description, the project will not contribute ongoing operational emissions that would conflict with or obstruct implementation of the Sacramento Regional Air Quality Plan, because the scope is limited to the restoration effort and would not result in new land uses that generate air emission of concern. No mitigation measures are required.

Discussion Item III-2, 3:

As stated above, the project would not result in long-term operational emissions of air pollutants due to its temporary nature. However, the project would result in a temporary increase in regional and local emissions from grading and other efforts of the restoration. This temporary increase was evaluated in a CalEEMod analysis prepared specifically for the project for the purpose of quantifying emissions of air pollutants that could result from implementation of the project. The CalEEMod analysis found that emissions of all criteria pollutants of concern would be far below the 82 pounds per day threshold established by the Placer County Air Pollution Control District. However, all projects resulting in grading of one acre or more of land are required to obtain a Dust Control Plan from PCAPCD prior to any ground disturbing activities. In addition, other District rules and regulations would be applicable to the project and are proposed as additional mitigation measures below.

With the implementation of the following mitigation measures, impacts related to construction activities will be reduced to a less than significant level.

Mitigation Measures Item III-2, 3:

MM III.1 Prior to approval of Grading Plans, the applicant shall submit a Construction Emission / Dust Control Plan to the Placer County APCD. To download the form go to www.placer.ca.gov/apcd and click on Dust Control Requirements. If the APCD does not respond within twenty (20) days of the plan being accepted as complete, the plan shall be considered approved. The applicant shall provide written evidence, provided by APCD to the County, that the plan has been submitted to APCD. It is the responsibility of the applicant to deliver the approved plan to the County. The applicant shall not break ground prior to receiving APCD approval of the Construction Emission / Dust Control Plan, and delivering that approval to the County.

MM III.2 *Include the following standard notes on the Grading Plans:*

1. The contractor shall use CARB ultra-low diesel fuel for all diesel-powered equipment.
2. In order to control dust, operational watering trucks shall be on site during construction hours. In addition, dry, mechanical sweeping is prohibited. Watering of a construction site shall be carried out in compliance with all pertinent APCD rules.
3. The prime contractor shall be responsible for keeping adjacent public thoroughfares clean of silt, dirt, mud, and debris, and shall "wet broom" the streets (or use another method to control dust as approved by the individual jurisdiction) if silt, dirt, mud or debris is carried over to adjacent public thoroughfares.
4. The contractor shall apply water or use other method to control dust impacts offsite. Construction vehicles leaving the site shall be cleaned to prevent dust, silt, mud, and dirt from being released or tracked off-site.
5. During construction, traffic speeds on all unpaved surfaces shall be limited to 15 miles per hour or less. The prime contractor shall suspend all grading operations when wind speeds (including instantaneous gusts) are excessive and dust is impacting adjacent properties.
6. In order to minimize wind driven dust during construction, the prime contractor shall apply methods such as surface stabilization, establishment of a vegetative cover, paving, (or use another method to control dust as approved by the individual jurisdiction).
7. The contractor shall suspend all grading operations when fugitive dust exceeds Placer County APCD Rule 228 (Fugitive Dust) limitations. The prime contractor shall be responsible for having an individual who is CARB-certified to perform Visible Emissions Evaluations (VEE). This individual shall evaluate compliance with Rule 228 on a weekly basis. It is to be noted that fugitive dust is not to exceed 40% opacity and not go beyond the property boundary at any time. Lime or other drying agents utilized to dry out wet grading areas shall not exceed Placer County APCD Rule 228 Fugitive Dust limitations. Operators of vehicles and equipment found to exceed opacity limits will be notified by APCD and the equipment must be repaired within 72 hours.
8. Construction equipment exhaust emissions shall not exceed Placer County APCD Rule 202 Visible Emission limitations. Operators of vehicles and equipment found to exceed opacity limits are to be immediately notified by APCD to cease operations and the equipment must be repaired within 72 hours.
9. A person shall not discharge into the atmosphere volatile organic compounds (VOC's) caused by the use or manufacture of Cutback or Emulsified asphalts for paving, road construction or road maintenance, unless such manufacture or use complies with the provisions of Rule 217.
10. During construction the contractor shall utilize existing power sources (e.g., power poles) or clean fuel (i.e. gasoline, biodiesel, natural gas) generators rather than temporary diesel power generators.
11. During construction, the contractor shall minimize idling time to a maximum of 5 minutes for all diesel powered equipment.
12. During construction, no open burning of removed vegetation shall be allowed unless permitted by the PCAPCD. All removed vegetative material shall be either chipped on site or taken to an appropriate recycling site, or if a site is not available, a licensed disposal site.

Discussion Item III-4, 5:

The project would result in air pollutant emissions generated by diesel-powered construction equipment, and vehicle exhaust from traffic that could create odors. However, there are no sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the project site, due to its remote location. In addition, there are no long-term operational emissions (vehicle traffic) from this project that could exceed the District's significance thresholds. Therefore, the project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations and potential impacts from odors will be less than significant. No mitigation measures are required.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES – Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. 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 & Game, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries? (PLN)		X		
2. 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 of or restrict the range of an endangered, rare, or threatened species? (PLN)		X		
3. Have a substantial adverse effect on the environment by converting oak woodlands? (PLN)		X		
4. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community, including oak woodlands, identified in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish & Game, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries? (PLN)		X		
5. Have a substantial adverse effect on federal or state protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) or as defined by state statute, through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means? (PLN)		X		
6. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nesting or breeding sites? (PLN)		X		
7. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances that protect biological resources, including oak woodland resources? (PLN)		X		
8. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan? (PLN)				X

Discussion Item IV-1, 2, 4, 6:

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) was conducted by Vestra Resources Inc. in June 2015. The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) was queried for special-status species occurring within one mile of the property. A California Spotted Owl Protected Activity Center (PAC) is within the project boundaries. A Northern Goshawk PAC is outside of the project area to the west. Four special-status species occurrences have been observed within the project site and within one mile of the property including including spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis*), Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (*Rana sierrae*), West Coast fisher (*Pekania pennant*) and starved

daisy (*Erigeron miser*). Four other species are included in the CNDBB within the one-mile search radius. These species do not have a federal or state listing and include felt-leaved violet (*Viola tomentosa*), osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) and Sierra marten (*Marten caurina sierra*).

The project area in its current state is substantially degraded from past logging operations. Culverts, incomplete stream crossing decommission, concentrated ditch flows, in-stream excavation, and hillslope drainage disrupt normal flow regimes. The proposed project will repair watershed hydrology that has been damaged by road construction. Poorly constructed roads have led to erosion problems, sediment discharge into streams and localized landslides. Through road decommissioning, wetland restoration and forest treatments, the project will improve habitat for fish and wildlife. The proposed project will not substantially reduce the habitat of fish and wildlife nor cause population levels to drop below self-sustaining levels, have a substantial effect on riparian habitats or sensitive communities, or interfere with the movement of native or migratory species.

