CalVTP PROJECT-SPECIFIC ANALYSIS FOR THE

Bear Creek Redwoods Vegetation Treatment Project

CalVTP ID 2020-14

Prepared for:

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

March 2021

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Bear Creek Redwoods Vegetation Treatment Project

Prepared for:

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AB	Assembly Bill
Board	California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
CAAQS	California ambient air quality standards
CalVTP	California Vegetation Treatment Program
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CRHR	California Register of Historical Resources
dbh	diameter at breast height
GHG	greenhouse gas
IPMP	Integrated Pest Management Program
Midpen	Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
NAAQS	national ambient air quality standards
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NWIC	Northwest Information Center
PEIR	Program Environmental Impact Report
Preserve	Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve
PSA	Project-Specific Analysis
SOD	sudden oak death
SPR	standard project requirement
SR	State Route
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
VMT	vehicle miles traveled
WLPZ	Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW

The California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) evaluates the potential environmental effects of implementing qualifying vegetation treatments to reduce the risk of wildfire throughout the State Responsibility Area in California. It was designed for use by many state, special district, and local agencies to accelerate vegetation treatment project approvals by finding them to be within the scope of the PEIR. To support this effort, the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) is developing CalVTP training modules, including example Project-Specific Analysis (PSA) documents, to help guide state and local agencies in preparing their own PSAs under the CalVTP PEIR.

In July 2020, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen) submitted information regarding proposed vegetation treatments at the Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve to the Board to be considered for use in the Board's statewide CalVTP training. The Board selected Midpen's proposed vegetation treatment project to be used to prepare a PSA that will provide both California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance for Midpen to approve and implement the project, as well as serve as an example PSA for other agencies seeking to use the CalVTP PEIR to accelerate approval of their own vegetation treatment projects.

1.1.1 CEQA Responsible Agency and Proposed Project

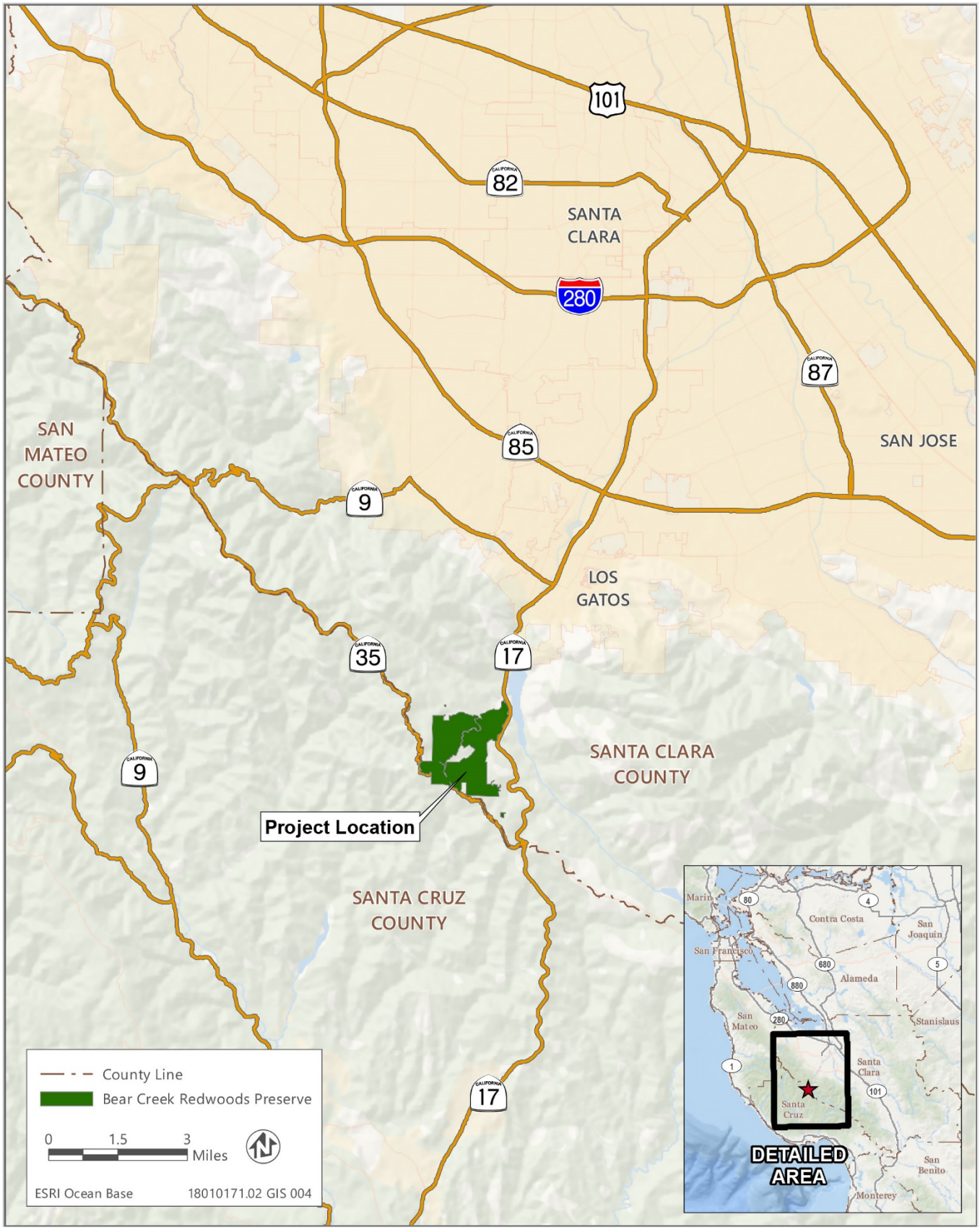
Serving as the Responsible Agency under CEQA, Midpen proposes to implement vegetation treatments on 214.4 acres of land (proposed project) within the Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve in Santa Clara County (Figure 1-1). Midpen is seeking CEQA compliance for the proposed project as a later activity covered by the CalVTP PEIR, using its PSA checklist. The proposed treatment type (i.e., ecological restoration) and the treatment activities (i.e., manual and mechanical treatments) are consistent with those evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR. In addition, the treatment areas are entirely within the CalVTP treatable landscape.

Maintenance of the proposed vegetation treatments would involve the same vegetation treatment activities used in the original treatment (i.e., manual and mechanical treatments), as well as invasive plant removal through herbicide application and flaming. Flaming is a method of killing weeds with a very brief and targeted application of heat via a small handheld propane torch. Flaming and herbicide application currently occur throughout Midpen's properties, consistent with, and covered by, Midpen's existing Integrated Pest Management Program (IPMP) and associated EIR and Addendum, which were certified in 2014 and 2019, respectively. Therefore, approval of the proposed project would rely on this PSA, as supported by both the CalVTP PEIR and the IPMP EIR and Addendum.

1.1.2 Purpose of This Document

This document serves as the PSA to evaluate whether the proposed project is within the scope of the CalVTP PEIR. As described above, the treatment types and treatment activities are consistent with the CalVTP. Among the other criteria for determining whether a treatment project is within the scope of the CalVTP PEIR is whether it is within the CalVTP treatable landscape (i.e., the geographic extent of analysis covered in the PEIR). If a proposed vegetation treatment project is covered by the evaluation of environmental effects in the PEIR, it may be approved using a finding that the project is within the scope of the PEIR for its CEQA compliance, consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(c)(2).

The project-specific mitigation monitoring and reporting program, which identifies the CalVTP standard project requirements (SPRs) and mitigation measures applicable to the proposed project, is presented in Attachment A.



Source: Adapted by Ascent Environmental in 2020

Figure 1-1 Regional Location of the Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project consists of vegetation treatments within Midpen's Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve (Preserve). The Preserve is located immediately west of State Route (SR) 17, 3 miles south of Los Gatos, and spans Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties (refer to Figure 1-1). The CalVTP treatments would occur within several treatment areas totaling 214.4 acres, all of which are within Santa Clara County. The CalVTP treatment type that would be implemented is ecological restoration, and proposed treatment activities to implement the proposed project are manual and mechanical treatments. The proposed CalVTP treatments are shown in Figure 2-1 and are summarized in Table 2-1, below.

Table 2-1 Proposed CalVTP Treatments

CalVTP Treatment Type	Treatment Description	CalVTP Treatment Activity	Treatment Size (acres)	Equipment Used for Treatments	Timing of CalVTP Treatments
Ecological Restoration	Treatment of forestland areas affected by SOD	Mechanical (skidding, mastication, mowing, biomass chipping)	186.3	2 tractors/skidders, 1 slope mower, 2 masticators, 1 chipper	9/2021 – 12/2021 9/2022 – 12/2022 9/2023 – 12/2023
Ecological Restoration	Treatment of areas with heavy brush	Manual and mechanical (cutting, mastication, mowing)	18.7	2 masticators, 1 slope mower, 1–2 chainsaws	9/2022 – 12/2022 9/2023 – 12/2023
Ecological Restoration	Habitat improvement/fire resiliency treatments	Manual (cutting, biomass chipping)	9.4	5 chainsaws or hand saws, 5 brush cutters, 1 chipper	9/2021 – 12/2021 or 9/2022 – 12/2022
Total Acres			214.4		

Note: SOD = sudden oak death.

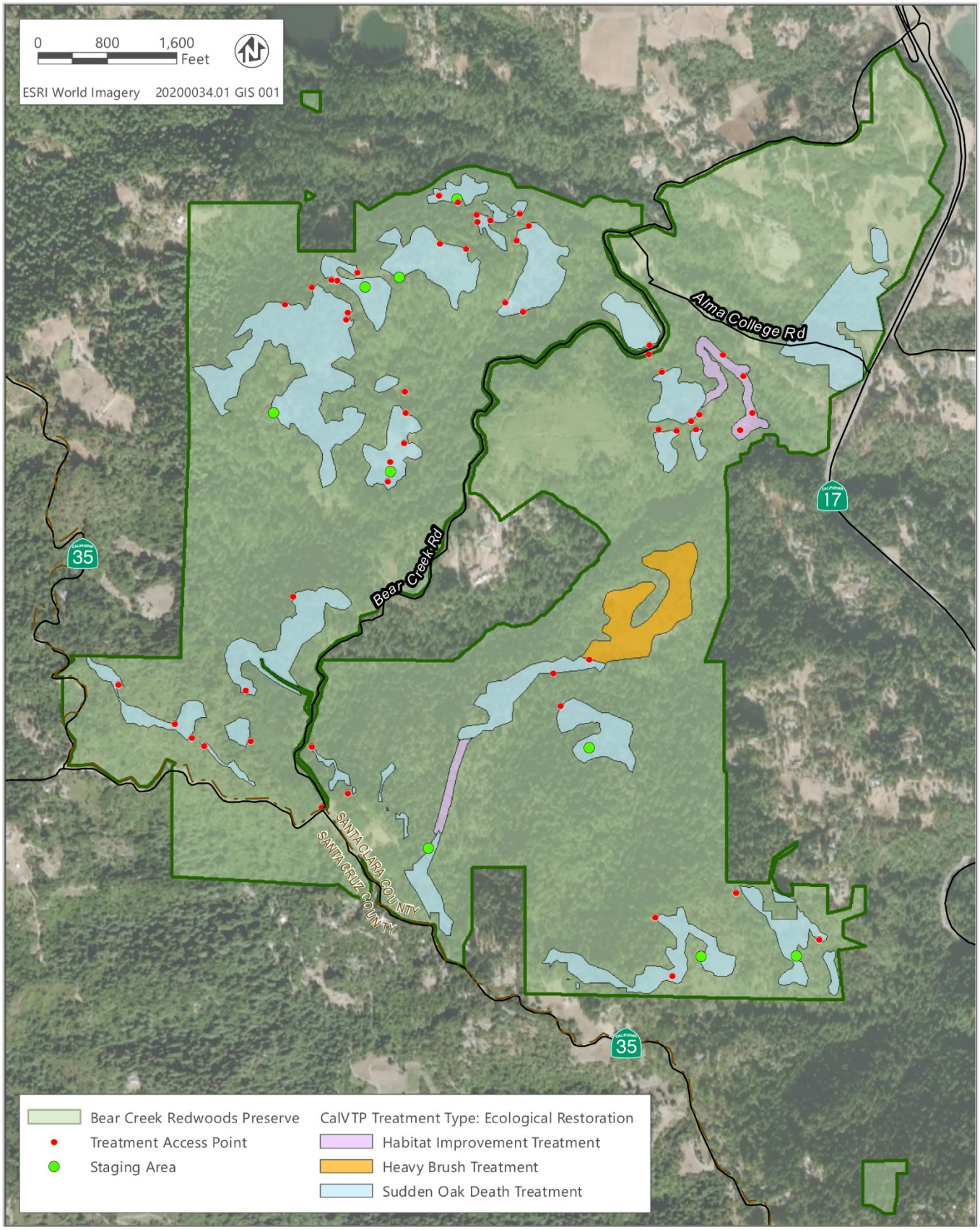
Source: Data and information provided by Midpen in 2020

2.1 TREATMENT TYPE: ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

The proposed project would implement ecological restoration treatments for the dual purpose of wildfire risk reduction and enhancement of natural habitats. Consistent with the CalVTP ecological restoration treatment type, Midpen's proposed ecological restoration treatments would seek to return the landscape closer to natural conditions where natural fire processes can be reestablished and habitat quality can be improved, including controlling and eliminating nonnative, invasive plants and excess buildup of fire fuel. Specific restoration objectives include promoting forest health and resiliency by removing trees heavily damaged by sudden oak death (SOD), removing heavy brush and invasive species, and providing ecosystem and habitat improvements to increase fire resiliency and to support the success of a California rare plant species known to occur within the Preserve: Hickman's popcornflower (*Plagiobothrys chorisianus* var. *hickmanii*). Hickman's popcornflower has a California Rare Plant Rank of 4.2, which indicates that it is of limited distribution and is moderately threatened in California (CNPS 2020).

2.2 TREATMENT ACTIVITIES

The proposed vegetation treatment activities are manual and mechanical treatments. Biomass would be disposed of through chipping or lopping and scattering within the Preserve. Each of these activities is included in the CalVTP PEIR and is described in more detail below.



Source: Data received from Midpen in 2020

Figure 2-1 Proposed Project Treatments

2.2.1 Mechanical Vegetation Treatment

Mechanical treatments would occur on up to 205 of the 214.4 acres proposed for treatment and would primarily include skidding, mowing, and masticating target vegetation. Equipment would include tractors/skidders, slope mowers, and masticators (see details in Table 2-1). Generally, mechanical treatments would:

- remove or masticate target brush and trees 8 inches diameter at breast height (dbh) or less;
- masticate downed woody debris less than 8 inches in diameter;
- maintain at least 35 percent relative final density of chaparral vegetation; and
- to the extent feasible, retain live oak trees, blue elderberry, California buckeye, big-leaf maple, and other desirable species as determined by Midpen. The primary and secondary criteria for determining whether a species should remain include its level of association with beneficial organisms (e.g., pollinators) and if it is a species with characteristics qualifying it as a sensitive natural community, respectively.

2.2.2 Manual Vegetation Treatment

Manual treatments would be implemented exclusively on 9.4 acres and could be used on up to 28.1 acres (i.e., where manual and mechanical treatments would be used in combination). To implement manual treatments, hand tools and hand-operated power tools, including chainsaws, hand saws, and/or brush cutters, would be used to cut, clear, or prune herbaceous and woody species (see details in Table 2-1). Activities would include tree thinning and removal, invasive plant removal, and heavy brush removal. The same general guidelines for tree and vegetation removal and retention would be followed as described above for mechanical treatments.

2.2.3 Biomass Disposal

The proposed mechanical vegetation treatments described above would masticate (mulch) much of the vegetative debris and place it on the ground concurrently with vegetation removal. Additional biomass generated from the CalVTP treatments would primarily be disposed of by chipping (95 percent of biomass). Chipped biomass would be spread over treatment areas and would not exceed 6 inches in thickness. The remaining biomass (approximately 5 percent) would be lopped and scattered within the Preserve.

2.3 PROPOSED TREATMENTS

The proposed project includes SOD treatments, heavy brush treatments, and habitat improvement treatments, which are shown in Figure 2-1, summarized in Table 2-1, and further described below. Treatment crews could consist of up to 20 crew members but would typically range between eight and 12 personnel, and up to three crews would be working simultaneously. Treatment areas would be accessed by four-wheel-drive vehicles using existing seasonal roads and trails, and all equipment and vehicle staging would occur within treatment area boundaries.

The treatments would be implemented consistent with Midpen's ecologically sensitive vegetation management practices, which are focused on maintaining and improving high biodiversity and ecological health, and would be planned in coordination with a qualified botanist.

