Initial Study/
Mitigated Negative Declaration

for the

SMUD Trail Project

October 2011

Prepared for:

El Dorado County
Department of Transportation
2850 Fairlane Court
Placerville, CA 95667

Prepared by:

North State Resources, Inc.
1321 20th Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Title: SMUD Trail

2. Lead Agency Name and Address: El Dorado County
Department of Transportation
2850 Fairlane Court
Placerville, CA 95667

3. Contact Person and Phone Number: Janet Postlewait, Principal Planner
(530) 621-5993
janet.postlewait@edcgov.us

4. Project Location: Between Tam O'Shanter Drive and Silva Valley Parkway, east of Stephen Harris Park, El Dorado Hills, El Dorado County, California

5. Description of Project:

The El Dorado County Department of Transportation is proposing to install a multi-use trail in El Dorado Hills along a power line corridor maintained by the Sacramento Municipal Utility District and Pacific Gas and Electric Company between Silva Valley Parkway and Tam O'Shanter Drive. The project area or area of potential effects encompasses the 300-foot wide corridor between two residential developments (approximately 11 acres) and is bounded on the east by Silva Valley Parkway and on the west by Tam O'Shanter Drive, which forms the eastern boundary of Stephen Harris Park. The trail would be a paved, 8-foot-wide trail with 4-foot-wide gravel shoulder; it would be approximately 1,800 feet long. The alignment would generally parallel an existing dirt path between the power lines, and a prefabricated bridge would be installed across New York Creek.

6. General Plan Designation: Open Space (OS)

7. Zoning: Recreational Facilities (RF); One-Family Residential (R1)

8. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

The project area bisects two residential communities, with Stephen Harris Park to the west and open space and large-lot residences to the east. The project area has been disturbed by activities associated with power line construction and the residential developments. New York Creek flows south to north through the west side of the project area, and a dirt trail parallels the east side of the creek. Another dirt path generally follows the southern boundary of the project area between Silva Valley Parkway and the creek and is currently used by local residents. A maintenance road extends from Tam O'Shanter Drive to the creek along the southern boundary of the project area.

9. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval May Be Required:

- California Department of Transportation — National Environmental Policy Act compliance
- El Dorado Hills Community Services District — Use Permit
- State Water Resources Control Board — Statewide General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity (Order No. 99-08 DWQ)
- California Department of Fish and Game — Streambed Alteration Agreement
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service — Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act compliance
- El Dorado County Air Quality Management District — Fugitive Dust Plan Approval

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Purpose of this Document

The El Dorado County (County) Department of Transportation (DOT) is proposing to construct a multi-use trail between Tam O'Shanter Drive and Silva Valley Parkway in El Dorado Hills, El Dorado County, California. The trail is referred to as the SMUD (Sacramento Municipal Utility District) trail because it would primarily follow an existing SMUD power line through a residential community (project and SMUD trail are used interchangeably throughout this document). This Initial Study identifies the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project to determine whether the project may have a significant effect on the environment and identifies mitigation measures, where applicable, to reduce or avoid significant effects.

This Initial Study has been prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 California Code of Regulations 1500 et seq.), which require 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 County is the Lead Agency under CEQA. The project is receiving federal funding under the State Transportation Improvement Program – Transportation Enhancement (STIP-TE) administered by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), , under programmatic agreement with the Federal Highways Administration, will complete a Categorical Exclusion with technical studies to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

1.2. Document Organization

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

- **Section 2 Project Description** – Provides a description of the proposed project;
- **Section 3 Initial Study Checklist** – Provides a description of the environmental setting and analysis of impacts, with mitigation measures identified for potentially significant impacts;
- **Section 4 Determination** – Provides a determination of the County's findings pursuant to CEQA; and
- **Section 5 Report Preparation and References** – Identifies personnel responsible for preparation of this document and provides a list of references cited throughout the document.
- **Appendix A Mitigation Monitoring and Report Plan –** Includes a mitigation monitoring and reporting plan for the mitigation measures identified in the Initial Study Checklist.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1. Location

The SMUD trail would serve as a multi-use trail between Tam O'Shanter Drive and Silva Valley Parkway in the El Dorado Hills community, approximately 2 miles southeast of Folsom Lake and 2.5 miles north of U.S. Highway 50 (US 50) (Figure 1). The project area is also referred to as the area of potential effects (APE) and encompasses approximately 11 acres in a 300-foot-wide power line corridor between two residential developments (Figure 2). SMUD maintains a 200-foot-wide easement along the southern side of the corridor, and Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) maintains a 100-foot-wide easement along the northern side of the corridor. The El Dorado Hills Community Services District (EDHCSD) owns the land.

The trail would be located within a 16-foot-wide corridor in the APE (Figure 3), and staging areas and equipment access would be necessary in the APE outside of the 16-foot-wide corridor. The trail would provide access from residential areas east of New York Creek to Stephen Harris Park, which is just west of the project area across Tam O'Shanter Drive, and to other recreational facilities in the area. It would also connect to a Class 2 bike route on Saint Andrews Drive, which in turn connects to the Class 1 bike path along El Dorado Hills Boulevard. The project area or APE is in Sections 26 and 27, Township 10 North, Range 8 East on the *Clarksville, California* U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (Figure 1).

2.2. Environmental Setting

The project area is on the western side of the Sierra Nevada foothills near Folsom Lake. Elevations in the project area range from approximately 700 to 740 feet above sea level. The mean annual precipitation for the area is approximately 38.5 inches, most of which falls as rain with occasional snowfall between November and March (Western Regional Climate Center 2009). New York Creek flows south to north through the project area toward the southeastern arm of Folsom Lake. The creek contains a riparian corridor that has been retained as open space through the surrounding residential developments. Dominant land uses in the vicinity are residential and open space. Open space to the east is currently grasslands and oak woodlands, and large-lot residences are scattered in the hills further east.

2.3. Project Description

The SMUD trail would be a 8-foot-wide paved multi-use trail with 4-foot-wide gravel shoulder; it would be approximately 1,800 feet long. Pending final design, the trail may alternatively have a 6-foot-wide gravel shoulder on one side to accommodate equestrians, but the total trail width would still be 16 feet. The trail alignment would begin at Tam O'Shanter Drive under the PG&E power line (northernmost line in the corridor) and would meander to a bridge crossing at New York Creek just north of the SMUD power line (southernmost line in the corridor). Signs and a crosswalk would be installed on Tam O' Shanter Drive at the western terminus of the trail. The current grade of the alignment between Tam O'Shanter Drive and the creek would need to be cut and filled to meet grade requirements to provide access for all users and comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

A prefabricated bridge made of steel and wood would be installed across the creek to completely span the 100-year floodplain; abutments would be constructed on both sides of the creek outside of the 100-year floodplain to support the bridge. The bridge would be approximately 80 feet long. Placement of the abutments would require excavation depth of up to 5 feet. The proposed creek crossing just north of the SMUD power line would allow crane access from the west side of the creek to install the bridge without needing to work under the power line.

Cut and fill would be required between the bridge and approximately 200 feet east of the creek to meet grade requirements. An existing north-south dirt trail maintained by the EDHCSD would be modified to connect with the SMUD trail. Minimal grading would be necessary on the remainder of the trail to Silva Valley Parkway. On the east side of New York Creek, the trail would generally run parallel and north of the existing dirt path approximately 50 to 75 feet north of the SMUD power line. To minimize conflicting uses, the trail is designed away and north of the existing dirt access road used for tower maintenance by SMUD. Additionally, in the area between the two towers, the trail is positioned further north of the southernmost tower so as not to interfere with tower maintenance activities. The connection to Silva Valley Parkway is also separate from the utility road entrance to allow SMUD maintenance to gate vehicle access without interfering with trail users. DOT will also be installing lockable removable bollards at both ends of the trail entrances to restrict unauthorized vehicle access. The sidewalk at Silva Valley Parkway would be reconfigured to match the grade of the new trail, and a culvert may be necessary to ensure proper drainage. Signs would be installed along Silva Valley Parkway alerting drivers to the trail location and potential for bicyclists to enter the road from the trail.

Trail construction would require approximately 3,600 total cubic yards of cut and fill (balanced cut and fill on-site). The grade of the trail would be at 3:1 for cuts and 2:1 for fills. Fencing and signs may be installed along the creek to encourage use of the bridge and SMUD trail and discourage use of informal trails and creek crossings.

2.4. Construction Methods

Construction is anticipated to take approximately three months (90 working days) and ideally would take place between April and August 2012. All staging associated with trail construction and bridge installation would take place within the APE in previously disturbed areas, where feasible. General equipment expected to be used for trail construction includes two (2) dump trucks, one (1) motor grader, one (1) skip loader, one (1) bull dozer, one (1) striping machine, one (1) paving machine, one (1) pneumatic asphalt compactor, and asphalt and concrete delivery trucks. Construction vehicles would access both sides of New York Creek using the existing western (via Tam O'Shanter Drive) and eastern (via Silva Valley Parkway) road approaches. No road closures are anticipated during construction.

The prefabricated bridge would be assembled off-site and brought to the project area on a flatbed truck. It would be set into place using a crane and would likely be brought in from the west side along an El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) paved access road. No diversions or in-water construction would be needed in New York Creek, but some vegetation removal in the proposed bridge location would be necessary. Vegetation would be removed or clipped by hand when possible.

An approved Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be required prior to construction to identify water pollution control practices that will be implemented during the construction phase. Best management practices (BMPs) will be implemented during construction to prevent concrete or other materials from entering the creek. Typical BMP's may include, but are not limited to, washing

out concrete in a bin, installing silt fencing along the slopes between the abutments and New York Creek.

2.5. Construction Contract

The County DOT would retain a construction contractor to construct the SMUD trail. The contractor would be responsible for compliance with all applicable rules, regulations, and ordinances associated with proposed project activities and for implementing construction-related mitigation measures. The County DOT would provide construction contractor oversight and management and would be responsible for verifying implementation of the mitigation measures. The contractor would construct the proposed project in accordance with the Public Contracts Code of the State of California; the State of California Department of Transportation Standard Plans and Standard Specifications; and the Contract, Project Plans, and Project Special Provisions under development by the County DOT.