Restoration treatments will be based on the type and severity of watershed damage. The proposed restoration project will decommission approximately 43 miles of road, remove road fill from 55 streams, and restore almost 65,000 acre-feet (1.5 acres) of wetlands. Additionally the project will convert 4.1 miles of road into trail.

Phase 1 of the project is proposed to be completed in the summer of 2016 and all parcels will be surveyed before work has commenced. Survey points have already been identified including points at the limits of the Spotted Owl PAC boundary. In the following season The Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Forest Service will be doing extensive surveys on surrounding Forest Service lands and the subject property in preparation for the Frenchie Project, which is a Basin-wide thinning and water research project on Forest Service property.

Though the project will have long-term habitat benefits to the property, temporary impacts to special status species could result from noise emanating from construction equipment, culvert removal and road decommissioning. However with the following mitigation measures impacts to special status species and sensitive habitat impacts would be reduced to be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures Item IV-1, 2, 4, 6:

MM IV.1 Extensive biological surveys will be implemented following strict protocols for each species before any work takes place. All restoration activities will adopt a policy of complete avoidance of all habitat that contains food, shelter, nests or otherwise. All listed species will be surveyed for and complete avoidance of critical habitat is the policy for the proposed project. All work in riparian habitats will be carefully planned and no work will affect critical riparian habitat for migratory birds. All work sites will be surveyed for nest sites no less than 30 days before the work commences and nest sites will be avoided. Wildlife surveys will be conducted by Roy Bridgman, a wildlife biologist with the Tahoe National Forest – American River Ranger District using Forest Service protocol for species surveys. Plant surveys will be conducted by Annie Walker, a former botanist with the U.S. Forest Service and a California Native Plant Society board member.

Discussion Item IV-3, 7:

The property has been selectively logged for the past 65 years and was managed for timber production. The resultant road improvements, including cuts and fills, stream crossings and culverts necessary to create access to remote timber stands have remained in place. With no immediate logging plans for the area, the project proposes to remove these features in an effort to restore the ecological function of the woodland community now that timber harvesting has ceased.

A Timber Productivity Assessment was conducted in February 2014 by Robert T. Suter Professional Forestry Services. The assessment estimated that the current standing volume of trees over 4 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH) is 72,000,000 board feet. This figure includes all species of trees including non-merchantable coniferous species and hardwoods. Several tree species defined as native species by the Placer County Tree Preservation Ordinance (Tree Ordinance) are on-site including 1,862,736 incense cedars (*Calocedrus decurrens*), 4,048,278 lodgepole pines (*Pinus murrayana*), 50 ponderosa pines (*Pinus ponderosa*), and 1,068,108 sugar pines (*Pinus lambertiana*). The assessment also found 648,500 hardwoods.

The subject property is dominated by conifer species. The elevation of the site ranges from 4,800 feet above mean sea level (msl) to 8,150 feet msl. According to the University of California, Davis Oak Woodland Conservation Workgroup, this is above the upper elevation limits for oak species. The proposed project will not have an impact to oak woodlands nor convert existing oak woodland.

The proposed project will include tree removal, thinning and pruning to reduce the potential damage of wildfire; pest and moisture stress; restore natural plant communities; achieve a desired understory plant community; improve aesthetics and open space values; improve wildlife habitat; and to achieve a desired level of shrub density. Trees with high wildlife food and habitat value such as snags, stumps and dying trees with cavities will be avoided during treatment. Standing dead or dying trees and brush will generally be removed. Such material, along with live vegetation associated with dead vegetation, may be retained for wildlife habitat when isolated from other vegetation. Thinning will be conducted using a masticator, feller-buncher or by hand crews using chainsaws. Both machines can be used on slopes up to 35 percent where there are heavy fuels. Any steeper slopes will be treated by hand. Trees less than six inches at diameter breast height (DBH) will be spaced 25-30 feet. Thinning from below would include the removal of any diseased, damaged, and/or insect infested tree larger than 12 inches DBH, while retaining crop trees that are healthy, vigorous, and of the best phenotypic quality available in the stand.

The Placer County Tree Ordinance exempts trees that are dead, dying or unhealthy or trees that are in a hazardous condition presenting an immediate danger to health and property. Furthermore, though native conifer species are identified in the Tree Ordinance, removal of coniferous species in the project area is not regulated by the Tree Ordinance, as such tree removal would occur outside either of the two Tree Preservation Zones defined in the ordinance. Therefore, tree removal for the proposed project would be exempt under the Tree Ordinance. Because the project does not propose removal of trees for the purpose of timber harvest and sales, a THP is not required. In lieu of submitting a THP that would assure project adherence to best forest health practices, this restoration project has been prepared in consultation with a Registered Professional Forester, and mitigation measures are proposed, including project oversight by an RFP. With the following mitigation measures, impacts resulting from the project would be reduced to a less than significant level.

Mitigation Measures Item IV-3, 7:

MM IV.3 Tree removal will only occur to manage the forest for fire resiliency, wildlife habitat and biodiversity. All tree removal will be guided by a Registered Professional Forester or qualified resource professional who specializes in restoration ecology.

MMIV.4 Tree removal Best Management Practices for the project include but are not limited to:

- a. Reduce damage to residual trees;
- b. Cut all broken trees, leaners (trees tipped or dislodged during a thinning operation), and badly scarred trees except where they are being retained for a specific purpose (biological legacy);
- c. Clean up all refuse (man-made debris);
- d. Re-seed bare mineral soil, using native grasses wherever possible
- e. Consider leaving visual buffers in isolated pockets along traveled roads.

Discussion Item IV-5:

The proposed restoration project will repair watershed hydrology that has been damaged by road construction. The proposed project will be exempt from filing a 404 Permit with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The hydrology of the area is significant because upper snow slopes drain into Dolly Creek, Rice Creek, Greyhorse Creek, Cottonwood Creek, Talbot Creek, Webena Creek, and numerous other unnamed creeks. These perennial streams flow through ARHP property into the North and Middle Forks of the American River. The subject property contains 20.2 miles of blue ribbon trout streams some portions of which support 4,500 young-of-the-year trout per mile. The subject property contains 1,200 acres of stringer and wet meadows that support large deer herds, black bears and songbirds. In normal years, these headwaters catches snow and rain, and stores it within meadows, and releases cold, quality water throughout the dry summers to support native trout fisheries and communities downstream in Sacramento and California.

A Road Decommissioning Plan was prepared by Sierra Ecosystems Associates for the proposed project in February 2016. The Road Decommissioning Plan identified Best Management Practices (BMPs) to be utilized to mitigate potential project impacts, which are outlined in the mitigation measure below. These will be developed in greater detail in the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that will be developed for the proposed project. A water truck will be used for dust control and fish screens will be used to protect aquatic species when pumping water.

Partially decommissioned stream crossings are common in the project area. Partial decommissioned crossings will not be rebuilt and no fill material will be reintroduced to the stream, instead temporary bridges will be overlaid to allow equipment access. Equipment access will be strategically planned so work sites will only be crossed once, working from the inside of the property to the outer edges of the project sites. The crossings will be fully decommissioned to restore natural stream grade, width, and bank structure. Fill piles will be removed from riparian

area. All bare material will be covered with mulch and slash and necessary erosion control materials will be incorporated. Revegetation may occur at suitable wetland locations.

