

DRAFT

INITIAL STUDY/
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION



COLDSTREAM LOWER FLOODPLAIN
ENHANCEMENT PROJECT
DONNER MEMORIAL STATE PARK

November 2011



State of California
Department of Parks and Recreation
Sierra District, Resources Office
Tahoe City, California

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

PROJECT: COLDSTREAM FLOODPLAIN ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

LEAD AGENCY: California State Parks

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS: The Initial Study for this Mitigated Negative Declaration is available for review at:

- Sierra District Headquarters
California State Parks
7360 West Lake Blvd.
Tahoma, CA 96142
- Donner Memorial State Park
12593 Donner Pass Rd.
Truckee, CA, 96161
- Truckee Library
10031 Levon Ave.
Truckee, CA 96161
- California State Parks Internet Website
www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=981

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

California State Parks proposes to excavate terraces to create floodplain in some areas and lay back vertical bank to more stable slopes in other areas, as well as provide protection of the toe of the slope to prevent erosion. This project will enhance and create floodplain along lower Cold creek upstream of the confluence with Donner Creek, in Donner Memorial State Park. All areas would be re-vegetated with native species. These actions will result in decreased erosion and increased sediment deposition, benefitting water quality, as well as increased area of and improved quality of riparian habitat. Material generated by excavation of the terrace to create the floodplain would be transferred to the adjacent Teichert-Stonebridge Property for their use.

A copy of the Initial Study is attached. Questions or comments regarding this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration may be addressed to:

Cyndie Walck
California State Parks
cwalck@parks.ca.gov

Pursuant to Section 21082.1 of the California Environmental Quality Act, the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR or California State Parks) has independently

reviewed and analyzed the Initial Study and Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed project and finds that these documents reflect the independent judgment of DPR. DPR, as lead agency, also confirms that the project mitigation measures detailed in these documents are feasible and will be implemented as stated in the Mitigated Negative Declaration.

signature on original document

Matt Green
District Superintendent (Acting)

Date

signature on original document

Tamara Sasaki
Environmental Coordinator

Date

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CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION AND REGULATORY GUIDANCE

The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) has been prepared by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed Coldstream Floodplain Enhancement Project at Donner Memorial State Park, Placer and Nevada Counties, California. This document has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code §21000 *et seq.*, and the State CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations (CCR) §15000 *et seq.*

An Initial Study is conducted by a lead agency to determine if a project could have a significant effect on the environment [CEQA Guidelines §15063(a)]. If there is substantial evidence that a project could have a significant effect on the environment, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must be prepared, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15064(a). However, if the lead agency determines that revisions in the project plans or proposals made by or agreed to by the applicant mitigate the potentially significant effects to a less-than-significant level, a Mitigated Negative Declaration may be prepared instead of an EIR [CEQA Guidelines §15070(b)]. The lead agency prepares a written statement describing the reasons a proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, why an EIR need not be prepared. This IS/MND conforms to the content requirements under CEQA Guidelines §15071.

1.2 LEAD AGENCY

The lead agency is the public agency with primary approval authority over the proposed project. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15051(b)(1), "the lead agency will normally be an agency with general governmental powers, such as a city or county, rather than an agency with a single or limited purpose." The lead agency for the proposed project is DPR. The contact person for the lead agency regarding specific project information is Cyndie Walck.

Questions or comments regarding this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration should be submitted to:

Cyndie Walck
California Department of Parks & Recreation
Sierra District Resources Office
P.O. Box 16
Tahoe City, CA 96145-0016
E-mail Address: cwalck@parks.ca.gov
Include "Coldstream Floodplain Enhancement Project" on the subject line
Fax Number: 530-581-5849

Submissions must be in writing and postmarked or received by fax or email no later than December 15, 2011. The originals of any faxed document must be received by regular mail within ten working days following the deadline for comments, along with proof of successful fax transmission. Email or fax submissions must include full name and address. All comments will be included in the final environmental document for this project and become part of the public record.

1.3 PURPOSE AND DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

The purpose of this document is to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed Coldstream Floodplain Enhancement Project at Donner Memorial State Park. Mitigation measures have also been incorporated into the project to eliminate any potentially significant impacts or reduce them to a less-than-significant level.

This document is organized as follows:

- Chapter 1 - Introduction.
This chapter provides an introduction to the project and describes the purpose and organization of this document.
- Chapter 2 - Project Description.
This chapter describes the reasons for the project, scope of the project, and project objectives.
- Chapter 3 - Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures.
This chapter identifies the significance of potential environmental impacts, explains the environmental setting for each environmental issue, and evaluates the potential impacts identified in the CEQA Environmental (Initial Study) Checklist. Mitigation measures are incorporated, where appropriate, to reduce potentially significant impacts to a less than significant level.
- Chapter 4 - Mandatory Findings of Significance.
This chapter identifies and summarizes the overall significance of any potential impacts to natural and cultural resources, cumulative impacts, and impact to humans, as identified in the Initial Study.
- Chapter 5 - Summary of Mitigation Measures.
This chapter summarizes the mitigation measures incorporated into the project as a result of the Initial Study.
- Chapter 6 - References.
This chapter identifies the references and sources used in the preparation of this IS/MND.
- Chapter 7 - Report Preparation
This chapter provides a list of those involved in the preparation of this document.

1.4 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Chapter 3 of this document contains the Environmental (Initial Study) Checklist that identifies the potential environmental impacts (by environmental issue) and a brief discussion of each impact resulting from implementation of the proposed project.

Based on the IS and supporting environmental analysis provided in this document, the proposed Coldstream Floodplain Enhancement Project would result in less than significant impacts for the following issues: aesthetics, agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, and utilities and service systems.

In accordance with §15064(f) of the CEQA Guidelines, a MND shall be prepared if the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment after the inclusion of mitigation measures in the project. Based on the available project information and the environmental analysis presented in this document, there is no substantial evidence that, after the incorporation of mitigation measures, the proposed project would have a significant effect on the environment. It is proposed that a Mitigated Negative Declaration be adopted in accordance with the CEQA Guidelines.

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CHAPTER 2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

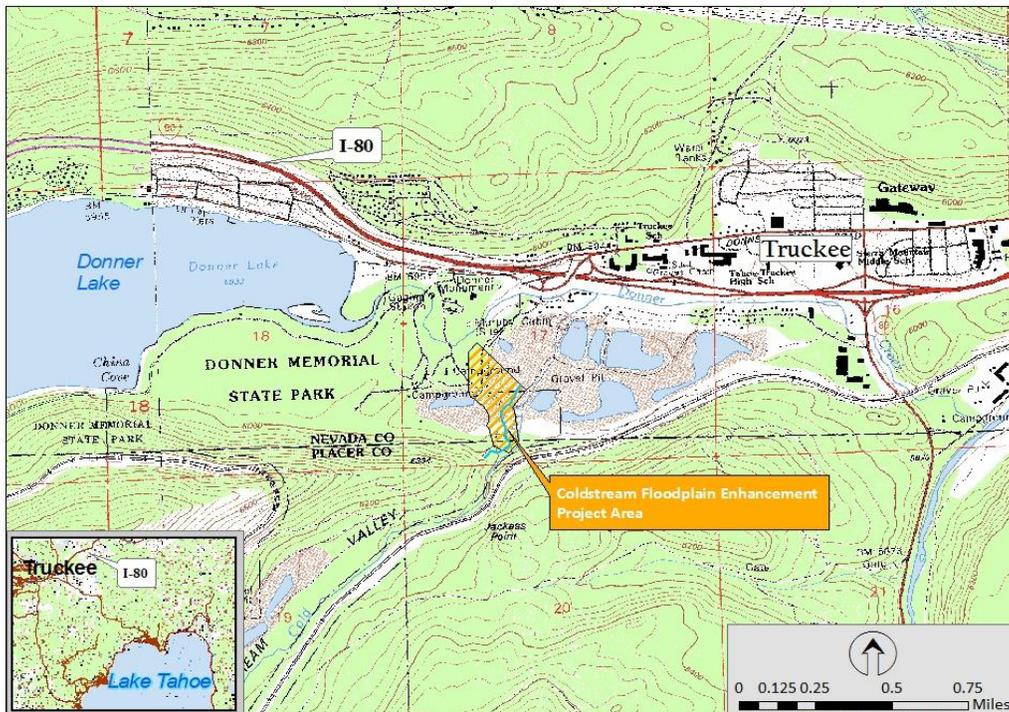
2.1 INTRODUCTION

This Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) has been prepared by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR or California State Parks) to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed Coldstream Floodplain Enhancement Project at Donner Memorial State Park, located near the Town of Truckee, CA, in Placer and Nevada Counties, California. The proposed project would increase floodplain area and riparian habitat as well as improve water quality through reducing sediment by creating an inset floodplain, laying back banks to lower angles, and providing bank toe protection along the lower reach of Cold creek.

2.2 PROJECT LOCATION

Donner Memorial State Park is located near the town of Truckee in both Placer and Nevada counties, California. The park lies on the east end of Donner Lake. Dam-controlled Donner Creek flows out of Donner Lake and eventually into the Truckee River. Cold creek, a tributary to Donner Creek to the south, converges with Donner Creek just downstream of Donner Lake. The project area is along approximately 1200 feet of the lower reach of Cold creek, approximately ½ mile above the confluence with Donner Creek in Section 17 T17N R16E. The project area is just south (upstream) of the boundary with Teichert’s Stonebridge property.

Figure 2.1 Coldstream Floodplain Enhancement Project Map



2.3 BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR THE PROJECT

This project was identified by River Run Consulting in the Coldstream Canyon Watershed Assessment (CCWA) (RRC 2007). The Report describes the historic disturbance of the fan at the confluence of Cold and Donner creeks and recommends restoration of the lower alluvial fan reach of Coldstream Canyon to promote channel stability, reduce erosion and sediment yield, and improve riparian and in-stream habitat.

The major landform in this reach of Coldstream is an alluvial fan, formed primarily during glacial periods when sediment yield from the upper watershed was high forming fan and moraine deposits. Prior to extensive human disturbance, the channel and a fairly wide floodplain were likely somewhat entrenched within the fan and the channel likely periodically braided or avulsed over this wide fan area. 1939 photographs, when compared to present time, show that this reach had a wider floodplain and locally meandering planform.

The creek was relocated and channelized to accommodate gravel mining and Interstate 80 construction in the 1960's. The original floodplain was mined and locally filled with mining spoils, leaving an unnaturally narrow, straight and deep channel. The channelized configuration carried large floods effectively, but substantial erosion occurred due to extremely high velocity and shear stress on streambanks in the confined channel. These disturbances and subsequent channel response have led to substantial changes in the channel and floodplain. Following channelization, the creek no longer had access to a floodplain, and the straightened channel had higher slope and energy causing the channel to incise. Streambanks were (and remain) very high, and even the largest floods were carried entirely within the channel, creating enormous erosive stress on streambanks (see photo below). In more recent times, extensive streambank erosion and deposition of coarse gravels bars has started to create narrow limited areas of new floodplain in the current channel. This is a very slow process and yields substantial amounts of both fine and coarse grained sediment. Also, the nascent riparian floodplain and corridor is narrow, providing only limited habitat value.



Photo of High Eroding Terrace

The Truckee River is currently listed as impaired by sediment on the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) 303(d) list of waters that do not meet the standards of the 1972 Clean Water Act. Cold creek is a major contributor of sediment to the Truckee River and a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) has been developed. The proposed project would reduce bank erosion and increase floodplain area. Additional floodplain area would increase fine sediment deposition, reduce stress on streambanks, and provide additional habitat.

If the implementation of this project did not occur then the banks of Cold creek would continue to erode and load the creek with sediment, which would be carried to the Truckee River, furthering the degradation in water quality. Riparian and instream habitat would also continue to be lost as a result of the eroding banks. The loss of habitat would negatively impact the species diversity in the area.

Floodplain creation versus complete channel reconstruction. The floodplain creation approach has greater benefits when compared to other restoration approaches, such as complete channel reconstruction. Floodplain creation requires little disturbance of the valuable and well-developed existing habitat. In contrast, restoration of the channel and adjacent floodplain to pre-disturbance conditions would destroy most of the established vegetation. Floodplain creation is relatively straight-forward in comparison to channel reconstruction. The existing channel will not be greatly disturbed. Water quality protection can be assured during construction while a complete channel reconstruction requires greater disturbance and effort. Most importantly, the adopted floodplain creation approach is likely to meet ecological and geomorphic objectives because it mimics a natural process that has already produced desired effects.

2.4 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The mission of DPR is to provide for the health, inspiration, and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality recreation. The objectives of the proposed Coldstream Floodplain Enhancement Project are to:

- Decrease erosive force and stream bank erosion
- Reduce sediment delivery /contribute to achieving TMDL
- Expand floodplain area
- Increase riparian habitat

These objectives will be met by creating additional functional floodplain area along the channel.

2.5 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Summary

The floodplain erosion widening process can be expected to continue in the future as the stream attempts to regain channel length and floodplain. The restoration opportunity and proposed project consists of working with and accelerating this process by actively

constructing floodplain that would likely be formed by erosive processes during larger floods over hundreds or thousands of years (See Figure 2.2, pg. 105). By actively creating the floodplain, the amount of fine sediment introduced to the creek due to stream bank erosion can be significantly reduced, and the process of riparian vegetation and floodplain development can be significantly accelerated. The toe of the excavated bank would be treated with a combination of rock barbs and woody debris to deflect flow area from the bank and reduce velocities. Where the channel is eroding the stream bank near the gravel mining pond (pond "K") on the side of the channel, there is the risk of breaching this bank and increased instability due to pond capture. In this area the toe of the channel bank would be protected with rock. Also a headcut that formed where an overflow channel dumps back into the main channel over the high terrace would be treated. The project would have both water quality and habitat benefits.

The natural floodplain-forming process would be accelerated by the proposed project by excavating the low benches within the high stream banks of the channelized creek. Excavation of benches along the creek would decrease flow velocities and erosive force, create greater native riparian vegetation cover, increase bank erosion resistance and improve habitat value. Where the floodplain bars have formed high above the channel and little riparian vegetation has grown due to lack of soil moisture, the bars themselves would also be lowered. Excavation would occur outside of stands of well-developed riparian vegetation. In this restoration design 13,000 cubic yards (cy) of stream bank material would be excavated from CDPR's property. These areas would be re-vegetated with native seed, salvaged materials and propagated vegetation. Fill generated by floodplain excavation would be transported to the adjacent Stonebridge-Teichert property for processing and sorting and materials not re-used would be stockpiled for Teichert's use or hauled to Teichert's Martis plant. The material staging area would also be located on the open disturbed area, outside of the floodplain, on the adjacent Teichert property.

A trail would be constructed to tie this area together with the main area of Donner Memorial State Park and the adjacent Teichert-Stonebridge and the town of Truckee trails to improve public access.

Detailed description:

Figure 2.3, on page 102, is a site plan map of the area, showing the proposed locations and treatments. This map shows the approximate areas of excavation of the stream bank to create floodplain, areas of toe protection such as barbs, as well as areas of mature riparian vegetation to be protected and not disturbed. Willows or other salvageable vegetation that is disturbed outside of these areas will be salvaged and re-used onsite. Figure 2.4, on page 106, shows the treatments on the floodplain. The headcut would be treated to decrease the slope, lined with rock and planted with native vegetation. Figure 2.5 (pg.107) shows a typical barb which will be used to deflect flows from the toe of the excavated bank and a typical rock toe protection to prevent stream bank scour where the creek is immediately adjacent to pond K (pond at the eastern edge of the project).

Upstream of this area, all work can be achieved outside of the active channel and isolated from flows by Best Management Practices (BMPs), such as silt fence and wattles. In the area of rock toe treatment near the pond, flow diversion may be necessary. Revegetation will consist of various approaches such as salvage and transplanting, container planting, willow staking, and mulching and seeding (see Figure 2.6, pg.108). Materials excavated to create the expanded floodplain area will be transported to the adjacent Teichert property (as identified in Figure 2.3) where they will either be sorted and re-used or stockpiled for Teichert's later use.

Construction Considerations:

- Excavation and grading will be done on the terrace banks but not on the channel bed, thus work can be done outside of the active channel.
- All work will be performed in late summer thru early fall when the stream is at its lowest flow, minimizing need to de-water or work in flowing water
- Existing riparian vegetation will be avoided where possible or transplanted where possible to maximize utilization of mature riparian vegetation
- Additional native vegetation materials and seed will be collected onsite or at similar sites for re-vegetation
- Any temporary access or staging roads for construction will be restored to natural topography and mulched.
- Excavated materials will be transported to adjacent Teichert property for processing and storage—no public roads used

2.6 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Construction of Coldstream Lower Floodplain Enhancement Project would begin in the summer and fall of 2012. The order of activities would include:

1. Install BMPs.
2. Establish access, equipment staging area, and stockpile areas.
3. Perform clearing and grubbing within areas designated for disturbance.
4. Excavate floodplain benches.
5. Sort and stockpile excavated materials.
6. Screen and wash materials designated for re-use at a location designated by the engineer.
7. Install bank and floodplain stabilization measures.
8. Dress floodplain areas with materials cleaned for re-use in #6.
9. Restore/stabilize disturbed areas.
10. Stabilize excess excavated materials in stockpile area for use in future project phases.
11. Revegetate.
12. Remove BMPs at the direction of the Engineer/CPESC

All appropriate permitting will be completed before any of the project activities are conducted.

Work will occur during daylight weekday hours. However, weekend work could be

implemented to accelerate work, especially for winterization needs or to meet management objectives during a limited window of low flow conditions in the creek.

Areas of mature vegetation to be protected will be delineated prior to construction. DPR will use heavy equipment and construction crews with hand and mechanical tools for project construction. Heavy equipment such as excavators, bulldozers, loaders, dump trucks, water trucks and backhoes will be used. Vehicles used to transport crews, materials, and equipment would also be present. Access and staging/storage sites would be authorized by DPR-qualified cultural and natural resource specialists and would be concentrated on previously disturbed ground and old roads, including the adjacent Teichert gravel mining property. Figure 2.7, on page 103 shows the access and staging areas. Fill generated by excavation of the terrace and floodplain would be transported to the adjacent Stonebridge-Teichert property where there is existing disturbance from previous gravel mining operations. The spoils would be sorted and some would be re-used in this project and the remainder would be stockpiled, BMP'd and transferred to Teichert's ownership for their use either onsite or transported to their Martis plant. To stabilize the newly excavated banks a series of rock and wood barbs would be constructed at the toe of the bank and partially buried. The banks would be graded to a variable angle between 2:1 and 4:1 and treated with a combination of mulch and revegetation including seeding and container stock. The newly excavated floodplains would be graded to receive flows between the 1.5 and 5 year recurrence discharge, incorporating riparian hummocks for habitat enhancement. Riparian shrub cuttings and container stock will be used for floodplain revegetation. Rock toe protection will be installed on the right bank to prevent scour into pond K. It will consist of large rock riprap (3-4 feet) interplanted with willow. Also, the infeeder to pond K will be treated with brush boxes and biotechnical bank stabilization. The headcut area will be excavated to a lower slope and treated with a combination of smaller rock and willow cuttings. Dewatering during construction will include a gravity flow by-pass when needed to separate stream flow from the construction. Before installation of the gravity flow by-pass the fish will be removed and relocated downstream by a qualified fisheries biologist. Pumping will be used to dewater excavations and jetting operations. The turbid water from pumping operations will be discharged to approved discharge points such as a depression away from the channel (see Figures 9.2 and 9.3, pg.110-11). Upon completion of construction the remaining stockpile materials would be fitted with BMPs and transferred to Teichert's ownership. Temporary access areas would be de-compacted and mulched or reseeded.

BMPs would be incorporated into the project design to ensure that natural and cultural resources in and around the project site are adequately protected during and after construction activities. The BMPs discussed in this document and used in the implementation of the project are obtained from the California Stormwater Quality Association (CSQA) *Stormwater Best Management Practices Construction Handbook* (CSQA 2003). Temporary BMPs would be used to keep sediment on-site throughout the duration of the project. During construction work BMPs would be checked regularly, maintained, and modified as needed. In addition, permanent BMPs would be used after construction work to stabilize the site and minimize erosion. DPR has consistently

referenced CSQA BMPs and has identified them as an acceptable standard for use in all park units of the State Park System. In compliance with the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB) permitting requirements, a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be completed and submitted to the LRWQCB for project approval.

2.7 PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

Under CEQA, the Department of Parks and Recreation has the distinction of being considered a lead agency, a public agency that has a primary responsibility for carrying out or approving a project and for implementing CEQA; a responsible agency, a public agency other than the lead agency that has responsibility for carrying out or approving a project and for complying with CEQA; and a trustee agency, a state agency having jurisdiction by law over natural resources affected by a project that are held in trust for the people for the State of California. With this distinction comes the responsibility to ensure that actions that protect both cultural and natural resources are always taken on all projects. Therefore, DPR has created a list of Project Requirements that are included in project design to reduce impacts to resources.

DPR has two types of Project Requirements, standard and specific. Standard project requirements are assigned to all projects state-wide, while specific project requirements are assigned based on the specific actions required to complete the project.

For example, Fire Safety practices are included in all DPR projects; however, inadvertent discovery of archaeological artifacts would only be assigned to projects that include ground-disturbing work. While mitigation measures can be found in the specific section as required (Chapter 5 contains a list of all mitigation measures and project requirements), the following Project Requirements have been included in this project:

Table 2.2: Project Requirements.

