City of Porterville

Task Order No. 19
Union Avenue Reconstruction Project

Draft Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration

March 2022

Prepared for:
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Porterville, CA 93257

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AB	Assembly Bill
APE	Area of Potential Effect
AQP	Air Quality Plan
ASTM	American Society of Testing and Materials
BAU	business as usual
BPS	Best Performance Standards
Cal Fire	California Office of the State Fire Marshall
Cal/OSHA	California Occupational Safety and Health Administration
CalEEMod	California Emissions Estimator Modeling (software)
CAP	Climate Action Plan
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CCAA	California Clean Air Act
CCAP	Climate Change Action Plan
CDFW	California Fish and Wildlife
CH_4	Methane
City	City of Porterville
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO2	Carbon dioxide
COG	Council of Government
County	Tulare County
CRHR	California Register of Historical Resources
CVFPB	Central Valley Flood Protection Control Board
dBA	A-weighted decibels
DOGGR	Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources
DWQ	Department of Water Quality
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Environmental Site Assessment
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FMMP	Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
GAMAQI	Guidelines for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts

GC ..... Government Code
GHG ..... Greenhouse Gas
GIS ..... Geographic Information System
IPaC ..... U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Information for Planning and Consultation system
IS ..... Initial Study
IS/MND ..... Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
km ..... kilometers
LSA ..... Lake and Streambed Alteration
MMRP ..... Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
MND ..... Mitigated Negative Declaration
MRZ ..... Mineral Resource Zones
MTCO2e ..... Metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent
NAAQS ..... National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAHC ..... Native American Heritage Commission
ND ..... Negative Declaration
NEPA ..... National Environmental Policy Act
NOx ..... Nitrogen oxides
NRCS ..... Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP ..... National Register of Historic Places
O_3 ..... Ozone
PM_{10} ..... particulate matter 10 microns in size
$PM_{2.5}$ ..... particulate matter 2.5 microns in size
ppb ..... parts per billion
ppm ..... parts per million
Project ..... Union Avenue Reconstruction Project
Reclamation ..... United States Bureau of Reclamation
ROW ..... right-of-way
RWQCB ..... Regional Water Quality Control Board
SJVAB ..... San Joaquin Valley Air Basin
SJVAPCD ..... San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
SO_2 ..... Sulfur Dioxide
SR ..... State Route
SWPPP ..... Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB ..... State Water Resources Control Board
TAC ..... Toxic Air Contaminants

Tons/Year ..... Tons per Year
UPRR ..... Union Pacific Railroad
USACE ..... United States Army Corps of Engineers
USDA ..... United States Department of Agriculture
USFWS ..... United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS ..... United States Geological Survey
µg/m3 ..... micrograms per cubic meter
VdB ..... vibration-velocity level

Chapter 1 Introduction

Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group (Provost & Pritchard) has prepared this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) on behalf of the City of Porterville (City) to address the potential environmental effects of the proposed Union Avenue Reconstruction Project (Project). This document has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21000 *et seq*. The City is the CEQA lead agency for this proposed Project.

The site and the Project are described in detail in the **Chapter 2 Project Description**.

1.1 Regulatory Information

An Initial Study (IS) is a document prepared by a lead agency to determine whether a project may have a significant effect on the environment. In accordance with California Code of Regulations Title 14 (Chapter 3, Section 15000, *et seq*)-- also known as the CEQA Guidelines--Section 15064 (a)(1) states that an environmental impact report (EIR) must be prepared if there is substantial evidence in light of the whole record that the proposed project under review may have a significant effect on the environment and should be further analyzed to determine mitigation measures or project alternatives that might avoid or reduce project impacts to less than significant levels. A negative declaration (ND) may be prepared instead if the lead agency finds that there is ***no*** substantial evidence in light of the whole record that the project may have a significant effect on the environment. An ND is a written statement describing the reasons why a proposed project, not otherwise exempt from CEQA, would not have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, why it would not require the preparation of an EIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15371). According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15070, a ND or *mitigated* ND shall be prepared for a project subject to CEQA when either:

a. The IS shows there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment, or

b. The IS identified potentially significant effects, but:

    1. Revisions in the project plans or proposals made by or agreed to by the applicant before the proposed MND and IS is released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur is prepared, and

    2. There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the proposed project *as revised* may have a significant effect on the environment.

1.2 Document Format

This IS/MND contains five chapters and three appendices, **Chapter 1 Introduction**, provides an overview of the Project and the CEQA process. **Chapter 2 Project Description**, provides a detailed description of Project components and objectives. **Chapter 3 Impact Analysis**, presents the CEQA checklist and environmental analysis for all impact areas, mandatory findings of significance, and feasible mitigation measures. If the Project does not have the potential to significantly impact a given issue area, the relevant section provides a brief discussion of the reasons why no impacts are expected. If the Project could have a potentially significant impact on a resource, the issue area discussion provides a description of potential impacts, and appropriate mitigation measures and/or permit requirements that would reduce those impacts to a less than significant level. **Chapter 3** concludes with the Lead Agency's determination based upon this initial evaluation. **Chapter 4 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program** (MMRP), provides the proposed mitigation measures, implementation

timelines, and the entity/agency responsible for ensuring implementation. **Chapter 5 References** provides a list of details of the resources used for reference material in this document.

The Road Construction Emissions Model, Biological Resources Information, and Cultural Resources Information, and are provided as technical **Appendix A, Appendix B**, and **Appendix C**, respectively, at the end of this document.

Chapter 2 Project Description

2.1 Project Background and Objectives

2.1.1 Project Title

City of Porterville Task Order No. 19
Union Avenue Reconstruction Project (Project)

2.1.2 Lead Agency/Project Proponent Name and Address

The City of Porterville
291 North Main Street
Porterville, CA 93257

2.1.3 Contact Person and Phone Number

Lead Agency Contact
City of Porterville Community Development
Jason Ridenour, Community Development Director
(559) 782-7460

CEQA Consultant
Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group
Briza G. Sholars, Senior Planner
(559) 449-2700

2.1.4 Project Location

The City of Porterville is located in the southeastern portion of the San Joaquin Valley, at the base of the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The City is approximately 70 miles south of Fresno and 50 miles north of Bakersfield, in the south central portion of Tulare County. Visalia, the County seat, is approximately 30 miles to the northwest. (see **Figure 2-1**) Neighboring communities include Strathmore, Springville, Terra Bella, Tipton, Pixley, Woodville, Richgrove, and Lindsay. Sequoia National Park is approximately 50 miles to the northeast. Porterville is served by State Routes 65 and 190 and is approximately 17 miles east of State Route (SR) 99, a major San Joaquin Valley transportation arterial. Success Reservoir (Lake) and Dam are located on the Tule River approximately five miles east of Porterville. The proposed Project is for the road reconstruction of Union Avenue between Indiana and Jaye Streets. The total Area of Potential Effect (APE) is approximately one-half mile in length.

2.1.5 Latitude and Longitude

The coordinates for the centroid of the road reconstruction Project are: 36.033770 N. -119.014833 W.

2.1.6 General Plan Designation

The Project site is designated as road right-of-way. The adjacent land designations have been summarized in **Table 2-1** below and illustrated in **Figure 3-3.**

Table 2-1. Onsite and Adjacent General Plan Land Use Designations

Project Area	General Plan Designation
General Plan Land Use(Onsite):	ROW
General Plan Land Use (Adjacent lands):	North: Low and Medium Density Residential, Education
General Plan Land Use (Adjacent lands):	South: Medium Density Residential, Parks and Recreation
General Plan Land Use (Adjacent lands):	East: Medium Density Residential
General Plan Land Use (Adjacent lands):	West: Medium Density Residential, Low Density Residential, Parks and Recreation

2.1.7 Zoning

The Project area is zoned as road right-of-way. The adjacent land zoning designations have been summarized in **Table 2-2** below and illustrated in **Figure 3-4**.

Table 2-2. Onsite and Adjacent Zoning

Project Area	Zone District
Zoning (Onsite):	ROW
Zoning (Adjacent Lands):	North: RS-2 Low Density Residential, RM-2 Medium Density Residential, Public and Semi Public
Zoning (Adjacent Lands):	South: CG General and Service Commercial
Zoning (Adjacent Lands):	East: RM-2 Medium Density Residential
Zoning (Adjacent Lands):	West: RM-2 Medium Density Residential

2.1.8 Description of Project

2.1.8.1 Project Description

The City of Porterville proposes to reconstruct a portion of Union Avenue between Indiana and Jaye Streets, approximately one-half mile in length. The reconstruction would include the widening of Union Avenue to the standard width of 56 ft right of way; improving Western Street to Orange Avenue to correct drainage issues, completing the connection of Chess Terrace to Union Avenue, and improving Cottage Street south of Union Avenue. Project activities include pavement; water, sewer, and storm drain installation; curb, gutters, sidewalks and landscaped parkways; streetlights, and possible utility relocation. Some of these activities may involve property acquisition as necessary. The APE is 4.6 acres.

No trees or vegetation will be removed as part of this Project or any of its activities.

2.1.8.2 Construction

Generally, construction would occur between the hours of 7 am and 5 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. This road reconstruction project would require temporary staging and storage areas for materials and equipment; all prospective staging areas are within the Project APE.

Reconstruction of the approximately one half-mile section of Union Avenue is anticipated to take approximately six months. Likely construction equipment would include excavators, backhoe, compaction rollers and work trucks.

Although construction is not expected to generate hazardous waste, field equipment used during construction has the potential to contain various hazardous materials such as diesel fuel, hydraulic oil, grease, solvents, adhesives, paints, and other petroleum-based products.

2.1.8.3 Maintenance

City staff would handle the ongoing future maintenance of the Project area and project related infrastructure.

2.1.9 Best Management Practices

The Project has incorporated standard Best Management Practices (BMPs) relating to air quality, hazardous materials, water quality, and traffic, as summarized below. All BMPs for the Project construction would be incorporated into the construction documents (plans and specifications), thereby contractually obligating contractors and subcontractors to adhere to these practices. These BMPs are not intended to serve as mitigation measures since they have been incorporated into the project description.

Table 2-3 Best Management Practices for Construction Activities

Best Management Practices for Construction Activities		
Air Quality – 1	SJVAPCD Regulation VIII Control Measures	1. All disturbed areas, including storage piles, which are not being actively utilized for construction purposes, shall be effectively stabilized of dust emissions using water, chemical stabilizer/suppressant, covered with a tarp or other suitable cover or vegetative ground cover. 2. All on-site unpaved roads and off-site unpaved access roads shall be effectively stabilized of dust emissions using water or chemical stabilizer/suppressant. 3. All land clearing, grubbing, scraping, excavation, land leveling, grading, cut & fill, and demolition activities shall be effectively controlled of fugitive dust emissions utilizing application of water or by presoaking. 4. With the demolition of buildings up to six stories in height, all exterior surfaces of the building shall be wetted during demolition. 5. When materials are transported off-site, all material shall be covered, or effectively wetted to limit visible dust emissions, and at least six inches of freeboard space from the top of the container shall be maintained. 6. All operations shall limit or expeditiously remove the accumulation of mud or dirt from adjacent public streets at the end of each workday. (The use of dry rotary brushes is expressly prohibited except where preceded or accompanied by sufficient wetting to limit the visible dust emissions.) (Use of blower devices is expressly forbidden.) 7. Following the addition of materials to, or the removal of materials from, the surface of outdoor storage piles, said piles shall be effectively stabilized of fugitive dust emissions utilizing sufficient water or chemical stabilizer/suppressant. 8. Within urban areas, trackout shall be immediately removed when it extends 50 or more feet from the site and at the end of each workday. 9. An owner/operator of any site with 150 or more vehicle trips per day, or 20 or more vehicle trips per day by vehicles with three or more axles shall implement measures to prevent carryout and trackout. [1]
Hazardous Materials – 1 *All construction projects*	Ensure Proper Vehicle and Equipment Fueling and Maintenance	1. *No fueling or servicing will be done in a waterway, unless equipment stationed in these locations is not readily relocated (i.e., pumps, generators).* 2. For stationary equipment that must be fueled or serviced on-site, containment will be provided in such a manner that any accidental spill will

[1] (San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, 2021). Accessed September 23, 2021

Best Management Practices for Construction Activities		
		not be able to come in direct contact with soil, surface water, or the storm drainage system. 3. All fueling or servicing done at the job site will provide containment to the degree that any spill will be unable to enter any waterway or damage riparian vegetation. 4. All vehicles and equipment will be kept clean. Excessive build-up of oil and grease will be prevented. 5. All equipment will be inspected for leaks each day prior to initiation of work. Maintenance, repairs, or other necessary actions will be taken to prevent or repair leaks, prior to use. 6. If emergency repairs are required in the field, only those repairs necessary to move equipment to a more secure location will be done in a channel or flood plain.
Hazardous Materials – 2 *All construction projects*	Utilize Spill Prevention Measures	1. *Prevent the accidental release of chemicals, fuels, lubricants, and non-storm drainage water following these measures:* 2. *Field personnel will be appropriately trained in spill prevention, hazardous material control, and clean-up of accidental spills;* 3. *Equipment and materials for cleanup of spills will be available on site, and spills and leaks will be cleaned up immediately and disposed of according to applicable regulatory requirements;* 4. *Field personnel will ensure that hazardous materials are properly handled and natural resources are protected by all reasonable means;* 5. *Spill prevention kits will always be in close proximity when using hazardous materials (e.g., at crew trucks and other logical locations), and all field personnel will be advised of these locations; and,* 6. *The work site will be routinely inspected to verify that spill prevention and response measures are properly implemented and maintained.*
Transportation/ Traffic – 1 *Construction activities on or adjacent to public roads*	Incorporate Public Safety Measures	1. *Fences, barriers, lights, flagging, guards, and signs will be installed as determined appropriate by the City of Porterville, to give adequate warning to the public of the construction and of any dangerous conditions to be encountered as a result thereof.*
Water Quality – 1 *All construction projects*	Maintain Clean Conditions at Work Sites	1. *The work site, areas adjacent to the work site, and access roads will be maintained in an orderly condition, free and clear from debris and discarded materials on a daily basis. Personnel will not sweep, grade, or flush surplus materials, rubbish, debris, or dust into storm drains or waterways.* 2. *For activities that last more than one day, materials or equipment left on the site overnight will be stored as inconspicuously as possible and will be neatly arranged. Any materials and equipment left on the site overnight will be stored to avoid erosion, leaks, or other potential impacts to water quality* *3. Upon completion of work, all building materials, debris, unused materials, concrete forms, and other construction-related materials will be removed from the work site.*
Water Quality – 2 *All construction projects*	Manage Sanitary and Septic Waste	1. *Temporary sanitary facilities will be located on jobs that last multiple days, in compliance with California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) regulation 8 California Code of Regulations 1526. All temporary sanitary facilities will be located where overflow or spillage will not enter a watercourse directly (overbank) or indirectly (through a storm drain).*
Water Quality – 3 *All construction projects*	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan	1. *For construction activity covering more than one acre, a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) shall be prepared and submitted to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB) and an*

Best Management Practices for Construction Activities
Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ Construction General Permit shall be obtained and implemented throughout construction.

2.1.10 Site and Surrounding Land Uses and Setting

The road reconstruction Project runs through the City and is surrounded by residential properties. See **Figure 3-3** and **Figure 3-4** for the general plan and zoning designations, respectively.

2.1.11 Other Public Agencies Whose Approval May Be Required

- San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD)
- California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW)

2.1.12 Consultation with California Native American Tribes

Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1, *et seq. (codification of AB 52, 2013-14)*) requires that a lead agency, within 14 days of determining that it will undertake a project, must notify in writing any California Native American Tribe traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the project if that Tribe has previously requested notification about projects in that geographic area. The notice must briefly describe the project and inquire whether the Tribe wishes to initiate request formal consultation. Tribes have 30 days from receipt of notification to request formal consultation. The lead agency then has 30 days to initiate the consultation, which then continues until the parties come to an agreement regarding necessary mitigation or agree that no mitigation is needed, or one or both parties determine that negotiation occurred in good faith, but no agreement will be made.

The City of Porterville has received written correspondence from the Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe and the Tule River Indian Tribe pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1 requesting notification of all proposed projects. A formal notification letter was sent to the Tribe on January 13, 2022. The City did not receive any further correspondence requesting consultation from the Tribes.

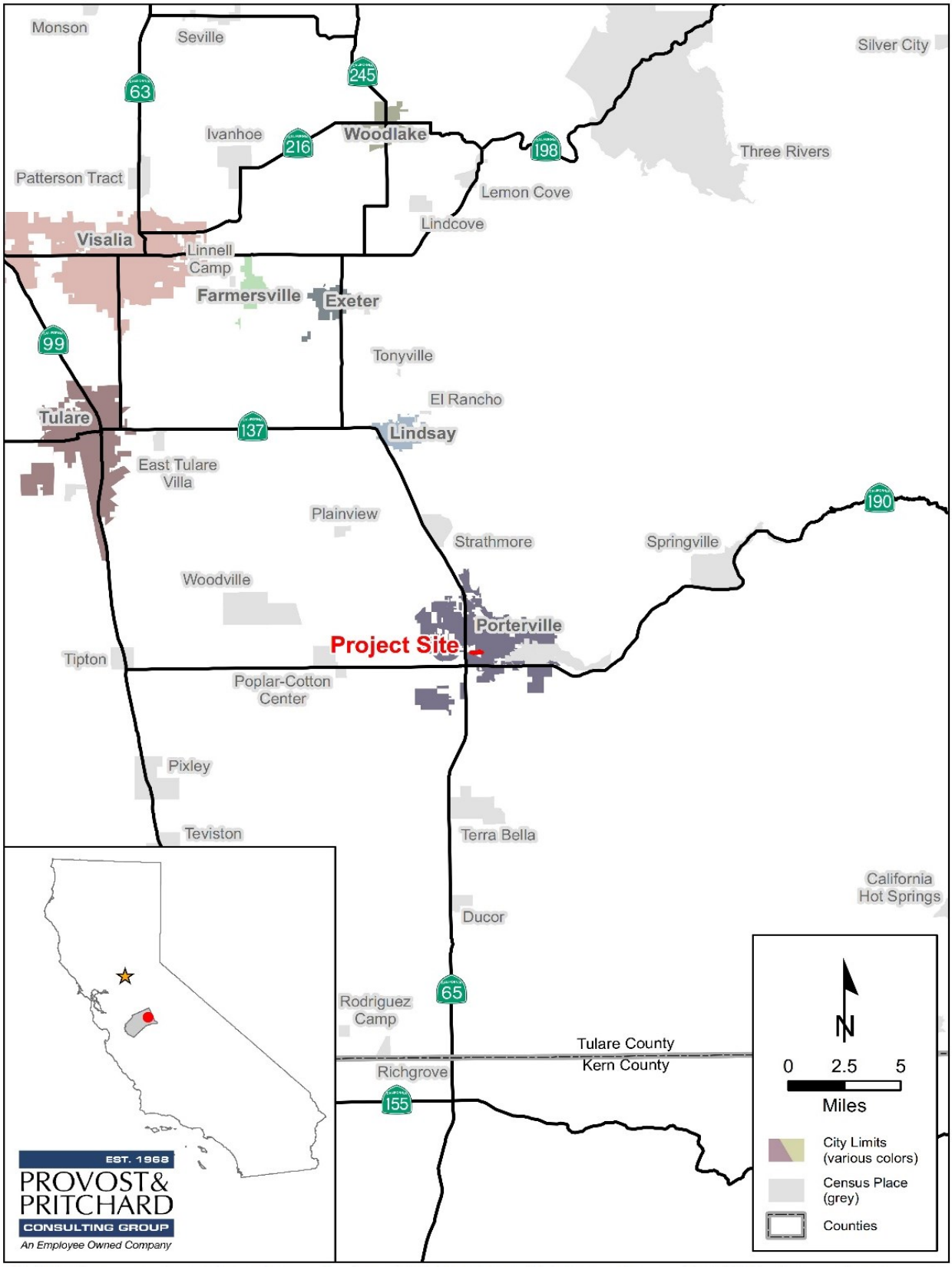

Figure 2-1. Regional Location Map

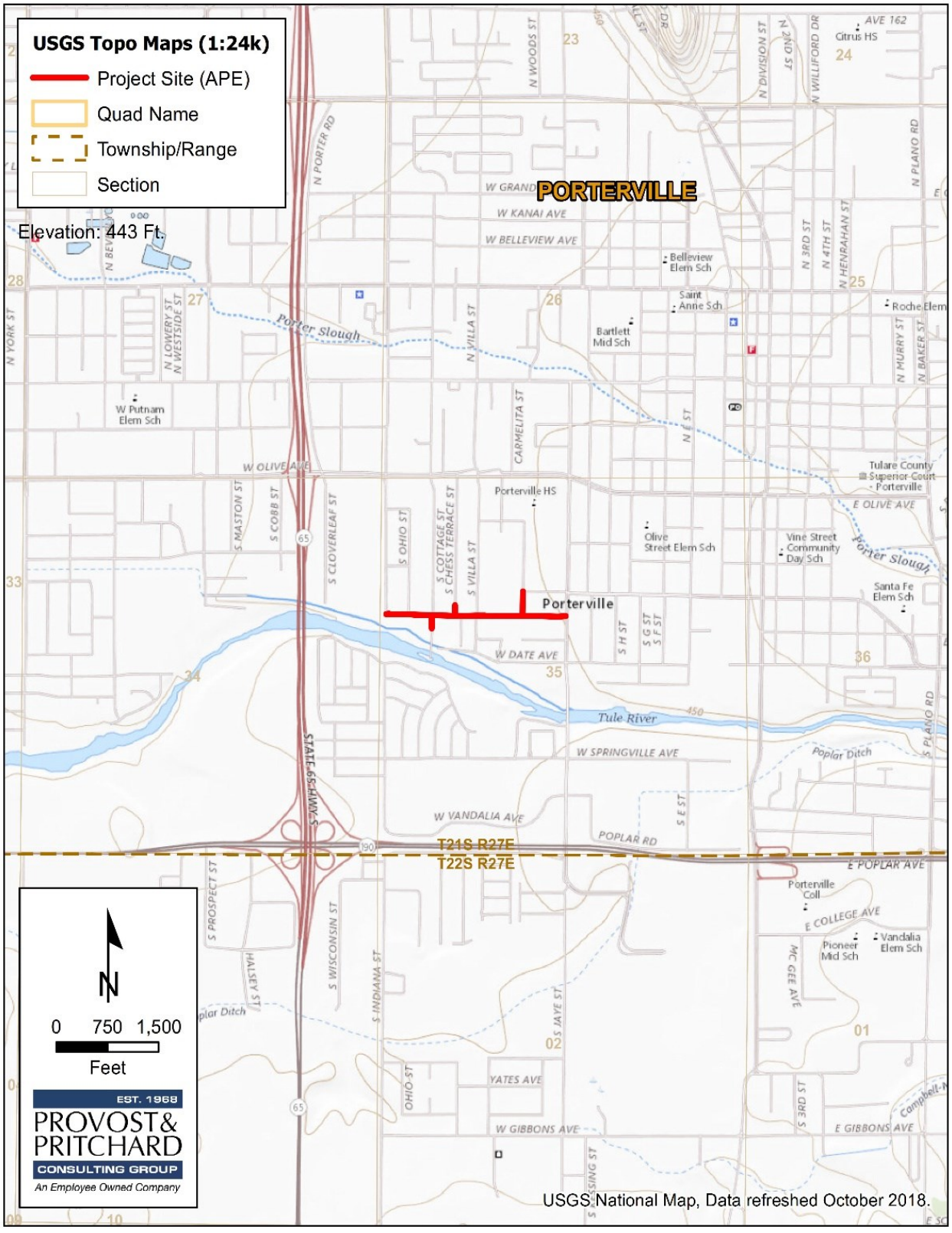

Figure 2-2. Topographic Quadrangle Map

Figure 2-3. Aerial /APE Map

Chapter 3 Impact Analysis

3.1 Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

As indicated by the discussions of existing and baseline conditions, and impact analyses that follow in this Chapter, environmental factors not checked below would have no impacts or less than significant impacts resulting from the project. Environmental factors that are. checked below would have potentially significant impacts resulting from the project. Mitigation measures are recommended for each of the potentially significant impacts that would reduce the impact to less than significant.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Agriculture & Forestry Resources	☐ Air Quality
☒ Biological Resources	☒ Cultural Resources	☐ Energy
☐ Geology/Soils	☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Hazards & Hazardous Materials
☐ Hydrology/Water Quality	☐ Land Use/Planning	☐ Mineral Resources
☐ Noise	☐ Population/Housing	☐ Public Services
☐ Recreation	☐ Transportation	☒ Tribal Cultural Resources
☐ Utilities/Service Systems	☐ Wildfire	☒ Mandatory Findings of Significance

The analyses of environmental impacts here in **Chapter 3 Impact Analysis** are separated into the following categories:

Potentially Significant Impact. This category is applicable if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant, and no feasible mitigation measures can be identified to reduce impacts to a less than significant level. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. This category applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures would reduce an effect from a "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measure(s), and briefly explain how they would reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from earlier analyses may be cross-referenced).

Less than Significant Impact. This category is identified when the project would result in impacts below the threshold of significance, and no mitigation measures are required.

No Impact. This category applies when a project would not create an impact in the specific environmental issue area. "No Impact" answers do not require a detailed explanation if they are adequately supported by the information sources cited by the lead agency, which show that the impact does not apply to the specific project (e.g. the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g. the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis)

3.2 Aesthetics

Table 3-1. Aesthetics Impacts

Aesthetics Impacts				
Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☒	☐

3.2.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

The City of Porterville is located in the southern portion of the San Joaquin Valley and sits at the base of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Much of Porterville has views of the mountains and associated foothills to the east, surrounding urban development within the City, and agricultural landscapes to the north, west and south. There are no officially designated scenic resources within the City of Porterville, however eastward views to the Sierra Nevada foothills and mountains within the city are considered scenic vistas. The General Plan identifies the Tule River and Rocky Hill as prominent landmarks within the City and has adopted guiding policies around preserving these areas as open space. In addition, the General Plan considers the agricultural foundation of the City's development patterns, surrounding topography, and landscape important for both community identity, aesthetic value, and environmental quality. There are two designated Scenic Highways that are associated with Tulare County. SR 99 near Goshen/Sequoia National Park at mile post R3.8. SR 65 near Porterville/Route 27 near Death Valley Junction. Neither of these are in the vicinity of the Project nor will they be affected by Project activities.

The aesthetic character of the Project site and the surrounding area is road right of way (ROW), majority residential homes along the section of Union Avenue. **Figure 3-3** and **Figure 3-4** respectively, show all of the varying land use designations and zoning along the approximate one-half mile Project APE.

