D R A F T

# Initial Study
# Mitigated Negative Declaration

## Columbia State Historic Park
## Accessibility Improvements

March 2009

State of California
**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**
Acquisition and Development
One Capital Mall
Sacramento, CA 95814

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## Mitigated Negative Declaration

**PROJECT:** **Accessibility Improvements Project**

**LEAD AGENCY:** California Department of Parks and Recreation

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

- Northern Service Center
  California Department of Parks & Recreation
  One Capitol Mall - Suite 410
  Sacramento, CA 95814

- Central Valley District Headquarters
  California Department of Parks & Recreation
  22708 Broadway Street
  Columbia, California 95310

- Columbia State Historic Park
  1125 Jackson Street
  Columbia, California 95310

- Tuolumne County Library
  480 Greenley Road
  Sonora, California 95370

- Columbia College Library
  11600 Columbia College Drive
  Sonora, California 95370

  *California Department of Parks and Recreation Internet Website*
  *http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=980*

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**
The Department of Parks and Recreation proposes to provide improvements to the five exterior parking, routes of travel in no less then 8 city blocks through out the town, and door entrance modifications at 33 locations along the route of travel on the both sides of Main Street from Jackson Street to the Gazette on Washington Street to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA path of travel work will also extend partially on both sides of Main Street, along Jackson Street, State Street, Fulton Street, and Washington Street. The following is a brief summary of the proposed work:

- Raise the existing non-historic boardwalks and brick sidewalks to the elevation of certain door thresholds identified at each building entrance to provide a smooth and ADA compliant transition from the outside circulation path into the building entrance.
- Provide ADA compliant parking

- Adjust existing benches with compliant back and arm rest or replace with a compliant bench.
- Install 2 ADA compliant drinking fountains with ADA accessible models that fit the historic character of the park.
- Replace existing outdoor display shelters with compliant shelters with accessibility from the path of travel.
- Modify existing, specified building entrances as necessary for ADA compliance.

A copy of the Initial Study is attached. Questions or comments regarding this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration should be submitted in writing to:

Patricia DuMont – Environmental Coordinator
California Department of Parks & Recreation
Northern Service Center
One Capitol Mall - Suite 500
Sacramento, CA 95814

E-Mail Address: CEQANSC@Parks.ca.gov
Include "ADA Improvements" on the subject line.

Fax: 916-445-8883

Submissions must be in writing and postmarked, or received by fax or e-mail, no later than April 9, 2009. The originals of any faxed document must be received by regular mail within ten (10) working days following the deadline for comments, along with proof of successful fax transmission.

Pursuant to Section 21082.1 of the California Environmental Quality Act, the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has independently reviewed and analyzed the Initial Study and 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* _____
Patricia DuMont
Environmental Coordinator

Date

*Signature on Original Document* _____
Christina Aceituno
Accessibility Program Manager

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 Accessibility Improvement Project at Columbia State Historic Park, Tuolumne County, 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 may have a significant effect on the environment [CEQA Guidelines §15063(a)]. If there is substantial evidence that a project may 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 is:

Christine Aceituno
Chief, Accessibility Section
One Capitol Mall, Ste. 410
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-445-4144

A copy of the Initial Study is attached. Questions or comments regarding this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration should be submitted in writing to:

Patricia DuMont – Environmental Coordinator
California Department of Parks & Recreation

Northern Service Center
One Capitol Mall - Suite 500
Sacramento, CA 95814

E-Mail Address: CEQANSC@Parks.ca.gov
Include "ADA Improvements" on the subject line.

Fax: 916-445-8883

Submissions must be in writing and postmarked, or received by fax or e-mail, no later than April 9, 2009. The originals of any faxed document must be received by regular mail within ten (10) working days following the deadline for comments, along with proof of successful fax transmission.

## 1.3 PURPOSE AND DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

The purpose of this document is to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed Accessibility Improvement Project at Columbia State Historic Park. Project Requirements and 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, project objectives, and project requirements.

- 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 Project Requirements and Mitigation Measures.
  This chapter summarizes the conditions and 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. It also provides a list of those involved in the preparation of this document.

- 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 Accessibility Improvement Project would result in less-than-significant impacts for the following issues: aesthetics, agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, 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.

# 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) to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed Accessibility Improvement Project at Columbia State Historic Park, located in Tuolumne County, California. The proposed project would provide ADA upgrades to the exterior path of travel on the existing non-historic boardwalks and walkways.

## 2.2 Project Location

Columbia State Historic Park is located in Tuolumne County in the western foothills of the south central Sierra Nevada. The Park is located approximately 120 miles southeast of Sacramento and approximately 2 miles east of Highway 49, the scenic route that connects many Mother Lode communities.

## 2.3 Background and Need for the Project

The Americans with Disability Act (ADA) of 1990 is a federal civil rights law for people with disabilities, comparable to civil rights law passed in the 1960's for other minorities. It covers employment, state, and local government services, public accommodations, and telecommunications for the deaf.

The Department of Parks and Recreation was sued for failure to comply with federal and state law as it relates to the ADA. The lawsuit was settled when the State and the plaintiff agreed upon a plan to bring the entire State Park system into a state of compliance that address ADA access throughout the park system. The parameters of the lawsuit settlement are contained in the Consent Decree, which identifies specific park units and facilities that need to be upgraded to be compliant. As part of the lawsuit settlement the entire State Park system was surveyed and ADA deficiencies were identified. This project addresses ADA improvement identified for Columbia SHP.

Without this project, Columbia State Historic Park would continue to violate the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Department of Park and Recreation would be vulnerable to legal action.

## 2.4 Project Objectives

The mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation 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 intent of this project is to increase the accessibility of CSHP in accordance with the consent order. The recommended work is expected to:

- Provide safe access to State Park property by removing accessibility barriers through reconstruction of pedestrian walkways and modification to the store entrances.

The proposed accessibility project and all its components would allow the Department to meet its mission to provide visitors to CSHP high-quality recreational opportunities while supplying a safe and accessible facility that meets the American with Disabilities Act Guidelines.

## 2.5 Project Description

The Department of Parks and Recreation proposes to provide ADA upgrades to the five exterior parking, and ADA exterior routes of travel in no less then 8 city blocks through out the town, and door entrance modifications at 34 locations along the route of travel on the both sides of Main Street from Jackson Street to the Gazette on Washington Street. The exterior ADA path of travel work will also extend partially on both sides of Main Street, along Jackson Street, State Street, Fulton Street, and Washington Street.

ADA compliance work into the historic buildings would be limited to the entryways and over the door threshold and would not go beyond the entries into the building. Along the ADA exterior path of travel, work would upgrade existing site amenities scattered along the route such as, curbs and gutters, steps, access to drinking fountains, park benches, outdoor display shelters, drinking fountains, picnic tables, information kiosks and access pads. Although these facilities are not historic the proposed work would be consistent with the historic nature of the park. Please refer to Appendix B Sheets L1-L23, Site Work Plans to locate work.

The following is a brief summary of the proposed work:

### Boardwalks and Walkways

The term “boardwalks” is used to delineate all brick and wood walkways and sidewalks currently used for access into buildings in the park.

- Raise the existing non-historic boardwalks and brick sidewalks to the elevation of certain door thresholds identified at each building entrance to provide a smooth and ADA compliant transition from the outside circulation path into the building entrance. Whenever possible, only required sections of the existing walkways would be removed, adjusted, and replaced with like and kind to achieve the finished grades identified in the plans. The project would generally mimic the existing layout and patterns found on the existing brick walkways and boardwalk, and reproduce that same detail as existing, but at the adjusted ADA elevations. The grades along the walkways would be adjusted to achieve a maximum 5% grade differentiation.
- Develop secondary ADA compliant routes to provide barrier free access around existing steps. Whenever possible existing steps would still used.
- Establish a grading surface(s) that would eliminate the existing curbing or provide a secondary route of travel to circumvent curbs.

- Substitute or expand wood decking to facilitate accessibility at the Justice Court, the Stable boardwalk, and in front of the Fancy Goods Store
- Provide a firm and stable walking surface using soil stabilization methods where existing soil surfaces are part of the ADA path of travel.

**Transitions from Boardwalks to Shop Entrances**

- Raise the elevations of the boardwalks to meet the elevation for each designated ADA compliant entrance at a minimum of one location (door) leading into each shop identified along the exterior path of travel.

**Transition from Boardwalks to Streets**

- Install ADA compliant transitional boardwalks from the newly modified boardwalks down to the existing street paving to create a continuous ADA-compliant path of travel through the park. The transitional boardwalks will be constructed of wood and be similar in design to those currently in use at the park.

**ADA Parking**

Provide ADA compliant van and standard parking stalls in existing parking areas at specific locations along the outer areas of the downtown.

**Street Features**

- Adjust existing benches at locations scattered through the park with ADA compliant models that include a back and arm rest or replace the bench with a compliant bench as required. New benches, if required, will be compatible with the historic character of the park.
- Replace or modify existing non-ADA compliant drinking fountains with ADA accessible models, modified to fit the historic character of the park. Three locations have been identified:
    - In the day use area on the corner of Jackson Street and Columbia Street (replace existing fountain)
    - In the day use area between the Jenny Lyne Restaurant and the Justice Court Exhibit on Main Street (replace existing fountain)
    - In the day use area to the south of the Pioneer Emporium on Washington Street (modify existing fountain).
- Replace two existing outdoor display shelters with ADA compliant shelters with compliant accessibility from the path of travel. New shelters will be compatible with the historic character of the park

**Entry Doors and Thresholds**

The term “threshold” only refers to the very base of the door, where the traveling surface crosses through the door. The project addresses only the entryway doors and thresholds identified for ADA compliant access and have been coordinated with the new

boardwalks to facilities code compliant ADA access; no other doors would be modified by this project. Compliance issues addressed include door width, door operating hardware, and entry signage. Signs and identifying devices to inform users of accessible entrance locations have been included. Proposed entrance solutions make every effort to save costs, minimize disruption to the existing building, maintain use of the current entrance and consideration of the District and concessionaire. Automatic door openers have been identified to comply with ADA code requirements.

**Specific Door Modifications**

Various modifications would occur at primary entrance door and openings listed below. Please refer to Appendix C Sheets A1-A8 to locate the specific door proposed for modification. Please note: Doors receiving automatic openers would also operate in manual function.

Proposed door modifications would:

- **Farmers Friend: DOOR #1** - shape the wood threshold by sanding or grinding, install door pull on one leaf on the interior side, disable or remove door latch bolt.
- **Sector Office: DOOR #2** – abut material next to door threshold; attach material to each side of the door threshold for the full width of the opening to create a short ramp approximately 16% gradient, no longer than 12 inches. Install an enclosed electric automatic door opener motor on the interior side above the door and paint to match the surroundings. Install door activation push plates either side of the door near the jamb and a door pull on the interior side.
- **Mercantile Store: DOOR #3** - shape the wood threshold by sanding or grinding; install one door pull on one leaf on the interior side.
- **What Cheer: DOOR #4** - shape the wood threshold by sanding or grinding; install a door pull on one leaf on the interior side and disable or remove door latch bolt. Install an enclosed electric automatic door opener motor on the interior side above the door and paint to match surroundings. Install door activation push plates on either side of the door near the jamb.
- **City Hotel: DOOR #5** - shape the wood threshold by sanding or grinding; install door pull on one leaf on the interior side and disable or remove door latch bolt, and remove door closers. Install an enclosed electric automatic door opener motor on the interior side above the door and paint to match the surroundings. Install door activation push plates on either side of the door near the jamb.
- **Browns Coffee House: DOOR #7** - install door pull on one leaf on the interior side; disable or remove door latch bolt. Install an enclosed electric automatic door opener motor on the interior side above the door and painted to match the surroundings. Install door activation push plates on either side of the door near the jamb.
- **Towle & Leavitt: DOOR #8** - shape the wood threshold by sanding or grinding; install door pull on one leaf on the interior side and disable or remove door latch bolt. Install an enclosed electric automatic door opener motor on the interior side

above the door and paint to match the surroundings. Install door activation push plates on either sides of the door near the jamb.

- **Photo Studio: DOOR #9** - shape the wood threshold by sanding or grinding; install door pull on one leaf on the interior side, disable or remove door latch bolt. Install an enclosed electric automatic door opener motor on the interior side above the door and painted to match the surroundings. Install door activation push plates on either side of the door near the jamb.
- **Dentist Office: DOOR #10** - shape the wood threshold by sanding or grinding; grind steel bar (iron door stop) at entrance to conform or remove entirely and attach door hold-open devices (sliding barrel bolt and hook-chain-eyebolt) to door stile, bottom rail and wall.
- **Drug Store: DOOR #11** - shape the wood threshold by sanding or grinding or remove and/or replace with a conforming threshold. Grind steel bar (iron door stop) at entrance to conform or remove entirely and attach door hold-open devices (sliding barrel bolt and hook-chain-eyebolt) to door stile, bottom rail and wall.
- **Engine Tuolumne: DOOR #12** – abut material next to door threshold; attach material to each side of the door threshold for the full width of the opening to create a short ramp approximately 16% gradient, no longer than 12 inches. Attach door hold-open devices (sliding barrel bolt and hook-chain-eyebolt) to door stile, bottom rail and wall.
- **Justice Court: DOOR #14** - shape the wood threshold by sanding or grinding or remove and/or replace with a conforming threshold. Grind steel bar (iron door stop) at entrance to conform or remove entirely. Attach door hold-open devices (sliding barrel bolt and hook-chain-eyebolt) to door stile, bottom rail and wall.
- **Columbia Museum: DOOR #16** – repair or adjust iron door as necessary for door to remain in fully open position. If necessary, deconstruct iron door framing system including iron hinge posts, concrete and brick and reconstruct so the door operates and is capable of a fully open position. Install door hold-open devices (sliding barrel bolt and hook-chain-eyebolt) to door stile, bottom rail and wall.
- **Fancy Dry Goods: DOOR #17** – repair or adjust iron door as necessary for door to remain in fully open position. If necessary, deconstruct iron door framing system including iron hinge posts, concrete and brick and reconstruct so the door operates and is capable of a fully open position. Attach door hold-open devices (sliding barrel bolt and hook-chain-eyebolt) to door stile, bottom rail and wall. Install door pull on one leaf on the interior side, disable or remove door latch bolt.
- **Barber Shop: DOOR #18** - install door pull on one leaf on the interior side and disable or remove door latch bolt. Install an enclosed electric automatic door opener motor on the interior side above the door and paint to match the surroundings. Install door activation push plates on either side of the door near the jamb.