The following are a combination of standard and project-specific procedures and requirements applicable to project construction:

- Construction contract special provisions will require that a traffic management plan be prepared. The traffic management plan will include construction staging and traffic control measures to be implemented during construction to maintain and minimize impacts to traffic on adjacent roads (Silva Valley Parkway and Tam O'Shanter) during construction. Minor traffic stoppages or delays may be allowed if necessary during project construction to provide access for construction equipment and vehicles into the project area. No road closures or detours are expected to be necessary during construction, but signs and flagmen may be used to alert travelers on nearby roads of construction activities.

- Contract special provisions will require compliance with El Dorado County Air Quality Management District (AQMD) Rules 223 and 223-1 to minimize fugitive dust emissions.

- Contractor will be required to comply with the California Air Resources Board Airborne Toxic Control Measure at Title 17 Section 93105 addressing Construction, Grading, Quarrying, and Surface Mining activities and with the Asbestos Airborne Toxic Control Measure for Surfacing Applications (California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Section 93106).

- Contract provisions will require notification of County DOT and compliance with California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and California Public Resources Code Sections 5097.5, 5097.9 et seq., regarding the discovery and disturbance of cultural materials or human remains should any be discovered during project construction.

- Contract provisions will require compliance with the El Dorado County Grading Ordinance and Storm Water Management Plan for Western El Dorado County and implementation of BMPs as identified in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit and/or Storm Water Management Plan.

- Contract provisions will require a fire safety plan to prevent fires from construction operations (such as welding).

- County DOT or its construction contractors will conduct early coordination with law enforcement and emergency service providers to ensure minimal disruption to service during construction.

- County DOT and its construction contractors will comply with the State of California Standard Specifications (May 2006), written by the State of California Department of Transportation, for public service provision.

- Access to adjacent private properties will remain open at all times during the construction period.

- The project will comply with General Plan Policy 6.5.1.11 pertaining to construction noise.

2.6. Potential Required Permit Approvals

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

Table 1. Potential Permit Approvals

Approving Agency	Required Permit/Approval	Required for
Federal Agencies		
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1536) (informal consultation)	Potential impacts on California red-legged frog.
State Agencies		
California Department of Transportation	Project Approval/NEPA Compliance	Funding through the STIP-TE
State Water Resources Control Board, Regional Water Quality Control Board	Coverage under the General Construction Activity Storm Water Permit (Section 402 of the Clean Water Act, 40 CFR Part 122)	Storm water discharges associated with construction activity for greater than 1 acre of land disturbance
Department of Fish and Game	Streambed Alteration Agreement (Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code)	Bridge installation across New York Creek
Local Agencies		
El Dorado County	Project Approval/CEQA Compliance	Project implementation and funding
El Dorado County Air Quality Management District	Fugitive Dust Plan	Compliance with Rule 223-1 (Fugitive Dust, Construction Activities)
El Dorado Hills Community Services District	Use Permit	Construction and trail operation on EDHCSD land

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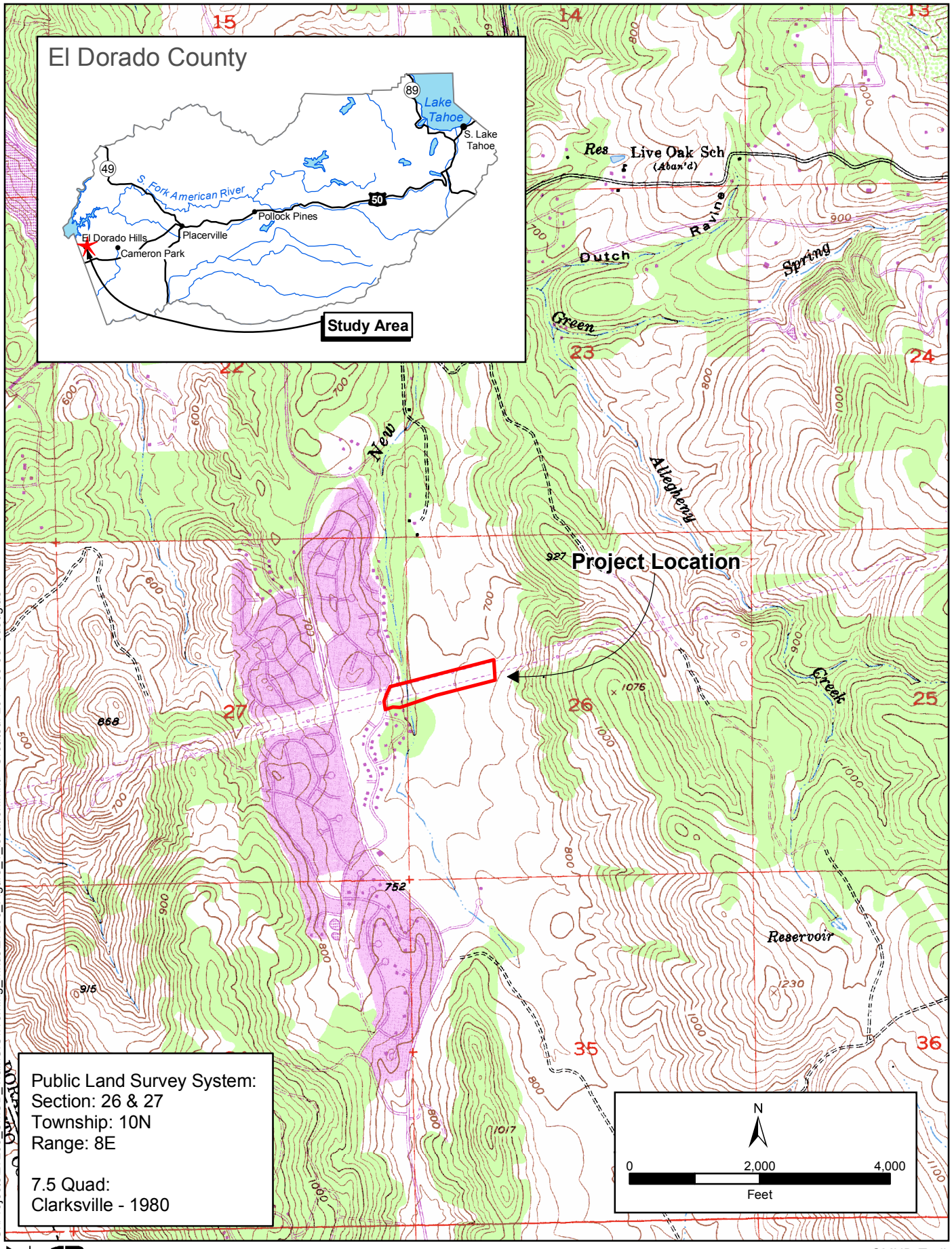


North State Resources, Inc.

SMUD Trail

Figure 1
Project Location and Vicinity

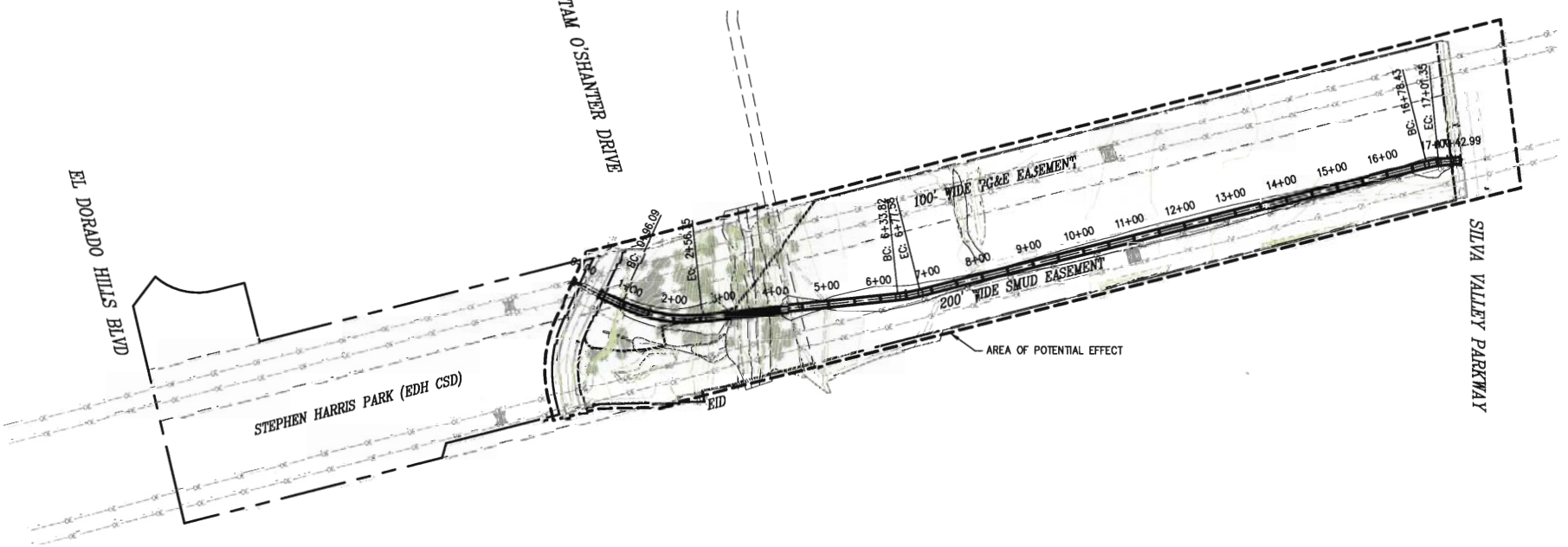
Local Agency APE Signature Block

Daryl G. Nolte, Associate Environmental Planner – Archaeology
PQS/PI – Prehistoric Archaeology
Environmental Branch M1,
Caltrans D3

8/4/11
Date

Ross Foon, Local Assistance Project Engineer
Office of Local Assistance,
Caltrans D3

8/8/11
Date



APE MAP
SCALE : 1" = 100'

REVISION				
NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	

PREPARED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF :

REGISTERED CIVIL ENGINEER

DATE:

DESIGNED:	DRAWN:
DRF	DRF
CHECKED:	DATE:
PH	5/17/2011
ROAD NUMBER:	

EL DORADO COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Figure 2. Area of Potential Effect
SMUD TRAIL BIKE PATH
TAM O'SHANTER TO SILVA VALLEY

SHEET
A-1
1 OF 1
W.O. No.
97005

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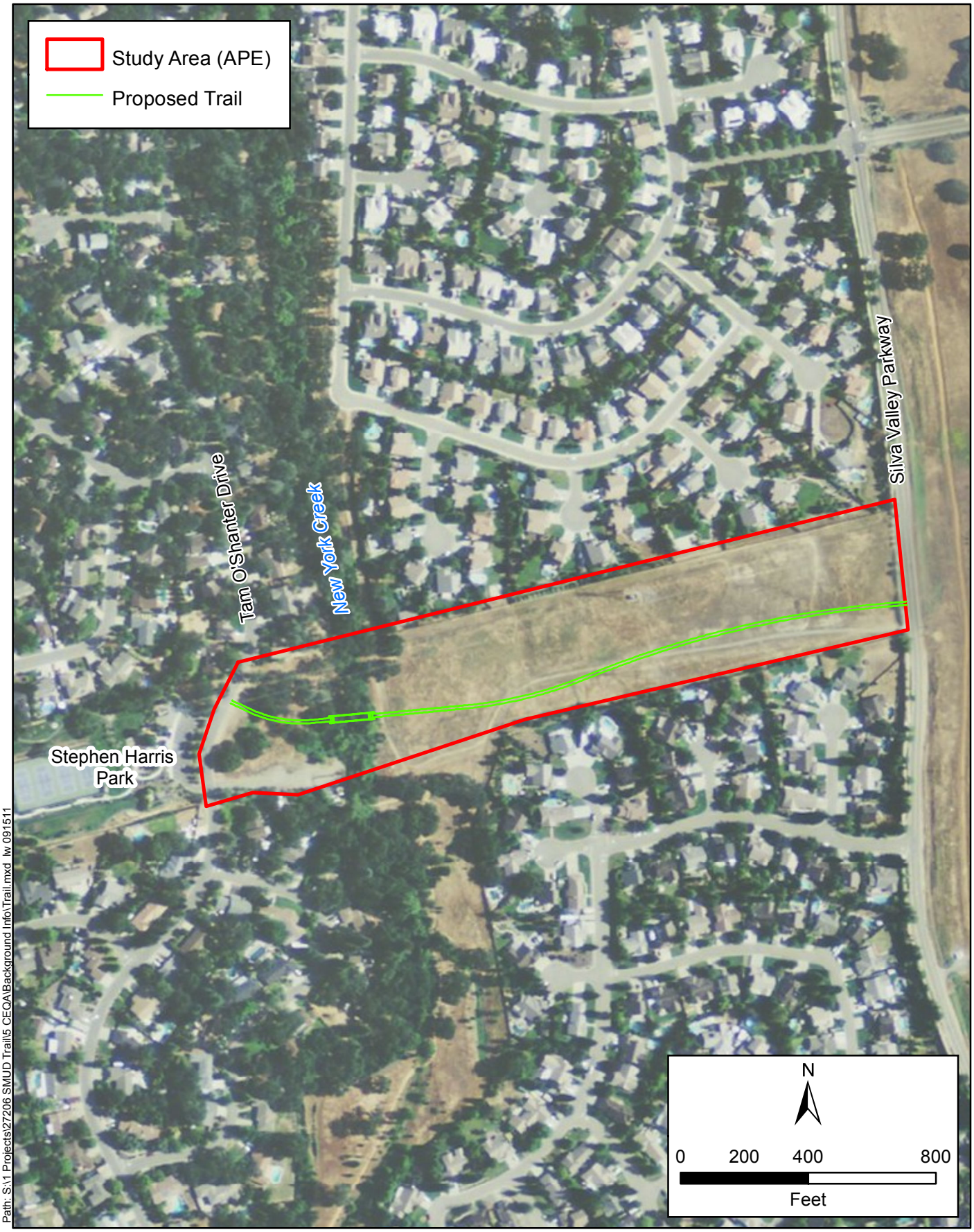

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SMUD Trail

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Figure 3
Proposed Trail Alignment

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3. INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

3.1. Initial Study Checklist

This section of the Initial Study incorporates the Environmental Checklist contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, except that forestry resources are not discussed because they are not present in the project area and greenhouse gases are discussed under air quality. Each resource section provides a brief description of the setting, a determination of impact potential, and a discussion of the impacts. Mitigation measures are identified where appropriate for adoption by the County and incorporation into the proposed project and contractor documents to reduce potential impacts to less-than-significant levels. The following 16 environmental categories are addressed in this section:

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

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

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

3.2. Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures

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

Environmental Setting

The APE is in a residential area of El Dorado Hills, and most of it has been disturbed by past activities associated with installation of the SMUD and PG&E power lines and construction of the adjacent residential developments. A dirt path passes through the southern portion of the APE from Silva Valley Parkway to New York Creek. New York Creek is less disturbed and contains a riparian corridor approximately 50 to 75 feet wide. No scenic vistas exist in the APE or are visible from the APE, and no scenic highways have been designated in the vicinity. The nearby residential developments and adjacent roads provide sources of nighttime lighting, but no sources of lighting exist in the APE. Views of the APE from public viewing areas (e.g., roads or recreation areas) are limited because of the proximity of adjacent residential developments, but the APE is briefly visible by travelers along Silva Valley Parkway and Tam O'Shanter Drive. The western portion of the APE (west side of New York Creek) is visible from Stephen Harris Park, but views from the park of the eastern portion are mostly blocked by the vegetation along the creek and the change in topography. No scenic viewpoints have been designated near the APE by the County (Table 5.3-1 in the General Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report, El Dorado County 2003).

Discussion of Impacts

a, b) ***No Impact.*** No scenic vistas or resources exist in or near the APE. The project would not affect these resources.

c) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** The project would have a minimal effect on the visual character of the APE. The SMUD trail would generally run parallel and north of the existing dirt path between the power lines. A new bridge across New York Creek would provide access across the creek, and bridge installation would require some vegetation removal. The bridge may be visible from certain viewpoints in the park, but it would not degrade the quality of views of the APE. The trail between the bridge and Tam O'Shanter Drive would meander through the trees and would blend in with the surroundings. Impacts on visual quality would be less than significant.

d) ***No Impact.*** The project would not create a source of light or glare. It would involve construction of a multi-use trail in a residential area with no night time lighting proposed, and no nighttime construction would take place.

II.	**AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES** — Would the project:	***Potentially Significant Impact***	***Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated***	***Less than Significant Impact***	***No Impact***
a)	Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c)	Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

The APE does not contain any farmland and is not designated for agricultural uses or Prime, Statewide, or Locally Important Farmland (California Department of Conservation 2008). It is in a residential area and contains open space and a power line corridor. Surrounding land is developed with residential uses and a park or is designated as open space.

Discussion of Impacts

a, b, c) ***No Impact.*** The project would not affect agricultural resources or uses and would not convert farmland.

III.	**AIR QUALITY/GREENHOUSE GAS** — Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:	***Potentially Significant Impact***	***Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated***	***Less than Significant Impact***	***No Impact***
a)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b)	Violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c)	Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d)	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐

III.	**AIR QUALITY/GREENHOUSE GAS** — Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
e)	Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f)	Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g)	Conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

The APE is in the Mountain Counties Air Basin, and air quality is regulated by the El Dorado County AQMD. The AQMD regulates air quality through the federal and state Clean Air Acts, district rules, and its permit authority.

National and state ambient air quality standards have been adopted by the Environmental Protection Agency and State of California, respectively, for each criteria pollutant: ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide. El Dorado County AQMD's (2002) Guide to Air Quality Assessment identifies specific daily emissions thresholds based on the national and state standards that can be used to determine the significance of project emissions. Thresholds of significance for pollutants of concern are:

- Reactive Organic Gasses (ROG): 82 lbs/day
- Nitrogen Oxides (NOx): 82 lbs/day
- Carbon Monoxide (CO): 9 parts per million (ppm) – 8-hour average; 20 ppm – 1-hour average
- Respirable Particulate Matter (PM_{10}): 30 µg/m3 – annual geometric mean; 50 µg/m3 – 24-hour average

Based on the ambient air quality, the Environmental Protection Agency and State also designate regions as "attainment" (within standards) or "nonattainment" (exceeds standards). The County is in nonattainment status for both federal and state ozone standards and for the state PM_{10} standard and is in attainment or unclassified status for other pollutants (California Air Resources Board 2009). The closest air quality monitoring station to the APE is in Folsom (Natoma Street), which is in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin. Data collected at this station for the period of 2007 to 2009 indicate multiple exceedances of the state and national air quality standards for ozone each year, which were reported primarily in the summer months (California Air Resources Board 2011). No exceedances of nitrogen dioxide were reported, and no data for CO or PM_{10} were available.

Sources of pollutants in the vicinity of the APE are vehicle emissions, wood-burning stoves in nearby residences, and construction activities that periodically take place in developed areas. Several residences exist along the north and south boundaries of the APE. Sensitive receptors in the vicinity include residents adjacent to the APE and recreationists at Stephen Harris Park or using the trails through the APE.

Naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) is also a concern in El Dorado County because it is known to be present in certain soils and can pose a health risk if released into the air. The AQMD has adopted an El Dorado County Naturally Occurring Asbestos Review Area Map that identifies those areas more likely to contain NOA (El Dorado County 2005). Ground disturbance activities within areas with a high or known likelihood of containing NOA are subject to additional County regulatory requirements to minimize human exposure potential. The APE is within a quarter mile of areas that are known to contain NOA and has potential to contain NOA.