The City of Porterville's General Plan EIR, certified in November of 2007, addresses thresholds for potential significant adverse effects on visual resources[2]. These thresholds state that a significant adverse effect on visual resources would occur in the event that a project would:

- Block panoramic views or views of significant landscape features or landforms as seen from public viewing areas;
- Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway;

[2] (City of Porterville General Plan DEIR, 2021). Page 57, Accessed September 23, 2021.

- Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the study area and its surroundings; or
- Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. The Project and its activities would have no impact on any of the above thresholds.

3.2.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

No Impact. There are no scenic vistas identified in the project area. There are no structures or facilities, habitable or otherwise, that are proposed as part of the road reconstruction Project that would impair views to a scenic vista. There would be no components of the Project that would cause obstruction to the general public view of natural features nor would the Project have an adverse effect on a scenic vista. There would be no impact.

b) Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

No Impact. There are no identified scenic resources, trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings within the Project site. There have been three historic buildings identified within the one-quarter mile radius, however, the Project and its' activities would not have an impact on any of these structures. There are no State Scenic Highways within the Project's vicinity[3]. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on scenic resources.

c) In non-urbanized areas, would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public view are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality? And

No Impact. The Project site is located in an existing, developed, urban area of the City of Porterville, and roadways are part of the existing visual character in the area. The reconstruction activities and the outcome of the Project would not substantially degrade or interfere in any way the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings, but rather improve upon the character, quality, safety and visual nature of the surrounding area. Upgrading road reconstruction activities would include pavement, water, sewer and storm drain installation, curb, gutters, sidewalks, landscaped parkways, streetlights and possible utility relocation. The Project would not conflict with any applicable zoning or other regulations governing scenic quality. There would be no impact.

d) Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

Less than Significant Impact. Streetlight equipment would be upgraded, replaced, or installed at various locations along Union Street and wherever needed. These streetlight equipment upgrades would be designed and implemented to City standards and comply with all applicable regulations as to not introduce any amount of significant glare or lighting nuisance to traffic or residents in the vicinity. Furthermore, the reconstruction activities along Union Avenue would be done during the day and additional light sources would not be necessary. Impacts would be considered less than significant.

[3] (California Department of Transporation, 2021) Caltrans Scenic Highways. Accessed September 23, 2021

3.3 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

Table 3-2. Agriculture and Forest Impacts

Agriculture and Forest Impacts				
Would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.3.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

The City of Porterville is located in the southern portion of the San Joaquin Valley at the base of the Sierra Nevada foothills. The City is surrounded by agricultural farmland, as is much of Tulare County. Agriculture is one of the most prominent open space uses in the City of Porterville[4]. Agriculture also is an important contributor to the City's economy and character. California law requires that a General Plan address agricultural resources from both a soil conservation and open space perspective.

In order to determine the status of the Project site as being within lands considered an agricultural resource, the California State Department of Conservation's (DOC) Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) has been utilized. According to the FMMP, the entire Project site is located on urban, built up land. (**Figure 3-1**). No farmland would be taken out of production as a result of the road reconstruction Project for an existing roadway.

3.3.1.1 Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP):

The California DOC's 2012 FMMP is a non-regulatory program that produces "Important Farmland" maps and statistical data used for monitoring conversion of California's agricultural resources to non-agricultural uses. The maps are updated every two years with the use of a computer mapping system, aerial imagery, public review, and field reconnaissance. The Important Farmland maps identify eight land use categories, five of which

[4] (City of Porterville, 2021) Chapter 6 Open Space & Conservation Element. Accessed September 24, 2021.

are agriculture related: prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, unique farmland, farmland of local importance, and grazing land – rated according to soil quality and irrigation status. Each is summarized below[5]:

• PRIME FARMLAND (P): Farmland with the best combination of physical and chemical features able to sustain long term agricultural production. This land has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply

needed to produce sustained high yields. Land must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.

• FARMLAND OF STATEWIDE IMPORTANCE (S): Farmland similar to Prime Farmland but with minor shortcomings, such as greater slopes or less ability to store soil moisture.

Land must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.

• UNIQUE FARMLAND (U): Farmland of lesser quality soils used for the production of the state's leading agricultural crops. This land is usually irrigated but may include non- irrigated orchards or vineyards as found in some climatic zones in California. Land must have been cropped at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.

• FARMLAND OF LOCAL IMPORTANCE (L): Land of importance to the local agricultural economy as determined by each county's board of supervisors and a local advisory committee.

• GRAZING LAND (G): Land on which the existing vegetation is suited to the grazing of livestock. The minimum mapping unit for Grazing Land is 40 acres.

• URBAN AND BUILT-UP LAND (D): Land occupied by structures with a building density of at least 1 unit to 1.5 acres, or approximately 6 structures to a 10-acre parcel. This land is used for residential, industrial, commercial, institutional, public administrative purposes, railroad and other transportation yards, cemeteries, airports, golf courses, sanitary landfills, sewage treatment, water control structures, and other developed purposes.

• OTHER LAND (X): Land not included in any other mapping category. Common examples include low density rural developments; brush, timber, wetland, and riparian areas not suitable for livestock grazing; confined livestock, poultry or aquaculture facilities; strip mines, borrow pits; and water bodies smaller than 40 acres. Vacant and nonagricultural land surrounded on all sides by urban development and greater than 40 acres is mapped as Other Land.

•WATER (W): Perennial water bodies with an extent of at least 40 acres.

3.3.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project 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?

No Impact. The entire Project site has a Farmland Designation of Urban and Built Up land. There are no portions of the Project site along Union Avenue that are designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland) by the FMMP, as demonstrated in **Figure 3-1**. The Project would not convert Prime Farmland or Farmlands of any designation. There would be no impact.

5 (California Department of Conservation, 2019) Accessed September 23, 2021.

b) Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

No Impact. The Project site is an approximate one-half mile stretch of Union Avenue, between Indiana and Jaye Streets in an urbanized area of the City Porterville. The entire Project APE is zoned Urban and Land Build Up. The Project area is not zoned for agricultural use nor is any part of the Project site under a Williamson Act contract. There would be no impact.

c) Would the project conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))? And

No Impact. The entire Project site and the immediate surrounding areas have not been designated as forest land or timberland, nor have they been zoned as such. There would be no impact.

d) Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No Impact. The Project site and immediate surrounding areas do not contain forest land and therefore, would not convert forest land to non-forest use. There would be no impact.

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

No Impact. The entire Project site and immediate surrounding areas do not contain farmland or forest lands of any kind. The location of the Project is entirely within an area of urban development, for an existing roadway and therefore, would not result in conversion of farmland or forest land to non-agricultural or to non-forest use. There would be no impact.

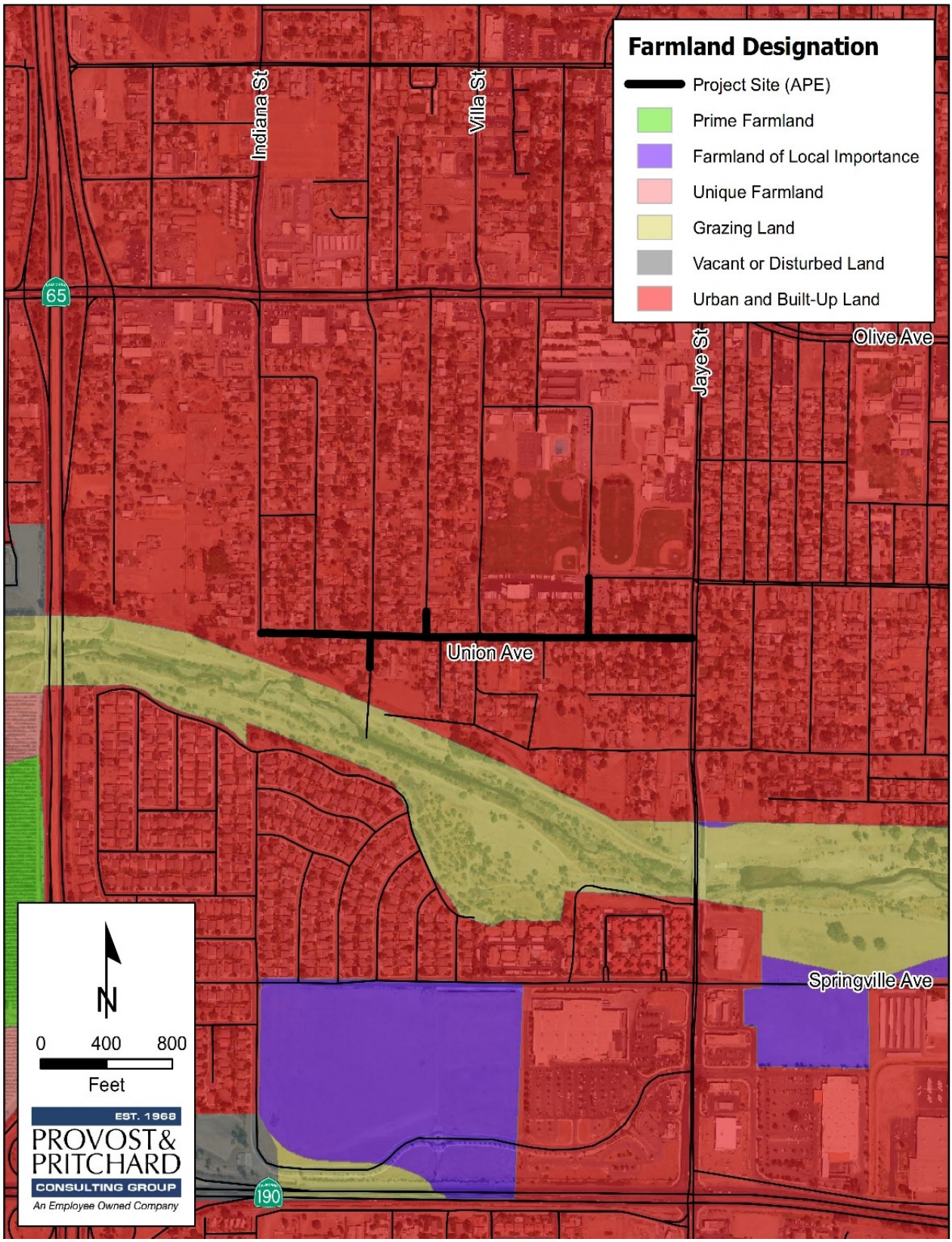

Figure 3-1. Farmland Designation Map

3.4 Air Quality

Table 3-3. Air Quality Impacts

Air Quality Impacts					
Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b)	Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c)	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d)	Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.4.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

The Project is located in the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (SJVAB or air basin). The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) provides Guidelines for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts (GAMAQI) for quantification of emissions and evaluation of potential impacts to air resources[6] and Guidance for Land-Use Agencies in addressing greenhouse gas (GHG) Emission Impacts for New Projects under CEQA.[7]

3.4.1.1 Regulatory Attainment Designations

Under the California Clean Air Act (CCAA), the California Air Resources Board (CARB) is required to designate areas of the State as attainment, nonattainment, or unclassified with respect to applicable standards. An "attainment" designation for an area signifies that pollutant concentrations did not violate the applicable standard in that area. A "nonattainment" designation indicates that a pollutant concentration violated the applicable standard at least once, excluding those occasions when a violation was caused by an exceptional event, as defined in the criteria. Depending on the frequency and severity of pollutants exceeding applicable standards, the nonattainment designation can be further classified as serious nonattainment, severe nonattainment, or extreme nonattainment, with extreme nonattainment being the most severe of the classifications. An "unclassified" designation signifies that the data does not support either an attainment or nonattainment designation. The CCAA divides districts into moderate, serious, and severe air pollution categories, with increasingly stringent control requirements mandated for each category.

The EPA designates areas for ozone, CO, and NO_2 as "does not meet the primary standards," "cannot be classified," or "better than national standards." For SO_2, areas are designated as "does not meet the primary standards," "does not meet the secondary standards," "cannot be classified," or "better than national

[6] (San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, 2015). Accessed September 2021.
[7] (San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, 2009) Accessed September 2021.

standards." However, the CARB terminology of attainment, nonattainment, and unclassified is more frequently used. The EPA uses the same sub-categories for nonattainment status: serious, severe, and extreme. In 1991, EPA assigned new nonattainment designations to areas that had previously been classified as Group I, II, or III for PM_{10} based on the likelihood that they would violate national PM_{10} standards. All other areas are designated "unclassified."

The State and national attainment status designations pertaining to the SJVAB are summarized in **Appendix A**. The SJVAB is currently designated as a nonattainment area with respect to the State PM_{10} standard, ozone, and $PM_{2.5}$ standards. The SJVAB is designated nonattainment for the NAAQS 8-hour ozone and $PM_{2.5}$ standards. On September 25, 2008, the EPA re-designated the San Joaquin Valley to attainment status for the PM_{10} NAAQS and approved the PM_{10} Maintenance Plan.

Table 3-4. Summary of Ambient Air Quality Standards and Attainment Designation

Pollutant	Averaging Time	California Standards*		National Standards*	
		Concentration*	Attainment Status	Primary	Attainment Status
Ozone (O_3)	1-hour	0.09 ppm	Nonattainment/ Severe	–	No Federal Standard
	8-hour	0.070 ppm	Nonattainment	0.075 ppm	Nonattainment (Extreme)**
Particulate Matter (PM_{10})	AAM	20 µg/m^3	Nonattainment	–	Attainment
	24-hour	50 µg/m^3		150 µg/m^3	
Fine Particulate Matter ($PM_{2.5}$)	AAM	12 µg/m^3	Nonattainment	12 µg/m^3	Nonattainment
	24-hour	No Standard		35 µg/m^3	
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	1-hour	20 ppm	Attainment/ Unclassified	35 ppm	Attainment/ Unclassified
	8-hour	9 ppm		9 ppm	
	8-hour (Lake Tahoe)	6 ppm		–	
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)	AAM	0.030 ppm	Attainment	53 ppb	Attainment/ Unclassified
	1-hour	0.18 ppm		100 ppb	
Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2)	AAM	–	Attainment	--	Attainment/ Unclassified
	24-hour	0.04 ppm		--	
	3-hour	–		0.5 ppm	
	1-hour	0.25 ppm		75 ppb	
Lead (Pb)	30-day Average	1.5 µg/m^3	Attainment	–	No Designation/ Classification
	Calendar Quarter	–		--	
	Rolling 3-Month Average	–		0.15 µg/m^3	
Sulfates (SO_4)	24-hour	25 µg/m^3	Attainment	No Federal Standards	
Hydrogen Sulfide (H_2S)	1-hour	0.03 ppm (42 µg/m^3)	Unclassified		
Vinyl Chloride (C_2H_3Cl)	24-hour	0.01 ppm (26 µg/m^3)	Attainment		
Visibility-Reducing Particle Matter	8-hour	Extinction coefficient: 0.23/km-visibility of 10 miles or more due to particles when the relative humidity is less than 70%.	Unclassified		

** For more information on standards visit: https://ww3.arb.ca.gov/research/aaqs/aaqs2.pdf*
*** No Federal 1-hour standard. Reclassified extreme nonattainment for the Federal 8-hour standard September 2020.*
****Secondary Standard*
Source: CARB 2015; SJVAPCD 2015

3.4.2 Methodology of Determining the Significance of Air Quality Impacts

Conclusions in this Air Quality Impact section rely on model calculations (The SacMetro Road Construction Emissions Model version 9.0.0), and that information found in the Air Quality Output Files (**Appendix A**). The sections below detail conclusions and recommendations based on the model calculations.

To assist local jurisdictions in the evaluation of air quality impacts, the SJVAPCD published the GAMAQI. This guidance document includes recommended thresholds of significance to be used for the evaluation of short-term construction, long-term operational, odor, toxic air contaminant, and cumulative air quality impacts. Accordingly, the SJVAPCD-recommended thresholds of significance are used to determine whether implementation of the Project would result in a significant air quality impact. Projects that exceed these recommended thresholds would be considered to have a potentially significant impact to human health and welfare. The thresholds of significance are included in **Table 3-5** through **Table 3-6** to provide for a comparative significance determination.

Assessment of the significance of project air quality impacts may be considered on a regional or localized level. Determination of project impacts on achieving the goal of air quality plans and evaluating impacts related to emissions of criteria pollutants are considered on both regional and localized levels in this analysis. Evaluation of impacts to sensitive receptors considers the project's localized criteria pollutant emissions in this analysis. Sources of the project's localized criteria pollutant emissions would include: reactive organic gases (ROG), Nitrogen oxides (NO_x), $PM_{2.5}$, PM_{10}, CO, NO_2, and Toxic Air Contaminants (TACs) which include acetaldehyde, benzene, 1.3 butadiene, carbon tetrachloride, hexavalent chromium, paradichlorobenzene, formaldehyde, methylene chloride, perchloroethylene, and diesel particulate matter a complex mixture of substances.

3.4.2.1 Short-Term Construction-Generated Emissions

Short-term construction emissions associated with the Project were estimated using SacMetro Road Construction Emissions Model. The emissions modeling includes emissions generated by construction and grading equipment most commonly associated with the site work, equipment delivery, and vehicle, equipment, and worker fuel usage. Emissions were quantified based on anticipated construction schedules and construction equipment requirements that would occur over approximately six months. All remaining assumptions were based on the default parameters contained in the model. Modeling assumptions and output files are included in **Appendix A.**

The SJVAPCD is responsible for controlling emissions primarily from stationary sources. However, the SJVAPCD also coordinates with the APCD's eight county Councils of Government (COGs) or Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) that are responsible for regional transportation planning and funding programs. The COG and MPO Transportation Planning Programs are used by SJVAPCD in its responsibilities in developing, updating, and implementing air quality attainment plans for the air basin. The SJVAPCD has adopted ozone plans and particulate matter plans for purposes of controlling harmful emissions and achieving attainment of state and national attainment standards. A project that would exceed established thresholds for criteria pollutants would be considered to have a significant impact on the implementation of air quality plans and would also constitute a cumulatively considerable net increase of criteria pollutants for which the air basin is in non-attainment.

Construction of the Project is expected to begin after Project approval with completion in 2022. The results of the emissions modeling for the Project are presented in **Table 3-5.**

Table 3-5. Short-Term - Construction-Generated Emissions of Criteria Air Pollutants

Year	Annual Emissions (Tons/Year)				
	ROG	NO_X	CO	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$
2022	0.25	2.48	2.25	0.13	0.10
Maximum Annual Proposed Project Emissions:	**0.25**	**2.48**	**2.25**	**0.13**	**0.10**
SJVAPCD Significance Thresholds:	***10***	***10***	***100***	***15***	***15***
Exceed SJVAPCD Thresholds?	***No***	***No***	***No***	***No***	***No***

3.4.2.2 Long-Term - Operational Emissions

The SacMetro Road Construction Emissions Model does not analyze operational emissions from vehicle traffic for roadway projects. Widening Union Avenue, improving Western Street and Cottage Street, and completing the connection of Chess Terrace to Union Avenue would provide safe, improved access to housing and other facilities in the City. The Project would increase the safety and security of the transportation system, reduce traffic congestion and vehicle delays, flooding, and provide street improvements. In addition, there are no stationary source emissions resulting from the proposed Project.

Because the Project does not add any additional lanes for traffic it would not increase mobile source emissions beyond what is currently occurring within the City and would not otherwise violate any air quality standards or significantly increase any criteria pollutant and would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. Project-related impacts to air quality would be considered less than significant.

3.4.3 Screening Thresholds for Determining Impacts to Sensitive Receptors

Impacts to sensitive receptors would occur primarily during Project construction. Construction activities could produce short-term emissions that have the potential in large concentrations to contribute to cancer risk over a 70-year exposure period.

The SJVAB includes screening thresholds for identifying projects that need detailed analysis for localized impacts. Projects with on-site emission increases from construction activities that exceed the 100 pounds per day screening level of any criteria pollutant after compliance with Rule 9510 and implementation of all applicable mitigation measures would require preparation of an ambient air quality analysis. The criteria pollutants of concern are NO_x, CO, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$. There is no localized emission standard for ROG and most types of ROG are not toxic and have no health-based standard, however, ROG was included for informational purposes only.

Table 3-6 lists the maximum daily air pollutant emissions generated by the Project during construction.

Table 3-6. Maximum Daily Air Pollutant Emissions During Construction

Maximum Daily Emissions by Year	Emissions (Pounds/Daily)				
	ROG	NO_X	CO	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$
Construction 2022	5.30	55.25	46.54	2.66	2.18
Maximum Daily Proposed Project Emissions:	**5.30**	**55.25**	**46.54**	**2.66**	**2.18**
SJVAPCD Screening Thresholds	***100***	***100***	***100***	***100***	***100***

Table 3-6 demonstrates the Project's impacts as evaluated against SJVAPCD screening thresholds for criteria pollutant emissions used to determine significance in accordance with health-based standards would not exceed and would be considerably below the significance thresholds.

3.4.4 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

Less than Significant Impact. The CEQA Guidelines indicate that a significant impact would occur if the Project would conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan. The GAMAQI does not provide specific guidance on analyzing conformity with the Air Quality Plan (AQP). Therefore, when analyzing this Project the following criteria was used for determining Project consistency with the current AQPs:

1. Will the project result in an increase in the frequency or severity of existing air quality violations or cause or contribute to new violations, or delay timely attainment of air quality standards or the interim emission reductions specified in the AQPs?

   Whether this criterion is met is determined by comparison of Project emissions to the regional and localized thresholds identified by the SJVAPCD for regional and local air pollutants.

2. Will the project comply with applicable control measures set forth in the AQPs?

   The primary control measures applicable to development projects in the SJVAPCD is the required compliance with *Regulation VIII-Fugitive PM_{10} Prohibitions* and *Rule 9510-Indirect Source Review*.

Regional air quality impacts and attainment of standards are the result of cumulative impacts of all emission sources within the air basin. Individual projects are generally not large enough to contribute measurably to an existing violation of air quality standards. Therefore, the cumulative impact of the Project is important because it is based on its cumulative contribution combined with one or more other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probably future projects emitting similar emissions. Because of the region's non-attainment status for ozone, $PM_{2.5}$, and $PM_{10,}$ if Project generated emission of either of the ozone precursor pollutants ROG, NO_x, PM_{10}, or $PM_{2.5}$ would exceed the SJVAPCD's significance thresholds, then the Project would be considered to contribute to violations of the applicable standards and conflict with the attainment plans. As demonstrated in **Table 3-5** for construction-generated emissions, and discussed in Section 3.4.2.2, operational emissions of criteria pollutants would not exceed the SJVAPCD's significance thresholds. Therefore, the Project would not contribute to air quality violations in conflict with attainment plans.

As stated in No. 2 above, the AQP contains a number of control measures, including *Regulation VIII-Fugitive PM_{10} Prohibitions* and *Rule 9510-Indirect Source Review* which are applicable to the Project. Both of these are adopted by the SJVAPCD and constitute enforceable requirements with which the Project must comply. The Project is expected to comply with all applicable SJVAPCD rules and regulations; therefore, the Project complies with the criterion and would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality attainment plans and the impact would be less than significant.

b) Would the project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?

Less than Significant Impact. To result in a less than significant impact, the following criteria must be true:

1. Regional analysis: emission of non-attainment pollutants must be below the SJVAPCD's regional significance thresholds.

   This is an approach recommended by the SJVAPCD in its GAMAQI.

2. Summary of projections: the project must be consistent with current air quality attainment plans including control measures and regulations.

   This is an approach consistent with Section 15130(b) of the CEQA Guidelines.

3. Cumulative health impacts: the project must result in less than significant cumulative health effects from the non-attainment pollutants.

   This approach correlates the significance of the regional analysis with health effects, consistent with the court decision in Bakersfield Citizens for Local Control v. City of Bakersfield (2004) 124 Cal.App.4th 1184, 1219-20.

As discussed in impact question a) above, Project generated emissions are below the SJVAPCD's regional significance thresholds and the Project is consistent with current air quality attainment plans including control measures and regulations.

With respect to cumulative health impacts, the air basin is in non-attainment for ozone, $PM_{2.5}$, and PM_{10} (state only), which means that the background levels of those pollutants are at times higher than the ambient air quality standards. The air quality standards were set to protect public health, including the health of sensitive individuals (such as children, the elderly, and persons with pre-existing respiratory or cardiovascular illnesses (the infirm)). Therefore, when the concentration of those pollutants exceeds the standard, it is likely that some sensitive individuals in the population would experience adverse health effects. Since the air basin is already in non-attainment, it is considered to have an existing significant cumulative health impact without the Project. The issue is whether the Project's contribution to the existing violation of air quality standards is cumulatively considerable.

The SJVAPCD through its GAMAQI has determined that projects that exceed regional thresholds would have a cumulatively considerable health impact. As demonstrated in **Table 3-6,** the project would not exceed the SJVAPCD's significance thresholds and its cumulatively considerable impacts would be less than significant.

c) Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Less than Significant Impact. Sensitive receptors are those who are sensitive to air pollution, including children, the elderly, and the infirm. The SJVAPCD considers a sensitive receptor a location that houses or attracts children, the elderly, people with illnesses, or others who are especially sensitive to the effects of air pollutants. Examples of sensitive receptors include hospitals, residences, convalescent facilities, and schools. The closest existing off-site sensitive receptors are single-family homes located on adjacent properties. Porterville High School is located at the north end of the work that will take place on Western Street.

As demonstrated in **Table 3-6**, during construction the Project would not exceed the SJVAPCD's thresholds established in accordance with health-based standard for determining significance of criteria pollutant emissions. As a result of the Project, traffic would not be increased on Union Avenue, or any of the connecting streets, and there would not be an increase in operational emissions. Therefore, in accordance with these standards, the Project would have a less than significant impact related to exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

d) Would the project result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

No Impact. Land uses that are typically identified as sources of objectionable odors include landfills, transfer stations, sewage treatment plants, wastewater pump stations, composting facilities, feed lots, coffee roaster, asphalt batch plants, and rendering plants, among other uses. The Project does not include any of these activities or land uses. The Project would therefore have no impact with respect to generation of emissions leading to odors or other adverse or objectionable emissions.

3.5 Biological Resources

Table 3-7. Biological Resources Impacts

Biological Resources Impacts				
Would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.5.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

The Project is located within the City of Porterville, which is located on the eastern edge of valley floor near the base of the Sierra Nevada foothills in Tulare County, California. This area is geographically situated in the lower San Joaquin Valley, part of the Great Valley of California (See **Figure 2-2**). The Valley is bordered by the Sierra Nevada Mountain Ranges to the east, the Coast Ranges to the west, the Klamath Mountains and Cascade Range to the north, and the Transverse Ranges and Mojave Desert to the south. The Project is located between Indiana and Jaye Streets. The majority of the Project is taking place in the street right of way which has years of heavy human disturbance and compaction.