- **Nelsons Candy Kitchen: DOOR #19** - shape the wood threshold by sanding or grinding, install door pull on one leaf on the interior side, disable or remove door latch bolt. Install an enclosed electric automatic door opener motor on the interior side above the door and paint to match surroundings. Install door activation push plates on either side of the door near the jamb.
- **Carpenter Shop: DOOR #21** - shape the wood threshold by sanding or grinding, install door pull on one leaf on the interior side, disable or remove door latch bolt. Install an enclosed electric automatic door opener motor on the interior side, above the door and painted to match the surroundings. Install door activation push plates on either sides of the door near the jamb.
- **Douglas Saloon: DOOR #22** – repair or adjust iron door as necessary for door to remain in fully open position. If necessary, deconstruct iron door framing system including iron hinge posts, concrete and brick and reconstruct so the door operates and is capable of a fully open position. Install door pull on one leaf on the interior side, disable or remove door latch bolt.
- **Columbia Books: DOOR #24** - install door pull on one leaf on the interior side, disable or remove door latch bolt. Install an enclosed electric automatic door opener motor on the interior side, above the door and paint to match the surroundings. Install door activation push plates on either side of the door near the jamb.
- **Candle Court: DOOR #25** – remove brick curb and iron bar gate stop and remove and replace brick pavers at the door landing area, interior side, approximately 50 square feet to develop a flat landing area.
- **Pioneer Emporium: DOOR #26** – replace threshold with conforming threshold, install door pull on one leaf (active leaf) on the interior side, and disable or remove door latch bolt.
- **Umpqua Bank: DOOR #27** - install door pull on one leaf on the interior side and disable or remove door latch bolt. Install an enclosed electric automatic door opener motor on the interior side above the door and paint to match the surroundings. Install door activation push plates on either sides of the door near the jamb.
- **N. Fisher Co. Stage Office: DOOR #28** – repair or adjust iron door as necessary for door to remain in a fully open position. If necessary, deconstruct the iron door framing system including iron hinge posts, concrete and brick and reconstruct so door operates and is capable of a fully open position. Attach door hold-open devices (sliding barrel bolt and hook-chain-eyebolt) to door stile, bottom rail and wall.
- **Wells Fargo Express: DOOR #29** – repair or adjust iron door as necessary for the door to remain in fully open position. If necessary, deconstruct the iron door framing system including iron hinge posts, concrete and brick and reconstruct so door operates and is capable of a fully open position. Attach door hold-open

devices (sliding barrel bolt and hook-chain-eyebolt) to door stile, bottom rail and wall.

- **IOOF: DOOR #30** - repair or adjust iron door as necessary for the door to remain in fully open position. If necessary, deconstruct iron door framing system including iron hinge posts, concrete and brick and reconstruct so the door operates and is capable of a fully open position. Install door pull on one leaf on the interior side, disable or remove door latch bolt. Install an enclosed electric automatic door opener motor on the interior side above the door and paint to match surroundings. Install door activation push plates on either side of the door near the jamb.
- **Park Office: DOOR #31** - abut material next to door threshold; attach material to each side of the door threshold for the full width of the opening to create a short ramp approximately 16% gradient, no longer than 12 inches. Install an enclosed electric automatic door opener motor on the interior side above the door and paint to match surroundings. Install door activation push plates on either side of the door near the jamb and a door pull on the interior side.
- **Park Office: DOOR #32** - abut material next to door threshold; attach material to each side of the door threshold for the full width of the opening to create a short ramp approximately 16% gradient, no longer than 12 inches. Install an enclosed electric automatic door opener motor on the interior side above the door and paint to match the surroundings. Install door activation push plates on either side of the door near the jamb and a door pull on the interior side.
- **Columbia Gazette: DOOR #33** - abut material next to door threshold; attach material to each side of the door threshold for the full width of the opening to create a short ramp approximately 16% gradient, no longer than 12 inches. Install an enclosed electric automatic door opener motor on the interior side above the door and paint to match the surroundings. Install door activation push plates on either side of the door near the jamb and a door pull on the interior side.
- **Fallon House: DOOR #34** - disable or remove the door latch bolt and install a door pull on the interior side.
- **Fallon House Ice Cream: DOOR #35** - disable or remove door latch bolt. Install an enclosed electric automatic door opener motor on the interior side above the door and paint to match surroundings. Install door activation push plates on either side of the door near the jamb.
- **Fallon Hotel: DOOR #36** - disable or remove door latch bolt. Install an enclosed electric automatic door opener motor on the interior side above the door and paint to match the surroundings. Install door activation push plates on either side of the door near the jamb.
- **Masonic Hall: DOOR #37** - abut material next to door threshold; attach material to each side of the door threshold for the full width of the opening to create a short ramp approximately 16% gradient, no longer than 12 inches.

- **Masonic Hall: DOOR #38** - abut material next to door threshold; attach material to each side of the door threshold for the full width of the opening to create a short ramp approximately 16% gradient, no longer than 12 inches.
- **St Charles Saloon: DOOR #39 –** repair or adjust iron door as necessary for door to remain in fully open position. If necessary, deconstruct iron door framing system including iron hinge posts, concrete, and brick then reconstruct so the door operates and is capable of a fully open position. Install door pull on one leaf on the interior side, disable or remove door latch bolt.

## 2.6 Project Implementation

Construction would start in Spring 2009, or soon thereafter, and continue for approximately 18 months. Work would occur only during daylight hours and would be scheduled to incur the lease amount of impact to individual stores and concessions; however, weekend work could be implemented to accelerate construction or address emergency or unforeseen circumstances. DPR does not anticipate the need to close any shops during construction.

Work would be completed by DPR employees and supervised by District and Sector staff. Any contracted work, if necessary, would be also be supervised by District and Sector staff.

Heavy equipment, such as backhoe, excavator, grader, bulldozer, compressor, and dump truck would be used during construction. However, to the extent possible, District staff will use hand tools, or small power-driven tools during construction. Most equipment would be transported to the site and remain stored outside of the main store areas of the park until associated work is completed. Transport vehicles for material or equipment delivery trucks, and crew vehicles would also be present intermittently at the site. Staging areas for equipment would be confined to the existing parking areas and open spaces.

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

The Department of Parks and Recreation has consistently referenced CSQA BMPs and has identified them as an acceptable standard for use in all State Parks.

Regulations and design guidelines include the 2007 California Building Code, 2007 California Historical Building Code, ADAAG and California State Parks Accessibility Guidelines.

## 2.7 Project Requirements

Under CEQA, the Department of Parks and Recreations has the distinction of being considered a lead agency, a public agencies 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 Sate 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:

| **Air Quality** | |
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| Project Action | Project Requirement |
| Air SPR1 - Increased Emissions of Fugitive Dust | • All construction areas (dirt/gravel roads and surrounding dirt/gravel area) will be watered at least twice daily during dry, dusty conditions.<br>• All trucks hauling soil, sand, or other loose materials on public roads will be covered or required to maintain at least two feet of freeboard.<br>• 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.<br>• 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. |
| **Biological Resources** | |
| Bio SPR1 - Presence of Raptors | • If construction-related activities are scheduled to begin during the nesting season of February 1 to August 31, a DPR-qualified biologist will conduct a survey for nesting raptor species no more than 14 days prior to commencement of |

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| | construction to ensure that no nesting birds will be impacted by the project. The survey area will include the project site and a 100-foot buffer zone around it.<br>• If nesting raptors are found within 100 feet of the project area, no construction will occur within the buffer area of 100 feet from the nest during the active nesting season of February 1 to August 31, or until the young have fledged (as determined by a DPR-qualified biologist), unless otherwise negotiated with the California Department of Fish and Game. |
| **Cultural Resources** | |
| Cultural SPR 1 - Archaeological Monitoring of Ground Disturbing Work | • A DPR qualified archaeologist will monitor all ground disturbing phases of this project at his/her discretion. Monitoring will include all sidewalk demolitions as well as ground preparation work required for constructing new paths of travel.<br>• If archaeological resources are discovered, all ground disturbing work at the location of the find will cease until the archaeologist designs and implements appropriate treatments in accordance with the Secretary of the Interiors Standards and Guidelines for archaeological resource protection.<br>• DPR staff and/or contractor will demolish the existing asphalt, brick or concrete sidewalks by hand to avoid impacts to currently unidentified resources. |
| Cultural SPR 2 - Human Remains Discovery | • In the event that human remains are discovered, 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 or returned to the point of discovery and covered with soil. The DPR sector Superintendent (or authorized representative) will notify the County Coroner, in accordance with §7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, and the Native American Heritage Commission (or Tribal Representative). If a Native American monitor is on-site at the time of the |

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| | discovery, the monitor will be responsible for notifying the appropriate Native American authorities.<br>The local County Coroner will make the determination of whether the human bone is of Native American origin. If the coroner determines the remains represent Native American interment, the NAHC in Sacramento and/or tribe will be consulted to identify the most likely descendants and appropriate disposition of the remains.<br>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<br>If it is determined the find 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 Native American Heritage Commission/Tribal Cultural representatives will occur as necessary to define additional site mitigation or future restrictions. |
| **Geology and Soils** | |
| Geo SPR 1 - Erosion and Runoff Control | • Prior to the start of construction, Contractor will prepare a Water Pollution Control Plan (WPCP) for DPR approval that identifies the Best Management Practices to be used in all construction areas to reduce or eliminate the discharge of soil, surface water runoff, and pollutants during all excavation, grading, trenching, and repaving.<br>• If construction activities extend into the rainy season (October 15 to April 15) or if an un-seasonal storm is anticipated, the contractor will properly winterize the site by covering (tarping) any stockpiled materials or soils and by constructing silt fences, straw bale barriers, fiber rolls, or other structures around stockpiles and graded areas. |
| **Hazardous and Hazardous Materials** | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Hazmat SPR1 - Hazardous Material Spills | • Prior to the start of construction, the contractor will clean all equipment before entering the project site. Equipment will be cleaned and repaired (other than emergency repairs) outside the project site boundaries. All contaminated water, sludge, 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.<br>• Prior to the start of construction, the contractor will inspect all equipment for leaks and regularly inspect thereafter until equipment is removed from the project site.<br>• Prior to the start of construction, DPR will prepare a Spill Prevention and Response Plan (SPRP) as part of Water Pollution Control Plan 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):<br>▪ a map that delineates construction staging areas, where refueling, lubrication, and maintenance of equipment will occur<br>▪ a list of items required in a spill kit on-site that will be maintained throughout the life of the project<br>▪ procedures for the proper storage, use, and disposal of any solvents or other chemicals used in the restoration process<br>▪ identification of lawfully permitted or authorized disposal outside of the project site |
| Hazmat SPR 2 - Fire Safety | • Prior to the start of construction, the Project Contractor will develop a DPR-approved Fire Safety Plan. The plan will include the emergency calling procedures for both the Columbia Fire Department.<br>• Spark arrestors or turbo chargers (which eliminate sparks in exhaust) and fire extinguishers will be required for all heavy |

| | |
|---|---|
| | equipment.<br>• 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 mineral soil, asphalt, or concrete to reduce the chance of fire. |
| **Hydrology and Water Quality** | |
| Hydro SPR 1 – Water Quality | • Implementation of Standard Project Requirement Geo 1 providing BMPs to control erosion and runoff during ground-disturbing construction activities.<br>• The project would be in compliance with all applicable water quality standards and waste discharge requirements as specified in the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Basin Plan for the area.<br>• Implementation of Standard Project Requirement Hazmat 1 will reduce impacts to water quality from possible pollutants (fuels and other vehicle fluids) released from vehicles and/or other equipment during construction. |
| **Noise** | |
| Noise SPR 1 - Noise Level Reduction | • Construction activities will generally be limited to the daylight hours Monday – Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; however, weekend work could be implemented to accelerate construction or address emergency or unforeseen circumstances. If weekend work is necessary, no work will occur on Saturday or Sunday before 8:00 a.m. or after 7:00 p.m.<br>• Internal combustion engines used for any purpose at the job site will be equipped with a muffler of a type recommended by the manufacturer. Equipment and trucks used for construction 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. |

## 2.8 Visitation to Columbia State Historic Park

The Accessibility Improvement Project is not expected to increase attendance at the Park.

| Year | Paid Use | Day Use | Total Attendance |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1996 | | 447,895 | 447,895 |
| 1997 | | 409,695 | 409,695 |
| 1998 | 1,080 | 411,954 | 413,034 |
| 1999 | 3,446 | 355,524 | 358,970 |
| 2000 | 3,293 | 339,952 | 343,245 |
| 2001 | 1,934 | 515,281 | 517,215 |
| 2002 | - | 575,822 | 575,822 |
| 2003 | - | 573,897 | 573,897 |
| 2004 | - | 494,588 | 494,588 |
| 2005 | - | 481,506 | 481,506 |
| 2006 | - | 421,435 | 421,435 |
| 2007 | - | 614,232 | 614,232 |
| Total Attendance | 9753 | 564,1779 | 5,651,532 |
| Average Attendance | 813 | 470,148 | 470,961 |

Source: DPR Field Operations

## 2.9 Consistency with Local Plans and Policies

The proposed project improves accessibility to several historic buildings within Columbia State Historic Park. The Park General Plan is the guiding document that the Department of Parks and Recreation uses to determine development and management of any state park. The Columbia State Park General Development Plan was adopted in January 1979.

## 2.10 Discretionary Approvals

The California Department of Parks and Recreation retains approval authority for the proposed accessibility improvement project at Columbia State Historic Park. However, this project requires consultation with:

- Tuolumne County for an Encroachment Permit

Additional internal document reviews include Public Resources Code § 5024. The Department of Parks and Recreation would acquire all necessary reviews and permits prior to implementing any project components requiring regulatory review.

## 2.11 Related Projects

Parks and Recreation often has smaller maintenance programs and rehabilitation projects planned for a park unit. The following projects are planned for the proposed project area in the foreseeable future:

- Soap and Candle Works Building Rehabilitation

- Columbia Drainage

The Main Street Improvements project has been designed to occur over an 18 month period to allow construction crews to work in coordination with shopkeepers and park staff in recognition of special events and high use periods.

# CHAPTER 3
# ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

## PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Title: Main Street Improvements Project

2. Lead Agency Name & Address: California Department of Parks and Recreation

3. Contact Person & Phone Number: Jim Trapani, 445-8769

4. Project Location: Columbia State Historic Park

5. Project Sponsor Name & Address: California Department of Parks and Recreation
Acquisition and Planning Division
Northern Service Center
One Capital Mall - Suite 500
Sacramento, California 95814

6. General Plan Designation: State Historic Park

7. Zoning: Public (Tuolumne County General Plan)

8. Description of Project: The Department of Parks and Recreation proposes to provide ADA upgrades to the five exterior parking, routes of travel in no less then 8 city blocks through out the town, and door modifications at 32 locations along the route of travel on the both sides of Main Street from Jackson Street to the Gazette on Washington Street. Path of travel work will also extend partially on both sides of Main Street, along Jackson Street, State Street, Fulton Street, and Washington Street. The following is a brief summary of the proposed work:

- Raise the existing non-historic boardwalks and brick sidewalks to the elevation of certain door thresholds identified at each building entrance to provide a smooth and ADA compliant transition from the outside circulation path into the building entrance.
- Provide ADA compliant parking
- Adjust existing benches with compliant back and arm rest or replace with a compliant bench.
- Replace existing non ADA compliant drinking fountains with ADA accessible models that fit the historic character of the park.
- Replace existing outdoor display shelters with compliant shelters with accessibility from the path of travel.
- Modify existing, specified building entrances as necessary for ADA compliance.

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 of this document Section 2.9, Discretionary Approvals)

## 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.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ Aesthetics | ☐ Agricultural Resources | ☐ Air Quality |
| ☐ Biological Resources | ☐ Cultural Resources | ☐ Geology/Soils |
| ☐ Hazards & Hazardous Materials | ☐ Hydrology/Water Quality | ☐ Land Use/Planning |
| ☐ Mineral Resources | ☐ Noise | ☐ Population/Housing |
| ☐ Public Services | ☐ Recreation | ☐ Transportation/Traffic |
| ☐ Utilities/Service Systems | ☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance | ☐ 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. ☐

*Signature on Original Document* _____ _____

Patricia DuMont — Date

Environmental Coordinator

**EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers, except "No Impact", that are adequately supported by the information sources cited. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact does not apply to the project being evaluated (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on general or project-specific factors (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

2. All answers must consider the whole of the project-related effects, both direct and indirect, including off-site, cumulative, construction, and operational impacts.

