PROJECT-SPECIFIC ANALYSIS AND ADDENDUM TO THE CALVTP PROGRAM EIR

New Bullards Bar Forest Health Project

Prepared for:

YUBA WATER AGENCY

October 2024

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20230023.01

October 2024

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AQMD	Air Quality Management District
Board	California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standard
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
CSA	County Service Area
CWHR	California Wildlife Habitat Relationships
D	dense
DBH	diameter at breast height
DPR	California Department of Pesticide Regulation
DPS	Distinct Population Segment
EPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
ESU	Evolutionarily Significant Unit
FHG	Forest Health Grants
FRAP	Fire and Resource Assessment Program
GHG	greenhouse gas
HCP	habitat conservation plan
IPaC	Information for Planning and Consultation
LRA	Local Responsibility Area
MMRP	Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standard
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NCCP	natural community conservation plans
NCIC	North Central Information Center
NOA	naturally occurring asbestos
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
Program EIR	Program Environmental Impact Report
PSA	Project-Specific Analysis
PSA/Addendum	Addendum to the Program EIR

RPF	registered professional forester
SENL	single event noise levels
SPI	Sierra Pacific Industries
SPR	standard project requirement
SR	State Route
SRA	State Responsibility Area
TAC	toxic air contaminants
USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	US Geological Survey
VMT	vehicle miles travelled
WLPZ	watercourse and lake protection zone
WUI	wildland urban interface
Yuba FSC	Yuba Watershed Protection and Fire Safe Council
Yuba Water	Yuba Water Agency

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW AND DOCUMENT PURPOSE

The California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) certified the Program Environmental Impact Report (Program EIR) for the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) in December 2019. The Program EIR evaluates the potential environmental effects of implementing vegetation treatments throughout the State Responsibility Area (SRA) and selected portions of the Local Responsibility Area (LRA) in California. This document is a Project-Specific Analysis (PSA) and Addendum to the Program EIR (PSA/Addendum). The PSA process was designed during Program EIR preparation for use by many state, special district, and local agencies to help increase the pace and scale of vegetation treatment by employing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) streamlining tools (i.e., a within-the-scope finding based on the PSA). An Addendum to the Program EIR is another CEQA streamlining tool designed to address those project components that are not within the scope of the Program EIR. This PSA/Addendum comprises the joint implementation of these CEQA streamlining tools in a single document. Additionally, this PSA/Addendum incorporates and supersedes two previously adopted PSA/Addenda: the Yuba Roadside Fuel Treatment Project PSA/Addendum and the Yuba Foothills Healthy Forest Project PSA/Addendum, for the purposes of document consolidation and continuity to increase implementation efficiency.

1.1.1 Proposed Project

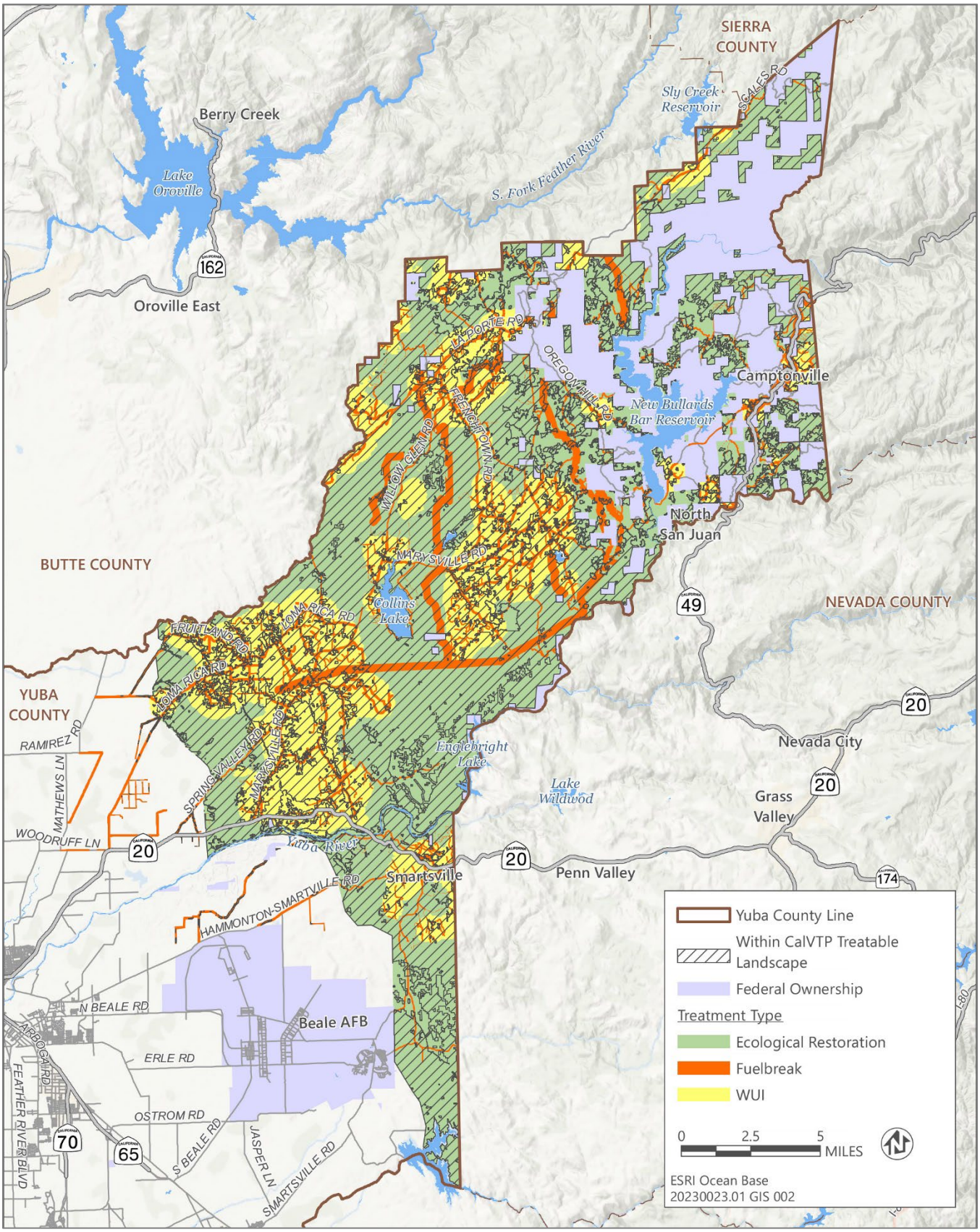
The proposed project comprises implementation of vegetation treatments on up to 177,630 acres of land (New Bullards Bar Forest Health Project or proposed project) throughout Yuba County (Figures 1-1 and 1-2a and 1-2b). The proposed treatment types (i.e., ecological restoration, wildland urban interface [WUI] fuel reduction, fuel break) and the treatment activities (i.e., mechanical treatments, manual treatments, prescribed burning, herbicide application, prescribed herbivory) are consistent with those evaluated in the CalVTP Program EIR. Maintenance treatments would involve the same vegetation treatment types and activities used in the initial treatments.

The first phase of initial treatments includes those that would be implemented by Yuba Water Agency (Yuba Water) under two CAL FIRE Forest Health Grants (FHG) as well as by the Yuba Watershed Protection and Fire Safe Council (Yuba FSC). Yuba Water's first FHG provides funding for implementation of the 4,055-acre proposed project that was analyzed in the Yuba Foothills Healthy Forest Project PSA/Addendum, which has been incorporated into this PSA/Addendum. Yuba Water's second FHG provides funding for implementation of treatments on approximately 4,000 acres. Yuba FSC's treatments would occur within a 150-foot buffer along County-maintained roads and within a 30-foot buffer along private and County Service Area (CSA)-maintained roads throughout Yuba County.

While commercial timber harvest may occur on private property within the project area pursuant to Forest Practice Rules and approved compliance documents (e.g., Timber Harvest Plans), the proposed vegetation treatment analyzed in this PSA/Addendum is an independent project designed to reduce wildfire risk and does not involve, depend on, nor enable timber removal for commercial purposes.

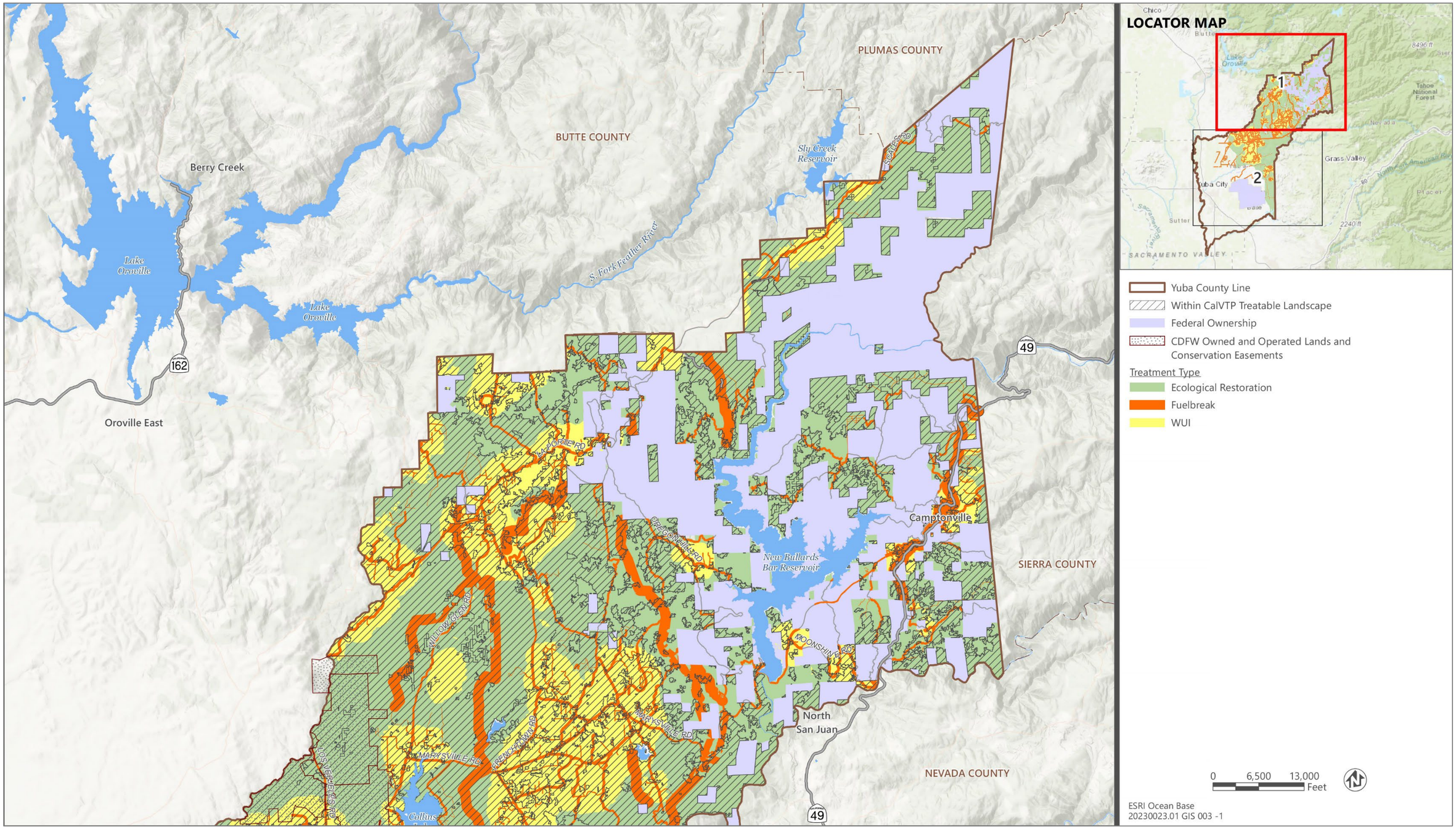
1.1.2 Agency Roles

For the purposes of the CalVTP Program EIR and this PSA/Addendum, a project proponent is any public agency that provides funding for vegetation treatment or has land ownership, land management, or other regulatory responsibility in the treatable landscape and is seeking to fund, authorize, or implement vegetation treatments consistent with the CalVTP. This document is being prepared for Yuba Water, in its role as CEQA lead agency, to comply with CEQA for the implementation of vegetation treatments that require a discretionary action of Yuba Water. Yuba Water would implement treatments within the properties it owns (approximately 2,220 acres) or properties connected to agency operations, as well as administer current FHG grant funding and funding from potential future grants to the project partners (i.e., public and private landowners within the project area).