Web Soil Survey (WSS) provides soil data and information produced by the National Cooperative Soil Survey. It is operated by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and provides access to the largest natural resource information system in the world. NRCS has soil maps and data available online for more than

95 percent of the nation's counties and anticipates having 100 percent in the near future. The site is updated and maintained online as the single authoritative source of soil survey information.

Soil surveys can be used for general farm, local, and wider area planning. Onsite investigation is needed in some cases, such as soil quality assessments and certain conservation and engineering applications. For more detailed information, contact your local USDA Service Center at the following link: USDA Service Center or your NRCS State Soil Scientist at the following link: NRCS State Soil Scientist. A custom soils report was generated using the Natural Resources Conservation Service for the Project APE. The soils in the APE consist of San Emigdio loam and Tujunga sand. These soils are fine sands and considered well to somewhat excessively drained.

There is no tree or vegetation removal being proposed as part of the Project activities or implementation. The trees, bushes and existing vegetation is composed of typical residential urban landscaping. Possible trees and vegetation present include Palms trees, crepe myrtles, willows and various shrubs and bushes.

The APE is located in the San Joaquin Valley Tule Groundwater Basin 5.022.13. Watersheds, closest water sources and HUC should be discussed

Provost & Pritchard conducted desktop research and analysis of Project-related impacts to biological resources based on information describing biological resources already known to exist or with potential to exist within the Project site and surrounding areas or similar habitats. Sources of information used in preparation of this analysis included: the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB); the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system; the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California; CalFlora's online database of California native plants; the Jepson Herbarium online database (Jepson eFlora); the USFWS Environmental Conservation Online System (ECOS); the NatureServe Explorer online database; the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Plants Database; the CDFW California Wildlife Habitat Relationships (CWHR) database; the California Herps online database; and various manuals, reports, and references related to plants and animals of the San Joaquin Valley region.

A thorough search of the CNDDB for published accounts of special status plant and animal species was conducted for the *Porterville* 7.5-minute quadrangles that contains the Project site in its entirety, and for the eight surrounding quadrangles: *Frazier Valley*, *Lindsay*, *Cairns Corner, Success Dam, Sausalito School, Ducor, Woodville,* and *Fountain Springs*. An official species list was obtained using the USFWS IPaC system for federally-listed species with potential to be affected by the Project. These species and their potential to occur within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) are listed in **Table 3-8** and **Table 3-9** on the following pages.

Table 3-8. List of Special Status Animals with Potential to Occur Onsite and/or in the Vicinity.

Species	Status	Habitat	Occurrence on Project Site
American badger *(Taxidea taxus)*	CSC	Grasslands, savannas, and mountain meadows near timberline are preferred. Most abundant in drier open spaces of shrub and grassland. Burrows in soil.	**Unlikely**. Habitat within APE is highly disturbed and unsuitable for this species. There have been no recent observations within the APE with the closest observation at the Porterville Airport which is located approximately 2.6 miles southwest of the APE.

Species	Status	Habitat	Occurrence on Project Site
blunt-nosed leopard lizard *(Gambelia sila)*	FE, CE, CFP	Inhabits semi-arid grasslands, alkali flats, low foothills, canyon floors, large washes, and arroyos, usually on sandy, gravelly, or loamy substrate, sometimes on hardpan. Often found where there are abundant rodent burrows in dense vegetation or tall grass. Cannot survive on lands under cultivation. Known to bask on kangaroo rat mounds and often seeks shelter at the base of shrubs, in small mammal burrows, or in rock piles. Adults may excavate shallow burrows but rely on deeper pre-existing rodent burrows for hibernation and reproduction.	**Unlikely**. Habitat within the APE is marginally suitable for this species due to high human disturbance and presence. There have been no recent observations near the APE.
California condor *(Gymnogyps californianus)*	FE, CE, CFP	Typically nests in cavities in canyon or cliff faces, but has also been recorded nesting in giant sequoias in Tulare County. Requires vast expanse of open savannah, grassland, and/or foothill chaparral in mountain ranges of moderate altitude. Forages up to 100 miles from roost/nest site.	**Unlikely.** This species has been reported nesting in Blue Ridge National Wildlife Refuge approximately 15 miles northeast of the Project APE; however, this species utilizes habitat less-than 3-miles outside of town as part of their foraging range.
Crotch bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*)	CCE	Occurs throughout coastal California, as well as east to the Sierra-Cascade crest, and south in to Mexico. Food plant genera include *Antirrhinum, Phacelia, Clarkia, Dendromecon, Eschscholzia*, and *Eriogonum*.	**Unlikely.** Although the Project is located within the historical range of this species, suitable grassland habitat is absent from the APE due to disturbed and developed area and are generally unsuitable for this species.
northern California legless lizard *(Anniella pulchra)*	CSC	Found primarily underground, burrowing in loose, sandy soil. Forages in loose soil and leaf litter during the day. Occasionally observed on the surface at dusk and night.	**Absent**. Habitat within APE is highly disturbed and unsuitable for this species. There have been no recent observations near the APE. The last observation near the APE was April 2, 1940.
pallid bat *(Antrozous pallidus)*	CSC	Found in grasslands, chaparral, and woodlands, where it feeds on ground- and vegetation-dwelling arthropods, and occasionally takes insects in flight. Prefers to roost in rock crevices, but may also use tree cavities, caves, bridges, and other man-made structures.	**Unlikely.** Roosting habitat for this species is typically in the form of bridges, crossings, and trees. Date last seen July 13, 1946. There are no bridges or crossings located in the APE.
San Joaquin kit fox *(Vulpes macrotis mutica)*	FE, CT	Underground dens with multiple entrances in alkali sink, valley grassland, and woodland in valleys and adjacent foothills.	**Unlikely.** There has been only one reported occurrence of this species in the vicinity of the APE within the past 20 years. The disturbed and developed habitats of the APE make this area generally unsuitable for this species. and while it seems unlikely that a San Joaquin kit fox would find the APE suitable for denning, this species could pass through the site while foraging or during dispersal movements.

Species	Status	Habitat	Occurrence on Project Site
Swainson's hawk ***(Buteo swainsoni)***	CT	Nests in large trees in open areas adjacent to grasslands, grain or alfalfa fields, or livestock pastures suitable for supporting rodent populations.	**Unlikely.** Swainson's hawks are relatively uncommon in the eastern portion of the Valley floor. Typical nesting habitat is absent and frequent human disturbance may deter this species from nesting within or adjacent to the APE. This species could pass over the Project site while foraging or during migratory movements.
Tipton kangaroo rat ***(Dipodomys nitratoides nitratoides)***	FE, CE	Burrows in soil. Often found in grassland and shrubland.	**Unlikely.** Project APE is too disturbed for this species. This species was last seen was October 25, 1943, 7 miles northeast of Tipton.
Townsend's big-eared bat ***(Corynorhinus townsendii)***	CSC	Occurs in a variety of habitats, but prefers cool, dark roost sites, and are often found in caves and mines. They roost in the open, hanging from walls and ceilings. Western populations typically forage on moths in areas of dense foliage.	**Unlikely.** Roosting habitat for this species is typically in the form of bridges, crossings, and trees. This species has never been recorded east of the Friant-Kern Canal in Tulare County. Date last seen April 4, 1941, 5 miles southeast of Porterville. There are no bridges or crossings located in the APE.
tricolored blackbird ***(Agelaius tricolor)***	CT, CSC	Nests colonially near fresh water in dense cattails or tules, or in thickets of riparian shrubs. Forages in grassland and cropland. Large colonies are often found on dairy farm forage fields.	**Absent.** Suitable roosting, water sources and foraging habitat is absent from the APE and adjacent lands. This species was last seen in 1971 in the vicinity of Success Lake Dam.
valley elderberry longhorn beetle ***(Desmocerus californicus dimorphus)***	FT	Lives in mature elderberry shrubs of the Central Valley and foothills. Adults are active March to June.	**Unlikely.** Suitable habitat in the form of elderberry shrubs are absent from the APE due to the heavy disturbance and human activities. There are no elderberry shrubs within the APE.
vernal pool fairy shrimp ***(Branchinecta lynchi)***	FT	Occupies vernal pools, clear to tea-colored water, in grass or mud-bottomed swales, and basalt depression pools.	**Absent**. Suitable habitat is absent from the APE due to lacking the appropriate soil type for vernal pools. The APE consists of San Emigdio loam and Tujunga sandy soils which are both well to somewhat excessively drained. This species was last seen in 1941, 4 miles southeast of Porterville near the north bank of Deer Creek.
western mastiff bat ***(Eumops perotis californicus)***	CSC	Found in open, arid to semi-arid habitats, including dry desert washes, flood plains, chaparral, oak woodland, open ponderosa pine forest, grassland, and agricultural areas, where it feeds on insects in flight. Roosts most commonly in crevices in cliff faces but may also use high buildings and tunnels.	**Unlikely.** Suitable roosting habitat is absent from the Project area and adjacent lands. At most, this species could forage nocturnally over the Project site. This species was last seen in October of 1994 near Lake Success.

Species	Status	Habitat	Occurrence on Project Site
western spadefoot ***(Spea hammondii)***	CSC	Prefers open areas with sandy or gravelly soils, in a variety of habitats including mixed woodlands, grasslands, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, sandy washes, lowlands, river floodplains, alluvial fans, playas, alkali flats, foothills, and mountains. Vernal pools or temporary wetlands, lasting a minimum of three weeks, which do not contain bullfrogs, fish, or crayfish are necessary for breeding.	**Unlikely.** The APE is not located within the historic and current range of this species. This species was last seen April 1978, approximately 14 miles from the APE, southwest of Saucelito School in Terra Bella, CA.

Table 3-9. List of Special Status Plants with Potential to Occur Onsite and/or in the Vicinity.

Species	Status	Habitat	Occurrence on Project Site
alkali-sink goldfields (*Lasthenia chrysantha*)	CNPS 1B	Found in vernal pool and wet saline flat habitats. Occurrences documented in the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys at elevations below 656 feet. Blooms February - April.	**Unlikely**. Habitat within APE is highly disturbed and currently void of any native vegetation. This species was last seen is March 20, 1973. Possibly "extirpated" from the APE.
brittlescale *(Atriplex depressa)*	CNPS 1B	Found in the San Joaquin Valley and Sacramento Valley in alkaline or clay soils, typically in meadows or annual grassland in at elevations below 1050 feet. Sometimes associated with vernal pools. Blooms June–October.	**Absent.** Suitable habitat is absent from the APE. This species was last seen is April 19, 1945, in the vicinity of Pixley.
calico monkeyflower *(Diplacus pictus / Mimulus pictus / Eunanus pictus)*	CNPS 1B	Found in the Sierra Nevada foothills and the Tehachapi mountains in bare, sunny, shrubby areas, and around granite outcrops within foothill woodland communities at elevations between 450 feet and 4100 feet. Blooms March – May.	**Unlikely**. Habitat within APE is highly disturbed and currently contains non-native vegetation typical of urban landscaping. The closest observations was in the saddle of Rocky Hill between elevation points 1593 and 1567, west of Lake Success and east of Porterville and was last observed April 26, 1983.
California alkali grass *(Puccinellia simplex)*	CNPS 1B	Found in the San Joaquin Valley and other parts of California in saline flats and mineral springs within valley grassland and wetland-riparian communities at elevations below 3000 feet. Blooms March–May.	**Absent.** Suitable habitat is absent from the APE. This species was last observed is March 25, 1998, 5.7 miles east of the Tulare Municipal Airport.
California jewelflower *(Caulanthus californicus)*	FE, CE, CNPS 1B	Found in the San Joaquin Valley and Western Transverse Ranges in sandy soils. Occurs on flats and slopes, generally in non-alkaline grassland at elevations between 230 feet and 6100 feet. Blooms February–April.	**Absent.** Suitable habitat is absent, and this species is presumed to be "extirpated" from Tulare County.
Chaparral ragwort *(Senecio aphanactis)*	CNPS 2B	Found in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub, typically within drying alkaline flats at elevations between 65–2800 feet. Blooms February–May.	**Absent.** Suitable habitat is absent from the APE. Development and ongoing disturbance further make the APE unsuitable for this species.
Earlimart orache *(Atriplex cordulata var. erecticaulis)*	CNPS 1B	Found in the San Joaquin Valley in saline or alkaline soils, typically within valley and foothill grassland at elevations below 375 feet. Blooms August–September.	**Absent.** Suitable habitat is absent from the APE. Development and ongoing disturbance further make the APE unsuitable for this species.
Keck's checkerbloom *(Sidalcea keckii)*	FE, CNPS 1B	Occurs in cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland, typically on grassy slopes in clay soils at elevations between 275 feet – 1650 feet. Blooms April – May.	**Absent.** Typical soils and habitat are absent from the APE. Development and ongoing disturbance further make the APE unsuitable.
lesser saltscale *(Atriplex minuscula)*	CNPS 1B	Found in the San Joaquin Valley in sandy, alkaline soils in alkali scrub, valley and foothill grassland, and alkali sink communities at elevations below 750 feet. Blooms April–October.	**Absent.** Typical suitable habitat for this species is absent from the APE. Development and ongoing disturbance further make the APE unsuitable for this species.

Species	Status	Habitat	Occurrence on Project Site
Lost Hills crownscale *(Atriplex coronata var. vallicola)*	CNPS 1B	Found in the San Joaquin Valley in dried ponds and alkaline soils in alkali scrub, valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pools at elevations below 2900 feet. Blooms April–September.	**Absent.** Suitable habitat is absent from the APE. Development and ongoing disturbance further make the APE unsuitable for this species.
Madera leptosiphon *(Leptosiphon serrulatus)*	CNPS 1B	Found in openings in foothill woodland, often yellow-pine forest, and chaparral at elevations between 1000 feet and 4300 feet. Blooms April – May.	**Absent**. Habitat within APE is unsuitable for this species and too highly disturbed to support the growth of this species. APE is outside known elevational range for this species. There have been no recent observations near the APE.
recurved larkspur *(Delphinium recurvatum)*	CNPS 1B	Occurs in poorly drained, fine, alkaline soils in grassland and alakli scrub communities at elevations between 100 feet and 2600 feet. Blooms March–June.	**Absent.** Suitable habitat for this species is absent from the APE. Development and ongoing disturbance further make the Project area unsuitable for this species.
San Joaquin adobe sunburst *(Pseudobahia peirsonii)*	FT, CE, CNPS 1B	Found in the San Joaquin Valley and the Sierra Nevada Foothills in bare dark clay soils in valley and foothill grassland and cismontane woodland communities at elevations between 325 feet and 2950 feet. Blooms March–May.	**Unlikely**. The APE has been previously disturbed and is mostly void of native plant life. Union Ave has some urban landscaping on adjacent private properties. There have been no recent observations near the APE.
San Joaquin woollythreads *(Monolopia congdonii)*	FE, CNPS 1B	Occurs in the San Joaquin Valley in sandy soils on alkaline or loamy plains in valley and foothill grassland and alkali scrub communities at elevations between 180 feet and 2750 feet. Blooms February–May.	**Absent.** The developed and disturbed environment of the APE are generally unsuitable for this species.
shining navarretia *(Navarretia nigelliformis ssp. radians)*	CNPS 1B	Found in cismontane woodland and valley and foothill grassland communities, sometimes in vernal pools. Occurs at elevations between 200 feet and 3200 feet. Blooms May – July.	**Absent.** The developed and disturbed environments of the APE are generally unsuitable for this species.
spiny-sepaled button-celery *(Eryngium spinosepalum)*	CNPS 1B	Found in the Sierra Nevada Foothills and the San Joaquin Valley. Occurs in vernal pools, swales, and roadside ditches. Often associated with clay soils in vernal pools within grassland communities. Occurs at elevations between 50 feet and 4160 feet. Blooms April–July.	**Absent.** Suitable habitat for this species is absent from the APE. Development and ongoing disturbance further make the APE unsuitable for this species.
Springville clarkia (*Clarkia springvillensis*)	FT, CE, CNPS 1B	Endemic to the woodlands and grasslands of the southern portion of the Sierra Nevada range, occurring primarily in the Tule River watershed. Found at elevations between 690-7400 feet. Blooms in May.	**Absent.** Suitable habitat is absent, and the APE is outside of the altitudinal range of this species.
striped adobe-lily *(Fritillaria striata)*	CT, CNPS 1B	Found in the Sierra Nevada foothills in adobe soil within valley grassland and foothill woodland communities at elevations below 3300 feet. Blooms February – April.	**Absent.** Typical suitable habitat for this species is absent from the APE. Development and ongoing disturbance further make the APE unsuitable for this species.

Species	Status	Habitat	Occurrence on Project Site
subtle orache ***(Atriplex subtilis)***	CNPS 1B	Found in the San Joaquin Valley in saline depressions in alkaline soils within valley and foothill grassland communities at elevations below 330 feet. Blooms June–October.	**Absent.** Suitable habitat for this species is absent from the APE. Development and ongoing disturbance further make the APE unsuitable for this species.

EXPLANATION OF OCCURRENCE DESIGNATIONS AND STATUS CODES FOR TABLES 3-10 & 3-11

Present:	Species observed on the site at time of field surveys or during recent past.
Likely:	Species not observed on the site, but it may reasonably be expected to occur there on a regular basis.
Possible:	Species not observed on the site, but it could occur there from time to time.
Unlikely:	Species not observed on the site, and would not be expected to occur there except, perhaps, as a transient.
Absent:	Species not observed on the site, and precluded from occurring there due to absence of suitable habitat.

STATUS CODES

FE	Federally Endangered
FT	Federally Threatened
FPE	Federally Endangered (Proposed)
FPT	Federally Threatened (Proposed)
FC	Federal Candidate
CE	California Endangered
CT	California Threatened
CCT	California Threatened (Candidate)
CFP	California Fully Protected
CSC	California Species of Special Concern
CWL	California Watch List
CCE	California Endangered (Candidate)
CR	California Rare

CNPS LISTING

1A	Plants Presumed Extinct in California.
1B	Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and elsewhere.
2	Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, but more common elsewhere.

3.5.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated. Although it may be possible for some species to use the APE for foraging habitat, however it is not suitable or sustainable habitat due to the continued disturbance and human activity. The one-half mile of the APE does not adequately provide any regionally important habitat for any special-status species for the same reason. Most of this APE has been urbanized since the 1980's, thus limiting habitat availability adequate for wild animals for the last 40 years. It is also possible that some species of birds may nest in trees (left undisturbed during or it can happen in disturbed areas but far less likely) during nesting season, however this is highly unlikely in the APE. Implementation of the following mitigation measure below would reduce any impacts to less than significant..

3.5.2.1 Project-Related Impacts to Special Status Animal Species

Research literature indicates that 15 special status animal species have been documented in the APE, including: American badger (*Taxidea taxus*), blunt-nosed leopard lizard (*Gambelia sila*), California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*), Crotch bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*), northern California legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra*), pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*), Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), Tipton kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys nitratoides nitratoides*), Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*), tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*), vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*), and western spadefoot (*Spea hammondii*).

Species specific discussions are discussed thoroughly in the Biological Resources Information (**Appendix B**) and are summarized below. With corresponding mitigation measures the impacts to special status species including nesting birds would be reduced to less than significant.

> **BIO-1 (Operational Hours):** Construction shall be conducted during daylight hours to reduce disturbance to wildlife that could be foraging nocturnally within work areas.
>
> **BIO-2 (Avoidance):** Construction activities will occur, if feasible, between September 16 and January 31 (outside of nesting bird season) in an effort to avoid impacts to nesting birds.

Research literature indicates that 19 special status plant species have been documented in the Project vicinity, including brittlescale (*Atriplex depressa*), calico monkeyflower (*Diplacus pictus/Mimulus pictus/Eunanus pictus*), California alkali grass (*Puccinellia simplex*), California jewelflower (*Caulanthus californicus*), Chaparral ragwort (*Senecio aphanactis*), Earlimart orache (*Atriplex cordulata var. erecticaulis*), Keck's checkerbloom (*Sidalcia keckii*), lesser saltscale (*Atriplex minuscula*), Lost Hills crownscale (*Atriplex coronate var. vallicola*), Madera leptosiphon (*Leptosiphon serrulatus*), recurved larkspur (*Delphinium recurvatum*), San Joaquin adobe sunburst (*Pseudobahia perisonii*), San Joaquin woollythreads (*Monolopia congdonii*), shining navarretia (*Navarretia nigelliformis ssp. radians*), spiny-sepaled button-celery (*Eryngium spinosepalum*), Springville clarkia (*Clarkia springvillensis*), striped adobe-lily (*Fritillaria striata*), subtle orache (*Atriplex subtilis*), and vernal pool smallscale (*Atriplex persistens*). As explained in **Table 3-9**, all of the aforementioned special status plant species are absent from the Project area due to past and ongoing disturbance and/or the absence of suitable habitat. Therefore, the implementation of the Project would have less than significant impact on individual plants or regional populations of these special status plant species. Mitigation measures are not warranted.

b) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

c) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

No Impacts. There are no water sources within the APE, including wetlands. The closest water source is the Tule River located 0.30 miles southeast of the APE. The APE is located in an urbanized area surrounded by residential homes. The Project is not located on or near any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS. Also, the Project is not located on or near any State or federally protected wetlands. The Project APE does not contain soils that are suitable for vernal pools, the APE consists of San Emigdio loam and Tujunga sand which are well to somewhat excessively drained. Therefore, there will be no impacts. Mitigation measures are not warranted.

d) Would the project 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?

Less than Significant Impact. The Project area does not contain features that would be likely to function as a wildlife movement corridor. Furthermore, the Project is located in a region inundated by human disturbance which would discourage dispersal and migration. Therefore, implementation of the Project will have no impact on wildlife movement corridors, and mitigation is not warranted.

e) Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

No Impact. There is no tree or vegetation removal proposed as part of the Project. The trees and vegetation that is currently existing in the APE belongs to the residents in the Project area and is comprised of typical urban landscaping. The City of Porterville does not currently have a tree preservation ordinance, however the

Project would take all necessary precautions and steps necessary to preserve biological resources throughout the duration of construction and into implementation of the Project. The Project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance that would be created in the future. The City of Porterville's General Plan has established the following policy that prohibits new and existing development to impact biological resources.

OSC-G-7 Protect habitat for special status species designated under State and Federal Law.

There would be no impact to any existing or future policies or ordinances protecting biological resources set forth by the City of Porterville.

f) Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

No Impact. The Project design would be consistent with the goals and policies of the City of Porterville 2030 General Plan. There are no known Habitat Conservation Plans or Natural Community Conservation Plans in the Project vicinity. There would be no impacts to local, regional, or State habitat conservation plans. Mitigation is not warranted

3.6 Cultural Resources

Table 3-10. Cultural Resources Impacts

Cultural Resources Impacts					
Would the project:		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to 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 dedicated cemeteries?	☐	☒	☐	☐

3.6.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

Tulare County is an archaeologically and culturally significant area and has one of the densest Native American populations in North America. Archaeological sites associated with the Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut exists throughout the County, particularly adjacent to existing and former natural water and food sources. Many Yokut sites have been located, and the potential for remaining undiscovered sites within the County is high.

Many of the historic resources in Porterville, which date back to the days of its founding in the late 1800s, are located near Downtown. The City's historic buildings reflect its changing role through time as a center of agriculture and commercial activities.[8]

3.6.1.1 Records Search

A records search from the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), located at California State University, Bakersfield was conducted in May 2021. The SSJVIC records search includes a review of all recorded archaeological and built-environment resources as well as a review of cultural resource reports on file. In addition, the California Points of Historical Interest (SPHI), the California Historical Landmarks (SHL), the California Register of Historical Resources (CAL REG), the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and the California State Built Environment Resources Directory (BERD) listings were reviewed for the above referenced APE and an additional ¼-mile radius. Due to the sensitive nature of cultural resources, archaeological site locations are not released. (**Appendix C**).

Additional sources included the State Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO) Historic Properties Directory, Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility, and the California Inventory of Historic Resources.

3.6.1.2 Native American Outreach

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in Sacramento was also contacted in May 2021. They were provided with a brief description of the Project and a map showing its location and requested that the NAHC perform a search of the Sacred Lands File to determine if any Native American resources have been recorded in the immediate APE. The NAHC identifies, catalogs, and protects Native American cultural resources -- ancient places of special religious or social significance to Native Americans and known ancient

[8] (City of Porterville, 2021). Accessed September 23, 2021.

graves and cemeteries of Native Americans on private and public lands in California. The NAHC is also charged with ensuring California Native American tribes' accessibility to ancient Native American cultural resources on public lands, overseeing the treatment and disposition of inadvertently discovered Native American human remains and burial items, and administering the California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (CalNAGPRA), among many other powers and duties. NAHC provide a current list of Native American Tribal contacts to notify of the project. The ten tribal representatives identified by NAHC were contacted in writing via United States Postal Service in a letter mailed May 26, 2021, informing each Tribe of the Project. No responses were received.

1. Big Sandy Rancheria of Western Mono Indians, Elizabeth D. Kipp, Chairperson
2. Dunlap Band of Mono Indians, Benjamin Charley Jr., Tribal Chair
3. Dunlap Band of Mono Indians, Dirk Charley, Tribal Secretary
4. Kern Valley Indian Community, Julie Turner, Secretary
5. Kern Valley Indian Community, Robert Robinson, Chairperson
6. Kern Valley Indian Community, Brandy Kendricks
7. Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe, Leo Sisco, Chairperson
8. Tubatulabals of Kern Valley, Robert L. Gomez, Jr., Tribal Chairperson
9. Tule River Indian Tribe, Neil Peyron, Chairperson
10. Wuksache Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band, Kenneth Woodrow, Chairperson

3.6.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to in §15064.5?; and

b) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?

Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated. A CHRIS records search, from the SSJVIC, was conducted in May 2021 and confirmed there have been no previous cultural resource studies conducted within the Project area. There have been nine cultural resource studies conducted within a one-half mile radius, TU-00419, 00446, 01061, 01131, 01140, 01201, 01213, 01252, and 01704. The search also confirmed that there are no recorded resources within the Project APE and it is unknown if any resources exist there. There are 14 recorded cultural resources within the one-half mile radius, P-54-003108, 003109, 003110, 003111, 003112, 003113, 003114, 003115, 003116, 003161, 003166, 003210, 004626, and 004700. These resources all consist of historic era buildings in Porterville Historic District 2 and an historic era railroad. It is unlikely that the Project has the potential to result in significant impacts or adverse effects to cultural or historical resources, such as archaeological remains, artifacts or historic properties. However, in the improbable event that cultural resources are encountered during Project construction, implementation of mitigation measure **CUL-1** outlined below, would reduce impacts to less than significant.

Mitigation Measure

CUL-1 (Archaeological Remains): Should archaeological remains or artifacts be unearthed during any stage of project activities, work in the area of discovery shall cease until the area is evaluated by a qualified archaeologist. If mitigation is warranted, the project proponent shall abide by recommendations of the archaeologist.

c) Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?

Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated. The Project site is an existing roadway in the City of Porterville, specifically Union Avenue between Indiana and Jaye Streets. There is no evidence or record that the Project area has the potential to be an unknown burial site or the site of buried human remains. In the unlikely event of such a discovery, mitigation shall be implemented. With incorporation of mitigation measure

CUL-2 outlined below, impacts resulting from the discovery of remains interred on the Project site would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measure

CUL-2 (Human Remains): In the event that any human remains are discovered on the Project site, the Tulare County Coroner must be notified of the discovery (California Health and Safety Code, Section 7050.5) and all activities in the immediate area of the find or in any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains must cease until appropriate and lawful measures have been implemented. If the Coroner determines that the remains are not recent, but rather of Native American origin, the Coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in Sacramento within 24 hours to permit the NAHC to determine the Most Likely Descendent of the deceased Native American.

3.7 Energy

Table 3-11. Energy Impacts

Energy Impacts					
Would the project:		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b)	Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.7.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

Southern California Edison provides electric service to Porterville residents. Natural gas service is primarily provided by the Southern California Gas Company. There are three major companies that provide communications services in Porterville: AT&T, Sprint, and Verizon. Charter Communications is the primary cable television and internet provider.

Construction equipment and construction worker vehicles operated during proposed Project construction would use fossil fuels. This increased fuel consumption would be temporary and would cease at the end of the construction activity. The Project would not have a residual permanent requirement for additional energy input. The marginal increases in fossil fuel use resulting from Project construction are not expected to have appreciable impacts on energy resources.

3.7.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation? And;

Less than Significant Impact. As discussed in **Section 3.4**, the Project would not exceed any air emission thresholds during construction or operation. The upgrades to the existing streetlights would potentially involve the use LED bulbs, which are used for energy efficiency. The streetlights would use the existing power grid and power supply and would not require a new power source. Streetlight equipment would be upgraded, replaced, or installed at various locations along Union Street and wherever needed. The Project would comply with all applicable construction best management practices and would be required to complete a Storm Water Prevention Plan Program (SWPPP) as part of construction. Once completed, the Project would be mostly passive in nature and would not use an excessive amount of additional energy or be wasteful in energy use. The Project would not result in environmental impacts due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during construction or operation. The impact would be less than significant.

b) Would the project conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

No Impact. Energy use during operation would be similar to, or less than, existing conditions. Construction activities of the road reconstruction Project would require energy use, but this energy use would not be wasteful or inefficient, nor would it require new or expanded electric power or natural gas facilities. No features of the Project would conflict with or obstruct State or local plans for renewable energy or energy efficiency. There would be no impacts on energy use or State/local energy plans.

3.8 Geology and Soils

Table 3-12. Geology and Soils Impacts

Geology and Soils Impacts				
Would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a) Directly or indirectly cause 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 (1994) creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature?	☐	☐	☒	☐

3.8.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

The City of Porterville sits on top of the alluvial fans of the Tule River and its distributaries. The alluvial fans are soft near the river and other waterways and firm in the north, northeast and downtown, areas as a transition to the granitic bedrock deposits in the foothills. The City of Porterville contains a wide variety of soil types which have a significant bearing on land planning and development. Porterville Clay is the most prominent soil type located within the City.[9] While State and federal laws regulate soil quality, as indicated by the farmland classification system, local land use planning is important for limiting erosion potential.

[9] (City of Porterville, 2021), Chapter 7 Public Health and Safety Element. Accessed September 23, 2021.

3.8.1.1 Geology and Soils

The Project is located in the City of Porterville, in the central section of California's Great Valley Geomorphic Province, or Central Valley. The Sacramento Valley makes up the northern third and the San Joaquin Valley makes up the southern two-thirds of the geomorphic province. Both valleys are watered by large rivers flowing west from the Sierra Nevada Range, with smaller tributaries flowing east into the valley from the Coast Ranges. Most of the surface of the Great Valley is covered by Quaternary (present day to 1.6 million years ago) alluvium. From the time the Valley first began to form, sediments derived from erosion of igneous and metamorphic rocks and consolidated marine sediments in the surrounding mountains have been transported into the Valley by streams. An analysis of the Project soils onsite was performed using the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Survey of the Project site, **Table 3-13** below summarizes the soil characteristics.

3.8.1.2 Faults and Seismicity

The Project site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone and no known faults cut through the site. The nearest unnamed fault is 4.7 miles south of the APE. The nearest named fault is the Mt. Poso fault, located 29.3 miles south of the Project APE. The San Andreas fault zone, Cholame-Carrizo section is 70 miles to the southwest.

3.8.1.3 Liquefaction

The potential for liquefaction, which is a phenomenon whereby unconsolidated and/or near-saturated soils lose cohesion and are converted to a fluid state as a result of severe vibratory motion, is dependent on soil types and density, depth to groundwater, and the duration and intensity of ground shaking. Although no specific liquefaction hazard areas have been identified in the county, this potential is recognized throughout the San Joaquin Valley where unconsolidated sediments and a high-water table coincide. Liquefaction risk in the project area is very low. An analysis of the soils in the Project area was performed using the USDA NRCS soil survey of Tulare County. (See **Table 3-13**)

3.8.1.4 Soil Subsidence

Subsidence occurs when a large land area settles due to over-saturation or extensive withdrawal of ground water, oil, or natural gas. These areas are typically composed of open-textured soils that become saturated. These areas are high in silt or clay content.

The Project site is comprised of three main soil types, as shown in the table below. These soils are in the Project area are well drained and somewhat excessively drained. (See **Table 3-13**)

Table 3-13. Project Soil Characteristics

Map unit name	Parent Materials	Rating	Acres in APE	Percent of APE
San Emigdio loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Alluvium derived from granitoid and/or alluvium derived from sedimentary rock	Well drained	0.7	91.1%
Tujunga sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Alluvium derived from granitoid	Somewhat excessively drained	0.1	8.6%
		Totals for Project Area	**0.2**	**100%**

3.8.1.5 Dam and Levee Failure

According to Figure 7-3 of the City of Porterville General Plan, the approximate half mile stretch of Union Avenue is located within the dam failure inundation zone for Lake Success[10].

[10] (City of Porterville, 2021). Chapter 7 Public Health and Safety Element. Accessed September 23, 2021

A breach or overflow event at Success Lake Dam could cause significant flooding in Porterville. This dam is overseen and maintained by the USACE and administered by the Sacramento District of the USACE's regional office located in Porterville. Through their work, Porterville is provided with flood safety, water resources, electricity, recreation, and camping. It includes a recreation area, located eight miles east of the City of Porterville in the western portion of the Sierra Nevada foothills.. It spans 3,490 feet across the Tule River and is 142 feet high. When full, the lake holds 82,000 acre-feet of water with a surface area of 2,450 acres.

3.8.1.6 Paleontological Resources

Impacts to fossil sites from construction activities include the progressive loss of exposed rock, along with the unauthorized collection of fossil materials. Such losses would be irreplaceable. The California Environment Quality Act (CEQA) requires that impacts to paleontological resources be assessed and mitigated on all discretionary projects, public, and private under CEQA Guidelines Section 8.16.2.2. The General Plan recognizes the significance of paleontological resources requires preserving these sites through policies and guidelines set forth in the City's General Plan.

3.8.1.7 Naturally Occurring Asbestos

Asbestos is a term used for several types of naturally-occurring fibrous minerals found in serpentine rock, and its parent material, ultramafic rock. These rock types are abundant in the Sierra foothills. Naturally-occurring asbestos (NOA) has been identified in Tulare County and ultramafic rocks have been generally mapped in the Porterville area. Figure 7-2 of the General Plan illustrates areas more likely to contain natural occurrences of asbestos.

Asbestos may be released from ultramafic and serpentine rock when it is broken or crushed. This can happen when land is graded for building or agriculture purposes, at quarrying operations, or when the soil is disturbed by other activities such as the digging of fire suppression trenches. It is also released naturally through weathering and erosion. Once released from the rock, asbestos can become airborne and may stay in the air for long periods of time. Airborne asbestos is classified as a human carcinogen. Exposure to asbestos can result in health ailments, such as lung cancer, mesothelioma (cancer of the linings of the lungs and abdomen), and asbestosis (scarring of lung tissues that results in constricted breathing). [11]

3.8.2 Impact Assessment

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

a-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.

a-ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

Less than Significant Impact. The Project site and its vicinity are located in a developed area of the City of Porterville, traditionally characterized by relatively low seismic activity. The site is not located in an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone as established by the Alquist-Priolo Fault Zoning Act, Section 2622 of Chapter 7.5, Division 2 of the California Public Resources Code.

There are no known earthquake faults through or within the immediate Project area, strong ground shaking is unlikely, and the Project does not include any habitable structures. Additionally, the reconstruction efforts along Union Avenue would comply with the most recent seismic standards as set forth in the California Building

[11] (City of Porterville, 2021). Chapter 7 Public Health and Safety Element. Accessed September 23, 2021

Standards Code. Compliance with these standards are expected to ensure potential impacts related to strong seismic ground shaking and the impacts would be less than significant.

a-iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

Less than Significant Impact. Seismic-related ground failures, such as ruptures, lateral spreading, ground lurching, seiches, or mudslides, are unlikely to occur in the City because of its relatively stable geologic formation and distance to active faults. However, the City's General Plan states that there is a moderate risk of liquefaction near the Tule River due to the hillside topography and soil slumping. Because the Project site is generally level and does not involve the construction of any habitable structures, the Project would not expose people or structures to potential substantial effects associated with seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction. Therefore, this impact would be considered than significant.

a-iv) Landslides?

No Impact. There are no known major geologic landforms that exist on or near the Project site that could result in a landslide event. The Project site topography is generally flat and Project activities would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides. Therefore, there would be no impacts.

b) Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Less than Significant Impact. Earthmoving activities associated with the Project would include excavation, grading, and construction over an area of approximately one-half mile stretch of Union Avenue. These activities could expose soils to erosion processes however, the extent of erosion would vary depending on slope steepness/stability, vegetation/cover, concentration of runoff, and weather conditions. Dischargers whose projects disturb one (1) or more acres of soil or whose projects disturb less than one acre but are part of a larger common plan of development that in total disturbs one or more acres, are required to obtain coverage under the Statewide General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity (Construction General Permit Order 2009-0009-DWQ). Construction activity subject to this permit includes clearing, grading and disturbances to the ground such as stockpiling, or excavation, and construction of linear underground or overhead facilities associated with path construction, but does not include regular maintenance activities performed to restore the original lines, grade, or capacity of the overhead or underground facilities. The Construction General Permit requires the development of a SWPPP by a certified Qualified SWPPP Developer. Since the Project site has relatively flat terrain with a low potential for soil erosion and would comply with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) requirements, the Project's impacts would be less than significant.

c) Would the project 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?

Less than Significant Impact. As discussed in above, the potential for landslide or liquefaction is considered unlikely. Lateral spreading, subsidence, and collapse both on-site and off-site are also considered unlikely or less than significant for reasons previously discussed in these sections. Furthermore, the aforementioned physical properties of these soils make subsidence, liquefaction, lateral spreading, or other ground failure unlikely. Any impacts would be less than significant.

d) Would the project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

Less than Significant Impact. The soil types within the Project area consist of two soil types as listed in **Table 3-13**. These soil types are characterized as being well-drained and somewhat excessively drained. The Project does not involve the construction of habitable structures and would not create substantial risks to life or property. Any impacts would be considered less than significant.

e) Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

No Impact. The Project would not require connection septic tank, or sewer system, nor would it wastewater disposal systems as the road reconstruction Project would not generate wastewater. There would be no impact.

f) Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature?

Less than Significant Impact. No known paleontological resources exist within the Project area. The Project site is developed roadway within City limits. Construction activities associated with the Project are not expected to be conducted significantly below grade, at a level where they would have the potential to disturb any previously unknown paleontological resources or geologic features. Impacts would be less than significant.

3.9 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Table 3-14. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Impacts

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Impacts					
	Would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a)	Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b)	Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☒	☐

3.9.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

The Earth's climate has been warming for the past century. Experts believe this warming trend is related to the release of certain gases into the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases (GHG) absorb infrared energy that would otherwise escape from the Earth. As the infrared energy is absorbed, the air surrounding the Earth is heated. An overall warming trend has been recorded since the late 19th century, with the most rapid warming occurring over the past 35 years, with 16 of the 17 warmest years on record occurring since 2001. Not only was 2016 the warmest year on record, but eight of the 12 months that make up the year—from January through September, with the exception of June—were the warmest on record for those respective months. October, November, and December of 2016 were the second warmest of those months on record—in all three cases, behind records set in 2015.[12] Human activities have been attributed to an increase in the atmospheric abundance of greenhouse gases. The following is a brief description of the most commonly recognized GHGs.

3.9.1.1 Greenhouse Gases

Carbon dioxide (CO_2) is an odorless, colorless natural greenhouse gas. CO_2 is emitted from natural and anthropogenic sources. Natural sources include the following: decomposition of dead organic matter; respiration of bacteria, plants, animals, and fungus; evaporation from oceans; and volcanic out gassing. Anthropogenic sources include the burning of coal, oil, natural gas, and wood.

Methane (CH_4) is a flammable greenhouse gas. A natural source of methane is the anaerobic decay of organic matter. Geological deposits, known as natural gas fields, also contain methane, which is extracted for fuel. Other sources are from landfills, fermentation of manure, and ruminants such as cattle.

Nitrous oxide (N_2O), also known as laughing gas, is a colorless greenhouse gas. Nitrous oxide is produced by microbial processes in soil and water, including those reactions that occur in fertilizer containing nitrogen. In addition to agricultural sources, some industrial processes (fossil fuel-fired power plants, nylon production, nitric acid production, and vehicle emissions) also contribute to its atmospheric load.

Water vapor is the most abundant, and variable greenhouse gas. It is not considered a pollutant; in the atmosphere, it maintains a climate necessary for life.

Ozone (O_3) is known as a photochemical pollutant and is a greenhouse gas; however, unlike other greenhouse gases, ozone in the troposphere is relatively short-lived and, therefore, is not global in

[12] (National Aeronautics and Space Administration Warmest Year on Record, 2017). Accessed 14 September 2021.

nature. Ozone is not emitted directly into the atmosphere but is formed by a complex series of chemical reactions between volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxides, and sunlight.

Aerosols are suspensions of particulate matter in a gas emitted into the air through burning biomass (plant material) and fossil fuels. Aerosols can warm the atmosphere by absorbing and emitting heat and can cool the atmosphere by reflecting light.

Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) are nontoxic, nonflammable, insoluble, and chemically unreactive in the troposphere (the level of air at the earth's surface). CFCs were first synthesized in 1928 for use as refrigerants, aerosol propellants, and cleaning solvents. CFCs destroy stratospheric ozone; therefore, their production was stopped as required by the Montreal Protocol in 1987.

Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are synthetic chemicals that are used as a substitute for CFCs. Of all the greenhouse gases, HFCs are one of three groups (the other two are perfluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride) with the highest global warming potential. HFCs are human-made for applications such as air conditioners and refrigerants.

Perfluorocarbons (PFCs) have stable molecular structures and do not break down through the chemical processes in the lower atmosphere; therefore, PFCs have long atmospheric lifetimes, between 10,000 and 50,000 years. The two main sources of PFCs are primary aluminum production and semiconductor manufacture.

Sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6) is an inorganic, odorless, colorless, nontoxic, nonflammable gas. It has the highest global warming potential of any gas evaluated. Sulfur hexafluoride is used for insulation in electric power transmission and distribution equipment, in the magnesium industry, in semiconductor manufacturing, and as a tracer gas for leak detection.

3.9.1.2 Effects of Climate Change

The impacts of climate change have yet to fully manifest. A hotter planet is causing the sea level to rise, disease to spread to non-endemic areas, as well as more frequent and severe storms, heat events, and air pollution episodes. Also affected are agricultural production, the water supply, the sustainability of ecosystems, and therefore the economy. The magnitude of these impacts is unknown.

Emissions of GHGs contributing to global climate change are largely attributable to human activities associated with the industrial/manufacturing, utility, transportation, residential, and agricultural sectors. GHG emissions are typically expressed in carbon dioxide-equivalents (CO_2e), based on the GHG's Global Warming Potential (GWP). The GWP is dependent on the lifetime, or persistence, of the gas molecule in the atmosphere. For example, one ton of CH_4 has the same contribution to the greenhouse effect as approximately 21 tons of CO_2. Therefore, CH_4 is a much more potent GHG than CO_2.

3.9.2 Methodology

The SacMetro Road Construction Emissions Model (**Appendix A**) was prepared in September 2021. The sections below detail the methodology of the report and its conclusions.

3.9.2.1 Short-Term Construction-Generated Emissions

Short-term construction emissions associated with the Project were calculated using The SacMetro Road Construction Emissions Model, Version 9.0.0. Emissions' modeling was assumed to occur over an approximate six month period and covering a site area of approximately half of a mile of road widening on Union Avenue, improving Western Street and Cottage Street, and completing the connection of Chess Terrace to Union Avenue (4.6 acres). Remaining assumptions were based on the default parameters contained in the model. Modeling assumptions and output files are included in **Appendix A**.

3.9.2.2 Long-Term Operational Emissions

The Project does not include any additional traffic lanes. It is not anticipated that there would be additional long-term operational emissions associated with the Project. Modeling assumptions and output files are included in **Appendix A**.

3.9.3 Impact Assessment

3.9.3.1 Thresholds of Significance

In accordance with SJVAPCD's *CEQA Greenhouse Gas Guidance for Valley Land-use Agencies in Addressing GHG Emission Impacts for New Projects*[13], proposed projects complying with Best Performance Standards (BPS) would be determined to have a less-than-significant impact. Projects not complying with BPS would be considered less than significant if operational GHG emissions would be reduced or mitigated by a minimum of 29 percent, in comparison to business-as-usual (year 2004) conditions. In addition, project-generated emissions complying with an approved plan or mitigation program would also be determined to have a less-than-significant impact.

Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Thresholds for Significance: Bay Area Air Quality Management District's approach to developing a threshold of significance for GHG emissions is to identify the emissions level for which a project would not be expected to substantially conflict with existing California legislation adopted to reduce Statewide GHG emissions. If a project would generate GHG emissions above the threshold level, it would be considered to contribute substantially to a cumulative impact, and would be considered significant. If mitigation can be applied to lessen the emissions such that the project meets its share of emission reductions needed to address the cumulative impact, the project would normally be considered less than significant. Although the proposed Project is not located in the Bay Area, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's thresholds for significance are based on the Statewide AB 32 objectives, are scientifically supported and are more appropriate to assess potential impacts related to GHG emissions. For land use development projects, the threshold is compliance with a qualified GHG Reduction Strategy or annual emissions less than 1,100 metric tons per year (MT/yr) of CO2e. For stationary source projects, such as those requiring a permit from a local air district to operate, the threshold is 10,000 MT/yr of CO2e. Although the BAAQMD thresholds are generally intended for ongoing sources of emissions (e.g., manufacturing facilities, refineries), their use in CEQA is appropriate for construction projects that occur over a relatively short period and contribute a relatively low total amount of GHGs, as compared to a land use development project that would generate substantial annual emissions indefinitely.

a) Would the project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment? And;

b) Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

Less than Significant Impact.

Short-Term Construction-Generated Emissions

Estimated construction-generated emissions are summarized in **Table 3-15**. As indicated, construction of the Project would generate maximum annual emissions of approximately 422.85 $MTCO_{2}e$. Construction-related production of GHGs would be temporary and last approximately six months. These emissions are totaled and amortized over 30 years and added to the operational emissions in **Table 3-16** below.

[13] (San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, 2009). Accessed September 8, 2021.

Table 3-15. Short-Term Construction-Generated GHG Emissions

Year	Emissions (MT CO_2e)[1]
2022	422.85
Amortized over 30 years	*14.10*

1. *Emissions were quantified using the Road Construction Emissions Model. Refer to* ***Appendix A*** *for modeling results and assumptions. Totals may not sum due to rounding.*

Long-Term Operational Emissions

The Project is not adding any additional lanes of travel along Union Avenue or the connecting streets. And is therefore not anticipated to have any additional long term operational emissions from vehicle traffic. Estimated long-term operational emissions are summarized in **Table 3-16**.

Table 3-16. Long-Term Operational GHG Emissions

	Emissions (MT CO_2e)[1]
Estimated Annual Operation CO2e Emissions	--
Amortized Construction Emissions	14.10
Total Estimated Annual Operational CO2e Emissions	14.10
*AB 32 Consistency Threshold for Land-Use Development Projects**	*1,100*
Exceed Threshold?	*No*

1. *Emissions were quantified using the Road Construction Emissions Model. Refer to* ***Appendix A*** *for modeling results and assumptions. Totals may not sum due to rounding.*

* As published in the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's CEQA Air Quality Guidelines. Available online at http://www.baaqmd.gov/~/media/files/planning-and-research/ceqa/ceqa_guidelines_may2017-pdf.pdf?la=en Accessed July 2021.

The City does not have an adopted GHG plan or MT/yr thresholds for CO_2e. The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) CEQA guidance for GHG emissions recommends that a project not be considered to have a significant impact if it complies with an applicable air quality plan, results in a 29% reduction from business as usual (BAU) GHG emissions (2004 levels), or implements applicable Best Performance Standards (BPS). The SJVAPCD metrics (reduction from BAU, implementation of BPS) are not appropriate for this Project. The thresholds provided by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, while not in our area, are very stringent and based on Statewide AB 32 objectives. Because they are designed to avoid significant impacts from global climate change, which occurs at a global scale, they do not depend on site-specific characteristics. The City has determined that the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's thresholds are the most appropriate threshold for this Project, which has predominantly short-term construction emissions, and extremely low operational emissions (14.10 CO_2e). Any impacts would be less than significant.

3.10 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Table 3-17. Hazards and Hazardous Materials Impacts

Hazards and Hazardous Materials Impacts					
	Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c)	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d)	Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g)	Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	☒	☐

3.10.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

3.10.1.1 Hazardous Materials

The Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites (Cortese) List is a planning document used by the State, local agencies, and developers to comply with CEQA requirements in providing information about the location of hazardous materials release sites. Government Code (GC) Section 65962.5 requires the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) to develop at least annually an updated Cortese List. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is responsible for a portion of the information contained in the Cortese List. Other State and local government agencies are required to provide additional hazardous material release information for the Cortese List. DTSC's EnviroStor database provides DTSC's component of Cortese List data (DTSC, 2010). In addition to the EnviroStor database, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Geotracker database provides information on regulated hazardous waste facilities in

California, including underground storage tank (UST) cases and non-UST cleanup programs, including Spills-Leaks-Investigations-Cleanups (SLIC) sites, Department of Defense (DOD) sites, and Land Disposal program. A search of the DTSC EnviroStor database and the SWRCB Geotracker performed in July 2021 determined that there are no known active or open hazardous waste generators or hazardous material spill sites or cases within the Project site or immediate surrounding vicinity.

3.10.1.2 Airports

The closest airport is Porterville Municipal Airport which is located 2.5-miles southwest of the Project.

3.10.1.3 Emergency Response Plan

The City of Porterville does have an adopted Emergency Response Plan which is available at the local Fire Department.

3.10.1.4 Sensitive Receptors

Sensitive receptors within the Project's vicinity consist of various residential development along Union Avenue, various commercial and office spaces and Porterville High School that is 0.4 miles NE of the Project. No other identified concentrations of sensitive receptors, such as hospitals or nursing homes are within the Project's immediate vicinity that would be affected by project activities.

3.10.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials? And;

b) Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment? And;

Less than Significant Impacts. The construction phase of the Project would potentially involve hazardous materials generally associated with construction activities, such as diesel fuel, gasoline, grease, solvents, adhesives, paints, hydraulic fluid, oil, lubricants, and other petroleum-based products. However, standard construction and operational BMPs, as described in **Table 2-3**, would be followed. Any potential hazardous materials spills during construction would be addressed immediately and in accordance with industry best management practices, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements, federal and state regulations, and County requirements. Furthermore, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) would be employed to prevent stormwater contamination, control sedimentation and erosion, and comply with the requirements of the Clean Water Act. Therefore, any impacts would be less than significant.

c) Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

Less than Significant Impact. Porterville High School is located 0.4 miles NE from the Project APE. In addition, the Project is adjacent to existing residential development. Construction of the Project would involve the use of hazardous materials associated with construction equipment, such as diesel fuel, lubricants, and solvents. However, the contractor would implement a SWPPP and would comply with all California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal/OSHA) regulations regarding regular maintenance and inspection of equipment, spill prevention, and spill remediation in order to reduce the potential for incidental release of pollutants or hazardous substances onsite. Furthermore, any potential accidental hazardous materials spills during construction are the responsibility of the contractor to immediately address in accordance with industry BMP and State and county regulations. The Project site is in a developed and established area in the City, adjacent to residential homes that are accustomed to emissions due to traffic in general.

Other than those typically associated with construction, such as diesel fuel, gasoline, hydraulic fluid, oil, and lubricants, the transport or use of hazardous materials is not anticipated as part of the Project. The impact would be less than significant.

d) Would the project be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

No Impact. The Project does not involve land that is listed as a hazardous materials site pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and is not included on a list compiled by the Department of Toxic Substances Control. Impacts would be less than significant.

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?

No Impact. The Project is more than one mile away from the nearest airport, it's not located within an airport land use plan and is not constructing habitable structures for any permanent residents as part of the design. The Project would not result in a safety hazard or excessive noise from an airport for people residing or working in the project area. There would be no impact.

f) Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Less than significant Impacts. There would be concrete improvements installed where necessary along Union Avenue. The Project would not involve altering the position or direction of Union Avenue, therefore, the Project would not interfere in any way to any adopted emergency plan. There may be detours during reconstruction and improvement activities. These detours would be only during these improvements and reconstruction activities and temporary in duration. The impacts would be considered less than significant.

g) Would the project expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

Less than Significant Impacts. The Project site is not located in an area associated or at risk from wildland fires. All project related activities and construction would follow best management practices and safety processes in order to help minimize and avoid and potential risks to fires, wildland or otherwise. The practices include but are not limited to the Project having an ample supply and access to water as needed, such as water trucks and water packs for workers. The Project risks associated with wildfire are very low. The Project or its activities would not interfere with emergency response or evacuation plans, require fire-related infrastructure, or expose people, directly or indirectly, to significant risks associated with wildfire. The impacts would be less than significant.

3.11 Hydrology and Water Quality

Table 3-18. Hydrology and Water Quality Impacts

Hydrology and Water Quality Impacts					
	Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b)	Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
	i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☒	☐
	ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☒	☐
	iii) 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; or	☐	☐	☒	☐
	iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d)	In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.11.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

The Project is located within the floor area of the San Joaquin Valley. The Valley is bordered by the Sierra Nevada Mountain Ranges to the east, the Coast Ranges to the west, the Klamath Mountains and Cascade Range to the north, and the Transverse Ranges and Mojave Desert to the south. Large groundwater basins underlay the Valley floor and are fed primarily from stormwater run-off from these mountain watersheds and other natural surface water recharge.