Discussion of Impacts

a, b) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Construction activities would result in short-term increases in emissions from the use of heavy equipment that generates dust, exhaust, and tire-wear emissions; soil disturbance; materials used in construction; and construction traffic. Project construction would create short-term increases in fugitive dust (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$) and would generate both reactive organic compounds (ROG) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions from vehicle and equipment operation. Although El Dorado County is designated non-attainment for PM_{10} and ozone, the PM_{10} and ozone precursor (ROG and NOx) emissions associated with the project would be less than significant because of the small disturbance footprint (about 1 acre) and short-term construction period (approximately 90 days). The emissions are not anticipated to result in a violation or substantial adverse contribution to the air quality attainment status. The project would be consistent with applicable air quality plans in the area and is not anticipated to affect air quality planning.

The project would comply with applicable AQMD rules, including Rule 223 Fugitive Dust – General Requirements and Rule 223-1 Fugitive Dust – Construction Requirements. These rules regulate fugitive dust generated by construction activities. In compliance with Rule 223-1, a fugitive dust plan will be prepared and submitted to the County AQMD for approval prior to construction. In addition, the project would comply with the California Air Resources Board Airborne Toxic Control Measure at Title 17 Section 93105 addressing Construction, Grading, Quarrying, and Surface Mining activities and with the Asbestos Airborne Toxic Control Measure for Surfacing Applications (California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Section 93106) because of the potential for NOA in the soils underlying the APE.

c) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** As discussed under items a,b) above, the project would result in minor construction-related emissions. It would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant. The project would cause short-term air quality impacts as a result of construction activities; however, it would not result in long-term or cumulatively considerable increases in air quality pollutant emissions for which El Dorado County is currently in nonattainment (ozone precursors and PM_{10}). The temporary increase in air pollutant emissions associated with construction activities would result in less-than-significant contributions to cumulative pollutant levels in the region.

d) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** "Sensitive receptors" for air pollutants are considered to be residences, schools, parks, hospitals, or other land uses where children or the elderly congregate, or where outdoor activity is the primary land use. Several residences exist along the northern and southern boundaries of the APE; a park is located across Tam O'Shanter Drive to the west; and recreationists use the dirt path and EDHCSD dirt trail through the APE. Residents and recreationists could be exposed to temporary air

pollutants from construction activities, such as fugitive dust, ROG, NOx, and carbon monoxide. Construction activities would be temporary, lasting approximately 90 days, and emissions would not be substantial. Compliance with AQMD Rules would also ensure fugitive dust from construction activities remains within the project area or within 50 feet of the disturbed area. With the residences being more than 50 feet from the proposed trail alignment and the minor increase in emissions, sensitive receptors would not be exposed to substantial pollutant concentrations. This impact would be less than significant.

e) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Construction activities would involve the use of gasoline or diesel-powered equipment that emits exhaust fumes; construction would also involve asphalt paving, which has a distinctive odor during application. These activities would take place intermittently throughout the workday, and the associated odors are expected to dissipate within the immediate vicinity of the work area. Persons near the construction work area may find these odors objectionable. However, the limited number of receptors, infrequency of the emissions, rapid dissipation of the exhaust into the air, and short-term nature of the construction activities would result in less-than-significant odor impacts.

f) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Assembly Bill 32, adopted in 2006, established the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 which requires the State to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. Senate Bill 97, adopted in 2007, required the Governor's Office of Planning and Research to develop CEQA guidelines "for the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions or the effects of greenhouse gas emissions," and the Resources Agency certified and adopted the amendments to the guidelines on December 30, 2009.

GHGs are recognized by wide consensus among the scientific community to contribute to global warming/climate change and associated environmental impacts. The major GHGs that are released from human activity include carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide (Governor's Office of Planning and Research 2008). The primary sources of GHGs are vehicles (including planes and trains), energy plants, and industrial and agricultural activities (such as dairies and hog farms).

GHG emissions from the project would be produced from the materials used in the prefabricated bridge as well as construction-related equipment emissions. The project would not result in the generation of emissions after construction is complete. GHG emissions resulting from construction activities would be short-term and minor. While the project would have an incremental contribution within the context of the county and region, the individual impact is considered less than significant.

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

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

Environmental Setting

Terrestrial habitat in the APE consists primarily of annual grassland, oak woodland, and valley foothill riparian. New York Creek flows north through the APE. The dominant habitat is annual grasslands, which encompasses approximately 9.1 acres on the east side of New York Creek and a small area west of the creek. Depending on the level of disturbance, moisture level, and other environmental factors, the dominant plants in the annual grasslands are bristly dogstail grass (*Cynosurus echinatus*), blue wild rye (*Elymus glaucus*), medusahead grass (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*), yellow star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), and common stork's bill (*Erodium cicutarium*). Oak woodlands exist on the west side of New York Creek (approximately 1.5 acres), outside of the riparian corridor, and are predominately composed of blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*) and interior live oak (*Q. wislizenii*) in the overstory, with annual grasses, forbs, and poison-oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum)* in the understory. Valley foothill riparian habitat exists along an approximately 70-foot to 90-foot-wide corridor along the creek and encompasses approximately 0.4 acre. Dominant plant species in this habitat are Goodding's willow (*Salix gooddingii*) and Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus discolor*); valley oak is present in low densities.

Three wetland features were delineated in the APE: riparian wetlands adjacent to the creek (0.394 acre), a seasonal wetland west of the creek (0.057 acre), and a seasonal wetland east of the creek (0.068 acre). The riparian wetlands correspond with the valley foothill riparian habitat. The seasonal wetland west of the creek is fed by runoff from a culvert under Tam O'Shanter Drive and drains into New York Creek. Dominant plants in this wetland are harding grass (*Phalaris aquatica*) and curley doc (*Rumex crispus*). The seasonal wetland east of the creek is a long, linear depression on the landscape that nearly bisects the study area. The feature intercepts rainwater and runoff from the eastern portion of the study area before it reaches New York Creek and drains it north into a culvert. Dominant plants in this wetland are coyote thistle (*Erymgium castrense*), pond weed (*Potamogeton diversifolius*), and iris (*Iris missouriensis*). New York Creek is a perennial creek and is a water of the United States.

Special-status wildlife species that may use the habitats in the APE or vicinity (e.g., along New York Creek) include California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*), foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylii*), and western pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*). California red-legged frog is listed as a threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act and is designated as a California Species of Special Concern. Foothill yellow-legged frog and western pond turtle are California Species of Special Concern. The frogs and turtle may use New York Creek in the project area as a movement corridor (non-breeding habitat), but none of the species is expected to breed or nest along the creek or in the wetlands in the project area. California red-legged frogs have been observed within 5 miles of the APE, and suitable habitat is present in ponds and wetlands in the vicinity (within 1 mile). Foothill yellow-legged frogs have not been reported within 5 miles of the APE, but suitable habitat is present in wetlands and portions of New York Creek near the project area. Western pond turtles have been observed within 5 miles of the APE, and suitable ponds and slower moving reaches of the creek exist within 1 mile of the APE.

No special-status fish species are expected to be present in New York Creek in or downstream of the APE. No special-status plant species are expected to be present in the APE due to a lack of suitable habitat and the disturbed nature of the existing habitats. Migratory birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act may use the riparian and oak woodland habitats for nesting or resting. Native oak trees and woodlands are protected by the County through its Oak Woodland Conservation Ordinance. The NES for the project (North State Resources 2011b) provides a detailed assessment of special-status species, migratory birds, and sensitive habitats. To support the analysis, NSR also completed a California red-legged frog habitat assessment and wetland delineation.

Discussion of Impacts

a) ***Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated.*** Construction activities could adversely affect California red-legged frog, foothill yellow-legged frog, western pond turtle, and nesting migratory birds, if present in the project area during construction. The project would not result in a substantial loss of suitable habitat for these species, as less than 1 acre of habitat would be disturbed during trail construction and most activities would take place in previously disturbed areas. Protection of the wetland areas from incidental disturbance associated with staging, access, and other related construction activities (see Mitigation Measure 1) would avoid potential adverse impacts on these species, and impacts would be less than significant.

The project has been designed to minimize effects on aquatic and riparian habitat along New York Creek to the extent feasible. No in-water construction activities would be necessary, and the bridge would be constructed off-site and brought on-site to be placed across the creek on abutments using a crane. Construction of the abutments and

vegetation removal in the location of the bridge would result in a small amount of disturbance adjacent to the creek and could disturb nesting birds or incidentally injure birds or other wildlife in or near the disturbance area. Construction activities would primarily be implemented during the summer months, which would reduce the potential for adverse impacts on the creek, but would overlap with the nesting season for some migratory birds and partially overlap with the breeding season for California red-legged frogs.

Direct impacts on California red-legged frog, foothill yellow-legged frog, and western pond turtle could include harassment, injury, and mortality of individuals during construction activities near the creek. Indirect impacts could result from the degradation of aquatic habitat and water quality due to erosion and sedimentation, accidental fuel leaks or spills, and the removal of vegetation along the creek. Implementation of BMPs would ensure impacts on water quality and the creek are less than significant. Although the potential for direct impacts is low because neither species is likely to nest or breed in the APE and construction activities near the creek would be minimal, the potential direct impacts could be significant if individual frogs or turtles are wounded or killed. Implementation of Mitigation Measure 2 would reduce the potential for direct impacts and ensure impacts on these species are less than significant.

Direct impacts on nesting migratory bird species could occur if active nests are destroyed during construction or if construction activities disturb nesting or breeding activities. These types of impacts could result from vegetation removal along New York Creek prior to bridge installation or other construction activities near active nest sites. Indirect impacts from human activity and noise can result in the incidental loss of fertile eggs or nestlings or otherwise lead to the abandonment of nests or young, if active nests are present in the immediate vicinity of the construction area. Impacts on nesting, migratory birds would be significant if nesting activity is disrupted. Implementation of Mitigation Measure 3 would reduce the potential for adverse impacts on nesting migratory birds during construction, and impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measure 1: Avoid sensitive biological areas during construction.