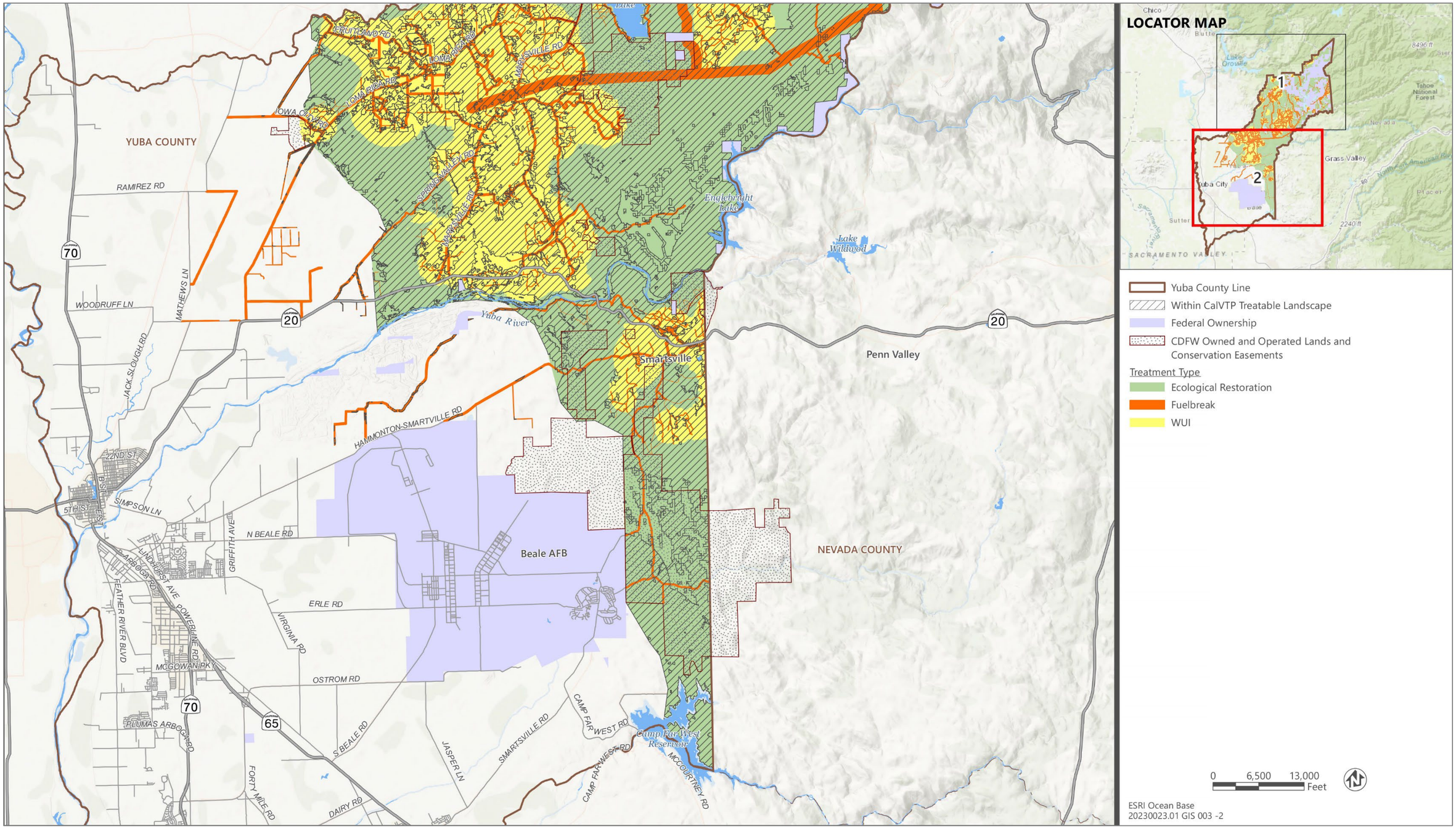
Sources: adapted by Ascent in 2024.

Figure 1-1 Treatment Areas



Source: adapted by Ascent in 2024.

Figure 1-2a Treatment Areas



Source: adapted by Ascent in 2024.

Figure 1-2b Treatment Areas

The PSA/Addendum would provide environmental information to Yuba Water in its consideration of approval of funding allocations and implementation of the treatments.

As the CEQA lead agency, Yuba Water would be responsible for ensuring that implementation of mitigation measures and standard project requirements (SPRs) related to its discretionary approval occurs in accordance with the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) pursuant to Section 15097(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines. In addition, as it pertains to the roadside treatments that would be implemented by Yuba FSC, Yuba County delegated monitoring and reporting responsibilities to Yuba FSC, who accepted this delegation. Please refer to the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (Attachment A) for additional explanation of agency roles regarding monitoring and reporting.

USE OF THE PSA/ADDENDUM BY OTHER AGENCIES

This PSA/Addendum, in conjunction with the CalVTP Program EIR, may be used for CEQA compliance by other public agencies acting in a responsible agency role, when a discretionary approval is needed pertaining to covered activities in the project area, including for public funding through other sources (e.g., CAL FIRE Forest Health Grants). CDFW owns lands within the project area (e.g., Spenceville Wildlife Area, Daughtery Hill Wildlife Area) and will implement the treatments therein. CDFW is therefore a responsible agency that will use this PSA/Addendum for CEQA compliance for treatments carried out by the agency on its lands.

A responsible agency would consider its action in light of the PSA/Addendum, and confirm its environmental effects are covered. If so, and in conformance with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15096, the responsible agency would adopt its findings, using the Yuba Water findings as a guide if desired, adopt the MMRP as it pertains to their project-related approval, and file a Notice of Determination regarding their project-related approval.

In the circumstance where another public agency seeks to use the New Bullards Bar PSA/Addendum for CEQA compliance and there is no related discretionary approval required of Yuba Water, Yuba Water would have no involvement, oversight, or other obligation in the approval, implementation, or documentation of that agency's actions. For example, the vegetation treatments along public and private roadways in Yuba County that would be implemented by Yuba FSC may require discretionary approval by an agency other than Yuba Water.

1.1.3 Purpose of This PSA/Addendum

This document serves as a PSA to evaluate whether the proposed treatments would be within the scope of the CalVTP Program EIR. As stated 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 Program EIR is whether it is within the CalVTP treatable landscape (i.e., the geographic extent of analysis covered in the Program EIR). If a proposed vegetation treatment project is covered by the evaluation of environmental effects in the Program EIR, it may be approved using a finding that the project is within the scope of the Program EIR for its CEQA compliance, consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(c)(2).

The PSA checklist (refer to Chapter 4, "Project-Specific Analysis/Addendum") includes the criteria to support an Addendum to the CalVTP Program EIR. The checklist evaluates each resource in terms of whether the later treatment project, including the "changed condition," would result in significant impacts that would be substantially more severe than those covered in the Program EIR or would result in any new impacts that were not covered in the Program EIR. If a new impact arises, the checklist analysis would provide substantial evidence about whether it would be a significant or potentially significant impact. If the new impact would not be significant, it could be addressed in the addendum to the Program EIR.

An Addendum to an EIR is appropriate where a previously certified EIR has been prepared and some changes or revisions to the project are proposed, or the circumstances surrounding the project have changed, but none of the changes or revisions would result in new or substantially more severe significant environmental impacts, consistent with CEQA Section 21166 and CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162, 15163, 15164, and 15168. In this case, there are no changed circumstances, but the proposed revision or change in the project, compared to the Program EIR, is the

inclusion of areas outside of and adjacent to the CalVTP treatable landscape and revisions to standard project requirements (SPRs), which are integrated into the Program itself.

This document serves as both a PSA and an Addendum to the CalVTP Program EIR for Yuba Water review and analysis under CEQA regarding the proposed New Bullards Bar Forest Health Project within and outside the treatable landscape covered by the Program EIR, including the proposed SPR revisions. It provides environmental information supported by substantial evidence to Yuba Water in its consideration of approving grant funding allocations and implementation of the work by Yuba Water or its contractor(s). The project-specific mitigation monitoring and reporting program (MMRP), which identifies the CalVTP SPRs and mitigation measures applicable to the proposed project is presented in Attachment A. The SPRs identified in the MMRP have been incorporated into the proposed vegetation treatments as a standard part of treatment design and implementation.

In 2020, Yuba Water approved the Yuba Foothills Heathy Forest Project PSA/Addendum for vegetation treatments on 6,787 acres in Yuba County, and in 2022, Yuba County approved the Yuba Roadside Fuel Treatment Project PSA/Addendum covering vegetation treatments on 12,960 acres along County-maintained roads and private and County Service Area (CSA)-maintained roads within Yuba County. Updates to both of these projects have occurred since adoption of these PSA/Addenda. To provide more comprehensive CEQA coverage for vegetation treatments occurring in Yuba County, this PSA/Addendum covers both project areas. Therefore, both previously adopted PSA/Addenda will now be superseded by this PSA/Addendum and relevant information from both PSA/Addenda has been incorporated herein.

Given the landscape-scale of the project and limited spatial resolution of publicly accessible land ownership boundaries, the potential exists that during pre-treatment field layout, the RPF or qualified forestry professional may determine that treatment area boundaries need to shift slightly from the project area identified in this PSA/Addendum to meet treatment objectives and reflect on-the-ground conditions. The RPF or qualified professional will determine if all resources in the area outside the PSA/Addendum project boundary were considered in the PSA/Addendum or are substantially the same as those considered in the PSA/Addendum, including that the cultural records search encompassed any expanded area. If resources are present that were not considered in the PSA/Addendum, additional CEQA documentation (e.g., revised PSA) must be prepared to document whether a new significant impact or substantial increase in the severity of an identified significant impact would occur from treatments in the area outside the PSA/Addendum project boundary. All relevant SPRs and mitigation measures will be applied throughout the entire treatment area.

PROPOSED PROJECT REVISIONS

Project Area Outside the CalVTP Treatable Landscape

Among the criteria for determining if a treatment project is within the scope of the CalVTP Program EIR is whether it is located in the CalVTP treatable landscape (i.e., the geographic extent of analysis covered in the Program EIR). While most of the project area would be inside, portions of the project area would extend outside of the treatable landscape described in the CalVTP Program EIR. In total, the areas outside the treatable landscape encompass approximately 36,228 acres of the 177,630-acre project area; they are dispersed in small sections of the project area (refer to Figures 1-1 and 1-2). The scattered array of acreage includes some non-treatable acres that are isolated pixels surrounded by SRA. If the areas of the proposed project outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape have essentially the same, or at least substantially similar, landscape conditions as the adjacent areas within the treatable landscape, the environmental analysis in the Program EIR would be applicable.

Proposed Revisions to CalVTP SPRs and Mitigation Measure

While the proposed treatment types and treatment activities are consistent with the CalVTP, Yuba Water has determined that certain requirements of a CalVTP SPRs are infeasible, are not warranted for this project to maintain the impact significance conclusions in the Program EIR, and, if implemented as presented in the Program EIR, would prevent achievement of treatment objectives. Because SPRs are part of the CalVTP Program Description and are

incorporated into later activities as a standard part of treatment design and implementation, revisions (beyond clarifying edits) would constitute a change to the CalVTP.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(c)(3) requires incorporation of feasible mitigation when approving later activities. If the mitigation measure is simply "incorporated" (i.e., without revision), it would contribute to a within the scope finding. If revisions to a mitigation measure are proposed, it could be evaluated within an Addendum pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15164. This can occur either because the change is simply a clarification or other revision that does not meet the requirements for supplemental or subsequent review in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162; or it is a case, as explained in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3)(D), where a mitigation measure is "considerably different" from those in the Program EIR, would substantially reduce significant effect(s), and the proponent will adopt it as part of the project. The proposed revisions to SPRs and a mitigation measure are described below. These proposed changes would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts on any of the resources evaluated in the Program EIR and described in this PSA/Addendum. Evidence to explain this conclusion is presented under each applicable resource, as summarized below and presented throughout Chapter 4, "Project-Specific Analysis/Addendum."

SPR GEO-1

SPR GEO-1, as presented in the Program EIR, requires that mechanical, prescribed herbivory, and herbicide treatments be suspended if the National Weather Service forecast is a "chance" (30 percent or more) of rain within the next 24 hours. Activities that cause mechanical soil disturbance may resume when precipitation stops and soils are no longer saturated.

Yuba Water proposes to suspend mechanical treatments, prescribed herbivory, and herbicide treatments if: (1) it is raining, (2) soils are saturated, and/or (3) soils are wet enough to be compacted by mechanical activities. Activities that cause mechanical soil disturbance may resume when precipitation stops and soils are no longer saturated. In the region where the project is located, forecasts often include a chance of rain; however, precipitation sometimes does not materialize. Therefore, suspension of treatment activities in these cases could result in unnecessary loss of work time. This revision is consistent with the purpose of SPR GEO-1 to suspend disturbance during heavy precipitation to minimize the risk of soil compaction and disturbance.

Potential impacts resulting from revisions to SPR GEO-1 are discussed below under Section 4.5, "Biological Resources," Section 4.6, "Geology, Soils, Paleontology, and Mineral Resources," and Section 4.10, "Hydrology and Water Quality." As explained in these sections, the proposed revisions to SPR GEO-1 would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts than were analyzed in the Program EIR. Impacts on other resources would not occur as a result of these revisions, because SPR GEO-1 is not required to reduce environmental effects to any other resources from implementation of the project. The proposed revisions to SPR GEO-1 are shown in underline and strikethrough in the MMRP (Attachment A).