3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, the checklist answers must indicate whether that impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate when there is sufficient evidence that a substantial or potentially substantial adverse change may occur in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project that cannot be mitigated below a level of significance. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required.

4. A "Mitigated Negative Declaration" (Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated) applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures, prior to declaration of project approval, has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.

5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR (including a General Plan) or Negative Declaration [CCR, Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA, § 15063(c)(3)(D)]. References to an earlier analysis should:

   a) Identify the earlier analysis and state where it is available for review.

   b) Indicate which effects from the environmental checklist were adequately analyzed in the earlier document, pursuant to applicable legal standards, and whether these effects were adequately addressed by mitigation measures included in that analysis.

   c) Describe the mitigation measures in this document that were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and indicate to what extent they address site-specific conditions for this project.

6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate references to information sources for potential impacts into the checklist or appendix (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances, biological assessments). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should include an indication of the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

7. A source list should be appended to this document. Sources used or individuals contacted should be listed in the source list and cited in the discussion.

8. Explanation(s) of each issue should identify:
   a) the criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate the significance of the impact addressed by each question **and**
   b) the mitigation measures, if any, prescribed to reduce the impact below the level of significance.

# ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

## I. AESTHETICS.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Columbia SHP is rich in a variety of resources; the resources offer people a physical link to the past that they can look at, walkthrough, and experience. Resources range from the natural surroundings of Sierra vegetation and rugged, heavily mined terrain to the town's historic structures. The scenic values of the Park are based on the historic town and its natural setting. (CGP, 1979).

The California Legislature initiated the California Scenic Highway Program in 1963, with the goal of preserving and protecting the state's scenic highway corridors from changes that would reduce their aesthetic value. The State Scenic Highway System consists of eligible and officially designate routes. A highway may be identified as eligible for listing as a state scenic highway if it offers travelers scenic views of the natural landscape, largely undisrupted by development. Eligible routes advance to officially designated status when the local jurisdiction adopts ordinances to establish a scenic corridor protection program and receives approval from the California Department of Transportation. State Routes (SR) 4, 49, and 108 currently provide access to the park. State Route 49 from SR 120 to SR 20 near Grass Valley and SR 108 from SR 49 near Sonora to State Route 395 are eligible (not officially designated) State Scenic Highways. (California Department of Transportation 2008). While these routes provide transportation corridors into and through the Mother Lode region of California, they do not directly access Columbia State Historic Park.

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

### 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) As stated above, the scenic value of CSHP is based upon the historic town and its natural setting. Although the proposed project could temporarily affect the scenic value of the town during work to provide accessible features to comply with the ADA, construction is considered a temporary impact and the natural setting would be returned to pre-project conditions once construction is complete. However, aspects of the proposed project include (but are not limited to) the modification of historic railings and walkways, which could impact the scenic value of CSHP. Implementation of Cultural Resource mitigation measures will reduce this impact to a less than significant.

b) As stated above, while portions of State Route 49 and State Route 108 passing through the central Mother Lode region are eligible fro designation as scenic highways, neither route passes adjacent to or through Columbia SHP; therefore, the project would not substantially damage scenic resources within a state scenic highway. No impact.

c) The project proposes to install accessibility hardware on historic buildings. In most locations throughout the state hardware would be bright blue and direct the visitor to either an accessible doorway or a mechanism to open/close a door; however, DPR designed this project to install unobtrusive accessibility hardware to avoid harming the historic nature of the buildings and town. Ramps to provide ADA compliant access to boardwalks and paths of travel have also been designed to be as unobtrusive as possible. Impacts less than significant.

d) There is no lighting component to this project; all construction work would take place during daylight hours. No impact.

## II. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Columbia State Historic Park is located in Tuolumne County, California. Ranching activities are important in the western portions of the Columbia area and viticulture is becoming more important in the eastern portions of the community (Tuolumne County 1996). Livestock sales, including significant turkey production, accounted for over 22 million of the roughly 23.5 million dollars of farm market value in the county during 2002 (NASS 2002). Timber resources are also a very prominent agricultural product in the county, although timber production on public lands has declined in recent years (Bigbie n.d.). Livestock and timber production compose the majority of the agricultural products in the county, but apple and pear orchards and specialty crops are also important.

There are residential orchards and gardens throughout the town of Columbia. As Columbia became established and people settled down, vegetable gardens and flowers were planted around town. Many homes had kitchen gardens, decorative flower gardens, and fruit trees, often in the backyard or along the sides of the house (CDPR 1978).

### Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program

Prime Farmland has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for crop production. Farmland of statewide importance is not as productive as prime soil, though it still has supported crop production for at least the three preceding years. Unique farmland ranks below prime and statewide important farmlands, though it is still capable of producing "high economic value crops" such as olives, avocados, or grapes. Finally, farmland of local importance ranks below the other three, yet "may be important to the local economy due to its productivity" (Department of Conservation, Important Farmland Map Categories).

The California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, Soil Candidate Listing for Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance for Glenn County Report includes Columbia silt loam, 0-1% slopes. As stated in Section IV, Geology and Soils, the project area is located within an area of Columbia silt loam, 0-2% slope.

### Williamson Act

The Williamson Act--enables local governments to enter into contracts with private landowners for the purpose of restricting specific parcels of land to agricultural or related open space use. In return, landowners receive property tax assessments which are lower than normal because they are based upon farming and open space uses as opposed to full market value. (Department of Conservation, Williamson Act)

As of January, 2004, there were 918 parcels, encompassing a total of 118,334 acres under Williamson Act contracts in Tuolumne County. (Tuolumne County Community Development Plan)

The project areas proposed for facilities upgrades to meet American’s with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards all occur on developed lands including existing boardwalks, paths of travel, parking areas, and building entrances. No portion of the project area supports any agricultural operations or farmland.

| | POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT | LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION | LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT | NO IMPACT |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

* 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-c, described in the environmental checklist above.

### DISCUSSION

a) As noted in the Environmental Setting above, proposed project area does not support agricultural operations or farmland. Implementation of the proposed project would not affect any category of California Farmland. No impact.

b) This project contains no component that would conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use. There is no land under Williamson Act contract within the park unit (California Department of Conservation 2008). No impact.

c) No farmland is present in the proposed project site. Therefore, implementation of the project would not result in conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use. No impact.

## III. AIR QUALITY and CLIMATE CHANGE.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed project is located in the Mountain Counties Air Basin, managed by seven air pollution control districts (MCAB) and under the jurisdiction of the United States Environmental Protection Agency Region IX (USEPA). The MCAB consists of Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Mariposa, Northern Sierra (Nevada, Plumas, and Sierra Counties), Placer, and Tuolumne air pollution control districts. The seven air districts work closely together employing a regional approach to air pollution control. The proposed project is located in Tuolumne County.

### Climate

The climate of Columbia SHP is influenced by the Sierra Nevada, the central valley, the coast range, and the Pacific Ocean. The seasons are controlled by the air pressure over the northern Pacific Ocean and are dominated by high pressure in the summer and low pressure in the winter. There are generally two seasons typical of the Sierra Nevada foothills: a hot, dry summer between May and October with daytime temperatures ranging from 80-90 degrees and nighttime temperature ranging from 60-70 degrees and wet, cool winters from November to April with daytime temperatures from 40-50 degrees and nighttime temperatures ranging from 30-40 degrees. Winter rainfall averages slightly less than 39 inches per year; Columbia is located below the normal Sierra snowline. (Columbia State Historic Park General Plan, 1979)

### Air Quality Designations

The California Air Board makes state area designations for ten criteria pollutants (an air pollutant for which acceptable levels of exposure can be determined and for which an ambient air quality standard has been set): ozone, suspended particulate matter ($PM_{10}$), fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$), carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, sulfates, lead, hydrogen sulfide, and visibility reducing particles (VRPs). At the State level, ozone is designated as non-attainment; $PM_{10}$, $PM_{2.5}$, hydrogen sulfide, and VRPs are designated unclassified; carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, lead, and sulfates are designated in attainment.

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”. Non-attainment/transitional is a subcategory of the non-attainment designation; an area is designated non-attainment/transitional to signify that the area is close to attaining the standard for that pollutant

In contrast to the State area designations, the USEPA makes National area designations for five criteria pollutants: ozone (8 hour standard; the National 1-hour standard was revoked in June 2005), particulate matter (PM), carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide. At the National level: ozone is designated as non-attainment; carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and $PM_{2.5}$ are designated unclassified/attainment; and $PM_{10}$ and sulfur dioxide are designated unclassified.

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)

The following table illustrates the criteria pollutant designations at both the State and federal levels.

**Criteria Pollutant Designations**

| Criteria Pollutant | State | Federal |
|---|---|---|
| Ozone | Non-Attainment | Non Attainment |
| Carbon Monoxide | Attainment | Unclassified / Attainment |
| Nitrogen Dioxide | Attainment | Unclassified / Attainment |
| $PM_{10}$ | Unclassified | Unclassified |
| $PM_{2.5}$ | Unclassified | Unclassifiable / Attainment |
| Sulfur Dioxide | Attainment | Unclassified |
| Lead | Attainment | No Federal Standard |
| Hydrogen Sulfide | Unclassified | No Federal Standard |
| Sulfates | Attainment | No Federal Standard |
| Visibility Reducing Particles | Unclassified | No Federal Standard |

State designations were updated July 26, 2007; National designations were current as of September 2006
Source: California Air Resources Board

## Sources

During personal and business activities, Californians release thousands of tons of pollutants into the air every day. Although each of us may only produce a small amount of air pollution, the combined pollution from the 33 million Californians adds up to problems. Some air pollutants are formed and released during the combustion (burning) of petroleum-based products and other fuels such as wood. Examples include gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles and fireplaces, respectively. Many tons of pollutants also enter the air through evaporation, such as fuel from gasoline storage and dispensing facilities, and car and truck gasoline tanks, and gasoline storage containers (CARB).

On hot, sunny days, pollutants emitted by vehicles, industry, and many products (nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds) react with each other to form ozone, the main ingredient of smog. During the winter, temperature inversions can trap tiny particles of smoke and exhaust from cars, trucks, fireplaces, and anything else that burns fuel. This keeps the pollution close to the ground - at the level where people are breathing (CARB).

While Tuolumne County residents enjoy some of the best air quality in the state, the growing population of the County is accompanied by routine sources of air pollution: vehicles, industrial facilities, open burning, woodstoves, and earth-moving equipment. The air quality of the county is further diminished by the transport of pollutants from the more industrialized and populated San Joaquin Valley and Bay Area. (Tuolumne County General Plan).

## Air Monitoring Stations

The monitoring stations in the state are operated by the California Air Resources Board (CARB), by local Air Pollution Control Districts (APCD) or Air Quality Management Districts (AQMD), by private contractors, and by the National Park Service (NPS). These entities

operate more than 250 air monitoring stations in California. The ARB operates air monitoring stations throughout the State. Most of the local districts operate air monitoring stations within their jurisdictions. In some portions of the State, private contractors operate monitoring stations under contract with businesses that are required by permit conditions to conduct monitoring. The National Park Service also operates a number of air monitoring stations in the National Parks and National Monuments throughout California (CARB, 2008). One monitoring station is located in Tuolumne: Sonora-Barretta Street. This monitoring station located in Sonora monitors $O_3$, Outdoor Temperature, Wind Direction, and Horizontal Wind Speed (CARB).

**Health Hazards**

Ozone and particulate matter are the most common air pollutants in California. Ozone, also known as smog, can irritate your respiratory system, causing coughing, irritation in your throat or a burning sensation in your airways. It can reduce lung function, so that you may have feelings of chest tightness, wheezing, or shortness of breath. Particle pollution, also known as particulate matter, is composed of microscopic solids or liquid droplets that are so small that they can get deep into the lungs and cause serious health problems. When exposed to these small particles, people with heart or lung diseases and older adults are more at risk of hospital and emergency room visits or, in some cases, even death from heart or lung disease. Carbon monoxide can cause harmful health effects by reducing oxygen delivery to the body's organs (like the heart and brain) and tissues. Sulfur dioxide causes a wide variety of health and environmental impacts because of the way it reacts with other substances in the air. Impacts include; respiratory effects, visibility impairments, acid rain, plant and water damage, and aesthetic damage (building decay). People, animals, and fish are mainly exposed to lead by breathing and ingesting it in food, water, soil, or dust. Lead accumulates in the blood, bones, muscles, and fat. Nitrogen dioxide contributes to ozone; causes respiratory problems; contributes to the formation of acid rain; contributes to nutrient overload, which deteriorates water quality; contribute to atmospheric particles, which causes visibility impairment; reacts to from toxic chemicals; and contributes to global warming (USEPA).

**Sensitive Receptors**

Sensitive receptors include individuals as well as groups relating to specific land uses. Some individuals are considered to be more “sensitive” than others to air pollutants. The reasons for greater sensitivity than average include health problems, proximity to the emission source, or duration of exposure to air pollutants. Land uses such as primary and secondary schools, hospitals, and convalescent homes are considered to be sensitive receptors to poor air quality because the very young, the old and the infirm are more susceptible to respiratory infections and other air quality related health problems than the general public. Residential uses are considered sensitive receptors because people in residential areas are often at home for extended periods of time, so they can be exposed to pollutants for extended periods. Recreational areas are considered moderately sensitive to poor air quality because vigorous exercise associated with recreation places a high demand on the human respiratory function.

Sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the proposed project area include recreational users (Town visitors) and residents.

| | | LESS THAN | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | POTENTIALLY | SIGNIFICANT | LESS THAN |

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

* 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 Air Quality is based on criteria **III** a-e, described in the environmental checklist above.

### DISCUSSION

a) Work proposed by this project would not conflict or obstruct the implementation of any applicable air quality management plan for the Tuolumne County Air Pollution Control District.

b,c) The proposed project would not emit air contaminants at a level that by themselves would violate any air quality standard, or contribute to a permanent or long-term increase in any air contaminant. However, project implementation would generate short-term emissions of fugitive dust and involve the use of equipment and materials that would emit ozone precursors. Increased emissions of fugitive dust (particulate matter) and ozone precursors could contribute to existing non-attainment and non-attainment/transitional conditions, which could interfere with achieving the projected attainment standards. Inclusion of Standard Project Requirement Air-1 (chapter 2) in the project design would reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level.

d) As mentioned above, project construction would generate dust and equipment exhaust emissions for the duration of the project. Although sensitive receptors are limited in the area, there is the possibility that during construction, recreational users on adjacent property could be affected. However, members of the public with conditions that make them sensitive to these emissions would have the option of traveling to areas further away

and avoiding the area altogether or remain in areas that would be upwind or protected from blowing dust or other emissions. Integration or Minimization Measure Air 1 above would reduce potential impacts to less than significant.

e) Construction activities do not usually emit offensive odors and are generally confined to the vicinity of the source. Although construction activities occurring in association with the proposed project could generate airborne odors with the operation of construction vehicles (i.e., diesel exhaust), these emissions would only occur during daytime hours, would generally be restricted to the immediate vicinity of the construction site, and due to the remote location of the project site would not affect a substantial number of people. No impact.