The County will require its contractor to avoid disturbance to sensitive biological areas in the APE, including the two seasonal wetlands and portions of the creek and riparian wetlands outside of the proposed bridge location. A qualified biologist shall fence, stake, and/or flag and sign around the seasonal and riparian wetlands to delineate the environmentally sensitive area (see Mitigation Measure 2 for creek protection measures) prior to the start of construction to avoid encroachment by equipment and construction crews. The planned location of the bridge will not be part of the environmentally sensitive area, and it shall be clearly marked to ensure construction crews do not disturb vegetation outside the minimum area necessary for bridge placement. The environmentally sensitive areas shall be in place for the duration of construction, and the markers shall be periodically checked by the construction crew (trained as part of worker awareness training) and replaced or fixed as necessary to maintain the boundary. Construction crews shall be instructed to avoid these sensitive areas.

The only activities allowed in the riparian wetlands are removal of vegetation (by hand, as described under Mitigation Measure 2) and installation of temporary erosion control devices and animal exclusion fencing that does not change the surface elevation of the banks of the creek in the delineated riparian wetland boundary. Use of equipment or

other activities that could result in the discharge of fill material into the wetlands are not allowed.

As identified under Mitigation Measure 2, a qualified biologist shall be present during vegetation removal along the creek. In addition, a qualified biologist shall be present during construction of the abutments to ensure they are not placed in the riparian wetlands.

Mitigation Measure 2: Conduct pre-construction surveys for special-status species and implement construction measures to reduce impacts.

The County will require its contractor to implement the following measures to avoid or minimize project-related impacts on California red-legged frog, foothill yellow-legged frog, and western pond turtle:

- The County shall submit the name and credentials of the Project biologist(s) to the USFWS for review and approval at least 15 days prior to the onset of construction activities.

- Within 24 hours prior to the onset of vegetation removal, a USFWS-approved biologist will survey the APE for red-legged frogs.

- During the survey for California red-legged frogs, the biologist will also look for signs of foothill yellow-legged frog and western pond turtle in the APE. If these species are observed during the survey, the biologist shall consult with the CDFG to identify appropriate measures to protect individuals during construction and may relocate the individuals outside of the project area at the direction of the CDFG.

- Environmental awareness training will be conducted prior to onset of Project work for construction personnel to brief them on how to recognize California red-legged frogs. Construction personnel shall also be informed that if a California red-legged frog is encountered in the work area, construction shall stop, and the USFWS shall be contacted for guidance.

- Environmental awareness training shall include information on foothill yellow-legged frogs and western pond turtles as well as the need to protect sensitive biological areas and nesting birds.

- Construction in the riparian areas shall be conducted during the dry season. The dry season is defined generally as that time between April 15th and the first qualifying rain event on or after October 15th, defined as a frontal precipitation of more than one half of an inch for 24 hours.

- All vegetation in the riparian area requiring removal shall be manually clipped to ground level and removed by hand. The vegetation removal shall be conducted in the presence of the USFWS-approved biologist who will monitor the area for the presence of California red-legged frogs.

- Following manual removal of vegetation, the work area across New York Creek shall be fenced with sediment fencing at the upstream and downstream limits of the removed vegetation. The fencing will be installed along the banks of the creek

from the edge of the water to the limit of the riparian corridor. The fencing shall be buried a minimum of six inches into the ground. The fenced area will be flagged and/or signed to prevent the encroachment of construction personnel and equipment into the adjacent riparian habitat or creek during Project work. Animal exclusion fencing shall be checked once per week by construction personnel, who will be trained by the USFWS-approved biologist to identify weaknesses, and all compromised portions shall be repaired and/or replaced immediately. Animal exclusion fencing shall be removed once the construction is completed or by October 15 of the construction year, whichever comes first.

- If California red-legged frogs are found at any time during Project work, construction shall stop and the USFWS-approved biologist and USFWS shall be contacted immediately for further guidance.

- Staging areas as well as fueling and maintenance activities shall be a minimum of 100 feet from riparian or aquatic habitats. A spill prevention and clean-up plan shall be prepared and implemented.

- The construction contractor shall implement BMPs to protect water quality and control erosion.

- Plastic mono-filament netting (erosion control matting) or similar material containing netting shall not be used at the project area because the California red-legged frog may become entangled or trapped in it. Acceptable substitutes include coconut coir matting or tackified hydroseeding compounds.

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

The County will require its contractor to implement the following measures to minimize or avoid project-related effects on nesting migratory birds:

- Because construction activities cannot avoid the breeding season for native birds, the County shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct a pre-construction survey of oak woodland and riparian habitat, including trees suitable for nesting raptors, within the BSA and within 350 feet of the BSA boundary, as access is available. The pre-construction survey shall be performed between March 15th and August 15th, but no more than 14 days prior to the implementation of construction activities within 500 feet of the creek (including staging and equipment access).

- If active nests are found during the pre-construction survey, the County shall coordinate with CDFG on additional protection measures, such as establishment of a buffer around the nest tree. No construction activity shall be conducted within this zone during the nesting season (typically March to August) or until such time that the biologist determines that the nest is no longer active. The buffer zone shall be marked with flagging, stakes, or other means to mark the boundary. All construction personnel shall be notified of the existence of the buffer zone and shall avoid entering the buffer zone during the nesting season.

b, c, e) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** Trail construction would require removal of a few trees (primarily Goodding's willow) and understory shrubs (primarily blackberry) in the valley foothill riparian habitat, a sensitive natural community, along New York Creek in the location of the proposed bridge crossing. The remainder of the trail would avoid impacts on seasonal wetlands, and these areas would be flagged and staked to ensure avoidance during staging and construction access (see Mitigation Measure 1). A corridor of riparian vegetation approximately 16 feet wide by 70 feet long totaling 0.02 acre would be removed. Most of the vegetation is Himalayan blackberry and various grasses with some willows and small oak trees. The abutments for the bridge would be excavated outside of the riparian wetlands, and the bridge would completely span the creek. BMPs would be implemented along the creek where the bridge is installed and may include placement of silt fencing along the banks after vegetation is removed. These measures would protect the creek from inadvertent water quality impacts and would be removed at the end of the construction period. Impacts on riparian habitat would be less than significant.

The County will be required to submit an application for a Streambed Alteration Agreement to the CDFG in compliance with Fish and Game Code Section 2801. The application should be submitted at least 30 days prior to construction activities and should include descriptions of BMPs that the County will implement during construction activities and identify the methods that will be implemented to minimize adverse impacts on the creek and downstream aquatic habitat, including Mitigation Measures 1 and 2. Project construction adjacent to the creek during the summer, low-flow months would also minimize impacts on aquatic habitat. If an agreement is determined to be necessary, the County will be responsible for complying with the terms of the agreement once they sign it.

The preferred alignment for the SMUD trail has been designed to minimize removal of native oak trees in the APE. A few small oak trees would need to be removed in the riparian corridor for bridge installation, and a large oak tree may need to be removed or trimmed during construction to accommodate the trail between Tam O'Shanter and New York Creek. The project is exempt from the replacement requirements of the County's Oak Woodland Conservation Ordinance (Public Road and Public Utility Projects Exempt from Policy 7.4.4.4), and these activities would not conflict with the ordinance. Impacts on oak woodlands would be less than significant.

d) ***No Impact.*** The SMUD trail would not obstruct fish or wildlife movement through the power line corridor or along New York Creek. The bridge across the creek would not obstruct flows and would not block wildlife movement along the creek.

f) ***No Impact.*** No state, regional, or federal habitat conservation plans or Natural Community Conservation Plans have been adopted for the APE. The County is currently in the process of preparing an Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, but it has not yet been adopted.

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

Environmental Setting

The APE lies in the ethnographic territory of the Nisenan Maidu (Southern Maidu). Traditionally this territory covered the area from Sacramento in the southwest, east to the Cosumnes River and up the foothills to the Sierra Nevada crest, north along the crest to the headwaters of the North Fork of the Yuba River, west along the Yuba River to the Feather River just above present day Marysville, and south to the confluence of the Feather River and the Sacramento River (North State Resources 2011a). The Nisenan had a loose political organization with six main tribelet or population centers based around several main villages, with smaller settlements and temporary camps as satellites. The foothills area between the Cosumnes River and the American River was one such tribelet. In the foothills, villages were located on large flats near creeks or on ridges. Resources associated with the Nisenan villages include bedrock mortars, textiles and baskets, and stone tools. Three years after the discovery of gold at Sutter's sawmill on the American River in 1848, the entirety of the Nisenan territory was occupied by miners and settlers.

Due to the discovery of gold in the mid-1800s, El Dorado County became a focus of placer mining, and economic ventures in lumber and agriculture began to appear to support the mining. The discovery of gold created a rapid influx of fortune seekers and settlers pursuing gold or building farms, towns, and supporting infrastructure. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries the foothills were primarily an agricultural region dotted with stock raising ranches. Within the immediate vicinity of the APE, limited mining activity of small sluice and pick and pan operations took place during the early Gold Rush (1848-1855), and the main economic theme of the area focused on agriculture, particularly livestock grazing, during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. By the mid-20th century, urban in-filling of the Sierra Nevada foothills, primarily the community of El Dorado Hills, had re-defined the modern landscape from rural agriculture to suburban community. Land developers became interested in the El Dorado Hills area as early as the 1950s when local ranches were purchased for the development of a suburban community. Development of El Dorado Hills has continued into the current century.

Archived records, historical documents, and prior investigations of the area did not indicate the presence of any known archaeological or historical resources in the APE, although fences and a spur road associated with settlement of the area were identified on an 1866 plat map of the area (North State Resources 2011a). The spur road was off the main road to Clarksville, and the fencing was along the section line between Sections 26 and 27 of Township 10 North, Range 8 East. No built

structures exist in the APE, other than the existing SMUD and PG&E transmission lines. The results of the cultural resources study indicate that the APE has a low to moderate potential to contain cultural resources (e.g., archaeological sites or isolates, buildings, structures, objects, or districts in excess of 50 years of age with significant associations and integrity).