The CalVTP PEIR includes SPRs that are required to be incorporated, as applicable, into all proposed vegetation treatments under the CalVTP as a standard part of treatment design and implementation. Several of the SPRs are consistent with and expand upon Midpen's ecologically sensitive vegetation management practices. The CalVTP SPRs that are applicable to the proposed project are included in Attachment A.

2.3.1 Sudden Oak Death Treatments

SOD treatments would be implemented on 186.3 acres of the Preserve in forested areas heavily affected by SOD and involve treatment activities covered in the CalVTP PEIR (i.e., mechanical treatments). Using tractors/skidders, slope mowers, or masticators, all stems 8 inches dbh or less and downed woody debris less than 8 inches in diameter would be removed. Live oak trees less than 8 inches dbh on transition lines between forested and nonforested areas would be retained. Other species, such as hazelnut, blue elderberry, California buckeye, big-leaf maple, and other species meeting the criteria described in Section 2.2, "Treatment Activities," would also be retained, to the extent feasible. These treatments would occur between September and December in years 2021, 2022, and 2023; accordingly, they would take up to 12 months over 3 years to complete.

2.3.2 Heavy Brush Treatments

Heavy brush treatments proposed by Midpen would involve treatment activities covered by the CalVTP PEIR (i.e., manual and mechanical treatments). Heavy brush treatments would be implemented over 18.7 acres. Equipment would include masticators, a slope mower, and one to two chainsaws. In the areas consisting of heavy brush, all brush including dead and downed brush would be removed and masticated, along with Douglas-fir trees less than 8 inches dbh. Downed woody debris less than 8 inches in diameter would also be masticated. All live oak trees, blue elderberry, and other desirable species would be retained in these areas, to the extent feasible. Where chaparral vegetation is present, at least 35 percent relative final density would be maintained in the treatment area. Heavy brush treatments would be completed in 8 months over 2 years, occurring between September and December in 2022 and 2023.

2.3.3 Habitat Improvement Treatments

Habitat improvement treatments are proposed on 9.4 acres that are entirely within the CalVTP treatable landscape to support the success of a rare plant known to occur within the Preserve, Hickman's popcornflower, and to improve fire resiliency. The proposed habitat improvement treatments have been designed by qualified professionals with the specific purpose of benefitting the local population of this rare plant. Habitat improvement treatments would be implemented using manual treatment activities that are covered by the CalVTP PEIR.

Hickman's popcornflower is known to respond favorably to increased water availability and regular disturbances, as evidenced by previous treatments in areas that contain this species (Kelley 2012; Sifuentes-Winter pers. comms. 2020). In addition, some populations are being shaded out by understory woody plants in forested areas within the Preserve (Sifuentes-Winter pers. comms. 2020). Habitat improvement treatments would be implemented using chainsaws, hand saws, and/or brush cutters. Activities would include thinning forested areas surrounding Hickman's popcornflower to increase water and sunlight available to the rare plant, and removing competing understory woody plants that are encroaching where these rare plants are known to occur.

Habitat improvement treatments would occur over 4 months outside of the plant's critical life history, between September and December in year 2021 or 2022. Midpen would annually monitor the treated population relative to other populations nearby to determine whether the treatment is successful for 10 years following the initial treatment.

2.4 TREATMENT MAINTENANCE

Maintenance, or retreatment, of the areas treated under the proposed project would follow Midpen's existing general land management maintenance schedule, and would be based on real-time monitoring of site conditions. In forested areas, retreatment is anticipated to occur every 10 years, and in brush-dominated areas, retreatment is anticipated to occur every 5 years. Retreatment methods would involve the same vegetation treatment activities used in the original treatment (i.e., manual and mechanical treatments); however, Midpen anticipates the use of more hand crews than mechanical equipment. Maintenance treatments would be implemented between August and April 15; from April 15 through July, no retreatment would occur.

Treatment maintenance would also involve removing invasive plant species (e.g., French broom) and weeds through herbicide application and flaming. As previously described in Section 1.1, "Project Overview," herbicide application and flaming are covered by Midpen's IPMP EIR. Therefore, these treatment maintenance activities are not part of the proposed project and are not addressed further in this document.

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3 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

VEGETATION TREATMENT PROJECT INFORMATION

1. **Project Title:** Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve Vegetation Treatment Project

2. **Project Proponent's Name and Address:** Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
330 Distel Circle
Los Altos, CA 94022

3. **Contact Person Information and Phone Number:** Coty Sifuentes-Winter
650.691.1200
csifuentes@openspace.org

4. **Project Location:** Santa Clara County (see Chapter 2, "Project Description," and Figure 1-1)

5. **Total Area to Be Treated (acres)** 214.4 acres

6. **Description of Project**:

   a. Initial Treatment

   Initial treatments would include ecological restoration treatments by manual and mechanical treatment methods. See Chapter 2, "Project Description," for additional details.

   Treatment Types

   ☐ Wildland-Urban Interface Fuel Reduction

   ☐ Fuel Break

   ☒ Ecological Restoration

   Treatment Activities

   ☐ Prescribed Burning (Broadcast), _____ acres

   ☐ Prescribed Burning (Pile Burning)

   ☒ Mechanical Treatment, 205 acres

   ☒ Manual Treatment, 9.4 acres

   ☐ Prescribed Herbivory, _____ acres

   ☐ Herbicide Application, _____ acres

   Fuel Type

   ☐ Grass Fuel Type

   ☒ Shrub Fuel Type

   ☒ Tree Fuel Type

   b. Treatment Maintenance

   Maintenance of the areas treated under the proposed project would follow Midpen's existing general land management maintenance schedule, but would be based on real-time monitoring of site conditions. In forested areas, retreatment is anticipated to occur every 10 years, and in brush-dominated areas, retreatment is anticipated to occur every 5 years. Retreatment methods would involve the same vegetation treatment activities

used in the original treatment (i.e., manual and mechanical treatments); however, Midpen anticipates the use of more hand crews than mechanical equipment.

Treatment maintenance would also involve removing invasive plant species (e.g., French broom) and weeds through herbicide application and flaming. As previously described in Section 1.1, "Project Overview," herbicide application and flaming are covered by Midpen's IPMP. Therefore, these treatment maintenance activities are not part of the proposed project and are not addressed further in this document.

7. Regional Setting and Surrounding Land Uses:

The proposed CalVTP treatments are in Midpen's Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve in Santa Clara County, west of State Route (SR) 17, north and east of SR 35, and 3 miles south of Los Gatos. The area is undeveloped, mountainous, and primarily forested public lands surrounded by additional forestlands; the Lexington Reservoir; and areas of scattered residents, vineyards, tree farms, and a few public services, such as an elementary school, a church, and a fire station.

8. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval Is Required: (e.g., permits)

None.

Coastal Act Compliance

☒ The proposed project is NOT within the Coastal Zone

☐ The proposed project is within the Coastal Zone (*check one of the following boxes*)

- ☐ A coastal development permit been applied for or obtained from the local Coastal Commission district office or local government with a certified Local Coastal Plan, as applicable
- ☐ The local Coastal Commission district office or local government with a certified Local Coastal Plan (in consultation with the local Coastal Commission district office) has determined that a coastal development permit is not required

9. Native American Consultation. *For treatment projects that are within the scope of the CalVTP PEIR, Assembly Bill (AB) 52 consultation for AB 52 compliance has been completed. The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection conducted consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1 during preparation of the PEIR. For treatment projects with impacts not within the scope of the PEIR, pursuant to Public Resources Code Sections 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, and 21082.3, project partners preparing a new negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or EIR must notify any California Native American tribe who has submitted written request for notification of a project in the area of the treatment site. Upon written request for consultation by a tribe, the project partners must begin consultation before the release of the environmental document and must follow the requirements of the cited Public Resources Code sections.*

Pursuant to CalVTP SPR BIO-2, Native American tribal contacts in Santa Clara County were sent letters via certified mail on October 20, 2020. Tribal contacts included Valentin Lopez, Chairperson, Amah Mutsun Tribal Band; Irene Zwierlein, Chairperson, Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of Mission San Juan Bautista; Patrick Orozco, Chairperson, Costanoan Ohlone Rumsen-Mutsen Tribe; Ann Marie Sayers, Chairperson, Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan; Kanyon Sayers-Roods, Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan; Monica Arellano, Vice Chairperson, Muwekma Ohlone Indian Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area; Katherine Erolinda Perez, Chairperson, North Valley Yokuts Tribe; Timothy Perez, Most Likely Descendent Contact, North Valley Yokuts Tribe; and Andrew Galvan, Ohlone Indian Tribe. No responses were received from any Native American tribes.

DETERMINATION

On the basis of this PSA and the substantial evidence supporting it:

☒ I find that all of the effects of the proposed project (a) have been covered in the CalVTP PEIR, and (b) all applicable Standard Project Requirements and mitigation measures identified in the CalVTP PEIR will be implemented. The proposed project is, therefore, WITHIN THE SCOPE of the CalVTP PEIR. NO ADDITIONAL CEQA DOCUMENTATION is required.

☐ I find that the proposed project will have effects that were not covered in the CalVTP PEIR. These effects are less than significant without any mitigation beyond what is already required pursuant to the CalVTP PEIR. A **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.

☐ I find that the proposed project will have effects that were not covered in the CalVTP PEIR or will have effects that are substantially more severe than those covered in the CalVTP PEIR. Although these effects may be significant in the absence of additional mitigation beyond the CalVTP PEIR's measures, revisions to the proposed project or additional mitigation measures have been agreed to by the project partners that would avoid or reduce the effects so that clearly no significant effects would occur. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.

☐ I find that the proposed project will have significant environmental effects that are (a) new and were not covered in the CalVTP PEIR and/or (b) substantially more severe than those covered in the CalVTP PEIR. Because one or more effects may be significant and cannot be clearly mitigated to less than significant, an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** will be prepared.

Brian Malone (Apr 29, 2021 08:34 PDT)

Signature

Apr 29, 2021

Date

Brian Malone

Printed Name

Assistant General Manager

Title

Agency

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4 PROJECT-SPECIFIC ANALYSIS

4.1 AESTHETICS AND VISUAL RESOURCES

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact AES-1: Result in Short-Term, Substantial Degradation of a Scenic Vista or Visual Character or Quality of Public Views, or Damage to Scenic Resources in a State Scenic Highway from Treatment Activities	LTS	Impact AES-1, pp. 3.2-16 – 3.2-19	Yes	AES-2	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact AES-2: Result in Long-Term, Substantial Degradation of a Scenic Vista or Visual Character or Quality of Public Views, or Damage to Scenic Resources in a State Scenic Highway from Wildland Urban Interface Fuel Reduction, Ecological Restoration, or Shaded Fuel Break Treatment Types	LTS	Impact AES-2, pp. 3.2-20 – 3.2-25	Yes	AES-1 AES-3	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact AES-3: Result in Long-Term Substantial Degradation of a Scenic Vista or Visual Character or Quality of Public Views, or Damage to Scenic Resources in a State Scenic Highway from the Nonshaded Fuel Break Treatment Type	SU	Impact AES-3, pp. 3.2-25 – 3.2-27	No	--	--	--	--	--

[1]NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Aesthetic and Visual Resource Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to aesthetics and visual resources that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?

☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
	☐	☐	☐

Discussion

IMPACT AES-1

The proposed project would be implemented using manual and mechanical treatments activities. The potential for these treatment activities to result in short-term degradation of visual character was examined in the PEIR. The proposed treatments would occur within Midpen's Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve, which contains public hiking trails that pass through or in close proximity to some of the areas proposed for treatment. In addition, although there are no designated state scenic highways with views of the treatment areas, SR 17 and SR 35 are eligible state scenic highways and provide views of portions of the treatments areas in certain locations (Caltrans 2018). Consistent with the PEIR, the presence of large mechanical equipment could contrast with the natural environment where publicly visible, such as adjacent to a public trail or roadway. However, a treatment and its visibility would be temporary and would not dominate a view or block any views from scenic vistas or state scenic highways. It also would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of an area given that the treatment activities would be limited in geographic extent. The potential for the project to result in short-term substantial degradation of the visual character of the project area is within the scope of the PEIR, because the proposed treatment activities and types of equipment proposed for use are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. SPR AES-2 would be applicable to the proposed project. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT AES-2

The proposed project would include only the ecological restoration treatment type. The potential for this treatment type to result in long-term degradation of the visual character of a treatment area was examined in the PEIR. Portions of the treatment areas would be publicly visible from recreation areas, such as trails, and from eligible state scenic highways, as described under Impact AES-1. However, consistent with the PEIR, the proposed ecological restoration treatments would seek to return the landscape to a more natural condition. Treatments would be limited to removing trees suffering from SOD, removing heavy brush, and improving habitat for a rare plant species. In addition, visually dominant trees would remain in place; tree and vegetation removal would be limited to small trees 8 inches dbh or less and downed woody debris that are 8 inches in diameter or less. For these reasons, the project would not substantially degrade public views or damage scenic resources in a state scenic highway. The potential for the project to result in long-term substantial degradation of the visual character the project area is within the scope of the PEIR, because the proposed treatment type and activities are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The SPRs applicable to the proposed treatment project are AES-1 and AES-3. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT AES-3

This impact does not apply to the proposed project because no fuel breaks are proposed.

NEW AESTHETIC AND VISUAL RESOURCE IMPACTS

The proposed treatments are entirely within the CalVTP treatable landscape and are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. Midpen has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatment project and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.2.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.2.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). Midpen has also determined that the circumstances under which the proposed treatment project would be undertaken are also consistent with those considered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances would give rise to new significant impacts not addressed in the PEIR. Therefore, no new impact related to aesthetics and visual resources would occur that is not covered in the PEIR.

4.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact AG-1: Directly Result in the Loss of Forest Land or Conversion of Forest Land to a Non-Forest Use or Involve Other Changes in the Existing Environment Which, Due to Their Location or Nature, Could Result in Conversion of Forest Land to Non-Forest Use	LTS	Impact AG-1, pp. 3.3-7 – 3.3-8	Yes	NA	NA	LTS	No	Yes

[1]NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Agriculture and Forestry Resource Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to agriculture and forestry resources that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?

☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
	☐	☐	☐

Discussion

IMPACT AG-1

Vegetation treatments would include ecological restoration through manual and mechanical treatment activities. The potential for this treatment type and the treatment activities to result in the loss of forestland or conversion of forestland to non-forest use was examined in the PEIR. The treatment areas include forested lands, and tree removal would occur under the project. However, tree and vegetation removal under the proposed project would target brush and small-diameter trees, whereas trees over 8 inches dbh would be retained. In addition, treatments would occur in small, discrete areas of the greater Preserve. Consistent with the PEIR, the vegetation remaining after treatments would meet the definition of forestland as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g), and no substantial loss of forestland or conversion to non-forest uses would occur. Therefore, the potential for the project to result in the loss or conversion of forestland is within the scope of the PEIR. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

NEW AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCE IMPACTS

The proposed treatments are entirely within the CalVTP treatable landscape and are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. Midpen has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatment project and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.3.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.3.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). Midpen has also determined that the circumstances under which the proposed treatment project would be undertaken are also consistent with those considered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances would give rise to new significant impacts not addressed in the PEIR. Therefore, no new impact related to agriculture and forestry resources would occur that is not covered in the PEIR.

4.3 AIR QUALITY

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact AQ-1: Generate Emissions of Criteria Air Pollutants and Precursors During Treatment Activities that would exceed CAAQS or NAAQS	SU	Impact AQ-1, pp. 3.4-26 – 3.4-32; Appendix AQ-1	Yes	AQ-1 AQ-4	AQ-1	SU	No	Yes
Impact AQ-2: Expose People to Diesel Particulate Matter Emissions and Related Health Risk	LTS	Impact AQ-2, pp. 3.4-33 – 3.4-34; Appendix AQ-1	Yes	AQ-1 HAZ-1 NOI-4 NOI-5	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact AQ-3: Expose People to Fugitive Dust Emissions Containing Naturally Occurring Asbestos and Related Health Risk	NA	Impact AQ-3, pp. 3.4-34 – 3.4-35	No	--	--	--	--	--
Impact AQ-4: Expose People to Toxic Air Contaminants Emitted by Prescribed Burns and Related Health Risk	SU	Impact AQ-4, pp. 3.4-35 – 3.4-37	No	--	--	--	--	--
Impact AQ-5: Expose People to Objectionable Odors from Diesel Exhaust	LTS	Impact AQ-5, pp. 3.4-37 – 3.4-38	Yes	AQ-1 HAZ-1 NOI-4 NOI-5	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact AQ-6: Expose People to Objectionable Odors from Smoke During Prescribed Burning	SU	Impact AQ-6; pp. 3.4-38	No	--	--	--	--	--

[1]NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Air Quality Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to air quality that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?

☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
	☐	☐	☐

Discussion

IMPACT AQ-1

Use of vehicles and equipment during vegetation treatments would result in emissions of criteria pollutants that could exceed California ambient air quality standards (CAAQS) or national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) thresholds. The potential for emissions of criteria pollutants to exceed CAAQS or NAAQS thresholds was examined in the PEIR. Emissions of criteria air pollutants as a result of vehicle and equipment use under the proposed project would be potentially significant and are within the scope of the PEIR because the size of crews, the types of equipment, and the duration of equipment use would be consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The SPRs applicable to the proposed project are AQ-1 and AQ-4. Emission reduction techniques, including Mitigation Measure AQ-1, would be infeasible for the project proponent to implement because the treatments would be implemented by Midpen, a special district with variable funding. It would be cost prohibitive to use equipment meeting the latest efficiency standards, including meeting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Tier 4 emission standards, using renewable diesel fuel, using electric- and gasoline-powered equipment, and using equipment with Best Available Control Technology. In addition, carpooling may not be feasible or recommended during an active COVID-19 outbreak. Therefore, this impact would remain unavoidable and potentially significant for the same reasons explained in the PEIR, but for the reasons explained above, would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact.

IMPACT AQ-2

Use of vehicles and mechanical equipment during vegetation treatments could expose people to diesel particulate matter emissions. The potential to expose people to diesel particulate matter emissions during vegetation treatments was examined in the PEIR. Consistent with the PEIR, because of the short and intermittent nature of treatment activities (e.g., SOD treatments would occur between September and December in years 2021, 2022, and 2023), and because treatment activities would move throughout the treatment areas and not take place near the same people for an extended period of time, treatment activities would not expose any person to an incremental increase in cancer risk associated with diesel particulate matter greater than 10 in one million or a Hazard Index of 1.0 or greater. Diesel particulate matter emissions from the proposed treatments would be within the scope of the PEIR, because the types and amount of equipment that would be used, as well as the duration of use during proposed treatments, are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. SPRs applicable to this treatment are AQ-1, HAZ-1, NOI-4, and NOI-5. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT AQ-3

This impact does not apply to the proposed project because no naturally occurring asbestos is mapped in the treatment areas (USGS 2010, 2011).

IMPACT AQ-4

This impact does not apply to the proposed project because no prescribed burning would occur.

IMPACT AQ-5

Use of diesel-powered equipment during vegetation treatments could expose people to objectionable odors from diesel exhaust. The potential to expose people to objectionable odors from diesel exhaust was examined in the PEIR. Consistent with the PEIR, diesel exhaust emissions would be temporary, would not be generated at any one location for an extended period of time, and would dissipate rapidly from the source with an increase in distance. In addition, treatments would occur in undeveloped areas where humans are present intermittently and for brief periods. This

impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the equipment that would be used and the duration of use under the proposed project are consistent with what was analyzed in the PEIR. SPRs applicable to the proposed project are AQ-1, HAZ-1, NOI-4, and NOI-5. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT AQ-6

This impact does not apply to the proposed project because no prescribed burning would occur.

NEW AIR QUALITY IMPACTS

The proposed treatments are entirely within the CalVTP treatable landscape and are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. Midpen has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatment project and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.4.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.4.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). Midpen has also determined that the circumstances under which the proposed treatment project would be undertaken are also consistent with those considered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances would give rise to new significant impacts not addressed in the PEIR. Therefore, no new impact related to air quality would occur that is not covered in the PEIR.

4.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL, HISTORICAL, AND TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact CUL-1: Cause a Substantial Adverse Change in the Significance of Built Historical Resources	LTS	Impact CUL-1, pp. 3.5-14 – 3.5-15	Yes	CUL-1 CUL-7 CUL-8	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact CUL-2: Cause a Substantial Adverse Change in the Significance of Unique Archaeological Resources or Subsurface Historical Resources	SU	Impact CUL-2, pp. 3.5-15 – 3.5-16	Yes	CUL-5 CUL-6 CUL-7 CUL-8	CUL-2	LTSM	No	Yes
Impact CUL-3: Cause a Substantial Adverse Change in the Significance of a Tribal Cultural Resource	LTS	Impact CUL-3, p. 3.5-17	Yes	CUL-1 CUL-2 CUL-3 CUL-4 CUL-5 CUL-6 CUL-8	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact CUL-4: Disturb Human Remains	LTS	Impact CUL-4, p. 3.5-18	Yes	NA	NA	LTS	No	Yes

[1]NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Archaeological, Historical, and Tribal Cultural Resource Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to archaeological, historical, and tribal cultural resources that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?

☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
	☐	☐	☐

Discussion

Midpen completed and certified an EIR in 2017 for a use and management plan for the Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve (Preserve EIR). As a part of this effort, a cultural resources report was prepared that included a cultural records search from the Northwest Information Center (NWIC), which included the currently proposed treatment areas. A total of 27 cultural resources were identified as previously recorded within the Preserve: 10 historical resources, nine historic-era archaeological resources, six prehistoric archaeological resources/sites, and two multicomponent sites containing both historic and prehistoric constituents. The majority of these cultural resources

had not been evaluated for eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), and one historical resource and one historic-era archaeological resource were determined to have been previously destroyed. In addition to the previously recorded cultural resources, the Preserve EIR noted 11 undocumented resources present within the Preserve: five historical resources, five historic-era archaeological resources, and one prehistoric archeological resource that could not be re-located during two subsequent investigations. These resources had been previously identified by Midpen personnel and/or were noted in previous cultural resource investigations but had never been formally recorded on DPR 523 forms or otherwise evaluated for NRHP or CRHR eligibility.

Two additional cultural resource reports, prepared in 2018 and 2019, include the results of archaeological surveys of the Preserve. They were prepared to complete the remaining requirements of the Preserve EIR as they relate to unevaluated cultural resources, including recording them on DPR 523 forms or otherwise evaluating for NRHP or CRHR eligibility. According to these reports, 21 of the previously recorded archaeological sites, some of which overlap with or are immediately adjacent to the proposed treatment areas, were recommended as eligible for the CRHR (Albion Environmental 2018, 2019). The requirements of SPRs CUL-1, CUL-3, and CUL-4 from the CalVTP PEIR have been met by the recent archaeological and historical records search and additional archaeological studies and surveys that occurred for the Preserve EIR.

Consistent with CalVTP SPR CUL-2, an updated Native American contact list was obtained from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). On October 20, 2020, letters inviting the tribes to consult were mailed to the nine tribal representatives indicated by NAHC. No responses were received from any Native American tribes. A September 9, 2020, search of NAHC's sacred lands database returned negative results.

IMPACT CUL-1

Vegetation treatment activities include manual and mechanical treatments, which could damage historical resources if present within a treatment area. The potential for these treatment activities to result in disturbance to, damage to, or destruction of historic resources, including built-environment structures that have not yet been evaluated for historical significance, was examined in the PEIR. According to the NWIC records search and other previous studies of the Preserve, historical resources are located within the Preserve, some of which are within or immediately adjacent to treatment areas. In addition, structures (i.e., buildings, bridges, roadways) over 50 years old that have not been evaluated for historical significance may be present within treatment areas. However, the proposed project would remove trees and other vegetation, and any structures present within treatment areas would be avoided, per SPR CUL-7. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR, because the treatment activities and the intensity of ground disturbance that would occur under the proposed project are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. SPRs applicable to this impact are CUL-7 and CUL-8. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT CUL-2

Vegetation treatment activities would include mechanical treatments that use heavy equipment that could result in ground disturbance as vegetation is removed; this could result in damage to known or unknown archaeological resources if present within a treatment area. The potential for these treatment activities to result in disturbance to, damage to, or destruction of archaeological resources was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR, because the treatment activities and the intensity of ground disturbance that would occur under the proposed project are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. SPRs applicable to this impact are CUL-5 through CUL-8. Mitigation Measure CUL-2 would also apply to this treatment to protect any inadvertent discoveries of archaeological resources. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT CUL-3

As previously summarized, Native American contacts were sent an invitation to consult via certified mail on October 20, 2020, consistent with the requirements of SPR CUL-2. No responses were received from any Native American tribes.

The potential for treatment activities to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource was examined in the PEIR. Proposed treatment activities include manual and mechanical treatments. Ground-disturbing activities, such as the use of heavy machinery, could inadvertently damage or destroy tribal cultural resources if they are present in treatment areas. The potential for adverse effects on tribal cultural resources during implementation of the proposed project is within the scope of the activities and impacts addressed in the PEIR because the treatment activities and intensity of ground disturbance are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. SPRs applicable to this treatment are CUL-1 through CUL-6 and CUL-8. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT CUL-4

Vegetation treatment activities would include mechanical treatments using heavy equipment; these treatments may use tractors, skidders, masticators, and/or chippers, which could uncover human remains if present in a treatment area. The potential for treatment activities to uncover human remains was examined in the PEIR. The NWIC records search did not reveal any burials or sites containing human remains. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR, because the intensity of ground disturbance under the proposed project is consistent with what was analyzed in the PEIR. Additionally, consistent with the PEIR, the proposed project would comply with California Health and Safety Code Sections 7050.5 and 7052 and Public Resources Code Section 5097 in the event of a discovery. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL, HISTORICAL, AND TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCE IMPACTS

The proposed treatments are entirely within the CalVTP treatable landscape and are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. Midpen has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatment project and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.5.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.5.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). Midpen has also determined that the circumstances under which the proposed treatment project would be undertaken are also consistent with those considered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances would give rise to new significant impacts not addressed in the PEIR. Therefore, no new impact related to archaeological, historical, or tribal cultural resources would occur that is not covered in the PEIR.

4.5 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact BIO-1: Substantially Affect Special-Status Plant Species Either Directly or Through Habitat Modifications	LTSM	Impact BIO-1, pp 3.6-131 – 3.6-138	Yes	BIO-1 BIO-2 BIO-6 BIO-7 BIO-9 GEO-1 GEO-3 GEO-4 GEO-5 GEO-7 HYD-4	BIO-1a BIO-1b	LTSM	No	Yes
Impact BIO-2: Substantially Affect Special-Status Wildlife Species Either Directly or Through Habitat Modifications	LTSM (all wildlife species except bumble bees) SU (bumble bees)	Impact BIO-2, pp 3.6-138 – 3.6-184	Yes	BIO-1 BIO-2 BIO-9 BIO-10 GEO-1 HYD-4	BIO-2a BIO-2b	LTSM	No	Yes
Impact BIO-3: Substantially Affect Riparian Habitat or Other Sensitive Natural Community Through Direct Loss or Degradation That Leads to Loss of Habitat Function	LTSM	Impact BIO-3, pp 3.6-186 – 3.6-191	Yes	BIO-1 BIO-2 BIO-3 BIO-6 BIO-9	BIO-3a BIO-3b	LTSM	No	Yes
Impact BIO-4: Substantially Affect State or Federally Protected Wetlands	LTSM	Impact BIO-4, pp 3.6-191 – 3.6-192	Yes	BIO-1 BIO-2 HYD-4	None	LTS	No	Yes
Impact BIO-5: Interfere Substantially with Wildlife Movement Corridors or Impede Use of Nurseries	LTSM	Impact BIO-5, pp 3.6-192 – 3.6-196	Yes	BIO-1 BIO-2 BIO-3 HYD-4	None	LTS	No	Yes
Impact BIO-6: Substantially Reduce Habitat or Abundance of Common Wildlife	LTS	Impact BIO-6, pp 3.6-197 – 3.6-198	Yes	BIO-1 BIO-2 BIO-12	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact BIO-7: Conflict with Local Policies or Ordinances Protecting Biological Resources	NI	Impact BIO-7, pp 3.6-198 – 3.6-199	Yes	AD-3	NA	NI	No	Yes

Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Impact BIO-8: Conflict with the Provisions of an Adopted Natural Community Conservation Plan, Habitat Conservation Plan, or Other Approved Habitat Plan	NI	Impact BIO-8, pp 3.6-199 – 3.6-200	No	--	--	--	--	--

[1]NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact. None: there are SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact, but none are applicable to the treatment project.

New Biological Resources Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to biological resources that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?

☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
	☐	☐	☐

Discussion

Pursuant to SPR BIO-1, an Ascent biologist conducted a data review of project-specific biological resources, including habitat and vegetation types, and special-status plants, special-status wildlife, and sensitive habitats (i.e., sensitive natural communities, wetlands) with potential to occur in the treatment areas. Habitat and vegetation types in the treatment areas were identified using mapping provided by Midpen on August 26, 2020. The treatment areas together occupy approximately 214 acres, and vegetation within the treatment areas includes redwood forest, oak woodland, nonnative/ornamental shrubland, mixed hardwood forest, mixed Douglas fir forest, Douglas fir forest, coyote brush scrub, coast live oak, California bay, California annual grassland, riverine, freshwater pond, freshwater emergent wetland, and stream habitats, as well as some built-up/urban and agricultural areas.

A list of special-status plant and wildlife species with potential to occur within the treatment areas was compiled by completing a review of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) and California Native Plant Society Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California database records for the nine U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangles containing and surrounding the treatment areas (CNDDB 2020; CNPS 2020), a special-status plant survey report (EcoSystems West 2008), a California red-legged frog survey report (Biosearch Environmental Consulting 2018a), a special-status bat survey report (H. T. Harvey and Associates 2016), a special-status species assessment (H. T. Harvey & Associates 2006), and Appendix BIO-3 (Table 1a, Table 1b, and Table 19) in the PEIR (Volume II) for special-status plants and wildlife that could occur in the Central California Coast ecoregion. A list of sensitive natural communities with potential to occur within the treatment areas was compiled by completing a CNDDB search of the nine USGS quads surrounding the treatment areas (CNDDB 2020) and reviewing Table 3.6-3 (pages 3.6-25 – 3.6-27) in the PEIR (Volume II) for sensitive natural communities that could occur in the Central California Coast ecoregion.

Ascent conducted a reconnaissance survey on September 24, 2020, to identify and document sensitive resources (e.g., aquatic habitat, riparian habitat, sensitive natural communities) and to assess the suitability of habitat in the treatment areas for special-status plant and wildlife species. Vegetation communities and soil characteristics were identified, and incidental wildlife observations were recorded.

Based on implementation of SPR BIO-1, including review of occurrence data, species ranges, habitat requirements for each species, results of surveys conducted in the Preserve, and habitat present within the treatment areas as assessed during reconnaissance surveys, a complete list of all species with potential to occur in the vicinity of the proposed project was assembled (Attachment B). Twenty-three of the special-status plants and 21 of the special-status wildlife from the complete list of species were determined to have potential to occur in the treatment areas (Table 4.5-1). These species are discussed in detail under Impact BIO-1 (special-status plants) and Impact BIO-2 (special-status wildlife).

Of the 23 special-status plant species with potential to occur in the treatment areas, only one has been documented in the Preserve during protocol-level surveys for special-status plants: Hickman's popcornflower (EcoSystems West 2008). Since 2008, several special-status plant species have been assigned a rare plant rank of 1B that may not have been included in the initial protocol-level surveys (CNDDB 2020; CNPS 2020). Additionally, Townsend's big-eared bat and pallid bat have been detected in the Preserve during focused surveys for special-status bats (H. T. Harvey & Associates 2016), and satellite telemetry data from the Santa Cruz Puma Project and remote camera data from Midpen show that mountain lions frequently traverse the Preserve (Midpen 2020; Yovovich et al. 2020).