ISSUE	PROJECT REQUIREMENT
Aesthetics	
STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT AES-1: SCENIC VIEWS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not alter viewscales to expose structures or undesirable views along scenic highways or scenic viewing locations. • Maximize the use of salvaged mature vegetation to reduce the time of re-growth. • Re-habilitate and remove all construction related impacts to pre-project or better than pre-project conditions.
Air Quality	
STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT AIR-1:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All construction areas (dirt/gravel roads and surrounding dirt/gravel area) will be watered at

<p>EMISSIONS OF FUGITIVE DUST AND OZONE</p>	<p>least twice daily during dry, dusty conditions while in use by large machinery for project actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All trucks hauling soil or other loose materials on public roads will be covered or required to maintain at least two feet of freeboard. • All construction-related equipment engines will be maintained in good condition, in proper tune (according to manufacturer's specifications), and in compliance with all State and federal requirements. • Potential dust producing actions will be suspended if sustained winds exceed 25 miles mph, instantaneous gusts exceed 35 mph, or dust from construction might obscure driver visibility on public roads. • Earth or other material that has been transported onto paved roadways by trucks, construction equipment, erosion, or other project-related activity will be promptly removed. • Idling time shall be minimized to 10 minutes for all diesel-powered equipment.
<p>Biological Resources</p>	
<p>STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT BIO-1: BIOLOGICAL MONITORING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A DPR-approved biologist will review and approve all locations used for staging/storage of vehicles, equipment, and/or materials used during the project. • Biological monitoring throughout the project site will be implemented at the discretion of the natural resources specialist.
<p>SPECIFIC PROJECT REQUIREMENT BIO-2: CALIFORNIA SPOTTED OWL AND NORTHERN GOSHAWK</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to project activities within habitat identified as suitable for nesting for the California spotted owl or northern goshawk, a DPR-approved biologist will conduct protocol level surveys to ensure no reproductively active California spotted owls or northern goshawks are present. • If an active nest is detected, project activities will not be completed within 0.25 miles of a California spotted owl nest or within the best 500 acres of northern goshawk habitat during the limited operating period (February 15 to August 15), or until the young fledge, as determined by a DPR-approved biologist. If a DPR-approved biologist determines a nest has failed, project work may commence in the

	vicinity prior to August 15.
SPECIFIC PROJECT REQUIREMENT BIO-3: OSPREY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to project activities within habitat identified as suitable for nesting for the osprey, a DPR-approved biologist will conduct surveys to ensure no reproductively active osprey are present. • If an active nest is detected, project activities will not be completed within 0.25 miles of the nest from April 1 to August 15, or until the young fledge, as determined by a DPR-approved biologist. If a DPR-approved biologist determines a nest has failed, project work may commence in the vicinity prior to August 15.
SPECIFIC PROJECT REQUIREMENT BIO-4: BALD EAGLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to project activities within habitat identified as suitable for nesting for the bald eagle, a DPR-approved biologist will conduct surveys to ensure no reproductively active bald eagles are present. • If an active nest is detected, project activities will not be completed within 0.5 miles of the nest from February 15 to August 15, or until the young fledge, as determined by a DPR-approved biologist. If a DPR-approved biologist determines a nest has failed, project work may commence in the vicinity prior to August 15.
STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT BIO-5: OTHER RAPTORS, BATS, AND NESTING SONGBIRDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A DPR-approved biologist will evaluate trees for use by cavity dwelling species such as birds and bats. If determined to be actively used for reproductive activity, removal will only occur if the tree provides a hazard to life or property and removal will not occur during the breeding season. • Project activities will not deliberately result in failure of sensitive nesting songbirds (i.e. olive-sided flycatcher and yellow warbler). Prior to activities occurring in spring or summer, a DPR-approved biologist will conduct surveys. Active sensitive songbird nests will be protected by a 250 foot buffer. Any project activities within this buffer area will be authorized and/or monitored by DPR-approved

	<p>biologist to avoid project related nest failure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active nests of forest birds not otherwise classified as sensitive but protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act will be protected with a 100 foot buffer area and any project activities within this buffer area will be authorized and/or monitored by a DPR-approved biologist to avoid project related nest failure. • Raptors not specifically addressed in other mitigation measures will be protected by a 0.25 mile active nest buffer from April 1 to August 15, or until young fledge, as determined by a DPR-approved biologist. Any project activities within this buffer area must receive prior authorization from a DPR-approved biologist.
<p>SPECIFIC PROJECT REQUIREMENT BIO-6: FISH</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to project activities within the active channel, fish will be excluded from the area through the use of standard methods such as seining and/or electrofishing. Standard depletion methods will be utilized to ensure maximum fish removal is attained • Handling of fish will be minimized • Fish will be immediately relocated to the active channel outside of the project area; they will not be retained in holding tanks for any period of time
<p>STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT BIO-7: SENSITIVE PLANTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to activities in or near habitat which could potentially support sensitive plant species, a DPR-qualified botanist would conduct special status plant species surveys during the appropriate time of year. • Any special status plants would be marked for avoidance or salvaged and replanted.
<p>STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT BIO-8: INVASIVE PLANTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy equipment used for project activities will be washed of plant parts and soil if previously used in areas known to have invasive plants in order to prevent the introduction of invasive plants to uncontaminated areas. • Project locations will be surveyed by a DPR-qualified biologist prior to activities to ensure the area does not support invasive species that could be spread by project activities. • Project areas will be surveyed by a DPR-qualified biologist after project activities are completed to ensure that no weeds were

	<p>introduced during project activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any inadvertent weed introductions or expansions will be treated for removal.
Cultural Resources	
STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT CULT-1: PRE-START MEETINGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prior to beginning project work, if cultural concerns are present, the DPR cultural resource specialist and project manager will meet on the project site to discuss project implementation and conditions in place to protect cultural resources.
STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT CULT-2: PROTECTED AREAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All historic properties are assumed eligible for the National Register and would be protected throughout the duration of the project. The project manager is required to notify the DPR cultural resource specialist a minimum of three weeks prior to the start of project actions. Cultural resources within the project area would be flagged for exclusion no more than 30 days prior to commencement of vegetation management activities. Designated flagging color would demarcate areas of avoidance. If project delays occur which exceed the 30-day limit to commencement of field activities, a DPR cultural resource specialist and/or DPR natural resources representative would check flagging to assure that it is still visible prior to field activities. Flagging will be removed after the project is completed.
STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT CULT-3: ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the event of an unanticipated discovery of previously-undocumented cultural resources during project activities, work will be suspended in the area until a DPR cultural resource specialist has assessed the find and has developed and implemented appropriate avoidance, preservation, or recovery measures. If avoidance is required and feasible, the project manager will modify, at the discretion of the DPR cultural resource specialist, project actions to avoid cultural resources.
SPECIFIC PROJECT REQUIREMENT CULT-4: ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archaeological monitoring throughout the project site will be implemented at the discretion of the cultural resources specialist.

<p>SPECIFIC PROJECT REQUIREMENT CULT-5: VEHICLES, HEAVY EQUIPMENT, STAGING AND STORAGE AREAS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicles or heavy equipment are not allowed within cultural resources exclusion zones. • A DPR cultural resource specialist will review and approve all locations used for staging/storage of vehicles, equipment, and/or materials used during the project. • No staging or storage will be allowed within cultural resources exclusion zones.
<p>SPECIFIC PROJECT REQUIREMENT CULT-6: HAND CLEARING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conifer tree removal will be limited to hand clearing in areas within and adjacent to recorded archaeological sites and cultural resource features. Manual removal will take place first in areas of identified resources and work outward to fully identify and protect any newly documented and/or extended resources. • A DPR cultural resource specialist will determine the extent of the hand clearing only zone.
<p>STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT CULT-7: HUMAN REMAINS DISCOVERY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the event that human remains are discovered during project activity, work will cease immediately in the area of the find and the project manager/site supervisor will notify the appropriate DPR personnel. Any human remains and/or funerary objects will be left in place. Existing law requires that project managers contact the County Coroner. If the County Coroner determines the remains are of Native American origin, both the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and any identified descendants shall be notified (Health and Safety Code Section §7050.5, Public Resources Code Section §5097.97 and §5097.98). DPR staff will work closely with the United State Bureau of Reclamation to ensure that its response to such a discovery is also compliant with federal requirements including the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. • Work will not resume in the area of the find until proper disposition is complete (PRC §5097.98). No human remains or funerary objects will be cleaned, photographed, analyzed, or removed from the site prior to determination. If it is determined the find

	<p>indicates a sacred or religious site, the site will be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Formal consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office and review by the NAHC/Tribal Cultural representatives will occur as necessary to define additional avoidance, preservation, or recovery measures, or further future restrictions.</p>
<p>Geology and Soils</p>	
<p>SPECIFIC PROJECT REQUIREMENT GEO-1: REMEDIATION OF DISTURBED AREAS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All excavated areas for flood plain creation, haul roads, and landing/staging areas will be revegetated or treated to recover to pre-construction conditions or better as outlined in the project plans or SWPPP. • Excavated slopes will be graded to a stable angle and protected against erosion by track walking, seeding/mulching bare areas, revegetation with mature harvested vegetation. • Where feasible access routes will be limited to previously disturbed areas. • Recontour and/or outslope main routes of travel if necessary to allow sheet flow of water across the landscape and reduce channelization. • All base erosion control measures must be in place, functional, and approved in an initial inspection prior to commencement of construction activities. • Disturbed areas are to be seeded, planted, and mulched per the revegetation plan. • All protective devices to be installed shall be in place at the end of each work day when the five-day rain probability exceeds 40 percent.
<p>Hazardous and Hazardous Materials</p>	
<p>STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT HAZMAT-1: SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to the start of construction, all equipment will be cleaned before entering the project site. During the project, equipment will be cleaned and repaired (other than emergency repairs) outside the project site boundaries. All contaminated spill residue, or other hazardous compounds will be contained and disposed of outside the boundaries of the site at a lawfully permitted or authorized destination. • Prior to the start of construction, all equipment will be inspected for leaks and regularly inspected thereafter until removed from the project site.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to the start of construction, a Spill Prevention and Response Plan (SPRP) will be prepared to provide protection to on-site workers, the public, and the environment from accidental leaks or spills of vehicle fluids or other potential contaminants. This plan will include but not be limited to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A map that delineates construction staging areas, and where refueling, lubrication, and maintenance of equipment will occur. • A list of items required in an on-site spill kit that will be maintained throughout the life of the project. • Procedures for the proper storage, use, and disposal of any solvents or other chemicals used during the project. • Identification of lawfully permitted or authorized disposal destinations.
<p>STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT HAZMAT-2: WILDFIRE AVOIDANCE AND RESPONSE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Fire Safety Plan will be developed by a DPR-approved forester, prior to the start of construction. • Spark arrestors or turbo-charging (which eliminates sparks in exhaust) and fire extinguishers will be required for all heavy equipment. • Construction crews will be required to park vehicles away from flammable material, such as dry grass or brush. At the end of each workday, heavy equipment will be parked over, asphalt, or concrete to reduce the chance of fire.
<p>Hydrology and Water Quality</p>	
<p>STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT HYDRO-1: EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL AND POLLUTION PREVENTION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to the start of construction, a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be developed by Waterways Consulting that identifies Best Management Practices (BMPs) to be used in all construction areas to reduce or eliminate the discharge of soil, surface water runoff, and pollutants during any ground disturbing activities as approved by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. • The DPR Contractor will install long-term erosion control measures for any areas where ground disturbing activities result in bare soil areas. The soil will be properly compacted and re-vegetated with appropriate native grass seed, sterile grass seed, and/or duff with the

	final selection made by a DPR-qualified representative.
MITIGATION MEASURE WQ-1: PERMIT AND SITE PLAN ADHERENCE AND IMPLEMENTATION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Limit disturbance area to the necessary extent as outlined in the engineered project plans. 2) Design, install, and maintain temporary BMP's for the protection of disturbed areas that may be subjected to erosion or surface run-off with the potential to release sediment, nutrients, or hazardous materials to surface or ground water sources. 3) Implement a de-watering plan for construction activities that are within the low water or bankfull channel. 4) Use designated and established staging, re-fueling, and maintenance areas for equipment that has the required BMP's to prevent the potential for contamination of surface or ground water sources. 5) Any stockpiled material shall be properly BMP'd according to the permitting requirements to ensure that wind and water erosion potential is eliminated. 6) Fill material reused in floodplain creation will be screened and potentially washed to minimize the potential of fine sediment mobilization in the event of flooding during the construction period. 7) Contractor shall be familiar with the conditions of all required project permits and shall implement all required BMP's prior to commencing grading operations.
Noise	
STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT NOISE-1: NOISE EXPOSURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project related activities will generally be limited to the daylight hours, Monday through Friday. However, weekend work will be implemented to accelerate construction or address emergency or unforeseen circumstances. If weekend work is necessary, no work will occur before 8:00 a.m. or after 6:00 p.m. • Internal combustion engines used for any purpose in the project areas will be equipped with a muffler of a type recommended by the

	<p>manufacturer. Equipment and trucks used for project related activities will utilize the best available noise control techniques (e.g., engine enclosures, acoustically attenuating shields or shrouds, intake silencers, ducts, etc.) whenever feasible and necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stationary noise sources and staging areas will be located as far from visitors as possible. If they must be located near visitors, stationary noise sources will be muffled to the extent feasible, and/or where practicable, enclosed within temporary sheds.
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2.8 CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL PLANS AND POLICIES

The project is consistent with the DPR mission and its management directives aimed at preserving the state’s extraordinary biological diversity and protecting valued natural resources. The proposed project is consistent with local plans and policies currently in effect. Please see Chapter 3, Section IX, Land Use and Planning, for further details.

2.9 DISCRETIONARY APPROVALS

The project also requires approval from the following government agencies:

- Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (including SWPPP)
- California Department of Fish and Game
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Additional internal document reviews include compliance with Public Resources Code § 5024. DPR will acquire all necessary reviews and permits prior to implementing any project components requiring regulatory review.

2.10 RELATED PROJECTS

DPR often has other smaller maintenance programs, minor restoration, and interpretive projects planned for a park unit. Any projects proposed in areas that have not been previously discussed would occur under a separate CEQA document.

CHAPTER 3 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Title: Coldstream Lower Floodplain Enhancement Project
2. Lead Agency Name & Address: California Department of Parks and Recreation
3. Contact Person & Phone Number: Cyndie Walck 530 581 0925
4. Project Location: Donner Memorial State Park, Truckee, CA
5. Project Sponsor Name & Address: California Department of Parks and Recreation
Sierra District
PO Box 266
Tahoma, CA 96142
6. General Plan Designation: Donner Memorial SP has a general plan
7. Zoning: Public Lands
8. Description of Project: Refer to Chapter 2, Section 2.1
9. Surrounding Land Uses & Setting: Refer to Chapter 3 of this document (Section IX, Land Use Planning)
10. Approval Required from Other Public Agencies: Refer to Chapter 2, Section 2.9

1. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact", as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None |

DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

I find that, although the original scope of the proposed project **COULD** have had a significant effect on the environment, there **WILL NOT** be a significant effect because revisions/mitigations to the project have been made by or agreed to by the applicant. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.

I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a significant effect on the environment and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** or its functional equivalent will be prepared.

I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated impact" on the environment. However, at least one impact has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document, pursuant to applicable legal standards, and has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis, as described in the report's attachments. An **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required, but it must analyze only the impacts not sufficiently addressed in previous documents.

I find that, although the proposed project could have had a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects have been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration, pursuant to applicable standards, and have been avoided or mitigated, pursuant to an earlier EIR, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, all impacts have been avoided or mitigated to a less-than-significant level and no further action is required.

Tamara Sasaki
Environmental Coordinator

Date

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

I. AESTHETICS.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project area is located within an undeveloped area of Donner Memorial SP. Cold creek rushes down through the confines of the narrow, steep channel it has forged through the alluvial fan with high eroding terrace banks. Local stands of Aspens perched on higher terrace surfaces, due to down-cutting of the stream; struggle to survive with encroaching second growth conifers. Where narrow floodplains started to recover in the canyon, fairly lush riparian vegetation and habitat has begun to emerge. This habitat area is immature and has a limited extent due to the slow geomorphic processes of channel evolution and the stream system trying to reach equilibrium once again. There is no scenic vista because the view is limited due to the canyon setting.

From the project location, evidence of the history and current land uses of the area are clearly apparent. An old quarry pit that has since become a freshwater pond sits adjacent to the project area on State Park property. The Teichert-Stonebridge LLC property borders the project area directly to the northwest; this property is undeveloped and closed to public use, but is slated for housing development. The land is devoid of any significant vegetation and is used as a storage area for Teichert. There is also an active California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) sorting yard bordering the west boundary of the project area. This area is heavily used during business hours, with heavy equipment and trucks delivering and dumping and sorting road debris material.

Interstate 80 lies about 1 mile north from the project area, the highway through this area is listed as an eligible state scenic highway, but is not officially designated (Caltrans 2007).

WOULD THE PROJECT:	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SIGNIFICANCE

The analysis of determining the significance of impacts of the Proposed Action to Aesthetics is based on criteria **I a – d**, described in the environmental checklist above.

DISCUSSION

- a) **No impact** – The proposed project would involve enhancing the natural setting of the project area with conformance to the existing natural conditions and environment. All revegetation activities would use salvaged vegetation, native container stock plants, and local native collected seed mix. Creation of the floodplain including the treatment of steep eroding bank will be more representative of a natural functioning stream system in its historical pre-disturbance state. The project does not involve alteration or development of the landscape to less than the natural or existing conditions (no scenic vista to begin with) and with the implementation of **STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT AES-1** (Chapter 2) will result in no impacts.
- b) **No impact** – As discussed in the Environmental Setting, the project will not occur within a state scenic highway, therefore, there will be no impact.
- c) **Less than significant** – As noted in section a) above, the project will enhance the natural setting of the area to a more historically representative condition and visual character. With implementation of **STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT AES-1** (Chapter 2), impacts to the visual character or quality of the site will be less than significant.
- d) **No impact** – The proposed project does not involve the creation of any new substantial sources of light or glare.

II. AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST RESOURCES.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed project is located on Cold creek, a stream within the Sierra Nevada mountain range. This region supports a second growth mixed-conifer forest established on alluvial deposited soils and rocky out-croppings.

The area was heavily mined in the 1960's for coarse gravels that were deposited from glacial outwash to construct the Interstate 80 corridor. The soils and topography within the project location are not conducive to support agricultural activities, nor is most of the area surrounding the project, as it is barren land under private and state ownership.

None of the land within the state park units or the area immediately surrounding the park units is included in any of the Important Farmland categories, as delineated by the California Department of Conservation under the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (CDOC 2008). There is no land in the vicinity of the project area that is preserved under the Williamson Act, which was created in 1965 to preserve agricultural and open space land by discouraging premature transformation to urban uses (CDOC 2010).

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
WOULD THE PROJECT*:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code §4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by government Code § 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

*In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997), prepared by the

California Department of Conservation as an optional model for use in assessing impacts on agricultural and farmland.

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SIGNIFICANCE

The analysis of determining the significance of impacts of the Proposed Action to Agricultural Resources is based on criteria **II a – e**, described in the environmental checklist above.

DISCUSSION

a- e) **No impact** - All work proposed as part of this project would be confined within park boundaries. Therefore, this project will have no impact on any category of California Farmland, conflict with any existing zoning for agricultural use or Williamson Act contract, or result in the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use

DRAFT

III. AIR QUALITY.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project site is located on the southern boundary of Nevada County and crosses into Placer County, which lies in the Mountain Counties Air Basin and under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the California Air Resources Board (CARB), Placer County Air Pollution Control District (PCAPCD), and the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (NSAQMD) (DPR 2003).

The Mountain Counties Air Basin exceeds the state standard for particulate matter less than 10 microns diameter (PM₁₀) and exceeds both the state and federal standards for ozone. Nonattainment for PM₁₀ occurs primarily in the winter months. The main sources of particulate matter causing violations in the Truckee area are attributed to the use of wood-burning stoves and dust generated by road sand. The nonattainment designation for ozone is thought to be due to the transport of ozone by prevailing wind from the greater Sacramento Area and the San Francisco Bay Area (DPR 2003).

Land owners and managers within Nevada and Placer Counties are subject to air quality planning programs required by the federal Clean Air Act of 1970 (CAA), its 1990 amendments, and the California Clean Air Act of 1988 (CCAA). Both the federal and state clean air statutes provide for ambient air quality standards related to air pollutants, timetables for progressing toward achieving and maintaining ambient standards, and the development of plans to guide air quality improvement efforts by state and local agencies. Ambient air pollutants called criteria pollutants are pollutants for which acceptable levels of exposure have been determined and for which an ambient air quality standard has been set.

The USEPA is responsible for setting National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and established national area designations for six criteria pollutants after the passage of the Clean Air Act of 1970 (USEPA 2008). These pollutants include carbon monoxide (CO), ozone (O₃), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), lead, particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter (PM₁₀), and particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in diameter (PM_{2.5}). If an area does not meet (or that contributes to ambient air quality in a nearby area that does not meet) the national primary or secondary ambient air quality standard for the pollutant, it is designated as “non-attainment.” If an area meets the national primary or secondary ambient air quality standard for the pollutant, it is designated in “attainment.” An area that cannot be classified on the basis of available information as meeting or not meeting the national primary or secondary ambient air quality standard for the pollutant is designated “unclassifiable” (USEPA 2008).

CARB is the lead state agency responsible for air quality and for assisting local air districts in California. CARB has set California area designations for ten criteria pollutants including ozone, PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, CO, NO₂, SO₂, sulfates, lead, hydrogen sulfide, and visibility reducing particles (VRPs). If a pollutant concentration is lower than the standard, the area is classified as “attainment” for that pollutant. If an area exceeds the standard, the area is classified as “non-attainment” for that pollutant. If there are not enough data available to determine

whether the standard is exceeded in an area, the area is designated “unclassified” (CARB 2010).

Sensitive Receptors

Sensitive receptors include residential areas and schools nearby the project site. The nearest residence to the project area is about 800 feet away. Truckee Elementary School is three-quarters of a mile from the project site and Truckee High School is about a mile away.

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
WOULD THE PROJECT*:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan or regulation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations (e.g., children, the elderly, individuals with compromised respiratory or immune systems)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

* Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied on to make these determinations.

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SIGNIFICANCE

The analysis of determining the significance of impacts of the Proposed Action to Agricultural Resources is based on criteria **III a – e**, described in the environmental checklist above.

DISCUSSION

a) **No Impact-** The work proposed as part of the Coldstream Floodplain Enhancement project would not conflict with, or obstruct the fulfillment of any applicable air quality plan for the NSAQMD or PCAPCD. No impact.

b-c) **Less than Significant Impact-** Implementation of the proposed project would not result in the ongoing operation of any new emissions sources. Conditions would remain generally unchanged, thus, there would be no impact related to long-term emissions of criteria air pollutants and ozone precursors.

The construction of access roads and staging areas, vegetation thinning, bank stabilization, floodplain creation, temporary water diversion activities, materials import and export, and trail work for the proposed project would temporarily generate emissions of ROG, NO_x, and PM₁₀ from site preparation (e.g., grading, excavation, and land clearing); exhaust from construction equipment, construction workers' commute trips, and materials transport; and other miscellaneous activities. There will be up to 300 truckloads of excavation material transported to Teichert's Martis plant for re-use. The diesel-powered equipment that would be used on-site would likely include excavators, loaders, water pumps, dozers, haul trucks, chippers, hand tools (such as chain saws), and backhoes.

Conifer removal on the terrace would occur in the summer of 2012 and would occur before the proposed floodplain enhancement work. The proposed floodplain enhancement work would be completed in two distinct construction phases. Phase 1 would include the proposed floodplain improvements and Phase 2 would include revegetation. The work associated with each phase of construction could be accomplished in a single construction season. The Phase 1 improvements are planned for summer 2012 (or 2013, depending on funding). Construction activities are expected to take up to 3 months within the July 15-October 15 time frame to complete. The proposed Phase 2 improvements are anticipated to be constructed in 2013 after completion of Phase 1. The proposed trail rehabilitation work would occur summer 2013. It is assumed that soil disturbance would occur on approximately 2.5 acres. In addition, most of the ground disturbance, which produces fugitive PM₁₀ dust, would occur during the summer, and therefore would not overlap with the time of year when the Mountain Counties Air Basin experiences its highest levels of PM₁₀ from use of wood for heating purposes.