The natural stream grade and cross section will be determined by inspecting the stream outside of the influence of the road. The road prism will be surveyed and the limits of excavation demarcated on the ground. Fill material will be excavated and end-hauled to a suitable spoil location for incorporation into restoration of road gradients. Stream banks will be laid back to a natural, stable angle. Culverts will be taken to a suitable recycling facility. All bare material will be covered with slash. Revegetation may occur at suitable wetland locations.

A crew will only be active at one site at a time. Each site will be stabilized before proceeding to the next. Exposed soil will include the area excavated and the area of the spoil. Stream sites are all less than 10,000 square feet and create spoil piles of a similar surface area. Wetland sites have larger areas, but generate much less topsoil. The largest wetland area is 30,000 square feet but most are much smaller. Roadbed decommission will only expose 100 yards of road length (~6,000 square feet) before stabilizing with erosion control measures. In general, 20,000 square feet of soil will be exposed during operations. If three crews operate simultaneously, 60,000 square feet (1.4 acres) could be exposed at one time.

Temporary impacts to wetlands and streams could occur from temporary hydrological interruption from restoration activities. However with the following mitigation measures impacts will be reduced to less than significant.

Mitigation Measures Item IV-5:

MM IV.2 The project shall utilize construction BMPs to reduce impacts to water quality. These BMPs for the project include but are not limited to:

- a. Expose the smallest practical area of land for the shortest time possible;
- b. Vegetate mulch prior to the rainy season start (about October 15);
- c. Retain natural vegetation and cover wherever feasible;
- d. Implement dust control measures;
- e. Lay back exposed soils to a stable side slope and stabilize using slash (the woody debris of cut trees, pruning, and brush left after thinning treatments), mulch, and erosion control materials;
- f. Keep erosion control materials such as coir rolls, wattles and straw bales at each active grading site and apply where needed at the end of each work day or if heavy rains occur;
- g. Install cross road drains where needed with no fill placed on the streamside of cross road drains;
- h. Place rock armor streambanks and trail crossings above the OHWM (Original High Water Mark);
- i. Implement sediment basins and traps;
- j. Place slash along bare and gullied hillslopes to reduce flow velocities and train soils;
- k. Revegetate using seeding and cuttings to stabilize soils and reduce or prevent erosion; and, provide thorough maintenance and follow-up operations to check that erosion and sediment control practices are working properly.

Discussion Item IV-8:

Placer County does not have an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan. The County is working to complete the Placer County Conservation Plan (PCCP), however the scope of the PCCP is limited to the western portions of Placer County and does not include the subject property. Therefore the proposed project will not conflict with provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan or Natural Community Conservation Plan and no mitigation measures are required.

The US Forest Service Southwest Region does have an Ecological Restoration Implementation Plan that includes a section specific ecological restoration in the Tahoe National Forest, which is surrounds much of the subject property. The Ecological Restoration Plan supports restoration efforts within the Tahoe National Forest and identifies the need for restoration to continue, particularly in areas that have been impacted from human activity including logging. The proposed restoration project is in line with the Ecological Restoration Implementation Plan for the Tahoe National Forest. The proposed project will not conflict with other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan. Therefore, there is no impact.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES – Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Substantially cause adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5? (PLN)		X		
2. Substantially cause adverse change in the significance of a unique archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5? (PLN)		X		
3. Have the potential to cause a physical change, which would affect unique ethnic cultural values? (PLN)			X	
4. Restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area? (PLN)			X	
5. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries? (PLN)			X	
6. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a Tribal Cultural Resource as defined in Public Resources Code, Section 21074? (PLN)				X

Discussion Item V-1, 2:

A Cultural Resources Inventory was conducted for the project area by Pacific Legacy, Inc. in December 2015. The inventory identified and recorded two historic era archaeological sites and four isolated finds within the project area. The sites represent segments of previously documented historic era roads. These specifically represent portions of the historic era French Meadows-Soda Springs Road (ARC-PL-01) and portions of the historic era Placer County Emigrant Road (ARC-PL-02). Segments of the Placer County Emigrant Road are previously recorded in areas outside the project area by the Forest Service under designation FS 05175400312. The isolated finds represent single artifacts and features attributed to prehistoric and historic era manufacture and use.

The two road sites recorded in the project area (ARC-PL-01 and ARC-PL-02) have been recorded according to standards specified by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Each of these sites are heavily impacted by recent and modern disturbances, including erosion and road maintenance, which greatly compromises the integrity of these resources. Both sites are among the roads and trails documented and evaluated in the Historical Assessment of the Western States Trail Corridor Through the Tahoe National Forest (Supernowicz 1987). The locations, descriptions, and evaluations of these sites and numerous other roads and trails that comprise the Western States Trail Corridor are provided in that report.

The two sites recorded in the ARC project area (ARC-PL-01 and ARC-PL-02) are among the roads and trails recommended as ineligible for the NRHP according to the criteria set forth at 36 CFR 60.4(a-d) in the Western States Trail Assessment (Supernowicz 1987:25). The assessment recommended only one portion of the trail corridor, the Michigan Bluff-Last Chance Trail, as NRHP eligible, as follows:

Based on the information obtained from various archival sources, and after assessing the historical significance of the various trails and roads discussed on the preceding pages, in reference to the National Register of Historic Places eligibility criterion, only the segment of trail from Michigan Bluff to Last Chance meets the eligibility criteria by virtue of its historical association and integrity. The remaining roads and trails, which the Western States Trail follows, in whole or in part, fail to meet the criteria for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (Supernowicz 1987:25). The SHPO concurred with the assessment in a letter dated August 5, 1988, and further concurred that the trail as whole does not appear to meet the criteria for the National Historic Trails system (Guiltieri 1988). The NRHP eligible Michigan Bluff-Last Chance Trail is not located within the ARC project area. A copy of the SHPO letter is provided in Appendix C of this report.

Evaluation of the archaeological resources within the project area is also provided in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, using criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code, to determine if the cultural resources are historical resources for the purposes of CEQA. As

stated above, the portions of the two archaeological sites (ARC-PL-01 and ARC-PL-02) recorded in the project area are previously determined ineligible to the NRHP under 36 CFR 60.4(a-d). Thus, it is recommended, in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines, using the criteria (1-4) outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code, that neither site constitutes an historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.

Four newly identified prehistoric and historic isolates were recorded in the project area. These represent lone pieces of flaked stone and items of historical manufacture (ARC-PL-ISO-01, -02 and -03), and a segment of two-track road dating from the 1940s-1950s that has been modified for current use as vehicular access road (ARC-PL-ISO-04). Documentary research has revealed no associations or historical contexts for the isolated finds. Isolated cultural finds may be defined under 36 CFR 60(j) as "objects" and therefore subject to evaluation (USDI 1997:5). Isolated finds are appropriate for evaluation under Criterion D at 36 CFR 60.4.