## Climate Change

California Assembly Bill (AB) 32 is California's roadmap to greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction by listing goals and timelines and giving new authority to existing agencies to meet these goals. AB 32 begins with the following:

*Global warming poses a serious threat to the economic well-being, public health, natural resources, and the environment of California. The potential adverse impacts of global warming include the exacerbation of air quality problems, a reduction in the quality and supply of water to the state from the Sierra snowpack, a rise in sea levels resulting in the displacement of thousands of coastal businesses and residences, damage to marine ecosystems and the natural environment, and an increase in the incidences of infectious diseases, asthma, and other human health-related problems.*

This statement is meant to effectively end the scientific debate in California over the existence and consequences of global warming. The bill requires that statewide GHG emissions must be reduced to 1990 levels by the year 2020 and requires the California Air Resources Board to adopt rules and regulations. (Jones & Stokes, 2007)

In California, there are no statewide significance criteria or approved mitigation methods concerning GHG emissions; therefore, this section discusses climate change qualitatively with no significance conclusion.

In discussing climate change, three fundamental questions must be addressed:
1) How would the project affect climate change?
In general, a project would affect climate change if it altered the earth's radiative ability through direct emissions of GHG; indirect emissions of GHG; alteration of sinks of GHG; or changes in land albedo (reflectivity). The project proposes to provide accessible features to comply with the American with Disabilities Act at Columbia Sate Historic park in Tuolumne County The project would not increase the earth's radiative ability through direct or indirect emissions of GHG, would not alter sinks of GHG, nor would it change the land reflectivity.

2) How would the project be affected by climate change?
In general, the project would be affected by climate change if there is a change in water availability and quality; an increase in the frequency and severity of extreme weather events; changes in cloud cover and rainfall patterns; increases in frequency of ozone exceedances; and sea level rise. The proposed project could be affected by a change in water availability and

quality similar to any business that provides employment opportunities. The proposed accessibility project would not be affected by an increase in the frequency or severity of storm events or an increase in cloud cover and rainfall patterns, sea level rise or an increase in seawater intrusion into estuaries. The proposed project could be affected by exceedances of ozone because the Mountain Counties Air Basin is designated non-attainment for both state and federal designations. As stated above, Tuolumne County residents enjoy some of the best air quality in the state; however, the growing population of the County is also accompanied by routine sources of air pollution: vehicles, industrial facilities, open burning, woodstoves, and earth-moving equipment. The air quality of the county is further diminished by the transport of pollutants from the more industrialized and populated San Joaquin Valley and Bay Area.

3) If the project contributions to climate change are considered a significant impact on the environment, what constitutes feasible 'fair share' mitigation?
As stated above, California has no statewide significance criteria; therefore, at this time DPR is unable to provide analysis and determination as to the significance of climate change in relation to this project and the overall environment or the feasibility of 'fair share' mitigation.

Although significance can not be determined, the Department of Parks and Recreation is committed to reducing the impacts of climate change in its development projects.

## IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The park is located in the western Sierra Nevada foothills, within the city of Columbia, Tuolumne County. The natural setting of vegetation in the surrounding hills is similar to that of the historic scene. Vegetation surrounding the Park is a transition zone between mixed chaparral and ponderosa pine plant communities. Grassland areas were greatly changed by decades of grazing and the introduction of non-native grasses for grazing animals. Existing vegetation within the boundaries of Columbia State Historic Park, however, is almost entirely second growth due to the denuding of the landscape by gold miners (Weiler 1983). The dramatically altered terrain of the Columbia State Historic Park project area is representative of life in the Mother Lode in the 1850's and 1860's. Plant communities within the proposed project area are composed predominantly of non-native plant species that were used to landscape the Historic District and will remain on the site as part of the historic landscape (DPR, 1978). There are a few isolated native plant species scattered around the Park, but in general most species are horticultural varieties. No rare plant species have been identified in the area.

Wildlife species occasionally seen in the park are the more common species such as raccoons, skunks, squirrels, and birds such as quail, jays, and the California towhee. No threatened or endangered wildlife are known to inhabit the Columbia area.

### Special-Status Species[1]

Queries of the California Department of Fish and Game's Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB 2008) and the California Native Plant Society's On-line Inventory (CNPS 2008) were conducted for sensitive biological resources that are known to occur within the Columbia 7.5-minute U.S.G.S. quadrangle map. This proposed project has been evaluated for potential impacts to all sensitive biological resources that occur, or could occur, in the project vicinity.

Sensitive biological resources include plants and animals that have been given special recognition by federal, state, or local resource agencies and organizations. Also included are habitats that are listed as 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 and are considered sensitive. Threatened and Endangered plants and wildlife species and Species of Concern are special-status species that have legal protection.

[1] For the purposes of this document, special-status 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 USFWS and/or CDFG as Species of Concern, animals identified by CDFG as Fully Protected or Protected, and plants considered by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) to be rare, threatened, or endangered (i.e., plants on CNPS lists 1 and 2).

## SENSITIVE SPECIES THAT ARE KNOWN TO OCCUR, OR COULD POTENTIALLY OCCUR, WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA

PLANTS

**Tuolumne button-celery** (*Eryngium pinnatisectum*). This CNPS List 1B species is found in vernal pools, montane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forest. No suitable habitat for this species occurs in the project area.

**Tuolumne fawn lily** (*Erythronium tuolumnense*). This CNPS List 1B species is found in broadleaved upland forest, chaparral, and lower montane coniferous forest. No suitable habitat for this species occurs in the project area.

**Whipple's monkeyflower** (*Mimulus whipplei*). This CNPS List 1A species is found in lower montane forest. No suitable habitat for this species occurs in the project area.

WILDLIFE

**Bats:** California Special Concern species include **Hoary bat** (*Lasiurus cinereus*); **Pallid bat** (*Antrozous pallidus*); **Western mastiff bat** (*Eumopsperotis californicus*); **Western red bat** (*Lasiurus blossevillii*); **Yuma myotis** (*Myotis yumanensis*). Townsend's big-eared bats roost in caves, mines, tunnels, buildings, or other human-made structures. Yuma myotis and pallid bats roost in caves, crevices, mines, and occasionally in hollow trees and buildings (Wilson and Ruff 1999). The western mastiff bat roosts in cliff faces, high buildings, trees, tunnels, and crevices in buildings (Ziener et. al., 1990). No suitable roosting habitat for these species occurs in the project footprint.

**California red-legged frog** (*Rana draytonii*). Federal Threatened and California Special Concern species. California red-legged frogs are found in ponds and intermittent streams that retain year-round pools of water. They may move out of riparian zones seasonally within aquatic habitats between breeding sites and foraging habitat. Although California red-legged frogs historically occupied the area, red-legged frogs have not been documented in Columbia since prior to extensive mining activities and urban development (DFG 2008). No breeding habitat or non-breeding habitat occurs within the project site. The project site is located within a heavily used urban area, and project related activities will not impede movement corridors.

**Giant garter snake** (*Thamnophis gigas*) – This species is listed as California Threatened and Federal Threatened. It occurs in a variety of aquatic habitats such as freshwater marsh, low-gradient streams, ponds, drainage canals and irrigation ditches. It also requires suitable adjacent upland habitat for basking and burrows. No suitable habitat for this species occurs in the project area.

**Tricolored blackbird** (*Agelaius tricolor*) –A California Special Concern species that requires open water and protected nesting substrate. No suitable habitat for this species occurs in the project area.

**Raptors:** The following California Special Concern raptor species may occur within the project area. **Cooper's hawk** (*Accipiter cooperi*) **(nesting)** and **northern goshawk** (*Accipiter gentilis*) **(nesting)**. All raptors and their nests are protected under the Fish and Game Code §3503.5. While there are currently no known raptor nests within the project area, some potential exists for raptor species to nest within or near the proposed project site.

**Valley elderberry longhorn beetle** (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*). Federal Threatened. The valley elderberry longhorn beetle is found in the Central Valley of California and lower elevations of the Sierran foothills and is only associated the blue elderberry. Adult beetles can be found on or flying between elderberry plants. The flight season for the beetle is between mid-March and early June. The USFWS considers any elderberry plants within the range of the valley elderberry longhorn beetle to support the species. There are no elderberry plants within the project footprint.

#### WETLANDS AND WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) defines wetlands as areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. The majority of USACE jurisdictional wetlands meet three wetland delineation criteria: (1) hydrophytic vegetation, (2) hydric soil types, and (3) wetland hydrology.

The proposed project will not impact any wetlands or waters of the United States.

| | POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT | LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION | LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT | NO IMPACT |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **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 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 Biological resources is based on criteria **III** a-f, described in the environmental checklist above.

**DISCUSSION**

a) Raptors: Raptors and their nests are protected under Fish and Game Code §3503.5. While there are currently no known raptor nests within the project area, some potential exists for raptor species to nest within or near the proposed project site. Integration of **Standard Project Requirement Bio 1 – Presence of Raptors** (from Chapter 2) in project design would prevent project-related disturbance to nesting raptors.

b) There are no sensitive natural communities or riparian plant communities occurring within the project area. The site has been extensively altered and is dominated by nonnative tree and shrub species used to landscape the historic site. Therefore, no impact.

c) There are no wetlands within the project area. Therefore, no impacts to wetlands will occur as result of project implementation.

d) The project site is not within a wildlife corridor and will not affect the movement of wildlife or fish species. No impact.

e) The project does not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. No impact.

f) The project does not conflict with any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or any other local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

## V. CULTURAL RESOURCES.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Columbia State Historic Park is located in Tuolumne County, California, and is situated approximately three miles north of Sonora, California, off Highway 49. It lies at an elevation of approximately 2,080 feet in the southern foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountain range.

The park was once known as the "Gem of the Southern Mines." Between the 1850s and 1870s over one-half billion dollars in gold (at today's value) was mined in the area. Columbia became a California State Park in 1945 and is listed as a Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and as a National Historic Landmark (NHL). The town is also State Historical Landmark number 123. The buildings, walkways, doors, fire doors and other streetscape features discussed in the overall project description are compatible and/or contributing elements of the NRHP listed district and the NHL property.

**Prehistoric Background:** The extent of human inhabitation of the Central Sierra Nevada extends back nearly 11,000 years into the Pre-Archaic and Early Archaic periods. Most prehistoric sites in the region date to the Martis and Kings Beach phases of the Middle (700 B.P. - 5000 B.P.) and Late (150 B.P. - 700 B.P.) Archaic periods. Martis Phase sites contain large Atl-Atl or dart points, high frequencies of basalt tools and flake-stone debris, and portable bowl mortars and milling slabs. Kings Beach Phase sites contain smaller projectile points, high frequencies of obsidian tools and flake-stone debris, and bedrock mortars (Elston et al 1994:8-11; Mires et al. 1998:5-7; Moratto 1984:311-315).

The change in material culture between the Martis and Kings Beach phases represent a change in subsistence that relied on hunting large game during the early phase and collecting seeds, fishing, and hunting small game in the latter. The change was accompanied by a growth in population as well as a shift to sedentary settlement. Other changes in the archaeological record of the Central Sierra Nevada suggest a new people had migrated into the region approximately 600-years ago. Archaeological manifestations of the migration consist of an increased presence of ornaments and steatite vessels, an emergence of comparatively small desert side notch arrow points, and the continued use of bedrock mortars. The migration most likely involved ancestors of the ethnographic Miwok (Mires et al. 1998:5-7; Moratto 1984:311-315).

Columbia State Historic Park (SHP) contains one prehistoric site, Ca-Tou-883 (Kec-93-1). This sparse site consists of two mortar cups that sit on a single limestone outcrop located in a field of limestone outcrops that were exposed by hydraulic mining. This site type is consistent with Kings Beach and ethnographic Miwok inhabitation. This singular site is indicative of the poor condition of prehistoric sites in Columbia SHP. The historic mining activities obliterated most of the evidence of any prehistoric occupation in what was most likely a heavily used area (Mires et al. 1998:70, 71; 1998:Moratto 1984:311-315).

**Ethnographic Background:** Prior to Anglo contact, the current project area was inhabited by the Central Sierra Miwok. There are six Native American language groups in North America which represent individual waves of human migration. California has the singular distinction of

being the only state in which all six are found. The Central Sierra Miwok belong to the Penutian language group which in itself represents one of the final waves of pre-contact migration (Levy 1978:398-413; Mires et al. 1998:8-11).

The Central Sierra Nevada Miwok occupied a territory that was bounded on the north along a line that extended east from Jenny Lind to a point half-way between Mountain Ranch and Sheep Ranch; on the east by the Sierra Nevada crest; on the south along a line that ran between the Tuolumne and Merced rivers to Mt. Lyell; and, on the west along a line that connected Jenny Lind, Knights Ferry and La Grange. The varied environmental zones found within the Miwok's range supported numerous plant and animal species that were exploited for subsistence (Mires et al. 1998:8-11).

As with most native Californian people, acorns were of utmost importance for subsistence. Many bedrock mortars, such as those at Ca-Tou-882 (Kec-93-5), were used by the Central Sierra Miwok to prepare this vital food staple. Large permanent villages were situated on ridges and near reliable sources of water. Permanent villages were located below the annual winter snow-line. The Miwok also inhabited small seasonal camps that they used for procuring edible plant and animals. In contrast to permanent villages, seasonal camps were occupied during warmer months and could be found at a variety of elevations ranging all the way up to the Sierra Nevada crest (Levy 1978:398-413; Mires et al. 1998:8-11).

Populations of permanent villages varied from 50 to 200 individuals. Villages contained multiple structures such as acorn granaries, family houses, sweat houses, and ceremonial lodges. There was a high frequency of villages in the lower Sierra Nevada foothills at elevations similar to Columbia SHP. Seasonal camps were smaller than permanent villages. They usually performed a single function such as procuring plants and animals. Seasonal camps are marked in the archaeological record by concentrations of bedrock milling features and flaked-stone debris (Levy 1978:398-413; Mires et al. 1998:8-11).

The political structure of the Central Sierra Miwok was defined by the triblet. Triblets could range from 100 to 300 individuals and each had its own territory within the greater Miwok range. Triblet territories were centralized around a principle permanent village. Territories included outlying or satellite villages that were located near neighboring triblets. Villages were inhabited by individuals of same lineages who acted collectively in respect to land ownership, enforcement of tribal law or rule, and performance of ceremonies. The overall population of the Central Sierra Miwok has been estimated at 2,000 to 4,400 people, constituting a calculated total of seven to 44 individual triblets and respective territories (Levy 1978:398-413; Mires et al. 1998:8-11).

**Historic Archaeology:** Kautz Environmental Services (KES) completed a comprehensive field study of the current project area in 1998. The KES study constituted a Phase-1 resource identification and inventory of the entire park that resulted in recording a total of seven archaeological sites. Six of the sites are historic and the seventh is the fore-mentioned prehistoric site. In their study, KES determined that all seven of the sites were potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and that the six historic sites contributed to the NRHP status of Columbia. At present, none of the KES determinations of NRHP eligibility have been reviewed by the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) (Mires et al. 1998).

Two of the historic sites recorded by KES are individual segments of water ditches. The sites are identified as Kec-93-4 (Haynes Mining Ditch) and Kec-93-6 (Tuolumne County Water Co. Ditch). Two sites, identified as Ca-Tuo-2412/H and Ca-Tuo-2144/H, are associated with historic hydraulic and placer mining activities. One site, identified as Kec-93-7, constitutes a collection of artifacts and features related to Chinese inhabitation. The remaining site consists of 54 structural, earthen and debris features that were documented as having no temporal or geographical relationships to each other beyond their general association with the historical context of Columbia. The site is identified as Ca-Tuo-4156/H (Mires et al. 1998:67-105).