Short-term construction-generated emissions of ROG, NO_x, and PM₁₀ were compared to a similar project with similar equipment and duration. This comparison project was larger scale, used more heavy equipment, and included more than double the acreage of the Coldstream Floodplain Enhancement Project, but remained beneath the air quality threshold (AECOM 2010). Potential impacts from fugitive dust emission resulting from project construction activities will be limited by implementation of **STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT AIR-1** (Chapter 2). Compliance with these standards will reduce air quality emission impacts related to the project to a less than significant level.

- d) **No Impact-** The nearest residence to the project area is further than 700 feet away, therefore, the project construction activities would not expose this, or any, sensitive receptor to substantial concentration of pollutants.
- e) **No Impact-** The project will not generate any long-term objectionable odors. During the construction of the project there may be short-term objectionable odors from large equipment exhaust, but the project is not near any sensitive receptors or residence, therefore, will not impact a substantial amount of people.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed project activities take place in Donner Memorial State Park along the banks and within the channel of Cold Creek. Vegetation within this project area consists of mixed conifer stands, in younger successional stages of fir and pine species, eastside pine stands, and montane riparian habitat. The dominant tree species is lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*). The montane riparian habitat includes deciduous trees and shrubs such as: willows (*Salix* spp.), cotton wood (*Populus balsamifera* ssp. *trichocarpa*), quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), mountain alder (*Alnus incana* ssp. *tenuifolia*), red osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea* ssp. *sericea*), and twinberry (*Lonicera involucrata*). The park is home to many mammal and bird species with fewer reptiles and amphibians, all typical of middle elevations in the Sierra Nevada mountain range. The project area is in proximity to the parks campgrounds, interstate 80, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) pits, other barren and urban lands, and has been highly disturbed by gravel mining and channelization, so the species diversity is limited.

Under the restoration plan, approximately 13,000 cubic yards (cy) of streambank material will be excavated from the CDPR property. The existing functional riparian vegetation community will be significantly expanded and excavation of benches along Cold Creek will result in creation of new floodplain which would become riparian vegetation and habitat.

Important ecological benefits from the project include expanding the existing functional riparian vegetation community from approximately 3.8 acres to 6.3 acres. The existing riparian vegetation, which has colonized the naturally formed floodplain includes dense herbaceous and shrub species as well as cottonwood trees. A similar riparian vegetation community would be created on the constructed floodplain and would provide habitat for riparian species, including amphibians, birds, and small mammals. Mature cottonwood forest will develop over time and is an especially important habitat type for many animals, especially birds. The wider floodplain would also provide a valuable migration corridor for riparian dependent species, including passerine birds. Movement corridors may provide favorable locations for wildlife to travel between different habitat areas, such as foraging sites, breeding sites, cover areas, and preferred summer and winter range locations. They may also function as dispersal corridors allowing animals to move between locations within their range.

Instream habitat within the constructed floodplain is also expected to improve over time. Streambanks will become more stable, with thicker stands of riparian vegetation overhanging the banks providing cover for fish and other aquatic species. As the stream evolves in response to the new floodplain, the channel will become more sinuous and will develop instream diversity in the form of pools and riffles. Trees on the constructed floodplain will eventually become a source of woody debris for the stream channel, further increasing instream habitat complexity.

Special-Status Species

Sensitive biological resources that occur or potentially occur in or near the proposed project site are discussed in this section. Special-status species (sensitive species) are defined as

plants and animals that are legally protected or that are considered sensitive by federal, state, or local resource conservation agencies and organizations. Specifically, this includes species listed as state or federally Threatened or Endangered, those considered as candidates for listing as Threatened or Endangered, species identified by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and/or California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) as Species of Special Concern, animals identified by CDFG as Fully Protected or Protected, special status species of particular concern to the United States Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest (USFS TNF), and other protected or sensitive animals. Plants considered by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) and USFS TNF to be rare, threatened, or endangered are also included in this discussion. Habitats that are considered critical for the survival of a listed species or have special value for wildlife species and plant communities that are unique or of limited distribution are also included in this section.

All special-status species and their habitats were evaluated for potential impacts from the proposed Coldstream Floodplain Enhancement project. Existing available data were collected and reviewed by a DPR-approved biologist, to determine the proximity of special-status plants, animals, and their habitats to the project site. Queries of the California Department of Fish Game’s California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), the California Native Plant Society’s¹ On-line Inventory (CNPS 2011), and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS 2008) were conducted for special-status species and habitats within the project area quad (Truckee) and the nearest adjacent quad (Norden).

Special-status plant and animal species are described below along with their potential to occur at the project site and the impacts this project could cause to these species.

Plant Species

The initial review of available information identified 12 special-status plant, lichen, and fungi species that could occur in the region. Table 4.1 summarizes the potential for occurrence of each special-status plant species that was evaluated during this analysis (Schlesinger and Holst 2000). Based on a review of this list, none of the special-status plant species either have the potential to occur in or near the project area, or are known to exist in proximity to project activities.

The following table summarizes the plant species of interest for this project. It shows each species that is listed on at least one of the aforementioned plant lists, the status of each plant, and the likelihood of it occurring in the project area.

Table 4.1 Special-Status Plant Species Evaluated for the Coldstream Floodplain Enhancement Project			
Common and Scientific Name	Regulatory Status¹	Habitat and Flowering Period	Potential for Occurrence
Common moonwort <i>Botrychium lunaria</i>	FSS CNPS 2.3	Upper montane and subalpine conifer forest, meadows and seeps; 7,500-11,200 feet. Fertile in August.	Not expected to occur. No suitable habitat occurs in the project area.

Bolander's candle moss <i>Bruchia bolanderi</i>	FSS CNPS 2.2	Lower montane conifer forest in mesic soils from 5,600-9,000 feet; fertile period not specified.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat present, but none of the known occurrences are within the project area quad, and it is presumed extirpated from the known occurrence quad.
Davy's sedge <i>Carex davyi</i>	CNPS 1B.3	Subalpine coniferous forests; 5,000-10,000 feet. Blooms May-June.	Not expected to occur. No suitable subalpine habitat occurs in the project area.
Starved daisy <i>Erigeron miser</i>	FSS CNPS 1B.3	Upper montane conifer forest on rocky soils from 6,000 – 8,600 feet. Blooms June – August.	Not expected to occur. Not known to occur near the project area but suitable forest habitat may be present.
Donner Pass buckwheat <i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i> var. <i>torreyanum</i>	FSS CNPS 1B.2	Rocky, volcanic soils in meadows and upper montane conifer forest from 6,000 to 8,600 feet. Blooms July - September	Not expected to occur. This species has a very limited distribution, but suitable habitat may be present.
Plumas ivesia <i>Ivesia sericoleuca</i>	CNPS 1B.2	Great Basin scrub, lower montane conifer forest, meadows and seeps, vernal pools (usually volcanic); 4,800 – 7,250 feet. Blooms May–October.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur in project area.
Santa Lucia dwarf rush <i>Juncus luciensis</i>	CNPS 1B.2	Wet, sandy soils of seeps, meadows, vernal pools, streamsides; 1,000-6,200 feet. Blooms June-Sept.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat present, but a DPR approved botanist performed a pre-project survey that indicated the species not present.
Long-petaled lewisia <i>Lewisia longipetala</i>	FSS CNPS 1B.3	Alpine boulder and rock fields, subalpine conifer forest; 8,200 – 9,600 feet. Blooms July - August.	Not expected to occur. No suitable subalpine habitat occurs in the project area; elevations of known occurrences exceed those on the project site.
Sierra starwort <i>Pseudostellaria sierrae</i>	CNPS 4.2	Lower montane coniferous forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland; 4,000- 7000 feet. Blooms May-August.	Not expected to occur. Very rare in California. Suitable habitat is not present in project area.
Alder-leaf coffeberry <i>Rhamnus alnifolia</i>	CNPS 2.2	Lower and upper montane conifer forest in meadows, bogs, seeps, riparian edge; 4,400- 7,000 feet. Blooms May – July.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat present, but a DPR approved botanist performed a pre-project survey that indicated the species not present.
Tahoe yellow cress <i>Rorippa subumbellata</i>	CE FSS (FC) CNPS 1B.1	Decomposed granitic beaches; 6,217 – 6,234 feet. Blooms May – September.	Not expected to occur. This species has a very limited distribution and suitable habitat does not occur in project area.
Marsh skullcap <i>Scutellaria galericulata</i>	CNPS 2.2	Lower montane conifer forest, meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps; 0 – 6900 feet. Blooms	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur in project area.

		June – September.	
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¹ Regulatory Status Codes:

CE = California endangered

FSS = United States Forest Service Sensitive

FC = Federal Candidate for listing

California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Lists: List 1A = presumed extinct in California; List 1B = rare or endangered in California and elsewhere; List 2 = rare or endangered in California, more common elsewhere; List 3 = need more information; List 4 = plants of limited distribution. New threat code extensions are: .1 = seriously endangered in California; .2 = fairly endangered in California; and .3 not very endangered in California.

Invasive Weeds

A primary purpose of California State Parks is to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity by restoring, maintaining, and protecting native species and natural communities. Invasion by exotic species is a threat to native species and the natural environment. Invasive or non-native plants can quickly inhabit and become established in areas that have been recently disturbed. Some of these invasive species, such as cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), can actually increase risk of wildfire and rate of fire spread. There are limited distributions of invasive weeds currently within Donner Memorial State Park. Ground disturbance associated with heavy equipment use can create conditions that are suitable for some invasive weed species. Weeds can also be introduced to areas of native vegetation on heavy equipment or vehicles. Introduction of new weeds or spread of existing infestations could result in a significant impact to the environment.

WILDLIFE SPECIES

The following information is based on observations made by park staff on the proposed project state park unit and information obtained from the California Natural Diversity Database, the USFS TNF and other database queries.

Mammals and birds use forested areas within Donner Memorial State Park for concealment, cover, nesting, denning, and foraging. Large mammals using this habitat include black bear (*Ursus americanus*), mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), and mountain lion (*Felis concolor*). Medium and small mammals observed in the park include coyote (*Canis latrans*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*), long-tailed weasel (*Mustela frenata*), pine marten (*Martes americana*), golden-mantled ground squirrel (*Spermophilus lateralis*), lodgepole chipmunk (*Tamias speciosus*), Trowbridge's shrew (*Sorex trowbridgii*), and deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*). Common bird species include dark-eyed junco (*Junco hyemalis*), western tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*), mountain chickadee (*Poecile gambeli*), and red-breasted nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*).

Reptiles, amphibians, and fish comprise a relatively small percentage of the wildlife found in Donner Memorial State Park. In coniferous forest areas, lizard and snake species that may be found include western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*) and western terrestrial garter snake (*Thamnophis elegans*). Most amphibians are dependent on streams, ponds, and other water bodies for reproduction and other aspects of their life. Amphibian species include Pacific tree frog (*Hyla regilla*). In Cold creek, fish species that occur include rainbow trout

(*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), Piute sculpin (*Cottus beldingi*), and Lahonton redbreast shiner (*Richardsonius egregius*). Both the rainbow trout and brook trout are non-native species.

Special-status wildlife species that have been documented in Donner Memorial State Park or could potentially occur in or near the project site are described below. Other species not known from the area, but included on state or federal database lists, are also discussed.

The following table summarizes the wildlife species of interest for this floodplain restoration project. It shows each species that is listed on at least one of the aforementioned sensitive wildlife lists, the status of each animal, and the likelihood of it occurring in the project area.

Common and Scientific Name	Regulatory Status¹	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence
Amphibious caddisfly (<i>Desmona bethula</i>)		Wet meadows, small spring streams with slow currents	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat is not present. The streamside vegetation necessary to support this species is not present and the currents in the project area are fast.
Bald eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	CE D – FE	Mature or old-growth trees or snags near a large body of water	Could occur. Unlikely nester. May venture through the project area when foraging. Known to nest in vicinity, on Donner Lake.
Black swift (<i>Cypseloides niger</i>)	SSC	Cliffs proximal to waterfalls, deep canyons	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat is not present in the project area.
California spotted owl (<i>Strix occidentalis occidentalis</i>)	SSC FSS	Mature and old-growth forest stands	Could occur. Unlikely nester, no suitable habitat present in project area, but known to occur in proximity to project area.
California wolverine (<i>Gulo gulo</i>)	CT FC	Mixed conifer, wet meadow, montane chaparral	Not likely to occur. Highly elusive species, closest confirmed sighting >10 miles to north.
Cooper's hawk (<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>)	WL	Dense stands of riparian or conifer forest near water	Could occur. Unlikely nester. Suitable habitat present in the vicinity of project area and may be seen foraging in the project area.
Gray-headed pika (<i>Ochotona princeps schisticeps</i>)		Rocky talus fields	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat is not present in the project area.

Kings Canyon cryptochian caddisfly (<i>Cryptochia excella</i>)		Restricted to cold spring streams and their sources	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat is not present in the project area.
Lahontan cutthroat trout (<i>Oncorhynchus clarkia henshawi</i>)	FT	Cold water habitats, including streams and rivers. Flowing water with stable, vegetated banks and riffle-run areas.	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat present, but has not been present in nearby watersheds in recent years.
Northern goshawk (<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>)	SSC FSS	Mature and old-growth forest stands	Could occur. Unlikely nester, no suitable habitat present in project area, but known to occur in proximity to project area.
Olive-sided flycatcher (<i>Contopus cooperi</i>)	SSC	Montane conifer forest	Known to occur. Suitable habitat is present in project area.
Osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>)		Riparian forest. Large snags or other suitable nesting platform within 15 miles of fishable water	Could occur. Unlikely nester. Documented nesting near the project area and may be seen foraging in project area.
Pallid bat	SSC FSS	Rocky outcrops, cliffs, and crevices for roosting, open habitats for foraging	Not likely to occur. Suitable roosting habitat not present, may utilize project area for foraging.
Sierra marten (<i>Martes americana sierrae</i>)	FSS	Mixed conifer forest with greater than 40% crown closure, large trees and snags	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat is not present in the project area.
Sierra Nevada mountain beaver (<i>Aplodontia rufa californica</i>)	SSC	Narrow, shallow stream with willow, alder, fir, and aspen	Could occur. Suitable habitat present upstream from project area, but not within project area.
Sierra Nevada red fox (<i>Vulpes vulpes necator</i>)	CT FSS	Subalpine forests, mixed conifer, lodgepole pine, riparian scrub, and meadows	Not likely to occur. Limited suitable habitat is present in the project area, and low population numbers.
Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare (<i>Lepus americanus tahoensis</i>)	SSC	Montane riparian with alder and willow thickets and young conifer thickets with chaparral	Known to occur. Record (1990-2001) of species present near the project area. Suitable habitat is present.
Townsend's big-eared bat	SSC FSS	Roosts include caves, mines, and buildings while forages in mesic habitats	Not likely to occur. Suitable roosting habitat not present, may utilize project area for foraging.
Willow flycatcher (<i>Empidonax traillii</i>)	CE FSS	Wet meadow and montane riparian with willow thickets	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat is not present within the project area. There are willow, but not dense enough patches and lacking meadow component.

Yellow warbler (<i>Dendroica petechia</i>)	SSC	Riparian woodland, montane chaparral, and open conifer forest with substantial shrub	Could occur. Suitable habitat present, known to occur in proximity to project area.
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¹ Regulatory Status Codes

SSC: California Department of Fish and Game Species of Special Concern

CE: California Department of Fish and Game Endangered

CT: California Department of Fish and Game Threatened

D – FE: Delisted United States Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered

FSS: United States Forest Service Sensitive

FC: Candidate species for listing by United States Fish and Wildlife Service

WL: California Department of Fish and Game Watch List Species

Wildlife Species Known or Likely to Occur in Donner Memorial State Park and Potential for Presence at the Project Site

The following species are identified as sensitive and are known to occur within the project area. There is the potential for project activities to have an impact on these species but mitigation measures have been developed to reduce these impacts, where present, to less than significant.

Olive-sided flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*). This California Species of Special Concern nests in open-canopy conifer forest near edge openings, usually at higher elevations (Shuford and Gardali 2008). This is a migrant species, present in the Truckee area for breeding May 1 through August 31. Suitable habitat is present at the project site and tree removal or loud construction activities during the breeding season could impact this species.

Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus tahoensis*). This California Species of Special Concern is resident in montane riparian habitat and stands of young conifer mixed with chaparral, including the early seral stages of mixed conifer forest. Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare is known to occur within Donner Memorial State Park (DPR, 2003). Removing or fragmenting suitable habitat or conducting construction activities during the breeding season, late May to July, could result in potential impacts to this species.

Yellow warbler (*Dendroica petechia*). The yellow warbler is a California Species of Special Concern that typically breeds in riparian vegetation such as willows or cottonwoods close to water and also occasionally in chaparral vegetation (Shuford and Gardali 2008). The nesting season for this species is between March 1-August 31 with peak activity occurring in June. Although project activities will improve riparian habitat over the long-term, the short-term construction within occupied habitat could cause direct impacts on breeding and nesting activities, and could affect the size or viability of the local population.

Wildlife Species Occurring in or Near Donner Memorial State Park, but Unlikely to Occur at the Project Site

Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). This California Endangered species was recently delisted under the Federal Endangered Species Act. The bald eagle is also protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). Bald Eagles in California can be either year-round residents or winter migrants.

Nest trees are often in very large trees in proximity to water and breeding season generally occurs between February and July (CDFG 2008). Suitable nesting and wintering habitat occurs near the proposed project site, but there is not suitable nesting habitat located within the proposed project area. There is a known nest site within proximity that may result in the species foraging in the area.

California Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*). This California Species of Special Concern is a resident of mixed-conifer forests in the Sierra Nevada, often in stands with medium to large diameter trees, greater than 40% canopy cover, and on north facing slopes (Gutiérrez et al 1992). The breeding season for this species in the Lake Tahoe basin is February 15 through August 15. There are no known nest sites within the proposed project area.

Cooper’s Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*). This species is on the California Department of Fish and Game’s Watch List. Suitable nesting habitat is not present in the project area, but there is suitable habitat within the vicinity of the site.

Northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*). This California Species of Special Concern is resident in mature and old-growth forest stands generally above 2500 feet elevation in the Sierra Nevada (Shuford and Gardali 2008). The breeding season for this species is February 15 through August 15. There are historic records of northern goshawks nesting within the Cold Creek watershed, but none within proximity of the project area.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). Osprey are a migratory species and are present during the breeding season, April 1 through August 15. They build large stick nests in treetops or snags in open forests within fifteen miles of water used for foraging (DFG 2008). Osprey are known to nest within Donner Memorial State Park, but not in the project area. Suitable habitat for this species would not be altered by project activities; however project activities during the breeding season could impact this species if within a quarter mile of a nest.

Sierra Nevada mountain beaver (*Aplodontia rufa californica*). Populations of Sierra Nevada mountain beaver occur in dense montane riparian vegetation. The beaver prefers stream areas surrounded by meadows and seeps and does not prefer defined channels, such is the environment within the project area. Therefore, it is unlikely that there will be beavers present in the project area.

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modification, on any species identified as a sensitive, candidate, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or the 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 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?
- c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands, as defined by §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?

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SIGNIFICANCE

The analysis of determining the significance of impacts of the Proposed Action to Agricultural Resources is based on criteria **IV a – f**, described in the environmental checklist above.

DISCUSSION

a. **Less than significant**- Although construction activities are not likely to have an effect on special status wildlife species due to the scattered/low-quality habitat present, if construction activities are scheduled to occur during the breeding season, there may be potential impacts.

As described in the Environmental Setting, the proposed project would enhance the floodplain and promote an increase in riparian habitat. In order to reduce short-term impacts to sensitive, candidate, or special status species related to construction activities to a less than significant level, the following proposed measures would be implemented:

(i) **Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare** is a sensitive species that has been recorded present in the vicinity of the project area and has suitable habitat within the project site. Destruction of habitat (i.e. burrows) and construction disturbance during breeding season could negatively impact this species. However, construction activities will occur after the hare’s breeding season so should not impact their reproductive success. All potential impacts on this species would be temporary; no long-term degradation of habitat would occur as a

result of project implementation. Therefore, the impact on this species will be less than significant.

(ii) **Yellow Warbler, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Bats, and Other Raptors** may be present in the project area. Specifically, there are two sensitive songbird species (Yellow Warbler and Olive-sided Flycatcher) that are likely to be present in the project area, and could be reproductively active in the vicinity of the project. Removal of occupied nesting habitat would be a direct and significant impact if yellow warblers were taken or deterred from occupying breeding and nesting locations. Cooper's hawks may rarely venture through the project area when foraging. Raptors and songbirds are protected by the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712), and by the California Fish and Game Code (Sections §3503, §3503.5, and §3513). Impacts to trees actively used for nesting or roosting could result in significant impacts to these species. Implementation of **STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT BIO-5** (Chapter 2) will reduce potential effects of project activities on these species to a less than significant level.

(iv) **Osprey** is a sensitive raptor species that is known to nest in Donner SP. There are known nest sites near the project area. Impacts to known nest trees or disruption of nesting could potentially impact this species. Implementation of **STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT BIO-3** (Chapter 2) will reduce potential effects of project activities on this species to a less than significant level.

(v) **Northern goshawk** is a sensitive raptor species that has been known to nest in and near Donner SP in the past, but there are no recent records of their presence. There are no known nest sites within the proposed project area or suitable nesting habitat. Implementation of **STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT BIO-2** (Chapter 2) will reduce potential effects of project activities on this species to a less than significant level.

(vi) **Bald eagle** is a California Endangered Species that is known to nest in Donner SP. There are no known nest sites in the project area or suitable nesting habitat, but the species may venture through the area when foraging. Impacts to nest trees or disruption of actively nesting eagles would be a significant impact to this species. Implementation of **SPECIFIC PROJECT REQUIREMENT BIO-4** (Chapter 2) will reduce potential effects of project activities on this species to a less than significant level.

(vii) **California Spotted Owl** may forage through the project area, but it is highly unlikely that the species would nest in the project area. Altering, removing or fragmenting occupied habitat or conducting construction activities during the breeding season could result in potential impacts to this species. There is suitable nesting and roosting habitat in proximity to the project site, but implementation of **STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT BIO-2** (Chapter 2) will reduce the potential impact on this species to a less than significant level.