The isolates recorded in the project area are generally associated with the prehistory and history of the ARC project region and cannot collectively or individually be associated with any particular event or specific cultural event. Unless archival evidence can define the relationships, the isolates have yielded the limited data that they have to offer in the process of being documented in the cultural resources inventory. Barring additional archival information, the isolates appear to be categorically NRHP ineligible and none constitutes an historical resource for the purposes of CEQA. The proposed restoration project will not have an impact on the isolates identified by the Cultural Resources Inventory. However there is the possibility more artifacts and potential sites may be found during the project that may be impacted by project activities. With the following mitigation measure potential impacts would be reduced to less than significant.

Mitigation Measures Item V-1, 2:

MM V.1 If cultural resources are identified during the project, avoid altering the materials and their context until a cultural resource professional has evaluated the project area. No project personnel shall collect cultural resources. Identified cultural resources should be recorded on DPR 523 (A-J) historic resource recordation forms, available at the following web address [http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1069].

Discussion Item V-3, 4:

In October 2015, Pacific Legacy contacted the California Native Heritage Commission (NAHC) to request a review of the Sacred Lands File. The NAHC reported that their review failed to indicate the presence of any Native American cultural resources in the immediate project area. The NAHC also provided a list of 13 Native American tribes, groups or individuals with potential interests, concerns, and/or knowledge regarding cultural resources or Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs) that may be affected by the project. Pacific Legacy mailed notification letters to each of the NAHC contacts on October 29, 2015 informing them of the project and requesting their participation. At the time of this writing, only the Shingle Springs Rancheria (SSR) has responded to the notification letters. The SSR response did not indicate the presence of any known resources, but they requested continued consultation through project updates. The SSR also requested completed record searches or surveys, as well as copies of environmental, archaeological and cultural reports. The proposed project has a less than significant potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique cultural values or restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area. No mitigation measures are required.

Discussion Item V-5:

There are no known human remains on the subject property. However, human remains could be discovered as a result of site disturbance. Additionally, more artifacts and potential sites may be discovered during the project. The following standard condition of approval will be required as part of the project permit.

If any archaeological artifacts, exotic rock (non-native), or unusual amounts of shell or bone are uncovered during any on-site construction activities, all work must stop immediately in the area and a SOPA-certified (Society of professional archaeologists) archaeologist retained to evaluate the deposit. The Placer County Planning Department and Department of Museums must also be contacted for review of the archaeological find(s).

If the discovery consists of human remains, the Placer County Coroner and Native American Heritage Commission must also be contacted. Work in the area may only proceed after authorization is granted by the Placer County Planning Department. A note to this effect shall be provided on the improvement plans for the project.

No mitigation measures are required.

Discussion Item V-6:

Consultation letters were sent to all local tribes on January 12, 2016. No tribal correspondence was received identifying tribal cultural resources around or on the subject property. Therefore, there is no impact.

VI. GEOLOGY & SOILS – Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Expose people or structures to unstable earth conditions or changes in geologic substructures? (ESD)				X
2. Result in significant disruptions, displacements, compaction or overcrowding of the soil? (ESD)		X		
3. Result in substantial change in topography or ground surface relief features? (ESD)				X
4. Result in the destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features? (ESD)				X
5. Result in any significant increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site? (ESD)		X		
6. Result in changes in deposition or erosion or changes in siltation which may modify the channel of a river, stream, or lake? (ESD)		X		
7. Result in exposure of people or property to geologic and geomorphological (i.e. Avalanches) hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, mudslides, ground failure, or similar hazards? (PLN, ESD)				X
8. 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? (ESD)				X
9. Be located on expansive soils, as defined in Chapter 18 of the California Building Code, creating substantial risks to life or property? (ESD)				X

Discussion Item VI-1:

The proposed restoration project proposes to restore natural forest, riparian areas, and drainage ways to natural conditions through the decommissioning of approximately 43 miles of unused private logging roads. The project does not include the building of structures. People and structures will not be exposed to unstable earth conditions or changes in geologic substructures. Therefore, there is no impact.

Discussion Item VI-2:

This restoration project will move approximately 10,000 cubic yards of fill material within the 18 parcel, 10,115 acre project site, and all earthwork will balance on-site. There will be no import or export of material. Disruptions, displacements, and compaction of soil are proposed and approximately 1.5 acres of wetland area will be restored. The project will restore natural slopes and drainage crossings back to natural conditions and these changes will ultimately be beneficial to the watershed. However, in the near term during soil excavation in excess of 250 cubic yards, cuts and fills of more than four feet in depth, and areas of disturbance exceeding 10,000 square feet on steep slopes, lead to potential for impacts due to soil disruption, displacement, and compaction. The proposed project's impacts associated with these grading activities will be mitigated to a less than significant level by implementing the following mitigation measure:

Mitigation Measure Item VI-2:

MM VI.1 Prior to construction start, the applicant shall obtain a Grading Permit from the Engineering and Surveying Division (ESD) to comply with the requirements of the Placer County Code, Article 15.48, Grading, Erosion, and Sediment Control Ordinance.

Discussion Item VI-3:

The restoration project will remove 43 miles of old private logging roads and restore these areas back to pre-logging conditions. The topography or ground surface relief features will not be substantially altered. Therefore, there is no impact.

Discussion Item VI-4:

This proposed restoration project will not destroy, cover, or modify of any unique geologic or physical features. Therefore, there is no impact.

Discussion Item VI-5, 6:

The restoration project proposes work within stream crossings contained within the 10,115 acre project site. Creeks within the project area that flow to important watersheds include Talbot Creek, Rice Creek, and Dolly Creek which are tributary to the Middle Fork American River; Grayhorse Creek which is tributary to the Rubicon River; Wabena Creek which is tributary to the North Fork American River; and, Cottonwood Creek which flows into Hell Hole Reservoir. The majority of project lands drain into French Meadows Reservoir. Care will be taken to remove siltation that has already modified the stream channels. The project will restore the natural hydrological connectivity of the watershed.

Construction will occur during the dry season between the months of June and October. Although excavation within wet channels will be avoided as much as possible, there will likely be flow in some of the creeks and drainage ways within the work area, especially after the current wet precipitation season, and it may not be possible to completely avoid work within flowing creeks and channels. Approximately 23 culverts will be removed from within logging roads and some of these may carry flow during construction activities. Soils are thin and eroded within the project area. There will be the potential to introduce sediment and turbidity to creeks and drainage ways during project grading activities. The proposed project's impacts associated with soil erosion will be mitigated to a less than significant level by implementing the following mitigation measure:

Mitigation Measure Item VI-5, 6:

MM VI.2 The Grading Plan/Road Decommissioning Plan document shall include water quality Best Management Practices (BMPs) designed according to the guidance of the California Stormwater Quality Association Stormwater Best Management Practice Handbooks for Construction, or the Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines for Developing Areas of the Sierra Foothills and Mountains, prepared by the High Sierra RC&D Council, dated October 1991, or other similar source as approved by the Engineering and Surveying Division (ESD).