The current brick sidewalks in Columbia SHP were rebuilt during the 1950s to 1970s to replicate remains of earlier patterns that were found under concrete walks that had been demolished for their construction. Consultation with the District Archaeologist indicated that the sequence of sidewalk construction in Columbia progressed from original walkways of compacted dirt, to those made of wooden planks and boards, to paved brick surfaces, to concrete walks, to the reconstructed brick sidewalks of today. Consultation indicated that most existing sidewalks with running bond patterns, or those in which bricks are laid parallel to buildings, were used to reconstruct sidewalks in areas where no evidence of original patterns could be found during their reconstruction. This information is imperative to predicting subsurface conditions of Columbia's sidewalks because the areas scheduled for demolition cannot be archaeologically tested prior to demolition (Jay Correia, personnel communication 2008; Linda Dick-Bissonette, personal communication 2008).

**Historic Background:** Soon after James Marshall's 1848 discovery of gold in Coloma, the word of gold in California spread throughout the world. By the end of 1848 over 20,000 people had come seeking gold and by 1852 over 200,000 had come looking for gold. As the number of men seeking their fortunes increased, they spread throughout the Sierra Nevada foothills in their search for gold.

In the spring of 1850, a group of prospectors led by Dr. Thaddeus Hildreth discovered gold in the southern foothills. Their claim, initially called Hildreth's Diggings quickly grew into a town of several thousand. As it grew, the townspeople changed the name from Hildreth's Diggings to American Camp. It would later become Columbia (California Department of Parks and Recreation 1978).

As news of the gold discovery in Columbia spread, Columbia's population grew. By 1853 the town had a formal layout of streets with over 500 buildings including more than 150 stores, saloons and lodges. The population in the town was approximately 3,000 and there was up to 5,000 miners living in camps nearby. Despite its strong beginning and colorful history, the town began to decline only a decade after it was founded (California Department of Parks and Recreation 1978; Mires et al 1998).

Shortly after its founding, Columbia faced two disastrous fires. The first fire hit in July 1854. Because most of the original buildings in town were constructed close together and made of wood, the fire was catastrophic. By the time the fire was out, it had destroyed every building between Broadway, Main, Jackson and Washington Streets except the Donnell and Parsons Store, the only brick building in town. Learning from this experience, the townspeople rebuilt 20 buildings using locally manufactured brick. The second fire swept through downtown Columbia in 1857. Although many of the brick buildings survived, most of the 13-block downtown was

destroyed. After four more fires between 1859 and 1866, the faced a major decline (California Department of Parks and Recreation 1978; Mires et al 1998).

During the 1860s, after the loss of sections of the town and when miners had depleted the placer mining sites and further mining opportunities failed to yield gold, the town's population dwindled. In the 1870s and 1880s miners in the area removed many vacated buildings in a final attempt to mine the sites, reducing the once bustling town of approximately ten thousand residents to five hundred. Although Columbia never fully returned to its early peak population, it was also never completely abandoned like so many other Gold Rush towns. Many of the people who helped build the town in the 1850s had developed an attachment to the town and decided to stay despite the severe decline of the town's population and property values. This commitment to the town included civic improvements such as repairs to churches, work on town cisterns and maintenance of public roads (Page and Turnbull 2003).

While, initially detrimental to the town, Columbia's declining population in the late nineteenth century was also beneficial. The presence of a concerned population prevented vandalism and the destruction of the entire town while the loss of the economic base preserved the buildings. The town was basically frozen in time due to benign neglect. The residents did not have the money to alter their buildings through major repairs or additions, yet by living in them, they prevented complete dilapidation. It remained primarily a "Gold Rush" town until the 1920s (Mires et al 1998).

In the 1920s the emerging film industry in Hollywood saw Columbia's potential as a ready-made movie set for westerns. In addition to its popularity as a movie set, other people saw Columbia as a "quaint and charming" old town. As these newcomers "discovered" the town, they built houses on empty lots within town. The 1920s also was a time when people in California began to recognize the importance of the state's Gold Rush history through the efforts of groups like the Native Sons of the Golden West. This movement also had roots in the work of others who wanted to preserve California's natural resources. As a result of these civic-minded groups, the idea of designating outstanding natural and cultural areas as state parks spread. In 1927, Governor Clement Young authorized the creation of a state park commission and funding it with a $6 million bond issue. The governor also hired Frederick Law Olmstead as director of a statewide survey of prospective state parks. Olmstead quickly identified Columbia as a significant architectural remnant of the California Gold Rush (California Department of Parks and Recreation 1978; Mires et al 1998).

Though initially delayed by the Great Depression, the State of California finally acquired most of the town of Columbia. It officially became a State Historic Park on July 15, 1945. Columbia State Historic Park has been open to visitors since then and continues to provide the public with a glimpse of an early gold country settlement (Page and Turnbull 2003; Mires et al 1998).

| | POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT | LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION | LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT | NO IMPACT |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **WOULD THE PROJECT:** | | | | |
| a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, as defined in §15064.5? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource, pursuant to §15064.5? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |

### Criteria for Determining Significance

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

### DISCUSSION

a) The project proposes to Provide ADA upgrades to the exterior path of travel on the existing non-historic boardwalks and walkways located throughout Columbia SHP. Additionally, the work includes door modifications at 38 locations along the route of travel. The project proposes the use of automatic door openers on these doors.

Based on the plans for this project, with the exception of the Sector Office, the Eagle Cotage [sic], the Columbia Gazette Office and the Masonic Hall, all the entrances are into historic buildings that are contributing elements to the NRHP historic district and all the buildings, whether they are on the NRHP or not, are within the boundaries of the NHL.

According to Public Resources Code 15064.5, when a project will affect state-owned historical resources, as described in Public Resources Code Section 5024, and the lead agency is a state agency, the lead agency shall consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer as provided in Public Resources Code Section 5024.5. Consultation should be coordinated in a timely fashion with the preparation of environmental documents. Furthermore, a lead agency shall identify potentially feasible measures to mitigate significant adverse changes in the significance of an historical resource. The lead agency shall ensure that any adopted measures to mitigate or avoid significant adverse changes are fully enforceable through permit conditions, agreements, or other measures.

Also according to Public Resources Code 15064.5, a project that follows the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings or the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (1995), Weeks and Grimmer, shall be considered as mitigated to a level of less than a significant impact on the historical resource.

Due to the sensitive nature of this project, the DPR historian immediately consulted with the

Office of Historic Preservation and Wayne Donaldson, the State Historic Preservation Officer, reviewed and approved the proposed plan of automatic door openers for this project. According to his review, the proposed project in Columbia meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings or the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (See Appendix D).

b) The current ADA project has potential to affect three of the archaeological sites that were previously recorded by KES. These sites are described below:

1) Prehistoric archaeological site Ca-Tou-882: The site is located in proximity to the current project area and consists of a singular bedrock milling station. No proposed ADA improvement work would be implemented on the site itself. As described, the site consists of two mortar cups that sit on top of a single limestone outcrop. The site has been determined potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP under Criterion D (ability to yield important information) and is considered significant for the purpose of CEQA.

2) Historic archaeological site Kec-93-4 (Haynes Mining Ditch): The site is located near the proposed APE and consists of an approximate one-mile long portion of mining ditch. The site is subdivided into a total of 11 individual segments; none of the segments are located in any of the areas proposed for ADA improvements. The site has been determined potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP under Criteria A (significant events), C (distinctive construction), and D (ability to yield important information); and, a contributing resource to the NRHP listed Historic District of Columbia. The site is considered significant for the purpose of CEQA.

3) Historic archaeological site Ca-Tuo-4156/H: The site is a large 90-acre historic resource that encompasses 54 temporally and geographically discrete features as well as the current project area. The features consist of various structure flats and ruins, earthen mounds, rock walls, stone alignments, and debris dumps. None of the features are located in any areas proposed for ADA improvements. The site has been determined potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP under Criteria A (significant events), C (distinctive construction) and D (ability to yield important information); and, a contributing resource to the NRHP listed Historic District of Columbia. The site is considered significant for the purpose of CEQA.

Archaeological sites Ca-Tou-882, Kec-93-4 and Ca-Tuo-4156/H are in proximity to the current project area and could be affected by ancillary project support activities such as on-site materials and personnel staging, and equipment clean-up. Implementation of Mitigation Measure **Cult-7** below will reduce the impact to a less than significant level.

| **Mitigation Measure Cult-7: NRHP Eligible Archaeological Site Avoidance** |
|---|
| • All project support activities such as staging and equipment clean-up will be restricted to areas with existing (asphalt or cement) pavement, and/or to existing park maintenance facilities. |

Much of the current project area is covered in asphalt or other hard surfaces making

subsurface archaeological testing prior to construction not possible. However, the ground under these surfaces could contain prehistoric or historic resources; therefore, there is a potential to inadvertently impact archaeological resources. Implementation of Specific Project Requirement Cult 1 (Chapter 2) will reduce the potential impact to a less than significant level.

c) In many of California's historic town-sites and rural communities discoveries have been made of non-Native American human bone including non-Anglo. Burials have not been documented or recorded in the current project area or APE; however, there is always a potential of unanticipated discoveries of human bone. If any human remains or burial artifacts were identified, implementation of Standard Project Requirement Cult 2- Human Remains (from Chapter 2) would reduce the impact to a less than significant level.

## VI. **GEOLOGY AND SOILS.**

### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

### Geology

Columbia SHP is situated within the Sierra Nevada Geomorphic Province, a 400-mile long northwest –southeast trending fault block mountain range with a high, very steep eastern escarpment and a gentle western slope that disappears under sediments of the Great Valley (California Geological Survey 2002, Hill 1975). Deep river canyons dissect the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. Elevations increase from north to south, culminating in the 14,495-foot (above mean sea level (amsl)) summit of Mt. Whitney, which is the highest point in the contiguous U.S. The Sierra Nevada Range due east of Columbia SHP reaches a maximum elevation of 12,442 feet amsl at the top of Mt. Excelsior on the eastern boundary of Yosemite National Park.

The Sierra Nevada Batholith forms the core of the Sierra Nevada Range, which is exposed at the surface as granite or granitic type rocks such as granodiorite (Bateman and Wahrhaftig 1966). In the northern portion of the range a metamorphic belt flanks the Batholith on the west, composed of weakly metamorphosed sedimentary and volcanic rocks of Paleozoic age (544 to 245 million years ago) and Mesozoic age (245 to 65 million years ago). Metamorphic bedrock containing gold-bearing veins occurs in the northwest trending Mother Lode region of the Sierra Nevada.

Columbia SHP is located in a preserved Tertiary Period (65 to 1.8 million years ago) flat valley containing pre-volcanic features (Clark 1970). This valley is primarily underlain by limestone, dolomite, and marble of the Calaveras Formation, whose age is uncertain, but probably Paleozoic or Mesozoic (California Department of Conservation 1977, Clark 1970).

Limestone found in Columbia and the surrounding area contains extensive cavities and deep potholes that were filled with gold-rich gravels (Clark 1970). Extensive placer mining of these gravels began in 1850, creating a denuded landscape and exposing the underlying limestone bedrock. Most of the exposed limestone has been filled in with loose unconsolidated soils material since mining activity declined following the 1860's. However, exposed limestone rock formations are evident in several locations within park boundaries.

#### *Topography*

The project site encompasses 28 individual sites throughout the park requiring ADA compliant upgrades. Columbia SHP is located on relatively level terrain in a valley of the central Sierra Nevada foothills at an elevation of 2080 feet amsl. Moderately steep hills surrounding the town of Columbia rise 300 to 600 feet above the valley floor. Several small stream courses drain the area, including Matelot Gulch which enters the town from uplands to the north.

#### *Seismicity*

Columbia SHP is located within a relatively inactive seismic area when compared to other portions of California such as the San Francisco Bay area. There are no Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zones within the county (Hart and Bryant 2007). These zones emphasize active faults that have a potential for ground surface rupture.

No fault zones are known to exist within the park unit (California Department of Parks and Recreation 1978, California Department of Conservation 1994). Approximately 2.5 miles southwest of the park is the Melones Fault Zone, which is part of the Foothills Fault System. The Melones Fault Zone extends from central Mariposa County north to the vicinity of the Feather River in Plumas County. This fault zone has a general north-south orientation and has been mapped as a pre-Quaternary fault (older than 1.6 million years). Pre-Quaternary faults are defined as "faults without recognized Quaternary displacement or showing evidence of no displacement during the Quaternary time" (California Department of Conservation 1994).

The nearest faults exhibiting historic earthquake activity are the Clayton-Marsh Creek-Greenville Fault and the Hayward Fault Zone, both located in the Coast Range and oriented on a north-south axis (California Department of Conservation 1994). The Clayton-Marsh Creek-Greenville Fault is situated about 75 miles west of the project site adjacent to the Livermore Valley. The Hayward Fault occurs approximately 92 miles west of the project site in the hills immediately east of the San Francisco Bay.

An earthquake of Richter magnitude 5.5 (M 5.5) was produced by the Clayton-Marsh Creek-Greenville Fault on January 24, 1980 (Bedrossian et al. 1980, McJunkin and Ragsdale 1980). This event was centered approximately 10 miles north of the city of Livermore and 7 miles southeast of Mt. Diablo in sparsely populated hills. Two aftershocks measuring M 5.2 and M 4.2 occurred within two minutes of the first event. An M 5.8 earthquake struck on January 26, 1980 on a different segment of the Clayton-Marsh Creek-Greenville Fault. Damage attributed to both earthquake events was considered minor; reported damage included downed power lines, store merchandise thrown off shelves, cracked plaster, broken windows, trailers knocked off their foundations, snapped gas lines, etc.

An earthquake of an estimated Richter magnitude between 6.8 and 7.0 occurred on the Hayward Fault on October 21, 1868 (Brocher et al. 2008, USGS 2008). This major earthquake was one of the most destructive in California history, resulting in 30 deaths and extensive damage throughout the Bay Area, with a population that was then approximately 260,000. Scientists identify this fault as due anytime for another M 6.8 to 7.0 earthquake, which could result in extensive damage and loss of life.

Prehistoric earthquakes have been reported from the Genoa Fault, which is situated in a transition zone between the northern Sierra Nevada Mountains and the Basin and Range Province. This fault is located approximately 57 miles northeast of the project site and just to the east of Grover Hot Springs State Park (Ramelli et al. 1999). Investigations suggest that the most recent earthquake events on the main part of the fault occurred 500-600 calculated years B.P. and 2000-2200 years B.P., respectively. These paleoearthquakes were estimated to be on the order of M 7.2-7.5.

No potentially active faults are known within a 50 mile radius of the project site; however, potentially active faults mapped on the Fault Activity Map of California (Jennings, 1994) could produce earthquakes that result in ground motion at the project site.

## Soils

The National Cooperative Soil Survey of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is in the process of mapping the soils of the central Sierra Nevada foothills (NRCS 2008). No preliminary data is available for the area encompassing Columbia SHP (Malone

2008).