SPR GEO-3

SPR GEO-3 requires stabilization of soil disturbed during treatments that result in exposure of bare soil over 50 percent or more of the project area with mulch or equivalent immediately after treatment activities, to the maximum extent practicable. It also requires that treatment activities could result in substantial sediment discharge from soil disturbed, organic material or mulch will be incorporated onto at least 75 percent of the disturbed soil surface where the soil erosion hazard is moderate or high, and 50 percent of the disturbed soil surface where soil erosion hazard is low to help prevent erosion as described in the CalVTP Program EIR.

Yuba Water proposes to revise the language to stabilize bare soils disturbed by treatments within watercourse and lake protection zones (WLPZs) and equipment limitation zones. This revision is consistent with the purpose of SPR GEO-3 to minimize the potential for erosion and substantial sediment discharge. The SPR as written could require soil stabilization in many areas where runoff and sediment discharge would not result in environmental impacts making the treatments unnecessarily costly and more time consuming.

Potential impacts resulting from revisions to SPR GEO-3 are discussed below under Sections 4.5, "Biological Resources," 4.6, "Geology, Soils, Paleontology, and Mineral Resources," 4.10, "Hydrology and Water Quality," and 4.16,

"Wildfire." As explained in these sections, the proposed revisions to SPR GEO-3 would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts than were analyzed in the Program EIR. Impacts on other resources would not occur as a result of this revision, because SPR GEO-3 is not required to reduce environmental effects to any other resources from implementation of the project. The proposed revisions to SPR GEO-3 are shown in underline and strikethrough in the MMRP (Attachment A).

Proposed Revisions to CalVTP Mitigation Measure BIO-4

While the proposed treatment types and treatment activities are consistent with the CalVTP, Yuba Water has deemed that certain requirements of Mitigation Measure BIO-4 are not warranted to maintain the impact significance conclusions in the Program EIR, and, if implemented as presented in the Program EIR, would prevent Yuba Water from meeting treatment objectives to reduce fine fuels in grassland habitats. As presented in the Program EIR, Mitigation Measure BIO-4 contains a prohibition of broadcast burning within wetlands when special-status species are present. Yuba Water is proposing to revise Mitigation Measure BIO-4 to allow broadcast burning within vernal pools if conservancy fairy shrimp, vernal pool fairy shrimp, and vernal pool tadpole shrimp are present or assumed to be present pursuant to SPR BIO-10. The use of broadcast burning in vernal pools that provide habitat suitable for conservancy fairy shrimp, vernal pool fairy shrimp, and vernal pool tadpole shrimp would allow for restoration of vernal pools where these species are present and would avoid the need for additional control lines to prevent broadcast burning from entering these vernal pools, thereby reducing ground disturbance. Potential impacts resulting from revisions to Mitigation Measure BIO-4 are discussed below under Section 4.5, "Biological Resources." As explained in this section, the proposed revisions to Mitigation Measure BIO-4 would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts than were analyzed in the Program EIR. Impacts on other resources would not occur as a result of this revision, because Mitigation Measure BIO-4 is not required to reduce environmental effects to any other resources from implementation of the project. The proposed revisions to Mitigation Measure BIO-4 are shown in underline and strikethrough in the MMRP (Attachment A).

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The CalVTP treatment types that would be implemented are ecological restoration, WUI fuel reduction, and fuel break. The proposed CalVTP treatment activities are mechanical treatments, manual treatments, prescribed burning, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory. The location within which the proposed CalVTP treatments may be implemented are shown in Figures 1-1 and 2-1 and are summarized in Table 2-1, below.

2.1 PROPOSED TREATMENTS

Over the past two decades, communities across California have become increasingly affected by wildfire. Some factors that have led to these conditions include the ban of cultural burning since the late 1800s, fire exclusion over the last 100 years, a lack of vegetation management, climate change, periods of successive drought, and substantial development in the WUI. These factors have resulted in dense forests and high fuel loading, in turn creating dangerous conditions for wildfire ignition often leading to catastrophic wildfire. The current conditions in the project area include forest and dense shrublands that are characterized by small diameter trees and shrubs due to decades of fire suppression and past management activities. Most of the project area is designated as a very high hazard severity zone (CAL FIRE 2023a). The project area and vicinity have also experienced recent wildfires including the Peoria Fire, Scott Fire, and Sicard Fire in 2023; the Apple Fire, Bay Fire, Brandie Fire, and Winding Fire in 2022; the Quail Fire, Beale Fire, Frenchtown Fire, and Glen Fire in 2021; and the Baker Fire and Willow Fire in 2020 (CAL FIRE 2023b). Although the project area has experienced recent wildfires, due to successful suppression efforts, these fires did not burn a substantial part of the project area. Proposed treatments aim to reduce stand density and promote the development of compositionally diverse forest structures that are more resilient to future climatic stressors and wildfire.

The proposed project consists of vegetation treatments throughout Yuba County. The initial phase of the project would consist of mechanical treatments (mastication) and follow-up herbicide application to control resprouting hardwoods (e.g., tanoak [*Notholithocarpus densiflorus*], black oak [*Quercus kelloggii*], Pacific madrone [*Arbutus menziesii*], canyon live oak [*Quercus chrysolepis*], *Ceanothus* species) and invasive plant species across up to 3,000 acres. Due to fluctuations in the forest products markets (which would dictate whether non-commercial or commercial treatments would be implemented) and operating costs, the actual acreage treated under this PSA/Addendum may vary. Commercial treatments would not be implemented under this PSA/Addendum.

Treatments along County, private, and CSA-maintained roads area also proposed to increase the safety of emergency access and evacuation routes including maintaining safe evacuation routes along public and private roadways within Yuba County by reducing hazard trees and flammable vegetation along emergency evacuation routes for the community; reducing the risk of lateral wildfire spread to natural resources and/or structures; reducing fuel within areas at high risk of wildfire ignition (i.e., roadside vegetation); and establishing fuel breaks along roadways. Vegetation treatments would be implemented within a 150-foot buffer on each side of County-maintained roads as measured from the road centerline (300-foot total area) and within a 30-foot buffer on each side of private and CSA-maintained roads as measured from the road centerline (60-foot total area).

Implementation of initial treatments would require between one and 60 crew members along with their associated vehicles to travel to and from the project area. However, typical crews would consist of two to 10 people. Up to five crews could be conducting treatments simultaneously throughout the project area. Treatments would require between one to five pieces of heavy equipment depending on the treatment. Treatment activities would generally occur during the daytime, typically between 5:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., depending on the season; however, some nighttime prescribed burning, mastication, and mechanical felling may occur. Treatments within 500 feet of residences would generally occur between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

The proposed project would include a series of integrated fuel reduction and forest health treatments to be implemented in phases as funding and conditions allow. Treatments would begin in 2024, depending on funding, equipment/contractor availability, weather conditions, and other restrictions. After initial treatments, subsequent mechanical, manual, prescribed burn, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory treatments would be

implemented within the project area at a rate of approximately 1,000 to 3,000 acres/year. Mechanical treatments could occur year-round, except if restrictions occur due to fire danger or if the project area is unreachable because of snow or rain conditions. Manual removal of invasive plants could occur year-round; however, it would typically be concentrated in the spring and summer months on an annual basis. Other manual treatments could also occur year-round. Prescribed burning would occur in fall, winter, spring, and early summer in coordination with regulatory agencies (e.g., Nevada, Yuba, Placer, Siskiyou CAL FIRE units; Feather River Air Quality Management District). Herbicide applications would occur in the spring, summer, or fall months depending on target species and herbicides applied. Prescribed herbivory would generally occur in the spring or summer months.

Table 2-1 Proposed CalVTP Treatments

CalVTP Treatment Type	Treatment Description	CalVTP Treatment Activity	Treatment Size (Acres)	Equipment Used for Treatments	Typical Duration of Treatments
Ecological Restoration	Reduce vegetation density and enhance forest ecosystems	Mechanical (whole tree removal, mastication, biomass chipping, machine piling); Manual (hand thinning, pruning, piling); Prescribed burning (pile burning, broadcast/underburning); Herbicide application; Prescribed herbivory	Up to 3,000 acres in initial phase; 1,000 acres/year long term; total analyzed area 102,355 acres	Masticators, chippers (tracked and wheeled), excavators, skid steers, tractors, bulldozers, hand tools, chainsaws, pole saws, weed-trimmers, drip torches, water trucks, fire engines, ATVs, UTVs, portable water tanks, water pumps, fire hoses, leaf blowers; backpack herbicide application equipment	Mechanical and manual treatments: 1 to 6 months; Prescribed burning, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory: 1 day to 2 weeks
WUI Fuel Reduction	Improve egress, wildfire control, and development of fire-adapted communities	Mechanical (whole tree removal, mastication, biomass chipping, machine piling); Manual (hand thinning, pruning, piling); Prescribed burning (pile burning, broadcast/underburning); Herbicide application; Prescribed herbivory	1,000 acres/year long term; total analyzed area 53,632 acres	Masticators, chippers (tracked and wheeled) or grinder, excavators/loaders, skid steers, rubber-tire skidders, feller-buncher, tractors, bulldozers, hand tools, chainsaws, pole saws, weed-trimmers, drip torches, water trucks, fire engines, ATVs, UTVs, portable water tanks, water pumps, fire hoses, leaf blowers; backpack herbicide application equipment	Mechanical and manual treatments: 1 to 6 months; Prescribed burning, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory: 1 day to 2 weeks
Fuel break (shaded and non-shaded)	Reduce vegetation density along strategic areas for wildfire defense and firefighter safety; strategic linear vegetation removal along roads	Mechanical (whole tree removal, mastication, biomass chipping, machine piling); Manual (hand thinning, pruning, piling); Prescribed burning (pile burning, broadcast/underburning); Herbicide application; Prescribed herbivory	1,000 acres/year long term; total analyzed area 21,663 acres	Masticators, chippers (tracked and wheeled) or grinder, excavators/loaders, skid steers, rubber-tire skidders, feller-buncher, tractors, bulldozers, hand tools, chainsaws, pole saws, weed-trimmers, drip torches, water trucks, fire engines, ATVs, UTVs, portable water tanks, water pumps, fire hoses, leaf blowers; backpack herbicide application equipment	Mechanical and manual treatments: 1 to 6 months; Prescribed burning, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory: 1 day to 2 weeks

Notes: ATV = All-terrain vehicle; UTV = Utility task vehicle.

Source: Data and information provided by Yuba Water in 2023.

2.1.1 Treatment Types

The proposed treatment types are ecological restoration, WUI fuel reduction, and shaded and non-shaded fuel breaks. In general, all treatments aim to reduce vegetation density and reduce woody fuel loading, with the primary

difference between treatment types being the level of vegetation removal and fuel treatment and the location of the treatments. Treatments would occur in several vegetation types: Sierra Nevada mixed conifer forest, montane hardwood-conifer, montane chaparral, grasslands, and oak woodland. Primary tree species present throughout the project area include sugar pine (*Pinus lambertiana*), incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*), ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), white fir (*Abies concolor*), black oak, Pacific madrone, tanoak, canyon live oak, blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*), interior live oak (*Quercus wislizenii*), and gray pine (*Pinus sabiniana*). All vegetation treatments would maintain and enhance these native vegetation communities while promoting the development of vegetation structures and compositions that are site appropriate based on consideration of past, present, and future abiotic and biotic factors. Throughout the project area, dead, dying, and irreversibly diseased trees (as assessed by a qualified professional) of any size class that pose a hazard to the public would be removed. These treatment types are described in more detail below and are consistent with the treatment types described in the CalVTP Program EIR.

ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

Ecological restoration treatments would be designed to reduce wildfire risk, enhance natural ecosystem processes and conditions, and improve forest health. Ecological restoration treatments seek to improve ecological health by mimicking natural fire regimes and other natural disturbance processes. Heterogeneity in treated areas would be restored by selectively thinning using mechanical treatments and manual treatments and by thinning with moderate severity prescribed burning. These treatments would be maintained with prescribed burning, targeted herbicide applications, prescribed herbivory, or follow-up manual and mechanical treatments. These activities would aim to reduce stand density, increase tree species diversity, reforest burned areas with conifer species, and create forest structures and compositions similar to historic vegetative composition, structure, and habitat values that are more resilient in the face of future climatic stressors, fire, insect, disease, and other disturbances. Treatments would vary slightly depending on the vegetation type being treated and specific prescriptions would be developed by a qualified registered professional forester (RPF) to maintain tree age class diversity and a sufficient number of young understory trees to facilitate forest regeneration and long-term maintenance of habitat function.