Construction (temporary) BMPs for the project include, but are not limited to:

- a) Expose the smallest practical area of land for the shortest time possible;
- b) Vegetate and mulch prior to the rainy season start (about October 15);
- c) Retain natural vegetation and cover wherever feasible;
- d) Implement dust control measures;
- e) Lay back exposed soils to a stable side slope and stabilize using slash (the woody debris of cut trees, pruning, and brush left after thinning treatments), mulch, and erosion control materials;
- f) Keep erosion control materials such as coir rolls, wattles, and straw bales at each active grading site and apply where needed at the end of each work day or if heavy rains occur;
- g) Install cross road drains where needed with no fill placed on the streamside of cross road drains;
- h) Place rock to armor streambanks and trail crossings above the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM);
- i) Implement sediment basins and traps;
- j) Place slash along bare and gullied hillslopes to reduce flow velocities and retain soils;
- k) Revegetate using seeding and cuttings to stabilize soils and reduce or prevent erosion; and,
- l) Provide thorough maintenance and follow-up operations to check that erosion and sediment control practices are working properly.

Discussion Item VI-7, 8, 9:

People or property will not be exposed to geologic and geomorphological hazards as a result of this restoration project. A Mineral Remoteness Assessment was prepared by Vestra Resources, Inc., dated February 2015, for the subject property. The project area is classified as poor for topsoil, reclamation material, and road fill. Soils are predominantly thin, poorly developed, and eroded. The project soils are not expansive and do not exhibit properties of instability. Therefore, there is no impact.

VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS – Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant and/or cumulative impact on the environment? (PLN, Air Quality)			X	
2. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? (PLN, Air Quality)			X	

Discussion Item VII-1, 2:

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of primary concern from land use projects include carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O). Construction related activities resulting in exhaust emissions may come from fuel combustion for heavy-duty diesel and gasoline-powered equipment, portable auxiliary equipment, material delivery trucks, and worker commuter trips. There would be no operational emissions to consider because, following the restoration effort, the area will be returned to a natural forested state.

The construction-related GHG emissions resulting from the project would be temporary in nature, lasting a few months out of each of three consecutive years. Furthermore, it would not result in any new land uses or changes to any rural development patterns and therefore would not substantially hinder the State's ability to attain the goals identified in AB 32 (i.e., reduction of statewide GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020; approximately a 30 percent reduction from projected 2020 emissions). Thus, the construction of the project would not generate substantial greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, which may be considered to have a significant impact on the environment, nor conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases and is therefore considered to have a less than significant impact. No mitigation measures are required.

VIII. HAZARDS & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS – Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine handling, transport, use, or disposal of hazardous or acutely hazardous materials? (EHS)			X	
2. 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? (EHS)			X	
3. Emit hazardous emissions, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? (PLN, Air Quality)			X	
4. 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? (EHS)				X
5. 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? (PLN)				X

6. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing in the project area? (PLN)				X
7. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands? (PLN)				X
8. Create any health hazard or potential health hazard? (EHS)				X
9. Expose people to existing sources of potential health hazards? (EHS)				X

Discussion Item VIII-1:

The use of hazardous substances during normal construction is expected to be limited in nature, and will be subject to the standard handling and storage requirements. The project does not propose to use or store hazardous materials. Accordingly, impacts related to the handling, transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials are considered to be less than significant. No mitigation measures are required.

Discussion Item VIII-2:

Construction of the proposed project would involve the short-term use and storage of hazardous materials typically associated with grading, such as fuel and other substances. All materials would be used, stored, and disposed of in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws including Cal-OSHA requirements and manufacturer's instructions. Therefore, the risk of accident or upset conditions involving the release of hazardous materials is less than significant. No mitigation measures are required.

Discussion Item VIII-3:

There are no known existing or proposed schools within one-quarter mile of the proposed project site. Therefore, any impact is considered less than significant. No mitigation measures are required.

Discussion Item VIII-4:

The project site is not included on a list of hazardous material sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Therefore, there is no impact.

Discussion Item VIII-5, 6, 7:

The proposed restoration project does not involve the handling, transporting, use or disposal of any hazardous materials; therefore no hazardous materials could be released into the environment or affect the public. The proposed project is not within the vicinity of schools, airstrips, or residential areas and no hazardous materials or activities will be implemented during the restoration project work. No workers will be handling hazardous materials, no hazardous materials will be generated, and no hazardous materials will be discarded. The restoration project would have no impact regarding hazardous activities or hazardous materials. The proposed project would not expose the area to hazards relating to the use, storage, transport, or disposal of hazardous materials. The proposed project will not expose people to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildfires. No new structures are proposed and the project area is not adjacent to an urbanized area. Therefore, there is no impact.

Discussion Item VIII-8, 9:

The project will not create a health hazard, potential health hazard or expose people to existing sources of potential health hazards. Therefore, there is no impact.

IX. HYDROLOGY & WATER QUALITY – Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Violate any federal, state or county potable water quality standards? (EHS)				X

2. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lessening of local groundwater supplies (i.e. the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)? (EHS)				X
3. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area? (ESD)				X
4. Increase the rate or amount of surface runoff? (ESD)				X
5. Create or contribute runoff water which would include substantial additional sources of polluted water? (ESD)		X		
6. Otherwise substantially degrade surface water quality?(ESD)		X		
7. Otherwise substantially degrade ground water quality? (EHS)				X
8. Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map? (ESD)				X
9. Place within a 100-year flood hazard area improvements which would impede or redirect flood flows? (ESD)				X
10. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam? (ESD)				X
11. Alter the direction or rate of flow of groundwater? (EHS)				X
12. Impact the watershed of important surface water resources, including but not limited to Lake Tahoe, Folsom Lake, Hell Hole Reservoir, Rock Creek Reservoir, Sugar Pine Reservoir, French Meadows Reservoir, Combie Lake, and Rollins Lake? (EHS, ESD)				X

Discussion Item IX-1:

The project will not violate any potable water quality standards as it will not utilize a potable water supply. Therefore, there is no impact.

Discussion Item IX-2:

This project will not utilize groundwater, and is not located in an area where soils are conducive to groundwater recharge. Therefore, the project will not substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge. Therefore, there is no impact.

Discussion Item IX-3, 4:

The restoration project will decommission approximately 43 miles of unused private logging roads, remove 23 culverts, and repair creek crossings that cause erosion and siltation in order to restore the natural hydrological connectivity and improve watershed function. The restoration project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern, except to restore back the natural hydrologic flow patterns of the watershed area. No new impervious surfaces will be created. Approximately 10,000 cubic yards of fill material will be removed from stream crossings and utilized to recontour and layback stream areas to their natural state. The rate or amount of surface runoff will not be increased. Therefore, there is no impact.