Like most of California, the San Joaquin Valley experiences a Mediterranean climate. Warm, dry summers are followed by cool, moist winters. Summer temperatures often reach above 90 degrees Fahrenheit, and the humidity is generally low. Winter temperatures are often below 60 degrees Fahrenheit during the day and rarely exceed 70 degrees. Precipitation falls in the form of rainfall yearly, most of which occurs between October and

March. Climactic and topographic features of the site are typical of those found in California's San Joaquin Valley. The Project site is located in an urbanized and developed area of the City of Porterville.

Clean Water Act: The Clean Water Act (CWA) is intended to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters (33 CFR 1251). The regulations implementing the CWA protect waters of the U.S. including streams and wetlands (33 CFR 328.3). The CWA requires states to set standards to protect, maintain, and restore water quality by regulating point source and some non-point source discharges. Under Section 402 of the CWA, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit process was established to regulate these discharges.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Zones: The National Flood Insurance Act (1968) makes available federally subsidized flood insurance to owners of flood-prone properties. To facilitate identifying areas with flood potential, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has developed Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) that can be used for planning purposes. Flood hazard areas identified on the Flood Insurance Rate Map are identified as a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). SFHA are defined as the area that will be inundated by the flood event having a 1-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. The 1-percent annual chance flood is also referred to as the base flood or 100-year flood. SFHAs are labeled as Zone A, Zone AO, Zone AH, Zones A1-A30, Zone AE, Zone A99, Zone AR, Zone AR/AE, Zone AR/AO, Zone AR/A1-A30, Zone AR/A, Zone V, Zone VE, and Zones V1-V30. Moderate flood hazard areas, labeled Zone B or Zone X (shaded) are also shown on the FIRM, and are the areas between the limits of the base flood and the 0.2-percent-annual-chance (or 500-year) flood. The areas of minimal flood hazard, which are the areas outside the SFHA and higher than the elevation of the 0.2-percent-annual-chance flood, are labeled Zone C or Zone X (unshaded).

State Water Resources Control Board: The SWRCB, headquartered in Sacramento, is the agency with jurisdiction over water quality issues in the State of California. The SWRCB is governed by the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act (Division 7 of the California Water Code), which establishes the legal framework for water quality control activities by the SWRCB. The intent of the Porter-Cologne Act is to regulate factors which may affect the quality of waters of the State to attain the highest quality which is reasonable, considering a full range of demands and values. Much of the implementation of the SWRCB's responsibilities is delegated to its nine Regional Boards. The Project site is located within the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB).

The CVRWQCB administers the NPDES storm water-permitting program in the Central Valley region. Construction activities on one acre or more are subject to the permitting requirements of the NPDES General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Runoff Associated with Construction Activity (General Construction Permit). Additionally, CVRWQCB is responsible for issuing Waste Discharge Requirements Orders under California Water Code Section 13260, Article 4, Waste Discharge Requirements.

3.11.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?

Less than Significant Impact. In compliance with State regulations, all development within the Project area would be required to comply with State regulations adopted to reduce groundwater degradation. The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) requires the preparation of a SWPPP for projects that exceed specified size limits. The Project may be required to obtain RWQCB approval of its SWPPP prior to construction. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact through implementation of planned Project design features, compliance with any permitting requirements, and through compliance with adopted SWPPP regulations.

b) Would the project substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

No Impact. The Project would not decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the Project would impede sustainable groundwater management of any basin.

c) Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:

c-i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;

c-ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;

c-iii) 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; or

c-iv) impede or redirect flood flows?

Less than Significant Impact. The Project would not substantially alter an existing drainage pattern of the site or area. In order to minimize runoff and erosion during construction activities a SWPPP may be implemented, and the contractor would be required to comply with all Cal/OSHA regulation regarding regular inspection of equipment, spill prevention, and spill remediation in order to reduce the potential for incidental release of pollutants or hazardous substances onsite. Dischargers whose projects disturb one (1) or more acres of soil or whose projects disturb less than one acre but are part of a larger common plan of development that in total disturbs one or more acres, are required to obtain coverage under the Statewide General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity (Construction General Permit Order 2009-0009-DWQ). The street reconstruction would be designed so as not to substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff. Stormwater flows would be directed into storm drains in the nearby roadways. The street reconstruction would not impede or redirect flood flows. Impacts resulting from alterations to drainage patters would be less than significant.

d) Would the project in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundations?

Less than Significant Impact. A breach or overflow event at Success Lake Dam could cause significant flooding in Porterville. This dam is overseen and maintained by the USACE and administered by the Sacramento District of the USACE's regional office located in Porterville. Through their work, Porterville is provided with flood safety, water resources, electricity, recreation, and camping. It includes a recreation area, located eight miles east of the City of Porterville in the western portion of the Sierra Nevada foothills.

The Project does not involve construction of any habitable structures or the storing of any pollutants on site. The Project would not have the potential to release pollutants due to inundations. Any impacts would be less than significant.

e) Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

No Impact. The reconstruction and widening of Union Avenue would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of any water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. There would be no impact.

Figure 3-2. FEMA Flood Map

3.12 Land Use and Planning

Table 3-19. Land Use and Planning Impacts

Land Use and Planning Impacts					
	Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.12.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

Much of the existing land use pattern found in the Planning Area can be traced back to Porterville's evolution as a valley agriculture center. Downtown Porterville is similar to many older Central Valley downtown districts, with a mixture of retail, public facilities, and older residential neighborhoods. Larger commercial, agriculture, and newer residential neighborhoods are located further out from the city center. Some industrial land is located adjacent to State Route 190 (SR 190) and Union Pacific Railroad. Parks and schools are distributed throughout residential neighborhoods within the city. [14]

The Project is in an area predominately designated and zoned as Low and Medium Density Residential. General Plan Land Use Designations and Zone Districts for the Project and surrounding areas are fully illustrated in, **Figure 3-3** and **Figure 3-4** respectively.

3.12.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project physically divide an established community?

No Impact. The Project would not physically divide an established community. The reconstruction of Union Avenue is to improve access to residents and improvement of travel conditions through the surrounding neighborhoods. The Project activities would not alter the direction or location of Union Avenue. There would be no impact.

b) Would the project cause a significant environmental conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

No Impact. The Project does not propose any land use or designation changes, it would not cause any conflicts, environmental or otherwise, with any land use plan, policy or regulation. There would be no impact.

[14] (City of Porterville, 2021) Chapter 2 Land Use. Accessed September 26, 2021.

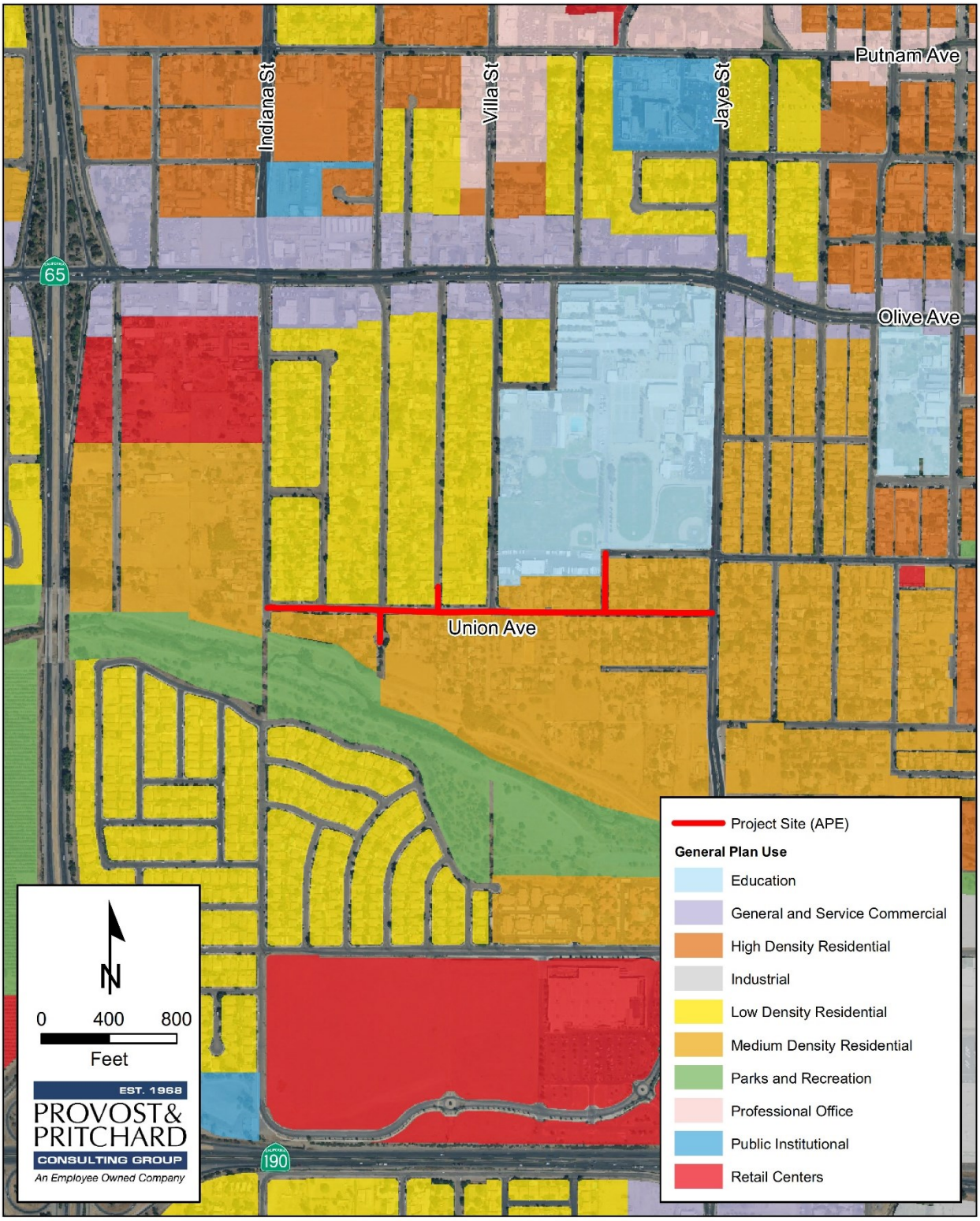

Figure 3-3. Tulare County General Plan Land Use Map

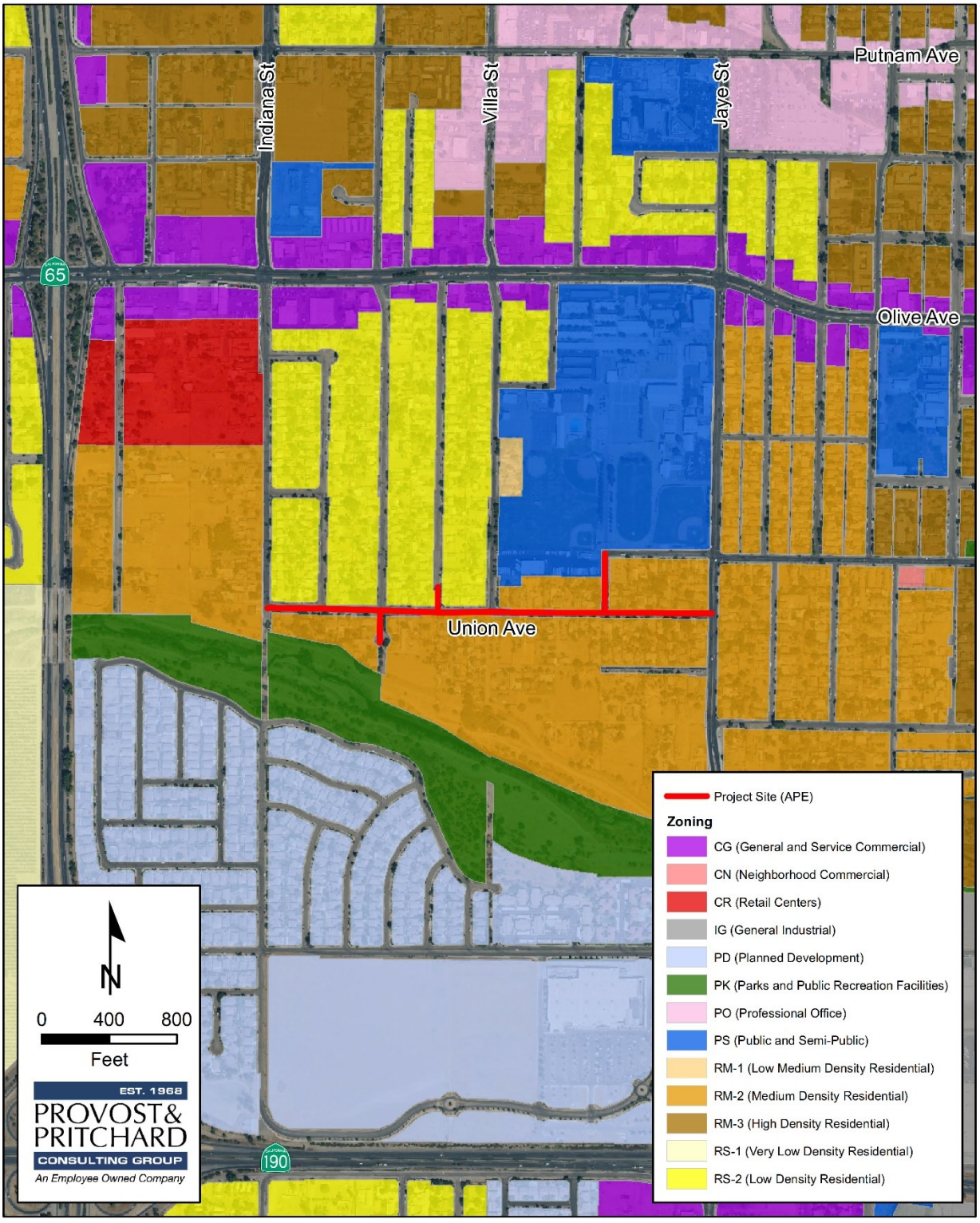

Figure 3-4. Tulare County Zoning Map

3.13 Mineral Resources

Table 3-20. Mineral Resources Impacts

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

3.13.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

The Porterville 2030 General Plan outlines current significant mineral sources in Tulare County and within the planning area. The most significant mineral resources in Tulare County are sand, gravel, and crushed stone, used as sources for aggregate. The two major sources of aggregate are alluvial deposits (riverbeds, and floodplains), and hard rock quarries. Consequently, most Tulare County mines are located along rivers at the base of the Sierra foothills[15]. According to the Tulare County General Plan Background Report, all of the known potential mineral resource locations are mapped within the foothills and/or along major watercourses (Tule River).

California Department of Conservation's Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) maintains a database of oil wells in the Project. According to the DOGGR Well Finder there is one plugged, and dry oil well approximately 0.1 miles N from the Project APE.

The Project site is not delineated on a local land use plan as a locally important mineral recovery site. The site is existing developed

3.13.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state? And

No Impact. Although there are currently 25 mines permitted to operate in Tulare County, none of them are in or adjacent to the City of Porterville[16] As shown in Figure 6-3 of the 2030 General Plan, the Project area is not included in a State classified mineral resource zones. The Project nor its construction activities would not result in the loss of an available known mineral resource. There would be no impact.

b) Would the project 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?

No Impact. The Project site is not delineated on a local land use plan as a locally important mineral resource recovery site; therefore, the existence of the Project would not result in the loss of availability of any mineral resources. There would be no impact.

[15] (City of Porterville, 2021), Chapter 6 Open Space and Conservation Element. Accessed September 23, 2021
[16] (State of California, 2021) California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM). Accessed September 23, 2021

3.14 Noise

Table 3-21. Noise Impacts

Noise Impacts					
	Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b)	Generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c)	For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.14.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

The applicable noise standards governing the Project site may be found within policies outlined in the City of Porterville 2030 General Plan Noise Element[17] and the City's Noise Ordinance.[18] The major noise sources in the City of Porterville are related to roadways and vehicle traffic, including automobiles, tractors and other automated agricultural equipment. Other noise sources include industrial operations and overhead aircraft traveling to and from the airport.

Certain land uses are considered more sensitive to noise than others. Examples of these include residential areas, educational facilities, hospitals, childcare facilities, and senior housing. Residential uses are located along the section of Project area of Union Avenue. Primary existing noise sources in the Project area are traffic noises from nearby and intersecting streets and other noise from motor vehicles generated by engine vibrations, the interaction between the tires and the road, and vehicle exhaust systems.

3.14.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

Less than Significant Impact. The Project is located in the City of Porterville in an established noise contour identified in Figure 9-2 of the City's General Plan Noise Element as having noise level greater than 55-60 dB. Noise generated from the Project would be during construction and would generally include noise from construction vehicles and equipment. During construction, noise from these activities would contribute to the noise environment in the immediate Project vicinity. Activities involved in construction would generate

[17] (City of Porterville, 2021) Chapter 9 Noise Element. Accessed September 25, 2021.
[18] (AmLegal, 2021) Porterville Code Noise Article IX, Accessed September 25, 2021

maximum noise levels, as indicated in **Table 3-22**, ranging from 79 to 91 dBA at a distance of 50 feet, without feasible noise control (e.g. mufflers) and ranging from 75 to 80 dBA at a distance of 50 feet, with feasible noise control. Short-term noise from construction is inevitable and cannot be mitigated beyond a certain level. Thus, local agencies and residents frequently tolerate short-term noise at levels that they would not accept for permanent noise sources. All construction related activities would comply with the standards set forth by the City of Porterville General plan. Construction activities would take place during daylight hours between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on weekdays and 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekends.

Table 3-22. Typical Construction Noise Levels[19]

Type of Equipment	dBA at 50 ft.	
	Without Feasible Noise Control	With Feasible Noise Control[1]
Dozer or Tractor	80	75
Excavator	88	80
Scraper	88	80
Front End Loader	79	75
Backhoe	85	75
Grader	85	75
Truck	91	75

[1] *Feasible noise control includes the use of intake mufflers, exhaust mufflers and engine shrouds operating in accordance with manufacturers specifications.*

Since the Project site is located within an area of other similar urbanized uses subject to construction and maintenance, and portions of it sit within an established noise contour, and is surrounded heavily traveled roadways, it would be expected that the Project would result in significant noise increase to surrounding land uses during normal business hours. The noise impacts would be temporary and would be considered less than significant.

b) Would the project result in generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?

Less than Significant Impact. Vibration is the periodic oscillation of a medium or object. Vibration sources may be continuous, such as factory machinery, or transient, such as explosions. As is the case with airborne sound, ground borne vibrations may be described by amplitude and frequency. Vibration amplitudes are usually expressed in peak particle velocity (PPV) or root mean squared (RMS), as in RMS vibration velocity. The PPV and RMS (VbA) vibration velocity are normally described in inches per second (in/sec). PPV is defined as the maximum instantaneous positive or negative peak of a vibration signal and is often used in monitoring of blasting vibration because it is related to the stresses that are experienced by buildings[20].

Although PPV is appropriate for evaluating the potential for building damage, it is not always suitable for evaluating human response. As it takes some time for the human body to respond to vibration signals, it is more prudent to use vibration velocity when measuring human response. The vibration velocity level is reported in decibels relative to a level of $1x10^{-6}$ inches per second and is denoted as VdB. The typical background vibration-velocity level in residential areas is approximately 50 VdB. Ground borne vibration is normally perceptible to humans at approximately 65 VdB. For most people, a vibration-velocity level of 75 VdB is the approximate dividing line between barely perceptible and distinctly perceptible levels[21].

Typical outdoor sources of perceptible ground borne vibration are construction equipment, steel-wheeled trains, and traffic on rough roads. Construction vibrations can be transient, random, or continuous. The approximate threshold of vibration perception is 65 VdB, while 85 VdB is the vibration acceptable only if there

[19] (United States Department of Transporation, 2006) FHWA Construction Noise Handbook PDF. Accessed September 23, 2021.
[20] (United States Department of Transportation, 2018). Accessed September 25, 2021
[21] (United States Department of Transportation, 2018). Accessed September 25, 2021.

are an infrequent number of events per day (FTA 2006). **Table 3-23** describes the typical construction equipment vibration levels.

Table 3-23. Typical Construction Vibration Levels[22]

Equipment	VdB at 25 ft[2]
Small Bulldozer	58
Jackhammer	79

Based on the typical vibration levels identified in the table above, any temporary vibration levels associated with construction activities are not expected to exceed the FTA threshold for the nearest residences which are located along the Project site on Union Avenue. All noise generated by the construction of the Project would be temporary in nature. The impact would be less than significant.

c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

No Impact. The Project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan. The Project is located approximately 2.5 miles away from Porterville Municipal Airport and would not involve any habitable structures, and would not expose people to excessive noise from nearby airports beyond baseline conditions in the area. Therefore, there would be no impact.

[22] (United States Department of Transportation, 2018). Accessed September 25, 2021.

3.15 Population and Housing

Table 3-24. Population and Housing Impacts

Population and Housing Impacts					
	Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Induce substantial unplanned 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 people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.15.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

According to the United States Census Bureau, Porterville is the third largest city in Tulare county, with an estimated population of 59,599 as of 2019. The City estimates a population growth rate of 37% by 2040, resulting in a population of 97,097 residents. Porterville's housing stock is currently made up of predominately single-family homes, with a homeownership rate of approximately 57%. The City of Porterville has an average household size of 3.39 which is slightly greater than the countywide average of 3.30. [23]

The land use designation and zoning for a majority of the Project area is Low Density Residential. Other land use and zoning include Medium/High Density Residential, Professional Office, General and Service Commercial.

3.15.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project induce substantial unplanned 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)? and

b) Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

No Impacts. The goal of the Project is not to induce population growth, but rather to provide street improvements, convenience and safe access to residents, and improve overall travel in the neighborhood. The Project would not encourage population growth directly or indirectly beyond that previously analyzed by the City of Porterville General Plan. No housing or habitable structures would be built, nor would any be removed. Implementation of the Project would not result in displacement of people or existing housing. There would be no impact.

[23] (United States Census Bureau, 2012) Tulare County, Porterville City. Accessed September 25, 2021.

3.16 Public Services

Table 3-25. Public Services Impacts

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

3.16.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

Fire Protection: The Porterville Fire Department Station 1, would service the APE, is located less than one mile east of the APE.

Police Protection: The closest law enforcement is the City of Porterville Police Department, located less than one mile from the APE, and would provide primary police services to any incidents that happen within the Project area and City limits.

Schools: The closest school is Porterville High School, located approximately 390 feet southeast of the Project APE.

Parks: The closest park is Zalud Park located less than one mile northwest of the Project APE.

Landfills: The closest landfill to the project site is the Teapot Dome Landfill, a Mid Valley Disposal site, located approximately 5.8 miles southeast of the Project APE.

3.16.2 Impact Assessment

a) **Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the**

construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

No Impacts:

Fire Protection – The City of Porterville would continue provide fire protection services to the Project APE. Station 1 is the closest City of Porterville Fire Station and is located 1.5 miles NE from the Project APE. The Project would be required to comply with requirements of the City Fire Department/California Fire Code regarding access, water mains, hydrants, and review of engineering plans. Standard fire suppression conditions for streets are incorporated as part of the Project. The Project site has adequate emergency access from the various roads that intersect Union Avenue. Implementation of the Project would not adversely impact existing fire protection or emergency services within the City and would not require the construction of any additional fire protection facilities in Porterville. There would be no impact to fire protection services.

Police Protection – The Project area would continue to be served by the City of Porterville Police Department. Implementation of the Project would not result in a substantial increase in demand for police services. Any increase would be minimal compared to the number of officers currently employed by the Police Department and would not result in significant demand for additional police services or additional staffing. Implementation of the Project would not require the construction of new police facilities to serve the Project, nor would it create a negative impact to existing emergency response times and existing police protection service levels. There would be no impacts to police protection services.

Schools – The Project area lies within the Porterville Unified School District. Porterville High School is located 0.4 miles NE from the Project APE and would continue to serve the Project area. The widening and improvements along Union Avenue would not create any housing or encourage any population growth. There would be no increase in the demand for school services in the Project area. Additionally, the road improvements would provide safe and improved access to residents and improve travel through the neighborhoods located in the area, including Porterville High School located 0.4 miles NE of the Project APE. There would be no impact to schools.

Parks – The Project would not create a need for more parks, nor would the Project have any impacts to existing parks in the APE. The closest park is Zalud Park, located 1.7 miles NE of the APE There would be no impact to parks.

Other public facilities – The Project is not growth inducing, and as such would not result in a significant increase in demand on other public facilities, such as library services, that have not already been planned for. There would be no impacts.

3.17 Recreation

Table 3-26. Recreation Impacts

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

3.17.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

The City of Porterville provides several types of parks and facilities, as defined in the Porterville 2030 General Plan. In general, parks are defined by the general plan as land owned or leased by the City and used for public recreational purposes. The Porterville 2030 General Plan outlines several types of park facilities ranging in size from 0.1-acre pocket parks up to a 95 acre Sports Complex. Each park will fall into one of five categories: Pocket Park, Neighborhood Park, Community Park, Specialized Recreation, or Trails/Parkways. In total, the City of Porterville provides 15 parks for the community.

The closest park to the Project site is Zalud Park, which is located 1.7 miles NE of the APE.

3.17.2 Impact Assessment

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

No Impact. The closest park is Zalud Park, which is located 1.7 miles NE of the APE. The Project would not directly or indirectly increase the use of any parks or recreational facilities and would not affect the use of such parks that would cause substantial deterioration of the facilities at such parks. There would be no impact.

b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

No Impact. The Project does not include or require the construction or expansion of parks or any recreational facilities and therefore, would not have an adverse physical effect on the environment. There would be no impact.

3.18 Transportation

Table 3-27. Transportation Impacts

Transportation Impacts					
	Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)??	☐	☐	☒	☐
c)	Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d)	Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☒	☐

3.18.1 Environmental Settings and Baseline Conditions

The primary function of local streets is to provide direct access to adjacent properties. Neighborhood streets should provide two travel lanes, landscaped park strips, and sidewalks. On-street parking may be regulated. Bike lanes are usually not needed because neighborhood streets carry low traffic volumes and all neighborhood streets are considered to be bicycle friendly. [24]

Currently, the street environment is mostly auto oriented with roadways and discontinuous sidewalks. The City's General Plan states that all streets should be designed to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists and new neighborhoods should be designed to be "pedestrian friendly", with wide sidewalks. The Project would improve Union Avenue for automobiles, bicyclists, and pedestrians alike. [25]

3.18.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project conflict with a plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?