Discussion of Impacts

a, b) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** Background research and field surveys did not reveal any intact prehistoric or historic era resources in the APE, and the APE has a low to moderate potential to contain these resources. Ground disturbance associated with construction of the abutments and grading for the trail would disturb soils and could affect previously undiscovered, buried resources. Compliance with the County's standard provisions, including halting construction in the vicinity of a potential cultural resources find and notifying the County to allow evaluation of the resource by a qualified archaeologist prior to resuming construction, would ensure any potential impacts on buried or previously undiscovered resources are less than significant.

c) ***No Impact.*** Paleontological resources in El Dorado County are associated with limestone cave deposits, deposits associated with the Mehrten formation, and Pleistocene channel deposits (El Dorado County 2004). These types of deposits and other unique geologic features are not present in the APE.

d) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** Based on the prehistoric and historic uses of the area and the current disturbed nature of the APE, human remains are not expected to be affected by construction activities. However, ground-disturbing activities could expose previously unknown remains and result in adverse impacts if the remains are human. The County's standard contract provisions give direction to construction crews to cease work in the event of an unanticipated discovery and notify the County or other appropriate entity to allow the remains to be evaluated and properly treated if necessary. Compliance with the County's standard provisions would ensure any potential impacts on human remains are less than significant.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS — Would the project:	***Potentially Significant Impact***	***Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated***	***Less than Significant Impact***	***No Impact***
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault?	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☒	☐

VI.	**GEOLOGY AND SOILS** — Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
c)	Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d)	Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code, creating substantial risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e)	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

El Dorado County is in the Sierra Nevada geomorphic province of California between the Great Valley province to the east and the Basin and Range province to the west (El Dorado County 2003). The Sierra Nevada province consists of Pliocene and older deposits that have been uplifted as a result of plate tectonics, granitic intrusion, and volcanic activity. Subsequent glaciation and additional volcanic activity led to the general east-west orientation of stream channels. The APE is in the northwestern area of El Dorado County, which is characterized by metamorphic rocks of the Calaveras Formation.

Seismicity and Fault Systems

Seismic activity can cause hazards associated with seismically induced fault displacement and rupture, ground shaking, liquefaction, lateral spreading, landslides, avalanches, and structural hazards, depending on soil and geologic conditions (El Dorado County 2003). Historical seismic activity and fault and seismic hazards mapping in the county indicate that the county has relatively low potential for seismic activity. No active faults have been mapped in the county, and none of the known inactive faults has been designated as an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. The distribution of known faults in El Dorado County is concentrated in the western portion of the county, with several isolated faults in the central county area and the Lake Tahoe Basin. The nearest fault to the APE is the Bear Mountain Fault, which generally follows New York Creek. Earthquake activity at this fault would be noticeable in the APE; however, this fault is not considered active. The potential for liquefaction, slope instability, and surface rupture is considered negligible because of the soil and geologic conditions and relatively gentle slopes in the APE.

Soils

Two soil types are present in the APE: Auburn silt loam, 2 to 30 percent slopes, and Auburn very rocky silt loam, 2 to 30 percent slopes (Natural Resources Conservation Service 2008). The Auburn series soils are well-drained and occur on foothills with slopes between 2 and 70 percent. The soil is underlain by hard metamorphic rocks between 12 and 26 inches below the surface. Characteristics of the soil types are described below:

- **Auburn silt loam, 2 to 30 percent slopes (AwD):** The soil is gently sloping with slopes primarily between 5 and 15 percent. It contains bedrock outcrops on less than 5 percent of the surface. The soil has moderate permeability and slow to moderate runoff with a slight to moderate erosion hazard. Typical use of this soil type is for range and irrigated pasture with some dryland hay and grain. The soil type dominates the APE, excluding the floodplain along New York Creek.

- **Auburn very rocky silt loam, 2 to 30 percent slopes (AxD):** The soil is gently sloping to moderately steep and contains bedrock outcrops on 5 to 25 percent of the surface. The soil has moderate permeability and slow to moderate runoff with a slight to moderate erosion hazard. Typical use of this soil type is for range with some irrigated pasture. In the APE, the soil type occurs along New York Creek.

Discussion of Impacts

a-i,iii,iv) ***No Impact.*** The APE is not near any Alquist-Priolo faults, and the potential for seismic-related ground failure or landslides is considered negligible based on soil and geologic conditions. The project would not expose people to seismic-related soil or geologic hazards.

a-ii) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** The Bear Mountain Fault passes through the APE near New York Creek. Seismic activity associated with this fault could cause ground shaking in the APE and could create a risk for people using the SMUD trail and bridge. The potential for this type of risk is considered low based on historical activity, and the design of the bridge and trail would adhere to Caltrans and California Building Code requirements. Impacts associated with seismic ground shaking would be less than significant.

b) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** The project would require cutting and filling to construct the trail and comply with grade requirements for accessibility. All cut and fill on-site would be balanced, and the trail would be paved to reduce the potential for long-term soil disturbance or erosion from trail use. Soils in the APE have a low to moderate potential for erosion, and standard BMPs would be implemented during construction to minimize the potential for erosion. Impacts on soil would be less than significant.

c, d, e) ***No Impact.*** The soil types and geologic units underlying the APE are not considered unstable or expansive. The multi-use trail would be compacted and prepared according to engineering specifications. The project would not create risks from unstable or expansive soil or geologic conditions. The project does not involve construction of septic tanks or wastewater disposal systems.

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

Environmental Setting

A material is considered hazardous if it appears on a list of hazardous materials prepared by a federal, state, or local agency, or if it has characteristics defined as hazardous by such an agency. A hazardous material is defined in Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations as follows:

> A substance or combination of substances which, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical or infectious characteristics, may either (1) cause, or significantly contribute to, an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible, or incapacitating reversible, illness; or (2) pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or environment when improperly treated, stored, transported or disposed of or otherwise managed. (California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 66261.10)

Chemical and physical properties cause a substance to be considered hazardous. Such properties include toxicity, ignitability, corrosivity, and reactivity (as defined in California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Sections 66261.20-66261.24). The release of hazardous materials into the environment could potentially contaminate soils, surface water, and groundwater supplies. Under Government Code Section 65962.5, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control maintains a list of hazardous substance sites. This list, referred to as the "Cortese List," includes CALSITE hazardous material sites, sites with leaking underground storage tanks, and landfills with evidence of groundwater contamination. In addition, the El Dorado County Environmental Management Department maintains records of toxic or hazardous material incidents, and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) maintains files on hazardous material sites.

No hazardous substance sites from the Cortese List have been identified in El Dorado County. Three hazardous material sites monitored by the County have been reported more than 1 mile to the south and north of the APE: a clean-up site at Oak Ridge High School at Harvard Way and Silva Valley Parkway and two clean-up sites at Green Valley Gas and Food at Green Valley Road and Sophia Parkway (State Water Resources Control Board 2011).

Most hazardous materials regulation and enforcement in El Dorado County are overseen by the El Dorado County Environmental Management Department, which refers large cases of hazardous materials contamination or violations to the RWQCB and the State Department of Toxic Substances Control. Other agencies, such as the El Dorado County AQMD and the Federal and State Occupational Safety and Health Administrations, may also be involved when issues related to hazardous materials arise.

Discussion of Impacts

a, b) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** Small amounts of hazardous materials would be used during construction activities for equipment maintenance (e.g., fuel and solvents) and paving the multi-use trail. Use of hazardous materials would be limited to the construction phase and would comply with applicable local, state, and federal standards associated with the handling and storage of hazardous materials. Hazardous materials would not be stored or used, such as for equipment maintenance, near New York Creek to prevent accidental discharge of hazardous materials into the water. Standard County construction specifications require that the construction contractor make adequate preparations, including training and equipment, to contain spills of oil and other hazardous materials. The contractor is required to ensure that adequate materials are on hand to clean up any accidental spill that may occur. Spills will be cleaned up immediately, and all wastes and used spill control materials will be properly disposed of at approved disposal facilities. With implementation of these standard provisions, impacts associated with the use or accidental spill of hazardous materials would be less than significant.

c, d, e, f) ***No Impact.*** The APE is not within 0.25-mile of a school and is not near a public or private airport. No hazardous waste or substances sites have been identified in the APE or within a 1-mile radius. The project would not expose people to hazards near a school or associated with airport activity or a hazardous waste site.

g) ***No Impact.*** The project would not affect local traffic operations or restrict access to nearby residential areas. No roadway closures would be necessary. The project would not prevent emergency access to nearby land or conflict with an emergency response or evacuation plan.

h) ***No Impact.*** The APE is not in a high fire hazard severity zone (El Dorado County 2004), and the surrounding area is primarily developed. A fire safety plan will be in place during construction to prevent fires from construction operations such as welding. The project would not increase the risk of wildfire near an urban area.

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

Environmental Setting

The APE is in the South Fork American River hydrologic unit (18020129). The South Fork American River flows into Folsom Lake north of the APE and is a tributary of the Sacramento River. New York Creek flows south to north through the western portion of the APE and enters Folsom Lake approximately 3 miles north of the APE. The western portion of the APE drains into the creek, and the eastern portion drains toward a small wetland that conveys flow north into the residential subdivision, which likely drains into New York Creek via a storm drain system north of the APE.

The APE is primarily in Zone X, which is outside the 100-year floodplain, and a 25-foot corridor along New York Creek is in Zone AE (Federal Emergency Management Agency 2011).

Discussion of Impacts

a) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** The project would comply with the Statewide General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity, Order No. 99-08 DWQ and the Storm Water Management Plan for Western El Dorado County. A SWPPP would be prepared for the project, and BMPs will be implemented during construction activities to reduce or minimize discharge of pollutants from construction activities. No construction activities would be necessary in New York Creek, but adjacent ground disturbing activities and vegetation removal along the creek where the bridge would be installed could discharge sediment into the creek. Implementation of BMPs in accordance with County and Caltrans requirements and construction during the summer season would ensure project impacts on water quality are less than significant.

b, c, d, e) ***No Impact.*** The project would not require use of groundwater supplies or affect groundwater recharge in the area. The multi-use trail would not alter the existing drainage pattern of the area and would result in a nominal increase in runoff in the APE due to the paved trail. The bridge across New York Creek would completely span the creek and would not restrict or alter flow in the creek.

f) ***No Impact.*** The project would not have other water quality impacts beyond those discussed under item (a) above.

g, i, j) ***No Impact.*** The project would not involve placement of housing in a flood zone and would not expose people or structures to risks from flooding or inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

h) ***No Impact.*** The SMUD trail would require a bridge across New York Creek to provide access to both sides of the creek. The bridge would completely span the creek and would not impede or redirect flows. The County designed the bridge dimensions based on a 100-year flood event to ensure the bridge would not restrict flood flows in the creek. Installation of the bridge would not require placement of any diversion structures in the creek, as the abutments would be constructed outside the floodplain. The project would not affect flood flows in New York Creek.