Ecological restoration treatments would consist of the following:

- thin ladder fuels (i.e., living and dead understory vegetation that can carry fire into the tree canopy) and suppressed and intermediate trees less than 12 inches diameter at breast height (DBH) to an approximate spacing of 20 to 25 feet between trees. Diameter of shrubs (e.g., manzanita) will be measured at the base; such that shrubs greater than 12 inches in diameter at the base will be retained, as feasible (i.e., unless the shrub poses a safety risk) for wildlife habitat value;
- retain an average of 40 to 60 percent canopy closure;
- in forest habitats determined by a qualified RPF or biologist to be occupied (i.e., through implementation of protocol-level surveys under SPR BIO-10) or assumed to be occupied by California spotted owl (e.g., forests with canopy cover greater than 60 percent, late seral forest characteristics, complex forest structure), design treatments to reduce canopy cover by no more than 30 percent from existing conditions, and a minimum of 60 percent canopy cover would be retained;
- reduce understory shrub and herb density by up to 75 to 90 percent depending on site-specific conditions including the vegetation community type, fire return interval, historic species composition, and providing for an appropriate mosaic of native plants by age, size, and class that support overall habitat function of the vegetation alliance being treated;
- within California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*) critical habitat and within WLPZs, remove understory vegetation in a mosaic pattern, where some herbaceous understory remains such that cover is still available for California red-legged frog, with a minimum retention of 10 percent relative cover per acre;
- achieve 30 to 80 percent reduction of 10-hour (0.25- to 1-inch diameter; e.g., grass, leaves, mulch) and 100-hour (1- to 3-inch diameter; e.g., branches, small trees) fuels;

- preferentially remove trees with mistletoe infections, western gall rust, white pine blister rust, conks (i.e., the spore producing fruiting structures of a fungus) or other signs of rot or disease, broken tops, or other damage, unless these trees exhibit documented wildlife use;
- retain largest down logs, up to three logs per acre beyond 300 feet from residences or within 100 feet on either side of a fire control feature or an ingress/egress road to private property with a preference for retaining the largest logs and those with cavities. Downed logs would not be protected during prescribed burning; however, under moderate weather conditions and fuel moisture required for prescribed burning, the largest downed logs would most likely remain;
- retain at least three to five snags per acre beyond 500 feet from residences, fire control features, or ingress or egress roads to private lands, with a preference for the largest snags that exhibit the form and decay characteristics favored by wildlife, unless the snags pose a hazard to implementation or personnel;
- maintain at least 35 percent relative final density of chaparral vegetation;
- remove invasive plants with herbicides, hand tools, or light equipment such as weed whackers; and
- achieve 50 to 75 percent reduction in post primary treatment resprouting hardwood vegetation through prescribed burning, targeted herbicide applications, or prescribed herbivory and retain a mosaic of native shrubs (e.g., manzanita (*Arctostaphylos* spp.), ceanothus) at a spacing that is characteristic of healthy stands of the vegetation type being treated.

These treatment standards may be modified based on professional assessment of site-specific conditions and would provide for an appropriate mosaic of native plants by age, size, and class that support overall habitat function of the vegetation alliance being treated.

WUI FUEL REDUCTION

WUI fuel reduction treatments would be designed to reduce wildfire risk, develop fire-adapted human communities, improve forest health, and promote or maintain native vegetation structures and compositions that are more resilient to wildfire and future disturbance events. Fuel reduction in WUI treatments would be focused on strategic removal of vegetation to prevent or slow the spread of non-wind driven wildfire between structures and wildlands, and vice versa, within the interface between human habitation and natural areas. WUI fuel reduction treatments also serve as emergency access points and staging areas for firefighters and equipment and reduce flammable vegetation along emergency evacuation routes for the community.

WUI fuel reduction treatments would consist of the following:

- thin ladder fuels (i.e., hardwoods and conifers) and suppressed and intermediate trees less than 12 inches DBH to an approximate spacing of 25 to 30 feet between trees;
- retain an average of 40 to 60 percent canopy closure;
- in forest habitats determined by a qualified RPF or biologist to be occupied (i.e., through implementation of protocol-level surveys under SPR BIO-10) or assumed to be occupied by California spotted owl (e.g., forests with canopy cover greater than 60 percent, late seral forest characteristics, complex forest structure), design treatments to reduce canopy cover by no more than 30 percent from existing conditions, and a minimum of 60 percent canopy cover would be retained (these conditions are less likely to occur within the WUI fuel reduction treatment areas than in the ecological restoration treatment areas; see Section 4.5, "*Biological Resources*");
- preferentially remove trees with mistletoe infections, sooty mold, conks or other signs of rot, broken tops, or other damage;
- achieve 50 to 80 percent reduction of 10-hour (0.25- to 1-inch diameter) and 100-hour (1- to 3-inch diameter) fuels;
- remove up to 50 percent of downed logs within 300 feet of residences;

- remove 85 to 95 percent of shrubs within 500 feet of residences;
- remove 90 to 100 percent of snags within 500 feet of residences, fire control features, or ingress or egress roads to private lands;
- prune lower branches of trees to 6 feet above ground or more where feasible;
- manually or mechanically chip, masticate, or cut; pile; and pile burn jackpot fuels (i.e., snow-downed or wind-thrown trees of any diameter) within 1,000 feet of residences, fire control features, and ingress or egress roads into private property;
- remove invasive plants with herbicides, hand tools, or light equipment such as weed whackers; and
- achieve 75 to 85 percent reduction in post primary treatment resprouting hardwood vegetation through prescribed burning, targeted herbicide applications, or prescribed herbivory.

FUEL BREAKS

In strategic locations, fuel breaks create zones of vegetation removal, often in a linear layout, that reduce wildfire risk and support fire suppression by providing responders with a staging area or access to a remote landscape for fire control actions. They can also provide safe emergency egress during wildfires. In forested areas, ladder fuels would be reduced to decrease fire severity and the tree canopy would be thinned to reduce the potential for a crown fire to move through the canopy.

The Yuba County foothills are almost entirely designated as WUI Core, Defense, or Threat zones by the Yuba County Foothills Community Wildfire Protection Plan. With the relatively high density of human population within the high-risk wildland area, all roadside fuel breaks would also provide protection to adjacent WUI areas.

Fuel breaks would include shaded and non-shaded fuel breaks. Shaded fuel breaks are used instead of non-shaded fuel breaks in areas where habitat needs to be retained for sensitive species, where there is the potential for erosion or visual impacts, or the fuel type will support this kind of treatment (e.g., forests). Non-shaded fuel breaks would be implemented in shrub areas with no trees.

The primary objectives in these treatment areas are to create and maintain fuel and vegetation conditions that reduce the rate of fire spread and fireline intensity and improve evacuation route safety for adjacent WUI areas. Treatments would vary slightly depending on the vegetation type being treated, but would generally consist of the following:

- thin ladder fuels (i.e., hardwoods and conifers) and suppressed and intermediate trees less than 12 inches DBH to an approximate spacing of 25 to 40 feet between trees;
- retain an average of 40 to 60 percent canopy closure for shaded fuel breaks;
- in forest habitats determined by a qualified RPF or biologist to be occupied (i.e., through implementation of protocol-level surveys under SPR BIO-10) or assumed to be occupied by California spotted owl (e.g., forests with canopy cover greater than 60 percent, late seral forest characteristics, complex forest structure), design treatments to reduce canopy cover by no more than 30 percent from existing conditions, and a minimum of 60 percent canopy cover would be retained;
- preferentially remove trees with mistletoe infections, sooty mold, conks or other signs of rot, broken tops, or other damage;
- achieve 50 to 80 percent reduction of 10-hour (0.25- to 1-inch diameter) and 100-hour (1- to 3-inch diameter) fuels;
- retaining one to three snags per acre, unless they are considered a hazard;
- remove 85 to 95 percent of shrubs;
- remove 90 to 100 percent of snags;
- prune lower branches of trees to 6 feet above ground or more where feasible;

- manually or mechanically chip, masticate, or cut; pile; and pile burn jackpot fuels (i.e., snow-downed or wind-thrown trees of any diameter);
- remove invasive plants with herbicides, hand tools, or light equipment such as weed whackers; and
- achieve 75 to 85 percent reduction in post primary treatment resprouting hardwood vegetation through prescribed burning, targeted herbicide applications, or prescribed herbivory.

2.1.2 Treatment Activities

The proposed vegetation treatment activities that would be used in various combinations to implement the treatment types described above are mechanical treatments, manual treatments, prescribed burning, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory. Biomass would be processed using chipping, piling and burning, and lop and scatter. Each of these activities is included in the CalVTP Program EIR and is described in more detail below.

MECHANICAL VEGETATION TREATMENT

Mechanical treatments would occur on approximately 125,000 acres of the project area and would primarily include understory thinning and removal of target vegetation with wheeled or tracked masticators, feller bunchers, chippers, skidders, skid steers, excavators, or dozers to reduce ladder fuels and increase space between trees. These treatments may also include mowing and ripping. In addition, tractor piling would use track dozers with brush rakes to pile residual surface fuels, brush, understory hardwoods, and suppressed conifers as appropriate. This work would help prepare areas for subsequent burning of the piles and planting of 1-year old conifer seedlings. Project partners may choose to rip the planting sites if the soil has been significantly compacted. Subsequent biomass chipping from manual and mechanical treatment activities may also occur. Mechanical treatments would typically require between one and 50 crew members, and up to four crews. Generally, mechanical treatments would include the following:

- remove ladder fuels and small trees less than 12 inches DBH;
- remove shrubs;
- prune lower branches of trees;
- remove invasive plants (e.g., broom, Himalayan blackberry);
- retain one to three snags per acre, where feasible;
- avoid type conversion of chaparral and scrub vegetation and maintain chaparral and coastal sage scrub habitat function;
- masticate or chip biomass for disposal; and
- remove down logs.

Mechanical treatments would not be conducted within watercourse and lake protection zones (WLPZs). Some vegetation may be removed by reaching an excavator arm into a WLPZ such that no ground disturbance would occur within the WLPZ.

MANUAL VEGETATION TREATMENT

Manual treatments would occur on approximately 150,000 acres of the project area and would primarily include hand thinning and pruning target vegetation to reduce ladder fuels and increase space between trees, and hand piling removed vegetation. Equipment would include chainsaws, hand saws, brush cutters, loppers, pole saws, weed trimmers, and other hand-operated tools (Table 2-1). Manual treatments would typically require between one and 50 crew members; however, crews would typically include between two and 10 personnel. Up to four crews could be working simultaneously. Generally, manual treatments would include the following:

- remove ladder fuels less than 12 inches DBH;
- thinning trees with chainsaws, loppers, or pruners;
- remove shrubs;
- prune up lower branches of trees;
- pulling, grubbing, or digging out root systems of undesired plants to prevent sprouting and regrowth;
- planting desirable species by hand (hand planting);
- placing mulch around desired vegetation to limit competitive growth;
- remove down logs; and
- prepare burn units for prescribed burns including but not limited to, pull back (i.e., scraping dead and downed materials from the base of trees to prevent ignition of trees during prescribed burning), control line construction, thinning, and lop and scatter.

PRESCRIBED BURNING

Prescribed burning would occur on up to 150,000 acres of the project area and consists of two general types, pile burning and broadcast burning (underburning). Underburning uses low intensity surface fires that would be used in specific areas to control vegetation, reduce fuel loads, and enhance the growth or vigor of the residual trees.

Broadcast Burning

Broadcast burning would be used to promote forest health and native flora and reduce biomass and fuel loading in grassland, woodland, and forest vegetation. Pretreatment of vegetation using mechanical, manual, or herbicide activities may occur, where necessary, in areas proposed for broadcast burning.

Understory burns would be implemented in accordance with a specific prescription that defines the desired maximum flame lengths and fire spread rates based on the fuel types, weather, slopes, aspect, staffing levels, and containment lines and strategies in a burn plan. Burns could occur from September through July when conditions would be conducive to burning targeted fuels. Broadcast burning may require the construction of new control lines or enhancement of existing control lines using manual and mechanical treatments, including construction of handline, mow lines, or dozer lines. A hand-held drip torch would likely be used for igniting burns.

Broadcast burning would require between 10 and 60 crew members, depending on size and site characteristics of the burn unit. Typically, each burn would last 1 day to 2 weeks. Most burns would not exceed 90 acres in size, and many would be substantially smaller. Equipment would include water trucks, fire engines, excavators or dozers, and chainsaws. All burning would occur in accordance with regulations regarding the use of prescribed burning and pursuant to an approved burn plan.

Pile Burning

Biomass from mechanical and manual treatments would be piled using equipment (e.g., skid steer, tractor, bulldozer with a brush rake, excavator) or hand crews and burned appropriately. Mechanical pile burning would occur in areas with little to no live overstory, and hand piles would be placed to avoid adverse effects on retained tree species. Pile burning would not occur within meadows or WLPZs. Hand piles would be approximately 5 feet by 5 feet in area and 5 feet in height. Mechanical piles would be variable in size with the maximum anticipated size being 75 feet by 75 feet in area and 30 feet tall, and would only occur landings, road surfaces, or on contour. Piles would be placed away from the driplines of trees and outside of special-status plant buffers. A hand-held drip torch would likely be used for igniting burn piles.