Table 4.5-1 Special-Status Plant and Wildlife Species That May Occur in the Treatment Areas

Species	Listing Status[1]	Listing Status[1]	Listing Status[1]	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence
	Federal	State	CRPR		
Special-Status Plants					
Bent-flowered fiddleneck *Amsinckia lunaris*	–	–	1B.2	Cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland, coastal bluff scrub. 10–2,608 feet in elevation. Blooms March–June. Annual.	May occur. Treatment areas contain woodland habitat potentially suitable for this species.
Anderson's manzanita *Arctostaphylos andersonii*	–	–	1B.2	Open sites, redwood forest. 197–2,493 feet in elevation. Blooms November–May. Perennial.	May occur. Treatment areas contain redwood forest habitat potentially suitable for this species.
Santa Cruz Mountains pussypaws *Calyptridium parryi* var. *hesseae*	–	–	1B.1	Chaparral, cismontane woodland. Sandy or gravelly openings. 984–5,036 feet in elevation. Blooms May–August. Annual.	May occur. Treatment areas contain woodland habitat potentially suitable for this species.
Robust spineflower *Chorizanthe robusta* var. *robusta*	FE	–	1B.1	Sandy terraces and bluffs or in loose sand. 30–804 feet in elevation. Blooms April–September. Annual.	May occur. Treatment areas contain woodland and coyote brush scrub habitat potentially suitable for this species.
San Francisco collinsia *Collinsia multicolor*	–	–	1B.2	On decomposed shale (mudstone) mixed with humus; sometimes on serpentine. 98–820 feet in elevation. Blooms March–May. Annual.	May occur. Treatment areas contain forest and coyote brush scrub habitats potentially suitable for this species.
Tear drop moss *Dacryophyllum falcifolium*	–	–	1B.3	Limestone substrates and rock outcrops. 164–902 feet in elevation. Perennial.	May occur. Treatment areas contain forest habitat potentially suitable for this species.
Western leatherwood *Dirca occidentalis*	–	–	1B.2	On brushy slopes, mesic sites; mostly in mixed evergreen and foothill woodland communities. 82–1,394 feet in elevation. Blooms January–March. Perennial.	May occur. Treatment areas contain forest and woodland habitat potentially suitable for this species.
Minute pocket moss *Fissidens pauperculus*	–	–	1B.2	Moss growing on damp soil along the coast. In dry streambeds and on	May occur. Treatment areas contain forest habitat potentially suitable for this species.

Species	Listing Status[1] Federal	Listing Status[1] State	Listing Status[1] CRPR	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence
				streambanks. 33–3,360 feet in elevation. Perennial.	
Fragrant fritillary *Fritillaria liliacea*	–	–	1B.2	Often on serpentine; various soils reported though usually on clay, in grassland. 10–1,312 feet in elevation. Blooms February–April. Perennial geophyte.	May occur. Treatment areas contain grassland habitat potentially suitable for this species.
Toren's grimmia *Grimmia torenii*	–	–	1B.3	Openings, rocky, boulder and rock walls, carbonate, volcanic. 1,066–3,806 feet in elevation. Perennial.	May occur. Treatment areas contain forest habitat potentially suitable for this species.
Arcuate bush-mallow *Malacothamnus arcuatus*	–	–	1B.2	Gravelly alluvium in chaparral, coastal sage scrub, or woodland. 3–2,411 feet in elevation. Blooms April–September. Perennial.	May occur. Treatment areas contain woodland habitat potentially suitable for this species.
Hall's bush-mallow *Malacothamnus hallii*	–	–	1B.2	Chaparral, coastal scrub. 33–2,395 feet in elevation. Blooms May–September. Perennial.	May occur. Treatment areas contain coyote brush scrub habitat potentially suitable for this species.
Marsh microseris *Microseris paludosa*	–	–	1B.2	Closed-cone coniferous forest, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. 16–984 feet in elevation. Blooms April–June. Perennial.	May occur. Treatment areas contain woodland and grassland habitat potentially suitable for this species.
Woodland woollythreads *Monolopia gracilens*	–	–	1B.2	Grassy sites, openings in broadleaved upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, North Coast coniferous forest; valley and foothill grassland; sandy to rocky soils. Often seen on serpentine after burns but may have only weak affinity to serpentine. 328–3,937 feet in elevation. Blooms March–July. Annual.	May occur. Treatment areas contain grassland habitat potentially suitable for this species.
Santa Cruz Mountains beardtongue *Penstemon rattanii* var. *kleei*	–	–	1B.2	Sandy shale slopes; sometimes in the transition between forest and chaparral. 1,312–3,609 feet in elevation. Blooms May–June. Perennial.	May occur. Treatment areas contain forest habitat potentially suitable for this species.
White-rayed pentachaeta *Pentachaeta bellidiflora*	FE	SE	1B.1	Open dry rocky slopes and grassy areas, often on soils derived from serpentine bedrock. 115–2,001 feet in elevation. Blooms March–May. Annual.	May occur. Treatment areas contain grassland habitat potentially suitable for this species.
Monterey pine *Pinus radiata*	–	–	1B.1	Closed-cone coniferous forest, cismontane woodland. Three primary stands are native to California. Dry bluffs and slopes. 197–410 feet in elevation. Perennial.	May occur. Treatment areas contain woodland habitat potentially suitable for this species.
White-flowered rein orchid *Piperia candida*	–	–	1B.2	Sometimes on serpentine. Forest duff, mossy banks, rock outcrops, and muskeg. 148–5,299 feet in	May occur. Treatment areas contain forest duff habitat potentially suitable for this species.

Species	Listing Status[1] Federal	Listing Status[1] State	Listing Status[1] CRPR	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence
				elevation. Blooms May–September. Perennial.	
Choris' popcornflower *Plagiobothrys chorisianus* var. *chorisianus*	–	–	1B.2	Wetlands in chaparral, coastal scrub, coastal prairie. 49–525 feet in elevation. Blooms March–June. Annual.	May occur. Treatment areas may contain wetland habitat potentially suitable for this species.
Hickman's popcornflower *Plagiobothrys chorisianus* var. *hickmanii*	–	–	4.2	Wetland. 49–607 feet in elevation. Blooms April–June. Annual.	Known to occur. This species was detected during protocol-level special-status plant surveys conducted in the Preserve in 2008 (EcoSystems West 2008).
Rock sanicle *Sanicula saxatilis*	–	SR	1B.2	Bedrock outcrops and talus slopes in chaparral or oak woodland habitat. 2,198–4,101 feet in elevation. Blooms April–May. Perennial.	May occur. Treatment areas contain oak woodland habitat potentially suitable for this species.
Santa Cruz clover *Trifolium buckwestiorum*	–	–	1B.1	Moist grassland. Gravelly margins. 344–2,001 feet in elevation. Blooms April–October. Annual.	May occur. Treatment areas contain grassland habitat potentially suitable for this species.
Caper-fruited tropidocarpum *Tropidocarpum capparideum*	–	–	1B.1	Valley and foothill grassland. Alkaline clay. 0–1,181 feet in elevation. Blooms March–April. Annual.	May occur. Treatment areas contain grassland habitat potentially suitable for this species.
Special-Status Wildlife					
California giant salamander *Dicamptodon ensatus*	–	SSC	–	Known from wet coastal forests near streams and seeps from Mendocino County south to Monterey County and east to Napa County. Aquatic larvae found in cold, clear streams, occasionally in lakes and ponds. Adults known from wet forests under rocks and logs near streams and lakes.	May occur. There are several documented occurrences of this species within approximately 5 miles of the treatment areas (CNDDB 2020). Habitat suitable for California giant salamander is present within forest habitat near streams in the treatment areas.
California red-legged frog *Rana draytonii*	FT	SSC	–	Lowlands and foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby, or emergent riparian vegetation. Requires 11-20 weeks of permanent water for larval development. Must have access to estivation habitat.	May occur. California red-legged frogs have not been detected within the treatment areas; however, there are several known occurrences of the species within approximately 1 mile of the treatment areas (CNDDB 2020; Biosearch Environmental Consulting 2018a). Recent surveys of potential breeding habitat (e.g., ponds) adjacent to the treatment areas did not result in detection of California red-legged frogs (Biosearch Environmental Consulting 2018a). This species is not expected to breed within ponds adjacent to the treatment areas; however, individuals may use upland habitat in the treatment areas for dispersal.
Foothill yellow-legged frog *Rana boylii*	–	SE SSC	–	Partly-shaded, shallow streams, and riffles with a rocky substrate in a variety of habitats. Need at least some cobble-sized substrate for egg-laying. Need at least 15 weeks to attain metamorphosis.	May occur. The nearest known occurrence of foothill yellow-legged frog is approximately 3 miles west of the treatment areas (CNDDB 2020). The treatment areas contain habitat potentially suitable for this species within streams and drainages.

Species	Listing Status[1] Federal	Listing Status[1] State	Listing Status[1] CRPR	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence
Santa Cruz black salamander *Aneides niger*	–	SSC	–	Mixed deciduous and coniferous woodlands and coastal grasslands in San Mateo, Santa Cruz, and Santa Clara Counties. Adults found under rocks, talus, and damp woody debris.	May occur. There are several known occurrences of Santa Cruz black salamander within approximately 3 miles of the treatment areas (CNDDB 2020). The treatment areas contain habitat potentially suitable for this species within woodlands and forests.
Western pond turtle *Actinemys marmorata*	–	SSC	–	Ponds, marshes, rivers, streams, and irrigation ditches, usually with aquatic vegetation, below 6,000 feet elevation. Need basking sites and suitable (sandy banks or grassy open fields) upland habitat up to 0.5 kilometer from water for egg-laying.	May occur. Habitat suitable for western pond turtle is present within ponds adjacent to the treatment area. Individual western pond turtles were detected during live-trapping surveys conducted in 2017. All captured turtles were located at Lower Lake and were determined to be male (Biosearch Environmental Consulting 2018b; H. T. Harvey & Associates 2006). No breeding attempts, nesting, or young have been observed to date. While the Preserve likely does not support a viable population of the species, there have been individual detections of pond turtles within the vicinity of the treatment areas (Biosearch Environmental Consulting 2018b).
American peregrine falcon *Falco peregrinus anatum*	FD	SD FP	–	Near wetlands, lakes, rivers, or other water; on cliffs, banks, dunes, mounds; also, human-made structures. Nest consists of a scrape or a depression or ledge in an open site.	May occur. Peregrine falcons may forage within the treatment areas; however, nesting habitat suitable for the species is not present.
Bald eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	FD	SE FP	–	Lower montane coniferous forest, old growth. Ocean shore, lake margins, and rivers for both nesting and wintering. Most nests within 1 mile of water. Nests in large, old-growth, or dominant live tree with open branches, especially ponderosa pine. Roosts communally in winter.	May occur. Nesting habitat potentially suitable for bald eagle is present within forest habitat in the treatment areas.
Golden eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*	–	FP	–	Rolling foothills, mountain areas, sage-juniper flats, and desert. Cliff-walled canyons provide nesting habitat in most parts of range; also, large trees in open areas.	May occur. Golden eagles may forage within the treatment areas; however, nesting habitat suitable for the species is not present.
Loggerhead shrike *Lanius ludovicianus*	–	SSC	–	Prefers open country for hunting, with perches for scanning, and fairly dense shrubs and brush for nesting.	May occur. The treatment areas contain habitat potentially suitable for this species within brushy areas.
Long-eared owl *Asio otus*	–	SSC	–	Riparian bottomlands grown to tall willows and cottonwoods; also, belts of live oak paralleling stream courses. Require adjacent open land productive of mice and the presence of old nests of crows, hawks, or magpies for breeding.	May occur. The treatment areas contain habitat potentially suitable for this species within forested portions of the treatment areas.
Northern harrier *Circus hudsonius*	–	SSC	–	Coastal salt and fresh-water marsh. Nest and forage in grasslands, from salt grass in desert sink to mountain cienagas. Nests on ground in	May occur. Habitat potentially suitable for this species is present adjacent to the treatment areas near freshwater marsh or pond habitat.

Species	Listing Status[1] Federal	Listing Status[1] State	Listing Status[1] CRPR	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence
				shrubby vegetation, usually at marsh edge; nest built of a large mound of sticks in wet areas.	
Olive-sided flycatcher *Contopus cooperi*	–	SSC	–	Nesting habitats are mixed conifer, montane hardwood-conifer, Douglas-fir, redwood, red fir, and lodgepole pine. Most numerous in montane conifer forests where tall trees overlook canyons, meadows, lakes, or other open terrain.	May occur. The treatment areas contain habitat potentially suitable for olive-sided flycatcher in forest habitat and there are several recent observations of the species in the vicinity of the treatment areas (eBird 2020).
Purple martin *Progne subis*	–	SSC	–	Inhabits woodlands, low-elevation coniferous forest of Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, and Monterey pine. Nests in old woodpecker cavities mostly, also in human-made structures. Nest often located in tall, isolated tree/snag.	May occur. The treatment areas contain habitat potentially suitable for purple martin within large conifer trees.
Vaux's swift *Chaetura vauxi*	–	SSC	–	Redwood, Douglas-fir, and other coniferous forests. Nests in large hollow trees and snags. Often nests in flocks. Forages over most terrains and habitats but shows a preference for foraging over rivers and lakes.	May occur. The treatment areas contain forest habitat potentially suitable for this species and there have been several recent observations of the species in the vicinity of the treatment areas (eBird 2020).
White-tailed kite *Elanus leucurus*	–	FP	–	Rolling foothills and valley margins with scattered oaks and river bottomlands or marshes next to deciduous woodland. Open grasslands, meadows, or marshes for foraging close to isolated, dense-topped trees for nesting and perching.	May occur. The treatment areas contain nesting habitat potentially suitable within woodlands and there have been several recent observations of the species in the vicinity of the treatment areas (eBird 2020).
Mountain lion Puma concolor	–	SC	–	Mountain lions inhabit a wide range of ecosystems, including mountainous regions, forests, deserts, and wetlands. Mountain lions establish and defend large territories and can travel large distances in search of prey or mates. The Central Coast and Southern California Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs) were granted emergency listing status in April of 2020, and CDFW is currently reviewing a petition to list these ESUs as threatened under CESA.	Known to occur. Mountain lions have been documented traversing the treatment areas, and it is likely that the treatment areas occupy a portion of the home range of many individual lions (Midpen 2020; Yovovich et al. 2020). Although denning in treatment areas is unlikely, potential den habitat (e.g., caves, cavities, thickets) may be present within treatment areas.
Pallid bat *Antrozous pallidus*	–	SSC	–	Deserts, grasslands, shrublands, woodlands and forests. Most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting. Roosts must protect bats from high temperatures. Very sensitive to disturbance of roosting sites.	Known to occur. Pallid bats have been detected in the vicinity of the treatment areas during surveys conducted at Alma College (H. T. Harvey & Associates 2016). Habitat potentially suitable for pallid bat is present within large trees and rocky areas in treatment areas.

Species	Listing Status[1] Federal	Listing Status[1] State	Listing Status[1] CRPR	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence
Ringtail *Bassariscus astutus*	–	FP	–	Suitable habitat for ringtails consists of a mixture of forest and shrubland in close association with rocky areas or riparian habitats. Hollow trees, logs, snags, cavities in talus and other rocky areas, and other recesses are used for cover. Usually found within 0.6 mile of a permanent water source.	May occur. Habitat potentially suitable for ringtail is present within riparian areas and forested areas near streams and drainages in the treatment areas.
San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat *Neotoma fuscipes annectens*	–	SSC	–	Chaparral, redwood. Forest habitats of moderate canopy and moderate to dense understory. May prefer chaparral and redwood habitats. Constructs nests of shredded grass, leaves, and other material. May be limited by availability of nest-building materials.	Known to occur. San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat nests have been observed in the Preserve, and habitat suitable for this species is present throughout forest and brushy areas within the treatment areas (H. T. Harvey & Associates 2006).
Townsend's big-eared bat *Corynorhinus townsendii*	–	SSC	–	Throughout California in a wide variety of habitats. Most common in mesic sites. Roosts in the open, hanging from walls and ceilings. Roosting sites limiting. Extremely sensitive to human disturbance.	Known to occur. Townsend's big-eared bats have been detected in the vicinity of the treatment areas during surveys conducted at Alma College (H. T. Harvey & Associates 2016). Habitat potentially suitable for Townsend's big-eared bat is present within large trees and human-made structures (e.g., buildings, bridges) in the treatment areas.
Western red bat *Lasiurus blossevillii*	–	SSC	–	Roosts primarily in trees, 2-40 feet above ground, from sea level up through mixed conifer forests. Prefers habitat edges and mosaics with trees that are protected from above and open below with open areas for foraging.	May occur. Western red bats have not been detected during previous surveys conducted in the vicinity of the treatment areas (H. T. Harvey & Associates 2016). Habitat potentially suitable for western red bat is present within trees in the treatment areas.

1. Legal Status Definitions:

California Rare Plant Ranks (CRPR):

1B Plant species considered rare or endangered in California and elsewhere (protected under CEQA, but not legally protected under ESA or CESA).
4 Plant species with limited distribution or infrequent throughout a broader area in California.