Placer mining that occurred before the park was established resulted in the removal of much of the soil mantle and exposed numerous limestone rock outcrops (Clark 1970). Loose, undifferentiated soil material now covers most of the waste rock piles and tailings left from the mining period. The project does not include the import of additional soil material, but would utilize soil stabilization methods to provide for firm and stable ADA compliant walking surfaces.

| **WOULD THE PROJECT:** | POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT | LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION | LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT | NO IMPACT |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: | | | | |
| i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, issued by the State Geologist for the area, or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? (Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.) | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| ii) Strong seismic ground shaking? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| iv) Landslides? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable, as a result of the project and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1997), creating substantial risks to life or property? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site, or unique geologic feature? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

## Criteria for Determining Significance

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

**DISCUSSION**

a) The project site is located within the lower elevations of the north central Sierra Nevada Range, an area relatively free of large earthquake events. No potentially active faults have been identified within Columbia SHP. The chance of the surface rupture of an earthquake fault near the project site is highly unlikely; the nearby Melones Fault Zone shows no displacement during the past 1.6 million years. Seismic ground-shaking is possible from earthquake events on more distant mapped faults, including the Clayton-Marsh Creek-Greenville Fault and the Hayward Fault Zone, located approximately 75 and 92 miles west of the project site, respectively. While the chance of the rupture of a known earthquake fault, strong seismic ground shaking, or seismic-related ground failure are certainly possible in this area, this project would not substantially increase the exposure of people or structures to risk of loss, injury, or death as a result of these events.

i) The project site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone as designated by the California Geological Survey (CGS 2000). Therefore, there is no expected impact from surface rupture of a known fault due to this project.

ii) The closest faults exhibiting historic earthquake activity are the Clayton-Marsh Creek-Greenville Fault and the Hayward Fault Zone, both located in the Coast Range 75 and 92 miles west of the project site, respectively. The Clayton-Marsh Creek-Greenville Fault is capable of generating Maximum Credible Earthquake of Richter Scale magnitude of 6.6 (Petersen 1996). The Hayward Fault Zone is capable of generating a Maximum Credible Earthquake of Richter Scale magnitude of 6.4 to 6.7, depending on the location. Ground motion produced by earthquake events for the general project area is calculated to be very low, ranging from 0.09 to 0.14 peak ground acceleration (Pga) due to gravity (CGS 2008). The project site could be subject to seismic ground shaking from local or more distant faults; however, this is an existing condition and there would be no increased risk to the public from project implementation. No impact.

iii) 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 can increase in loose soils, causing the soils to change from a solid to a liquid state (liquefaction). Soils within the project area are unconsolidated; however, this is a relatively inactive seismic area that is more than 50 miles from the nearest known active faults (California Department of Conservation 1994). The proposed ADA improvements consist of upgrades to the exterior path of travel on existing non-historic boardwalks and walkways throughout the town, upgrades to exterior parking, and door modifications. Walkway upgrades would provide firm and stable walking surfaces using soil stabilization methods, increasing surface cohesion of soil particles. ADA improvements would not increase the potential for liquefaction or seismic-related ground failures during earthquake events. Therefore project implementation would not expose people or structures to substantial potential adverse effects from seismic-related ground failures. No impact.

iv) No known landslides have been mapped at the project site, which is located on a relatively flat valley floor. Therefore, there would be no impact from a seismically-

triggered landslide.

b) A temporary increase in erosion and sedimentation could occur during construction of this project as a result of ground disturbing activities. Implementation of **Project Requirement Geo-1** (Chapter 2, Project Description) would reduce soil erosion or loss of topsoil by the proposed project to a less than significant level.

c) The project site is not located within a geologic unit or on soil that is known to be unstable, based upon available data. There is no increased potential for instability due to liquefaction and the potential for lateral spreading during an earthquake is minimal. Therefore, the impact from these hazards is less than significant.

d) The project site is underlain by unconsolidated soil materials that cover waste rock piles and tailings left from an earlier mining period (Clark 1970). Currently the National Cooperative Soil Survey is in the process of mapping the soils of the central Sierra Nevada foothills and no preliminary data is available for the area encompassing Columbia SHP (Malone 2008, NRCS 2008). However, the project consists of modifications to existing facilities and does not involve construction of new facilities in new locations; hence there would be no increased risks to life or property from construction on expansive soils. No impact.

e) The project does not involve the installation of a septic system or leach field. Therefore, there would be no impact to onsite soils from this project.

f) No known unique paleontological or geological resources exist within the project site. No impact.

## VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.

### Environmental Setting

The project site is located in a living town and as well as a State Park includes a mixture of uses and potential hazards ranging from simple accidents to fire hazards. Hazards are identified to avoid or minimize exposure to the residents of and visitors to the Town of Columbia as well as Columbia SHP.

### Hazardous Materials

There has been no known industrial use or construction of buildings in the project area that could have been a source of hazardous materials. The nearest cleanup site listed by the California Department of Toxic Substance Control is the past site of a dry-cleaning store located in Sonora at the Junction Shopping center (CDTSC 2008).

Columbia State Historic Park includes numerous structures that contain lead-based paint. DPR has designed an on-going lead abatement program to alleviate this situation.

### Airports

The boundary of the Columbia Airport, a publicly-owned, general aviation airport, is located within 800 feet of the boundary of Columbia SHP.

### Schools

Columbia Elementary School, part of the Columbia Union School District, is located within 500 feet of the boundary of the Columbia SHP. Columbia Community College, part of the Yosemite Community College District, is located approximately 2 miles southeast of Columbia SHP. School tours are a common occurrence at the park and are scheduled almost daily.

### Fire Hazards

Tuolumne County includes a mixture of fire environments from urban shopping centers to timber stands in the Stanislaus National Forest. Fire protection services are provided by federal, state and local jurisdictions with the assistance of local volunteers firefighters. In general, fire protection services are divided into two categories: life and property and wildland fire. The fire protection agencies in the County provide all of the services of traditional fire departments along with hazardous wildland fire. (TGP 1996)

Columbia SHP is a living town and is susceptible to structural fires as well as terrain fires. The Columbia Fire Department, located on Jackson Street, and the Columbia Park Fire Prevention unit with a modern fire engine operated by park personnel, work together to prevent fire disasters. The California Department of Fire and Forestry's Air Tanker Base, is located at the Columbia Airport. (CDF 2008)

| | POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT | LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION | LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT | NO IMPACT |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **WOULD THE PROJECT:** | | | | |
| a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and/or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials, substances, or waste into the environment? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites, compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5, and, as a result, create a significant hazard to the public or environment? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death from wildland fires, including areas where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |

## Criteria for Determining Significance

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

### DISCUSSION

a) Construction activities associated with the proposed ADA Improvements project could require the use of certain hazardous materials, such as fuels, oils, or other fluids associated with the operation and maintenance of vehicles and equipment. These materials would generally be contained within vessels engineered for safe storage. Large quantities of

these materials would not be stored at or transported to the construction site. Although, spills, upsets, or other construction-related accidents could cause an inadvertent release of fuel or other hazardous substances, this impact is considered less than significant with the inclusion of **Standard Project Requirement Hazmat 1 –** (from Chapter 2) along with **Standard Project Requirement Hydro 1 -** implemented during construction activities.

b) As noted in the Environmental Setting, there are no schools within one-quarter mile of the project site; therefore, there are no hazards or hazardous substance impacts expected to schools as a result of this project.

c) No part of the Park is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code § 65962.5. No area within the project site is currently restricted or known to have hazardous materials present. Therefore, no impact would occur within the project area.

e,f) The project site is not located within an airport land use plan, within two miles of a public airport, or in the vicinity of a private air strip. Therefore, no impact is expected to occur as a result of this project.

g) All construction activities associated with the proposed project would occur at the project site and would not restrict access to, cause delays, or block any public roads outside the immediate construction area. The traffic around the project site may be impacted only for short periods of time for delivery of construction materials or construction equipment. The project would not conflict with the emergency response plans for Tuolumne County. Therefore, the impact of this project would be less than significant.

h) Although the proposed project site is located within the town of Columbia, the location is sited within the Sierra foothills, known for their flammability during the dry season (June – October). Heavy equipment that can get very hot with extended use would sometimes be in close proximity to flammable vegetation. Improperly outfitted exhaust systems or friction between metal parts and/or rocks could generate sparks, resulting in a fire. Use of **Standard Project Requirement Hazmat 2 – Fire Safety** (from Chapter 2, Project Description) would reduce the potential for adverse impacts from wildfire to a less than significant level.

## VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Watershed

Columbia SHP is located within the Upper Stanislaus River watershed of the San Joaquin River Hydrologic Region and is under the jurisdiction of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQB 1998, SWRCB 2008, Tuolumne County 2007a). The Upper Stanislaus River watershed includes 1,660 miles of waterways and 32 dams (Tuolumne County 2007a). It encompasses an area of approximately 997 square miles (638,066 acres) and has an estimated average annual runoff of one million acre-feet. Most runoff occurs between the months of November and July with peak runoff occurring during the summer months when snow melt is greatest; all runoff ultimately ends up in the New Melones Reservoir (Tuolumne County 2007a, NSJCGBA 2004). The New Melones Dam, located about 60 miles upstream of the confluence with the San Joaquin River and 7.6 miles southwest of Sonora, was built on the Stanislaus River in 1978 to replace the original Old Melones Dam. The average annual runoff at New Melones Dam for 74 years from 1904 to 1977 was 1.12 million acre-feet. The reservoir has a capacity of 2,420,000 acre-feet. (NSJCGBA 2004, SJCG 2007, Tuolumne County 2007a).

Flooding

The project area is located approximately 2.5 miles east of the Stanislaus River and is over 1000 feet in elevation above the river (USGS 1948/1973). As a result, the project site is well outside the 100-year flood zone for the Stanislaus River (DWR 2008). Columbia SHP is, however, within the floodplain for Matelot Gulch and other small drainages and is known to experience minor flooding from them (USGS 1948/1973, DWR 2008).

Groundwater

Tuolumne County, in which Columbia SHP resides, is within that portion of the Sierra Nevada Geomorphic Province where groundwater is primarily found in fractured hard rock fissures. As a result, there are no large, well-defined groundwater basins and the depth and location of groundwater in the county is highly variable (Tuolumne County 2007a).

Water Quality

The Clean Water Act and the Environmental Protection Act provide federal protection for wetlands and waters of the United States. Responsibility for enforcing provisions of these acts lies with the federal Environmental Protection Agency, and is delegated to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for enforcement. On the state level, the Regional Water Quality Control Boards are responsible for oversight of water quality in surface waters, groundwater, and wetlands. Streambeds and lakes are further protected under Section 1600 of the California Fish and Game Code and are regulated by the California Department of Fish and Game.

The preparation and adoption of water quality control plans (Basin Plans) is required by California Water Code (Section 13240). In addition, Section 303 of the federal Clean Water Act requires states to adopt water quality standards which "consist of the designated uses of the navigable waters involved and the water quality criteria for such waters based upon such uses." According to Section 13050 of the California Water Code, Basin Plans consist of a

designation or establishment for the waters within a specified area of beneficial uses to be protected, water quality objectives to protect those uses, and a program of implementation needed for achieving the objectives. Basin Plans are regulatory references for meeting state and federal requirements for water quality. Columbia SHP is within the San Joaquin River Basin and is included in the Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the Sacramento River Basin and the San Joaquin River Basin. Existing beneficial uses of surface water in the Upper Stanislaus River watershed include: municipal and domestic water supply; irrigation; stock watering; power; recreation; warm and cold freshwater habitat; and wildlife habitat (CVRWQB 1998).

The sources of drinking water servicing the park unit (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California State Department of Health Services prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: microbial contaminants, inorganic contaminants, pesticides and herbicides, organic chemical contaminants, and radioactive contaminants. The presence of contaminants, however, does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. The Tuolumne Utilities District is required to monitor drinking water quality on a regular basis for specific contaminants. Monitoring between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2006 detected low to moderate levels of: barium, chlorine, control of DBP precursors (TOC), fluoride, haloacetic acids, total trihalomethanes, turbidity, iron, manganese, sulfate, and zinc. No violations of state or federal law occurred for levels of these substances in Columbia's drinking water (TUD 2006).

In addition, Tuolumne County prepared a Water Quality Plan in 2007 with funding from the State Water Resources Control Board and CALFED through a Proposition 13 grant. The purpose of the plan is to use a watershed-based approach to address non-point source pollution. The Water Quality Plan addresses implementation of a watershed-based planning framework that includes a set of measurable water-quality goals over a 20-year period (Tuolumne County 2007b).

Water Supply

The water supply for Columbia SHP comes from the Matelot Reservoir (DPR 1978) and is provided by the Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD 2008).

| | POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT | LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION | LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT | NO IMPACT |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **WOULD THE PROJECT:** | | | | |
| a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge, such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level that would not support | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)? | | | | |
| c) | Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial on- or off-site erosion or siltation? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| f) | Substantially degrade water quality? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| g) | Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area, as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map, or other flood hazard delineation map? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| h) | Place structures that would impede or redirect flood flows within a 100-year flood hazard area? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| j) | Result in inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

**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 **VIII** a-j, described in the environmental checklist above.

**DISCUSSION**

a) During any grading, excavation, or other ground disturbing activities, a release of sediment to surface waters could occur. Other impacts to water quality could result from releases of fuels or other fluids from vehicles and equipment during the construction process. **Standard Project Requirement Hydro 1 – Water Quality** ( Chapter 2, Project Description) would control releases of pollutants in storm (or other) water runoff and will reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level.

b) This project will not result in an impact to groundwater supplies. Water application may be required during construction activities (e.g. for dust control), but this demand would be minor and temporary. Since water for the park unit comes from surface water sources and is provided by the Tuolumne Utilities District, the temporary use of water for construction activities would not affect groundwater levels. Additionally, there are no groundwater

basins within the boundaries of Columbia SHP. No impact to the Park's water supply or groundwater resources would occur as a result of project implementation.

c) The project would upgrade existing facilities to American with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards and would not affect existing drainage patterns. In addition, BMP's for erosion control will be integrated into the design and construction plans for this project, as described in Standard Project Requirement Hydro 1 Water Quality. This project would have no impact on the existing drainage pattern of the site or area.

d) The existing drainage patterns of the area will not be altered in a manner that will significantly increase the rate or amount of surface runoff to result in on- or off-site flooding. No impact.

e) This project will not create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems. No substantial additional sources of polluted runoff are expected from this project with implementation of soil erosion BMP's and BMPs for spill prevention and response for vehicle fluid spills or other construction fluids or materials. Refer to Standard Project Requirement Hydro 1 Water Quality above. There would be a less than significant impact as a result of project implementation.

f) This project will not substantially degrade water quality as a result of soil erosion and runoff or release of vehicle or equipment fluids with implementation of the BMPs specified in Standard Project Requirement Hydro 1 Water Quality. The project would have a less than significant impact on water quality.

g) This project will not 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. No impact.

h) The project would upgrade existing facilities and no structures would be placed within a 100-year flood hazard area. The project area is known to experience minor flooding from Matelot Gulch and other small drainages in the area, but is not within a flood hazard area. The project would not impede or redirect flood flows. No impact.

i) The project would not expose people or property to an increased risk from flooding, including flooding resulting from the failure of a levee or dam. No impact.

j) The project area topography is relatively flat and not prone to landslides or mudflows. The project is not located in an area that is affected by tsunami. No impact.

## IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING.

### Environmental Setting

Columbia SHP is considered a living community, the site is not only a State Historic Park, but also includes year-round residents who call the Town of Columbia their home. Both private and public land is located in Columbia; private land development is guided by the Tuolumne General Plan, more specifically, by the Columbia Community Plan; public lands are guided by the Department of Parks and Recreation's Columbia State Historic Park General Development Plan. Both jurisdictions work together to maintain the historic character of the community.