(viii) **Sensitive plant species** may be present in the project area, although it is unlikely, including Santa Lucia dwarf rush (*Juncus luciensis*) and Alder-leaf coffeeberry (*Rhamnus alnifolia*). A pre-project reconnaissance by a botanist resulted with no findings of these or any sensitive plant species. Although there is very limited suitable habitat in the project

area to support these species, there is a possibility that they are present. Implementation of **STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT BIO-7** will reduce the impact to these species to a less than significant level.

(ix) **Invasive plant species** may be present in the project area and there is a potential for them to be introduced to disturbed areas during construction via transfer from equipment moving in and out of the area. Implementation of **STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT BIO-8** will reduce the impact to a less than significant level.

- b) **Less than significant-** The purpose of this project is to increase the amount of riparian habitat, so it will result in a substantial beneficial impact. During construction there will be some short term impacts to the riparian area, but per the project description mature riparian vegetation will be avoided to result in a less than significant impact.
- c) **Less than significant-** This project is designed to enhance federally protected wetlands as defined by §404 of the Clean Water Act. Sensitive habitat areas within and adjacent to project activities will be protected with incorporation of **SPECIFIC PROJECT REQUIREMENT GEO-1, STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT HAZMAT-1, and STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT HYDRO-1** (Chapter 2). Implementation of these actions will result in a less than significant impact.
- d) **Less than significant impact-** This project will not result in substantial interference with migratory wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors. Cold creek is not considered to be a known deer migration corridor, but they are present in the area. This project will be a short-term, small scale project that will not impede the movement of migrating deer populations. The rest of the park is open wild land and provides ample area for the species' movement.

There will be a diversion system set up so that the water from upstream of the project can continue to flow downstream when the dewatering of the channel occurs. Depending on flows, the channel may not be completely interrupted, but simply narrowed by means of barriers. Fish movement will not be impeded. Before installation of the gravity flow by-pass the fish will be removed from the channel (via electrofishing or netting) and relocated downstream from the project site by a qualified fisheries biologist, as determined by a DPR approved biologist. Block nets shall be provided, installed, and removed by a fisheries biologist upstream and downstream from the diversion area. Most likely, the fish will simply be netted and released without negative consequence. If electrofishing occurs, the method will encourage fish survival. Also, project actions within the bed and bank will only occur during low flows and after the fish have spawned. Therefore, the project will have a less than significant impact.

- e,f) **No Impact-** This project does not conflict with any local policies, ordinances, or habitat conservation plans. Therefore, there will be no impact.

DRAFT

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

This section describes the nature and extent of cultural resources located in the project area that have the potential to be impacted as a result of Project implementation. The general and site-specific profiles of resources contained herein provide the baseline by which environmental impacts are identified and measured. The discussion of the cultural and regulatory settings is followed by an assessment of impacts to resources at the programmatic and project level.

Methods

A full accounting of known cultural resources within the Park and the project area, specifically, was achieved through a literature review, records search of DPR archives and a comprehensive field survey. The following section details the methods used in the study.

Record Search

Records searches undertaken for this study had two primary purposes: to determine whether known archaeological or historic resources are located within the study area; and to determine the likelihood of unrecorded resources based on the distribution and topographic characteristics of known sites.

Denise Jaffke, Associate State Archaeologist for the Sierra District, conducted a records search of the District Unit Data files located at the Cultural Resources Office (Archaeology), Sugar Pine Point State Park. Information collected in the course of research was supplemented with pertinent archival information compiled by DPR staff using files maintained at the Sierra District Cultural Resources Office in Tahoma. Past cultural resource inventory reports and related documentation were reviewed. The reports document a wide variety of archaeological and structural features, the majority of which reflect prehistoric land use.

Field Survey

Under the direction of Shannon Gilbert, Parks carried out an archaeological survey of the project area in September 2001. The field crew surveyed parallel transects, generally spaced 10 meters apart. The entire project area and areas southwest along Cold Creek was examined. Several archaeological sites were identified and GPS'd as part of the inventory, but all are located outside of the current project area. No cultural resources are located in the project Area of Potential Effects.

ETHNOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND

Donner Lake is situated within the ethnographic territory of the Washoe, who inhabited the Tahoe/Truckee area at the time of Euroamerican contact (Carlson 1986; d'Azevedo 1966, 1986; Downs 1966; Price 1962, 1980). The primary habitation focal points were centered around large valleys on and along the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada mountains between Honey Lake (north) and Little Antelope Valley (south) (d'Azevedo 1986:468 [Figure 1]; Elston 1986:13). The core area was approximately 120 miles long by 40 miles wide and covered

about 4,000 square miles.

Permanent settlements along the eastern slopes of the Sierra Nevada were identified by traditionally acknowledged subgroups and geographic features. Permanent settlements were also located in small valleys around the 5,500 foot elevation, such as Woodfords and Markleville in Alpine County, the upper reaches of the Truckee River near Donner Lake, and in eastern Sierra Valley (d'Azevedo 1986:467). Although most lived in permanent/winter settlements in the lowland valleys east of the Sierran crest, Lake Tahoe comprised the spiritual and geographic center of the Washoe world (Downs 1966:16).

The Washoe are members of the wide-spread Hokan linguistic group and are the only Great Basin group to speak a non-Numic language. Kroeber (1925:569) and Downs (1966:70) postulate an early relationship prior to 4,500 years ago between the Hokan speaking Washoe and other Hokan speakers in California. The cultural origins are still unclear, but linguistic evidence suggests past associations with California groups.

The Washoe were economically and socially organized into basic household or extended family units residing in multifamily communities (Barrett 1917:8; Jackson et al. 1994:II.A). Groups maintained ties with each other as well as with neighboring Penutian-speaking groups, including Maidu, Miwok and Paiute. Washoe territory, including the core area, was fluid in that it was utilized by non-Washoe people, particularly when resources were abundant, or as a trade/travel corridor. Joint use or trespassing was usually accommodated by negotiation (d'Azevedo 1986:467).

With a relatively abundant environment and some of the highest pre-contact population densities in the Great Basin (Lindström and Bloomer 1994:27; Price 1980), the Washoe pursued an "intensive subsistence strategy and a demographically packed settlement pattern" (Zeier and Elston 1986:379) which involved high seasonal mobility, mixed strategies of foraging and collecting and intensive exploitation of high and low ranked resources. Lake Tahoe consists of several types of microenvironments. Habitats include meadows, marshes and riparian corridor vegetation communities. The broad resource base enabled various kinds of subsistence activities practiced by ethnographic Washoe.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Historic themes for the Donner Lake Basin include Emigrant History, Settlement in the East Donner Lake Area, Transportation, Logging, Ice Harvesting, Commercial Fishing, Water Reclamation: Dams, Storage Reservoir, Water Diversion and Communication.

Emigration History

The first known documentation of Euro American exploration of the Donner region is that of John C. Fremont's 1845-46 expedition. On December 3, 1845 his campaign camped at Coldstream, south of present day Donner Memorial State Historic Park. The Fremont documentation and exploration reflects the growing interest in the American far west during this period. The U.S. Government began to document resources, inhabitants, and geography of "uninhabited" regions such as the Donner area.

Prior to these early expeditions, emigrants passed through the area as early as 1841. The Stevens-Murphy-Townsted Party was first to bring wagons through the Donner Pass in 1844. They followed the river over much of the same route as modern day Highway 80. Moses Schallenger and 2 other men of the Murphy-Stevens-Townsted Party built a cabin to brave the winter. Members of the famous Donner Party used this cabin in later years. A large monument built in 1918 by C.F. McGlashan allegedly stands on or near this location (Lindstrom: 1987: 1).

The Donner Party of 1846-47 was a group of emigrants trapped in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Led by wagon master George Donner, 20 wagons and 89 people attempted to travel through the Donner Pass during one of the worst winters ever recorded in Sierra history. Only 47 of the 89 members of the party endured, some resorting to cannibalism. The entire Breen and Reed families were among the survivors. The isolated and tragic Donner Party episode has since been transformed into a major folk epic (Lindstrom 1987:1).

From 1845-1848 an estimated 2,600 individuals traveled from "the states" to California. Most emigrants facilitated the Truckee/Donner gateway (Unruh 1979:119). After 1845, emigrants used Greenwood's Cutoff, the route east of Donner Lake, to avoid the Truckee River Canyon while crossing the mountains. By 1846 the emigrants traveled south from Donner Lake into Coldstream Valley before crossing either Middle Pass (the notch between Mt. Judah and Donner Peak) or the South Pass (the notch between Mt. Judah and Mt. Lincoln) avoiding the North Pass (Donner Pass). The GLO surveys of 1865-66 show the emigrant trail winding through the Middle and South Passes, supporting the theory that these two routes were well traveled. After 1848, Mormons traveling east from California established the basic Carson Pass route that soon became the principal route into California (Lindstrom 1987:5).

Settlement in the East Donner Lake Area

The *Dutch Flat Enquirer* reported that by 1864 the lower (east) end of Donner Lake had become "quite a settlement" (10/1/1864 in Lindstrom 1987:25). This settlement included two hotels, a store, blacksmith shop, express office and several dwellings. The enterprises at Donner Lake centered on King and Ingram's Station and McPherson's Donner House.

One of the first to permanently settle on the east end of Donner Lake within the vicinity of the park was Samuel King. On May 16, 1860, King filed a Declaration of Intent for 160 acres in the middle of Section 17, T17N, R16E since the area had not been officially surveyed by the United States General Land Office (GLO). Upon the completion of the GLO survey in 1866, King filed an official homestead claim on the property, though he abandoned the claim in 1871. According to Lindstrom, "the Donner Lake House appears on the assessor's record at the east end of Donner Lake. This house may refer to King and Ingraham's [a partner?] establishment. In 1870 King was assessed for property in the south consisting of a barn, hotel, horses, colts, and 20 tons of hay, at the foot of Donner Lake" (Lindstrom 1987: 25).

In 1871, the year that King abandoned his claim, the Central Pacific Railroad sold 160 acres located in the center of Section 17, T17N, R16E. From the property boundary description, Kelly most likely purchased King's former claim that CPRR received when it was abandoned. In 1873, Kelly bought an additional 240 acres located in Section 17, bringing his total

ownership within the vicinity to 400 acres. By 1877, Kelly sold his entire holdings to Joseph Marzen, a butcher in Truckee. According to Lindstrom, Marzen most likely operated a hog farm and grew alfalfa on the property before he sold all but one acre to the Donner Ice Company in 1895 (Lindstrom 1987: 16-28).

It is interesting to note that in 1864 King purchased a ranch located in 17N R16E, Section 17 from Angus McPherson, the former owner of a sawmill located near the lake's east shore (Lindstrom 1987: 13-25). In addition to a sawmill, Angus McPherson also operated a hotel close to the eastern shore of Donner Lake. According to Lindstrom's report, "McPherson offered row and sail boats for rent (*Union* 7/11/1864/3:3). Also, a butcher shop, store and blacksmith shop were located adjacent to McPherson's Hotel (ARNC: 20/1864). Bean's *History and Directory of Nevada County*, 1867 showed A. McPherson at the Donner Lake Hotel with E.S. Drew as proprietor of the Donner Lake Hotel and E.S. Dewey as butcher at the Donner Lake Hotel (p. 322-23)" (Lindstrom 1987: 25). Another article about the McPhersons that appeared in the *Dutch Flat Enquirer* in 1864, reported that the McPherson operation included 2 hotels, a store, blacksmith shop, express office and several dwellings (*Dutch Flat Enquirer* 10/1/1864 in Lindstrom 1987: 13).

In 1869 the *Truckee Tribune* noted that Grants Hotel complete with bath house and row boat rentals was located at the east end of Donner Lake (*Truckee Tribune* 5/12/1869 in Lindstrom 1987). In 1870 the Pacific Rural Press placed the location of the Grant House 1/4 mile from the Donner Party cabins. The remaining acre became the Donner Memorial.

Lindstrom speculates that Grants Hotel may have been McPherson's old Donner Lake Hotel under a new name. It is likely that the hotel is one of the two mentioned in the 1864 newspaper article. The Grant Hotel appears to have survived longer than other hotels in the area. Sam Welsch leased it from 1872 until 1877 (*Territorial Enterprise* 7/18/1872 in Lindstrom 1987:28). In 1906, the *Truckee Republican* announced the opening of the Donner Lake House. According to Lindstrom, this article may have been referring to a renamed Grant Hotel (Lindstrom 1987: 28).

The popularity of hotels in the area stemmed from improved transportation. Initially, the Central Pacific Railroad made Donner Lake more accessible and thus encouraged the emergence of small resorts and hotels around Donner Lake. The trend to enjoy the natural environment as a form of recreation became more popular throughout the country in the late 1800s and Donner was a perfect platform for such activities. Horseback riding, fishing, hunting and other lakeside pastimes in the Tahoe region became favorite activities for Northern California's urbanites by the early twentieth century (Lindstrom 1987: 30).

Another boom to tourism came with the advent of the automobile. Between 1910 and 1920, the popularity of the automobile and its affordability increased mobility and accessibility to the mountain regions, especially during the summer, leading to the influx of more summer visitors. To accommodate the increased visitor population, campgrounds opened throughout the region.

In addition to the hotels and campgrounds, logging and ice harvesting operations, other early

businesses and residences near Donner Lake's east end emerged. B.I. Meeder operated a blacksmith shop on Donner Lake road at the foot of Donner Lake; Potter and Sawyer operated a meat market on Donner Lake Road, 1/2 mile east of Donner Lake and were assessed for their market, a stable, four horses, one butcher wagon and one male dog; Billy Yeng owned a house at the foot of the Donner Lake on the Donner Lake Road; J.R. Cross owned a house (that was also used as a saloon) at the east end of Donner Lake and Sisson, Egbert and Company operated a store at the foot of Donner Lake Road and paid property taxes as of 1867. Sisson, Wallace and Company later held title to the N 1/4 of Section 17, T17N, R16E, purchased from CPRR (Lindstrom 1987: 28).

Transportation

To facilitate immigrants and gold seekers, road construction between Sacramento and the eastern boundary of the state during the mid-1850s grew rapidly. In 1859, Gold and silver was discovered in the Washoe Mountains and travel to this region warranted the construction of new roads through the Sierra Region as requested by the California Surveyor-General.

The first toll roads in the Donner area operated between 1857 and 1859, located along the north shore of Donner Lake and over Donner Pass. This toll road later incorporated the Dutch Flat and Donner Lake Wagon Road located near the proposed alignment of the Central Pacific Railroad. The opening of the Dutch Flat and Donner Wagon Road for traffic in June 1864, led to the establishment of new inns and toll stations along the route. After the completion of the Central Pacific Railroad in June, 1868, this road fell into disrepair.

The Central Pacific Railroad opened in 1868, providing a more rapid and reliable mode of transportation that connected California to the east. The railroad had a tremendous impact on the economy of the area. As a result of the opening of the first transcontinental railroad, various California industries including construction, logging, commercial fishing, the ice industry, agriculture, and recreation increased.

Due to the popularity of the automobile, in 1909 the State legislature appropriated funds for the construction of a state highway over the Donner Pass to the west end of Donner Lake (California Highway and Public Works 3/1990:67). The road would closely follow the Dutch Flat and Donner Wagon Road. This detour was eliminated in 1925 and cars began to go through the Truckee River Canyon. The route, known as the Victory Highway, was primitive and unpaved until 1923. This new road was modified and improved into what is known today as Old Highway 40.

Highway 40, the Lincoln Highway, provided even more access to automobiles filled with visitors and increased economic activity associated with tourism. Stopping places and concessions developed along this highway. As more people crowded into California there was a growing need for highway improvements. A result of these pressures included the development of the new, trans-Sierran Highway 80, which forced many of these concessions along old highway 40 out of business when tourists bypassed the old highway in favor of the new, upgraded Highway 80.

Logging

In 1848, the fledgling timber industry in California sparked the gold rush when James Marshall first found gold in the tailrace of Sutter's Mill. Like many other industries in California, the gold rush led to the rapid expansion of logging and lumber operations. The large increase in population led to a housing shortage and the only remedy was building more hotels, boarding houses and private residences. The increased construction created a large lumber market. In addition to the increased housing market creating lumber demands, mining operations needed water that was distributed through wooden flumes. A shift from surface placer mining to subterranean hard-rock mining required lumber for timber supports. The housing and mining demands for timber combined with the vast quantities of lumber needed for railroad ties, trestles and tunnels created an even greater need for lumber.

As a result of the increased demand, logging operations started throughout California's various forested mountain ranges including the Sierra Nevada's Truckee Basin. Between 1875 and 1906 a network of logging railroads was built in the Truckee Basin. The lumbering industry found its beginnings at Donner Lake when Angus McPherson established a water-powered sawmill at the east side of the lake in 1864. McPherson also established a hotel here. At its peak, McPherson's operations included two hotels, a store, blacksmith shop, express office and several dwellings (*Dutch Flat Enquirer* 10/1/1864 in Lindstrom 1987:13). By 1867 Angus and John McPherson owned almost all the land at the east end of Donner Lake and the outlet. A year later they had sold to the Donner Lake Saw Mill Company. By 1879 the mill had closed, leaving only a hotel in operation with additional income from the water rights.

In addition to the McPherson operation, as early as 1865, the Towle Brothers also established a double steam plant with 4 saws at the east end of Donner Lake. Between 1866 and 1880 the mill reportedly operated a double mill steam plant with 100,000 board feet daily capacity, however, this production is questionable when compared to the capacities of larger mills in the region (Lindstrom 1987:16).

According to Lindstrom, "Knowles (1942: 21) positioned the Towle sawmill on the north shore of Donner Lake near the CPRR tracks (?). More precisely, the Towle Brothers sawmill was located along Donner Creek about 100 yards west of the Murphy Cabin." In 1984, Lindstrom visited this location and noted what "appears to have been a mill site" (Lindstrom 1987: 16).

In 1869, the Towle Brothers paid taxes on a steam sawmill at the foot of Donner Lake. The sawmill included an engine and boiler, boarding house and outbuildings, one truck [wagon?] and 145,000 board feet of lumber. By 1870, the dam they had placed across the outlet was obstructing fish runs. Somewhat typical of the times, the Towle Brothers did not formally purchase the land where they had built their mill until 1872. It is possible that they leased the land from the Central Pacific Railroad (CPRR) before eventually purchasing it. Despite this early success, the mill ceased operations by 1874.

The only other activity relating to the mill occurred when CPRR ran a side track to the "Old Towle Mill Site" in 1875 to pick up 10,000 cords of wood which had been stacked for two years. In 1889 the Towle Brothers sold their remaining property (Lindstrom 1987:16-18).

Ice Harvesting

Another industry that developed in the Donner vicinity was ice harvesting, due primarily to the completion of the railroad. The railroad used the ice to refrigerate California produce for transportation across the country. In addition to the railroad's consumption, it also served a growing California population and was used in hotels because of its purity. Ice was harvested from artificial ice ponds and from sawmill ponds that were closed in the winter (Lindstrom 1987: 21).

The closing of the mills also provided a ready labor force since during the winter when loggers could not cut timber they often shifted their focus to ice harvesting. From 1868 through the 1920s, ice harvesting proved to be a successful industry in the Truckee area. The first ice company in the Truckee area was established in 1868 at Boca, though there were reported ice ponds in Coldstream Canyon that dated to 1866. Later operations in Coldstream Canyon included the Coldstream Ice Company, established in ca. 1900, and the Champion Ice Co., ca.1904 (Lindstrom 1987: 21).

While ice companies formed in the area, Donner Lake was not cold enough for consistent ice production so operations were limited to its perimeters and tributaries. Companies that contributed to the Donner Lake ice production, an industry that produced up to 35,000 tons in one year, included the Sitka Ice Company and the Donner Ice Company. In addition to the two companies, a Mr. Grimt, the proprietor of the Donner Lake House, located at the foot of Donner Lake, sold ice in 1869. His ice house was used as a bath house in the summer. The Sitka Ice Company was only briefly mentioned in 1874 in reference to their building at the east end of Donner Lake that was used as a datum point for taking depth soundings in the lake (Lindstrom 1987:21, citing Lord 1981, Wiley 1984, MacAulay 1984, and others).

In 1895, the Donner Ice Company of Chicago, Illinois, purchased land within Donner Memorial State Historic Park, in Section 17, T17N, R16E. While this land is not in the current project area, the company purchased an additional 80 acres in Section 16. The additional land is most likely within the current project's APE. At the turn of the nineteenth century, the Donner Ice Company was an active ice producer on Donner Creek. The company's pond was in the S1/2 of NE1/4 of Section 17, below the junction of Coldstream and Donner Creek outlets, being fed primarily by the Donner outlet. It drained into Donner Creek at its lower end in the SW1/4 of Section 16, again most likely within the APE of the current project. Competition from artificial ice gradually forced the closure of the Truckee Basin ice ponds. By 1927, when the industry completely faded, more than 26 companies had harvested ice from the region (Lindstrom 1987: 22).

EXECUTIVE ORDER W-26-92

Executive Order W-26-92 requires all state agencies, including Parks, in furtherance of the purposes and policies of the state's environmental protection laws and historic resource preservation laws, to the extent prudent and feasible within existing budget and personnel resources, to preserve and maintain the significant heritage (cultural and historical) resources of the state. Each state agency, including Parks, is directed to:

1. Administer the cultural and historic properties under its control in a spirit of stewardship and trusteeship for future generations;
2. Initiate measures necessary to direct its policies, plans, and programs in such a way that state-owned sites, structures, and objects of historical, architectural, or archaeological significance are preserved, restored, and maintained for the inspiration and benefit of the people;
3. Ensure the protection of significant heritage resources are given full consideration in all of its land use and capital outlay decisions; and
4. Institute procedures to ensure that state plans and programs that contribute to the preservation and enhancement of significant non-state owned heritage resources in consultation with OHP (*Executive Order W-26-92* Section 1).

WOULD THE PROJECT:	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, as defined in §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource, pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SIGNIFICANCE

The analysis of determining the significance of impacts of the Proposed Action to Cultural Resources is based on criteria **V a – c**, described in the environmental checklist above.

DISCUSSION

a, b, c) **Less than Significant Impact-** A survey conducted by a DPR cultural specialist found no cultural resources (historical or archaeological) within the project area or in the immediate vicinity of the site. The Sacred Lands Inventory review by the NAHC did not identify any recorded sacred sites, native plant gathering locations, traditional cultural properties or other special resources that may be affected by the proposed project. However, a potential exists to encounter previously undiscovered cultural material during project related construction activities (i.e., grading and other earthmoving activities). Because project-related construction activities could disturb previously unknown, buried, and important cultural resources, this impact would be potentially significant. Implementation of **STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENTS CULT-3 AND CULT-7** (Chapter 2) will provide protection in the case of an unanticipated discovery and bring the potential of impacting these resources to a less than significant level.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project site is located in the northern portion of the Sierra geologic province. The northern Sierra Nevada mountain range is subdivided into three main geologic complexes which are regions of distinct rock types, topography, and structure that were defined by the primary mountain building episodes of the Sierra Nevada Range. The Truckee Basin, in which the project site is located, lies within the eastern most complex of the Sierra Nevada range. The basin is located between two north-trending mountain ranges, the 9,000-foot-high Sierra Nevada on the west and the 10,000-foot-high Carson Range on the east (TOT 2006).