CRPR Threat Ranks:

0.1 Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened; high degree and immediacy of threat)
0.2 Moderately threatened in California (20-80% occurrences threatened; moderate degree and immediacy of threat)
0.3 Not very threatened in California (less than 20% of occurrences threatened / low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known)

State: SR State Listed as Rare (legally protected by NPPA)
FP Fully Protected (legally protected)
SSC Species of Special Concern (no formal protection other than CEQA consideration)
SE State Listed as Endangered (legally protected)
SD State Delisted
SC State Candidate for Listing

Federal: FE Federally Listed as Endangered (legally protected)
FT Federally Listed as Threatened (legally protected)
FD Federally Delisted

CDFW = California Department of Fish and Wildlife; CESA = California Endangered Species Act; CEQA = California Environmental Quality Act; CRPR = California Rare Plant Rank; ESA = Endangered Species Act; NPPA = Native Plant Protection Act

Sources: Biosearch Environmental Consulting 2018a, 2018b; CNDDB 2020; CNPS 2020; eBird 2020; EcoSystems West 2008; H. T. Harvey & Associates 2006; Kauffmann et al. 2015

IMPACT BIO-1

Initial vegetation treatments and maintenance treatments could result in direct or indirect adverse effects on the 23 special-status plant species with suitable habitat in treatment areas, as described in the following sections. Potential impacts resulting from maintenance activities would be similar to those resulting from initial vegetation treatments, because the same treatment activities would occur.

Five of the special-status plant species with suitable habitat in the treatment areas—western leatherwood, minute pocket moss, Choris' popcornflower, Hickman's popcornflower, and Santa Cruz clover—are typically associated with wet areas (e.g., wetlands, mesic areas in forest or grassland, springs, seeps). Pursuant to SPR HYD-4, Watercourse and Lake Protection Zones (WLPZs) ranging from 50 to 150 feet adjacent to all aquatic habitat within the treatment areas, which would include wetlands, springs, and seeps, would be implemented, which would avoid some adverse effects on these species.

SPR BIO-7 would apply to all treatment activities, including maintenance treatments. Pursuant to SPR BIO-7, protocol-level surveys for special-status plants would not be required if the target special-status plant species are herbaceous annual species, stump sprouting species, or geophyte species, and the treatment may be carried out during the dormant season for that species or when the species has completed its annual life cycle provided the treatment would not alter habitat in a way that would make it unsuitable for the special-status plants to reestablish following treatment, or destroy seeds, stumps, or roots, rhizomes, bulbs and other underground parts of special-status plants.

Eleven of the 23 special-status plant species that may occur within the treatment areas are herbaceous annual species or geophytes, as indicated in Table 4.5-1. Impacts on these species would be avoided by implementing non-ground-disturbing treatment activities (e.g., manual treatment activities) during the dormant season (i.e., when the plant has no aboveground parts). If treatments cannot be completed in the dormant season and would be implemented during the growing period of these annual and geophyte species, protocol surveys (per SPR BIO-7) and avoidance of any identified plants (per Mitigation Measures BIO-1a and BIO-1b) must be implemented, as described below. The remaining 12 of the 23 special-status plant species that have potential to occur within the treatment areas are perennial species, which could not be avoided in the same manner as herbaceous annual species or geophytes; therefore, protocol-level surveys under SPR BIO-7 to identify them would be necessary prior to implementing treatment activities.

Where protocol-level surveys are required (per SPR BIO-7) and special-status plants are identified during these surveys, Mitigation Measures BIO-1a and BIO-1b would be implemented to avoid loss of identified special-status plants. Per Mitigation Measures BIO-1a and BIO-1b, if special-status plants are identified during protocol-level surveys, a no-disturbance buffer of at least 50 feet would be established around the area occupied by the species within which mechanical treatment and manual treatment would not occur unless Midpen determines that the species would benefit from treatment in the occupied habitat area.

Hickman's popcornflower has been identified previously in treatment areas. Implementation of treatments would place treatment activities within 50 feet of individual plants and result in potential loss of individual plants. Pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-1b, avoidance by 50 feet would be required unless it is determined that a special-status plant would benefit from treatments in occupied habitat even though some individual plants may be lost. As described in Section 2.3.3, "Habitat Improvement Treatments," Hickman's popcornflower is known to respond favorably to regular disturbances (e.g., mowing of roads and trails) and to increased water, and proposed habitat improvement treatments have been designed by qualified professionals with the specific purpose of benefitting this local population (Kelley 2012; Sifuentes-Winter pers. comms. 2020). Treatments within occupied habitat would result in reduced forest canopy and reduced understory canopy, which would increase available water and sunlight to Hickman's popcornflower and reduce encroachment by woody vegetation, further reducing competition for water and sunlight (Sifuentes-Winter pers. comms. 2020). Initial treatments would occur between September 1 and December 31, which would be after the plants have set and dispersed seed, which would minimize impacts on the species (EcoSystems West 2008). Additionally, Midpen would conduct 10 years of annual monitoring of the Hickman's popcornflower population in the treatment area and nearby reference populations to monitor the anticipated

benefits of treatment to the population. For these reasons, Midpen determined that implementation of initial and maintenance treatments would improve habitat function for Hickman's popcornflower and benefit the population.

The potential for treatment activities, including maintenance treatments, to result in adverse effects on special-status plants was examined in the PEIR. This impact on special-status plants is within the scope of the PEIR because the affected special-status plant species were covered in the PEIR, and the initial treatment activities, maintenance treatment activities, and intensity of disturbance as a result of implementing treatment activities are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. SPRs applicable to this impact are BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-6, BIO-7, BIO-9, GEO-1, GEO-3, GEO-4, GEO-5, GEO-7, and HYD-4. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT BIO-2

Initial vegetation treatments and follow-up maintenance treatments could result in direct or indirect adverse effects on special-status wildlife species with suitable habitat within a treatment area, as described in the following sections. Potential impacts resulting from maintenance activities would be similar to those resulting from initial vegetation treatments because the same treatment activities would occur.

Special-Status Salamanders

Two special-status salamanders have potential to occur within treatment areas: California giant salamander and Santa Cruz black salamander (Table 4.5-1). Habitat potentially suitable for these species includes perennial and intermittent streams adjacent to the treatment areas and associated uplands, including forest habitat under duff and logs. WLPZs ranging from 50 to 150 feet adjacent to all aquatic habitat within the treatment areas would be implemented per SPR HYD-4; however, these measures may not result in full avoidance of special-status salamanders if these species are present further than 150 feet from stream habitat. The potential for treatment activities and maintenance treatments to result in adverse effects on special-status salamanders was examined in the PEIR.

Per SPR BIO-1, if it is determined that adverse effects on special-status salamanders can be clearly avoided by physically avoiding the suitable habitat, then no mitigation would be required. However, because California giant salamander and Santa Cruz black salamander may be present relatively large distances from aquatic habitat throughout the forest habitat in the treatment areas, it is unlikely that all potentially suitable habitat for these species can be avoided. As a result, SPR BIO-10 would apply, and focused surveys for special-status salamanders would be conducted within suitable habitat prior to implementation of mechanical and manual treatments.

If special-status salamanders are not detected within the treatment areas during focused surveys, then no mitigation for the species would be required. If special-status salamanders are detected during focused surveys, then Mitigation Measure BIO-2b would be implemented. Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2b, Midpen would require biological monitoring for treatment activities within or adjacent to sensitive habitat areas (e.g., streams, seeps, springs, talus slopes), flagging areas for avoidance, relocation of individual animals, and/or other measures recommended by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) as necessary to avoid injury to or mortality of these species.

Habitat function for special-status salamanders would be maintained because initial treatment activities and maintenance treatments would not occur within aquatic habitat, riparian habitat, or WLPZs adjacent to treatment areas. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

California Red-Legged Frog

Breeding habitat potentially suitable for California red-legged frog comprises three perennial ponds adjacent to treatment areas: Upper Lake, Lower Lake, and Mud Lake. Protocol-level surveys for California red-legged frog were conducted within the three perennial ponds adjacent to the treatment areas in 2018, and the species was not detected (Biosearch Environmental Consulting 2018a). In addition to the negative survey results, all three ponds have populations of bullfrogs and predatory fish, which typically precludes use by California red-legged frogs (Biosearch Environmental Consulting 2018a). Additional aquatic habitat suitable for this species has not been documented within

any of the treatment areas. The potential for initial treatment activities and maintenance treatments to result in adverse effects on California red-legged frogs was examined in the PEIR.

Studies have demonstrated that California red-legged frogs remain very close to breeding ponds during the breeding season and typically do not move more than approximately 500 feet into upland habitats (Bulger et al. 2003; Fellers and Kleeman 2007). WLPZs ranging from 50 to 150 feet adjacent to all aquatic habitat within the treatment areas would be implemented per SPR HYD-4; however, these measures may not result in full avoidance of California red-legged frogs if these species are present further than 150 feet from aquatic habitat. Adult and juvenile California red-legged frog are known to travel through upland habitat (e.g., riparian, woodland, grassland) to move between breeding and nonbreeding sites (e.g., other ponds, deep pools in streams, moist and cool riparian understory, burrows) for access to refugia and foraging habitat, or to disperse to new breeding locations. During migration, California red-legged frogs may travel long distances from aquatic habitat and typically travel in straight lines irrespective of vegetation types and have been documented to move over 1.7 miles between aquatic habitat sites (Bulger et al. 2003). Despite the lack of breeding habitat suitable for California red-legged frog within and adjacent to the treatment areas, it is unlikely, albeit possible, that individuals from known populations within approximately 1 mile of the Preserve (i.e., Lake Couzzens, Briggs Creek, Lake Kittredge) (Biosearch Environmental Consulting 2018a) may disperse through treatment areas.

Because this species could be present within a variety of different habitats throughout the treatment areas while dispersing, there is no feasible way to avoid all potentially suitable habitat for these species. Treatment activities, including removal of invasive and nonnative vegetation and fuel load reduction have been identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as recovery actions for California red-legged frog that are likely to improve habitat for the species (USFWS 2016). Midpen would include treatment activities within or adjacent to sensitive habitat areas (e.g., streams, ponds, seeps, springs) in the annual work plan submitted to CDFW and USFWS for the agency's 10(a)1(A) recovery permit for California red-legged frog.

Consistent with recovery permit conservation measures, SPR BIO-10 would apply, and focused surveys for California red-legged frogs within upland habitats in treatment areas (including all access routes, parking areas, equipment staging areas, and debris storage areas) would be conducted by a qualified biologist within 24 hours prior to implementation of all mechanical and manual treatments to determine whether California red-legged frogs are present. Additionally, pursuant to recovery permit conservation measures and Mitigation Measure BIO-2a, Midpen would require biological monitoring during treatment activities. If a California red-legged frog enters a treatment area, all work would stop, and the frog will be allowed to leave on its own. If a California red-legged frog enters a treatment area and will not or cannot leave on its own, the biological monitor will contact a USFWS- and CDFW-approved Midpen biologist who will relocate the individual frog outside of the treatment area.

Habitat function for California red-legged frogs would be maintained because treatment activities, including maintenance treatments, would not occur within aquatic habitat, riparian habitat, or WLPZs adjacent to treatment areas. Additionally, treatment activities, including removal of invasive and nonnative vegetation, as well as fuel load reduction, have been identified by USFWS as recovery actions for California red-legged frog that are likely to improve habitat for the species (USFWS 2016). This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog

Habitat potentially suitable for foothill yellow-legged frog includes perennial streams adjacent to treatment areas and associated uplands. Foothill yellow-legged frog is known to occur within upland habitat up to approximately 200 feet away, but typically no more than 50 to 70 feet away, from aquatic habitat (CDFW 2018a). WLPZs ranging from 50 to 150 feet adjacent to all aquatic habitat within the treatment areas would be implemented per SPR HYD-4; however, these measures may not result in full avoidance of foothill yellow-legged frogs, if frogs are present further than 150 feet from stream habitat. The potential for treatment activities, including maintenance treatments, to result in adverse effects on foothill yellow-legged frog was examined in the PEIR.

Per SPR BIO-1, to fully avoid habitat potentially suitable for foothill yellow-legged frog, a 200-foot buffer would be implemented prior to commencement of treatment activities by flagging along perennial streams (Class I and Class II)

adjacent to the treatment areas. If the 200-foot buffer is determined to be infeasible for certain treatments (e.g., habitat improvement treatments), then SPR BIO-10 would apply, and focused visual encounter surveys for foothill yellow-legged frog would be conducted within suitable habitat areas prior to treatment activities. If foothill yellow-legged frogs are identified during focused surveys, Mitigation Measure BIO-2a for this species would be implemented.

Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2a, Midpen would require biological monitoring for treatment activities within or adjacent to sensitive habitat areas (e.g., streams). If necessary, Midpen would consult with CDFW to identify adequate seasonal restrictions, no-disturbance buffers, or other measures to avoid disturbance to, injury to, or mortality of foothill yellow-legged frogs.

Habitat function for foothill yellow-legged frog would be maintained because treatment activities, including maintenance treatments, would not occur within aquatic habitat, riparian habitat, or WLPZs adjacent to treatment areas. Pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-2a, and because this species is listed under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), this determination must be made by Midpen in consultation with CDFW. Therefore, if Mitigation Measure BIO-2a is required, Midpen would contact CDFW to seek technical input on the determination that habitat function would be maintained. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

Western Pond Turtle

Aquatic habitat potentially suitable for western pond turtle is present within ponds adjacent to the treatment areas, and this species could use upland habitat within treatment areas in the vicinity of these ponds. WLPZs ranging from 50 to 150 feet adjacent to all aquatic habitat within the treatment areas would be implemented per SPR HYD-4; however, these measures may not avoid impacts on western pond turtles, if turtles are present further than 150 feet from stream habitat. The potential for treatment activities and maintenance treatments to result in adverse effects on western pond turtle was examined in the PEIR.

As described above for foothill yellow-legged frog, a 200-foot buffer would be implemented prior to commencement of treatment activities by flagging along perennial streams (Class I and Class II) adjacent to the treatment areas, which would provide additional protection for western pond turtle. If the 200-foot buffer is determined to be infeasible for certain treatments (e.g., habitat improvement treatments), then SPR BIO-10 would apply, and focused visual encounter surveys for western pond turtle would be conducted within suitable upland habitat areas prior to treatment activities. If western pond turtles are identified during focused surveys, Mitigation Measure BIO-2b for this species would be implemented.

Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2b, Midpen would require biological monitoring for treatment activities within or adjacent to sensitive habitat areas (e.g., streams), relocation of individual animals, flagging of areas for avoidance, and/or other measures recommended by CDFW as necessary to avoid injury to or mortality of these species.

Habitat function for western pond turtle would be maintained because treatment activities and maintenance treatments would not occur within aquatic habitat, riparian habitat, or WLPZs adjacent to treatment areas. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

Special-Status Birds

Ten special-status bird species may occur within the treatment area: American peregrine falcon, bald eagle, golden eagle, loggerhead shrike, long-eared owl, northern harrier, olive-sided flycatcher, purple martin, Vaux's swift, and white-tailed kite (Table 4.5-1). American peregrine falcon and golden eagle are not expected to nest within the treatment areas but could forage in some habitats present in the treatment areas. Nesting habitat potentially suitable for the other special-status bird species is present within and adjacent to the treatment areas. Treatment activities, including maintenance treatments, are not expected to result in adverse effects on occasional foragers, like American peregrine falcon and golden eagle, because the character of foraging habitat would not be significantly altered by treatment activities and these birds would likely be present within the treatment areas only occasionally.

Per SPR BIO-1, if it is determined that adverse effects on suitable habitat for nesting special-status birds can be clearly avoided by conducting treatments outside of the season of sensitivity (i.e., nesting bird season), then no mitigation would be required. Adverse effects on nesting special-status birds would be clearly avoided by conducting initial treatments between September 1 and December 31, outside of the nesting bird season (February 1–August 31). Maintenance treatments, including manual and mechanical treatment activities, may be conducted during portions of the nesting bird season (e.g., February–March, August). These activities could result in direct loss of active special-status bird nests or disturbance to active nests from auditory and visual stimulus (e.g., heavy equipment, chain saws, vehicles, personnel), potentially resulting in abandonment and loss of eggs or chicks. The potential for treatment activities and maintenance treatments to result in adverse effects on special-status birds was examined in the PEIR.

If maintenance treatments would occur during the nesting season, then SPR BIO-10 would apply, and focused nesting bird surveys for bald eagle, loggerhead shrike, long-eared owl, northern harrier, olive-sided flycatcher, purple martin, Vaux's swift, and white-tailed kite would be conducted prior to maintenance treatments. If no active bird nests are observed during focused surveys, then additional mitigation for these species would not be required. If active special-status bird nests are observed during focused surveys, then Mitigation Measures BIO-2a (for bald eagle and white-tailed kite) and BIO-2b (for loggerhead shrike, long-eared owl, northern harrier, olive-sided flycatcher, purple martin, and Vaux's swift) would be implemented.