No Impact. The Project would not conflict with the City of Porterville 2030 General Plan Update Circulation Element. The improvements and reconstruction along Union Avenue are intended to increase and improve circulation for the needs of future local and regional traffic. There would be no impact.

b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 subdivision (b)?

Less than Significant Impact. The purpose of the reconstruction and widening, is to provide improved and safer access to residents of Union Avenue and the surrounding neighborhoods. The Project and its activities would have a less than significant impact on vehicle miles travelled (VMT) as the Project does not propose on lengthening the street but widening to a standard 56 feet for improved travels and safety for autos, bicyclists and pedestrians in the area. The impacts would be considered less than significant.

[24] [24] (City of Porterville, 2021) Chapter 4 Circulation Element. Accessed September 26, 2021.
[25] (City of Porterville, 2021) Chapter 4 Circulation Element. Accessed September 26, 2021.

c) Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? And

No Impact. There are no geometric design features or incompatible uses as part of the design or implementation of this project. The purpose of the Project is to improve traffic operations and transportation capacity by reconstructing and widening Union Avenue between Indiana and Jaye Streets to a standard of 56 feet. It would also help provide a safer vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle crossing for residents and visitors. There would be no impact.

d) Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?

Less than Significant Impact. The Project would comply with the City Public Works Department development standards. This would ensure that the Project would not create inadequate emergency access, long term, for those living and working in the area. The construction would be temporary and no road closures are planned. The necessary precautions would be taken so there would minimum inconvenience to adjacent property owners, residents and to the travelling public, using approved traffic control signs prior to any construction activities. In addition, entering and exiting would be provided to property owners and residents throughout the duration of the construction period.

This is a road widening and improvement project and would not conflict with any adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities and there would be a less than significant impact to emergency vehicle access during construction.

3.19 Tribal Cultural Resources

Table 3-28. Tribal Cultural Resources Impacts

Tribal Cultural Resources Impacts				
Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:	☐	☒	☐	☐
i. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in the local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	☐	☒	☐	☐
ii. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☐	☒	☐	☐

3.19.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

According to the Southern San Joaquin Valley Archaeological Information Center at California State University, Bakersfield, 45 archaeological sites have been documented within the Porterville Planning Area. The main village of the Yokuts, Chokowisho, was located near Murry Hill, north of Porter Slough until the mid-1850s. The Rocky Hill area contains numerous rock art and bedrock mortar sites, not all of which have been officially recorded. Most are these sites are from the prehistoric era and contain bedrock mortars, rock art (i.e. petroglyphs, or pictographs), human burials, village complexes, midden, and artifacts (i.e. projectile points, pestles, pottery, etc.). There are no archaeological sites in the Project APE that are currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Yokuts village of Trawoiu contained human remains, bedrock mortars, pictographs, artifacts and extensive midden. Archaeologists considered this to be a very important site and recommended that it be protected. The site was compromised when the landowner constructed a dam which inundated the site. [26]

Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1, et seq. (codification of AB 52, 2013-14) requires that a lead agency, within 14 days of determining that it would undertake a project, must notify in writing any California Native

[26] (City of Porterville, 2021) Chapter 6 Open Space and Conservation Element. Accessed September 27, 2021.

American Tribe traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the project if that Tribe has previously requested notification about projects in that geographic area. The notice must briefly describe the project and inquire whether the Tribe wishes to initiate request formal consultation. Tribes have 30 days from receipt of notification to request formal consultation. The lead agency then has 30 days to initiate the consultation, which then continues until the parties come to an agreement regarding necessary mitigation or agree that no mitigation is needed, or one or both parties determine that negotiation occurred in good faith, but no agreement would be made. The Tule River Indian Reservation is located approximately 15 miles to the east.

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in Sacramento was contacted in May 2021 and they were provided with a brief description of the Project and a map showing its location and requested a search of the Sacred Lands File to determine if any Native American resources have been recorded in the immediate APE. The NAHC identifies, catalogs, and protects Native American cultural resources -- ancient places of special religious or social significance to Native Americans and known ancient graves and cemeteries of Native Americans on private and public lands in California. The NAHC is also charged with ensuring California Native American tribes' accessibility to ancient Native American cultural resources on public lands, overseeing the treatment and disposition of inadvertently discovered Native American human remains and burial items, and administering the California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (CalNAGPRA), among many other powers and duties. NAHC provide a current list of Native American Tribal contacts to notify of the project. A Sacred Lands File search was performed by the NAHC with negative results. The ten tribal representatives identified by NAHC were contacted in writing via United States Postal Service in a letter May 26, 2021, informing each Tribal contact of the Project. No responses were received. (See **Section 3.6**).

3.19.2 Impact Assessment

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

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

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

Less than Significant Impacts with Mitigation Incorporated. The City of Porterville received a letter from the Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe and the Tule River Indian Tribe pursuant to PRC § 21080.3.1 (AB 52) officially requesting notification of Projects within their geographic area of traditional and cultural affiliation. On January 13, 2022, the City sent the two Tribes a formal letter, that included a Project description and two maps. (See **Appendix C**). In accordance with the law, the letter provided 30 days from receipt of the letter to request consultation in writing. Neither tribe responded to the request for formal consultation with the City. Less than significant impacts, with mitigation incorporated, to tribal resources are expected. Mitigation Measures **CUL-1** and **CUL-2**, described above in **Section 3.6 Cultural Resources**, are recommended in the event cultural materials or human remains are unearthed during excavation or construction.

3.20 Utilities and Service Systems

Table 3-29. Utilities and Service Systems Impacts

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

3.20.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

Utilities that service the Project area include water, solid waste (trash) management, and storm drainage. Water service, and solid waste collection would be provided by the City of Porterville. Storm-water run-off would be accommodated by the reconstruction of Union Avenue and would be directed to existing city storm drain facilities.

3.20.1.1 Water Supply

The City has historically relied on groundwater to supply municipal water to its residents. Water usage for Project construction would be minimal and limited to an as needed basis.

3.20.1.2 Wastewater Collection and Treatment

The City of Porterville Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) is located at the southwest corner of West Grand Avenue and North Prospect Street. The sewer collection system consists of 150 miles of pipes, including 18 sewage lift stations and associated force mains.[27]

[27] (City of Porterville, 2021) Public Utilities Element, page 191. Accessed September 27, 2021.

3.20.1.3 Landfills

Solid waste disposal services in Porterville are provided by the Tulare County Consolidated Waste Management Authority. Porterville's solid waste is currently disposed at Teapot Dome Landfill, located four miles outside of the City limits. As of 2004, the landfill was at 84.7 percent capacity and had an anticipated closure date of 2012.[28]. Tulare County has indicated that they will not expand Teapot Dome Landfill. When it reaches capacity, the County anticipates setting up a transfer facility which would divert waste to either the Woodville or Visalia Landfills, both of which are below 50 percent capacity.

3.20.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects? And

Less than Significant Impact. The Project would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements nor would it require new facilities or alteration of existing facilities for wastewater treatment. There would be no population increase related to the Project or habitable structures constructed and therefore, no anticipated increase in wastewater production. Impacts would be less than significant.

b) Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?

Less than Significant Impact. The Project would have little to no effect on water supply due to the activities for the Project include reconstruction and widening of a one half mile long segment of Union Avenue between Indiana and Jaye Streets. The Project would not result in an increase of population density that would require an increase in water service utilizing ground water. Some water may be used for dust control during project activities. Impacts to water supplies would be less than significant.

c) Would the project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

No Impact. The Project would not result in population increase or involve habitable structures being built, and therefore, would not increase demands on the City's wastewater treatment system. The Project and all related construction activities would have no impact on any wastewater treatment providers in or around the Project area. There would be no impact

d) Would the project generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals? and

e) Would the project comply with federal, State, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

Less than Significant Impacts. Solid waste (trash) would be generated for a short-term period of construction. Construction contractors would be required to collect and carry out all solid waste and trash and dispose of at an approved landfill or recycling center. The City would be responsible to empty any trash receptacles on a regular basis based on scheduled pick-up days after the road reconstruction activities have been completed. The majority of the existing road materials will be taken to a nearby City facility so that they may be recycled and reused for future road repairs. In addition, any soils that cannot be redistributed will also be taken to a private landowner to be recycled and reused, avoiding any unnecessary use of the nearby landfill. The impacts would be less than significant.

[28] (City of Porterville, 2021) Public Utilities Element. Accessed September 27, 2021.

3.21 Wildfire

Table 3-30. Wildfire Impacts

Wildfire Impacts					
If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrollable spread of wildfire?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c)	Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d)	Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.21.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

The City of Porterville is located in the south eastern part of the San Joaquin Valley, in close proximity to the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. The fire season between the months of May and October typically has over 100 days of temperatures in excess of 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Figure 7-4 of the Porterville 2030 General Plan, identifies that approximately 43% of the City is considered to have a moderate fire hazard, as classified by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The General Plan also identifies areas with the highest levels of risk are located in northeast sections of the planning area, due to the presence of wooded foothills. More recent data is provided by Cal Fire who produces California Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps.

The City's Fire Department provides fire and life safety services for residents located within the city limits while the Tulare County Fire Department provides additional services for unincorporated areas. City fire dispatch is handled by the Police Department.[29]

Urban uses, which can be subject to structural fires, are considered a greater threat to life and property than wildland fires. As a result, the City of Porterville requires all new development to meet or exceed the Uniform Fire Code Provisions, as outlined in the Porterville City Code: Chapter 12. This code addresses topography, geology, climate, and development conditions. New development is reviewed by the Public Works Department and Fire Department for adherence to these regulations. Porterville Fire Department, Station 1, is located less than one mile from the road reconstruction Project area. The Project is not located in a State Responsibility Area or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones.

[29] (City of Porterville, 2021) Chapter 7 Public Health and Safety. Accessed September 27, 2021.

3.21.2 **Impact Assessment**

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

a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? and

b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire? and

c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment? and

d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

No Impacts. The Project is not located in or near a State Responsibility Area or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones. The nearest Very High classification of Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) is 1.9 miles east of the APE. Additionally, there are no structures being considered or built as part of this Project, and the population would not increase because of this Project. Therefore, further analysis of the Project's potential impacts to wildfire are not warranted. There would be no impact.

3.22 CEQA Mandatory Findings of Significance

Table 3-31. Mandatory Findings of Significance Impacts

Mandatory Findings of Significance Impacts					
	Does the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b)	Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c)	Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☒	☐

3.22.1 Impact Assessment

a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated. Based on the analysis conducted in this Initial Study, impacts to Aesthetics, Agriculture and Forestry Resources, Air Quality, Energy, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population/Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Utility/Services Systems, and Wildfire would be less than significant. Potential impacts to Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, and Tribal Cultural Resources would be less than significant with implementation of mitigation measures as identified in the respective Impact Analyses in **Chapter 3** and as outlined in **Table 4-1**. Additionally, with implementation of the Best Management Practices for construction activities and obtaining the applicable permits and approvals required by State law, the Project's potential to degrade the quality of the environment, 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 protected species or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory would be less than significant with implementation of mitigation measures

b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?

Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated. As discussed above, impacts associated with the Project are incremental, temporary, and minor in nature, and would result in less than significant impacts to the environment with incorporation of all the recommended mitigation measures **CUL-1**, and **CUL-2**. Operation impacts have been found to be less than significant. The impact of this Project on the environment is minimal and therefore even if combined with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects would not cause a significant cumulative impact. In addition, the mitigation measures determined would further reduce Project level impacts to less than significant, the Project would not have impacts that are cumulatively considerable.

c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

Less than Significant Impact. The Project would not result in substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. With implementation of Best Management Practices, requirements and regulations of federal and State laws and local regulations, and the adoption and implementation of recommended mitigation measures during construction and maintenance of the Project, all identified impacts would be less than significant.

3.23 Determination: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

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

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

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

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

Signature

3/23/2022
Date

Jason Ridenour/Community Development Director

Chapter 4 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

This Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) has been formulated based upon the findings of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Union Avenue Reconstruction Project in the City of Porterville. The MMRP lists mitigation measures recommended in the IS/MND for the Project and identifies monitoring and reporting requirements.

Table 4-1 presents the mitigation measures identified for the proposed Project. Each mitigation measure is numbered with a symbol indicating the topical section to which it pertains, a hyphen, and the impact number. For example, AIR-2 would be the second mitigation measure identified in the Air Quality analysis of the IS/MND.

The first column of **Table 4-1** identifies the mitigation measure. The second column, entitled "When Monitoring is to Occur," identifies the time the mitigation measure should be initiated. The third column, "Frequency of Monitoring," identifies the frequency of the monitoring of the mitigation measure. The fourth column, "Agency Responsible for Monitoring," names the party ultimately responsible for ensuring that the mitigation measure is implemented. The last columns will be used by the City to ensure that individual mitigation measures have been complied with and monitored.

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Table 4-1. Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program				
Mitigation Measure/Condition of Approval	**When Monitoring is to Occur**	**Agency Responsible for Implementing Mitigation**	**Agency Responsible for Monitoring**	**Verification of Compliance (name/date)**
Biological Resources				
BIO-1: Operational Hours				
Construction shall be conducted during daylight hours to reduce disturbance to wildlife that could be foraging nocturnally within work areas.	During Construction	City of Porterville	City of Porterville	
BIO-2: Avoidance				
The Project's construction activities shall occur, if feasible, between September 16 and January 31 (outside of nesting bird season) in an effort to avoid impacts to nesting birds.	September 16 and January 31	City of Porterville	City of Porterville	
Cultural Resources				
CUL-1: Archaeological Remains				
Should archaeological remains or artifacts be unearthed during any stage of Project activities, work in the area of discovery shall cease until the area is evaluated by a qualified archaeologist. If mitigation is warranted, the Project proponent shall abide by recommendations of the archaeologist.	During Construction	City of Porterville	City of Porterville	
CUL-2: Human Remains				
In the event that any human remains are discovered on the Project site, the Tulare County Coroner must be notified of the discovery (California Health and Safety Code, Section 7050.5) and all activities in the immediate area of the find or in any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains must cease until appropriate and lawful measures have been implemented. If the Coroner determines that the remains are not recent, but rather of Native American origin, the Coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in Sacramento within 24 hours to permit the NAHC to determine the Most Likely Descendent of the deceased Native American.	During Construction	City of Porterville	City of Porterville	
Tribal Cultural Resources				
TRC-1: See MM CUL-1 and CUL-2				
	During Construction	City of Porterville	City of Porterville	

Chapter 5 References

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Appendix A

Road Construction Emission Model

Road Construction Emissions Model, Version 9.0.0

Daily Emission Estimates for -> Porterville TO 19 Union Street

Project Phases (Pounds)	ROG (lbs/day)	CO (lbs/day)	NOx (lbs/day)	Total PM10 (lbs/day)	Exhaust PM10 (lbs/day)	Fugitive Dust PM10 (lbs/day)	Total PM2.5 (lbs/day)	Exhaust PM2.5 (lbs/day)	Fugitive Dust PM2.5 (lbs/day)	SOx (lbs/day)	CO2 (lbs/day)	CH4 (lbs/day)	N2O (lbs/day)	CO2e (lbs/day)
Grubbing/Land Clearing	1.25	11.38	11.76	0.82	0.52	0.30	0.52	0.46	0.06	0.03	2,452.82	0.60	0.05	2,482.77
Grading/Excavation	5.30	46.54	55.25	2.66	2.36	0.30	2.18	2.12	0.06	0.10	9,934.31	2.89	0.13	10,043.88
Drainage/Utilities/Sub-Grade	3.25	30.59	31.01	1.72	1.42	0.30	1.36	1.30	0.06	0.06	5,962.31	1.21	0.08	6,017.57
Paving	1.60	18.95	14.77	0.80	0.80	0.00	0.70	0.70	0.00	0.03	3,217.56	0.77	0.08	3,259.57
Maximum (pounds/day)	5.30	46.54	55.25	2.66	2.36	0.30	2.18	2.12	0.06	0.10	9,934.31	2.89	0.13	10,043.88
Total (tons/construction project)	0.25	2.25	2.48	0.13	0.11	0.02	0.10	0.10	0.00	0.00	461.15	0.12	0.01	466.11

Notes:

Project Start Year ->	2022
Project Length (months) ->	6
Total Project Area (acres) ->	5
Maximum Area Disturbed/Day (acres) ->	0
Water Truck Used? ->	Yes

	Total Material Imported/Exported Volume (yd^3/day)		Daily VMT (miles/day)			
Phase	Soil	Asphalt	Soil Hauling	Asphalt Hauling	Worker Commute	Water Truck
Grubbing/Land Clearing	0	0	0	0	400	40
Grading/Excavation	0	0	0	0	1,000	40
Drainage/Utilities/Sub-Grade	0	0	0	0	760	40
Paving	0	2	0	30	600	40

PM10 and PM2.5 estimates assume 50% control of fugitive dust from watering and associated dust control measures if a minimum number of water trucks are specified.

Total PM10 emissions shown in column F are the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns G and H. Total PM2.5 emissions shown in Column I are the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns J and K.

CO2e emissions are estimated by multiplying mass emissions for each GHG by its global warming potential (GWP), 1 , 25 and 298 for CO2, CH4 and N2O, respectively. Total CO2e is then estimated by summing CO2e estimates over all GHGs.

Total Emission Estimates by Phase for -> Porterville TO 19 Union Street

Project Phases (Tons for all except CO2e. Metric tonnes for CO2e)	ROG (tons/phase)	CO (tons/phase)	NOx (tons/phase)	Total PM10 (tons/phase)	Exhaust PM10 (tons/phase)	Fugitive Dust PM10 (tons/phase)	Total PM2.5 (tons/phase)	Exhaust PM2.5 (tons/phase)	Fugitive Dust PM2.5 (tons/phase)	SOx (tons/phase)	CO2 (tons/phase)	CH4 (tons/phase)	N2O (tons/phase)	CO2e (MT/phase)
Grubbing/Land Clearing	0.01	0.08	0.08	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.19	0.00	0.00	14.87
Grading/Excavation	0.16	1.38	1.64	0.08	0.07	0.01	0.06	0.06	0.00	0.00	295.05	0.09	0.00	270.62
Drainage/Utilities/Sub-Grade	0.06	0.61	0.61	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.00	118.05	0.02	0.00	108.09
Paving	0.02	0.19	0.15	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	31.85	0.01	0.00	29.27
Maximum (tons/phase)	0.16	1.38	1.64	0.08	0.07	0.01	0.06	0.06	0.00	0.00	295.05	0.09	0.00	270.62
Total (tons/construction project)	0.25	2.25	2.48	0.13	0.11	0.02	0.10	0.10	0.00	0.00	461.15	0.12	0.01	422.85

PM10 and PM2.5 estimates assume 50% control of fugitive dust from watering and associated dust control measures if a minimum number of water trucks are specified.

Total PM10 emissions shown in column F are the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns G and H. Total PM2.5 emissions shown in Column I are the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns J and K.

CO2e emissions are estimated by multiplying mass emissions for each GHG by its global warming potential (GWP), 1 , 25 and 298 for CO2, CH4 and N2O, respectively. Total CO2e is then estimated by summing CO2e estimates over all GHGs.

The CO2e emissions are reported as metric tons per phase.

Appendix B

Biological Resources Information

City of Porterville

Task Order No. 19
Union Avenue Reconstruction Project

Biological Resources Information

California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) Report – Nine Quad Element Search

- A thorough search of the CNDDB for published accounts of special status plant and animal species was conducted for the Porterville 7.5-minute quadrangles that contains the Project site in its entirety, and for the eight surrounding quadrangles: Frazier Valley, Lindsay, Cairns Corner, Success Dam, Sausalito School, Ducor, Woodville, and Fountain Springs.
- Report ran on May 30, 2021.
    - 15 special status animal species have been documented in the Area of Potential Effect (APE). The following mitigation measures will be implemented during all Project activities:
        - BIO-1 (Operational Hours): Construction shall be conducted during daylight hours to reduce disturbance to wildlife that could be foraging nocturnally within work areas.
        - BIO-2 (Avoidance): Construction activities will occur, if feasible, between September 16 and January 31 (outside of nesting bird season) in an effort to avoid impacts to nesting birds..
    - 19 special status plant species have been documented in the Project.
        - Mitigation is not warranted for special status plants due to ongoing disturbance and/or absence of suitable habitat in the Project APE.

IPaC System - Explore Locations Resources

- Report ran on June 22, 2021.
- There are no critical habitats in the Project APE.

Natural Resource Conservation Services - Custom Soil Resource Report

- Report ran May 4, 2021.
    - Soils in the Project APE include San Emigdio loam and Tujunga sand.

California Natural Diversity Database Report – 9 Quad Element Search

Selected Elements by Common Name

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California Natural Diversity Database

Query Criteria: Quad IS (Porterville (3611911) OR Success Dam (3611818) OR Fountain Springs (3511888) OR Ducor (3511981) OR Sausalito School (3511982) OR Woodville (3611912) OR Cairns Corner (3611922) OR Lindsay (3611921) OR Frazier Valley (3611828))

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
alkali-sink goldfields *Lasthenia chrysantha*	PDAST5L030	None	None	G2	S2	1B.1
American badger *Taxidea taxus*	AMAJF04010	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
blunt-nosed leopard lizard *Gambelia sila*	ARACF07010	Endangered	Endangered	G1	S1	FP
brittlescale *Atriplex depressa*	PDCHE042L0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
calico monkeyflower *Diplacus pictus*	PDSCR1B240	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
California alkali grass *Puccinellia simplex*	PMPOA53110	None	None	G3	S2	1B.2
California condor *Gymnogyps californianus*	ABNKA03010	Endangered	Endangered	G1	S1	FP
California jewelflower *Caulanthus californicus*	PDBRA31010	Endangered	Endangered	G1	S1	1B.1
chaparral ragwort *Senecio aphanactis*	PDAST8H060	None	None	G3	S2	2B.2
Crotch bumble bee *Bombus crotchii*	IIHYM24480	None	Candidate Endangered	G3G4	S1S2	
Earlimart orache *Atriplex cordulata var. erecticaulis*	PDCHE042V0	None	None	G3T1	S1	1B.2
hoary bat *Lasiurus cinereus*	AMACC05030	None	None	G3G4	S4	
Hopping's blister beetle *Lytta hoppingi*	IICOL4C010	None	None	G1G2	S1S2	
Keck's checkerbloom *Sidalcea keckii*	PDMAL110D0	Endangered	None	G2	S2	1B.1
lesser saltscale *Atriplex minuscula*	PDCHE042M0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.1
Lost Hills crownscale *Atriplex coronata var. vallicola*	PDCHE04371	None	None	G4T3	S3	1B.2
Madera leptosiphon *Leptosiphon serrulatus*	PDPLM09130	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2
molestan blister beetle *Lytta molesta*	IICOL4C030	None	None	G2	S2	

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Morrison's blister beetle *Lytta morrisoni*	IICOL4C040	None	None	G1G2	S1S2	
Northern California legless lizard *Anniella pulchra*	ARACC01020	None	None	G3	S3	SSC
Northern Claypan Vernal Pool *Northern Claypan Vernal Pool*	CTT44120CA	None	None	G1	S1.1	
pallid bat *Antrozous pallidus*	AMACC10010	None	None	G4	S3	SSC
recurved larkspur *Delphinium recurvatum*	PDRAN0B1J0	None	None	G2?	S2?	1B.2
San Joaquin adobe sunburst *Pseudobahia peirsonii*	PDAST7P030	Threatened	Endangered	G1	S1	1B.1
San Joaquin kit fox *Vulpes macrotis mutica*	AMAJA03041	Endangered	Threatened	G4T2	S2	
San Joaquin pocket mouse *Perognathus inornatus*	AMAFD01060	None	None	G2G3	S2S3	
San Joaquin woollythreads *Monolopia congdonii*	PDASTA8010	Endangered	None	G2	S2	1B.2
shining navarretia *Navarretia nigelliformis ssp. radians*	PDPLM0C0J2	None	None	G4T2	S2	1B.2
spiny-sepaled button-celery *Eryngium spinosepalum*	PDAPI0Z0Y0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
Springville clarkia *Clarkia springvillensis*	PDONA05120	Threatened	Endangered	G2	S2	1B.2
striped adobe-lily *Fritillaria striata*	PMLIL0V0K0	None	Threatened	G1	S1	1B.1
subtle orache *Atriplex subtilis*	PDCHE042T0	None	None	G1	S1	1B.2
Swainson's hawk *Buteo swainsoni*	ABNKC19070	None	Threatened	G5	S3	
Sycamore Alluvial Woodland *Sycamore Alluvial Woodland*	CTT62100CA	None	None	G1	S1.1	
Tipton kangaroo rat *Dipodomys nitratoides nitratoides*	AMAFD03152	Endangered	Endangered	G3T1T2	S1S2	
Townsend's big-eared bat *Corynorhinus townsendii*	AMACC08010	None	None	G4	S2	SSC
tricolored blackbird *Agelaius tricolor*	ABPBXB0020	None	Threatened	G1G2	S1S2	SSC
valley elderberry longhorn beetle *Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*	IICOL48011	Threatened	None	G3T2	S3	
vernal pool fairy shrimp *Branchinecta lynchi*	ICBRA03030	Threatened	None	G3	S3	

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
vernal pool smallscale	PDCHE042P0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
Atriplex persistens						
western mastiff bat	AMACD02011	None	None	G4G5T4	S3S4	SSC
Eumops perotis californicus						
western spadefoot	AAABF02020	None	None	G2G3	S3	SSC
Spea hammondii						

Record Count: 42

IPaC System - Explore Locations Resources

IPaC **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

IPaC resource list

This report is an automatically generated list of species and other resources such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as *trust resources*) under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the project area referenced below. The list may also include trust resources that occur outside of the project area, but that could potentially be directly or indirectly affected by activities in the project area. However, determining the likelihood and extent of effects a project may have on trust resources typically requires gathering additional site-specific (e.g., vegetation/species surveys) and project-specific (e.g., magnitude and timing of proposed activities) information.

Below is a summary of the project information you provided and contact information for the USFWS office(s) with jurisdiction in the defined project area. Please read the introduction to each section that follows (Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, USFWS Facilities, and NWI Wetlands) for additional information applicable to the trust resources addressed in that section.

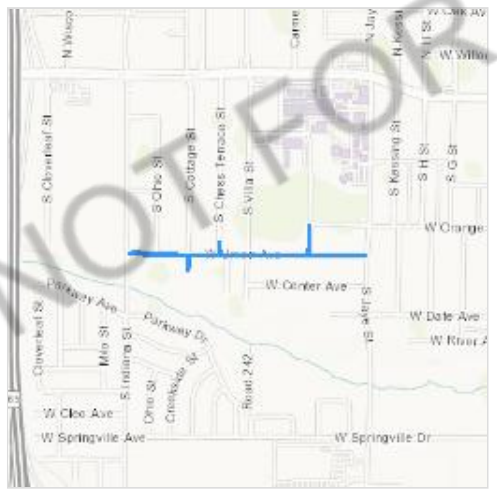
Project information

NAME

City of Porterville TO19 Union Avenue Reconstruction

LOCATION

Tulare County, California



DESCRIPTION

None

Local office

Sacramento Fish And Wildlife Office

(916) 414-6600
(916) 414-6713

Federal Building
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605
Sacramento, CA 95825-1846

Endangered species

This resource list is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an analysis of project level impacts.