The major landform in the project reach is an alluvial fan, constructed primarily during glacial periods when sediment yield from the upper watershed was high. However, this location has a complex glacial history, and was also influenced by moraines and other till deposits. The project site is just upstream of the confluence of Coldstream with Donner Creek and a large alluvial fan was formed. As sediment yield from the upper watershed has declined throughout the Holocene (> 10,000 years), the channel has entrenched thru the alluvial fan in this reach. This coupled with channelization from mining has resulted in a confined incised channel.

Soils

Much of the soil underlying the Town of Truckee consists of glacial till, moraines and outwash. These soils, which can be described as silty/sandy gravels or gravelly/silty sands contain large quantities of sediments that were transported to the Truckee Basin from the crest of the Sierra Nevada by glacial activity. Past glacial activity has also resulted in the deposition of cobbles and boulders in the Basin. Soil depths typically range from 20 to 60 inches.

Two general groups of soils are in the Coldstream Valley watershed; those formed on glacial moraines and outwash (the Tallac series), and soils formed over bedrock (the Waca and Meiss series). The Tallac soil has a weakly cemented silica hardpan at 40-70 inches deep which can act as a restricting horizon for the continued downward movement of water. Waca soils are formed over andesitic tuff, which are generally softer materials, whereas the Meiss soils are formed over harder andesitic rock. Much of the valley bottom is Tallac soils, developed over glacial deposits, while valley walls are the Waca and Meiss soils (RRC 2007). This soil, due to it being alluvial in nature, lacks important nutrients and qualities that are found with most depositional type soils. The soil does support a very simplistic vegetation community but has high erodibility properties due to the lack of fine grained sediments and any silts or clays to provide cohesion. This is exacerbated due to the steep angle of repose along the banks of the creek and strong velocities associated with the incised and straightened channel. **THOUGH NO TOPSOIL IS TO BE IMPORTED FOR THIS PROJECT, THE ACT OF LESSENING THE BANK ANGLES, MULCHING AND REVEGETATING THE FLOODPLAIN AND BANKS WITH SALVAGED MATERIALS, SEEDLINGS, CONTAINER STOCK AND SEED, THE NEW FLOODPLAIN WILL BE LESS ERODIBLE AND ENHANCE DEPOSITION OF FINE SEDIMENTS. THUS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPECIFIC PROJECT REQUIREMENT GEO-1: REMEDIATION OF HIGH DISTURBANCE AREAS WILL REDUCE THE POTENTIAL IMPACT TO A LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT LEVEL.**

Seismicity

Faults located near Truckee include the Mohawk Valley Fault, the southern section of which lies approximately 20 miles northwest of Truckee in Sierra County, and the Dog Valley Fault, which extends in from Dog Valley (approximately 20 miles northeast of Truckee) southwest to near Donner Lake. Several small trace faults are also located within the Town limits. None of these faults are designated as Alquist-Priolo Special Study Zones, which identify fault areas considered to be of greatest risk in the state. A 1986 study by the California Bureau of Reclamation concluded that the Mohawk Valley and Dog Valley Faults could result in a maximum credible earthquake of 7.0 and 6.75 magnitude respectively.

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
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? (Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable, as a result of the project and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1997), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste disposal systems, where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site, or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SIGNIFICANCE

The analysis of determining the significance of impacts of the Proposed Action to Geology and Soils is based on criteria **VI a – f**, described in the environmental checklist above.

DISCUSSION

- a) Seismic ground shaking is possible from earthquake events along the faults discussed above in the Environmental Setting. Some of the project locations are located on soils prone to landslides.
- i) **No Impact** - The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act of 1972 was implemented to regulate development near active faults and to prevent construction of buildings for human occupancy on or near active faults (i.e., that have ruptured within the past 11,000 years). The designated zone extends from 200 to 500 feet on both sides of known active fault traces. Under the Act, no buildings intended for human occupancy may be constructed on or within fifty feet of an active fault trace. The project site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone as designated by the California Geological Survey (CGS 2007). No structures that are designed for human occupancy are located at the project site and no structures are proposed as part of this project. Therefore, there is no expected adverse effect on people or structures with regard to earthquake rupture as a result of implementation of this project.
- ii) **Less than significant** - Seismic ground shaking may occur during an earthquake at the project site with an epicenter located in the vicinity of the faults noted in the Environmental Settings. However, project activities will not increase the risk of exposure of employees or contractors working on the project to a seismic event. Therefore, the potential risk of affects to staff, contractors, or the public is considered to be less than significant.
- iii) **Less than significant** - Seismic-induced ground failure, such as liquefaction, usually occurs in unconsolidated granular soils that are water saturated. During seismic-induced ground shaking, pore water pressure in the soil could increase in loose soils, causing the soils to change from a solid to a liquid state (liquefaction). There is a potential for liquefaction within the project area, although liquefaction usually only occurs in fine grained soils. The risk would not increase as a result of the project, therefore, the potential risk of affects to staff, contractors, or the public is considered to be less than significant.
- iv) **Less than significant** - As described in the Environmental Setting, portions of the proposed project area have potential for landslides in the event of an earthquake in the Truckee area. This is an existing condition and the proposed project would not increase this potential hazard. Therefore, the potential risk of affects to staff, contractors, or the public is considered to be less than significant as a result of project implementation.
- b. **Less than significant**- Soil erosion could occur during project activities of soil excavation for floodplain creation. As outlined in the project description, it is calculated that

13,000 cubic yards (cy) of alluvial deposited soils will be excavated for the creation of floodplain. To minimize the potential for erosion during or after construction activities, implementation of **Standard Project Requirement Hydro -1** (Chapter 2) and the following mitigation measure will reduce the potential impact to a less than significant level.

SPECIFIC PROJECT REQUIREMENT GEO-1: REMEDIATION OF HIGH DISTURBANCE AREAS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All excavated areas for flood plain creation, haul roads, and landing/staging areas will be revegetated or treated to recover to pre-construction conditions or better as outlined in the project plans or SWPPP.• Excavated slopes shall be graded to a stable angle and protected against erosion by track walking, seeding/mulching bare areas, revegetation with mature harvested vegetation.• Where feasible access routes will be limited to previously disturbed areas.• Recontour and/or outslope main routes of travel if necessary to allow sheet flow of water across the landscape and reduce channelization.• All base erosion control measures must be in place, functional, and approved in an initial inspection prior to commencement of construction activities.• Disturbed areas are to be seeded, planted, and mulched per the revegetation plan.• All protective BMP devices to be installed shall be in place at the end of each work day when the five-day rain probability exceeds 40 percent.

- c) **No impact** - Project location is located on aquolls, borolls, pits, borrows, and tallacrymbrepts soil types, all of which are of stable composition (USDA 2011). Therefore, there will be no impact from this project.
- d) **No impact** - Expansive soils are those soils that have high clay content that swell when wet and shrink when dry. Soils on the project area site do not have high clay content, are therefore not expansive, and would not result in a substantial risk to life and property.
- e) **No impact** - The project does not involve the installation of any waste disposal systems. Therefore, there would be no impact to onsite soils from this project.
- f) **No impact** - No known unique paleontological or geological resources are known to exist at the project site.

VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS/CLIMATE CHANGE

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) are those gases that trap heat in the atmosphere. GHG are emitted by natural and industrial processes, and the accumulation of GHG in the atmosphere regulates the earth's temperature. It is widely supported that GHG contributes to global climate change, however, the extent of the change or the exact contribution of GHG, including emissions from construction activities remain in debate.

The State of California had taken the lead to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in California. In addition to other legislative acts and executive orders, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in September 2006 signed Assembly Bill 32 (ab32), the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. AB32 requires that statewide GHG emissions be reduced to 1990 levels by the year 2020. This reduction will be accomplished through regulations to reduce emissions from stationary sources and from vehicles. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is the State agency responsible for developing rules and regulations to cap and reduce GHG emissions. In addition, the Governor signed Senate Bill 97 in 2007 directing California Office of Planning and Research to develop guidelines for the analysis and mitigation of the effects of greenhouse gas emissions (Trout 2010).

Based on the actions of the State legislature and the California Attorney General in enforcing these laws, it appears that the California Environmental Quality Act requires lead agencies to address greenhouse gas emissions in environmental documents. However, CARB, the Attorney General, and other regulatory agencies have not issued any definitive guidance that agencies can follow in evaluating how land use developments contribute to climate change, specifically in regards to establishing thresholds of significance, and identifying appropriate mitigation for such emissions; therefore, this section will discuss climate change qualitatively with no significance conclusion.

In the case of greenhouse gas emissions, those emissions do not have direct environmental impact on the local area but rather a cumulative impact that affects all of the State of California and the world at large. The generation of one ton of greenhouse gas emissions in Modoc County in northeastern California will have the same impact on global climate change as on ton of GHG emissions in Truckee.

Lacking definitive guidance from the State, local jurisdictions on an individual basis must determine the significance of GHG emissions and mitigation measures for projects within that jurisdiction. The Town of Truckee has not yet developed or adopted a climate action plan or similar policies and standards to address greenhouse gas emissions. Also, the Town has not adopted local implementing procedures and guidelines for CEQA to address how GHG emissions should be analyzed in environmental documents, the thresholds of significance, and reasonable mitigation measures to be applied in Truckee (Trout 2010).

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environmental?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SIGNIFICANCE

The analysis of determining the significance of impacts of the Proposed Action to Greenhouse Gas Emissions is based on criteria **VII a – b**, described in the environmental checklist above.

DISCUSSION

- a) **Less than significant**-The proposed floodplain restoration project includes enhancement of a degraded stream channel. As part of the project, habitat, vegetation, and ecosystem function would be improved. Land use creation or entitlement, energy creation, agriculture, industrial uses or other primary contributors to GHG are not proposed. GHG emissions associated with the project are limited to human activity-use of diesel, operating heavy equipment, etc. Through re-vegetation and enhancement of the riparian scrub community, there approximately the same plant material available to capture carbon dioxide and reduce potential GHG emissions to a less than significant level.
- b) **Less than significant**-As mentioned, the State of California does not have a guidance policy for regulation of GHG emissions; therefore, the project will not conflict with any regulations. The amount of GHG emitted as a result of the project will be less than significant.

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The investigation and cleanup of hazardous materials or wastes that have been released to the environment are regulated by several State and federal laws (e.g., Resources Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) and the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA)). In California, the U.S. EPA has granted most enforcement authority over federal hazardous material and hazardous waste regulations to the California Environmental Protection Agency's (Cal/EPA) offices, boards, and departments. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region, provide oversight in investigation and remediation of sites affected by hazardous materials released in Truckee. Oversight is also provided by Nevada County Department of Environmental Health (NCDEH).

The types of materials used and stored at Donner Memorial State Park (DMSP) that could be hazardous include fluids such as motor vehicle and mechanical equipment fuels, oils, and other lubricants. DPR maintains storage facilities for fuels and lubricants within the park unit.

An assessment of the potential presence of hazardous materials was conducted using the State databases, Geotracker and EnviroStor (DTSC Hazardous Waste and Substance Site List). There are no sites listed within a quarter-mile radius of the project site. The Chevron Station #9-2139, located at 12333 Deerfield dr. in Truckee, is just outside of the quarter-mile radius of the project area and is documented as a Geotracker LUST (leaking underground storage tank) site. The Chevron recently requested a case closure, but was rejected by NCDEH Local Oversight Program (LOP). The request was rejected due to hydrocarbon contamination levels recorded by the groundwater monitoring wells (SWRCB 2011). According to DTSC EnviroStor database, no hazardous waste generators or Superfund sites are located within a quarter-mile of the project area (DTSC 2011).

Truckee Elementary and Truckee High School are about a mile away from the project area, but there are no airports in the vicinity.

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and/or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials, substances, or waste into the	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites, compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5, and, as a result, create a significant hazard to the public or environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Be 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? If so, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Be located in the vicinity of a private airstrip? If so, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death from wildland fires, including areas where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SIGNIFICANCE

The analysis of determining the significance of impacts of the Proposed Action to Hazards and Hazardous Material is based on criteria **VIII a – h**, described in the environmental checklist above.

DISCUSSION

- a) **Less than Significant Impact-** Construction of the proposed project would involve the routine transport and handling of hazardous substances such as diesel fuels, lubricants, and solvents. Handling and transport of these materials could result in the exposure of workers to hazardous materials. No hazardous materials would be used or stored on the project site after project construction. Because the proposed project would be in compliance with applicable federals, state, and local laws pertaining to the handling, transport, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials, including California Occupational Health and Safety Administration requirements, this impact would be less than significant.
- b) **Less than Significant Impact-** During the project, hazardous substances could be released to the environment from construction related vehicle or equipment fluid spills or leaks. Implementation of the **PROJECT REQUIREMENT HAZMAT-1** and **PROJECT REQUIREMENT HYDRO-1** (Chapter 2) will reduce the risk to on-site workers, the public, and the environment to a less than significant level.

- c) **No Impact-** No existing, or proposed schools are located within a quarter-mile of the project area. The nearest school, Truckee Elementary School (11911 Donner Pass Rd., Truckee), is located approximately 1 mile northeast of the project site. Therefore, no impacts would occur related to emissions or handling of hazardous materials within a quarter-mile of an existing or proposed school.
- d) **No Impact-** There are no hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code § 65962.5 sites within a quarter-mile of the project site that could pose as a significant hazard to the public or environment.
- e-f) **No Impact-** The site is not located within two miles of a private airstrip or within the land use plan or safety areas of the nearest airport, the Truckee-Tahoe Airport, which is located approximately five air miles east of the project site. Therefore, there are no safety hazards for the people residing or working in the project area related to air traffic.
- g) **No Impact-** The project provides water quality improvements to the area. Emergency vehicles will be given access if required through the project area.
- h) **Less than Significant Impact-** The entire Truckee area is considered to be in a high fire hazard severity zone as defined by the California Department of Forestry (CDF) (CalFire 2007). The project area is in between an urban area and wild land, which may contain substantial forest fire risks and hazards. However, the proposed project would not result in any uses or changes that would create a greater fire risk than currently exists. Chainsaws would be used to fell trees and cut tree slash and debris to smaller pieces. Improperly outfitted exhaust systems or friction between metal parts and/or rocks could generate sparks that could result in wildfire. The project site is surrounded on most sides by barren land, water from the channel may be used for fire suppression, and implementation of **PROJECT REQUIREMENT HAZMAT-2** (Chapter 2) will help prevent wild land fires. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Watershed Overview

Coldstream Canyon watershed in its entirety encompasses 12.5 square miles lying on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada physiographic province. The watershed is located near the Town of Truckee, California and has a multitude of property ownership, historic and current human disturbance activities, and small residential and commercial developments. Cold creek is a headwater type stream system and is located in the upper reaches of the Coldstream watershed. Cold creek flows into Donner Creek near Donner Lake Memorial State Park, about 1.5 miles upstream of the Truckee River. Being situated near the crest of the Sierra Nevada mountain range, the watershed has an elevation span of great magnitude from 8,949 ft at the top of Tinker's Knob to 5,910 ft at the mouth. The western half of the watershed consists of narrow valleys and high gradient streams. The valley widens considerably near the middle of the watershed, before narrowing again in a short canyon near the eastern boundary. From the exit of the canyon, Cold Creek was channelized on the northern section of its alluvial fan, to allow for gravel mining in the 1960's, to its confluence with Donner Creek.

The major landform in the lower reach of the Coldstream watershed is an alluvial fan, formed primarily during glacial periods when sediment yield from the upper watershed was high, forming fan and moraine deposits. Prior to extensive human disturbance, the channel and a fairly wide floodplain were likely somewhat entrenched within the fan and the channel likely periodically braided or avulsed over this wide fan area. 1939 photographs, when compared to present time, show that this reach had a wider floodplain and locally meandering planform. The creek was relocated and channelized to accommodate gravel mining and Interstate 80 construction in the 1960's. The original floodplain was mined and locally filled with mining spoils, leaving an unnaturally narrow, straight and deep channel. The channelized configuration carried large floods effectively, but substantial erosion occurred due to extremely high velocity and shear stress on streambanks in the confined channel. These disturbances and subsequent channel response have led to substantial changes in the channel and floodplain. Following channelization, the creek no longer had access to a floodplain, and the straightened channel had higher slope and energy causing the channel to incise. Streambanks were (and remain) very high, and even the largest floods are carried entirely within the channel, creating enormous erosive stress on streambanks. In more recent times, extensive streambank erosion and deposition of coarse gravels bars has started to create narrow limited areas of new floodplain in the current channel. This is a very slow process and yields substantial amounts of both fine and coarse grained sediment. Also the nascent riparian floodplain and corridor is narrow, providing only limited habitat value.

Coldstream's runoff regime is typical of that of watersheds along the east side of the Sierra Crest. The vast majority of runoff is produced as a result of snow melt runoff. Typically runoff begins in March, peaks in May or early June, and then gradually recedes during the summer, reaching a minimum sometime in September. Summer thunderstorm activity is highly

variable and there are often years that entirely lack thunderstorms. When they do occur, they tend to be localized and of a small magnitude and peak flows are not generated. In contrast, frontal rain storms which generally occur from November through May are the source of the largest flows (RRC 2007). These events are most notably rain on snow event producers. Due to the intensity and duration of these events, a subsequent yearly peak flow could occur during these months. Rain on snow floods tends to have a large impact on channel morphology, with far more potential for channel changes than during the typical snowmelt flood. Snow melt peak flows tend to be a smaller scale, have less variance, and have an upward limit defined by maximum snowmelt rates controlled by temperature, vapor pressure, and solar radiation.

Hydrologic Analysis

Cold creek is an ungauged basin; there is no USGS real time streamflow data for this creek. However, Donner Creek has been gauged at the 89 bridge since March of 1993 and at the outlet from Donner lake continuously since 1958 (RRC 2007). Because Cold creek enters between the two Donner gauges, stream flow can be estimated by subtracting Donner Lake's outflow from the gauge at Donner Creek on Highway 89.

A 100 year flood study was prepared for Teichert Inc. by Brown and Caldwell (B & C 2002). The study developed peak flow hydrology and HEC-RAS modeling for the project area under existing conditions. The Brown and Caldwell estimated 100 year peak flow for Cold creek at the confluence with Donner Creek was 2,480 cfs, and this was adopted for further analysis by Waterways Consulting (Waterways 2010). Through analysis of modeling existing and proposed conditions it was determined that the creation of an increased floodplain, resulting in nearly a 1.6 percent increase in 100 year floodplain area, would lower the 100 year surface water elevation between 0-4.5 ft throughout the modeled reaches. The proposed conditions model also predicts a reduction in velocities for the majority of the project reach (Waterways 2010). This is largely due to the increase in floodplain roughness and widened floodplain area.

A final engineered site plan and design was prepared using the best available modeling techniques to predict future flooding potential and conditions. Final design shall not increase the 100-year water surface elevation to greater than 1 foot above existing elevation (and will generally lower the water surface elevation). The design shall also not increase flood hazards or inundation areas that would result in the compromise of people or property beyond existing conditions.

Water Quality

The Truckee River is currently listed as impaired by sediment on the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) 303(d) list of waters that do not meet the standards of the 1972 Clean Water Act, and a Total maximum Daily Load (TMDL) has been developed. Within the Truckee River watershed, Coldstream is known to be a significant contributor of sediment, and was determined that Coldstream has an annual sediment loading rate of 209 tons/sq.

mile and is one of the three principal sediment producers into the Truckee River on a per unit area basis (RRC 2007).

As noted above in the Hydrology Analysis section, the proposed project would reduce bank erosion and increase floodplain area. Additional floodplain area would increase fine sediment deposition, reduce stress on streambanks, and provide additional habitat. Water quality in Cold Creek and downstream in Donner Creek and the Truckee River will be enhanced by reduction of sediment supply, particularly during winter season rain-on-snow events, spring melt, and summer storms. This project directly supports the Truckee River TMDL by reducing human-caused sediment supply from one of the largest sediment producers in the Truckee River watershed.

Water Quality Benefits

It is projected that floodplain benching, especially within the CDPR property, would have significant water quality benefits by reducing bank erosion and the coarse and fine sediment it supplies to downstream reaches. Eliminating the steep, eroding hillsides adjacent to the stream channel would significantly reduce the amount of fine sediment entering the stream, improving substrate and habitat quality both within Cold Creek and downstream in the Truckee River. This is an important benefit because the water quality of Truckee River is currently 303(d) listed as impaired for sediment (the TMDL is now underway). This approach of floodplain creation provides an important opportunity to reduce fine sediment yield by stabilizing sediment sources in unstable banks where the erosion is the direct result of past human disturbance.

HEC-RAS hydraulic studies that compare before and after project conditions, verify reductions in velocity and erosive force due to floodplain creation.

The following are key points from the HEC-RAS modeling:

- 1) The creation of floodplain by benching involves excavating 13,000 cubic yards from CDPR's property. This material will be excavated from the high, eroding streambanks of the existing constructed channel which produce both fine and coarse grained sediment. This will result in more stability by decreasing erosive force and increasing erosional resistance through re-vegetation. The approach also creates substantial opportunities to enhance vegetation and habitat within the riparian corridor and improve water quality.
- 2) The hydraulic modeling suggest that the main benefits of benching banks are to improve bank stability by removing erodible material from the banks, reducing over-steepened slopes and increasing vegetation cover. The benching would also help reduce fine sediment supply and create new floodplain for riparian vegetation to colonize.
- 3) The floodplain creation design will not result in substantial changes in sediment transport continuity along the channel. Grade control will be provided at the downstream bridge to maintain the existing high value riparian vegetation upstream of the bridge.

4) The lower project reach between shows considerable coarse sediment deposition and bank widening through a zone of declining shear stress and hydraulic force, this could be expected to continue into the future, however, the project should help reduce bedload volume.

5) Floodplain creation should not cause any significant harmful effects during or after construction with regard to flooding and erosion impacts. It is anticipated that substantial benefits to riparian habitat will be realized through creation of low floodplain surface benches similar to those formed naturally above the bridge site.

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge, such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level that would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial on- or off-site erosion or siltation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through 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 on- or off-site flooding?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area, as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map, or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Place structures that would impede or redirect flood flows within a 100-year flood hazard area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death from flooding, including flooding resulting from the failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j) Result in inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SIGNIFICANCE

The analysis of determining the significance of impacts of the Proposed Action to Hydrology and Water Quality is based on criteria **IX a – j**, described in the environmental checklist above.