Under Mitigation Measures BIO-2a and BIO-2b, a no-disturbance buffer of at least 500 feet would be established around active bald eagle and white-tailed kite nests, and at least 100 feet around the nests of other special-status birds, and no maintenance treatment activities would occur within this buffer until the chicks have fledged as determined by a qualified biologist. Additionally, trees containing active or inactive bald eagle nests would not be removed pursuant to the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

Habitat function for special-status birds would be maintained because treatment activities would not result in removal of trees (i.e., conifers, hardwoods) or snags greater than 8 inches dbh, which would be the most likely features to be used by these species due to the cover provided by larger trees. Pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-2a, this determination for bald eagle and white-tailed kite must be made by Midpen in consultation with CDFW. Therefore, if Mitigation Measure BIO-2a is required for maintenance treatment activities, Midpen would contact CDFW to seek technical input on the determination that habitat function would be maintained for bald eagle and white-tailed kite. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

Mountain Lion

Mountain lions have been documented traversing the Preserve, including the treatment areas, and it is likely that treatment areas encompass a portion of the home range for many individual lions (Midpen 2020; Yovovich et al. 2020). Den (i.e., nursery) habitat potentially suitable for mountain lions may be present within thickets and cavities (e.g., rocky areas or downed woody debris) in the treatment areas. There is a likelihood that mountain lions would occur within the treatment areas, but treatment activities, including maintenance treatments, would not occur at the time of day when mountain lions would be active. Furthermore, SPR BIO-2 would require biological resources training for workers and would instruct workers to stop work and allow wildlife, including mountain lion, to leave the area unharmed. Therefore, it is unlikely that implementation of initial and maintenance vegetation treatments would result in adverse effects on mountain lions. However, although unlikely, there is a possibility that a mountain lion could use rocky areas or areas with thick vegetation in the treatment areas for denning. If a mountain lion den is present within the treatment areas, mountain lions and cubs could be disturbed by the presence of equipment and personnel and could be inadvertently injured or killed by heavy machinery, personnel, and vehicles. The potential for treatment activities and maintenance treatments to result in adverse effects on burrowing or denning special-status wildlife species was examined in the PEIR.

Because mountain lions use den habitat year-round, may have cubs year-round, and could be present within treatment areas year-round, there is no reliable season during which impacts on this species could be avoided. As a result, SPR BIO-10 would apply and focused, noninvasive surveys for mountain lion dens would be conducted within

habitat suitable for denning prior to implementation of mechanical and manual treatments to determine whether occupied mountain lion dens are present within treatment areas.

If no occupied dens or signs of occupied dens are observed during focused surveys, then no additional mitigation would be required. If occupied mountain lion dens are identified or assumed present during focused surveys, Mitigation Measure BIO-2a would be implemented. Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2a, Midpen would be required to either avoid the occupied area by a distance of at least 2,000 feet, following the most current and commonly accepted science (Wilmers et al. 2013), or consult with CDFW to identify other measures to avoid disturbance to, injury to, or mortality of mountain lions.

Habitat function for mountain lion would be maintained because treatment activities, including maintenance treatments, would not result in removal of downed woody debris greater than 8 inches dbh, which would be the most likely features to be used by this species for denning. There would not be a significant change in the existing habitat within treatment areas because trees greater than 8 inches dbh would be retained, only targeted brush would be removed (e.g., invasive nonnative vegetation), and additional desirable tree species would be retained to the extent possible. Where chaparral vegetation is present, at least 35 percent relative final density would be maintained in the treatment area. The treatment areas are relatively small, and treatments would not result in landscape-scale or home-range-scale modifications; rather, treatments would restore the natural processes of the ecosystem and promote wildfire resiliency, which may benefit mountain lion.

Pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-2a, and because this species is a candidate for listing under CESA, Midpen must consult with CDFW about its determination that habitat function would be maintained. For the reasons summarized in the previous paragraph, Midpen determined that implementation of initial and maintenance treatments would maintain habitat function for mountain lion and contacted CDFW to seek technical input on this determination, as required. On January 28, 2021, Midpen met with Robynn Swan, a senior environmental scientist and vegetation management specialist with the CDFW Bay Delta Region. During this meeting, CDFW concurred that implementation of treatments under the proposed project would not result in an adverse effect on habitat function for mountain lion and would likely result in an overall beneficial impact on the species due to removal of invasive nonnative vegetation and areas affected by SOD. Additionally, due to the patchy nature of the treatment areas in the Preserve, CDFW concurred that habitat connectivity for mountain lions would also be maintained with project implementation. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

Special-Status Bats

Habitat potentially suitable for three special-status bat species—pallid bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, and western red bat—is present within forest habitat, rocky areas, and human-made structures (e.g., bridges) in the treatment areas, and pallid bat and Townsend's big-eared bat have been detected in the vicinity of the treatment areas (H. T. Harvey & Associates 2016). Adverse effects on special-status bat maternity roosts would be clearly avoided by conducting initial treatments between September 1 and December 31, outside of the bat maternity season (April 1–August 31). Maintenance treatments, including manual and mechanical treatment activities, may be conducted during portions of the bat maternity season (e.g., August). Maintenance treatment activities, including mechanical treatments and manual treatments, conducted within habitat suitable for bats during the bat maternity season could disturb active bat roosts from auditory and visual stimuli (e.g., heavy equipment, chain saws, vehicles, personnel), potentially resulting in abandonment of the roost and loss of young. The potential for treatment activities, including maintenance treatments, to result in adverse effects on special-status bats was examined in the PEIR.

If maintenance treatments would occur during the bat maternity season, then SPR BIO-10 would apply, and focused surveys for these species would be conducted within suitable habitat areas prior to maintenance treatment activities. If special-status bat roosts are identified during focused surveys, Mitigation Measure BIO-2b for special-status bats would be implemented.

Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2b, a no-disturbance buffer of 250 feet would be established around active pallid bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, or western red bat roosts, and mechanical and manual treatments would not occur within this buffer. A no-disturbance buffer of 250 feet is necessary to protect sensitive roosts; this buffer size was adjusted to

be larger than the general no-disturbance buffer of 100 feet provided in Mitigation Measure BIO-2b in order to provide adequate protection such that impacts would be less than significant under CEQA.

Habitat function for special-status bats would be maintained because treatment activities, including maintenance treatments, would not result in removal of trees (i.e., conifers, hardwoods) or snags greater than 8 inches dbh, which would be the most likely features to be used by these species due to the cover provided by larger trees. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

Ringtail

Ringtail is primarily nocturnal, and typically occurs in riparian areas, forests (including stands of various ages), and shrub habitats within approximately 0.6 mile of a permanent water source (CDFW 2005). This species may occur within portions of the treatment areas that are within 0.6 mile of perennial creeks and ponds adjacent to the treatment areas. Potential denning habitat includes rock outcrops, crevices, snags, large hardwoods, large conifers, and brush. Most of these habitats would be avoided, as trees and snags larger than 8 inches dbh would not be removed during treatment or maintenance activities and because rocky areas would not be targeted for vegetation treatment; however, brush would be targeted for treatment and would not be avoided through implementation of other measures. The potential for treatment activities, including maintenance treatments, to result in adverse effects on ringtail was examined in the PEIR.

Per SPR BIO-1, if it is determined that adverse effects on suitable habitat for ringtail can be clearly avoided by conducting treatments outside of the season of sensitivity (i.e., maternity season), then mitigation would not be required. Outside of the breeding season, resting ringtails would likely flee due to the presence of equipment, vehicles, or personnel, and injury or mortality would not be expected. Adverse effects on ringtail would be clearly avoided by conducting initial treatments between September 1 and December 31, and maintenance treatments between August 1 and April 15, outside of the ringtail maternity season (April 15–July 31).

Habitat function for ringtail would be maintained because treatment activities would not result in removal of trees (i.e., conifers, hardwoods) or snags greater than 8 inches dbh, which would be the most likely features to be used by this species due to the cover provided by larger trees and because rocky areas would not be targeted for vegetation treatment. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

San Francisco Dusky-Footed Woodrat

Habitat potentially suitable for San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat is present within forest, woodland, and scrub, habitats in the treatment areas with moderate canopy coverage and moderate to dense understory density. Woodrats construct nests, which are also known as houses or middens, with shredded grass, leaves, and other material. Woodrats use these nests during the breeding season and outside of the breeding season. Treatment activities, including maintenance treatments, may result in inadvertent disturbance to, injury to, or mortality of individual woodrats or destruction of nests. If present, San Francisco dusky-footed woodrats could be disturbed due to the presence of equipment and personnel and could be inadvertently injured or killed or have their nests destroyed by heavy machinery, personnel, vehicles, and fire. The potential for treatment and maintenance activities to result in adverse effects on San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat was examined in the PEIR.

Because woodrats use their nests year-round, there is no reliable season during which impacts on this species could be avoided. As a result, SPR BIO-10 would apply, and focused surveys for San Francisco dusky-footed woodrats would be conducted within suitable habitat prior to implementation of mechanical and manual treatments. Although woodrats have been detected in the project vicinity and are likely to be within the treatment areas, if woodrat nests are not detected within the treatment areas during focused surveys, then mitigation for the species would not be required. If woodrat nests are detected during focused surveys, then Mitigation Measure BIO-2b would be implemented. Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2b, a no-disturbance buffer of sufficient size to prevent disturbance would be established around active woodrat nests to prevent accidental encroachment by vehicles, equipment, or personnel. If woodrat nests within treatment areas cannot be avoided, a qualified biologist would implement nest

relocation procedures outside of the woodrat breeding season (April through mid-July). The biologist would determine whether the nest is active through live-trapping, and would dismantle the woodrat nest by hand, and rebuild the nest outside of the treatment area footprint.

Habitat function for San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat would be maintained because treatment activities, including maintenance treatments, would not result in removal of trees (i.e., conifers, hardwoods) or snags greater than 8 inches dbh, and there would not be a significant change in the existing habitat within treatment areas. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

Conclusion

The potential for treatment activities and maintenance treatments to result in adverse effects on special-status wildlife was examined in the PEIR. This impact on special-status wildlife is within the scope of the PEIR because the affected special-status wildlife species were analyzed in the PEIR, and the proposed treatment activities and intensity of disturbance as a result of implementing vegetation treatments are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. SPRs applicable to this impact are BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-9, BIO-10, GEO-1, and HYD-4.

IMPACT BIO-3

Initial vegetation treatments and maintenance treatments could result in direct or indirect adverse effects on sensitive habitats, including designated sensitive natural communities. Potential impacts resulting from maintenance activities would be similar to those resulting from initial vegetation treatments because the same treatment activities are proposed. The potential for treatment activities, including maintenance treatments, to result in adverse effects on sensitive habitats was examined in the PEIR.

Data review identified the following sensitive natural communities with potential to occur in the treatment areas: maritime coast range ponderosa pine forest, Monterey pine forest, northern coastal salt marsh, northern interior cypress forest, northern maritime chaparral, madrone forest, Shreve oak forest, California bay forest, bigleaf maple forest, Douglas fir-tanoak forest, Santa Lucia fir grove, California buckeye forest, tanoak forest, western azalea patch, redwood forest, tar plant field, and monolopia–leafy-stemmed tickseed field.

Using species occurrence information, mapping of the treatment areas, and a reconnaissance-level survey conducted pursuant to SPR BIO-1, it was determined that the treatment areas do not contain maritime coast range ponderosa pine forest, Monterey pine forest, northern coastal salt marsh, northern interior cypress forest, northern maritime chaparral, or Santa Lucia fir grove communities.

During the reconnaissance-level survey conducted pursuant to SPR BIO-1, madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*), California bay (*Umbellularia californica*), bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), tanoak (*Notholithocarpus densiflorus*), and redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) were observed within treatment areas. Bigleaf maple, madrone, and tanoak were not dominant and did not make up a large percentage of the canopy where present. However, some portions of the treatment areas have been mapped as California bay forest or redwood forest, and these areas would likely be considered sensitive natural communities if the species assemblage, percent cover, and patch size are sufficient to meet membership rules and sensitive natural community requirements. While Shreve oak (*Quercus parvula*), California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*), western azalea (*Rhododendron occidentale*), tarplant (*Centromadi*a spp.), woollythreads (*Monolopia* spp.), or tickseed (*Coreopsis* spp.) were not observed during reconnaissance-level surveys, these species could occur in the treatment areas. These species may be present in varying concentrations and species assemblages, but it is possible that occurrences of these species could meet the defined membership rules to qualify as sensitive natural communities. In summary, the following sensitive natural communities may occur in the treatment areas: madrone forest, Shreve oak forest, California bay forest, bigleaf maple forest, Douglas fir-tanoak forest, California buckeye forest, tanoak forest, western azalea patch, redwood forest, tar plant field, and monolopia–leafy-stemmed tickseed field.

In addition, coast live oak and oak woodland has been mapped in treatment areas, which are sensitive habitats. Riparian habitat is not present within the treatment areas, as the streams that occur in treatment areas are heavily

shaded by surrounding forest habitat, are on fairly steep gradients that do not allow floodwaters to pool, and do not support typical riparian vegetation, such as willow (*Salix* spp.), cottonwood (*Populus* spp.), or alder (*Alnus* spp.).

Pursuant to SPR BIO-3, a qualified biologist would conduct a survey following the CDFW "Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities" prior to the start of treatment activities (CDFW 2018b). Because other sensitive natural communities may be present in addition to redwood forest and California bay forest and woodland, sensitive natural communities and oak woodlands within the treatment areas would be mapped by a qualified biologist or botanist during this survey, as required under SPR BIO-3.

Midpen would retain vegetation types with characteristics qualifying as sensitive natural communities to the extent possible, including the retention of live oak trees, California buckeye, and bigleaf maple (see Section 2, "Project Description"). However, if treatment activities within identified sensitive natural communities or oak woodlands cannot be avoided, then Mitigation Measure BIO-3a would apply in these areas. Under Mitigation Measure BIO-3a, the qualified biologist would determine the natural fire regime, condition class, and fire return interval for each sensitive natural community and oak woodland type. Treatment activities in sensitive natural communities and oak woodlands would be designed to restore the natural fire regime and return vegetation composition and structure to their natural condition to maintain or improve habitat function. If habitat function of sensitive natural communities or oak woodlands would not be maintained through implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-3a, then Mitigation Measure BIO-3b would apply, and unavoidable losses of these resources would be compensated for through restoration or preservation of these vegetation types within or outside of the treatment areas.

This potential impact on sensitive habitats is within the scope of the PEIR because the affected sensitive natural communities and oak woodlands were analyzed in the PEIR, and the treatment activities and intensity of disturbance as a result of implementing vegetation treatments and maintenance treatments are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. SPRs applicable to this impact are BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-3, BIO-6, and BIO-9. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT BIO-4

Initial vegetation treatments and maintenance treatments could result in direct or indirect adverse effects on state or federally protected wetlands. Potential impacts resulting from maintenance activities would be similar to those resulting from initial vegetation treatments because the same treatment activities are proposed. The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on state or federally protected wetlands was examined in the PEIR.

Most of the aquatic habitat in the vicinity of the treatment areas has been excluded during design of the treatments. However, based on review and survey of project-specific biological resources (SPR BIO-1), some portions of the treatment areas may contain small segments of perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral streams. Under SPR HYD-4, WLPZs ranging from 50 to 150 feet would be established adjacent to all Class I and Class II streams within the treatment areas, and WLPZs of at least 25 feet would be established around all Class III ephemeral streams within the treatment areas. Establishment of WLPZs would avoid all state or federally protected wetlands.

This potential impact on wetlands is within the scope of the PEIR because the treatment activities and intensity of disturbance as a result of implementing vegetation treatments and maintenance treatments are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. SPRs applicable to this impact are BIO-1, BIO-2, and HYD-4. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT BIO-5

Initial vegetation treatments and maintenance treatments could result in direct or indirect adverse effects on wildlife movement corridors and nurseries because suitable habitat is present in treatment areas. Potential impacts resulting from maintenance activities would be similar to those resulting from initial vegetation treatments because the same

treatment activities are proposed. The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on wildlife movement corridors and nurseries was examined in the PEIR.

Based on review and survey of project-specific biological resources (SPR BIO-1), the treatment areas contain a modeled essential connectivity area characterized as "more permeable" and therefore likely functions as a wildlife movement corridor and provides connectivity with other natural habitats surrounding the treatment areas (CDFW 2020). Due to the nature of the proposed treatment activities, implementation of these treatment activities would not result in a substantial change in the existing conditions that facilitate wildlife movement in treatment areas. Through treatments of heavy brush, primarily characterized by invasive nonnative plant species, and through treatments of areas affected by SOD, habitat would likely be improved and would function better for wildlife movement posttreatment. Additionally, no known wildlife nursery sites or indications of nursery sites, such as deer fawning habitat or potential rookery trees with whitewash, were identified within any treatment areas during implementation of SPR BIO-1. However, the natural habitat within treatment areas may be used for movement (e.g., mule deer migration) and cover for common wildlife species.