The primary information used to generate this list is the known or expected range of each species. Additional areas of influence (AOI) for species are also considered. An AOI includes areas outside of the species range if the species could be indirectly affected by activities in that area (e.g., placing a dam upstream of a fish population even if that fish does not occur at the dam site, may indirectly impact the species by reducing or eliminating water flow downstream). Because species can move, and site conditions can change, the species on this list are not guaranteed to be found on or near the project area. To fully determine any potential effects to species, additional site-specific and project-specific information is often required.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act **requires** Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency. A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can **only** be obtained by requesting an official species list from either the Regulatory Review section in IPaC (see directions below) or from the local field office directly.

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list by doing the following:

1. Log in to IPaC.
2. Go to your My Projects list.
3. Click PROJECT HOME for this project.
4. Click REQUEST SPECIES LIST.

Listed species[1] and their critical habitats are managed by the Ecological Services Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries[2]).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact NOAA Fisheries for species under their jurisdiction.

1. Species listed under the Endangered Species Act are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the listing status page for more information. IPaC only shows species that are regulated by USFWS (see FAQ).
2. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

Mammals

NAME	STATUS

San Joaquin Kit Fox Vulpes macrotis mutica — Endangered
Wherever found
No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2873

Tipton Kangaroo Rat Dipodomys nitratoides nitratoides — Endangered
Wherever found
No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7247

Reptiles

NAME	STATUS
Blunt-nosed Leopard Lizard Gambelia silus	Endangered
Giant Garter Snake Thamnophis gigas	Threatened

Blunt-nosed Leopard Lizard
Wherever found
No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/625

Giant Garter Snake
Wherever found
No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4482

Amphibians

NAME	STATUS
California Red-legged Frog Rana draytonii	Threatened

California Red-legged Frog
Wherever found
There is **final** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2891

Fishes

NAME	STATUS
Delta Smelt Hypomesus transpacificus	Threatened

Delta Smelt
Wherever found
There is **final** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/321

Crustaceans

NAME	STATUS

NAME	STATUS
Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp Branchinecta lynchi Wherever found There is **final** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/498	Threatened

Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
San Joaquin Adobe Sunburst Pseudobahia peirsonii Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2931	Threatened
Springville Clarkia Clarkia springvillensis Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8309	Threatened

Critical habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS AT THIS LOCATION.

Migratory birds

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act[1] and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act[2].

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described below.

1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Birds of Conservation Concern http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/birds-of-conservation-concern.php
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/project-assessment-tools-and-guidance/conservation-measures.php

- Nationwide conservation measures for birds
  http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/management/nationwidestandardconservationmeasures.pdf

The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) list or warrant special attention in your project location. To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this list is generated, see the FAQ below. This is not a list of every bird you may find in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have sighted birds in and around your project area, visit the E-bird data mapping tool (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur off the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found below.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON (IF A BREEDING SEASON IS INDICATED FOR A BIRD ON YOUR LIST, THE BIRD MAY BREED IN YOUR PROJECT AREA SOMETIME WITHIN THE TIMEFRAME SPECIFIED, WHICH IS A VERY LIBERAL ESTIMATE OF THE DATES INSIDE WHICH THE BIRD BREEDS ACROSS ITS ENTIRE RANGE. "BREEDS ELSEWHERE" INDICATES THAT THE BIRD DOES NOT LIKELY BREED IN YOUR PROJECT AREA.)
California Thrasher Toxostoma redivivum This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Jan 1 to Jul 31
Clark's Grebe Aechmophorus clarkii This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Jan 1 to Dec 31
Costa's Hummingbird Calypte costae This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9470	Breeds Jan 15 to Jun 10

Golden Eagle Aquila chrysaetos — Breeds Jan 1 to Aug 31
This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680

Lawrence's Goldfinch Carduelis lawrencei — Breeds Mar 20 to Sep 20
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9464

Nuttall's Woodpecker Picoides nuttallii — Breeds Apr 1 to Jul 20
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9410

Rufous Hummingbird selasphorus rufus — Breeds elsewhere
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8002

Song Sparrow Melospiza melodia — Breeds Feb 20 to Sep 5
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA

Spotted Towhee Pipilo maculatus clementae — Breeds Apr 15 to Jul 20
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4243

Tricolored Blackbird Agelaius tricolor — Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 10
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3910

Probability of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read and understand the FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

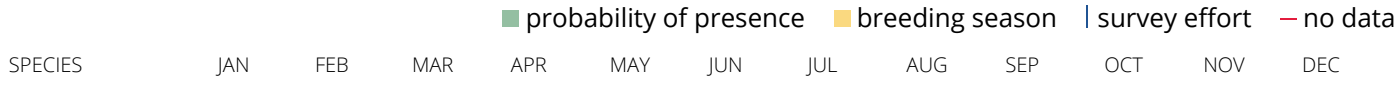
Breeding Season (▪)
Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort (|)
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

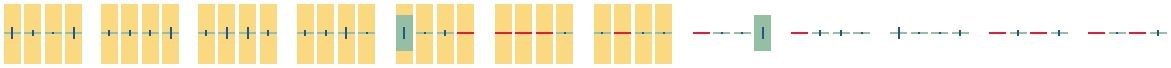
To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

No Data (–)
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

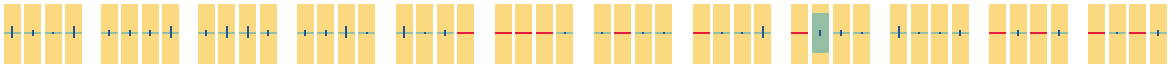
Survey Timeframe
Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.



California Thrasher BCC Rangewide (CON) (This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.)

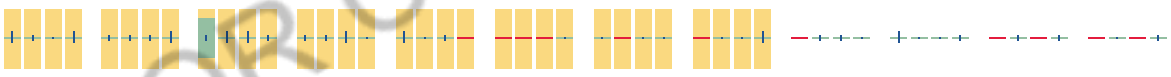


Clark's Grebe BCC Rangewide (CON) (This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.)



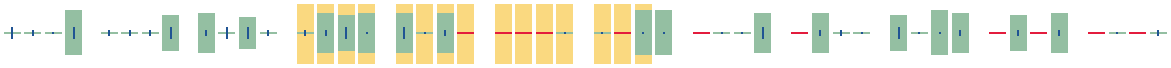
Costa's Hummingbird BCC - BCR (This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA)

Golden Eagle Non-BCC Vulnerable (This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.)



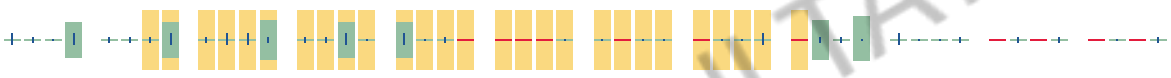
Lawrence's Goldfinch BCC Rangewide (CON) (This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.)

Nuttall's Woodpecker BCC - BCR (This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA)



Rufous Hummingbird BCC Rangewide (CON) (This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.)

Song Sparrow BCC - BCR (This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA)



Spotted Towhee BCC - BCR (This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA)

Tricolored Blackbird BCC Rangewide (CON) (This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.)

Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

Nationwide Conservation Measures describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. Additional measures or permits may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (Eagle Act requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the AKN Phenology Tool.

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). This data is derived from a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets .

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering, migrating or present year-round in my project area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may refer to the following resources: The Cornell Lab of Ornithology All About Birds Bird Guide, or (if you are unsuccessful in locating the bird of interest there), the Cornell Lab of Ornithology Neotropical Birds guide. If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the Eagle Act requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the Northeast Ocean Data Portal. The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf project webpage.

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the Diving Bird Study and the nanotag studies or contact Caleb Spiegel or Pam Loring.

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to obtain a permit to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated, and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please also look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal bar). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds" at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.

Facilities

National Wildlife Refuge lands

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the National Wildlife Refuge system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS AT THIS LOCATION.

Fish hatcheries

THERE ARE NO FISH HATCHERIES AT THIS LOCATION.

Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory

Impacts to NWI wetlands and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District.

THERE ARE NO KNOWN WETLANDS AT THIS LOCATION.

Data limitations

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

Data exclusions

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tuberficid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

Data precautions

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

Natural Resource Conservation Services - Custom Soil Resource Report

United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS

Natural Resources Conservation Service

A product of the National Cooperative Soil Survey, a joint effort of the United States Department of Agriculture and other Federal agencies, State agencies including the Agricultural Experiment Stations, and local participants

Custom Soil Resource Report for Tulare County, California, Central Part

City of Porterville TO19 Union Ave Alignment

May 17, 2021

Preface

Soil surveys contain information that affects land use planning in survey areas. They highlight soil limitations that affect various land uses and provide information about the properties of the soils in the survey areas. Soil surveys are designed for many different users, including farmers, ranchers, foresters, agronomists, urban planners, community officials, engineers, developers, builders, and home buyers. Also, conservationists, teachers, students, and specialists in recreation, waste disposal, and pollution control can use the surveys to help them understand, protect, or enhance the environment.

Various land use regulations of Federal, State, and local governments may impose special restrictions on land use or land treatment. Soil surveys identify soil properties that are used in making various land use or land treatment decisions. The information is intended to help the land users identify and reduce the effects of soil limitations on various land uses. The landowner or user is responsible for identifying and complying with existing laws and regulations.

Although soil survey information can be used for general farm, local, and wider area planning, onsite investigation is needed to supplement this information in some cases. Examples include soil quality assessments (http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/soils/health/) and certain conservation and engineering applications. For more detailed information, contact your local USDA Service Center (https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?agency=nrcs) or your NRCS State Soil Scientist (http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/contactus/?cid=nrcs142p2_053951).

Great differences in soil properties can occur within short distances. Some soils are seasonally wet or subject to flooding. Some are too unstable to be used as a foundation for buildings or roads. Clayey or wet soils are poorly suited to use as septic tank absorption fields. A high water table makes a soil poorly suited to basements or underground installations.

The National Cooperative Soil Survey is a joint effort of the United States Department of Agriculture and other Federal agencies, State agencies including the Agricultural Experiment Stations, and local agencies. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has leadership for the Federal part of the National Cooperative Soil Survey.

Information about soils is updated periodically. Updated information is available through the NRCS Web Soil Survey, the site for official soil survey information.

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Contents

How Soil Surveys Are Made

Soil surveys are made to provide information about the soils and miscellaneous areas in a specific area. They include a description of the soils and miscellaneous areas and their location on the landscape and tables that show soil properties and limitations affecting various uses. Soil scientists observed the steepness, length, and shape of the slopes; the general pattern of drainage; the kinds of crops and native plants; and the kinds of bedrock. They observed and described many soil profiles. A soil profile is the sequence of natural layers, or horizons, in a soil. The profile extends from the surface down into the unconsolidated material in which the soil formed or from the surface down to bedrock. The unconsolidated material is devoid of roots and other living organisms and has not been changed by other biological activity.

Currently, soils are mapped according to the boundaries of major land resource areas (MLRAs). MLRAs are geographically associated land resource units that share common characteristics related to physiography, geology, climate, water resources, soils, biological resources, and land uses (USDA, 2006). Soil survey areas typically consist of parts of one or more MLRA.

The soils and miscellaneous areas in a survey area occur in an orderly pattern that is related to the geology, landforms, relief, climate, and natural vegetation of the area. Each kind of soil and miscellaneous area is associated with a particular kind of landform or with a segment of the landform. By observing the soils and miscellaneous areas in the survey area and relating their position to specific segments of the landform, a soil scientist develops a concept, or model, of how they were formed. Thus, during mapping, this model enables the soil scientist to predict with a considerable degree of accuracy the kind of soil or miscellaneous area at a specific location on the landscape.

Commonly, individual soils on the landscape merge into one another as their characteristics gradually change. To construct an accurate soil map, however, soil scientists must determine the boundaries between the soils. They can observe only a limited number of soil profiles. Nevertheless, these observations, supplemented by an understanding of the soil-vegetation-landscape relationship, are sufficient to verify predictions of the kinds of soil in an area and to determine the boundaries.

Soil scientists recorded the characteristics of the soil profiles that they studied. They noted soil color, texture, size and shape of soil aggregates, kind and amount of rock fragments, distribution of plant roots, reaction, and other features that enable them to identify soils. After describing the soils in the survey area and determining their properties, the soil scientists assigned the soils to taxonomic classes (units). Taxonomic classes are concepts. Each taxonomic class has a set of soil characteristics with precisely defined limits. The classes are used as a basis for comparison to classify soils systematically. Soil taxonomy, the system of taxonomic classification used in the United States, is based mainly on the kind and character of soil properties and the arrangement of horizons within the profile. After the soil

scientists classified and named the soils in the survey area, they compared the individual soils with similar soils in the same taxonomic class in other areas so that they could confirm data and assemble additional data based on experience and research.

The objective of soil mapping is not to delineate pure map unit components; the objective is to separate the landscape into landforms or landform segments that have similar use and management requirements. Each map unit is defined by a unique combination of soil components and/or miscellaneous areas in predictable proportions. Some components may be highly contrasting to the other components of the map unit. The presence of minor components in a map unit in no way diminishes the usefulness or accuracy of the data. The delineation of such landforms and landform segments on the map provides sufficient information for the development of resource plans. If intensive use of small areas is planned, onsite investigation is needed to define and locate the soils and miscellaneous areas.

Soil scientists make many field observations in the process of producing a soil map. The frequency of observation is dependent upon several factors, including scale of mapping, intensity of mapping, design of map units, complexity of the landscape, and experience of the soil scientist. Observations are made to test and refine the soil-landscape model and predictions and to verify the classification of the soils at specific locations. Once the soil-landscape model is refined, a significantly smaller number of measurements of individual soil properties are made and recorded. These measurements may include field measurements, such as those for color, depth to bedrock, and texture, and laboratory measurements, such as those for content of sand, silt, clay, salt, and other components. Properties of each soil typically vary from one point to another across the landscape.

Observations for map unit components are aggregated to develop ranges of characteristics for the components. The aggregated values are presented. Direct measurements do not exist for every property presented for every map unit component. Values for some properties are estimated from combinations of other properties.

While a soil survey is in progress, samples of some of the soils in the area generally are collected for laboratory analyses and for engineering tests. Soil scientists interpret the data from these analyses and tests as well as the field-observed characteristics and the soil properties to determine the expected behavior of the soils under different uses. Interpretations for all of the soils are field tested through observation of the soils in different uses and under different levels of management. Some interpretations are modified to fit local conditions, and some new interpretations are developed to meet local needs. Data are assembled from other sources, such as research information, production records, and field experience of specialists. For example, data on crop yields under defined levels of management are assembled from farm records and from field or plot experiments on the same kinds of soil.

Predictions about soil behavior are based not only on soil properties but also on such variables as climate and biological activity. Soil conditions are predictable over long periods of time, but they are not predictable from year to year. For example, soil scientists can predict with a fairly high degree of accuracy that a given soil will have a high water table within certain depths in most years, but they cannot predict that a high water table will always be at a specific level in the soil on a specific date.

After soil scientists located and identified the significant natural bodies of soil in the survey area, they drew the boundaries of these bodies on aerial photographs and

identified each as a specific map unit. Aerial photographs show trees, buildings, fields, roads, and rivers, all of which help in locating boundaries accurately.

Soil Map

The soil map section includes the soil map for the defined area of interest, a list of soil map units on the map and extent of each map unit, and cartographic symbols displayed on the map. Also presented are various metadata about data used to produce the map, and a description of each soil map unit.

Custom Soil Resource Report
Soil Map

Map Scale: 1:4,420 if printed on A landscape (11" x 8.5") sheet.

N

Meters: 0 50 100 200 300

Feet: 0 200 400 800 1200

Map projection: Web Mercator Corner coordinates: WGS84 Edge tics: UTM Zone 11N WGS84

MAP LEGEND

Area of Interest (AOI)
- Area of Interest (AOI)

Soils
- Soil Map Unit Polygons
- Soil Map Unit Lines
- Soil Map Unit Points

Special Point Features
- Blowout
- Borrow Pit
- Clay Spot
- Closed Depression
- Gravel Pit
- Gravelly Spot
- Landfill
- Lava Flow
- Marsh or swamp
- Mine or Quarry
- Miscellaneous Water
- Perennial Water
- Rock Outcrop
- Saline Spot
- Sandy Spot
- Severely Eroded Spot
- Sinkhole
- Slide or Slip
- Sodic Spot
- Spoil Area
- Stony Spot
- Very Stony Spot
- Wet Spot
- Other
- Special Line Features

Water Features
- Streams and Canals

Transportation
- Rails
- Interstate Highways
- US Routes
- Major Roads
- Local Roads

Background
- Aerial Photography

MAP INFORMATION

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:24,000.

Warning: Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.

Enlargement of maps beyond the scale of mapping can cause misunderstanding of the detail of mapping and accuracy of soil line placement. The maps do not show the small areas of contrasting soils that could have been shown at a more detailed scale.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service
Web Soil Survey URL:
Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)

Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: Tulare County, California, Central Part
Survey Area Data: Version 14, May 29, 2020

Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Mar 17, 2019—Mar 24, 2019

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

Map Unit Legend

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
153	San Emigdio loam	0.7	91.1%
164	Tujunga sand	0.1	8.6%
Totals for Area of Interest		**0.8**	**100.0%**

Map Unit Descriptions

The map units delineated on the detailed soil maps in a soil survey represent the soils or miscellaneous areas in the survey area. The map unit descriptions, along with the maps, can be used to determine the composition and properties of a unit.

A map unit delineation on a soil map represents an area dominated by one or more major kinds of soil or miscellaneous areas. A map unit is identified and named according to the taxonomic classification of the dominant soils. Within a taxonomic class there are precisely defined limits for the properties of the soils. On the landscape, however, the soils are natural phenomena, and they have the characteristic variability of all natural phenomena. Thus, the range of some observed properties may extend beyond the limits defined for a taxonomic class. Areas of soils of a single taxonomic class rarely, if ever, can be mapped without including areas of other taxonomic classes. Consequently, every map unit is made up of the soils or miscellaneous areas for which it is named and some minor components that belong to taxonomic classes other than those of the major soils.

Most minor soils have properties similar to those of the dominant soil or soils in the map unit, and thus they do not affect use and management. These are called noncontrasting, or similar, components. They may or may not be mentioned in a particular map unit description. Other minor components, however, have properties and behavioral characteristics divergent enough to affect use or to require different management. These are called contrasting, or dissimilar, components. They generally are in small areas and could not be mapped separately because of the scale used. Some small areas of strongly contrasting soils or miscellaneous areas are identified by a special symbol on the maps. If included in the database for a given area, the contrasting minor components are identified in the map unit descriptions along with some characteristics of each. A few areas of minor components may not have been observed, and consequently they are not mentioned in the descriptions, especially where the pattern was so complex that it was impractical to make enough observations to identify all the soils and miscellaneous areas on the landscape.

The presence of minor components in a map unit in no way diminishes the usefulness or accuracy of the data. The objective of mapping is not to delineate pure taxonomic classes but rather to separate the landscape into landforms or landform segments that have similar use and management requirements. The delineation of such segments on the map provides sufficient information for the development of resource plans. If intensive use of small areas is planned, however,

onsite investigation is needed to define and locate the soils and miscellaneous areas.

An identifying symbol precedes the map unit name in the map unit descriptions. Each description includes general facts about the unit and gives important soil properties and qualities.

Soils that have profiles that are almost alike make up a *soil series*. Except for differences in texture of the surface layer, all the soils of a series have major horizons that are similar in composition, thickness, and arrangement.

Soils of one series can differ in texture of the surface layer, slope, stoniness, salinity, degree of erosion, and other characteristics that affect their use. On the basis of such differences, a soil series is divided into *soil phases*. Most of the areas shown on the detailed soil maps are phases of soil series. The name of a soil phase commonly indicates a feature that affects use or management. For example, Alpha silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is a phase of the Alpha series.

Some map units are made up of two or more major soils or miscellaneous areas. These map units are complexes, associations, or undifferentiated groups.

A *complex* consists of two or more soils or miscellaneous areas in such an intricate pattern or in such small areas that they cannot be shown separately on the maps. The pattern and proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas are somewhat similar in all areas. Alpha-Beta complex, 0 to 6 percent slopes, is an example.

An *association* is made up of two or more geographically associated soils or miscellaneous areas that are shown as one unit on the maps. Because of present or anticipated uses of the map units in the survey area, it was not considered practical or necessary to map the soils or miscellaneous areas separately. The pattern and relative proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas are somewhat similar. Alpha-Beta association, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is an example.

An *undifferentiated group* is made up of two or more soils or miscellaneous areas that could be mapped individually but are mapped as one unit because similar interpretations can be made for use and management. The pattern and proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas in a mapped area are not uniform. An area can be made up of only one of the major soils or miscellaneous areas, or it can be made up of all of them. Alpha and Beta soils, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is an example.

Some surveys include *miscellaneous areas*. Such areas have little or no soil material and support little or no vegetation. Rock outcrop is an example.

Tulare County, California, Central Part

153—San Emigdio loam

Map Unit Setting

National map unit symbol: hkff
Elevation: 430 to 690 feet
Mean annual precipitation: 11 to 16 inches
Mean annual air temperature: 61 to 64 degrees F
Frost-free period: 320 to 325 days
Farmland classification: Prime farmland if irrigated

Map Unit Composition

San emigdio and similar soils: 90 percent
Minor components: 10 percent
Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

Description of San Emigdio

Setting

Landform: Alluvial fans
Landform position (two-dimensional): Footslope
Landform position (three-dimensional): Base slope
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Linear
Parent material: Alluvium derived from granitoid and/or alluvium derived from sedimentary rock

Typical profile

Ap - 0 to 29 inches: loam
C - 29 to 66 inches: fine sandy loam, sandy loam, loam
C - 29 to 66 inches:
C - 29 to 66 inches:

Properties and qualities

Slope: 0 to 2 percent
Depth to restrictive feature: More than 80 inches
Drainage class: Well drained
Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): High (1.98 to 5.95 in/hr)
Depth to water table: More than 80 inches
Frequency of flooding: None
Frequency of ponding: None
Calcium carbonate, maximum content: 5 percent
Maximum salinity: Nonsaline to very slightly saline (0.0 to 2.0 mmhos/cm)
Available water capacity: Very high (about 15.8 inches)

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): 1
Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 4c
Hydrologic Soil Group: A
Ecological site: R017XE118CA - CALCAREOUS LOAMY
Hydric soil rating: No

Minor Components

Honcut
Percent of map unit: 2 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Tujunga
Percent of map unit: 2 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Wyman
Percent of map unit: 2 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Unnamed, salty
Percent of map unit: 2 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Unnamed, finer subsoil
Percent of map unit: 2 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

164—Tujunga sand

Map Unit Setting
National map unit symbol: hkfs
Elevation: 10 to 2,500 feet
Mean annual precipitation: 10 to 25 inches
Mean annual air temperature: 59 to 64 degrees F
Frost-free period: 280 to 350 days
Farmland classification: Not prime farmland

Map Unit Composition
Tujunga and similar soils: 90 percent
Minor components: 10 percent
Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

Description of Tujunga

Setting
Landform: Alluvial fans
Landform position (two-dimensional): Footslope
Landform position (three-dimensional): Base slope
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Linear
Parent material: Alluvium derived from granitoid

Typical profile
A - 0 to 16 inches: sand
C - 16 to 60 inches: loamy sand, fine sand, sand
C - 16 to 60 inches:

C - 16 to 60 inches:

Properties and qualities

Slope: 0 to 5 percent
Depth to restrictive feature: More than 80 inches
Drainage class: Somewhat excessively drained
Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): High to very high (5.95 to 19.98 in/hr)
Depth to water table: More than 80 inches
Frequency of flooding: None
Frequency of ponding: None
Available water capacity: High (about 10.3 inches)

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): 3s
Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 6s
Hydrologic Soil Group: A
Ecological site: R017XE080CA - SANDY
Hydric soil rating: No

Minor Components

Honcut

Percent of map unit: 4 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Unnamed, calcareous

Percent of map unit: 3 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

San emigdio

Percent of map unit: 3 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

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Appendix C

Cultural Resources Information

City of Porterville

Task Order 19 Union Avenue Reconstruction Project

Cultural Resources Information

Southern San Joaquin Valley California Information Center, CSU Bakersfield, California Historical Resources Information System: Record Search 21-162, dated May 24, 2021.

- There have been no previous cultural resource studies conducted within the project area.
- There have been nine cultural resource studies conducted within a one-half mile radius, TU-00419, 00446, 01061, 01131, 01140, 01201, 01213, 01252, and 01704.
- There are no recorded resources within the project area, and it is not known if any exist.
- There are 14 recorded cultural resources within the one-half mile radius, P-54-003108, 003109, 003110, 003111, 003112, 003113, 003114, 003115, 003116, 003161, 003166, 003210, 004626, and 004700. These resources all consist of historic era buildings in Porterville Historic District 2 and an historic era railroad.
- There are no recorded cultural resources within the project area or radius that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, the California Points of Historical Interest, California Inventory of Historic Resources, or the California State Historic Landmarks.

Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC): Sacred Lands File & Native American Contacts List Request, dated May 26, 2021.

- A Record Search of the NAHC Sacred Lands File was completed for the Area of Potential Effect (APE) with negative results.
- A list of ten tribal contacts was provided, and letters to the ten tribal contacts were then mailed out May 26, 2021.
- No additional responses or additional cultural information were received by the City of Porterville.

AB 52 Consultation pursuant to Public Resource Code Section 21080.3.1

- The City of Porterville has received a letter from the Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe and the Tule River Indian Tribe.
- The City of Porterville sent out a Tribal Consultation Notification Request Letter Pursuant to AB 52 to both Tribes via certified mail dated January 13, 2022, which included a Project Description, map of the APE and a Topo map.
- No correspondence has been received by the City of Porterville pursuant to the Tribal Consultation Notification Request Letter.