HERBICIDE APPLICATION

Herbicide application would occur on up to 85,000 acres of the project area. Herbicide application would primarily be used as a follow-up treatment to mechanical or manual treatments to control resprouting hardwood and shrub species and to control invasive plants. Herbicide applications would generally be applied 1 to 2 years following primary vegetation treatments. Only ground-level application would occur; no aerial spraying of herbicides would occur. Herbicide application would be limited to ground-based methods, such as using a backpack sprayer, painting herbicide onto cut stems, or boom sprayers from vehicles (sprayers would be pointing down and only used when the target species occurs throughout the treatment area). Herbicide treatments would typically use one 10-person crew, a batch truck, a passenger vehicle to transport crew, and backpack sprayers. Resprouting species targeted during herbicide applications would primarily include tanoak, black oak, Pacific madrone, canyon live oak, and *Ceanothus* species. Invasive species targeted by herbicide applications would primarily be Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus),* Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius),* and French broom (*Genista monspessulana)*. Herbicides expected to be applied include those with the active ingredients triclopyr, imazapyr, and glyphosate, but could include any herbicides covered in the CalVTP Program EIR, as listed below. All herbicide applications will be consistent with label requirements and applicable state and federal regulations.

- Borax (tetraborate decahydrate);
- Clopyralid (monoethanolamine salt);
- Glyphosate (isopropylamine salt, potassium salt, dimethylamine salt & diammonium salt);
- Hexazinone;
- Imazapyr (isopropylamine salt);
- Sulfometuron Methyl;
- Triclopyr (butoxyethyl ester & triethylamine salt);
- Nonylphenol 9 Ethoxylates (NP9E);
- Cleantraxx (penoxsulam & oxyfluorfen);
- Velpar (hexazinone); and
- Indaziflam.

Herbicide application would comply with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) label directions, as well as California Environmental Protection Agency and California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) label standards. All herbicide application will be performed by certified and licensed pesticide applicators in accordance with all local, state, and federal regulations. Only herbicides labeled for use in aquatic environments will be used when working in riparian habitats or other areas where there is a possibility the herbicide could come into direct contact with water. Only hand application of herbicides will be allowed in riparian habitats and only during low-flow periods or when seasonal streams are dry. No terrestrial or aquatic herbicides will be applied within WLPZs of Class I and II watercourses, if feasible. If this is not feasible, hand application of herbicides labeled for use in aquatic environments may be used within the WLPZ provided that the project proponent notifies the applicable regional water quality control board no fewer than 15 days prior to herbicide application.

Glyphosate, triclopyr, and imazapyr are subject to the California Red-Legged Frog Injunction (Center for Biological Diversity v. US EPA [2006] Case No. 02-1580-JSW), which limits the use of herbicides within and adjacent to critical habitat areas (EPA 2023). The application of these herbicides is prohibited within 60 feet of California red-legged frog aquatic breeding critical habitat or nonbreeding aquatic critical habitat within critical habitat areas for the following uses: localized spot treatments using handheld devices on roadsides and in forests; individual tree removal using cut stump application; and basal bark application to individual plants. Tree injection applications are exempt from the injunction. As a result, herbicide application (other than tree injection applications) will not occur within 60 feet of

designated aquatic critical habitat for California red-legged frog (i.e., aquatic habitat mapped by a qualified RPF within USFWS designated critical habitat for this species).

PRESCRIBED HERBIVORY

Prescribed herbivory would occur on approximately 100,000 acres of the project area. Prescribed herbivory would primarily be used as a follow-up treatment to primary mechanical or manual treatments to reduce the growth of regenerating vegetation. Prescribed herbivory treatments would generally consist of fencing livestock (i.e., cattle, goats, sheep) within targeted areas for several days to 2 weeks at a time and would generally occur 1 or 2 years following primary treatment when vegetation is tender and palatable. A temporary on-site water supply would be required for livestock, which would be supplied by existing stock ponds or with portable water troughs that can be filled from an existing water system, a municipal source, or from water brought in via truck.

BIOMASS PROCESSING

Vegetation removed during implementation of the proposed treatments described above would primarily be processed using the following methods:

- Chipping (approximately 70 percent of biomass): Chipped biomass would be spread uniformly over treatment areas to the extent feasible and would not exceed 6 inches in depth and would average 3 inches in depth to allow growth of herbaceous vegetation.
- Piling and Burning (approximately 15 percent of biomass): Pile burning may be used to dispose of slash, and chipped and masticated materials. Piling would not occur in wet meadows or within WLPZs.
- Lop and Scatter (approximately 15 percent of biomass): Cut vegetation would be scattered within the project area.

Invasive plant and noxious weed biomass would be treated onsite to eliminate seed and propagules or would be disposed of offsite at an appropriate waste collection facility to prevent reestablishment or spread of invasive plants and noxious weeds. Invasive plants and noxious weeds would not be chipped and spread, scattered, or mulched on site.

2.2 TREATMENT MAINTENANCE

Maintenance, or retreatment, of the areas treated under the proposed project could include the same treatment types (i.e., ecological restoration, WUI fuel reduction, fuel breaks) and treatment activities (i.e., mechanical treatments, manual treatments, prescribed burning, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory) as implemented for the initial treatments. Maintenance treatment would be dependent on regrowth conditions and would differ by location. Retreatment would be implemented within a given vegetation type only if that vegetation type is outside of its natural fire return interval (i.e., time since last burn is greater than the average fire return interval for the habitat type). These intervals vary by vegetation type. For example, blue oak woodlands have been shown to require a minimum of 10 years to recover for successful regeneration (Bartolome et al. 2002). California montane and subalpine grasslands generally require a minimum of 16 years to recover (USFS 2019), and California low-elevation grasslands require a minimum of 2 years to recover (USFS 2012). A study on montane hardwood forests that were characterized by Douglas fir, tanoak, and Pacific madrone showed the minimum mean fire frequency to be 10 years prior to European settlement (approximately 1850). Mixed conifer forest and woodlands, characterized by species such as Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), sugar pine (*Pinus lambertiana*), incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*), white fir (*Abies concolor*) and black oak, experience a mean fire return interval of 11 years (Van de Water and Safford 2011). Chaparral vegetation types dominated by obligate seeders such as sticky white leaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos viscida*) and green leaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos patula*), which are dominant in the project area, generally require a minimum of 15 years to recover (Syphard et al. 2018).

Treatment activities that do not use fire (e.g., manual treatments, mechanical treatments) are considered "fire surrogates." In the absence of additional data regarding mechanical and manual treatment activities, fire return interval is used as a proxy for disturbance (e.g., manual treatment may be analogous to a low severity fire, mechanical treatment may be analogous to a mixed severity fire). Pursuant to SPR BIO-5, all treatments and the maintenance treatment intervals would be designed to maintain habitat function of the specific chaparral vegetation alliance being treated and to avoid type conversion of chaparral. As a result, retreatment is generally anticipated to occur between 2 and 10 years following initial treatments in common vegetation types that are not sensitive natural communities or sensitive habitats (e.g., wetland, riparian, chaparral). Maintenance treatments would generally be at lower intensity and scale than initial treatments. Prior to implementing maintenance treatments, the natural fire return interval of the habitat(s) to be retreated will be determined.

Prior to implementing a maintenance treatment, it will be verified that the expected site conditions as described in the PSA/Addendum are present in the project area. As time passes, the continued relevance of the PSA/Addendum will be considered in light of potentially changed conditions or circumstances. If environmental conditions evolve or project approaches change to the degree that new or substantially more severe impacts may occur, a new PSA/Addendum or other environmental analysis may be warranted if determined by Yuba Water or other responsible agency.

In addition to verifying that the PSA/Addendum continues to provide relevant CEQA coverage for treatment maintenance, the PSA/Addendum will be updated at the time a maintenance treatment is needed when more than 10 years have passed since the approval of the PSA/Addendum or the latest PSA/Addendum update if conditions have changed. For example, a reconnaissance survey may be conducted to verify conditions are substantially similar to those anticipated in the PSA/Addendum. Updated information will be documented.

3 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

VEGETATION TREATMENT PROJECT INFORMATION

1. **Project Title:** New Bullards Bar Forest Health Project

2. **CalVTP I.D. Number:** 2023-34

3. **CEQA Lead Agency Name and Address:** Yuba Water Agency
   1220 F Street
   Marysville, CA 95901

4. **Contact Person Information and Phone Number:** JoAnna Lessard
   Watershed Manager
   530.308.3369
   jlessard@yubawater.org

5. **Project Location:** Central and eastern Yuba County (Figures 1-1 and 2-1).

6. **Total Area to Be Treated (acres)** Initial treatments funded by a CAL FIRE Forest Health Grant would be implemented on up to 3,000 acres; subsequent treatments would be conducted at a rate of 1,000 to 3,000 acres annually within the 177,630-acre project area.

7. **Description of Project**: See Chapter 2, "Project Description"

   a. Initial Treatment
   Initial treatment types would be ecological restoration, WUI fuel treatments, and fuel breaks. Treatment activities would be mechanical treatments, manual treatments, prescribed burns, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory. See Chapter 2, "Project Description," for additional details.

Treatment Types

☒ Wildland-Urban Interface Fuel Reduction

☒ Fuel Break

☒ Ecological Restoration

Treatment Activities

☒ Prescribed Burning (Broadcast), 100,000 acres

☒ Prescribed Burning (Pile Burning), 50,000 acres

☒ Mechanical Treatment, 125,000 acres

☒ Manual Treatment, 150,000 acres

☒ Prescribed Herbivory, 100,000 acres

☒ Herbicide Application, 85,000 acres

Fuel Type

☒ Grass Fuel Type

☒ Shrub Fuel Type

☒ Tree Fuel Type

b. Treatment Maintenance

Maintenance treatments would involve the same treatment types and treatment activities (i.e., mechanical treatments, manual treatments, prescribed burning, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory) as the initial treatments. See Section 2.2, above for additional details.

Treatment Types

☒ Wildland-Urban Interface Fuel Reduction

☒ Fuel Break

☒ Ecological Restoration

Treatment Activities

☒ Prescribed Burning (Broadcast), 100,000 acres

☒ Prescribed Burning (Pile Burning), 10,000 acres

☒ Mechanical Treatment, 125,000 acres

☒ Manual Treatment, 150,000 acres

☒ Prescribed Herbivory, 100,000 acres

☒ Herbicide Application, 85,000 acres

Fuel Type

☒ Grass Fuel Type

☒ Shrub Fuel Type

☒ Tree Fuel Type

Use of the PSA for Treatment Maintenance

See Section 2.2, "Treatment Maintenance" above.

10. Regional Setting and Surrounding Land Uses:

Land uses surrounding the project area include public federal lands (US Forest Service and US Bureau of Land Management), publicly owned state lands (California Department of Fish and Wildlife [CDFW]), public and private recreational areas surrounding New Bullards Bar Reservoir, Collins Lake, and the Yuba River, rural residential development, agriculture (grazing), Beale Air Force Base, private industrial and non-industrial timberland.

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

Burn permits from Feather River Air Quality Management District, when required

Burn permits from CAL FIRE, when required

Pesticide application permit from Yuba County Agricultural Commissioner

Coastal Act Compliance

☒ The proposed project is NOT within the Coastal Zone.

☐ The proposed project is within the Coastal Zone.

- ☐ A coastal development permit has 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.

12. Native American Consultation. *The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection completed consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1 during preparation of the Program EIR; however, CalVTP SPR CUL-2 requires further tribal coordination during PSA preparation.*

    Pursuant to CalVTP SPR BIO-2, Native American contacts in Yuba County were contacted on August 19, 2020 for the Yuba Foothills Healthy Forest Project, and included Benjamin Clark, Chairperson, Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians; Guy Taylor, Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians; Grayson Coney, Cultural Director, Tsi Akim Maidu; Gene Whitehouse, Chairperson, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria; Pamela Cubbler, Treasurer, Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe; and Clyde Prout, Chairperson, Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe. A response was received from United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria. The tribe requested some revisions to the SPRs to reflect tribal concerns and values, which have been incorporated (Attachment A).

    In addition, Native American tribal contacts in Yuba County were contacted on February 17, 2022 for the Yuba Roadside Fuel Treatment Project, and included Clyde Prout, Chairperson, Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe; Glenda Nelson, Chairperson, Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria; Benjamin Clark, Chairperson, Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians; Tina Goodwin, Pakan'yani Maidu of Strawberry Valley Rancheria; Regina Cuellar, Chairperson, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians; Don Ryberg, Chairperson, Tsi Akim Maidu; Gene Whitehouse, Chairperson, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria; Serrell Smokey, Chairperson, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California; and Jesus G. Tarango Jr., Chairperson, Wilton Rancheria. A response was received from United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria. The tribe requested some revisions to the SPRs to reflect tribal concerns and values, which have been incorporated (Attachment A). No other tribes responded.

Native American tribal contacts in Yuba County were also contacted on April 8, 2024 for the New Bullards Bar Project to notify them of the expanded project area and included Clyde Prout, Chairperson, Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe; Glenda Nelson, Chairperson, Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria; Benjamin Clark, Chairperson, Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians; Richard Johnson, Chairperson, Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe; Regina Cuellar, Chairperson, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians; Tina Goodwin, Chairperson, Pakan'yani Maidu of Strawberry Valley Rancheria; Don Ryberg, Chairperson, Tsi Akim Maidu; Gene Whitehouse, Chairperson, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria; Serrell Smokey, Chairperson, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California; Herbert Griffin, Executive Director of Cultural Preservation, Wilton Rancheria. Native American tribes contacted included any new tribes identified by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) that are affiliated with land outside of the Yuba Foothills Healthy Forest and Yuba Roadside Fuel Treatment project areas.