DISCUSSION

- a) **Less than significant with mitigation**– Short-term adverse impacts to water quality may occur during project construction related activities in or near the stream channel. By scheduling construction of any construction activities within the floodplain and channel during low flow period in late summer/early fall, risk of water quality impacts during construction will be minimized. Most activities will take place outside the active channel.

As described in section 2.5, “Project Description Summary,” in chapter 2, “Project Description” toe stabilization along the existing bank adjacent to the Pond K section of creek will be installed (see Figures 2.7, pg.103, and 9.1, pg.109). During this construction activity, a temporary de-watering plan will be instituted as per engineered specs to divert water from upstream of the activity and release the flow downstream (see Figure 9.2, pg.110). Pumping of water shall only be used to de-water excavations or jetting operations, or to remove seepage and groundwater, never as a means to de-water the creek. When pumping is required, turbid waters will be dispersed to an approved disposal site, such as a natural depression, located at a minimum distance of 100 feet from the channel. De-watering operations shall comply with all SWPPP conditions.

It is projected that floodplain benching, would have significant water quality benefits by reducing bank erosion and the coarse and fine sediment it supplies to downstream reaches. Eliminating the steep, eroding hillslopes adjacent to the stream channel would significantly reduce the amount of fine sediment entering the stream, improving substrate and habitat quality both within Cold Creek and downstream in the Truckee River. This is an important benefit because the water quality of the Truckee River is currently 303(d) listed as impaired for sediment (the TMDL is now underway). This approach of floodplain creation provides an important opportunity to reduce fine sediment yield by stabilizing sediment sources in unstable banks where the erosion is the direct result of past human disturbance.

In all areas where floodplain is created the final floodplain surface will be composed of materials that have been excavated from the banks. This material once excavated, will be screened at the designated staging area and then replaced. By screening and (potentially) also washing the materials most of the fine sediment that could cause water quality impacts will be removed from the fill.

The project would be required to obtain and comply with multiple permitting/regulatory agencies permits and conditions prior to project implementation. This permitting requirement is developed to minimize the risk of water quality degradation from sediment and other potential hazardous materials used during project construction. In compliance with the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB) permitting requirements, a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be completed and submitted to the LRWQCB for project approval. Along with **STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT HAZMAT-1** (Chapter 2) that will minimize the impact of vehicle or equipment fluid spills, implementation of **STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT HYDRO-1** and **SPECIFIC PROJECT REQUIREMENT GEO-1** (Chapter 2) and the following **MITIGATION MEASURE WQ-1** will reduce the potential impact to water quality to a less than significant level.

MITIGATION MEASURE WQ-1: PERMIT AND SITE PLAN ADHERENCE AND IMPLEMENTATION
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Limit disturbance area to the necessary extent as outlined in the engineered project plans. 2) Design, install, and maintain temporary BMP's for the protection of disturbed areas that may be subjected to erosion or surface run-off with the potential to release sediment, nutrients, or hazardous materials to surface or ground water sources. 3) Implement a de-watering plan for construction activities that are within the low water or bankfull channel exist. 4) Use designated and established staging, re-fueling, and maintenance areas for equipment that has the required BMP's to prevent the potential for contamination of surface or ground water sources. . 5) Any stockpiled material shall be properly BMP'd according to the permitting requirements to ensure that wind and water erosion potential is eliminated. 6) Fill material reused in floodplain creation will be screened and potentially washed to minimize the potential of fine sediment mobilization in the event of flooding during the construction period. 7) Contractor shall be familiar with the conditions of all required project permits and SWPPP and shall implement all required BMP's prior to commencing grading operations.

b) **No impact** – The project will not significantly alter or deplete local groundwater. Local groundwater may be encountered during some excavation activities; this will not impact

the groundwater flow, recharge or direction within the project area. Groundwater encountered will be pumped to natural depressions or dispersed at a distance not less than 100 feet from the channel. Therefore, the project will have no impact.

- c) **Less than significant with mitigation**– With the excavation and grading of existing steep eroding stream banks to create a new floodplain and stable banks the channel will be able to freely migrate naturally across this surface reducing the shear stress on banks and reducing erosion. Incorporating toe stabilization at critical bank stabilization areas as such by Pond K (see Figures 2.7 and 9.1), and constructing rock and woody debris barbs along other sections of terrace toes will limit channel migration to the created floodplain and direct flows away from the terrace, thus reducing the potential for erosion. Revegetation of the created floodplain and adjoining stream banks will allow sediment to deposit, reducing the amount of fine sediment delivered further downstream. Based on analysis, a very conservative estimate of the project’s fine sediment benefits through reduction of bank erosion is on the order of 200 tons per year (Waterways 2010). Implementation of **STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT HYDRO-1, SPECIFIC PROJECT REQUIREMENT GEO-1 AND MITIGATION MEASURE WQ-1** (Chapter 2) will reduce the potential impact to construction related on- or off-site erosion or siltation to a less than significant level.
- d) **Less than significant**– Through extensive modeling (HEC-RAS) of existing versus proposed conditions. The proposed conditions model predicts a 1.6 acre increase in 100-year floodplain area as compared to the Waterways existing conditions model (see Figure 9.4, pg.112). Along with this increase in 100-year floodplain, it is anticipated that the resulting project would reduce the 100-year surface water elevation typically in the range of 0-1 feet throughout the project area. The width of the created floodplain is designed to accommodate the projected future channel geometry. The increased floodplain area will slightly reduce flooding hazards, compared to existing conditions.
- e) **Less than significant with mitigation**– The project would not contribute runoff water that would exceed existing or planned stormwater drainage basin capacity, because there are currently no stormwater drainage systems in the project area. Any runoff associated from storm events during construction would be confined to temporary BMP’s or to the surface water bodies within the project area. The project could result in temporary sources of polluted runoff during construction. Along with **STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT HAZMAT-1** (Chapter 2) that will minimize the impact of vehicle or equipment fluid spills, implementation of **STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT HYDRO-1, SPECIFIC PROJECT REQUIREMENT GEO-1 and MITIGATION MEASURE WQ-1**(Chapter 2) will reduce the potential impact to water quality to a less than significant level.
- f) **Less than significant with mitigation**– As discussed in sections A-E above, the project will not substantially degrade water quality. Along with **STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT HAZMAT-1** (Chapter 2) that will minimize the impact of vehicle or equipment fluid spills, implementation of **STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT HYDRO-1, SPECIFIC PROJECT**

REQUIREMENT GEO-1 and **MITIGATION MEASURE WQ-1**(Chapter 2) will reduce the potential impact to water quality to a less than significant level

- g) **No impact** – The project does not involve the construction of any housing in the 100-year floodplain nor does the project create the circumstance of introducing existing housing into the 100-year flood hazard map.
- h) **Less than significant with mitigation**– The project does involve substantial work within the 100-year floodplain to include placing bank stabilization structures that are designed to deflect flow and decrease velocities. These structures do not impede flood flows but rather protect banks from erosional shear stresses from increased water velocities. The structures are designed and constructed in such a way that the redirected flow and increase in floodplain area will decrease the flooding stage, as shown with the HEC-RAS modeling. As discussed in section D above, and implementation of **MITIGATION MEASURE WQ-1** will reduce the impacts of structures placed in the 100-year flood zone to a less than significant level.
- i) **No impact** – There are no dams or levees within the project area.
- j) **No impact** – The project is not located within a region that would be affected by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

X. LAND USE AND PLANNING.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Donner Memorial State Park (SP) lies approximately three miles east of downtown Truckee. In proximity to this sub-urban area with a population of over 14,000, Donner Memorial SP offers a wide array of recreational opportunities for locals and visitors.

Donner Memorial SP is split between two counties, Placer county encompassing the southern extent of the park and Nevada County the northern. The project area mostly falls within the limits of Nevada County and the Truckee Town Limits Sphere of Influence and is designated as open-space (TOT 2006).

Land within and adjacent to Donner Memorial SP is made up of and surrounded by a checkerboard of owners and uses, comprised of private, public, commercial, and open space lands. The Central Pacific Railroad maintains a 400 foot wide easement that bisects the park through the Coldstream Valley and up around Schallenberger Ridge. This route is the major east/west route connecting California with the rest of the United States by rail. This railroad has been established since the mid-nineteenth century. The land has also been subjected to other substantial human disturbances throughout time to include mining, timber harvesting, utilities, and development.

Both of the Nevada County and Placer County General Plans (Placer 1994, Nevada 1995) support a county-wide system of inter-connected trails for multiple user groups, and the establishment of visual and physical links among open space areas to form a system that, where appropriate, also includes trails. This project supports this General Plan item by inter-connecting a trail from the Town of Truckee and Teichert-Stonebridge Property directly adjacent to the project area.

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with the applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of any agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, a general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SIGNIFICANCE

The analysis of determining the significance of impacts of the Proposed Action to Land Use and Planning is based on criteria **X a – c**, described in the environmental checklist above.

DISCUSSION

- a) **No impact** – The project is located entirely within the property boundaries of Donner Memorial SP and is in an undeveloped section, thus the project will not physically divide an established community.
- b) **No impact** – A General Plan for Donner Memorial SP was adopted on April 5, 2003. Under the section “Park-Wide Management Goals and Guidelines (Riparian and Wetland Areas)” the outlined goal states “Promote and achieve improvements in the quality and function of the park’s aquatic and wetland ecosystems.” This project aligns well with the goal set forth in the park’s General Plan.
- c) **No Impact** -- Town of Truckee General Plan Section 4.8 “Land Use” item A. 5. states that “There are no locally -established or State-established habitat or natural community conservation plans that are applicable to the town of Truckee.”

DRAFT

XI. MINERAL RESOURCES.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

According to the map of California Principal Mineral Producing Localities published by: **California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology/U.S. Geological Survey (2000)** the important minerals listed for both Placer and Nevada counties, are SC (Construction Sand and Gravel), FC (Fire Clay), CS (Crushed Stone), DS (Dimensioned Stone), and Common Clay. The minerals listed as important in the study tend to be alluvial in nature and found along rivers and streams. The alluvial aggregates consist of the gravels, sand and broken stone used in the production of concrete and asphalt. DPR policy does not permit the commercial extraction of mineral resources due to impacts to resources and in accordance with the Public Resources Code § 5001.65

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that is or would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SIGNIFICANCE

The analysis of determining the significance of impacts of the Proposed Action to Mineral Resources is based on criteria **XI a – b**, described in the environmental checklist above.

DISCUSSION

- a) **No impact** – All material excavated from the project will either be re-used in the creation of the floodplain, or it will be utilized by Teichert-Stonebridge Inc. for other infrastructure projects not associated with this project, and will result in separate environmental review process.
- b) **No impact** – See description above in section A

XII. NOISE.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Donner Memorial SP has extensive urbanization and disturbances on its north and east sides. The Town of Truckee is within less than 3 miles from the park, with a population of over 14,000. Interstate 80, parallels the park's north boundary, from which a constant background roar emanates. The Central Pacific railroad track bisects the park through the Coldstream Valley wrapping around Schallenberger Ridge and skirting past Donner Lake to the south. The unpredictable and frequent passing of trains can create a distracted experience for park visitors. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) operates an active stockpile pit where road sands and construction debris materials are stored, sorted, and processed. This yard is directly adjacent to the project area and heavy equipment operation is a significant noise contributor to the park visitor in this area. Thus, there is considerable background noise.

The proposed project's location is within an undeveloped section of Donner Memorial SP where only dispersed recreational opportunities exist for the park visitor. This area is bordered by multiple acres of open space both public and private, between any residential/commercial populated areas. During the active construction period the project area will be closed to the public by issuing a DPR superintendents order of closure.

Sound is any detectable fluctuation in air pressure and generally is measured on a logarithmic scale in decibels (dB). When unwanted sound (i.e., noise) is measured, an electronic filter is used to de-emphasize extreme high and low frequencies to which human hearing has decreased sensitivity. Resulting noise measurements are expressed in weighting frequencies called A-weighted decibels (dBA). While zero dBA is the low threshold of human hearing, a sustained noise equal or greater than 90 dBA is painful and can cause hearing loss (Table XII-1, Bearden 2000).

Table XII-1: Sound Levels Generated by Various Sources of Noise

Sound Level	dBA
Quiet library, soft whispers	30
Living room, refrigerator	40
Light traffic, normal conversation, quiet office	50
Air conditioner at 20 feet, sewing machine	60
Vacuum cleaner, hair dryer, noisy restaurant	70
Average city traffic, garbage disposals, alarm clock at 2 feet	80
Constant exposure to the following sound levels can lead to hearing loss	
Subway, motorcycle, truck traffic, lawn mower	90
Garbage truck, chain saw, pneumatic drill	100
Rock band concert in front of speakers, thunderclap	120
Gunshot blast, jet plane	140
Rocket launching pad	180

The Federal Transit Administration released a report “Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment” in May 2006. This manual provides guidance for preparing and reviewing the noise and vibration sections for environmental documents. The table below outlines selected equipment that may be used in the proposed project and their associated noise levels (Table XII-2, FTA 2006)

Equipment	Noise Level in dBA at 50 feet
Dozer	85
Grader	85
Loader	85
Saw	76
Truck	88
Excavator	85
Pump	77
Backhoe	80

Source: FTA, May 2006

Noise is further described according to how it varies over time and whether the source of noise is moving or stationary. Background noise in a particular location gradually varies over the course of a 24-hour period with the addition and elimination of individual sounds. Several terms are used to describe noise and its effects. The equivalent sound level (L_{eq}) describes the average noise exposure level for a specific location during a specific time period, typically over the course of one hour. The Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) is a twenty-four hour average of L_{eq} with an additional 5 dBA penalty for noise generated between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. and a 10 dBA penalty during the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. The penalties account for how much more pronounced a noise is at night when other sounds have diminished. Federal, state, and local governments have defined noise and established standards to protect people from adverse health effects such as hearing loss and disruption of certain activities. Noise is defined in the California Noise Control Act, Health and Safety Code, California Code of Regulations (CCR) § 46,022 as excessive or undesirable sound made by people, motorized vehicles, boats, aircraft, industrial equipment, construction, and other objects.

There are no public or private airstrips in the vicinity of the project area.

<u>IMPACT</u>	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO</u>
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Generate or expose people to noise levels in excess of standards established in a local general plan or noise ordinance, or in other applicable local, state, or federal standards?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Generate or expose people to excessive ground borne vibrations or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Create a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project (above levels without the project)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project, in excess of noise levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Be 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? If so, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Be in the vicinity of a private airstrip? If so, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SIGNIFICANCE

The analysis of determining the significance of impacts of the Proposed Action to Noise is based on criteria **XII a – f**, described in the environmental checklist above.

DISCUSSION

a) **Less than significant** – The use of chainsaws and other various powered hand tools would be used in the cutting and removal of trees within the floodplain creation area. Trucks and heavy equipment such as loaders, dozers, and excavators would be used in the excavation and floodplain construction activities. Trucks would be transporting excavated fill materials to the designated staging and sorting area where the materials will be processed and either stockpiled or transported back to the construction area for use in the flood plain creation as described in Chapter 2 “Project Description” or offset to the Martis plant. The project area would be closed to public access during the construction time period. Noise associated with the proposed project is considered to have a potentially significant short-term impact to nearby noise-sensitive receptors, but should not exceed the current ambient noise level. Implementation of **STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT NOISE-1** for noise exposure will reduce potential impacts of the project to a less than significant level.

- b) **Less than significant** – Project related activities would not involve the use of explosives, pile driving, or other intensive construction techniques that could generate significant ground vibration or noise. Minor vibration adjacent to heavy equipment, such as the excavator, during construction work would be generated only on a short term basis, and the area affected by ground borne vibrations would be closed to the public during the construction time period. Therefore, ground-borne vibrations and noises would have a less than significant impact.
- c) **No impact** – After the final construction of the project, all the heavy equipment and sources of project related ambient noises would be removed from the site. The project would not create any source of noise that would contribute to a substantial permanent increase in noise levels in the vicinity of the project areas.
- d) **Less than significant** - See descriptions above in sections A and C. Implementation of **STANDARD PROJECT REQUIREMENT NOISE-1** will reduce any potential impacts to a less than significant level.
- e) **No impact** –The project is not located within two miles of any public airstrip.
- f) **No impact** - The project is not located within two miles of any privately owned airstrip.

XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project site is located approximately 3 miles from downtown Truckee, CA. The California Department of Finance has published the following estimates of population and housing in the Town of Truckee as of January 1, 2010: Total Population – 16,618, Total Housing Units – 12,297, Occupied Housing Units – 6,405 (TOT 2010).

The project area is classified as open space within the Sphere of Influence of the Truckee Town Limits (TOT 2006) and is within an undeveloped section of Donner Memorial SP.

WOULD THE PROJECT:	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SIGNIFICANCE

The analysis for determining the significance of impacts of the Proposed Action to Population and Housing is based on criteria XIII a-c, described in the environmental checklist above.

DISCUSSION

a), b), c) – **No impact** – The project does not involve any increase or reduction in available housing, or infrastructure that would lead to population growth, or the displacement of people.

XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Donner Memorial SP is located roughly three miles from downtown Truckee. The Truckee Fire District provides fire protection to the project site. The fire station is located approximately three miles away from the project site. Police protection in the project area is provided by the State Park Rangers. The Town of Truckee Police Department responds to emergency calls and assists with criminal investigations. The nearest school, Truckee Elementary School (11911 Donner Pass Rd., Truckee), is located approximately a mile east of the project site.

State Park Rangers are peace officers under state law with authority similar to city police or county sheriff personnel. The Rangers primary responsibility is to enforce park policies and regulations within Donner Memorial State Park. The district office is located at 7360 West Lake Boulevard in Tahoma and the unit office is located nearby in Donner SP. Seven Rangers are assigned to the Sierra District, which includes several other park units; however, currently only 5 positions are filled, including one positioned at Donner. Response times vary due to the distance of the patrolling Ranger(s), potential road closures, and employee shortages.

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Result in significant environmental impacts from construction associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SIGNIFICANCE

The analysis for determining the significance of impacts of the Proposed Action to Public Services is based on criteria **XIV a**, described in the environmental checklist above.

DISCUSSION

- a) i) **No Impact-** The proposed project would not result in any changes to the projected population of the area, nor would it involve the construction of any structures that would require additional fire protection services. The project would not change the demand for fire protection services in the project area. Because demand for fire protection services would not increase, there would be no impact on fire services.
- ii) **No Impact-** The proposed project would not increase the population in the project area, and public access to the project site would remain the same or be reduced from existing conditions. Therefore, the project would not cause an increase in demand for police services beyond existing conditions.
- iii) **No Impact-** The project would not increase the population or housing in the project area; therefore, it would not increase the number of students in the project area. The project would have no impact on schools.
- iv) **No Impact-** No recognized parks exist on the project site. Although recreation does occur on the project site, the proposed project would not increase the demand for park facilities beyond the existing conditions. Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact on parks.
- v) **No Impact-** The proposed project would have no impact on other public facilities because no additional residences or businesses would be constructed that could lead to increased demand on public facilities.

XV. RECREATION.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Donner Memorial SP has a wide range of available recreational opportunities for visitors. The park is popular with local residents for dispersed recreational activities within a short distance from their homes. The proposed project location is within an undeveloped section of Donner Memorial SP, and receives very light recreational activity. There are no formal trailheads, trails, or roads within the project area to facilitate recreational opportunities. There is no destination of significance located in the project area.

Elsewhere in the park, developed year-round recreational facilities and opportunities are available. The park offers developed camping, day-use, and picnicking sites during the summer months, and cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are popular when snow is on the ground. Miles of developed trails connect facilities with areas of natural and cultural significance. Most recreationalists in these areas are visitors from outside of the area, as day-use fees and heavy traffic detour the local residents from recreating often in these areas. Trails associated with this project; however a small section of trail will be built in the restored area that will eventually connect to the Town of Truckee trails.

WOULD THE PROJECT:	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities, such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SIGNIFICANCE

The analysis of determining the significance of impacts of the Proposed Action to Recreation is based on criteria **XV a – b**, described in the environmental checklist above.

DISCUSSION

a), b) **Less than significant-** The project plans involve creating an unpaved user trail that will eventually connect the project area to adjoining Teichert-Stonebridge Inc. property and respectively the Town of Truckee to trails and trails within Donner Memorial SP. The town connectivity is contingent on implementation of Teichert-Stonebridge Inc.'s planned development project. This proposed project may include construction of a trail segment, which later would be connected to the Teichert trail. Any developed trail that

will be constructed will be built to standards that the conditions of the topography, soils, uses, and climate dictate. Trail construction methods will be planned following the DPR's Roads and Trails Handbook. By constructing the trail to these standards will ensure the best possible elimination of potential erosion and maintaining sustainability, this along with implementation of **MITIGATION MEASURE WQ-1** would result in a less than significant impact.

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XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project area is located in an undeveloped area of Donner Memorial SP. There are no improved public roads or parking areas within or adjacent to the project area. There is an unmaintained Cold Stream road that connects to Donner Pass Rd and continues up Coldstream Valley. This road is “technically” closed to public vehicle use, but the gate at the entrance is usually open or unlocked so the public enters regularly. This road serves a multitude of purposes; the Caltrans is most notably the heaviest user of the road. Dump trucks travel in and out of the first 1/8 of a mile hauling in and off-loading materials and road debris at their yard on a daily basis. This road also serves as an access to the few private property holders scattered throughout the canyon. DPR uses this road as a service route to access property up canyon for enforcement and management activities. With the Central Pacific railroad winding through the canyon, the road is used by railroad employees for access to the tracks to conduct routine maintenance and inspections. The public uses this road as an access route for their dispersed recreational activities within the canyon.

The project will have short-term impacts to this road as construction equipment is mobilized to the construction site and again when de-mobilization occurs, as well as off-hauling of materials to Teichert’s Martis plant and small amounts of imported material (See Figure 2.3 on pg.102). Hauling of materials from the upstream sections of the project will involve transporting the material along a small section of a private road to off load it onto the Teichert-Stonebridge Inc. property for staging, sorting, and storage. Personnel associated with the project will be using this road to access the construction site, this would occur during business hours on weekdays when park visitation is at a minimal level. Vehicles and equipment will be staged within the project area that will be closed to public use during construction, thus not impacting visitation or traffic patterns.

Road Traffic and Level of Service

Level of Service (LOS) measures how the route operates during peak hour traffic. LOS summarizes the effects of speed, travel time, traffic interruptions, freedom to maneuver and other factors. The performance of the county roads and highways is evaluated based on LOS definitions. Six levels of service represent varying roadway conditions ranging from ideal (LOS "A") to forced flow (LOS "F").