This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the treatment activities and extent of expected disturbance as a result of implementing vegetation treatments are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. Habitat function within treatment areas would be maintained because treatment activities, including maintenance treatments, would not result in removal of trees (i.e., conifers, hardwoods) or snags greater than 8 inches dbh. Additionally, WLPZs ranging from 25 to 150 feet would be implemented adjacent to all streams in treatment areas, which could function as wildlife movement corridors, pursuant to SPR HYD-4. The treatment areas are relatively small, and treatments are not expected to result in landscape-scale modifications; rather, treatments are expected to result in improved habitat quality and wildfire resiliency. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT BIO-6

Initial vegetation treatments and maintenance treatments could result in direct or indirect adverse effects resulting in reduction of habitat or abundance of common wildlife, including nesting birds, because habitat suitable for these species is present throughout treatment areas. The potential for treatment activities, including maintenance treatments, to result in adverse effects on these resources was examined in the PEIR.

Adverse effects on nesting birds would be clearly avoided by conducting initial treatments between September 1 and December 31, outside of the nesting bird season (February 1–August 31). Maintenance treatments, including manual and mechanical treatment activities, may be conducted during portions of the nesting bird season (e.g., February–March, August). These activities could result in direct loss of active nests or disturbance to active nests from auditory and visual stimulus (e.g., heavy equipment, chain saws, vehicles, personnel) potentially resulting in abandonment and loss of eggs or chicks.

If maintenance treatments would occur during the nesting season, then SPR BIO-12 would apply, and a survey for common nesting birds would be conducted within the treatment areas by a qualified biologist prior to treatment activities. If no active bird nests are observed during focused surveys, then additional mitigation would not be required. If active nests of common birds or raptors are observed during focused surveys, disturbance to the nests would be avoided by establishing an appropriate buffer around the nests, modifying treatments to avoid disturbance to the nests, or deferring treatment until the nests are no longer active as determined by a qualified biologist.

The potential for adverse effects on common wildlife, including nesting birds, is within the scope of the PEIR because the treatment activities and extent of expected disturbance as a result of implementing vegetation treatments, including maintenance treatments, are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. SPRs applicable to this impact are BIO-1, BIO-2, and BIO-12. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT BIO-7

The potential for treatment activities to result in conflicts with local policies or ordinances was examined in the PEIR. The only applicable local ordinance relevant to biological resources is the Santa Clara County Tree Preservation and Removal Ordinance (Division C16). This ordinance requires permits from the County Planning Office for removal of any protected tree on private or public property. Protected trees include those with a dbh greater than 12 inches and heritage trees, defined as any tree that, because of its history, girth, height, species, or other unique quality, has been recommended for inclusion on the heritage resources inventory. Treatment activities, including maintenance treatments, would not result in removal of any trees greater than 8 inches dbh; thus, none of these trees would qualify as protected trees under this ordinance. In addition, the ordinance includes exceptions for removal of trees that are irreversibly diseased, dead, dying, or substantially damaged from natural causes. SOD treatments would be focused on trees that meet this criterion. There would be no conflict with local ordinances as a result of implementation of treatment activities.

The potential for the proposed treatments to conflict with local policies is within the scope of the PEIR because vegetation treatment locations, types, and activities are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. In addition, all projects implemented under the CalVTP that are subject to local policies or ordinances would be required to comply with them, per SPR AD-3. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT BIO-8

This impact does not apply to the proposed project because the treatment areas are not within the plan area of any adopted habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan. Therefore, this impact does not apply to the proposed project.

NEW BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE IMPACTS

The proposed treatments are entirely within the CalVTP treatable landscape and are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. Midpen has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatment project and determined that they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.6.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.6.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). Midpen has also determined that the circumstances under which the proposed treatment project would be undertaken are also consistent with those considered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances are present that would give rise to any new significant impacts not addressed in the PEIR. Therefore, no new impact related to biological resources would occur that is not covered in the PEIR.

4.6 GEOLOGY, SOILS, PALEONTOLOGY, AND MINERAL RESOURCES

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact GEO-1: Result in Substantial Erosion or Loss of Topsoil	LTS	Impact GEO-1, pp. 3.7-26 – 3.7-29	Yes	GEO-1 GEO-2 GEO-3 GEO-4 GEO-5 GEO-7 GEO-8	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact GEO-2: Increase Risk of Landslide	LTS	Impact GEO-2, pp. 3.7-29 – 3.7-30	Yes	GEO-3 GEO-4 GEO-7 GEO-8	NA	LTS	No	Yes

[1]NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Geology, Soils, Paleontology, and Mineral Resource Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to geology, soils, paleontology, and mineral resources that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?

☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
	☐	☐	☐

Discussion

IMPACT GEO-1

Vegetation treatments would include manual and mechanical treatment activities involving vegetation removal and varying levels of soil disturbance, which have the potential to increase rates of erosion and loss of topsoil. The potential for these treatment activities to cause substantial erosion or loss of topsoil was examined in the PEIR. Mechanical treatments using heavy machinery are the most likely to cause soil disturbance that could lead to substantial erosion or loss of topsoil, especially in areas of steep slopes. The proposed project would implement mechanical treatments on approximately 205 acres within the Preserve, including areas where steep slopes occur. Consistent with the PEIR, SPRs GEO-1 through GEO-5, GEO-7, and GEO-8 would be implemented, which would avoid and minimize the risk of substantial erosion and loss of topsoil as a result of project implementation. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the proposed treatment activities and intensity of vegetation removal and associated ground disturbance under the proposed project is consistent with what was analyzed in the PEIR. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT GEO-2

Vegetation treatments would include vegetation removal in areas with steep slopes, which could decrease the stability of slopes and increase the risk of landslide. The potential for treatment activities to increase landslide risk was examined in the PEIR. The Preserve is located on the Black Road landslide, which encompasses all of the land mass on the west side of Lexington Reservoir north of Black Road. Based on the age of the Black Road landslide (estimated at 100,000 to 235,000 years before present) the landslide is inactive. Shallow-seated landslides are also present in the Preserve on oversteepened slopes, including road cuts and incised stream channels. Channel incision and bank erosion during severe storms undermine the toes of slopes and remove colluvium and talus, which play an important role in initiating shallow-seated landslides near streams (Knapp Architects 2010). Removing vegetation during treatments implemented under the proposed project could potentially increase the risk of landslide by removing root systems that stabilize slopes. Consistent with the PEIR, this risk is addressed with the implementation of SPRs GEO-3, GEO-4, GEO-7, and GEO-8, which require stabilization of mechanically disturbed soil, erosion inspections, prohibiting mechanical treatment on steep slopes, and that a registered professional forester or licensed geologist evaluate treatment areas with slopes greater than 50 percent for unstable areas. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the extent and methods of vegetation removal and required avoidance of steep slopes and areas of instability are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

NEW GEOLOGY, SOILS, PALEONTOLOGY, AND MINERAL RESOURCE IMPACTS

The proposed treatments are entirely within the CalVTP treatable landscape and are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. Midpen has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatment project and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.7.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.7.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). Midpen has also determined that the circumstances under which the proposed treatment project would be undertaken are also consistent with those considered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances would give rise to new significant impacts not addressed in the PEIR. Therefore, no new impact related to geology, soils, paleontology, or mineral resources would occur that is not covered in the PEIR.

4.7 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact GHG-1: Conflict with Applicable Plan, Policy, or Regulation of an Agency Adopted for the Purpose of Reducing the Emissions of GHGs	LTS	Impact GHG-1, pp. 3.8-10 – 3.8-11	Yes	None	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact GHG-2: Generate GHG Emissions through Treatment Activities	PSU	Impact GHG-2, pp. 3.8-11 – 3.8-17	Yes	NA	None	SU	No	Yes

[1]NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact. None: there are SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact, but none are applicable to the treatment project.

New GHG Emissions Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to GHG emissions that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?

☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
	☐	☐	☐

Discussion

IMPACT GHG-1

Use of vehicles and mechanical equipment during vegetation treatments would result in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Consistency of treatments under the CalVTP with applicable plans, policies, and regulations aimed at reducing GHG emissions was examined in the PEIR. Consistent with the PEIR, although GHG emissions would occur from equipment and vehicles used to implement treatments, the purpose of the proposed project is to reduce wildfire risk and increase postwildfire resilience, which could reduce GHG emissions and increase carbon sequestration over the long-term. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the proposed treatment activities, associated equipment, duration of use, and resultant GHG emissions, as well as the project purpose, are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT GHG-2

Use of vehicles and mechanical equipment during vegetation treatments would result in GHG emissions. The potential for treatments under the CalVTP to generate GHG emissions was examined in the PEIR. Consistent with the PEIR, treatment activities implemented under the proposed project would result in GHG emissions directly generated

by off-road equipment, on-road vehicles, machine-powered hand tools, worker commute trips, and hauling of equipment and materials associated with manual and mechanical treatment activities. However, unlike under the CalVTP, no prescribed burning, which results in substantially more GHG emissions than manual or mechanical treatments, would occur under the proposed project. Nonetheless, this impact would be potentially significant under the proposed project. Mitigation Measure GHG-2 would not be applicable to the proposed project because it requires GHG emissions reduction techniques to be implemented during prescribed burning, which is not a proposed treatment activity. Other measures could include the purchase and retirement of carbon credits to offset the one-time GHG emissions directly associated with the proposed project; however, this approach would consume financial resources needed to achieve wildfire risk reduction objectives. No other feasible and effective mitigation exists that would reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level without compromising the effectiveness of the proposed project. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the proposed activities, as well as the associated equipment and duration of use are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. In addition, the intent of the proposed vegetation treatments is to reduce wildfire risk and GHG emissions related to wildfire. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

NEW IMPACTS RELATED TO GHG EMISSIONS

The proposed treatments are entirely within the CalVTP treatable landscape and are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. Midpen has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatment project and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.8.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.8.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). Midpen has also determined that the circumstances under which the proposed treatment project would be undertaken are also consistent with those considered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances would give rise to new significant impacts not addressed in the PEIR. Therefore, no new impact related to GHG emissions would occur that is not covered in the PEIR.

4.8 ENERGY RESOURCES

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact ENG-1: Result in Wasteful, Inefficient, or Unnecessary Consumption of Energy	LTS	Impact ENG-1, pp. 3.9-7 – 3.9-8	Yes	NA	NA	LTS	No	Yes

[1]NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Energy Resource Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to energy resources that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?

☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
	☐	☐	☐

Discussion

IMPACT ENG-1

Use of vehicles and mechanical equipment during treatment activities would result in the consumption of energy through the use of fossil fuels. The use of fossil fuels for equipment and vehicles was examined in the PEIR. Consistent with the PEIR, and in consideration of the project's purpose to reduce wildfire, implementation of treatment activities under the proposed project are reasonably expected to reduce the intensity of response to wildfire, specifically the resources needed for fire suppression (e.g., equipment and vehicles). With less intense wildfire suppression response and its relatively inefficient consumption of energy, fuel and energy consumption for wildfire suppression response would decrease, as well. The consumption of energy during implementation of the proposed treatment project from the use of equipment and vehicles is within the scope of the PEIR because the types of activities, as well as the associated equipment and duration of proposed use, are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

NEW ENERGY RESOURCE IMPACTS

The proposed treatments are entirely within the CalVTP treatable landscape and are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. Midpen has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatment project and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.9.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.9.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). Midpen has also determined that the circumstances under which the proposed treatment project would be undertaken are also consistent with those considered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances would give rise to new significant impacts not addressed in the PEIR. Therefore, no new impact related to energy use would occur that is not covered in the PEIR.

4.9 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered In the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact HAZ-1: Create a Significant Health Hazard from the Use of Hazardous Materials	LTS	Impact HAZ-1, pp. 3.10-14 – 3.10-15	Yes	HAZ-1	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact HAZ-2: Create a Significant Health Hazard from the Use of Herbicides	LTS	Impact HAZ-2, pp. 3.10-15 – 3.10-18	No	--	--	--	--	--
Impact HAZ-3: Expose the Public or Environment to Significant Hazards from Disturbance to Known Hazardous Material Sites	PS	Impact HAZ-3, pp. 3.10-18 – 3.10-19	Yes	NA	HAZ-3	LTSM	No	Yes

[1]NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Hazardous Materials, Public Health and Safety Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts related to hazardous materials, public health and safety that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?

☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
	☐	☐	☐

Discussion

IMPACT HAZ-1

Vegetation treatments would include manual and mechanical treatment activities, which would require the use of fuels, which are considered common hazardous materials. The potential for treatment activities to cause a significant health hazard from the use of hazardous materials was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the types and locations of treatments and associated equipment and types of hazardous materials that would be used are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. SPR HAZ-1 would be applicable to the proposed project. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT HAZ-2

This impact does not apply to the proposed project because herbicide application is not part of the proposed project.

IMPACT HAZ-3

Vegetation treatments would include soil disturbance through mechanical treatment activities, which could expose workers or the environment to hazardous materials if a contaminated site is present within a treatment area. The potential for treatment activities to encounter contamination that could expose workers or the environment to hazardous materials was examined in the PEIR. This impact was identified as potentially significant in the PEIR because of the large geographic extent of the treatable landscape, hazardous materials sites could be present within treatment sites, and soil disturbance in those areas could expose people or the environment to hazards.

As directed by Mitigation Measure HAZ-3, a database search and review of the Cortese List for hazardous materials sites within the Preserve have been conducted. There are no active Cortese List hazardous materials sites within or adjacent to the Preserve. Four previous leaking underground storage tank sites are present within or adjacent to the Preserve; however, they have been cleaned up to regulatory standards and are considered to present no further threat under current land uses (DTSC 2020).

Although it is not included on the Cortese List, a historic-era dump site/landfill is located in the northeastern portion of the Preserve, adjacent to the former Alma College "village." Concentrations of lead, zinc, and copper were found in excess of hazardous waste toxicity criteria, but due to the use of the site as open space, removal was not recommended (Geocon Consultants 2019; Albion Environmental 2019). The dump site is located in close proximity to an area of proposed habitat improvement treatments and an area of proposed SOD treatments. Consistent with the requirements of Mitigation Measure HAZ-3, the landfill area will be marked/flagged, and no soil-disturbing treatment activities will occur within 100 feet of the site boundaries. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

NEW HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPACTS

The proposed treatments are entirely within the CalVTP treatable landscape and are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. Midpen has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatment project and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.10.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.10.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). Midpen has also determined that the circumstances under which the proposed treatment project would be undertaken are also consistent with those considered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances would give rise to new significant impacts not addressed in the PEIR. Therefore, no new impact related to hazardous materials and public health and safety would occur that is not covered in the PEIR.

4.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact HYD-1: Violate Water Quality Standards or Waste Discharge Requirements, Substantially Degrade Surface or Ground Water Quality, or Conflict with or Obstruct the Implementation of a Water Quality Control Plan Through the Implementation of Prescribed Burning	LTS	Impact HYD-1, pp. 3.11-25 – 3.11-27	No	--	--	--	--	--
Impact HYD-2: Violate Water Quality Standards or Waste Discharge Requirements, Substantially Degrade Surface or Ground Water Quality, or Conflict with or Obstruct the Implementation of a Water Quality Control Plan Through the Implementation of Manual or Mechanical Treatment Activities	LTS	Impact HYD-2, pp. 3.11-27 – 3.11-29	Yes	HYD-1 HYD-2 HYD-4 HYD-6 GEO-1 GEO-2 GEO-3 GEO-4 GEO-7 GEO-8 HAZ-1	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact HYD-3: Violate Water Quality Standards or Waste Discharge Requirements, Substantially Degrade Surface or Ground Water Quality, or Conflict with or Obstruct the Implementation of a Water Quality Control Plan Through Prescribed Herbivory	LTS	Impact HYD-3, p. 3.11-29	No	--	--	--	--	--
Impact HYD-4: Violate Water Quality Standards or Waste Discharge Requirements, Substantially Degrade Surface or Ground Water Quality, or Conflict with or Obstruct the Implementation of a Water Quality Control Plan Through the Ground Application of Herbicides	LTS	Impact HYD-4, pp. 3.11-30 – 3.11-31	No	--	--	--	--	--

Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Impact HYD-5: Substantially Alter the Existing Drainage Pattern of a Treatment Site or Area	LTS	Impact HYD-5, p. 3.11-31	Yes	HYD-1 HYD-2 HYD-4 HYD-6 GEO-1 GEO-2 GEO-5	NA	LTS	No	Yes

[1]NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Hydrology and Water Quality Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to hydrology and water quality that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?

☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
	☐	☐	☐

Discussion

IMPACT HYD-1

This impact does not apply to the proposed project because no prescribed burning would occur.

IMPACT HYD-2

Vegetation treatments would include manual and mechanical treatment activities. These treatment activities would disturb soils and require the use of fuels, which have the potential to enter waterways and degrade water quality. The potential for mechanical and manual treatment activities to violate water quality regulations or degrade water quality was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the types and locations of treatment activities and use of heavy equipment and hand-held tools to remove vegetation are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. SPRs applicable to this treatment are HYD-1, HYD-2, HYD-4, HYD-6, GEO-1 through GEO-4, GEO-7, GEO-8, and HAZ-1. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT HYD-3

This impact does not apply to the proposed project because no prescribed herbivory would occur.

IMPACT HYD-4

This impact does not apply to the proposed project because herbicide application is not part of the proposed project.

IMPACT HYD-5

Use of mechanical equipment and off-road vehicles during treatments could cause ground disturbance and erosion, which could directly or indirectly modify existing drainage patterns. The potential for treatment activities to substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of a treatment site was examined in the PEIR. This impact on site drainage is within the scope of the PEIR, because the types and locations of treatments and treatment intensity are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. SPRs applicable to this treatment are HYD-1, HYD-2, HYD-4, HYD-6, GEO-1, GEO-2, and GEO-5. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

NEW HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY IMPACTS

The proposed treatments are entirely within the CalVTP treatable landscape and are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. Midpen has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatment project and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.11.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.11.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). Midpen has also determined that the circumstances under which the proposed treatment project would be undertaken are also consistent with those considered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances would give rise to new significant impacts not addressed in the PEIR. Therefore, no new impact related to hydrology and water quality would occur that is not covered in the PEIR.

4.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING, POPULATION AND HOUSING

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact LU-1: Cause a Significant Environmental Impact Due to a Conflict with a Land Use Plan, Policy, or Regulation	LTS	Impact LU-1, pp. 3.12-13 – 3.12-14	Yes	AD-3	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact LU-2: Induce Substantial Unplanned Population Growth	LTS	Impact LU-2, pp. 3.12-14 – 3.12-15	Yes	NA	NA	LTS	No	Yes

[1]NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Land Use and Planning, Population and Housing Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to land use and planning, population and housing that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?

☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
	☐	☐	☐

Discussion

IMPACT LU-1

Vegetation treatment activities would occur within the boundaries of the Preserve, which is owned and operated by Midpen. The potential for vegetation treatment activities to cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with a land use plan, policy, or regulation was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the treatment locations, types, and activities are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. No conflicts with a land use plan or policy would occur because Midpen would adhere to SPR AD-3 and the proposed treatments have been designed to be consistent with Midpen policies for its Preserve. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT LU-2

Crews implementing the proposed project would typically range between eight and 12 personnel, and up to three crews would be working simultaneously to implement the proposed project. The potential for treatments to result in substantial population growth as a result of increases in demand for employees was examined in the PEIR. Impacts associated with short-term increases in the demand for workers during implementation of the proposed project are within the scope of the PEIR because the number of workers required for implementation of treatments is generally

consistent with the crew size analyzed in the PEIR for the types of treatments proposed (i.e., two to 10 workers for mechanical treatments, and up to 10 workers for manual treatments). Although Midpen would temporarily contract workers to implement the proposed project or hire an additional six to eight staff, it is expected that this demand could be met by new employees who are existing residents in the vicinity of where treatments would occur. The potential also exists for people to relocate to the area for vegetation treatment employees, but there would be sufficient housing to meet the housing demand associated with these new six to eight employees that may relocate from outside of the area. Thus, implementation of the proposed project would not induce substantial unplanned population growth to cause a need for new housing and other infrastructure. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

NEW LAND USE AND PLANNING, POPULATION AND HOUSING IMPACTS

The proposed treatments are entirely within the CalVTP treatable landscape and are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. Midpen has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatment project and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.12.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.12.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). Midpen has also determined that the circumstances under which the proposed treatment project would be undertaken are also consistent with those considered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances would give rise to new significant impacts not addressed in the PEIR. Therefore, no new impact related to land use and planning or population and housing would occur that is not covered in the PEIR.

4.12 NOISE

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact NOI-1: Result in a Substantial Short-Term Increase in Exterior Ambient Noise Levels During Treatment Implementation	LTS	Impact NOI-1, pp. 3.13-9 – 3.13-12; Appendix NOI-1	Yes	AD-3 NOI-1 NOI-2 NOI-3 NOI-4 NOI-5 NOI-6	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact NOI-2: Result in a Substantial Short-Term Increase in Truck-Generated Single-Event Noise Levels During Treatment Activities	LTS	Impact NOI-2, p. 3.13-12	Yes	NOI-1	NA	LTS	No	Yes

[1]NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Noise Impacts: Would the treatment result in other noise-related impacts that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?

☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
	☐	☐	☐

Discussion

IMPACT NOI-1

Manual and mechanical treatments would require the use of noise-generating equipment during implementation. The potential for a substantial short-term increase in ambient noise levels from use of heavy equipment was examined in the PEIR. The Santa Clara County Code identifies noise limits for construction activities, which would also apply to vegetation treatment activities. Noise limits under the code are more stringent during the nighttime and early morning hours, between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., as well as on Sundays and legal holidays. Although the treatment areas are undeveloped, there are noise-sensitive receptors, such as residents, an elementary school, and a church, located within 1,500 feet of proposed treatments. However, treatments would be limited to Monday through Saturday during daytime hours, consistent with the County Code, and no work would occur on Sundays or holidays. In addition, several SPRs would be implemented, including AD-3 and NOI-1 through NOI-5. For any properties where residences are within 1,500 feet of a treatment area, SPR NOI-6 would also apply. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR, because the number and types of equipment proposed and the duration of equipment use are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT NOI-2

Treatments would involve large trucks hauling heavy equipment to the treatment areas. These haul truck trips could pass by residential receptors, and the event of each truck passing by could increase single-event noise levels. The potential for a substantial short-term increase in single-event noise levels was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the PEIR because the number and types of equipment proposed are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. The haul trips associated with the proposed treatments would occur during daytime hours, which avoids the potential to cause sleep disturbance to residents during the more noise-sensitive evening and nighttime hours. SPR NOI-1 would be applicable to the proposed project. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

NEW NOISE IMPACTS

The proposed treatments are entirely within the CalVTP treatable landscape and are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. Midpen has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatment project and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.13.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.13.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). Midpen has also determined that the circumstances under which the proposed treatment project would be undertaken are also consistent with those considered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances would give rise to new significant impacts not addressed in the PEIR. Therefore, no new impact related to noise would occur that is not covered in the PEIR.

4.13 RECREATION

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact REC-1: Directly or Indirectly Disrupt Recreational Activities within Designated Recreation Areas	LTS	Impact REC-1, pp. 3.14-6 – 3.14-7	Yes	REC-1	NA	LTS	No	Yes

[1]NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Recreation Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to recreation that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?

☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
	☐	☐	☐

Discussion

IMPACT REC-1

Vegetation treatment activities have the potential to disrupt recreational activities within the Preserve through temporary trail closures during active treatments and by degrading the experience of recreationists through the creation of noise, dust, degradation of scenic views, or increased traffic. The potential for vegetation treatment activities to disrupt recreation activities was examined in the PEIR. The potential for the proposed project to disrupt recreation is within the scope of the PEIR because the treatment activities and intensity are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. SPR REC-1 would be applicable to the proposed project. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

NEW RECREATION IMPACTS

The proposed treatments are entirely within the CalVTP treatable landscape and are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. Midpen has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatment project and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.14.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.14.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). Midpen has also determined that the circumstances under which the proposed treatment project would be undertaken are also consistent with those considered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances would give rise to new significant impacts not addressed in the PEIR. Therefore, no new impact related to recreation would occur that is not covered in the PEIR.

4.14 TRANSPORTATION

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact TRAN-1: Result in Temporary Traffic Operations Impacts by Conflicting with a Program, Plan, Ordinance, or Policy Addressing Roadway Facilities or Prolonged Road Closures	LTS	Impact TRAN-1, pp. 3.15-9 – 3.15-10	Yes	AD-3 TRAN-1	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact TRAN-2: Substantially Increase Hazards due to a Design Feature or Incompatible Uses	LTS	Impact TRAN-2, pp. 3.15-10 – 3.15-11	Yes	AD-3 TRAN-1	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact TRAN-3: Result in a Net Increase in VMT for the Proposed CalVTP	PSU	Impact TRAN-3, pp. 3.15-11 – 3.15-13	Yes	NA	None	LTS	No	Yes

[1]NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact. None: there are SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact, but none are applicable to the treatment project.

New Transportation Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to transportation that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?

☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
	☐	☐	☐

Discussion

IMPACT TRAN-1

Vegetation treatments would temporarily increase vehicular traffic along several roads in the project area, including Bear Creek Road, Chase Road, Thompson Road, Old Well Road, and Brush Road, as well as SR 35 and SR 17. The potential for a temporary increase in traffic to conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing roadway facilities or prolonged road closures was examined in the PEIR. The proposed treatments would be short-term, and temporary increases in traffic related to treatments are within the scope of the PEIR because the treatment duration and limited number of vehicles required (i.e., equipment transport and crew vehicles for crew members) are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. In addition, the proposed treatments would not all occur concurrently, and increases in vehicle trips associated with the treatments would be dispersed on multiple roadways. SPRs that would be applicable to the proposed project are AD-3 and TRAN-1. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT TRAN-2

Vegetation treatments would not require the construction or alteration of any roadways. However, the proposed treatments would require the transportation of heavy equipment along small and mountainous roadways, which could create increased transportation hazards due to incompatible uses. The potential for the hauling of machinery to remote treatment areas was examined in the PEIR. This impact is within the scope of the activities and impacts addressed in the PEIR because the quantity and types of equipment proposed for use that would require transport to treatment areas are the same as those analyzed in the PEIR. In addition, the transport of equipment would be infrequent and dispersed on multiple roadways, occurring at the start and the end of treatment activities. SPRs that would be applicable to the proposed project are AD-3 and TRAN-1. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT TRAN-3

Treatments could temporarily increase vehicle miles traveled (VMT) above baseline conditions because the proposed project would require vehicle trips to transport crew members and equipment to the treatment areas. This impact was identified as potentially significant and unavoidable in the PEIR because implementation of the CalVTP would result in a net increase in VMT. However, as noted under Impact TRAN-3 in the PEIR, individual vegetation treatment projects under the CalVTP are reasonably expected to generate fewer than 110 trips per day, which would cause a less-than-significant transportation impact for specific later activities, as described in the *Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts* published by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR 2018). Manual and mechanical treatments under the proposed project would typically require eight to 12 personnel, and up to three treatments would be implemented simultaneously. Therefore, even if three treatments occur simultaneously, the crew sizes are sufficiently small such that the total increase in VMT would not exceed 110 trips per day. In addition, the increase in vehicle trips would be temporary and dispersed to multiple roadways. A temporary increase in VMT is within the scope of the activities and impacts addressed in the PEIR because the number and duration of increased vehicle trips are consistent with that analyzed in the PEIR. This impact would be less than significant, and Mitigation Measure AQ-1 would not be required for this impact of the proposed project. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

NEW IMPACTS ON TRANSPORTATION

The proposed treatments are entirely within the CalVTP treatable landscape and are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. Midpen has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatment project and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.15.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.15.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). Midpen has also determined that the circumstances under which the proposed treatment project would be undertaken are also consistent with those considered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances would give rise to new significant impacts not addressed in the PEIR. Therefore, no new impact related to transportation would occur that is not covered in the PEIR.

4.15 PUBLIC SERVICES, UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact UTIL-1: Result in Physical Impacts Associated with Provision of Sufficient Water Supplies, Including Related Infrastructure Needs	LTS	Impact UTIL-1, p. 3.16-9	Yes	NA	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact UTIL-2: Generate Solid Waste in Excess of State Standards or Exceed Local Infrastructure Capacity	PSU	Impact UTIL-2, pp. 3.16-10 – 3.16-12	No	--	--	--	--	--
Impact UTIL-3: Comply with Federal, State, and Local Management and Reduction Goals, Statutes, and Regulations Related to Solid Waste	LTS	Impact UTIL-2, p. 3.16-12	No	--	--	--	--	--

[1]NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Public Services, Utilities and Service System Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts to public services, utilities and service systems that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?

☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
	☐	☐	☐

Discussion

IMPACT UTIL-1

Water may be required to implement the proposed project to minimize dust if excessive dust is created through the use of unpaved roads, or to remove visible dust or mud that gets tracked out onto public paved roadways, pursuant to SPR AQ-4. The potential increase in water demand as a result of treatment activities was examined in the PEIR. The most water-intensive activities described in the PEIR would be providing on-site water for prescribed burning and during vegetation removal within nonshaded fuel breaks. Prescribed burning and the creation of nonshaded fuel breaks would not occur under the proposed project. This impact is within the scope of the impacts addressed in the PEIR because the treatment types and activities are consistent with those included in the PEIR and the amount of water required during

project implementation is consistent with, although less than, what is analyzed in the PEIR. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT UTIL-2

Vegetation treatments would generate biomass as a result of vegetation removal within the treatment areas. Biomass generated by mechanical and manual treatments would be disposed of by chipping, mulching, or lopping and scattering within treatment areas. This impact was identified as potentially significant and unavoidable in the PEIR because biomass hauled off-site could exceed the capacity of existing infrastructure for handling biomass. For the proposed treatment project, no biomass would be hauled off-site; therefore, there is no potential to exceed the capacity of existing infrastructure, and this impact does not apply to the proposed project. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT UTIL-3

This impact does not apply to the proposed project because all biomass generated from the proposed treatments would be disposed of on-site.

NEW IMPACTS ON PUBLIC SERVICES, UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

The proposed treatments are entirely within the CalVTP treatable landscape and are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. Midpen has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatment project and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.16.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.16.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). Midpen has also determined that the circumstances under which the proposed treatment project would be undertaken are also consistent with those considered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances would give rise to new significant impacts not addressed in the PEIR. Therefore, no new impact related to public services or utilities and service systems would occur that is not covered in the PEIR.

4.16 WILDFIRE

Impact in the PEIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project[1]	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?
Would the project:								
Impact WIL-1: Substantially Exacerbate Fire Risk and Expose People to Uncontrolled Spread of a Wildfire	LTS	Impact WIL-1, pp. 3.17-14 – 3.17-15	Yes	HAZ-2 HAZ-3 HAZ-4	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact WIL-2: Expose People or Structures to Substantial Risks Related to Postfire Flooding or Landslides	LTS	Impact WIL-2, pp. 3.17-15 – 3.17-16	No	--	--	--	--	--

[1]NA: not applicable; there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact.

New Wildfire Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts related to wildfire that are not evaluated in the CalVTP PEIR?

☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
	☐	☐	☐

Discussion

IMPACT WIL-1

Vegetation treatments would include the use of heavy equipment, which pose a risk of accidental fire ignition. The potential increase in exposure to wildfire during implementation of treatments was examined in the PEIR. Increased wildfire risk associated with the use of heavy equipment in vegetated areas is within the scope of the PEIR, because the types of equipment and treatment duration of the proposed project are consistent with those analyzed in the PEIR. In addition, no prescribed burning would occur under the propose project. SPRs that would be applicable to the proposed project are HAZ-2, HAZ-3, and HAZ-4. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the PEIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the PEIR.

IMPACT WIL-2

The proposed project would not implement prescribed burning, which could result in postfire flooding or landslides. It also does not include new housing, nor would it result in population growth, thereby potentially exposing more people to postfire risks of flooding or landslides. Furthermore, because the treatments reduce wildfire risk, they would also decrease post wildfire landslide and flooding risk in areas that could otherwise burn in a high-severity wildfire without treatment. Therefore, this impact does not apply to the project.

NEW IMPACTS ON WILDFIRE

The proposed treatments are entirely within the CalVTP treatable landscape and are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP PEIR. Midpen has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatment project and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP PEIR (refer to Section 3.17.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.17.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final PEIR). Midpen has also determined that the circumstances under which the proposed treatment project would be undertaken are also consistent with those considered in the PEIR. No changed circumstances would give rise to new significant impacts not addressed in the PEIR. Therefore, no new impact related to wildfire would occur that is not covered in the PEIR.

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