Discussion Item IX-5, 6

A primary goal of this project is to repair watershed hydrology that has been damaged by poorly drained roads, improperly installed culverts, incomplete stream crossing decommission, landing construction, skidded channels, concentrated ditch flows, and in-stream excavation. Compacted surfaces will be ripped, mulched, and covered in slash. Ditches will be filled. As part of the restoration, exposed soils will be laid back to a stable side slope and bare soil will be stabilized using slash, mulch, and erosion control materials. Revegetation may occur where possible

within wetland locations. To prevent road drainage from delivering fine sediment to the streams, deep cross road drains will be excavated outside of the hinge line of the crossing. The cross road drains will capture any ditch or road flows and displace them to a stable slope. Fill excavated from the crossings will not be placed on the streamside of the cross road drains.

Equipment will include an excavator, bulldozer, dump truck, and water truck. Equipment access will be strategically planned so work sites will only be crossed once, working from the inside of the property to the outer edges of the project sites. The crossings will be fully decommissioned to restore natural stream grade, width, and bank structure. All work will occur during the dry season. Project Best Management Practices (BMPs) include reducing damage to residual trees, cutting all broken trees, leaners, and badly scarred trees, cleaning up all man-made debris and refuse, re-seeding bare mineral soil, using native grasses where possible, and leaving a visual buffer in isolated pockets along traveled roads. However, during construction there is the potential for the project to create or contribute runoff water which could include substantial additional sources of sediment and turbidity or otherwise substantially degrade surface water quality. The proposed project's impacts associated with runoff water degradation will be mitigated to a less than significant level by implementing the following mitigation measures:

Mitigation Measures Item IX-5, 6

MM VI.1, MM VI.2 See Item VI-2 and Items VI-5 and VI-6 for the text of these mitigation measures as well as the following:

MM IX.1 Prior to construction commencing, provide evidence to the Engineering and Surveying Division of a WDID number generated from the State Regional Water Quality Control Board's Stormwater Multiple Application & Reports Tracking System (SMARTS). This serves as the Regional Water Quality Control Board approval or permit under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) construction stormwater quality permit.

Discussion Item IX-7:

The project will not utilize groundwater or otherwise interfere with groundwater supply. Therefore the project will not otherwise substantially degrade ground water quality. Therefore, there is no impact.

Discussion Item IX-8, 9, 10:

The project does not propose to place any housing or improvements within a 100-year flood hazard area or impede or redirect flood flows. People or structures will not be exposed to significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, or flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam. Therefore, there is no impact.

Discussion Item IX-11:

The project will not utilize groundwater; therefore it will not alter the direction or rate of flow of groundwater. Therefore, there is no impact.

Discussion Item IX-12:

The project area includes 18 parcels of logged timberland. The project proposes to remove road fill from 56 stream sites within the project area. Watersheds within the project area are Talbot Creek, Rice Creek, and Dolly Creek, which are tributary to the Middle Fork American River, and Grayhorse Creek which is tributary to the Rubicon River, and Wabena Creek which is tributary to the North Fork American River. Cottonwood Creek crosses through one of the southern parcels and drains into Hell Hole Reservoir. The majority of project lands drain into French Meadows Reservoir. The project activities will ultimately help reduce sediment inputs into the Reservoirs. Therefore, there is no impact.

X. LAND USE & PLANNING – Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Physically divide an established community? (PLN)				X
2. Conflict with General Plan/Community Plan/Specific Plan designations or zoning, or Plan policies adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				X

(EHS, ESD, PLN)				
3. Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan or other County policies, plans, or regulations adopted for purposes of avoiding or mitigating environmental effects? (PLN)				X
4. Result in the development of incompatible uses and/or the creation of land use conflicts? (PLN)				X
5. Affect agricultural and timber resources or operations (i.e. impacts to soils or farmlands and timber harvest plans, or impacts from incompatible land uses)? (PLN)			X	
6. Disrupt or divide the physical arrangement of an established community (including a low-income or minority community)? (PLN)				X
7. Result in a substantial alteration of the present or planned land use of an area? (PLN)				X
8. Cause economic or social changes that would result in significant adverse physical changes to the environment such as urban decay or deterioration? (PLN)				X

Discussion Item X-1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8:

Due to the remote location of the proposed project no established communities would be affected and the project would not result in an impact to any surrounding areas. The nearest community is approximately over an hour drive over rough terrain from the project area. The proposed project will not result in the development of incompatible uses or land use conflicts, as the proposed project aims to restore timberland. No construction of structures is associated with this project. The proposed project will not cause economic or social changes that would result in significant adverse physical changes to the environment such as urban decay or deterioration, as the proposed project is not in an urban setting. The project consists of environmental restoration work and would not conflict with any current land use or zoning. The project intends to restore a natural healthy forest ecosystem in an area that has been heavily logged and degraded by open range grazing of sheep and cattle for the past 100 years. Restoring degraded habitat from past logging activities will not result in a substantial alteration of the present or planned land use of the area, as the property has not been logged since the late 1990s. The land has been used for timber production and logging and will now rest as forested land with no future timber harvests. Since there will be no change in the land use for the subject property there is no impact. The proposed use of the land would be consistent with the Zoning Ordinance and General Plan. There would be no impact to land use goals or standards resulting from the project. Placer County does not have an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan. Therefore the proposed project will not conflict with provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan or Natural Community Conservation Plan. Therefore, there is no impact.

Discussion Item X-5:

The project area was logged for 65 years until the late 1990s when logging operations ceased. Timber Harvest Plans (THPs) are required to be prepared and submitted to CAL FIRE for approval prior to harvesting timber. Four THPs have been filed for the subject property since 1997. These THPs have been completed and closed. The proposed project will include forest treatment guidelines that will improve forest health by removing dead, dying or unhealthy trees and reduce potential damage from wildfire by removing trees less than 6 inches at DBH. Because logging operations no longer occur on the project site, the proposed project will have a less than significant impact to agricultural or timber operations. No mitigation measures are required.

XI. MINERAL RESOURCES – Would the project result in:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. The loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state? (PLN)				X
2. 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? (PLN)				X

Discussion Item XI-1, 2:

A Mineral Remoteness Assessment was conducted by Vestra Resources, Inc. in February 2015. The assessment found the property does not contain suitable or inferred reserves of base metals, precious metals or other valuable minerals, but could contain a limited sand resource. The report concluded that the mineral deposits are insignificant and mineral extraction is not economically viable due to many significant barriers including remote accessibility, non-existent marketability, low volume and low value of product due to no demand. The loss of TPZ and the on-site wetlands would further limit areas available for mineral exploitation at the site by reducing any potential for economic extraction volumes since mitigation would be required at a minimum ratio of 2:1; the cost of which would likely prohibit development. Based on these criteria the likelihood of economic mineral resources removal on the property at the time of this assessment is so remote as to be negligible. The loss of TPZ, wildlife habitat, mineral remoteness, and the low mineral value of sand resources are not significant and would not result in an impact to the region, residents, state or economy. No proposed restoration work will result in the obstruction of access to, and extraction of mineral resources classified MRZ-2x, or result in land use compatibility conflicts with mineral extraction operations since the land has no mineral value. Therefore, there is no impact.