CHRIS – Record Search Results

California Historical Resources Information System

Fresno
Kern
Kings
Madera
Tulare

Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center
California State University, Bakersfield
Mail Stop: 72 DOB
9001 Stockdale Highway
Bakersfield, California 93311-1022
(661) 654-2289
E-mail: ssjvic@csub.edu
Website: www.csub.edu/ssjvic

To: Jacqueline Lancaster
Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group
130 N. Garden Street
Visalia, CA 93291

Record Search 21-181

Date: May 24, 2021

Re: City of Porterville, Union Avenue Reconstruction Project, between Indiana to Jaye Street

County: Tulare

Map(s): Porterville 7.5'

CULTURAL RESOURCES RECORDS SEARCH

The California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) contracts with the California Historical Resources Information System's (CHRIS) regional Information Centers (ICs) to maintain information in the CHRIS inventory and make it available to local, state, and federal agencies, cultural resource professionals, Native American tribes, researchers, and the public. Recommendations made by IC coordinators or their staff regarding the interpretation and application of this information are advisory only. Such recommendations do not necessarily represent the evaluation or opinion of the State Historic Preservation Officer in carrying out the OHP's regulatory authority under federal and state law.

The following are the results of a search of the cultural resource files at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center. These files include known and recorded cultural resources sites, inventory and excavation reports filed with this office, and resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the OHP Built Environment Resources Directory, California State Historical Landmarks, California Register of Historical Resources, California Inventory of Historic Resources, and California Points of Historical Interest. Due to processing delays and other factors, not all of the historical resource reports and resource records that have been submitted to the OHP are available via this records search. Additional information may be available through the federal, state, and local agencies that produced or paid for historical resource management work in the search area.

PRIOR CULTURAL RESOURCE STUDIES CONDUCTED WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA AND THE ONE-HALF MILE RADIUS

According to the information in our files, there have been no previous cultural resource studies conducted within the project area. There have been nine cultural resource studies conducted within a one-half mile radius, TU-00419, 00446, 01061, 01131, 01140, 01201, 01213, 01252, and 01704.

KNOWN/RECORDED CULTURAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA AND THE ONE-HALF MILE RADIUS

There are no recorded resources within the project area, and it is not known if any exist there. There are 14 recorded cultural resources within the one-half mile radius, P-54-003108, 003109, 003110, 003111, 003112, 003113, 003114, 003115, 003116, 003161, 003166, 003210, 004626, and 004700. These resources all consist of historic era buildings in Porterville Historic District 2 and an historic era railroad.

There are no recorded cultural resources within the project area or radius that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, the California Points of Historical Interest, California Inventory of Historic Resources, or the California State Historic Landmarks.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

We understand this project consists of the reconstruction of Union Avenue between Indian and Jaye Streets in the City of Porterville. Because the project area has already been developed with the existing road, no new cultural resources survey is recommended at this time. However, cultural resources may exist under the road asphalt. Therefore, we recommend an archaeological monitor be present during ground disturbance activities to identify any unearthed cultural resources and make the appropriate mitigation recommendations. A list of qualified consultants can be found at www.chrisinfo.org.

We also recommend that you contact the Native American Heritage Commission in Sacramento. They will provide you with a current list of Native American individuals/organizations that can assist you with information regarding cultural resources that may not be included in the CHRIS Inventory and that may be of concern to the Native groups in the area. The Commission can consult their "Sacred Lands Inventory" file to determine what sacred resources, if any, exist within this project area and the way in which these resources might be managed. Finally, please consult with the lead agency on this project to determine if any other cultural resource investigation is required. If you need any additional information or have any questions or concerns, please contact our office at (661) 654-2289.

By:

Celeste M. Thomson, Coordinator **Date**: May 17, 2021

Please note that invoices for Information Center services will be sent under separate cover from the California State University, Bakersfield Accounting Office.

NAHC – Sacred Lands File Search Results

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

NAHC HEADQUARTERS
1550 Harbor Boulevard
Suite 100
West Sacramento,
California 95691
(916) 373-3710
nahc@nahc.ca.gov
NAHC.ca.gov

May 26, 2021

Jackie Lancaster

Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group

Via Email to: JLancaster@ppeng.com

Re: City of Porterville TO19 Union Avenue Reconstruction Project, Tulare County

Dear Ms. Lancaster:

A record search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) was completed for the information you have submitted for the above referenced project. The results were negative. However, the absence of specific site information in the SLF does not indicate the absence of cultural resources in any project area. Other sources of cultural resources should also be contacted for information regarding known and recorded sites.

Attached is a list of Native American tribes who may also have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. This list should provide a starting place in locating areas of potential adverse impact within the proposed project area. I suggest you contact all of those indicated; if they cannot supply information, they might recommend others with specific knowledge. By contacting all those listed, your organization will be better able to respond to claims of failure to consult with the appropriate tribe. If a response has not been received within two weeks of notification, the Commission requests that you follow-up with a telephone call or email to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify me. With your assistance, we can assure that our lists contain current information.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at my email address: Nancy.Gonzalez-Lopez@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Nancy Gonzalez-Lopez
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contacts List
May 26, 2021

Big Sandy Rancheria of Western Mono Indians
Elizabeth D. Kipp, Chairperson
PO. Box 337
Auberry ,CA 93602
lkipp@bsrnation.com
(559) 374-0066
(559) 374-0055
Western Mono

Dunlap Band of Mono Indians
Benjamin Charley Jr., Tribal Chair
P.O. Box 14
Dunlap ,CA 93621
ben.charley@yahoo.com
(760) 258-5244
Mono

Dunlap Band of Mono Indians
Dirk Charley, Tribal Secretary
5509 E. McKenzie Avenue
Fresno ,CA 93727
dcharley2016@gmail.com
(559) 554-5433
Mono

Kern Valley Indian Community
Julie Turner, Secretary
P.O. Box 1010
Lake Isabella ,CA 93240
(661) 340-0032 Cell
Kawaiisu
Tubatulabal

Kern Valley Indian Community
Robert Robinson, Chairperson
P.O. Box 1010
Lake Isabella ,CA 93240
bbutterbredt@gmail.com
(760) 378-2915 Cell
Tubatulabal
Kawaiisu

Kern Valley Indian Community
Brandy Kendricks
30741 Foxridge Court
Tehachapi ,CA 93561
krazykendricks@hotmail.com
(661) 821-1733
(661) 972-0445
Kawaiisu
Tubatulabal

Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe
Leo Sisco, Chairperson
P.O. Box 8
Lemoore ,CA 93245
(559) 924-1278
(559) 924-3583 Fax
Tache
Tachi
Yokut

Tubatulabals of Kern Valley
Robert L. Gomez, Jr., Tribal Chairperson
P.O. Box 226
Lake Isabella ,CA 93240
(760) 379-4590
(760) 379-4592 Fax
Tubatulabal

Tule River Indian Tribe
Neil Peyron, Chairperson
P.O. Box 589
Porterville ,CA 93258
neil.peyron@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov
(559) 781-4271
(559) 781-4610 Fax
Yokuts

Wuksache Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band
Kenneth Woodrow, Chairperson
1179 Rock Haven Ct.
Salinas ,CA 93906
kwood8934@aol.com
(831) 443-9702
Foothill Yokuts
Mono
Wuksache

This list is current as of the date of this document and is based on the information available to the Commission on the date it was produced.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code,Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code, or Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans Tribes for the proposed:
City of Porterville TO19 Union Avenue Reconstruction Project, Tulare County.

EST. 1968
PROVOST& PRITCHARD
CONSULTING GROUP
An Employee Owned Company

286 W. Cromwell Avenue
Fresno, CA 93711-6162
Tel: (559) 449-2700
Fax: (559) 449-2715
www.ppeng.com

May 26, 2021

Big Sandy Rancheria of Western Mono Indians
Elizabeth D. Kipp, Chairperson
PO. Box 337
Auberry, CA 93602

Subject: Notification for the Union Avenue Reconstruction Project in the City of Porterville, Tulare County, CA.

Dear Ms. Kipp:

Provost and Pritchard Consulting Group, is providing cultural resources services in support of the City of Porterville Union Avenue Reconstruction Project.

The City of Porterville is processing an application for the above-referenced project. The project consists of the reconstruction of Union Avenue between Indiana and Jaye Streets, a length of 0.5 miles in the City of Porterville. The proposed project would include the widening of Union Avenue to the standard width of 56 ft right of way, improving Western Street to Orange Avenue to correct drainage issues, completing the connection of Chess Terrace to Union Avenue, and improving Cottage Street south of Union Avenue. Activities include pavement; water, sewer, and storm drain installation; curb, gutters, sidewalks and landscaped parkways; streetlights, and possible utility relocation. Some of these activities will involve property acquisition.

Provost and Pritchard Consulting Group has requested a records search of the California Historic Resources Information System from the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center to identify any cultural resources within or adjacent to the Project Area. A search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File was completed with negative results. The NAHC provided your name and address as a tribal contact that is culturally affiliated to the project area. If you have any information that you wish to share, or have questions or would like more information about the project, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone (559) 636-1166, email (jlancaster@ppeng.com), or send a letter to my attention. I would appreciate any information you might provide to assist us with our inventory efforts.

Be assured that any locations of archaeological sites, cemeteries, or sacred places will be treated confidentially, as required by law, and not disclosed in any document available to the general public.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Lancaster, Project Administrator

encl.: APE Map

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Fresno, CA 93711-6162
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Fax: (559) 449-2715
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May 26, 2021

Kern Valley Indian Community
Julie Turner, Secretary
P.O. Box 1010
Lake Isabella, CA 93240

Subject: Notification for the Union Avenue Reconstruction Project in the City of Porterville, Tulare County, CA.

Dear Ms. Turner:

Provost and Pritchard Consulting Group, is providing cultural resources services in support of the City of Porterville Union Avenue Reconstruction Project.

The City of Porterville is processing an application for the above-referenced project. The project consists of the reconstruction of Union Avenue between Indiana and Jaye Streets, a length of 0.5 miles in the City of Porterville. The proposed project would include the widening of Union Avenue to the standard width of 56 ft right of way, improving Western Street to Orange Avenue to correct drainage issues, completing the connection of Chess Terrace to Union Avenue, and improving Cottage Street south of Union Avenue. Activities include pavement; water, sewer, and storm drain installation; curb, gutters, sidewalks and landscaped parkways; streetlights, and possible utility relocation. Some of these activities will involve property acquisition.

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May 26, 2021

Dunlap Band of Mono Indians
Dick Charley, Tribal Secretary
5509 E. McKenzie Avenue
Fresno, CA 93727

Subject: Notification for the Union Avenue Reconstruction Project in the City of Porterville, Tulare County, CA.

Dear Mr. Charley:

Provost and Pritchard Consulting Group, is providing cultural resources services in support of the City of Porterville Union Avenue Reconstruction Project.

The City of Porterville is processing an application for the above-referenced project. The project consists of the reconstruction of Union Avenue between Indiana and Jaye Streets, a length of 0.5 miles in the City of Porterville. The proposed project would include the widening of Union Avenue to the standard width of 56 ft right of way, improving Western Street to Orange Avenue to correct drainage issues, completing the connection of Chess Terrace to Union Avenue, and improving Cottage Street south of Union Avenue. Activities include pavement; water, sewer, and storm drain installation; curb, gutters, sidewalks and landscaped parkways; streetlights, and possible utility relocation. Some of these activities will involve property acquisition.

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Sincerely,

Jacqueline Lancaster, Project Administrator

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May 26, 2021

Dunlap Band of Mono Indians
Benjamin Charley, Jr., Chair
PO. Box 14
Dunlap, CA 93621

Subject: Notification for the Union Avenue Reconstruction Project in the City of Porterville, Tulare County, CA.

Dear Mr. Charley:

Provost and Pritchard Consulting Group, is providing cultural resources services in support of the City of Porterville Union Avenue Reconstruction Project.

The City of Porterville is processing an application for the above-referenced project. The project consists of the reconstruction of Union Avenue between Indiana and Jaye Streets, a length of 0.5 miles in the City of Porterville. The proposed project would include the widening of Union Avenue to the standard width of 56 ft right of way, improving Western Street to Orange Avenue to correct drainage issues, completing the connection of Chess Terrace to Union Avenue, and improving Cottage Street south of Union Avenue. Activities include pavement; water, sewer, and storm drain installation; curb, gutters, sidewalks and landscaped parkways; streetlights, and possible utility relocation. Some of these activities will involve property acquisition.

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May 26, 2021

Kern Valley Indian Community
Brandy Kendricks
30741 Foxridge Court
Tehachapi, CA 93561

Subject: Notification for the Union Avenue Reconstruction Project in the City of Porterville, Tulare County, CA.

Dear Ms. Kendricks:

Provost and Pritchard Consulting Group, is providing cultural resources services in support of the City of Porterville Union Avenue Reconstruction Project.

The City of Porterville is processing an application for the above-referenced project. The project consists of the reconstruction of Union Avenue between Indiana and Jaye Streets, a length of 0.5 miles in the City of Porterville. The proposed project would include the widening of Union Avenue to the standard width of 56 ft right of way, improving Western Street to Orange Avenue to correct drainage issues, completing the connection of Chess Terrace to Union Avenue, and improving Cottage Street south of Union Avenue. Activities include pavement; water, sewer, and storm drain installation; curb, gutters, sidewalks and landscaped parkways; streetlights, and possible utility relocation. Some of these activities will involve property acquisition.

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May 26, 2021

Kern Valley Indian Community
Robert Robinson, Chairperson
P.O. Box 1010
Lake Isabella, CA 93240

Subject: Notification for the Union Avenue Reconstruction Project in the City of Porterville, Tulare County, CA.

Dear Mr. Robinson:

Provost and Pritchard Consulting Group, is providing cultural resources services in support of the City of Porterville Union Avenue Reconstruction Project.

The City of Porterville is processing an application for the above-referenced project. The project consists of the reconstruction of Union Avenue between Indiana and Jaye Streets, a length of 0.5 miles in the City of Porterville. The proposed project would include the widening of Union Avenue to the standard width of 56 ft right of way, improving Western Street to Orange Avenue to correct drainage issues, completing the connection of Chess Terrace to Union Avenue, and improving Cottage Street south of Union Avenue. Activities include pavement; water, sewer, and storm drain installation; curb, gutters, sidewalks and landscaped parkways; streetlights, and possible utility relocation. Some of these activities will involve property acquisition.

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May 26, 2021

Tule River Indian Tribe
Neil Peyron, Chairperson
P.O. Box 589
Porterville, CA 93258

Subject: Notification for the Union Avenue Reconstruction Project in the City of Porterville, Tulare County, CA.

Dear Mr. Peyron:

Provost and Pritchard Consulting Group, is providing cultural resources services in support of the City of Porterville Union Avenue Reconstruction Project.

The City of Porterville is processing an application for the above-referenced project. The project consists of the reconstruction of Union Avenue between Indiana and Jaye Streets, a length of 0.5 miles in the City of Porterville. The proposed project would include the widening of Union Avenue to the standard width of 56 ft right of way, improving Western Street to Orange Avenue to correct drainage issues, completing the connection of Chess Terrace to Union Avenue, and improving Cottage Street south of Union Avenue. Activities include pavement; water, sewer, and storm drain installation; curb, gutters, sidewalks and landscaped parkways; streetlights, and possible utility relocation. Some of these activities will involve property acquisition.

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May 26, 2021

Tubatulabals of Kern Valley
Robert L. Gomez, Jr., Tribal Chairperson
P.O. Box 226
Lake Isabella, CA 93240

Subject: Notification for the Union Avenue Reconstruction Project in the City of Porterville, Tulare County, CA.

Dear Mr. Gomez:

Provost and Pritchard Consulting Group, is providing cultural resources services in support of the City of Porterville Union Avenue Reconstruction Project.

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Jacqueline Lancaster, Project Administrator

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May 26, 2021

Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe
Leo Sisco, Chairperson
P.O. Box 8
Lemoore, CA 93245

Subject: Notification for the Union Avenue Reconstruction Project in the City of Porterville, Tulare County, CA.

Dear Mr. Sisco:

Provost and Pritchard Consulting Group, is providing cultural resources services in support of the City of Porterville Union Avenue Reconstruction Project.

The City of Porterville is processing an application for the above-referenced project. The project consists of the reconstruction of Union Avenue between Indiana and Jaye Streets, a length of 0.5 miles in the City of Porterville. The proposed project would include the widening of Union Avenue to the standard width of 56 ft right of way, improving Western Street to Orange Avenue to correct drainage issues, completing the connection of Chess Terrace to Union Avenue, and improving Cottage Street south of Union Avenue. Activities include pavement; water, sewer, and storm drain installation; curb, gutters, sidewalks and landscaped parkways; streetlights, and possible utility relocation. Some of these activities will involve property acquisition.

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Jacqueline Lancaster, Project Administrator

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May 26, 2021

Wuksache Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band
Kenneth Woodrow, Chairperson
1179 Rock Haven Ct.
Salinas, CA 93906

Subject: Notification for the Union Avenue Reconstruction Project in the City of Porterville, Tulare County, CA.

Dear Mr. Woodrow:

Provost and Pritchard Consulting Group, is providing cultural resources services in support of the City of Porterville Union Avenue Reconstruction Project.

The City of Porterville is processing an application for the above-referenced project. The project consists of the reconstruction of Union Avenue between Indiana and Jaye Streets, a length of 0.5 miles in the City of Porterville. The proposed project would include the widening of Union Avenue to the standard width of 56 ft right of way, improving Western Street to Orange Avenue to correct drainage issues, completing the connection of Chess Terrace to Union Avenue, and improving Cottage Street south of Union Avenue. Activities include pavement; water, sewer, and storm drain installation; curb, gutters, sidewalks and landscaped parkways; streetlights, and possible utility relocation. Some of these activities will involve property acquisition.

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Sincerely,

Jacqueline Lancaster, Project Administrator

encl.: APE Map

AB 52 Tribal Consultation

Community Development Department

January 13, 2022

Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe
Rueben Barrios Sr., Chairperson
P.O. Box 8
Lemoore, CA 93245

Subject: Notification pursuant to Assembly Bill 52 for Task Order No. 19 - Union Avenue Reconstruction, Indiana to Jaye St Park Project in the City of Porterville, Tulare County, CA.

Dear Chairperson Barrios:

The City of Porterville is processing an application for the above-referenced project. The City is requesting your review to determine if formal consultation is appropriate pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1 (Assembly Bill 52). The project consists of the reconstruction of Union Avenue between Indiana and Jaye Streets in the City of Porterville. The proposed project would include the widening of Union Avenue to the standard width of 56 ft right of way, improving Western Street to Orange Avenue to correct drainage issues, completing the connection of Chess Terrace to Union Avenue, and improving Cottage Street south of Union Avenue. Activities include pavement; water, sewer, and storm drain installation; curb, gutters, sidewalks and landscaped parkways; streetlights, and possible utility relocation. Some of these activities will involve property acquisition.

A copy of the Aerial/Area of Potential Effect map and Topographical map is attached for your reference. Pursuant to AB 52 the Tribe has 30 days to request formal consultation. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at (559) 782-7460 or jridenour@ci.porterville.ca.us.

Respectfully,

Jason Ridenour
Community Development Director
City of Porterville
Enclosures: Aerial/Area of Potential Effect map
Topographic Map

Community Development Department

January 13, 2022

Tule River Indian Tribe
Neil Peyron, Chairperson
P.O. Box 589
Porterville, CA 93258

Subject: Notification pursuant to Assembly Bill 52 for Task Order No. 19 - Union Avenue Reconstruction, Indiana to Jaye St Park Project in the City of Porterville, Tulare County, CA.

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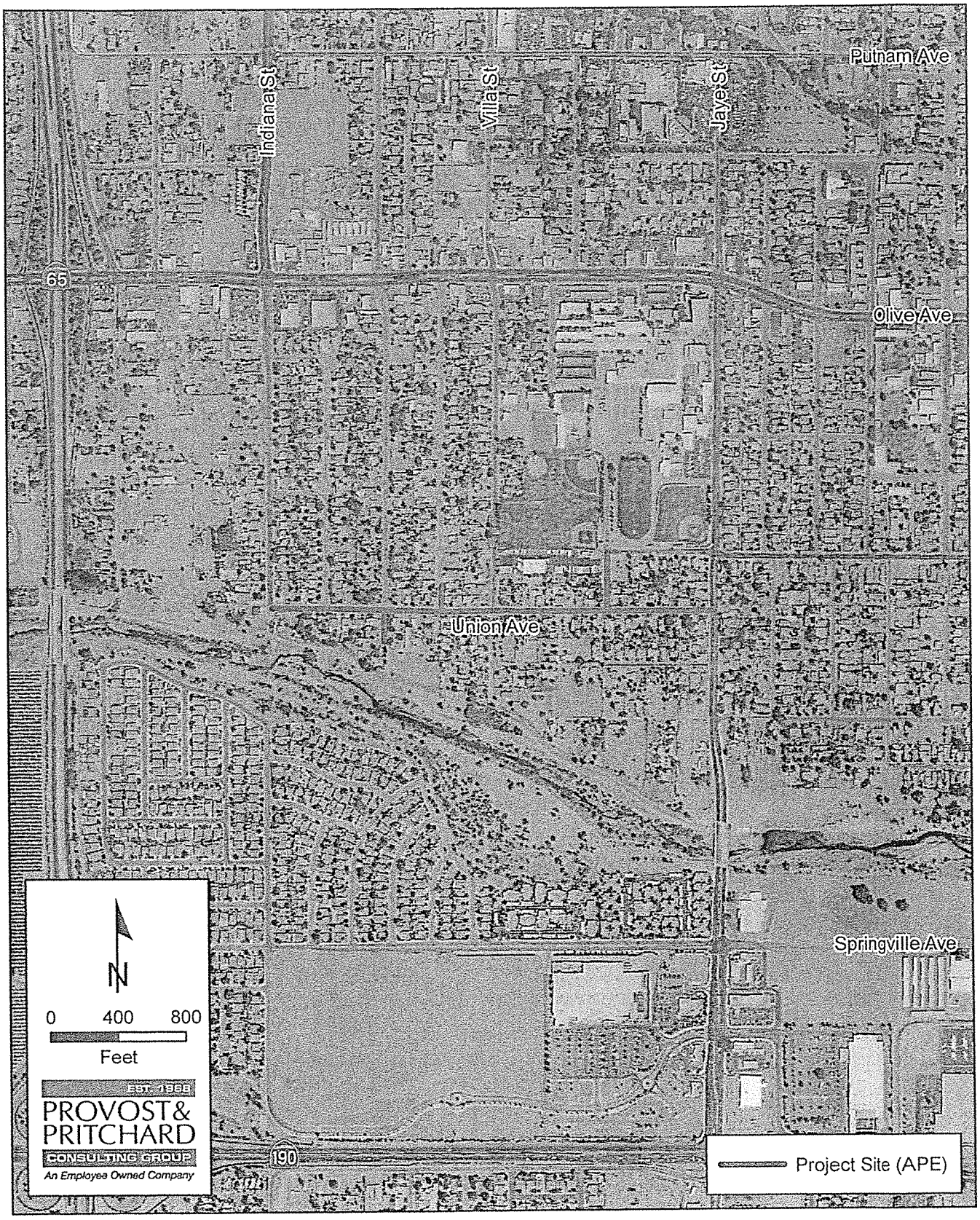
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Villa St
Jaye St
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Olive Ave
Union Ave
Springville Ave
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400
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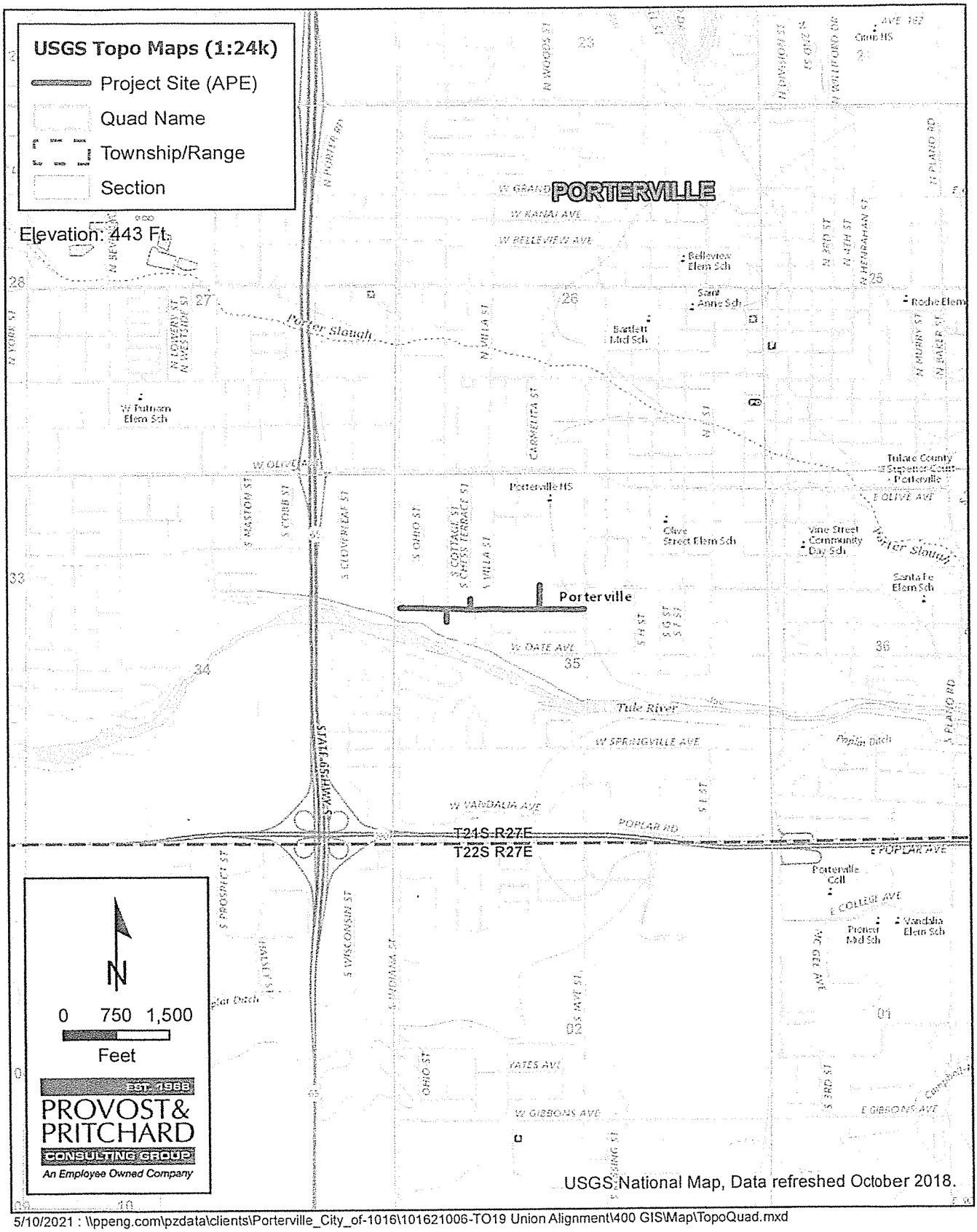
Feet
EST. 1968
PROVOST&
PRITCHARD
CONSULTING GROUP
An Employee Owned Company
Project Site (APE)



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