Level Of Service (LOS)	Description of Typical Traffic Conditions	Delay	Service Rating
A	Highest quality of service. Free traffic flow, low volumes and densities. Little or no restriction on maneuverability or speed, and a high level of comfort and convenience.	None	Excellent
B	Stable traffic flow – speed becoming slightly restricted; the presence of others in the traffic stream begins to be noticeable. Low resistance on maneuverability.	None	Very Good

C	Stable traffic flow, but less freedom to select speed, change lanes or pass. Comfort and convenience decreasing as density increases.	Minimal	Good
D	Approaching unstable flow. Speeds tolerable, but subject to sudden and considerable variation. Reduced maneuverability, driver comfort and convenience.	Minimal	Adequate
E	Unstable traffic flow with rapidly fluctuating speeds and flow rates. Short headways, low maneuverability and low driver comfort and convenience.	Significant	Fair
F	Forced traffic flow. Speed and flow may drop to zero with high densities. Queues tend to form behind such locations since arrival flow exceed traffic discharges.	Considerable	Poor

Due to the project location being located within an undeveloped area of Donner Memorial SP, the project will not affect any **Level of Service Standard** during active construction periods.

Tahoe Truckee airport is approximately 5 miles air distance from the project location, this project will not result in a change in air traffic patterns, or increase air traffic levels.

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Cause a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location, that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Contain a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or a dangerous intersection) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment) that would substantially increase hazards?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

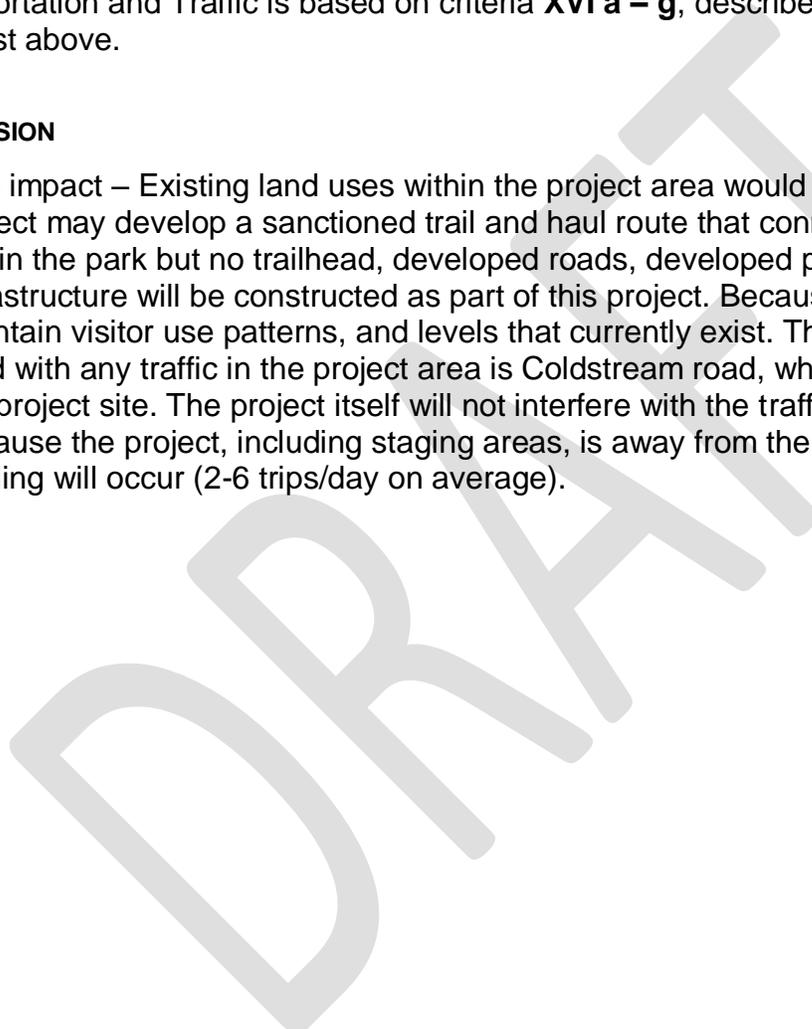
- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| f) Result in inadequate parking capacity? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SIGNIFICANCE

The analysis of determining the significance of impacts of the Proposed Action to Transportation and Traffic is based on criteria **XVI a – g**, described in the environmental checklist above.

DISCUSSION

a-g) No impact – Existing land uses within the project area would not be changed. The project may develop a sanctioned trail and haul route that connect to other resources within the park but no trailhead, developed roads, developed parking, or any other infrastructure will be constructed as part of this project. Because of this, the project will maintain visitor use patterns, and levels that currently exist. The only partially developed road with any traffic in the project area is Coldstream road, which will be used to access the project site. The project itself will not interfere with the traffic on Coldstream road because the project, including staging areas, is away from the road and only limited hauling will occur (2-6 trips/day on average).



XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Utility providers that serve the project area include the Truckee Donner Public Utility District (TDPUD) for water service. There are no public utilities located within the project site.

Standards for water, wastewater treatment, electricity, and natural gas are set by Nevada and Placer County. Most of these regulations can be found in Chapter 3 of the “Public facilities and Services” section of the *Nevada County General Plan* and the “Public Services and Infrastructure” section of the *Placer County General Plan*.

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment restrictions or standards of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Would the construction of these facilities cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Would the construction of these facilities cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in a determination, by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project, that it has adequate capacity to service the project’s anticipated demand, in addition to the provider’s existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project’s solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations as they relate to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SIGNIFICANCE

The analysis of determining the significance of impacts of the Proposed Action to Utilities and Service Systems is based on criteria **XVII a – g**, described in the environmental checklist above.

DISCUSSION

- a) **No Impact-** The proposed project would not generate any new sources of wastewater and, therefore, would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the Lahontan RWQCB. No improvements are proposed that would require wastewater treatment.
- b-c) **No Impact-** Construction or expansion of any on-site or off-site utilities facilities is not required by the proposed project. Therefore, the significant environmental effects caused by the construction of such, would not occur, no impact.
- d) **Less than significant impact-** During construction, water for dust suppression would be provided via a metered TDPUD hydrant. A permit will be needed to use TDPUD hydrant water. No additional water would be needed during project operation. Because DPR would be required to comply with all applicable permitting and metering requirements of the Lahontan RWQCB pertaining to use of water for dust suppression, this impact would be less than significant.
- e) **No Impact-** The project site is not directly served by any wastewater treatment facilities, nor would wastewater be generated at the project site; therefore, the project would not affect the capacity of any wastewater treatment facilities. There would be no impact.
- f-g) **No Impact-** The excess material attributed with the project will be excavated ground matter. It will be hauled off to Teichert's properties and reused; therefore, there will be no solid waste.

CHAPTER 4 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have the potential to eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, other current projects, and probably future projects?)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on humans, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

- a) The proposed project was evaluated for potential significant adverse impacts to the natural environment and its plant and wildlife communities (Biological Resources, Hydrology and Water Quality). The project site potentially supports certain special status animal species and natural communities, although none are known to occur. DPR has determined that the project would have the potential to degrade the quality of the habitat and/or reduce the number or restrict the range of sensitive animals. The project also would have the potential to degrade water quality by causing erosion, sedimentation, and release of pollutants, such as vehicle fluids and elevated metal concentrations into the environment. However, full implementation of all project requirements incorporated into this project would reduce those impacts, both individually and cumulatively, to a less than significant level.
- b) The proposed project was evaluated for potential significant adverse impacts to the cultural resources of DPR lands within Donner Memorial State Park. DPR has determined that proposed project activities do not have the potential to cause significant adverse impacts to historic and archaeological resources, as there are none present. In addition, full implementation of the project requirements incorporated into this document would reduce

impacts to previously unidentified archaeological sites and features to a less than significant level.

- c) The project would involve the enhancement of the lower floodplain of Cold Creek, as well as supporting trail rehabilitation that would also contribute to improved creek conditions. All of the project's impacts would be less than significant. Many project impacts are site specific (e.g., soils) and would not combine with the impacts of other projects in the area to be a cumulative impact. This is true for the following resource areas: aesthetics, agricultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, and utilities and service systems. Therefore, the impacts to these resource areas will not be increased and remain at a less than significant level, as this evaluation has determined.

Air quality impacts have regional implications and are not site specific. Short-term emissions of pollutants generated during construction are temporary in nature, but can contribute to air quality violations and nonattainment conditions. Emissions are primarily associated with heavy-duty construction equipment and fugitive emissions from ground disturbance and earth-moving activities. Unmitigated emissions associated with the proposed project are not expected to exceed applicable significance thresholds (82lb/day of ROG, NO_x, or PM¹⁰). The only project occurring within the vicinity of the Cold creek project is the construction of the new Donner Memorial SP Museum. This project started this summer in 2011 and will continue for the next two years. The impacts to the air quality from both projects are minimal; therefore, the project would not result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to a short-term or cumulative long-term regional air quality impact.

The museum construction is near a separate tributary of the Donner confluence away from Cold creek. For the remaining resource areas—biological resources, cultural resources, and hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, recreation, and transportation and traffic—potential impacts from environmental issues addressed in this evaluation do not overlap with this other project in such a way as to result in cumulative impacts that are greater than the sum of the parts. Less than significant impact.

- d) Most project-related environmental effects have been determined to pose a less than significant impact on humans. However, possible impacts from fugitive dust (Air Quality), construction accidents, spills, construction-generated noise (Noise), though temporary in nature, have the potential to result in significant adverse effects on humans. These potential impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level if all project requirements incorporated into this project are fully implemented.

CHAPTER 5

SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES

There are no mitigation measures required as part of the Coldstream Floodplain Enhancement Project. *(insert “No mitigation measures required” under sections without mitigations.)*

AESTHETICS

- NO MITIGATION MEASURES REQUIRED

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

- NO MITIGATION MEASURES REQUIRED

AIR QUALITY

- NO MITIGATION MEASURES REQUIRED

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- NO MITIGATION MEASURES REQUIRED

CULTURAL RESOURCES

- NO MITIGATION MEASURES REQUIRED

GEOLOGY AND SOILS

- NO MITIGATION MEASURES REQUIRED

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS/CLIMATE CHANGE

- NO MITIGATION MEASURES REQUIRED

HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

- NO MITIGATION MEASURES REQUIRED

HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

MITIGATION MEASURES WQ-1

- Limit disturbance area to the necessary extent as outlined in the engineered project plans.
- Design, install, and maintain temporary BMP's for the protection of disturbed areas that may be subjected to erosion or surface run-off with the potential to release sediment, nutrients, or hazardous materials to surface or ground water sources.
- Implement a de-watering plan for construction activities that are within the low water or bankfull channel.
- Use designated and established staging, re-fueling, and maintenance areas for equipment that have the required BMP's to prevent the potential for contamination of surface or ground water sources.
- Any stockpiled material shall be properly BMP'd according to the permitting requirements to ensure that wind and water erosion potential is eliminated.

- Fill material reused in floodplain creation will be screened and potentially washed to minimize the potential of fine sediment mobilization in the event of flooding during the construction period.
- Contractor shall be familiar with the conditions of all required project permits and shall implement all required BMP's prior to commencing grading operations.

LAND USE AND PLANNING

- NO MITIGATION MEASURES REQUIRED

MINERAL RESOURCES

- NO MITIGATION MEASURES REQUIRED

NOISE

- NO MITIGATION MEASURES REQUIRED

POPULATION AND HOUSING

- NO MITIGATION MEASURES REQUIRED

PUBLIC SERVICES

- NO MITIGATION MEASURES REQUIRED

RECREATION

- NO MITIGATION MEASURES REQUIRED

TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

- NO MITIGATION MEASURES REQUIRED

UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

- NO MITIGATION MEASURES REQUIRED

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Utilities and Service Systems

No sources sited.

CHAPTER 7
REPORT PREPARATION

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Cyndie Walck – Engineering Geologist
Ashli Lewis - Environmental Services Intern
Nathan Shasha - Environmental Scientist
Lisa Fields - Environmental Scientist

DRAFT

FIGURES AND TABLES

Figure 2.1 Coldstream Floodplain Enhancement Project Area

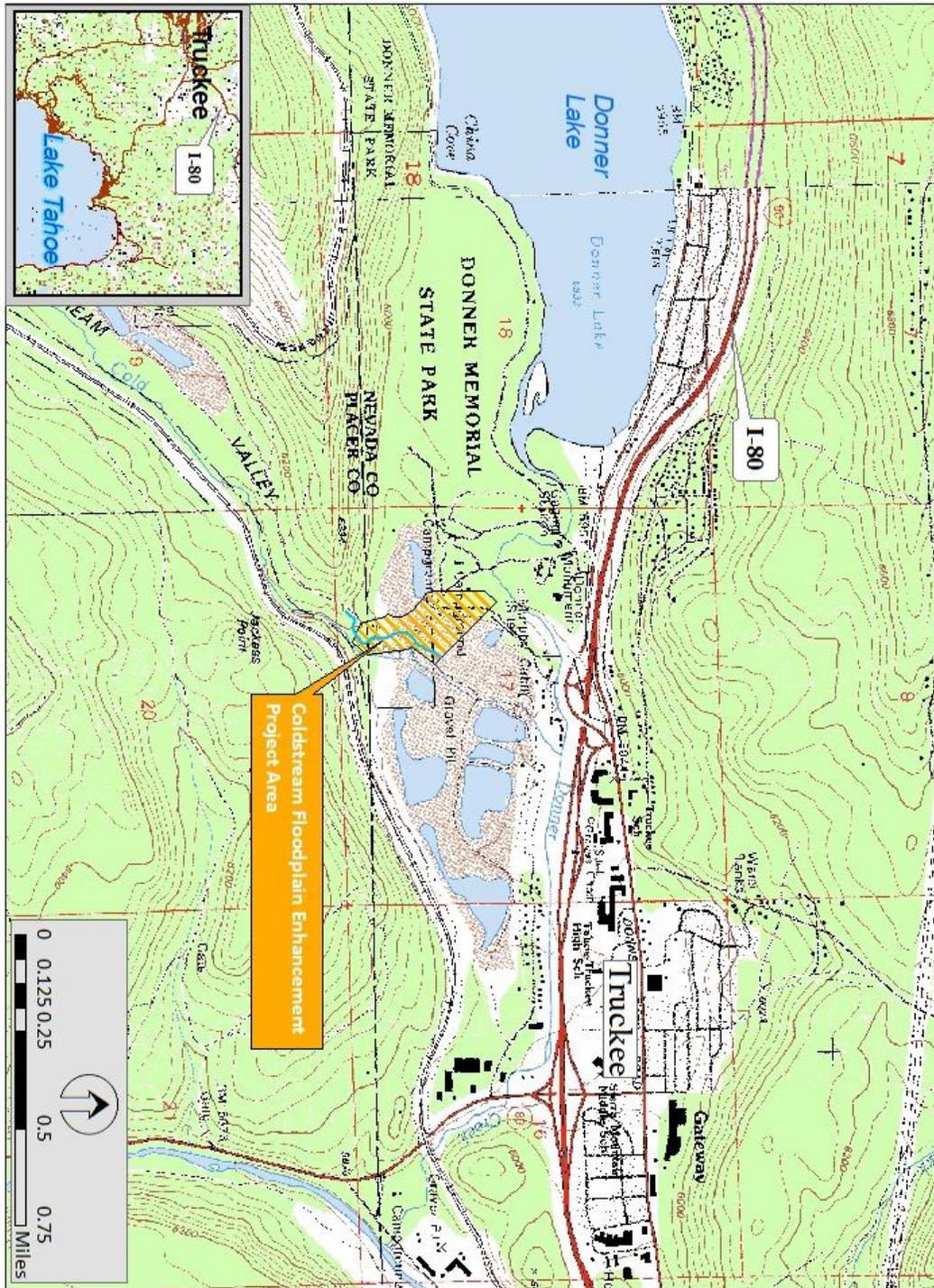
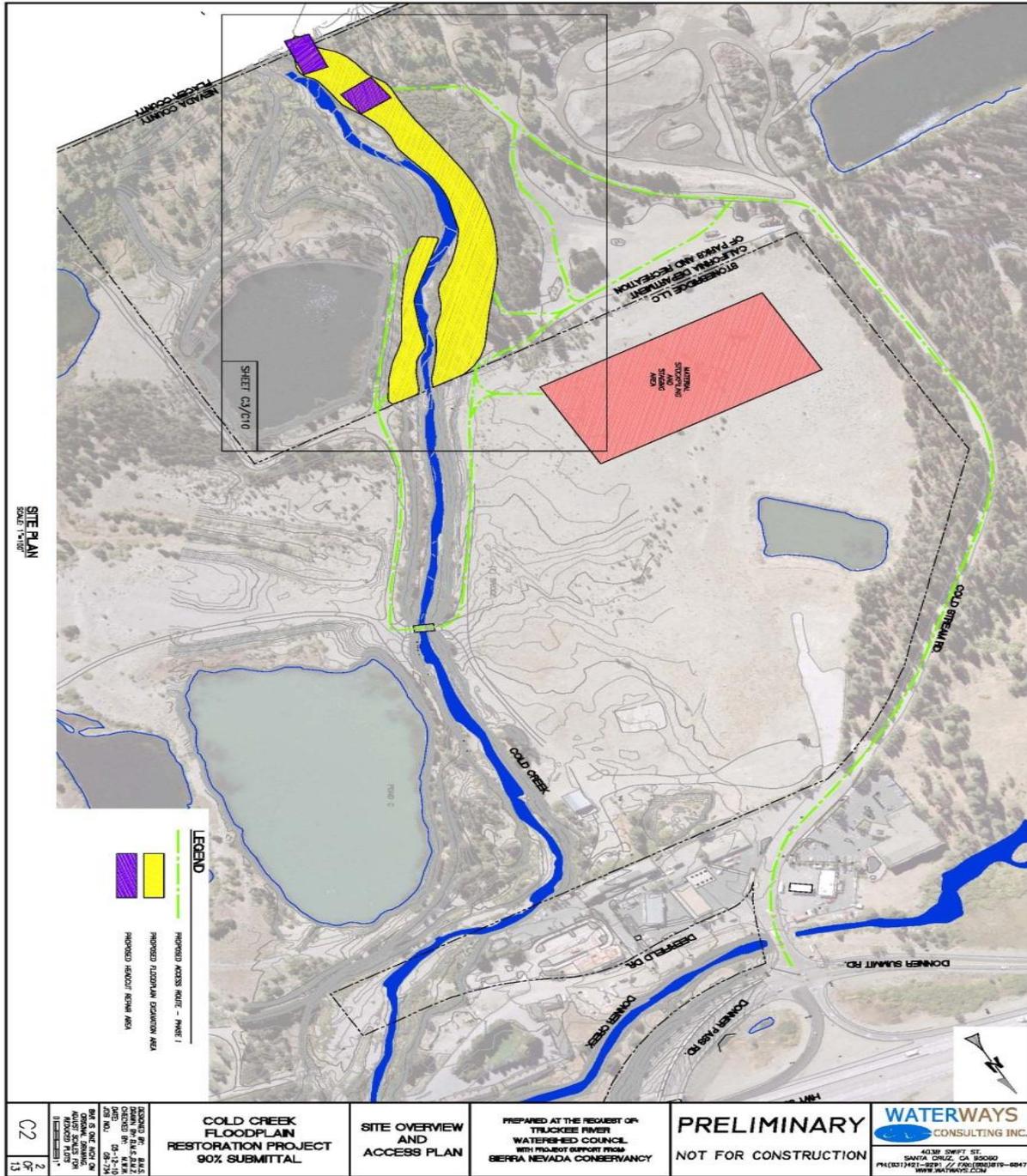
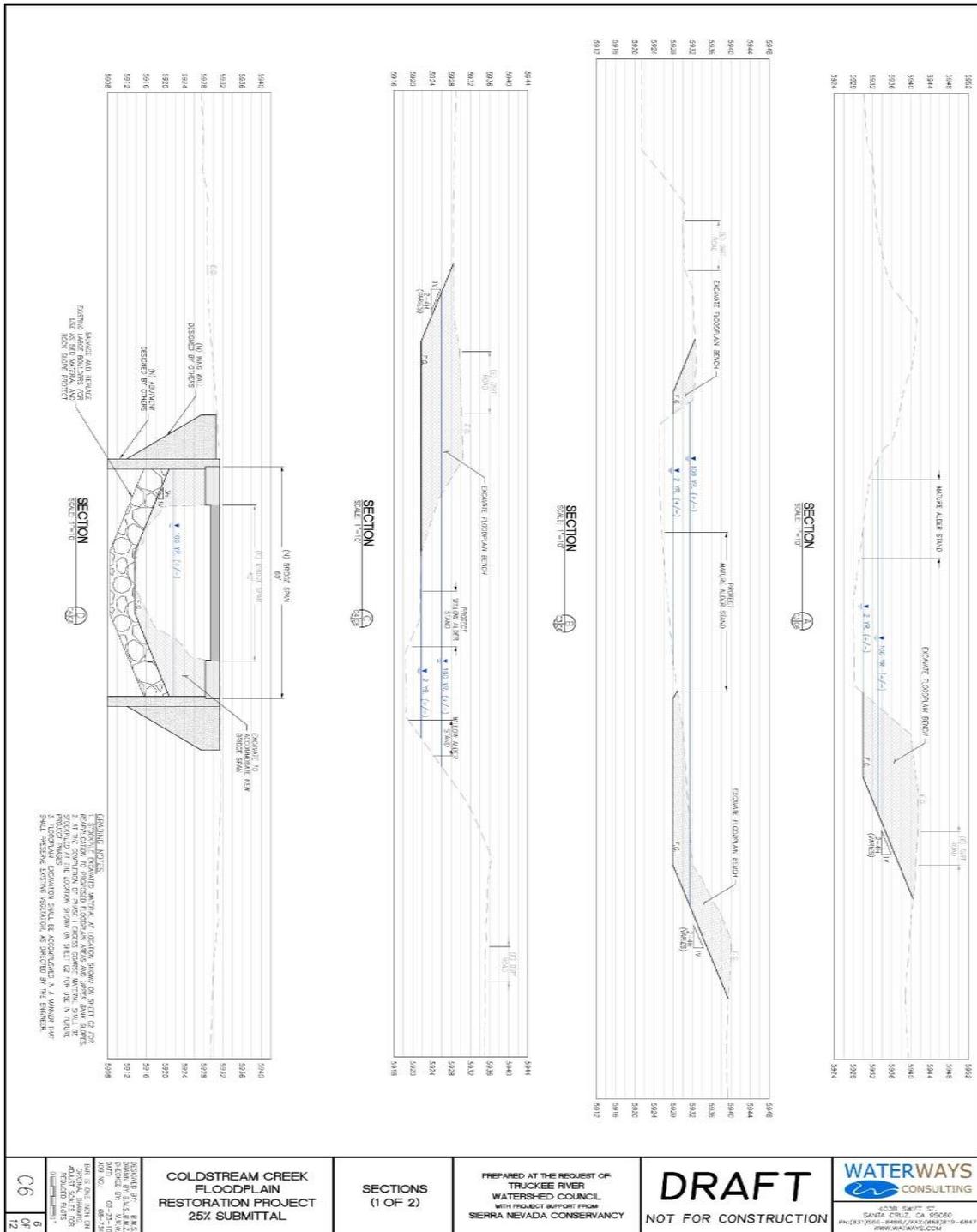