XII. NOISE – Would the project result in:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local General Plan, Community Plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies? (PLN)			X	
2. A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project? (PLN)			X	
3. A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project? (PLN)			X	
4. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? (PLN)				X
5. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? (PLN)				X

Discussion Item XII-1, 2, 3:

The project area is in an extremely remote location and therefore the proposed project will not expose persons to excessive noise levels or excessive groundborne vibration. The project will generate noise from construction-related activities, however the remote location of the project area and the short duration of the construction phase result in a less than significant impact. No mitigation measures are required.

Discussion Item XII-4, 5:

The project area is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or private airstrip. Therefore, there is no impact.

XIII. PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES – Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature? (PLN)				X

Discussion Item XIII-1:

The Cultural Resource Inventory prepared for the project did not identify paleontological resources or sites or geologic features on the subject property. Therefore, there is no impact.

XIV. POPULATION & HOUSING – Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (i.e. by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (i.e. through extension of roads or other infrastructure)? (PLN)				X
2. Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? (PLN)				X

Discussion- Item XIV-1, 2:

The proposed restoration project will not induce substantial population growth in the area since the property will be held as forested wildland and does not include the construction of residential structures. The project will not displace housing since there are no residential structures present on or near the property. Therefore, there is no impact.

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES – Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental services and/or 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?

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Fire protection? (ESD, PLN)				X
2. Sheriff protection? (ESD, PLN)				X
3. Schools? (ESD, PLN)				X
4. Maintenance of public facilities, including roads? (ESD, PLN)				X

5. Other governmental services? (ESD, PLN)				X
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Discussion Item XV-1, 2, 3, 4, 5:

The restoration project is located in an extremely remote area on private property with no residential or commercial areas nearby. The property can be accessed by a County maintained roadway, Soda Springs Road that crosses through one portion of the project area. The project area is subject to the outbreak of wildfires. The Tahoe National Forest is the primary responder to wildfire outbreak. Some roads through the project area may be deemed critical to providing access for wildfire suppression and these roads will not be treated or decommissioned as part of this restoration project. No new fire protection, sheriff protection, or school facilities are proposed as part of this project. This restoration project will not impact the maintenance of public facilities, including roads. No other governmental services are proposed as part of this project. Therefore, there is no impact.

XVI. RECREATION – Would the project result in:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. 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? (PLN)				X
2. 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? (PLN)			X	

Discussion Item XVI-1:

The proposed project will not increase the use of any neighborhood or regional parks as there are no such parks within the project area. Therefore, there is no impact.

Discussion Item XVI-2:

The proposed project is surrounded by the Tahoe National Forest and numerous outdoor recreation activities occur near the project area. French Meadows Reservoir, French Meadows State Game Refuge and Hell Hole Reservoir are to the west of the project area and several access points to Granite Chief Wilderness to the east are in the project area. The Tevis Cup Trail, the Picayune Valley Trail and the Shanks Cove Trail are all within project area. These areas draw visitors to engage in hiking, horseback riding, fishing, camping, hunting, and passive outdoor recreation. Road 51 on parcel 070-020-010-000 near Talbot Camp serves as a trail corridor for the Western States Trail and Tevis Cup Endurance Ride Trail in years when the snowpack limits usage of those portions of the trail at higher elevations. This road is very steep and portions of it are impacted from erosion. The ARC intends to remedy the erosion issues and modify the steep areas with switchbacks to make the trail more accessible. The ARC plans to improve approximately 4.1 miles of trail. The development of permanent facilities near Road 51/Talbot Camp area includes a driveway, parking area and kiosk. This work will take place during summer and fall periods from June to October.

After several years of restoration and land management, the American River Conservancy and their partners will determine whether the American River Headwaters Property meets Wilderness Act standards to become an addition to the Granite Chief Wilderness. However the likelihood of the subject parcels to be added to the Granite Chief Wilderness area is unknown as this would require Congressional approval.

The grading, development, use and maintenance of the property and the size, shape, arrangement and location of structures, parking areas and landscape areas, and the protection and preservation of resources shall conform to the project description and special use permit exhibits and conditions of approval. Trail improvement activities will conform to all applicable regulations, laws and ordinances. Though the project will involve improvements of 4.1 miles of trails, these improvements will occur along the existing Road 51 and along existing trail alignments. No new trail construction is proposed as part of the project. Therefore the project will have a less than significant impact to recreational facilities that may have an adverse impact to the environment. No mitigation measures are required.

XVII. TRANSPORTATION & TRAFFIC – Would the project result in:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. An increase in traffic which may be substantial in relation to the existing and/or planned future year traffic load and capacity of the roadway system (i.e. result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)? (ESD)				X
2. Exceeding, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the County General Plan and/or Community Plan for roads affected by project traffic? (ESD)				X
3. Increased impacts to vehicle safety due to roadway design features (i.e. sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? (ESD)				X
4. Inadequate emergency access or access to nearby uses? (ESD)			X	
5. Insufficient parking capacity on-site or off-site? (ESD, PLN)				X
6. Hazards or barriers for pedestrians or bicyclists? (ESD)				X
7. Conflicts with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (i.e. bus turnouts, bicycle lanes, bicycle racks, public transit, pedestrian facilities, etc.) or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities? (ESD)				X
8. Change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks? (PLN)				X

Discussion Item XVII-1, 2:

This restoration project is located in a remote part of the Sierra Nevada Mountains of Placer County. Approximately 43 miles of old private logging roads will be decommissioned, while about 20 miles of on-site roads will be retained. The subject property is accessed over four routes: from Georgetown east on Wentworth Springs Road to 11 Pines Road (paved); from Foresthill east on Mosquito Ridge Road (paved) or east on the Foresthill-Soda Springs Road (mixed paved and dirt roads); and, from Soda Springs south through The Cedars and then south on Road 51 (gravel/dirt). All restoration work will be conducted on or from private logging roads on the subject property. Equipment, vehicle parking, and restoration crew camps will be staged on the subject property, reducing daily trips during construction. Construction activities are expected to occur from June through October. The only traffic generated by the project will be construction traffic during the construction of on-site restoration. The construction traffic impact is a short term impact. The increases in construction traffic due to this project are consistent with those anticipated in the Placer County General Plan. The increase in traffic generated by this project will not exceed any level of service (LOS) capacity standards for area roadways. Therefore, there is no impact.

Discussion Item XVII-3:

This restoration project will not impact vehicle safety due to roadway design features or incompatible uses. Therefore, there is no impact.

Discussion Item XVII-4:

The restoration project objectives include reducing fuel load for increased fire resiliency and long term forest health, as well as increasing public access and connectivity in roadless areas and between surrounding public forest service lands and private property. Fire roads through the project area that are critical for providing access for

wildfire suppression will not be decommissioned as part of this project. Twenty miles of roadways will be retained for management and fire protection as assessed by the Forest Service. No mitigation measures are necessary.