DETERMINATION

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

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

☒ I find that the presence of proposed project areas outside the CalVTP treatable landscape and proposed revisions to SPRs will not result in substantial changes in the project, no substantial changes in circumstances have occurred, and no new information of substantial importance has been identified. The inclusion of project areas outside the CalVTP treatable landscape and revisions to SPRs will not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts. None of the conditions described in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred; therefore, an ADDENDUM is adopted to address the project areas outside the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR and SPR revisions.

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

☐ I find that the proposed project will have effects that were not covered in the CalVTP Program EIR or will have effects that are substantially more severe than those covered in the CalVTP Program EIR. Although these effects may be significant in the absence of additional mitigation beyond the CalVTP Program EIR'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 Program EIR and/or (b) substantially more severe than those covered in the CalVTP Program EIR. Because one or more effects may be significant and cannot be clearly mitigated to less than significant, an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** will be prepared.

Jacob Vander Meulen
Signature

11-19-2024
Date

Jacob Vander Meulen
Printed Name

Environmental Manager
Title

Yuba County Water Agency
Yuba Water Agency

4 PROJECT-SPECIFIC ANALYSIS/ADDENDUM

4.1 AESTHETICS AND VISUAL RESOURCES

Impact in the Program EIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the Program EIR	Identify Impact Significance in the Program EIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the Program EIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the Program EIR?	Is This Impact within the Scope of the Program EIR?
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	AD-4 AES-2 AQ-2 AQ-3 REC-1	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	AD-3 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 Non-shaded Fuel Break Treatment Type	SU	Impact AES-3, pp. 3.2-25 – 3.2-27	Yes	NA	AES-3	SU	No	Yes

Notes: LTS = less than significant; SU = significant and unavoidable; NA = not applicable because there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the Program EIR for this impact.

New Aesthetic and Visual Resource Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts on aesthetics and visual resources that are not evaluated in the CalVTP Program EIR?	☐ 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

Initial and maintenance treatments would be implemented using mechanical treatment, manual treatment, prescribed burning, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory. The potential for these treatment activities to result in short-term degradation of the visual character of a project area was examined in the Program EIR. The nearest designated state scenic highway to the project area is a portion of State Route (SR) 49 east of the project area (Caltrans 2023). Some of the proposed treatments would occur along public and private roadways within the County, most of which are accessible to the public. In addition, some vegetation treatments would be visible from SR 49. Although portions of the project area are visible from public viewpoints and a designated state scenic highway (a portion of SR 49), the project area is densely vegetated with mature trees, and varied topography, which would substantially reduce the visibility of treatments from public viewpoints. In addition, treatments would primarily remove shrubs and trees smaller than 12 inches DBH, leaving overstory vegetation. Although in the short-term after treatment, the removal of vegetation could be noticeable, mature vegetation would remain to provide partial screening of treatment areas. Equipment, crews, and smoke from prescribed burning could also be visible from public viewpoints and a designated state scenic highway in the short term. 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 Program EIR because the proposed treatment activities are consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR.

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 Program EIR because the proposed treatment activities are consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing scenic resources are essentially the same within and outside of the treatable landscape; therefore, the short-term aesthetic impact is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to the proposed treatments are AD-4, AES-2, AQ-2, AQ-3, and REC-1. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

IMPACT AES-2

Initial and maintenance treatments would be ecological restoration, WUI fuel reduction, and shaded and non-shaded fuel break treatment types. The potential for these treatment types to result in long-term degradation of the visual character of an area was examined in the Program EIR. Public viewpoints primarily include the public roadways adjacent to the proposed treatments but would also include recreation areas, such as Collins Lake, and New Bullards Bar Reservoir. Some treatments would also be visible from SR 49, which is a designated state scenic highway. However, WUI fuel reduction, ecological restoration, and shaded fuel breaks would be implemented in forested areas and would maintain a canopy of trees; new linear edges devoid of vegetation would not be created from implementation of these treatments.

The potential for the project to result in long-term substantial degradation of the visual character of the project area is within the scope of the Program EIR because the proposed treatment activities are consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the long-term aesthetic impact is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to the proposed treatments AD-3, AES-1, and AES-3. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

IMPACT AES-3

Initial and maintenance treatments would include non-shaded fuel break treatments in areas containing shrubs with no trees (i.e., areas currently without canopy). The potential for this treatment type to result in long-term degradation of the visual character of an area was examined in the Program EIR and found to be significant and unavoidable after the application of all feasible mitigation measures because it may be infeasible to relocate a non-shaded fuel break to avoid public visibility. Public viewpoints of the non-shaded fuel breaks include the public roadways adjacent to the proposed treatments but would also include recreation areas, such as Collins Lake, and New Bullards Bar Reservoir. Some non-shaded fuel breaks would also be visible from SR 49, which is a designated state scenic highway.

The potential for the project to result in long-term substantial degradation of the visual character of the project area is within the scope of the Program EIR because the proposed treatment activities are consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing visual character is essentially the same within and outside of the treatable landscape; therefore, the long-term aesthetic impact is also the same, as described above. No SPRs are applicable to this impact; however, Mitigation Measure AES-3 would apply to this treatment to minimize visual impacts, if feasible, from any recreation areas, public roads, and state scenic highways with lengthy views (i.e., longer than a few seconds) of non-shaded fuel breaks. While implementation of Mitigation Measure AES-3 would substantially reduce the potential for substantial long-term degradation of visual character, as noted in the Program EIR, non-shaded fuel breaks may be visible from public viewpoints and it is not feasible to relocate them because they would be located in strategic locations to reduce wildfire risk, protect the WUI, and support fire suppression by providing responders with a staging area. Therefore, the potential remains for substantial long-term degradation of visual character. For purposes of CEQA compliance, this impact is considered significant and unavoidable. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a new or substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

NEW AESTHETIC AND VISUAL RESOURCE IMPACTS

The proposed treatments are consistent with the treatment types and activities covered in the CalVTP Program EIR. Yuba Water has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatments and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP Program EIR (refer to Section 3.2.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.2.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final Program EIR). Including land from outside the CalVTP treatable landscape in the proposed project area constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions pertinent to aesthetics and visual resources that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts are the same and, for the reasons described above, impacts of the proposed treatment project are consistent with those covered in the Program EIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impact. Therefore, no new impact related to aesthetics and visual resources would occur.

4.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

Impact in the Program EIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the Program EIR	Identify Impact Significance in the Program EIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the Program EIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the Program EIR?	Is This Impact within the Scope of the Program EIR?
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

Notes: LTS = less than significant; NA = not applicable because there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the Program EIR for this impact.

New Agriculture and Forestry Resource Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts on agriculture and forestry resources that are not evaluated in the CalVTP Program EIR?	☐ 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

The project area includes agricultural lands designated as grazing (Yuba County 2011). It also includes forest land as defined by Public Resources Code Section 12220(g) (i.e., land that can support 10 percent native tree cover of any species, including hardwoods, under natural conditions, and that allows for management of one or more forest resources, including timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, and other public benefits). Substantial portions of the project area are forest lands owned by timber companies and actively managed for the production of timber. While commercial timber harvest may occur on these properties pursuant to Forest Practice Rules and approved compliance documents (e.g., Timber Harvest Plans), the proposed vegetation treatment is an independent project designed to reduce wildfire risk and does not involve, depend on, nor enable timber removal for commercial purposes. Mechanical treatments proposed under the project may include the removal of trees that are up to 12 inches DBH. Treatments would include the removal of trees in the overstory and mid-level canopy to improve forest health and reduce wildfire risk. Treatments would not affect the forest stand conditions directly or indirectly in a way that could result in conversion to a non-forest use. Vegetation management has the potential to improve the forest stand conditions by removing competitive vegetation and scarifying the forest floor conditions allowing for natural seeding of tree species. Vegetation remaining within forest land after treatment would continue to be consistent with the definition of forest land pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 12220(g). The potential for proposed treatment activities to result in loss or conversion of forest land was examined in the Program EIR. This impact is within the scope of the Program EIR because the treatment activities and intensity are consistent with those

analyzed in the Program EIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the composition of forest land and agricultural land present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impact on forest land is also the same, as described above. No SPRs are applicable to this impact. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

NEW AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCE IMPACTS

The proposed treatments are consistent with the treatment types and activities covered in the CalVTP Program EIR. Yuba Water has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatments and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP Program EIR (refer to Section 3.3.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.3.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final Program EIR). Including land from outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions pertinent to agriculture and forestry resources that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts are the same and, for the reasons described above, impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those covered in the Program EIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impact. Therefore, no new impact related to agriculture and forestry resources would occur.

4.3 AIR QUALITY

Impact in the Program EIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the Program EIR	Identify Impact Significance in the Program EIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the Program EIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the Program EIR?	Is This Impact within the Scope of the Program EIR?
Would the project:								
Impact AQ-1: Generate Emissions of Criteria Air Pollutants and Precursors During Treatment Activities that would exceed CAAQS or NAAQS	PSU	Impact AQ-1, pp. 3.4-26 – 3.4-32; Appendix AQ-1	Yes	AD-4 AQ-1 AQ-2 AQ-3 AQ-4 AQ-5 AQ-6	AQ-1	PSU	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	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	LTS	Impact AQ-3, pp. 3.4-34 – 3.4-35	Yes	AQ-5	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact AQ-4: Expose People to Toxic Air Contaminants Emitted by Prescribed Burns and Related Health Risk	PSU	Impact AQ-4, pp. 3.4-35 – 3.4-37	Yes	AD-4 AQ-2 AQ-6	NA (No feasible mitigation available)	PSU	No	Yes
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	PSU	Impact AQ-6; pp. 3.4-38	Yes	AD-4 AQ-2 AQ-6	NA (No feasible mitigation available)	PSU	No	Yes

Notes: LTS = less than significant; PSU = potentially significant and unavoidable; NA = not applicable because there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the Program EIR for this impact.

New Air Quality Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts on air quality that are not evaluated in the CalVTP Program EIR?	☐ Yes	☒ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

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

Discussion

The project area is within Yuba County, which is in the jurisdiction of the Feather River Air Quality Management District (AQMD). Pursuant to SPR AQ-2, a smoke management plan would be prepared and submitted to the Feather River AQMD prior to implementing any prescribed burning treatment. In addition, a burn plan would be prepared as required by SPR AQ-3 for prescribed burns, which would include fire behavior modeling. Also, SPR AQ-6 requires the implementation of an Incident Action Plan, which identifies burn dates, burn hours, weather limitations, specific burn prescription, communication plan, medical plan, traffic plan, and other special instructions required by the Feather River AQMD, would also be prepared for all proposed prescribed burning treatments. The Incident Action Plan would identify the contact information for the Feather River AQMD to use in coordinating on-site briefings, posting notifications, and weather monitoring during burning.

IMPACT AQ-1

Use of vehicles, mechanical equipment, and broadcast and pile burning during initial and maintenance treatments would result in emissions of criteria pollutants that could exceed California Ambient Air Quality Standard (CAAQS) or National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) thresholds. The potential for emissions of criteria pollutants to exceed CAAQS or NAAQS thresholds was examined in the Program EIR and found to be potentially significant and unavoidable after the application of all feasible mitigation measures because of uncertainties in the degree of emissions reduction that could occur during implementation of later treatment projects. Emissions of criteria air pollutants related to the proposed treatments are within the scope of the Program EIR because the associated equipment and duration of use are consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR.

The SPRs applicable to this treatment project are AD-4 and AQ-1 through AQ-6. Yuba Water would implement the emission reduction techniques included in Mitigation Measure AQ-1 to the extent feasible. However, because the treatments would be implemented by public agencies, private landowners, not-for-profit organizations, and/or small private companies with limited funding, procuring or paying additional amounts for contractors that use equipment meeting the latest efficiency standards, including meeting EPA's Tier 4 emission standards, using renewable diesel fuel, using electric- and gasoline-powered equipment, and using equipment with Best Available Control Technology may be cost prohibitive. However, Yuba Water will encourage, but not require, use of these emission reduction techniques by its contractors, including by stating such in its contractor procurement process. In addition, crew sizes would be small and may not all be employed with the same company. For these reasons, and as explained in the Program EIR, this impact would remain significant and unavoidable.