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

Environmental Setting

The APE is in the community of El Dorado Hills, an unincorporated locality in El Dorado County. Adjacent land uses include residential uses, a park, and open space that is part of an adopted plan. The APE is designated for open space according to the General Plan and is zoned for one-family residential (R1) and recreational facilities (RF). The El Dorado County General Plan provides policies and implementation strategies for management of the resources in the unincorporated area, and the Zoning Ordinance provides direction on allowable uses and facilities in each zone. Recreational facilities are allowed in both zone districts. No habitat conservation plans have been adopted for the area. The County is in the process of preparing an Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, but it has not yet been adopted.

Discussion of Impacts

a) ***No Impact.*** The project involves construction of a multi-use trail between two existing subdivisions along an existing power line corridor. The project would not physically divide an established community.

b) ***No Impact.*** The project would not conflict with the El Dorado County General Plan. The SMUD trail is proposed as part of a regional bike path identified in the County's 2010 Bicycle Transportation Plan, and it is included in the El Dorado County Capital Improvement Program, adopted by the County Board of Supervisors.

c) ***No Impact.*** No habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans have been adopted for the El Dorado Hills community.

XI.	**MINERAL RESOURCES** — Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a)	Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

El Dorado County in general is considered a mining region capable of producing a wide variety of mineral resources. Metallic mineral deposits, including gold, are considered the most significant extractive mineral resources. The APE is not in an important mineral resource area, as depicted in the General Plan (El Dorado County 2004).

Discussion of Impacts

a, b) ***No Impact.*** The APE is not in or adjacent to any important mineral resource areas identified by the State of California or El Dorado County. The SMUD trail would not affect the availability of mineral resources of value to the state or region.

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

Environmental Setting

The El Dorado County General Plan Noise Element identifies several policies that regulate construction-related noise and establish acceptable noise levels and standards. Policy 6.5.1.7 requires mitigation to keep non-transportation noise levels below acceptable standards identified in the General Plan. Policy 6.5.1.11 outlines standards for daytime construction and would apply to construction-related noise associated with the project. In residential communities, such as El Dorado Hills, maximum noise levels for non-transportation sources are 70 decibels (dB) during daytime hours, 60 dB during evening hours, and 55 dB during nighttime hours.

Ambient noise levels in the APE and vicinity are primarily from vehicular traffic along Silva Valley Parkway and Tam O'Shanter Drive, electricity noise from overhead power lines, and typical residential noises from the nearby subdivisions. Sensitive receptors in the vicinity include the residences to the north and south of the APE, park users at Stephen Harris Park to the west, and recreationists along the trails in the APE. Fences along the northern and southern boundaries of the APE separate most of the residences from the power line corridor. Vegetation and topography in the western portion of the APE likely mask noises in the APE from reaching the park and adjacent residences.

Discussion of Impacts

a, d) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** Construction of the multi-use trail would generate temporary noise from equipment use and bridge installation. Noise levels may periodically exceed noise standards in the General Plan; however, construction activities would be limited to daytime hours when higher noise levels are acceptable. The nearest sensitive receptors are more than 50 feet away, and noise levels would attenuate before reaching the receptors or would be sufficiently masked by intervening vegetation and topography between the residences and trail construction activities. Construction-related noise would also blend in with existing noise associated with typical residential activities and nearby traffic. Temporary noise from construction would not cause a substantial increase in ambient noise or expose sensitive receptors to unacceptable noise levels. Impacts associated with construction noise would be less than significant.

b, c) ***No Impact.*** Construction activities would not generate groundborne vibrations that would affect nearby sensitive receptors. The project would not result in a permanent increase in ambient noise levels. The dirt path through the APE is currently used for recreational purposes, and use of the SMUD trail is not expected to result in a noticeable increase in noise.

e, f) ***No Impact.*** The APE is not near a public or private airport or airstrip. The project would not expose people to noise from airport activities.

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

Environmental Setting

The APE is in a residential area of El Dorado Hills and is surrounded by residences, a park, and other development-related facilities and uses. The power lines through the APE serve as transmission lines for SMUD and PG&E to transmit electricity from their substations to the east into the Sacramento area to the west. No housing exists in the APE.

Discussion of Impacts

a-c) ***No Impact.*** The SMUD trail would provide a means for residents of the El Dorado Hills community to recreate and bike or walk to nearby recreational areas or other areas within the community. The trail would eventually become part of a larger, regional trail that connects El Dorado Hills to Folsom. The project would not induce growth or displace houses or people.

XIV. **PUBLIC SERVICES** — Would the project:		*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a)	Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
	Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
	Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
	Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
	Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
	Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

The EDHCSD manages recreation areas and open space in the El Dorado Hills community, including Stephen Harris Park and the open space along New York Creek. Three schools are located within 1 mile of the APE in the residential areas, but none are adjacent to the APE. The El Dorado Hills Fire Department provides fire protection and related services to the community. The department operates four fire stations in El Dorado Hills and includes more than 80 permanent and volunteer staff. The El Dorado County Sheriff's Office provides police services for El Dorado Hills. Roads adjacent to the APE are used for emergency and everyday access to the surrounding residential community.

Discussion of Impact

a) ***No Impact.*** The project would not affect emergency access to the local communities and would not increase the demand for public services or require construction of new governmental facilities. The SMUD trail would improve access for pedestrians and bicyclists through the residential community.

XV. RECREATION — Would the project:	***Potentially Significant Impact***	***Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated***	***Less than Significant Impact***	***No Impact***
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Environmental Setting

Stephen Harris Park abuts the western boundary of the APE, and the existing dirt path through the APE provides a trail for residents to walk or ride a bicycle between Silva Valley Parkway and New York Creek. The dirt path connects to another dirt trail that follows the east side of the creek and connects to the residential areas. Current use of the dirt path and trail is primarily by local residents recreating in the area. An informal foot bridge (wooden plank) currently provides access across the creek just south of the APE.

Discussion of Impacts

a) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** The SMUD trail would improve access through the power line corridor for pedestrians and bicyclists and would provide a means for residents on the east side of New York Creek to easily access Stephen Harris Park to the west of the APE. The trail could increase use of the park, but the increase is not expected to be substantial. Increased use of the park due to improved access via the SMUD trail is not expected to increase physical deterioration of the park facilities, and impacts would be less than significant.

b) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** Construction of the SMUD trail would result in temporary ground disturbance and minimal vegetation removal. As discussed under other resource topics in this document, impacts associated with the project would be less than significant.

		Potentially Significant Impact	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
XVI.	**TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC** — Would the project:				
a)	Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume-to-capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b)	Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c)	Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d)	Substantially increase hazards to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e)	Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f)	Result in inadequate parking capacity?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g)	Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

The APE is bounded on the east by Silva Valley Parkway and on the west by Tam O'Shanter Drive. Silva Valley Parkway is a two-lane road that provides access to the surrounding residential area and serves as a parallel route to El Dorado Hills Boulevard for residences east of New York Creek. Tam O'Shanter Drive is a residential street that provides access within the residential area and to Stephen Harris Park. No formal access is currently available across New York Creek in the APE. An informal crossing of the creek is located just south of the APE. A dirt path and dirt trail are used by residents for walking or biking through the APE. A paved trail extends from Tam O'Shanter Drive, west through the park, to a parking area at El Dorado Hills Boulevard.

Discussion of Impacts

a) ***Less than Significant Impact.*** Construction traffic (equipment and materials transport and daily worker traffic) would increase traffic on local roads during the construction phase. Temporary construction traffic would be limited to a few vehicles daily during the construction phase and equipment and material transport periodically during the

construction phase, primarily at the beginning and end of construction, and would not result in a noticeable increase in traffic on local roads. Large vehicles transporting equipment and materials to the APE could cause slight delays for travelers as the construction vehicles turn off of the local roads and enter the APE. Construction equipment may need to periodically travel along local roads to access the APE and could also result in minor traffic delays. Traffic control measures would be in place during the construction phase to alert travelers to potential delays. The SMUD trail would improve pedestrian and bicycle access through the APE, but is not expected to increase long-term traffic in the area. Impacts on traffic would be less than significant.

b) ***No Impact.*** The project would not increase traffic on local roads or highways to a level that would affect the level of service of the roadway.

c) ***No Impact.*** The project would not affect air traffic patterns and would have no effect on air traffic levels or safety.

d) ***No Impact.*** The project would not involve road construction or activities that could increase hazards due to a design feature or incompatible uses.

e) ***No Impact.*** The project would not affect emergency access to the nearby residential areas. No road closures or detours would be necessary during construction. Access to adjacent properties would remain open during construction. County DOT or its construction contractors will conduct early coordination with law enforcement and emergency service providers to ensure minimal disruption to service during construction.

f) ***No Impact.*** The project does not include on-street or off-street parking. Trail users could park at the adjacent Stephen Harris Park or in designated parking areas along local roads. Construction parking would likely take place in the APE or in designated areas along adjacent local roads.

g) ***No Impact.*** The project would be consistent with the County's 2010 Bicycle Transportation Plan and would improve access for pedestrians and bicyclists in the El Dorado Hills community.

XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS — Would the project:	***Potentially Significant Impact***	***Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated***	***Less than Significant Impact***	***No Impact***
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒

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

Environmental Setting

El Dorado Irrigation District provides water and wastewater services to El Dorado Hills. Stormwater runoff in the APE flows into New York Creek or percolates into the ground. Two transmission lines maintained by SMUD and PG&E pass through the APE. No other above-ground facilities exist in the APE, although underground utilities may be present.