The Tuolumne County General Plan includes a Columbia Community Plan, which allows for greater local input in the planning, growth and development of the community. The Community Plan works within the General Plan, but contains certain policies and programs to meet specific needs of the Community itself. In addition the Columbia Community Plan seeks to aid in the preservation and vitality of the State Historic Park through conservation of both natural and cultural environments that surround the park. (TGP, 1996)

The Department of Parks and Recreation certified the Columbia State Historic Park General Development Plan in 1979. The General Development Plan provides the general guidelines for preservation, interpretation, and development of Columbia State Historic Park. (CGP, 1979).

The planning process for any state department or federal agency includes accessibility issues. In recognition of and in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), DPR has surveyed and identified numerous accessibility deficiencies throughout the park system. This project addresses and improves those deficiencies at Columbia State Historic Park.

| | POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT | LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION | LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT | NO IMPACT |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **WOULD THE PROJECT:** | | | | |
| a) Physically divide an established community? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

### Criteria for Determining Significance

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

**DISCUSSION**

a) The proposed project is located completely within the boundaries of Columbia State Historic Park; the project would add no barriers or elements that would divide or interfere with an established surrounding community. No impact.

b) As noted in the Environmental Settings, the proposed project is located in Columbia State Historic Park, which is located within the Town of Columbia. Each jurisdiction has its own development guiding document neither of which addresses the ADA specifically. The ADA is a federal civil rights law for people with disabilities and covers, state and local government services, public accommodations, employment, and telecommunications for the deaf. There are no project elements in conflict with the zoning, regulatory policies, land use plans, or regulations. No impact.

c) There are no applicable habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans for the project area. No impact.

## X. MINERAL RESOURCES.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Substantial amounts of gold were mined from the Columbia area between 1850 and the early 1900s (CDPR n.d., CDPR 1978, Clark 1970). As the mining became less productive, old buildings were torn down and vacant lots were mined in search of gold in the crevices of the limestone bedrock underneath the town (CDPR 1978). Columbia Marble, which was used in the construction of the State Capital, was also an important commodity (Tuolumne County 1996). Today, the primary mineral resources extracted in the lands surrounding Columbia SHP are limestone and dolomite (Tuolumne County 1996).

The California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) of 1975 requires the State Geologist to classify land into Mineral Resource Zones (MRZs) according to the known, or inferred, mineral potential of that land without regard to land use or land ownership. An MRZ-1 classification is given when there is enough information present to indicate that no significant mineral deposits are present or likely to be present; the MRZ-2 classification is given to areas that have significant mineral deposits that are known to be present or are inferred to be present based upon geologic information; an MRZ-3 classification is given if mineral deposits cannot be determined from the available data; and an MRZ-4 classification is given to areas that lack sufficient data to assign any other MRZ designation (DOC n.d.). The MRZ for mineral resources beneath Columbia SHP was not located, but significant mineral deposits are potentially still present.

Although significant mineral deposits may still occur in the land beneath Columbia SHP, Public Resources Code § 5001.65 prohibits commercial exploitation of resources in the units of the State Park System.

| | POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT | LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION | LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT | NO IMPACT |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

### Criteria for Determining Significance

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

### DISCUSSION

a,b) This project would not change land use activities on the site and would therefore not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource or a locally important mineral resource recovery site. The entire project is within Columbia SHP. As stated in the

Environmental Setting above, under Public Resources Code § 5001.65, mining within any state park is prohibited. No impact.

## XI. NOISE.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Columbia State Historic Park is located in the western foothills of the south central Sierra Nevada in Tuolumne County.

Noise is defined as unwanted sound and is known to have several adverse effects on people, including hearing loss, speech and sleep interference, physiological responses, and annoyance. Based on these known adverse effects of noise, the federal government, the State of California, and many local governments have established criteria to protect public health and safety and to prevent disruption of certain activities. Noise is commonly described in "Ldn," which expresses average sound level over a 24-hour period in decibels (dB), the standard measure of pressure exerted by sound. Ldn includes a 10 dB penalty for sounds between 10 P.M. and 7 A.M., when background noise is lower and people are most sensitive to noise. Because decibels are logarithmic units of measure, a change of 3 decibels is hardly noticeable, while a change of 5 decibels is quite noticeable and an increase of 10 decibels is perceived as a doubling of the noise level. A change from 50dB to 60dB increases the percentage of the population that is highly annoyed at the noise source by about 7 percent, while an increase from 50 dB to 70 dB increases the annoyed population by about 25 percent. Sounds as faint as 10 decibels are barely audible, while noise over 120 decibels can be painful or damaging to hearing.

**Construction Equipment Noise at 50 Feet**

| Equipment | Noise Level at 50 Feet |
|---|---|
| **Earthmoving** | **dB** |
| Front Loaders | 75-79 |
| Backhoes | 75-85 |
| Dozers | 75-80 |
| Tractors | 75-80 |
| Graders | 75-85 |
| Pavers | 80-89 |
| Trucks | 75-82 |
| **Material handling** | |
| Concrete Mixers | 75-85 |
| Concrete Crushers | 75-85 |
| **Stationary** | |
| Pumps | 75-76 |
| Generator | 75-78 |
| Compressors | 75-81 |
| **Other** | |
| Saws | 75-78 |
| Vibrators | 75-76 |

**Source**: U.S. EPA 1971

The project site is located within one-half mile of Columbia Airport, a public airport, but does not serve as a normal reporting point for air traffic in the area. Currently there are no flights allowed over Columbia State Park (www.airnav.com 2008).

The Tuolumne County General Plan provides maximum allowable noise exposure level for stationary noise sources, which applies to a development project. The maximum level during daytime hours (7 a.m. – 10 p.m.) is 70 dB; the maximum level during nighttime hours (10 p.m. – 7 a.m.) is 65 dB.

Noise sensitive uses identified by Tuolumne County include urban residential uses, libraries, churches, and hospitals, nursing homes and schools (TGP 1996).

Project construction is anticipated to use equipment with noise levels similar to those listed in the above Table.

| | POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT | LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION | LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT | NO IMPACT |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| b) Generate or expose people to excessive groundborne vibrations or groundborne noise levels? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Create a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project (above levels without the project)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

## Criteria for Determining Significance

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

### DISCUSSION

a) As noted in the Environmental Setting section above, for stationary noise sources, such as the equipment proposed for this project, the County daytime (7 a.m. to 10 p.m.) maximum noise is 70 dB. Integration of **Standard Project Requirement Noise 1** (Chapter 2, Project Description) into construction plans would reduce temporary increased noise impact to a less than significant level.

b) Construction activity would not involve the use of explosives, pile driving, or other intensive construction techniques that could generate significant ground vibration or noise. Minor vibration immediately adjacent to backhoes and heavy equipment would only be generated on a short-term basis. Therefore, ground-borne vibration or noise generated by the project would have a less than significant impact.

c) Once the proposed project is completed, all related construction noise would disappear. Nothing within the scope of the proposed project would result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels. Therefore, no impact.

d) See Discussion a) and c) above. Less than significant impact.

e, f) This project is located within 800 feet of the existing Columbia Airport. However; no part of this project would expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels beyond current levels. No impact.

## XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING

### Environmental Setting

Tuolumne County had a total estimated population of 59,380 in 2005; 16% of California's total population of 36,457,549. In 2005, the U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division accounted for a total of 29,848 homes in the County. (US Census)

Columbia is considered a living community, the site is not only a State Historic Park, but also includes year-round residents who call Columbia their home. Forty two residences are located within Columbia State Historic Park; 23 are currently used for state park employees housing (personal comm.: John Zaugg).

| | POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT | LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION | LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT | NO IMPACT |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **WOULD THE PROJECT:** | | | | |
| a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

### Criteria for Determining Significance

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

#### DISCUSSION

a-c) The proposed project would improve accessibility to a state historic park to comply with the American with Disabilities Act Guidelines. No substantial population growth is expected within the area since the project would not have a housing component; work would occur only on state-owned structures and would neither modify nor displace any existing housing or residents, either temporarily or permanently. Because of its small scale, any population growth that may be attributed to this project would be considered insignificant. No impact.

## XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES.

### Environmental Setting

Columbia State Historic Park is located in Tuolumne County in the western foothills of the south central Sierra Nevada. The Park is located approximately 120 miles southeast of Sacramento.

Fire protection services are provided by federal, state and local jurisdictions with the assistance of local volunteers firefighters. California Department of Forestry and Fire can respond within 10-15 minutes from Sonora and air attack planes available from the Columbia Airport less than half a mile away during the summer months (TGP 1996). From 13 air attack and nine helitack bases located statewide, aircraft can reach most fires within 20 minutes. (CDFF, 2009)

State Park Rangers are POST (Peace Officer Standards and Training) certified and are responsible for law enforcement services at State Parks. The Tuolumne County Sheriff's Department, located in Sonora, is responsible for law enforcement services in the unincorporated areas of the County. (TGP 1996)

Columbia Elementary School, part of the Columbia Union School District, is located within 500 feet of the boundary of the Columbia SHP. Columbia Community College, part of the Yosemite Community College District, is located approximately 2 miles southeast of Columbia SHP. School tours are a common occurrence at the park and are scheduled almost daily.

The boundary of the Columbia Airport, a publicly-owned, general aviation airport, is located within 800 feet of the boundary of Columbia SHP.

| | POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT | LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION | LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT | NO IMPACT |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **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: | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| Fire protection? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| Police protection? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| Schools? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| Parks? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| Other public facilities? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

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

**DISCUSSION**

a) The proposed project would provide improved accessibility to the facilities at Columbia State Historic Park. Although there may be increased visitation to the property as a result of the improvements, the need for public safety services would be negligible.

Fire Protection: Use of construction equipment around flammable annual vegetation presents an increased fire risk that could result in additional demands on CDF and local fire response teams. Any impact on services would be temporary and only during construction activities. Impacts less than significant.

Police Protection: Since State Park Rangers patrol the property, the proposed project is not expected to result in any need for increased police services. No impact.

Parks and Other Public Facilities: There would be no impacts to schools, other parks, or other public facilities, as recreational users typically live locally or spend a limited amount of time visiting the area. No impact

## XIV. RECREATION.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Within Tuolumne County are a myriad of recreational opportunities for the public provided by Yosemite National Park, Stanislaus National Forest, State Parks, other State and Federal agencies, the City of Sonora, Don Pedro Recreation Agency, community based recreation and park districts and community services districts as well as the County of Tuolumne. Other recreational facilities are provided by private businesses and enterprises.

Columbia State Historic Park is managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation. The purpose of Columbia State Historic Park is to make available to the people of California forever, for their enjoyment, the town of Columbia as an outstanding example of a living community representative of the early gold mining, with an emphasis on the period of 1850 to 1870; together with scientific, historic, and recreational values inherent to the area. (CGP, 1979)

| | POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT | LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION | LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT | NO IMPACT |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **WOULD THE PROJECT:** | | | | |
| a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities, such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |

### Criteria for Determining Significance

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

### DISCUSSION

a) Although the proposed project improves existing facilities to increase accessibility, it is not expected to substantially increase this park or other recreational facility attendance in a manner that would substantially deteriorate or accelerate deterioration. No impact.

b) The proposed project improves visitor accessibility to a number of existing state-owned buildings at a State Park, thereby improving recreational opportunities to the public. Although portions of the proposed project require that work be performed on historic structures, all work has been designed in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer and has been determined to incur the least amount of impact to the structures. All proposed work would improve existing structures no new recreational facilities would be constructed or expanded. Impacts less than significant.

## XV. TRANSPORATION/TRAFFIC.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Columbia State Park is located amidst rural Gold Country. The area's primary thoroughfares are all Rural Minor Arterial highways consisting of, State Route 49, State Route 108 and State Route 4 (Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors 1996). Traffic is generally light, with increases in flow seasonally from spring into autumn, peaking on holiday weekends, such as Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day. Most traffic is local, although Highway 49 provides through passage in Gold Country from points north and south; State Route 4 provides an east/west corridor from the East San Francisco Bay Area in the west to the State Route 395 corridor in the east, access to the park provided by Parrotts-Ferry Road, and State Route 108 provides access to the park via a circuitous southern route along Yankee Hill Road. Each route is used by commercial vehicles for local deliveries near Columbia State Historic Park. Heavy trucks, recreational vehicles, and other large vehicles are common, especially during the spring, summer, and fall.

Access to the park is gained from State Routes 4, 49 and 108 along three roads: Parrotts-Ferry Road (Major Collector), Yankee Hill Road (Minor Collector) and Springfield Road (Rural Local Road) these roads also afford access to private parcels. The Level of Service (LOS) for State Routes 4, 49 and 108 in the vicinity of the three collector roads is currently at LOS C; The LOS for Yankee Hill, Springfield and Parrotts-Ferry Roads is currently LOS A (Fehr and Peers 2007). The LOS of roadways is a qualitative measure of the operating conditions on a section of roadway. It is defined by the motorists' perception of their mobility and comfort. In general, LOS "A" through LOS "C" indicates minimal or acceptable delays (Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors 1996).

Parking facilities providing access to the park are located along Broadway Street, Jackson Street, Columbia Street and Gold Street (DPR 2005)

The project site is located within one-half mile of Columbia Airport, a public airport, but does not serve as a normal reporting point for air traffic in the area. Currently there are no flights allowed over Columbia State Park (www.airnav.com 2008).

Public transportation is provided to Columbia SHP via the Tuolumne and Calaveras County Transit. Tuolumne County Transit services Columbia State Park via Route 2 The Sierra Village – Sonora - Columbia Line 10 times Monday-Friday from 7:30 am to 8:20 pm; Also via Route 3 The Jamestown – Sonora – Columbia Line 8 Monday-Friday eight times from 7:30 am to 5:20 pm; and via the Calaveras County – Columbia –Angel's Camp – San Andreas – Lodi Line six times Monday – Friday from 7:50 am to 9:10 pm via a drop-off point at Columbia College. Saturday Service is available between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to the general public within Sonora, Jamestown, Columbia, Twain Harte, Soulsbyville and Standard areas. Saturday Service is provided through a curb-to-curb Dial-A-Ride service, requiring advance reservations. There is no public transportation service on Sunday (Tuolumne County Transit 2008).

| | POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT | LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION | LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT | NO IMPACT |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **WOULD THE PROJECT:** | | | | |
| a) Cause a substantial increase in traffic, in relation to existing traffic and the capacity of the street system (i.e., a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| b) Exceed, individually or cumulatively, the level of service standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Result in inadequate emergency access? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| f) Result in inadequate parking capacity? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

### Criteria for Determining Significance

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

### DISCUSSION

a) All construction activities associated with the project will occur within the boundaries of Columbia State Park. Construction vehicles turning into the project site will not have a significant impact on the limited traffic on State Routes 49, 4 or 108, Parrots-Ferry, Yankee Hill, and Springfield Roads. The addition of 1-5 additional vehicles (crew pickups, delivery trucks, and equipment haulers) making 1-2 trips daily will not constitute a substantial increase in traffic volume for these roads nor result in additional congestion. Minimal delays may occur when vehicles arriving from State Route 49 wait to turn onto existing park roads, but no more than with the regular daily traffic flow. In addition, work crews and equipment will typically arrive or leave the site outside the normal periods of congestion. Current visitation averages approximately 1300 people per day. An increase of 2-10 additional vehicles daily constitutes a negligible increase and will be insignificant in terms of traffic

congestion or delays.

b) As noted in Discussion XV (a) above, the proposed project will add approximately 10 vehicle trips daily to State Routes 49, 4 and 108 and park access roads. The addition of this limited number of vehicle trips will not exceed, individually or cumulatively, the LOS to less than LOS C “minimal or acceptable delays” (Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors 1996). Less than significant impact.

c) The project site is located within one-half mile of a public airport, but does not serve as a normal reporting point for air traffic in the area. Currently there are no flights allowed over Columbia State Park. Nothing in the proposed project will in any way affect or change existing air traffic patterns in the area. Therefore, no impact will occur as a result of this project.

d) This project proposes to provide ADA upgrades to the exterior path of travel on existing walkways and building entrances. Areas that will receive regular use by day-users, and staff will generally retain the existing alignment, although parking areas, including designated ADA parking spaces, will be better defined. No aspect of this project contains design features that will substantially increase hazards to authorized users. Less than significant impact.

e) All construction activities associated with the proposed project will occur within the boundaries of Columbia State Park; work will not restrict access to or block any road outside the immediate construction area. Minimum access requirements for emergency vehicles and access to all areas of the park will be maintained at all times. Less than significant impact.

f) Proposed parking components of this project will be adequate to accommodate current levels of visitation; however one ADA parking space will be closed for a few hours, one day for striping and painting, however adequate parking adjacent to the ADA stall will be provided. Less than significant impact.

g) There are no policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation that apply to this project. However, as noted in the Environmental Setting above, bus service is available to the project site, except Sundays. No impact

## XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Columbia State Historic Park is located in Tuolumne County in the western foothills of the south central Sierra Nevada. The Park is located approximately 120 miles southeast of Sacramento.