The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the air quality conditions present and air basins in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the air quality impact is also the same, as described above. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

IMPACT AQ-2

Use of vehicles and mechanical equipment during initial and maintenance treatments could expose people, such as recreational users, to diesel particulate matter emissions. However, treatment activities would not take place near the same people for an extended period of time. The potential to expose people to diesel particulate matter emissions was examined in the Program EIR. Diesel particulate matter emissions from the proposed treatments are within the scope of the Program EIR because the exposure potential is the same as analyzed in the Program EIR, and 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 Program EIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the air quality conditions and sensitive receptors (i.e., exposure potential) present in the areas

outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the air quality impact is also the same, as described above. SPRs HAZ-1, NOI-4, and NOI-5 are applicable to this project. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

IMPACT AQ-3

Use of vehicles, mechanical equipment, and prescribed burning during treatments would involve ground disturbing activities. The potential to expose people to naturally occurring asbestos (NOA)-containing fugitive dust emissions was examined in the Program EIR. Most of the project area is not located on soil types where NOA would be present; however, portions of the project area are underlain by serpentine soils (USGS 2011). These types of soils could potentially contain thin veins of asbestos fibers that can become airborne when disturbed. In accordance with SPR AQ-5, no ground-disturbing activities would occur in these areas without an Asbestos Dust Control Plan if required by 17 CCR Section 93105. Potential NOA exposure from the proposed treatments is within the scope of the activities and impacts addressed in the Program EIR because the types of ground-disturbing activities and the exposure potential is consistent with the impacts analyzed in the Program EIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the air quality impact is also the same, as described above. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

IMPACT AQ-4

Prescribed burning during initial and maintenance treatments could expose people to toxic air contaminants (TAC). This potential exposure risk was examined in the Program EIR and found to be significant and unavoidable after the application of the SPRs and all feasible mitigation measures because unpredictable changes in weather can occur during prescribed burns resulting in short-term exposure of people to concentrations of TAC and associated levels of acute health risk with a Hazard Index greater than 1.0.

The duration and parameters of the prescribed burns are within the scope of the activities addressed in the Program EIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the air quality impact is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to these treatment activities are AD-4, AQ-2, and AQ-6. All feasible measures to prevent and minimize smoke emissions as well as exposure to smoke are included in SPRs. No additional mitigation measures are feasible, and this impact would remain significant and unavoidable, as explained in the Program EIR. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

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 Program EIR. Consistent with the Program EIR, 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. This impact is within the scope of the Program EIR because the equipment that would be used and the duration of use under the proposed project are consistent with what was analyzed in the Program EIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the air quality

conditions and sensitive receptors present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the air quality impact is also the same, as described above. 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 Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

IMPACT AQ-6

Prescribed burning during initial and maintenance treatments could expose people to objectionable odors. The potential to expose people to objectionable odors from prescribed burning was examined in the Program EIR and found to be potentially significant and unavoidable after the application of all feasible mitigation measures because, despite precautions taken, unpredictable weather changes could still result in short-term exposure of receptors to odorous smoke emissions. The duration and parameters of the prescribed burning are within the scope of the activities addressed in the Program EIR. Therefore, the resultant potential for exposure to objectionable odors from smoke is also within the scope of impacts covered in the Program EIR.

The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the air quality conditions and sensitive receptors present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the air quality impact is also the same, as described above. SPRs that are applicable to this treatment project are AD-4, AQ-2, and AQ-6. All feasible measures to prevent and minimize smoke odors, as well as exposure to smoke odors, are included in SPRs. No additional mitigation measures are feasible, and this impact would remain potentially significant and unavoidable as explained in the Program EIR. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

NEW AIR QUALITY IMPACTS

The proposed treatments are consistent with the treatment types and activities covered in the CalVTP Program EIR. Yuba Water has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatments and determined they are consistent with the applicable regulatory and environmental conditions presented in the CalVTP Program EIR (refer to Section 3.4.1, "Regulatory Setting," and Section 3.4.2, "Environmental Setting," in Volume II of the Final Program EIR). Including land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions pertinent to air quality that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts are the same and, for the reasons described above, impacts of the proposed treatment project are consistent with those covered in the Program EIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impact. Therefore, no new impact related to air quality would occur.

4.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL, HISTORICAL, AND TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Impact in the Program EIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the Program EIR	Identify Impact Significance in the Program EIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the Program EIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the Program EIR?	Is This Impact within the Scope of the Program EIR?
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-1 CUL-2 CUL-3 CUL-4 CUL-5 CUL-8	CUL-2	SU	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	CUL-5	NA	LTS	No	Yes

Notes: LTS = less than significant; SU = significant and unavoidable; NA = not applicable because there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the Program EIR for this impact.

New Archaeological, Historical, and Tribal Cultural Resource Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts on archaeological, historical, and tribal cultural resources that are not evaluated in the CalVTP Program EIR?	☐ Yes	☒ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

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

Discussion

As required by SPR CUL-1, a records search of a 4,055-acre area was performed by the North Central Information Center (NCIC) on August 3, 2020 (NCIC File No. YUB-20-28) for the Yuba Foothills Healthy Forest Project. The record search revealed 37 archaeological sites and two historic features. The two historic features have been evaluated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR); due to lack of historic significance, these features are not eligible for listing and therefore not historical resources for the purposes of CEQA. The archaeological sites are predominantly historic period and consist of abandoned water

conveyance systems, mine tailings, trash scatters, roadbeds, structure pads, and railroad grades. The three prehistoric archaeological sites contain bedrock milling features and lithic scatters.

On September 2, 2021, a records search of a 12,960-acre area was performed by the NCIC (NCIC File No. YUB- 21-33) for the Yuba Roadside Fuel Treatment Project. The record search revealed more than 335 previously recorded archaeological sites and historic features within the project area. Eighty-five of these are indigenous archaeological sites (bedrock milling features, pestles, and lithic scatters); 237 are either historic-era archaeological sites (abandoned water conveyance systems, mine tailings, trash scatters, roadbeds, structure pads, and railroad grades) or historic-era built environment features (bridges, canals, residences, commercial buildings); and 14 are multi-component sites, meaning they contain both archaeological and historic features. Six historic-era built environment features (buildings and bridges) have been evaluated as eligible for listing in the CRHR; no archaeological sites have been evaluated as eligible. Thirty-three features have been evaluated as not appearing eligible for listing and therefore not historical resources for the purposes of CEQA; these features are primarily historic-era archaeological sites and historic-era built environment features, one is an indigenous archaeological site, and one is a multi-component site. Two historic-era built environment features are described as needing to be reevaluated and the remainder (295 previously recorded sites and features) have not been evaluated for listing in the CRHR.

In 2023, records searches of the 4,055-acre FHG portion of the New Bullards Bar Project area were conducted at the NCIC (NCIC File Nos.: YUB-23-27, YUB-23-27, YUB-23-28). The records searches revealed 1,863 previously recorded sites and features, comprised of 98 built environment features, 744 historic-era archaeological sites, 929 precontact archaeological sites, 89 multi-component archaeological sites (meaning the site had both precontact and historical-era components), and 3 were marked as unknown.

Because of overlap in the areas covered by the record searches and the linear nature of some cultural resources, it is likely that there is overlap and double counting of the resources identified in these record searches. Records searches are considered to be expired after 5 years. Because of the large project area and phased approach to timing of implementation, site records (DPR 523 forms), which show the exact location and detailed description for previously recorded sites and features, were not requested for all areas. It is estimated that current records covering more than half of the project area were reviewed in preparation of this PSA/Addendum, which provide an understanding of the archeological and historic setting of the project area. As phased treatments are implemented, site records will be requested for areas where records are considered expired or have not yet been requested as treatment areas are determined.

As required by SPR CUL-2, an updated Native American contact list was obtained from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). On August 19, 2020, letters inviting the tribes to consult were mailed to the six tribal representatives indicated by NAHC for the Yuba Foothills Healthy Forest Project. A response was received from the United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC). On February 17, 2022, letters inviting the tribes to consult were emailed to the nine tribal representatives indicated by NAHC for the Yuba Roadside Fuel Treatment Project. UAIC responded to both project letters. The tribe requested some project-specific revisions to the SPRs to reflect tribal concerns and values, which have been incorporated into the SPRs included in the MMRP (Attachment A). No other tribe responded. Native American tribal contacts in Yuba County were also contacted on April 8, 2024 for the New Bullards Bar Project to notify them of the expanded project area and included Clyde Prout, Chairperson, Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe; Glenda Nelson, Chairperson, Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria; Benjamin Clark, Chairperson, Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians; Richard Johnson, Chairperson, Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe; Regina Cuellar, Chairperson, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians; Tina Goodwin, Chairperson, Pakan'yani Maidu of Strawberry Valley Rancheria; Don Ryberg, Chairperson, Tsi Akim Maidu; Gene Whitehouse, Chairperson, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria; Serrell Smokey, Chairperson, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California; Herbert Griffin, Executive Director of Cultural Preservation, Wilton Rancheria. Native American tribes contacted included any new tribes identified by the NAHC that are affiliated with land outside of the project areas for the Yuba Foothills Healthy Forest and Yuba Roadside Fuel Treatment project areas. Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians requested copies of any record searches or surveys that have been completed for the project and stated that the tribe is not aware of any resources within the project area. The tribe also requested updates as the project progresses. Record searches were provided to the tribe. No other tribe responded.

Searches of NAHC's Sacred Lands File database were conducted for the Yuba Foothills Healthy Forest Project and the Yuba Roadside Fuel Treatment Project returning a negative and positive result, respectively. A positive result indicates that a tribe has provided NAHC documentation stating that there is a site they consider sacred within the search area. Given the previous positive result, it is assumed that the expanded project area would also result in a positive result.

IMPACT CUL-1

Proposed treatment activities include mechanical treatments and prescribed burning, which could damage historical resources. The NCIC records searches revealed more than 100 built environment features (e.g., primarily single-family properties, public utility buildings, engineering structures, canal/aqueduct/dams, and farm properties). The NCIC records search revealed six historical resources have been evaluated as eligible for listing in the CRHR. The search also revealed numerous built environment features that have not been evaluated. Although it is not known whether the unevaluated features are considered a resource under CEQA, all structures (i.e., buildings, bridges, roadways) over 50 years old that have not been recorded or evaluated for historical significance and are present in the project area, will be identified and avoided pursuant to SPR CUL-7. The potential for these treatment activities to result in disturbance, damage, or destruction of built-environment structures that have not yet been evaluated for historical significance was examined in the Program EIR. This impact is within the scope of the Program EIR, because treatment activities and the intensity of ground disturbance of the treatment project are consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the potential to encounter built-environment structures that have not yet been evaluated for historical significance in areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the potential impact on historical resources is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this impact are CUL-1, CUL-7, and CUL-8. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

IMPACT CUL-2

Vegetation treatment would include mechanical treatments using heavy equipment that could churn up the surface of the ground during treatment as vegetation is removed and prescribed burning; these activities may result in damage to known or previously unknown archaeological resources. The NCIC records search revealed more than 1,000 historic-era archaeological sites (primarily building foundations, trash scatters, mine/tailings, water conveyance systems, with some roads and fences); more than 1,000 precontact archaeological sites (primarily lithic scatters and bedrock mortars/milling stations, with some hearths, habitation debris, petroglyphs, rock shelters, cairns/rock features); and 89 multi-component sites. It is expected there are more known resources in areas not covered by the records search for this PSA/Addendum. Of the recorded resources identified, 7 are classified as isolates, meaning they have no historical context and are not eligible for listing in the CRHR. Additionally, many of the archaeological sites were noted as being affected or inundated by either the Parks Bar Dam (41 archaeological sites) or the Marysville Dam (119 archaeological sites). As with the built-environment features, because not all of the features have been evaluated for eligibility for listing in the CRHR, it is not known whether the unevaluated archaeological sites are considered a resource under CEQA. A survey would be conducted before treatment pursuant to SPR CUL-4 to confirm the location of previously recoded archaeological sites and identify any previously unrecorded archeological resources; identified resources would be avoided according to the provisions of SPR CUL-5.

The potential for these treatment activities to result in inadvertent discovery and subsequent damage of unique archaeological resources or subsurface historical resources during vegetation treatment was examined in the Program EIR. This impact was identified as significant and unavoidable in the Program EIR because of the large geographic extent of the treatable landscape and the possibility that there could be some rare instances where inadvertent damage of unknown resources may be extensive. For the New Bullards Bar Forest Health Project, SPRs and Mitigation Measure CUL-2 would require identification and protection of resources, and it is reasonably expected that implementation of these measures would avoid a substantial adverse change in the significance of any unique archaeological resources or

subsurface historical resources. However, because the project could result in inadvertent discovery and subsequent damage of unique archaeological resources or subsurface historical resources, it would contribute to the environmental significance conclusion in the Program EIR; therefore, for purposes of CEQA compliance, this PSA/Addendum notes the impact as potentially significant and unavoidable.

This impact is within the scope of the Program EIR, because treatment activities and intensity of ground disturbance of the treatment project are consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the potential for discovery of archaeological resources is essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape; therefore, the potential impact on unique archaeological resources or subsurface historical resources is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this impact include CUL-1 through CUL-5 and CUL-8. Mitigation Measure CUL-2 would also apply to this treatment to protect any inadvertent discovery. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

IMPACT CUL-3

On August 19, 2020, letters inviting the tribes to consult were mailed to the six tribal representatives indicated by NAHC for the Yuba Foothills Healthy Forest Project. On February 17, 2022, letters inviting the tribes to consult were emailed to the nine tribal representatives indicated by NAHC for the Yuba Roadside Fuel Treatment Project. Native American contacts in Yuba County were also contacted on April 8, 2024, and included Clyde Prout, Chairperson, Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe; Glenda Nelson, Chairperson, Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria; Benjamin Clark, Chairperson, Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians; Richard Johnson, Chairperson, Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe; Regina Cuellar, Chairperson, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians; Tina Goodwin, Chairperson, Pakan'yani Maidu of Strawberry Valley Rancheria; Don Ryberg, Chairperson, Tsi Akim Maidu; Gene Whitehouse, Chairperson, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria; Serrell Smokey, Chairperson, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California; Herbert Griffin, Executive Director of Cultural Preservation,

Wilton Rancheria. Responses were received from the UAIC indicating the possible presence of tribal cultural resources and requesting project-specific revisions to the SPRs to reflect tribal concerns and values, which have been incorporated into the SPRs included in the MMRP (Attachment A).