Discussion of Impacts

a, b, c, d, e) ***No Impact.*** The project would not generate wastewater or require a new water supply. It would not alter stormwater drainage. No new wastewater or water facilities would be constructed or needed as part of the project, but a new culvert may be needed to direct flows from the APE to the gutter along Silva Valley Parkway.

f, g) ***No Impact.*** The project would not generate solid waste, and any materials used during construction would be properly disposed of in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations.

XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☒	☐	☐

XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

a) ***Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.*** Construction-related activities could result in impacts on three special-status species (California red-legged frog, foothill yellow-legged frog, and western pond turtle) and nesting migratory birds. Mitigation measures have been identified to reduce adverse effects to less-than-significant levels. Impacts on cultural resources would be less than significant due to the low potential for intact resources in the APE.

b) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The project could result in cumulatively considerable impacts on special-status wildlife species, but project design, BMPs, and mitigation measures would ensure project effects on special-status species and sensitive habitats are less than significant. Cumulative biological impacts would, therefore, also be less than significant. No other cumulative effects are anticipated.

c) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The project, particularly during the construction phase, could result in a variety of temporary impacts to human beings. Potential adverse effects would be related to temporary increases in noise and air pollutants during construction and any accidental spills of hazardous materials. However, compliance with standard County contract provisions and implementation of BMPs would ensure these impacts are less than significant.

4. DETERMINATION

This Initial Study has determined that in the absence of mitigation the proposed project could have the potential to result in significant impacts associated with the factors checked below. Mitigation measures are identified in this Initial Study that would reduce all potentially significant impacts to less-than-significant levels.

____	Aesthetics	____	Mineral Resources
____	Agricultural Resources	____	Noise
____	Air Quality	____	Population and Housing
X	Biological Resources	____	Public Services
____	Cultural Resources	____	Recreation
____	Geology and Soils	____	Transportation/Traffic
____	Hazards and Hazardous Materials	____	Utilities
____	Hydrology and Water Quality	X	Mandatory Findings of Significance
____	Land Use/Planning	____	

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

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

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

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

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

Janet Postlewait
Signature

September 29, 2011
Date

Name and Title: Janet Postlewait, Principal Planner

5. REPORT PREPARATION AND REFERENCES

5.1. Report Preparation

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Patrick Brunmeier	Principal Investigator (Archaeology)
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APPENDIX A

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan
for the
SMUD Trail Project

CEQA Lead Agency:
El Dorado County

Prepared: October 2011

Adopted by Board of Supervisors on: _____

Introduction

Purpose

El Dorado County (County) Department of Transportation (DOT) has prepared an Initial Study (IS) and Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the proposed SMUD Trail Project. The County DOT is proposing to install a multi-use trail in the El Dorado Hills community between Tam O'Shanter Drive and Silva Valley Parkway. The proposed project is described in more detail in the Initial Study.

As described in the IS/MND, the project incorporates a number of design and standard construction measures to minimize adverse effects on the environment. The IS/MND also identified several mitigation measures that are required to reduce potentially significant impacts to levels that are less than significant. This Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) describes a program for ensuring that these mitigation measures are implemented in conjunction with the Project. The County DOT, as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is responsible for overseeing the implementation and administration of this MMRP. The County will designate a staff member to manage the MMRP. Duties of the staff member responsible for program coordination will include conducting routine inspections and reporting activities, coordinating with the project construction contractor, coordinating with regulatory agencies, and ensuring enforcement measures are taken.

Regulatory Framework

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

Format of This Plan

The MMRP summarizes the impacts and mitigation measures identified and described in the project IS/MND. An impact number and statement are provided for each potentially significant impact based on the sequence in which they are discussed in the IS/MND, and the corresponding specific mitigation measures are described in this MMRP. Mitigation measures are followed by an implementation description, the criteria used to determine the effectiveness of the mitigation, the timeframe for implementation, and the party responsible for monitoring the implementation of the measure.

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

Impacts and Associated Monitoring or Reporting Measures

Impact 1: Potential impacts on sensitive biological areas (wetlands and New York Creek).

Mitigation Measure 1: Avoid sensitive biological areas during construction.

The County will require its contractor to avoid disturbance to sensitive biological areas in the APE, including the two seasonal wetlands and portions of the creek and riparian wetlands outside of the proposed bridge location. A qualified biologist shall fence, stake, and/or flag and sign around the seasonal and riparian wetlands to delineate the environmentally sensitive area (see Mitigation Measure 2 for creek protection measures) prior to the start of construction to avoid encroachment by equipment and construction crews. The planned location of the bridge will not be part of the environmentally sensitive area, and it shall be clearly marked to ensure construction crews do not disturb vegetation outside the minimum area necessary for bridge placement. The environmentally sensitive areas shall be in place for the duration of construction, and the markers shall be periodically checked by the construction crew (trained as part of the worker awareness training) and replaced or fixed as necessary to maintain the boundary. Construction crews shall be instructed to avoid these sensitive areas.

The only activities allowed in the riparian wetlands are removal of vegetation (by hand, as described under Mitigation Measure 2) and installation of temporary erosion control devices and animal exclusion fencing that does not change the surface elevation of the banks of the creek in the delineated riparian wetland boundary. Use of equipment or other activities that could result in the discharge of fill material into the wetlands are not allowed.

As identified under Mitigation Measure 2, a qualified biologist shall be present during vegetation removal along the creek. In addition, a qualified biologist shall be present during construction of the abutments to ensure they are not placed in the riparian wetlands.

Implementation:	The County will retain the services of a qualified biologist to mark sensitive biological areas in the APE and will implement the measures described above.
Effectiveness Criteria:	The County will prepare and keep on file documentation verifying the implementation of the above referenced measures.
Timing:	Pre-Construction Phase and Construction Phase
Verified By:	_____ Date: _____ County Project Manager

Impact 2: Potential impacts on special-status species (California red-legged frog, foothill yellow-legged frog, and western pond turtle).

Mitigation Measure 2: Conduct pre-construction surveys for special-status species and implement construction measures to reduce impacts.

The County will implement the following measures to avoid or minimize project-related impacts on California red-legged frog, foothill yellow-legged frog, and western pond turtle:

- The County shall submit the name and credentials of the Project biologist(s) to the USFWS for review and approval at least 15 days prior to the onset of construction activities.

- Within 24 hours prior to the onset of vegetation removal, a USFWS-approved biologist will survey the APE for red-legged frogs.

- During the survey for California red-legged frogs, the biologist will also look for signs of foothill yellow-legged frog and western pond turtle in the APE. If these species are observed during the survey, the biologist shall consult with the CDFG to identify appropriate measures to protect individuals during construction and may relocate the individuals outside of the project area at the direction of the CDFG.

- Environmental awareness training will be conducted prior to onset of Project work for construction personnel to brief them on how to recognize California red-legged frogs. Construction personnel shall also be informed that if a California red-legged frog is encountered in the work area, construction shall stop, and the USFWS shall be contacted for guidance.

- Environmental awareness training shall include information on foothill yellow-legged frogs and western pond turtles.

- Construction shall be conducted during the dry season. The dry season is defined generally as that time between April 15th and the first qualifying rain event on or after October 15th, defined as a frontal precipitation of more than one half of an inch for 24 hours.

- All vegetation requiring removal shall be manually clipped to ground level and removed by hand. The vegetation removal shall be conducted in the presence of the USFWS-approved biologist who will monitor the area for the presence of California red-legged frogs.

- Following manual removal of vegetation, the work area across New York Creek shall be fenced with sediment fencing at the upstream and downstream limits of the removed vegetation. The fencing will be installed along the banks of the creek from the edge of the water to the limit of the riparian corridor. The fencing shall be buried a minimum of six inches into the ground. The fenced area will be flagged and/or signed to prevent the encroachment of construction personnel and equipment into the adjacent riparian habitat or creek during Project work. Animal exclusion fencing shall be checked once per week by construction personnel, who will be trained by the USFWS-approved biologist to identify weaknesses, and all compromised portions shall be repaired and/or replaced immediately. Animal exclusion fencing shall be removed once the construction is completed or by October 15 of the construction year, whichever comes first.

- If California red-legged frogs are found at any time during Project work, construction shall stop and the USFWS-approved biologist and USFWS shall be contacted immediately for further guidance.

- Staging areas as well as fueling and maintenance activities shall be a minimum of 100 feet from riparian or aquatic habitats. A spill prevention and clean-up plan shall be prepared and implemented.

- The construction contractor shall implement BMPs to protect water quality and control erosion.

- Plastic mono-filament netting (erosion control matting) or similar material containing netting shall not be used at the project area because the California red-legged frog may become entangled or trapped in it. Acceptable substitutes include coconut coir matting or tackified hydroseeding compounds.

Implementation: The County will retain the services of a qualified biologist to conduct pre-construction surveys and will implement the measures described above.

Effectiveness Criteria: The County will prepare and keep on file documentation verifying the implementation of the above referenced measures.

Timing: Pre-Construction Phase and Construction Phase

Verified By: _____ Date: _____
County Project Manager

Impact 3: Potential impacts on nesting birds.

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

The County will implement the following measures to minimize or avoid project-related effects on nesting migratory birds:

- Because construction activities cannot avoid the breeding season for native birds, the County shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct a pre-construction survey of oak woodland and riparian habitat, including trees suitable for nesting raptors, within the BSA and within 350 feet of the BSA boundary, as access is available. The pre-construction survey shall be performed between March 15th and August 15th, but no more than 14 days prior to the implementation of construction activities within 500 feet of the creek (including staging and equipment access).

- If active nests are found during the pre-construction survey, the County shall coordinate with CDFG on additional protection measures, such as establishment of a buffer around the nest tree. No construction activity shall be conducted within this zone during the nesting season (typically March to August) or until such time that the biologist determines that the nest is no longer active. The buffer zone shall be marked with flagging, stakes, or other means to mark the boundary. All construction personnel shall be notified of the existence of the buffer zone and shall avoid entering the buffer zone during the nesting season.

Implementation: The County will retain the services of a qualified biologist to conduct pre-construction surveys and will implement the measures described above.

Effectiveness Criteria: The County will prepare and keep on file documentation verifying the implementation of the above referenced measures.

Timing: Pre-Construction Phase and Construction Phase

Verified By: _____ Date: _____
County Project Manager