### Water Service

Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD) is a water and wastewater utility serving nearly 44,000 residents in northern California's Tuolumne County. TUD has a contract with Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) which provides for perpetual water supply for TUD from the South Fork Stanislaus River. This water is stored in Pinecrest Lake, Lyons Reservoir, Phoenix Lake and other small reservoirs on the TUD ditch system. PG&E owns Lyons Reservoir and the 15.7-mile Main Canal that leads to its Phoenix powerhouse. From the Main Canal, TUD's water splits into three branches – one serves Twain Harte, Soulsbyville and Tuolumne; and another feeds TUD's network of ditches, pipelines and treatment plants that serve Crystal Falls, Big Hill and Columbia. The remainder goes into Phoenix Reservoir to serve Phoenix Lake, East Sonora, Sonora and Jamestown.

### Wastewater

TUD's wastewater system serves over 8,800 sewer connections and treats 1.8 million gallons of sewage daily in 2007 at the Regional Plant located in Sonora.

### Electricity

Electric service to the project area is provided by Pacific Gas and Electric.

### Solid Waste

Solid waste is collected from individual stations by Park staff for overall collection by Waste Management Inc.

| | POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT | LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION | LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT | NO IMPACT |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **WOULD THE PROJECT:** | | | | |
| a) Exceed wastewater treatment restrictions or standards of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities? | ☐ Yes | ☒ No | | |
| Would the construction of these facilities cause significant environmental effects? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing | ☐ Yes | ☒ No | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | facilities? | | | | |
| | Would the construction of these facilities cause significant environmental effects? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) | Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources or are new or expanded entitlements needed? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) | Result in a determination, by the wastewater treatment provider 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| f) | Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| g) | Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations as they relate to solid waste? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

**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 **XVI** a-d, described in the environmental checklist above.

**DISCUSSION**

a,b) The proposed project improves accessibility at CSHP, no aspect of the project requires wastewater treatment. No impact.

c) The project scope does not include storm water drainage facilities and would neither increase nor alter existing conditions. No impact.

d) As stated in above, the proposed project would improve accessibility at CSHP; although improvements are proposed, attendance at the park is not project to increase; therefore, current entitlements and resources would be adequate to serve the project and no new entitlements would be necessary. No impact.

e) As stated above, wastewater treatment is provided by the Tuolumne Utilities District. No increase in visitor attendance is anticipated as a result of improvements; therefore, wastewater treatment needs would remain at the current level. No impact.

f) The proposed improvements are not anticipated to increase visitation to the project area; therefore solid waste disposal needs would remain at current levels. No impact.

g) The project would comply with all applicable statutes and regulations relating to solid waste. No impact.

# CHAPTER 4
# MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

| | POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT | LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION | LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT | NO IMPACT |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| b) Have the potential to eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 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?) | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| d) Have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on humans, either directly or indirectly? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |

**DISCUSSION**

a) The proposed project was evaluated for potential significant adverse impacts to the natural environment and its plant and animal communities. The proposed project site could support certain special status plants and animals. DPR determined that the proposed project could have the potential to disturb nesting raptors. However, full integration of DPR's project requirements for biological resources into this project would reduce impacts, both individually and cumulatively, to a less than significant level.

b) The proposed project was evaluated for the potential significant adverse impacts to the cultural resources present at Columbia State Historic Park. DPR has determined that activities associated with the proposed project could have the potential to significantly disturb historic or archaeological resources. The proposed improvement project would involve project-related activity on historic structures as well as be located in the vicinity of archaeological resources. However, full integration of the project requirements and mitigation measures included in this project would reduce those impacts, both individually and cumulatively, to a less than significant level.

c) DPR often has smaller maintenance programs and rehabilitation projects planned for a park unit. The Soap and Candle Works Building Rehabilitation and Drainage projects are currently scheduled to occur within the foreseeable future. However, the Main Street

Improvements project has been designed to occur over a span of 18 months to reduce impacts to shopkeepers, visitors and residents as other projects are completed. Less than significant.

d) Most project-related environmental affects have been determined to pose a less than significant impact on humans. The project site is located in Columbia, a living town, possible impacts from construction emissions (Air Quality); construction accidents, seismic events, and fire (Hazards and hazardous Materials); recreation, and noise, though temporary in nature, have the potential to result in significant adverse effects on humans. These potentially significant adverse impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level if all project requirements are fully integrated into the project and construction documents.

# Chapter 5
# Summary of Project Requirements and Mitigation Measures

The following project requirements and mitigation measures would be implemented by DPR as part of the Main Street Improvements Project at Columbia State Historic Park.

## Project Requirements

### Air Quality

Air SPR1 - Increased Emissions of Fugitive Dust

- All construction areas (dirt/gravel roads and surrounding dirt/gravel area) will be watered at least twice daily during dry, dusty conditions.
- All trucks hauling soil, sand, 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.
- 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.

### Biological Resources

Bio SPR1 - Presence of Raptors

- If construction-related activities are scheduled to begin during the nesting season of February 1 to August 31, a DPR-qualified biologist will conduct a survey for nesting raptor species no more than 14 days prior to commencement of construction to ensure that no nesting birds will be impacted by the project. The survey area will include the project site and a 100-foot buffer zone around it.
- If nesting raptors are found within 100 feet of the project area, no construction will occur within the buffer area of 100 feet from the nest during the active nesting season of February 1 to August 31, or until the young have fledged (as determined by a DPR-qualified biologist), unless otherwise negotiated with the California Department of Fish and Game.

### Cultural Resources

Cultural SPR 2 – Human Remains

- In the event that human remains are discovered, 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 or returned to the point of discovery and covered with soil. The DPR sector Superintendent (or authorized representative) will notify the County Coroner, in accordance with §7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, and the Native American Heritage Commission (or Tribal Representative). If a Native American monitor is on-site at the time of the discovery, the monitor will be responsible for notifying the appropriate Native American authorities.

The local County Coroner will make the determination of whether the human bone is of Native American origin. If the coroner determines the remains represent Native American interment, the NAHC in Sacramento and/or tribe will be consulted to identify the most likely descendants and appropriate disposition of the remains. 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 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 Native American Heritage Commission/Tribal Cultural representatives will occur as necessary to define additional site mitigation or future restrictions.

Cultural SPR 1 - Archaeological Monitoring of Ground Disturbing Work

- A DPR qualified archaeologist will monitor all ground disturbing phases of this project at his/her discretion. Monitoring will include all sidewalk demolitions as well as ground preparation work required for constructing new paths of travel.
- If archaeological resources are discovered, all ground disturbing work at the location of the find will cease until the archaeologist designs and implements appropriate treatments in accordance with the Secretary of the Interiors Standards and Guidelines for archaeological resource protection.
- DPR staff and/or contractor will demolish the existing asphalt, brick or concrete sidewalks by hand to avoid impacts to currently unidentified resources.

**Geology and Soils**

Geo SPR 1 - Erosion and Runoff Control

- Prior to the start of construction, Contractor will prepare a Water Pollution Control Plan (WPCP) for DPR approval that identifies the Best Management Practices to be used in all construction areas to reduce or eliminate the discharge of soil, surface water runoff, and pollutants during all excavation, grading, trenching, and repaving.
- If construction activities extend into the rainy season (October 15 to April 15) or if an un-seasonal storm is anticipated, the contractor will properly winterize the site by covering (tarping) any stockpiled materials or soils and by constructing silt fences, straw bale barriers, fiber rolls, or other structures around stockpiles and graded areas.

**Hazards and Hazardous Materials**

Hazmat SPR1 - Hazardous Material Spills

- Prior to the start of construction, the contractor will clean all equipment before entering the project site. Equipment will be cleaned and repaired (other than emergency repairs) outside the project site boundaries. All contaminated water, sludge, 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, the contractor will inspect all equipment for leaks and regularly inspect thereafter until equipment is removed from the project site.

- Prior to the start of construction, DPR will prepare a Spill Prevention and Response Plan (SPRP) as part of the Water Pollution Control Plan 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):
    - a map that delineates construction staging areas, where refueling, lubrication, and maintenance of equipment will occur
    - a list of items required in a spill kit on-site 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 in the restoration process
    - identification of lawfully permitted or authorized disposal outside of the project site

Hazmat SPR 2 -Fire Safety

- Prior to the start of construction, the Project Contractor will develop a DPR-approved Fire Safety Plan. The plan will include the emergency calling procedures for both the Columbia Fire Department.
- Spark arrestors or turbo chargers (which eliminate 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 mineral soil, asphalt, or concrete to reduce the chance of fire.

**Hydrology and Water Quality**

- Implementation of Standard Project Requirement Geo 1 providing BMPs to control erosion and runoff during ground-disturbing construction activities.
- The project would be in compliance with all applicable water quality standards and waste discharge requirements as specified in the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Basin Plan for the area.
- Implementation of Standard Project Requirement Hazmat 1 will reduce impacts to water quality from possible pollutants (fuels and other vehicle fluids) released from vehicles and/or other equipment during construction.

**Noise**

- Construction activities will generally be limited to the daylight hours Monday – Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; however, weekend work could be implemented to accelerate construction or address emergency or unforeseen circumstances. If weekend work is necessary, no work will occur on Saturday or Sunday before 8:00 a.m. or after 7:00 p.m.
- Internal combustion engines used for any purpose at the job site will be equipped with a muffler of a type recommended by the manufacturer. Equipment and trucks used for construction 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.

**Mitigation Measures**

Cultural Resources

Mitigation Measure Cult 1 – NRHP Eligible Archaeological Site Avoidance

- All project support activities such as staging and equipment clean-up will be restricted to areas with existing (asphalt or cement) pavement, and/or to existing park maintenance facilities.

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# Report Preparation

**California Department of Parks and Recreation**

Steve Hilton
Associate State Archaeologist

Dan Osanna
State Historian III

Roy Martin
Environmental Scientist

Laurie Archambault
Senior Environmental Scientist

Patricia DuMont
Staff Park and Recreation Specialist

Jim Trapani
Senior Landscape Architect

Dan Shaw
Environmental Scientist

Gil De la Peña
Associate Architect

Gerald Vinson
Associate Landscape Architect

## APPENDIX A
# MAPS

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APPENDIX B

# SITE WORK PLANS

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APPENDIX C

# DOOR WORK LOCATIONS

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**Appendix D**

# OHP Letter of Concurrence

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APPENDIX E

# ACRONYMS

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# Appendix E
## Acronyms

| | |
|---|---|
| AB | - Assembly Bill |
| ADAAG | - ADA Accessibility Guidelines |
| ADA | - Americans with Disabilities Act |
| Amsl | - above mean sea level |
| APCD | - Air Pollution Control District |
| APE | - Area of Potential Effect |
| APEFZ | - Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning |
| ARB/CARB | - California Air Resources Board |
| AQMD | - Air Quality Management District |
| BMP | - Best Management Practices |
| BP | - Before Present |
| CA | - California |
| Cal Trans | - California Department of Transportation |
| CARB | - California Air Resources Board |
| CBC/UBC | - California Uniform Building Code |
| CCR | - California Code of Regulations |
| CDF | - California Department of Forestry and Fire |
| CDFG | - California Department of Fish and Game |
| CDTSC | - California Department of Toxic Substance Control |
| CEQA | - California Environmental Quality Act |
| CGS | - California Geological Survey |
| Cm | - centimeter |
| Cmbs | - centimeters below surface |
| CNDDB | - California Natural Diversity Database (Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game) |
| CNPS | - California Native Plant Society |
| CRHP | - California Register of Historic Places |
| CSHP | - Columbia State Historic Park |
| CSQA | - California Stormwater Quality Association |
| CVRWQCB | - Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control board |
| dB | - decibels |
| DPR | - California Department of Parks and Recreation |
| DWR | - Department of Water Resources |
| EIR | - Environmental Impact Report |
| ES | - Environmental Setting |
| ESA | - Environmentally Sensitive Area |
| FEMA | - Federal Emergency Management Agency |
| FMMP | - Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program |
| GHG | - greenhouse gas |
| GP | - General Plan |
| GVGP | - Great Valley Geomorphic Province |
| IS/MND | - Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration |
| KES | - Kautz Environmental Services |
| Ldn | - day-night average noise levels |

LOS - level of service
MCAB - Mountain Counties Air Basin
MSL - mean sea level
MND - Mitigated Negative Declaration
Mph - miles per hour
MRZ - Mineral Resources Zone
NAHC - Native American Heritage Commission
NHL - National Historic Landmark
NOx - nitrogen oxide
NPDES - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS - National Park Service
NRHP - National Register of Historic Places
NSC - Northern Service Center
NSJCGBA - Northeastern San Joaquin County Groundwater Banking Authority
NSVAB - Northern Sacramento Valley Air Basin
OHP - Office of Historic Preservation
Pga - peak ground acceleration
$PM_{10}$ - particulate matter (particles with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 Microns or less)
$PM_{2.5}$ - particulate matter (particles with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5 Microns or less)
PRC - Public Resources Code
RWQCB - Regional Water Quality Control Board
ROG - reactive organic gases
SAFZ - San Andreas Fault Zone
SHP - State Historic Park
SMARA - Surface Mining Reclamation Act
SMP - Storm Water Management Plan
SPR - Standard Project Requirement
SPRP - Spill Prevention Response Plan
SRNWR - Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge
SWPPP - Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB - State Water Resource Control Board
TUD - Tuolumne Utility District
U.S. - United States
USACOE - United States Army Corps of Engineers
USDA/NRCS - Untied States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resource Conservation Service
USDA/SCS - United States Department of Agriculture – Soil Conservation Service
USEPA - United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS - United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS - United States Geological Service
VRP - Visibility Reducing Particle
WPCD - Water Pollution Control Plan