Figure 2.3 Site Map



APPENDIX A
PROJECT DESIGN GRAPHICS

Figure 2.2 Floodplain Creation



<p>C6</p> <p>6</p> <p>12</p>	<p>REVISIONS</p> <p>NO. DATE BY</p> <p>1 08/23/10 JLM</p> <p>2 08/23/10 JLM</p> <p>3 08/23/10 JLM</p> <p>4 08/23/10 JLM</p> <p>5 08/23/10 JLM</p> <p>6 08/23/10 JLM</p> <p>7 08/23/10 JLM</p> <p>8 08/23/10 JLM</p> <p>9 08/23/10 JLM</p> <p>10 08/23/10 JLM</p> <p>11 08/23/10 JLM</p> <p>12 08/23/10 JLM</p>	<p>COLDSTREAM CREEK FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION PROJECT 25% SUBMITTAL</p>	<p>SECTIONS (1 OF 2)</p>	<p>PREPARED AT THE REQUEST OF TRUCKEE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL WITH PROJECT SUPPORT FROM SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY</p>	<p>DRAFT</p> <p>NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION</p>	<p>WATERWAYS CONSULTING</p> <p>2028 SEAVY ST. SAUTER CIRCLE, CA 95660 PH: (916) 255-8882 FAX: (916) 255-8883 WWW.WATERWAYS.COM</p>

Figure 2.4 Floodplain Treatment

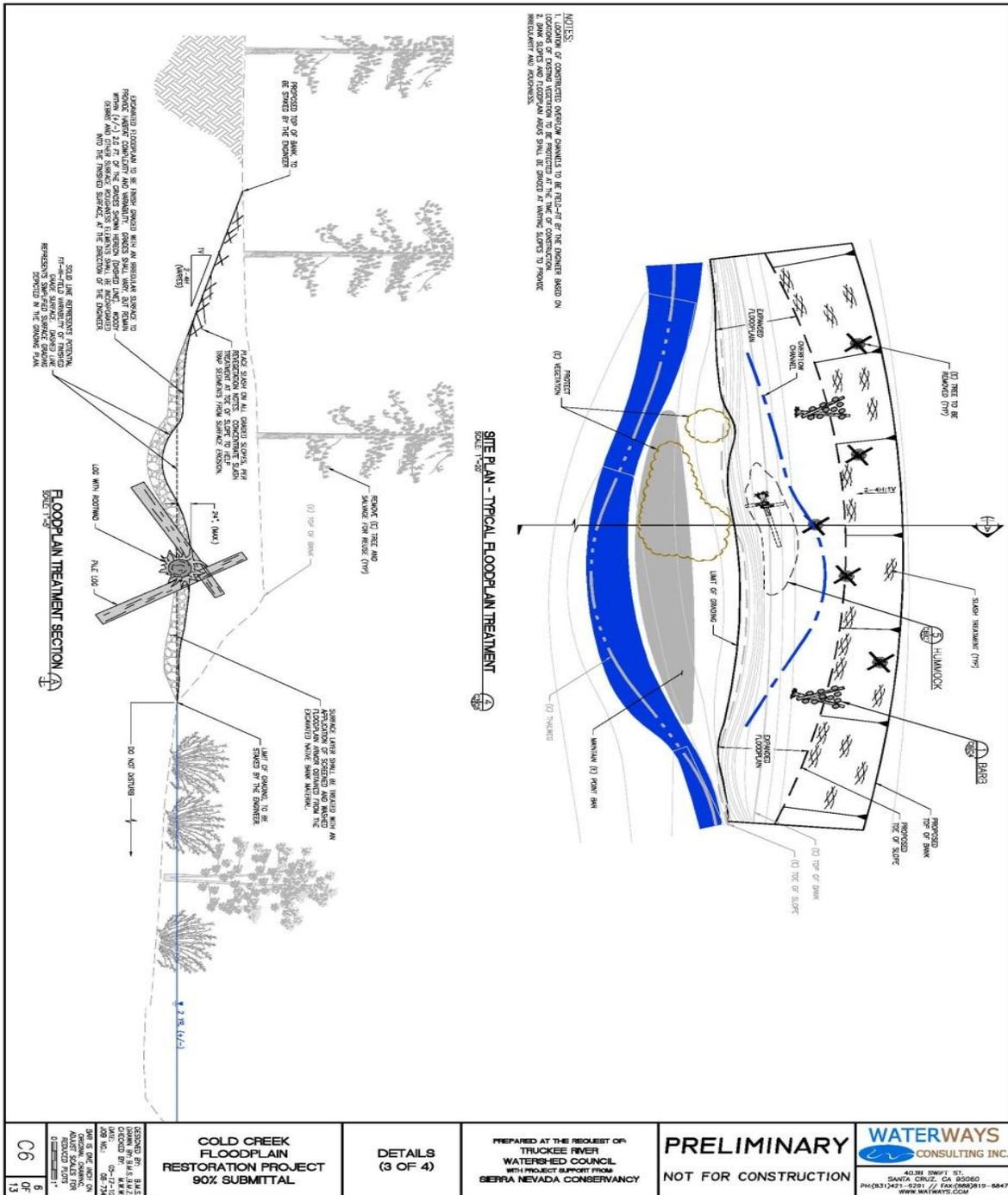


Figure 2.5 Typical Barb

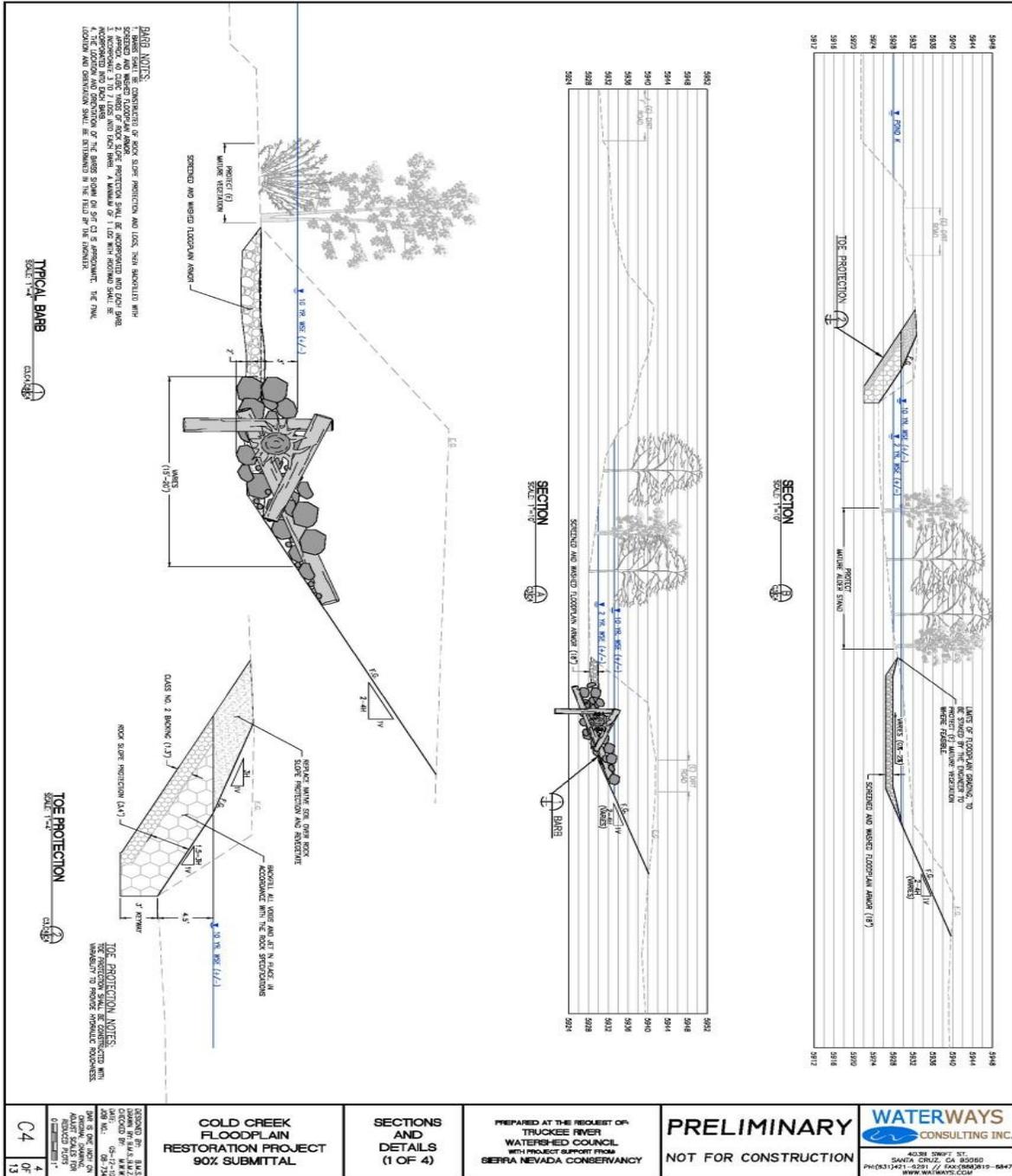
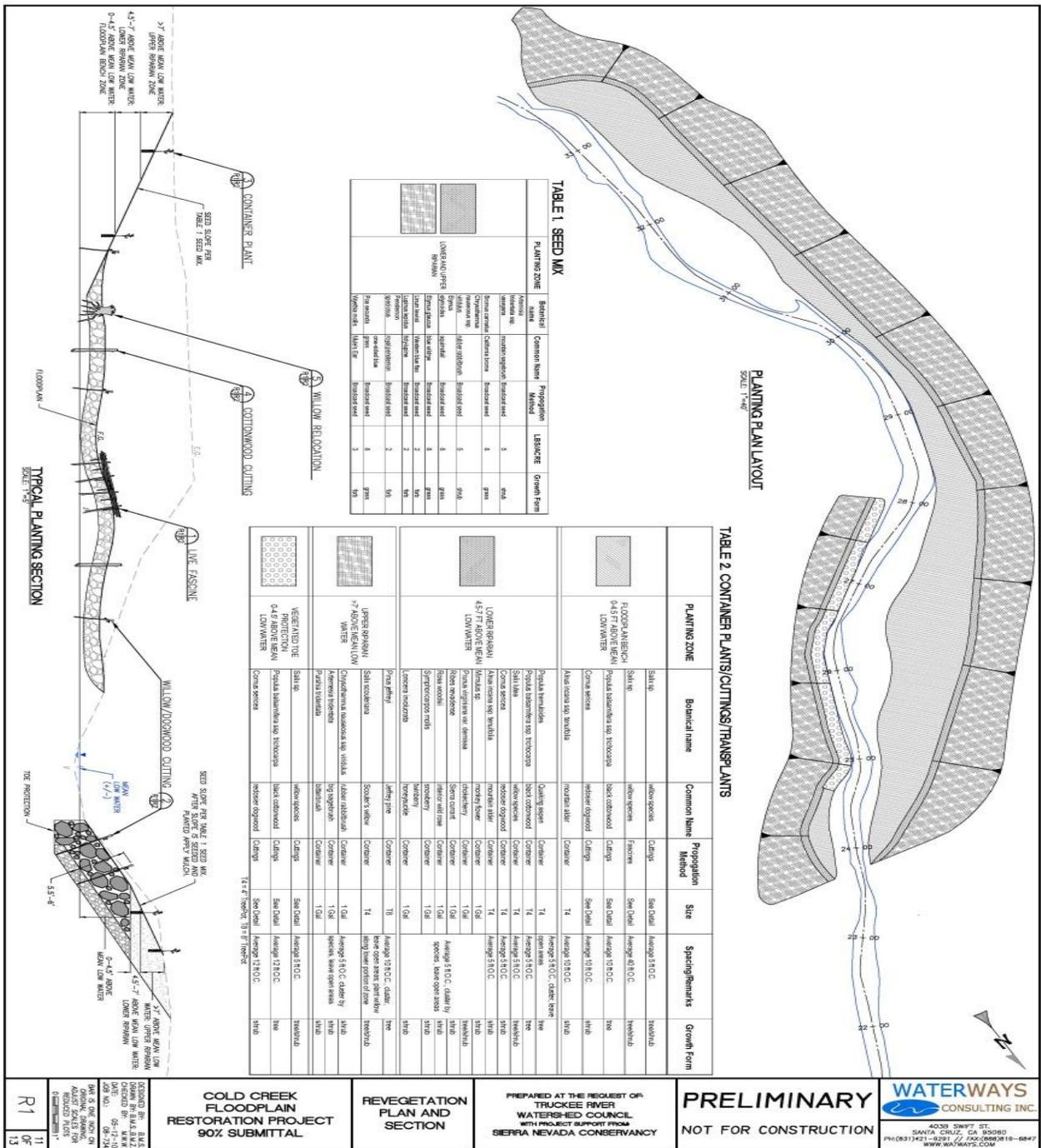


Figure 2.6 Planting Plan Layout



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13

COLD CREEK FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION PROJECT 90% SUBMITTAL

REVEGETATION PLAN AND SECTION

PREPARED AT THE REQUEST OF TRUCKEE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL WITH PROJECT SUPPORT FROM SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

PRELIMINARY NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

WATERWAYS CONSULTING INC.
4038 SW 7TH ST. SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
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WWW.WATERWAYS.COM

APPENDIX B
SENSITIVE SPECIES LIST

**Table 4.1
Special-Status Plant Species Evaluated for the
Coldstream Floodplain Enhancement Project**

Common and Scientific Name	Regulatory Status¹	Habitat and Flowering Period	Potential for Occurrence
Common moonwort <i>Botrychium lunaria</i>	FSS CNPS 2.3	Upper montane and subalpine conifer forest, meadows and seeps; 7,500-11,200 feet. Fertile in August.	Not expected to occur. No suitable habitat occurs in the project area.
Bolander's candle moss <i>Bruchia bolanderi</i>	FSS CNPS 2.2	Lower montane conifer forest in mesic soils from 5,600-9,000 feet; fertile period not specified.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat present, but none of the known occurrences are within the project area quad, and it is presumed extirpated from the known occurrence quad.
Davy's sedge <i>Carex davyi</i>	CNPS 1B.3	Subalpine coniferous forests; 5,000-10,000 feet. Blooms May-June.	Not expected to occur. No suitable subalpine habitat occurs in the project area.
Starved daisy <i>Erigeron miser</i>	FSS CNPS 1B.3	Upper montane conifer forest on rocky soils from 6,000 – 8,600 feet. Blooms June – August.	Not expected to occur. Not known to occur near the project area but suitable forest habitat may be present.
Donner Pass buckwheat <i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i> var. <i>torreyanum</i>	FSS CNPS 1B.2	Rocky, volcanic soils in meadows and upper montane conifer forest from 6,000 to 8,600 feet. Blooms July - September	Not expected to occur. This species has a very limited distribution, but suitable habitat may be present.
Plumas ivesia <i>Ivesia sericoleuca</i>	CNPS 1B.2	Great Basin scrub, lower montane conifer forest, meadows and seeps, vernal pools (usually volcanic); 4,800 – 7,250 feet. Blooms May–October.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur in project area.
Santa Lucia dwarf rush <i>Juncus luciensis</i>	CNPS 1B.2	Wet, sandy soils of seeps, meadows, vernal pools, streamsides; 1,000-6,200 feet. Blooms June-Sept.	Not expected to occur. DPR approved botanist performed a pre-project survey that indicated the species not present.
Long-petaled lewisia <i>Lewisia longipetala</i>	FSS CNPS 1B.3	Alpine boulder and rock fields, subalpine conifer forest; 8,200 – 9,600 feet. Blooms July - August.	Not expected to occur. No suitable subalpine habitat occurs in the project area; elevations of known occurrences exceed those on the project site.
Sierra starwort <i>Pseudostellaria sierrae</i>	CNPS 4.2	Lower montane coniferous forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland; 4,000- 7000 feet. Blooms May-August.	Not expected to occur. Very rare in California. Suitable habitat is not present in project area.
Alder-leaf coffeberry <i>Rhamnus alnifolia</i>	CNPS 2.2	Lower and upper montane conifer forest in meadows, bogs, seeps, riparian edge; 4,400- 7,000 feet. Blooms May – July.	Not expected to occur. DPR approved botanist performed a pre-project survey that indicated the species not present.
Tahoe yellow cress <i>Rorippa subumbellata</i>	CE FSS (FC) CNPS 1B.1	Decomposed granitic beaches; 6,217 – 6,234 feet. Blooms May – September.	Not expected to occur. This species has a very limited distribution and

			suitable habitat does not occur in project area.
Marsh skullcap <i>Scutellaria galericulata</i>	CNPS 2.2	Lower montane conifer forest, meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps; 0 – 6900 feet. Blooms June – September.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur in project area.

¹ Regulatory Status Codes:

CE = California endangered

FSS = United States Forest Service Sensitive

FC = Federal Candidate for listing

CNPS = California Native Plant Society Lists: List 1A = presumed extinct in California; List 1B = rare or endangered in California and elsewhere; List 2 = rare or endangered in California, more common elsewhere; List 3 = need more information; List 4 = plants of limited distribution. New threat code extensions are: .1 = seriously endangered in California; .2 = fairly endangered in California; and .3 not very endangered in California.

**Table 4.2
Special-Status Wildlife Species Evaluated for the
Coldstream Floodplain Enhancement Project**

Common and Scientific Name	Regulatory Status¹	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence
Amphibious caddisfly (<i>Desmona bethula</i>)		Wet meadows, small spring streams with slow currents	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat is not present. The streamside vegetation necessary to support this species is not present and the currents in the project area are fast.
Bald eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	CE D – FE	Mature or old-growth trees or snags near a large body of water	Could occur. Unlikely nester. May venture through the project area when foraging. Known to nest in vicinity, on Donner Lake.
Black swift (<i>Cypseloides niger</i>)	SSC	Cliffs proximal to waterfalls, deep canyons	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat is not present in the project area.
California spotted owl (<i>Strix occidentalis occidentalis</i>)	SSC FSS	Mature and old-growth forest stands	Could occur. Unlikely nester, no suitable habitat present in project area, but known to occur in proximity to project area.
California wolverine (<i>Gulo gulo</i>)	CT FC	Mixed conifer, wet meadow, montane chaparral	Not likely to occur. Highly elusive species, closest confirmed sighting >10 miles to north.
Cooper's hawk (<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>)	WL	Dense stands of riparian or conifer forest near water	Could occur. Unlikely nester. Suitable habitat present in the vicinity of project area and may be seen foraging in the project area.
Gray-headed pika (<i>Ochotona princeps schisticeps</i>)		Rocky talus fields	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat is not present in the project area.
Kings Canyon cryptochian caddisfly		Restricted to cold spring streams and their sources	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat is not

<i>(Cryptochia excella)</i>			present in the project area.
Lahontan cutthroat trout (<i>Oncorhynchus clarkia henshawi</i>)	FT	Cold water habitats, including streams and rivers. Flowing water with stable, vegetated banks and riffle-run areas.	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat present, but has not been present in nearby watersheds in recent years.
Northern goshawk (<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>)	SSC FSS	Mature and old-growth forest stands	Could occur. Unlikely nester, no suitable habitat present in project area, but known to occur in proximity to project area.
Olive-sided flycatcher (<i>Contopus cooperi</i>)	SSC	Montane conifer forest	Known to occur. Suitable habitat is present in project area.
Osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>)		Riparian forest. Large snags or other suitable nesting platform within 15 miles of fishable water	Could occur. Unlikely nester. Documented nesting near the project area and may be seen foraging in project area.
Pallid bat	SSC FSS	Rocky outcrops, cliffs, and crevices for roosting, open habitats for foraging	Not likely to occur. Suitable roosting habitat not present, may utilize project area for foraging.
Sierra marten (<i>Martes americana sierrae</i>)	FSS	Mixed conifer forest with greater than 40% crown closure, large trees and snags	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat is not present in the project area.
Sierra Nevada mountain beaver (<i>Aplodontia rufa californica</i>)	SSC	Narrow, shallow stream with willow, alder, fir, and aspen	Could occur. Suitable habitat present upstream from project area, but not within project area.
Sierra Nevada red fox (<i>Vulpes vulpes necator</i>)	CT FSS	Subalpine forests, mixed conifer, lodgepole pine, riparian scrub, and meadows	Not likely to occur. Limited suitable habitat is present in the project area, and low population numbers.
Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare (<i>Lepus americanus tahoensis</i>)	SSC	Montane riparian with alder and willow thickets and young conifer thickets with chaparral	Known to occur. Record (1990-2001) of species present near the project area. Suitable habitat is present.
Townsend's big-eared bat	SSC FSS	Roosts include caves, mines, and buildings while forages in mesic habitats	Not likely to occur. Suitable roosting habitat not present, may utilize project area for foraging.
Willow flycatcher (<i>Empidonax traillii</i>)	CE FSS	Wet meadow and montane riparian with willow thickets	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat is not present within the project area. There are willow, but not dense enough patches and lacking meadow component.
Yellow warbler (<i>Dendroica petechia</i>)	SSC	Riparian woodland, montane chaparral, and open conifer forest with substantial shrub	Could occur. Suitable habitat present, known to occur in proximity to project area.

¹ Regulatory Status Codes

SSC: California Department of Fish and Game Species of Special Concern

CE: California Department of Fish and Game Endangered

CT: California Department of Fish and Game Threatened
D – FE: Delisted United States Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered
FSS: United States Forest Service Sensitive
FC: Candidate species for listing by United States Fish and Wildlife Service
WL: California Department of Fish and Game Watch List Species

APPENDIX C
ACRONYMS

BMP	best management practices
CalTrans	California Department of Transportation
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CDPR	California Department of Parks and Recreation
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CPESC	Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment
dBA	A-weighted decibels
TDPUD	Truckee Donner Public Utility District
DPR	Department of Parks and Recreation
ft	feet
GHG	greenhouse gas emissions
GPS	global positioning system
IS	Initial Study
LOS	Level of Service
LRWQCB	Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
MND	Mitigated Negative Declaration
mph	miles per hour
NOx	nitrogen oxides
PM10	particulate matter less than 10 microns diameter
ROG	reactive organic gas
SP	State Park
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
USGS	United States Geological Survey