Discussion Item XVII-5, 6, 7:

Well-known events such as the Western States 100 Mile Run and the Tevis Cup Endurance Ride utilize trails that run through the American River Headwaters property. Select roads will be converted to trails to allow for recreational uses. Approximately 4.1 miles of road will be converted into trail as part of the project, including signage and kiosks at trailhead parking lots. Trail building will take place during the summer and fall months between June and October. This restoration project will not create insufficient parking capacity, create hazards or barriers for pedestrians or bicyclists, or conflict with policies supporting alternative transportation. Therefore, there is no impact.

Discussion Item XVII-8:

The proposed project is in an extremely remote area of eastern Placer County. The proposed project is a restoration project and will not result in a change to air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks. Therefore, there is no impact.

XVIII. UTILITIES & SERVICE SYSTEMS – Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board? (ESD)				X
2. Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater delivery, collection or treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? (EHS, ESD)				X
3. Require or result in the construction of new on-site sewage systems? (EHS)				X
4. Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? (ESD)				X
5. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed? (EHS)				X
6. Require sewer service that may not be available by the area's waste water treatment provider? (EHS, ESD)				X
7. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs in compliance with all applicable laws? (EHS)				X

Discussion Item XVIII-1, 2, 6:

No permanent structures or buildings are proposed with this restoration project. This project will not require wastewater treatment or require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater delivery, collection, or treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities. Therefore, there is no impact.

Discussion Item XVIII-3:

This project will not require sewage disposal or wastewater disposal and will not require or result in the construction of new on-site sewage disposal systems. Therefore, there is no impact.

Discussion Item XVIII-4:

The proposed restoration project does not require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities. Therefore, there is no impact.

Discussion Item XVIII-5, 7:

This project will not require water, sewer, or solid waste disposal services, as the project will not generate wastewater, solid waste or require treated water. Therefore, this project will not result in impacts associated with the provision of water, sewer, or solid waste disposal services. Therefore, there is no impact.

E. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Environmental Issue	Yes	No
1. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially impact biological resources, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?		X
2. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)		X
3. Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?		X

F. OTHER RESPONSIBLE AND TRUSTEE AGENCIES whose approval is required:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> California Department of Fish and Wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)
<input type="checkbox"/> California Department of Forestry	<input type="checkbox"/> National Marine Fisheries Service
<input type="checkbox"/> California Department of Health Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> California Department of Toxic Substances	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
<input type="checkbox"/> California Department of Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
<input type="checkbox"/> California Integrated Waste Management Board	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> California Regional Water Quality Control Board	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

G. DETERMINATION – The Environmental Review Committee finds that:

<input type="checkbox"/>	The proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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 described herein have been added to the project. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The proposed project is within the scope of impacts addressed in a previously-adopted Negative Declaration, and that only minor technical changes and/or additions are necessary to ensure its adequacy for the project. An ADDENDUM TO THE PREVIOUSLY-ADOPTED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required (i.e. Project, Program, Subsequent, or Master EIR).
<input type="checkbox"/>	The proposed project MAY have a significant effect(s) on the environment, and at least one effect has not been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards. Potentially significant impacts and mitigation measures that have been adequately addressed herein or within an earlier document are described on attached sheets (see Section D.f. above). A SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT will be prepared to address those effect(s) that remain outstanding.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The proposed project is within the scope of impacts addressed in a previously-certified EIR, and that some changes and/or additions are necessary, but none of the conditions requiring a Subsequent or Supplemental

	EIR exist. An ADDENDUM TO THE PREVIOUSLY-CERTIFIED EIR will be prepared.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The proposed project is within the scope of impacts addressed in a previously-certified Program EIR, and that no new effects will occur nor new mitigation measures are required. Potentially significant impacts and mitigation measures that have been adequately examined in an earlier document are described on attached sheets, including applicable mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project (see Section D.f. above). NO FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT will be prepared (see CEQA Guidelines, Sections 15168(c)(2), 15180, 15182, 15183).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____

H. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (Persons/Departments consulted):

Planning Services Division, Kally Keding-Cecil, Chairperson
 Planning Services Division, Air Quality, Gerry Haas
 Engineering and Surveying Division, Rebecca Taber, P.E.
 Environmental Engineering Division, Huey Nham
 Department of Public Works, Transportation
 Environmental Health Services, Justin Hansen
 Flood Control Districts, Brad Brewer
 Facility Services, Parks, Andy Fisher
 Placer Co

Signature  _____ Date February 24, 2016
 Crystal Jacobsen, Environmental Coordinator

I. SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES: The following public documents were utilized and site-specific studies prepared to evaluate in detail the effects or impacts associated with the project. This information is available for public review, Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm, at the Placer County Community Development Resource Agency, Environmental Coordination Services, 3091 County Center Drive, Auburn, CA 95603. For Tahoe projects, the document will also be available in our Tahoe Division office, 775 North Lake Blvd., Tahoe City, CA 96145.

County Documents	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Pollution Control District Rules & Regulations	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Plan	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Review Ordinance	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Plan	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grading Ordinance	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Development Manual	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Division Ordinance	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stormwater Management Manual	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tree Ordinance	
	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	
Trustee Agency Documents	<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Toxic Substances Control	
	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	
Site-Specific Studies	Planning Services Division	<input type="checkbox"/> Biological Study
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources Pedestrian Survey
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources Records Search
		<input type="checkbox"/> Lighting & Photometric Plan
		<input type="checkbox"/> Paleontological Survey
		<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Survey & Arborist Report
		<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Impact Analysis
		<input type="checkbox"/> Wetland Delineation
		<input type="checkbox"/> Acoustical Analysis
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Road Decommissioning Plan

		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phase I Environmental Assessment
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mineral Remoteness Assessment
	Engineering & Surveying Division, Flood Control District	<input type="checkbox"/> Phasing Plan
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Grading Plan
		<input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Geotechnical Report
		<input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Drainage Report
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stormwater & Surface Water Quality BMP Plan
		<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Study
		<input type="checkbox"/> Sewer Pipeline Capacity Analysis
		<input type="checkbox"/> Placer County Commercial/Industrial Waste Survey (where public sewer is available)
		<input type="checkbox"/> Sewer Master Plan
		<input type="checkbox"/> Utility Plan
		<input type="checkbox"/> Tentative Map _____
	Environmental Health Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Groundwater Contamination Report
		<input type="checkbox"/> Hydro-Geological Study
		<input type="checkbox"/> Phase I Environmental Site Assessment
		<input type="checkbox"/> Soils Screening
		<input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Endangerment Assessment
	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	
	Planning Services Division, Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> CALINE4 Carbon Monoxide Analysis
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Construction Emission & Dust Control Plan
		<input type="checkbox"/> Geotechnical Report (for naturally occurring asbestos)
		<input type="checkbox"/> Health Risk Assessment
		<input type="checkbox"/> CalEEMod Model Output
		<input type="checkbox"/> _____
	Fire Department	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Response and/or Evacuation Plan
<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic & Circulation Plan		
<input type="checkbox"/> _____		