The potential for the proposed treatment activities to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource during implementation of vegetation treatment was examined in the Program EIR. This impact is within the scope of the Program EIR, because the intensity of ground disturbance of the treatment project is consistent with that analyzed in the Program EIR. As explained in the Program EIR, while tribal cultural resources may be identified within the treatable landscape during development of later treatment projects, implementation of SPRs would avoid any substantial adverse change to any tribal cultural resource. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the tribal cultural affiliations present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the potential impact on tribal cultural resources is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this impact include CUL-1 through CUL-6 and CUL-8. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

IMPACT CUL-4

Vegetation treatment activities would include mechanical treatments using heavy equipment; these treatments may use skid steers, excavators, dozers, masticators, or other equipment that could uncover human remains. The NCIC records search revealed sites that were classified as cemeteries or burials. These identified resources would be avoided according to the provisions of SPR CUL-5. The potential for treatment activities to uncover human remains was examined in the Program EIR. This impact is within the scope of the Program EIR, because the treatment activities and intensity of ground disturbance are consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR. Additionally, consistent with

the Program EIR, the project would comply with California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and PRC Section 5097 in the event of a discovery. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the potential for uncovering human remains during implementation of the treatment project is essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape and treatment activities; therefore, the impact related to disturbance of human remains is also the same, as described above. No SPRs are applicable to this impact. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL, HISTORICAL, AND TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCE IMPACTS

The proposed treatments are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP Program EIR. Yuba Water 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 Program EIR (refer to Section 3.5.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.5.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final Program EIR). Including land from outside the CalVTP treatable landscape in the proposed project area constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions pertinent to archaeological, historical, or tribal cultural resources that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts are the same and, for the reasons described above, impacts of the proposed treatment project are consistent with those covered in the Program EIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts. Therefore, no new impact related to archaeological, historical, or tribal cultural resources would occur.

4.5 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Impact in the Program EIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the Program EIR	Identify Impact Significance in the Program EIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the Program EIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the Program EIR?	Is This Impact within the Scope of the Program EIR?
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	AD-1 AQ-3 AQ-4 BIO-1 BIO-2 BIO-7 BIO-9 GEO-1 GEO-3 GEO-4 GEO-5 GEO-7 HYD-5	BIO-1a BIO-1b BIO-1c	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	AD-1 BIO-1 BIO-2 BIO-3 BIO-4 BIO-5 BIO-8 BIO-10 BIO-11 HAZ-5 HAZ-6 HYD-1 HYD-3 HYD-4 HYD-5	BIO-2a BIO-2b BIO-2d BIO-2e BIO-2g BIO-3a BIO-3b BIO-3c BIO-4	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	AD-1 BIO-1 BIO-2 BIO-3 BIO-4 BIO-5 BIO-6 BIO-8 BIO-9 HYD-4 HYD-5	BIO-3a BIO-3b BIO-3c	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	AD-1 BIO-1 HYD-1 HYD-3 HYD-4	BIO-4	LTSM	No	Yes

Environmental Impact Covered in the Program EIR	Identify Impact Significance in the Program EIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the Program EIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the Program EIR?	Is This Impact within the Scope of the Program EIR?
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	AD-1 BIO-1 BIO-2 BIO-3 BIO-4 BIO-5 BIO-10 BIO-11 HYD-1 HYD-4	BIO-5	LTSM	No	Yes
Impact BIO-6: Substantially Reduce Habitat or Abundance of Common Wildlife, Including Nesting Birds	LTS	Impact BIO-6, pp 3.6-197 – 3.6-198	Yes	AD-1 BIO-1 BIO-2 BIO-3 BIO-4 BIO-5 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-1 AD-3 BIO-1 BIO-3	NA	NI	No	Yes
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	Yes	AD-1	NA	NI	No	Yes

Notes: LTS = less than significant; LTSM = less than significant with mitigation; NI = no impact; SU = significant and unavoidable; NA = not applicable because there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the Program EIR for this impact.

New Biological Resources Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts on biological resources that are not evaluated in the CalVTP Program EIR?	☐ Yes	☒ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
[Identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed.]	☐	☐	☐

Discussion

Pursuant to SPR BIO-1, Ascent biologists 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 project area. CAL FIRE's Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) vegetation layer was used to identify the general habitat/vegetation types within the project area.

The project area spans three different ecoregions (from west to east): the Great Valley ecoregion, Sierra Nevada Foothills ecoregion, and Sierra Nevada ecoregion. The project area ranges in elevation from approximately 70 feet on the western boundary to 4,500 feet on the eastern boundary and encompasses many different vegetation types as a result. Vegetation types, classified according to California Wildlife Habitat Relationships (CWHR) classification system, within the project area and total acreage for each type are presented in Table 4.5-1.

Table 4.5-1 Vegetation Types in the Project Area

Vegetation Type	Acreage
Forest/Woodland	
Blue Oak Woodland	40,389.4
Blue Oak-Foothill Pine	24,917.4
Montane Hardwood	16,977.1
Douglas Fir	15,525.3
Sierran Mixed Conifer	14,453.4
Ponderosa Pine	10,635.1
Montane Hardwood-Conifer	7,898.4
Valley Oak Woodland	1,200.6
Coastal Oak Woodland	69.0
White Fir	50.5
Closed-Cone Pine-Cypress	7.3
Forest/Woodland Total	**132,123.4**
Shrub/Scrub	
Mixed Chaparral	3,373.3
Montane Chaparral	353.9
Coastal Scrub*	12.6
Shrub/Scrub Total	**3,739.7**
Herbaceous	
Annual Grassland	24,610.1
Herbaceous Total	**24,610.1**
Wetland/Riparian**	
Valley Foothill Riparian	1,631.5
Riverine	620.6
Fresh Emergent Wetland	554.5
Lacustrine	394.7
Montane Riparian	79.3
Wet Meadow	8.5
Wetland/Riparian Total	**3,289.1**

Vegetation Type	Acreage
Agricultural	
Pasture	3,331.4
Cropland	1,313.0
Evergreen Orchard	591.7
Rice	243.5
Deciduous Orchard	185.4
Irrigated Hayfield	25.4
Irrigated Row and Field Crops	13.7
Irrigated Grain Crops	7.1
Vineyard	5.6
Dryland Grain Crops	0.8
Agricultural Total	**5,717.7**
Developed/Disturbed/Barren	
Urban	5,141.8
Barren	3,006.7
Developed/Disturbed/Barren Total	**8,148.5**
All Vegetation Types Total	**177,628.5**

*Areas mapped in CAL FIRE FRAP vegetation data as coastal scrub have been misclassified. See Impact BIO-3 below for further information.

**Wetland and riparian habitats are generally underrepresented in CAL FIRE FRAP vegetation data.

Source: CAL FIRE FRAP vegetation data, compiled by Ascent in 2024.

A list of special-status plant and wildlife species with potential to occur in the project area 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 records for the US Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangles containing and surrounding the project area (53 quadrangles total; CNDDB 2023; CNPS 2023b); the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) tool (USFWS 2023a); and Appendix BIO-3 (Table 4a, Table 4b, Table 13a, Table 13b, Table 14a, Table 14b, and Table 19) in the Program EIR (Volume II) for special-status plants and wildlife that could occur in the Great Valley, Sierra Nevada Foothills, and Sierra Nevada ecoregions. A list of sensitive natural communities with potential to occur within the project area was compiled by completing a CNDDB search of the USGS quadrangles containing and surrounding the project area (CNDDB 2023) and reviewing Table 3.6-9 (pages 3.6-42 – 3.6-43), Table 3.6-22 (pages 3.6-83 – 3.6-85), and Table 3.6-24 (pages 3.6-88 – 3.6-90) in the Program EIR (Volume II) for sensitive natural communities that could occur in the Great Valley, Sierra Nevada Foothills, and Sierra Nevada ecoregions in the vegetation types mapped in the project area.

Ascent conducted reconnaissance surveys on November 14, November 15, November 20, November 21, November 29, and November 30, 2023, to identify and document sensitive resources (e.g., aquatic habitat, riparian habitat, sensitive natural communities) and to assess the suitability of habitat in the project area for special-status plant and wildlife species. Mapped vegetation types were verified where possible, and incidental wildlife observations were recorded (Attachment B). Reconnaissance surveys included walking and driving surveys of public land (i.e., CDFW Wildlife Areas, Bear Yuba Land Trust land) and private land (i.e., private timber land owned by CHY and Sierra Pacific Industries); "windshield" surveys from public roads in areas where permission to enter was not granted; and limited surveys of US Forest Service-managed land on Plumas National Forest to sample forest habitats adjacent to, but outside of the project area. In addition, as noted in Section 1, "Introduction," this PSA/Addendum covers the Yuba Foothills Heathy Forest Project and Yuba Roadside Fuel Treatment Project areas. Ascent biologists previously conducted reconnaissance-level surveys for biological resources in these two project areas in July of 2020 and

September of 2021 in support of preparation of the PSA/Addenda for these projects. The 2020 and 2021 surveys covered some of the same areas and complement the surveys conducted in November of 2023. Given that surveying all 177,630 acres of the project area would be logistically infeasible (e.g., coordinating access with many private landowners) and unnecessary to achieve compliance with SPR BIO-1 and prepare this analysis, the reconnaissance surveys were designed to sample as many different habitat types and conditions as possible, with a focus on sensitive habitats (e.g., streams, wetlands, riparian habitat, sensitive natural communities [e.g., Macnab cypress [*Hesperocyparis macnabiana*], chaparral habitat]). Characteristics of these habitats (e.g., species composition, percent cover of dominant vegetation type, total canopy percent cover, human disturbance level) were noted and extrapolated to habitats that were not surveyed to supplement the information gathered during the desktop analysis (e.g., FRAP land cover, aerial imagery). While this extrapolation approach likely accurately describes much of the habitat in the project area, it is also likely that some un-surveyed areas may have unique characteristics that are not directly comparable to the surveyed areas. The SPRs and mitigation measures described below are applied to conservatively account for all potential habitat types and resource occurrences.

Lower elevations of the project area (approximately 70 to 2,000 feet in elevation) primarily contain blue oak woodland and savanna, blue oak foothill pine habitat, annual grassland, and some valley oak woodland. Blue oak and valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) woodlands in Spenceville Wildlife Area are characterized by old growth oak trees with adjacent patches of annual grassland. These woodlands and annual grasslands are grazed by cattle and dominated by nonnative and invasive grasses and forbs such as medusa head (*Elymus caput-medusae*), yellow star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), oat grass (*Avena* spp.), rose clover (*Trifolium hirtum*), and soft brome (*Bromus hordeaceus*) with dense patches of Italian thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus*) under the drip lines of oak trees. There are scattered freshwater emergent wetlands, drainages, stock ponds, valley foothill riparian habitat, and vernal pools throughout these oak woodlands and annual grasslands. Wetlands, stock ponds, and vernal pools often have heavy cattle disturbance; however, many wetlands still contain native vegetation and high-quality wildlife habitat. Wetlands in lower elevation oak woodlands and grasslands are often dominated by herb species such as rushes (*Juncus* and *Eleocharis* spp.) and cattails (*Typha* spp.). Vernal pools and depressional swales were characterized by soil cracking and sparse vegetation such as Italian ryegrass (*Festuca perennis*) and loosestrife (*Lythrum* spp.) and occasionally *Eryngium* spp. One vernal depression adjacent to Spenceville Road contained microdepressions created by cattle and numerous tiny crustaceous shells on the cracked soil surface from clam shrimp (*Cyzicus californicus*) and/or seed shrimp (*Ostracoda* spp.). Blue oak foothill pine habitat in the Daughtery Hill Wildlife Area near Collins Lake is characterized by a dense tree layer consisting of blue oak, gray pine, and interior live oak and an even denser shrub understory of toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), hollyleaf redberry (*Rhamnus ilicifolia*), coffeeberry (*Frangula californica*), honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.), and occasionally, old growth sticky white leaf manzanita in the transition zones between blue oak foothill pine and chaparral habitat.

Higher elevations of the project area (approximately 2,000 to 4,500 feet in elevation) give way to montane hardwood conifer and mixed conifer forests of varying densities, as well as pine plantations on land managed by private timber companies. Douglas fir forest near New Bullards Bar Reservoir contains a dense overstory of Douglas fir, tanoak, and black oak. Sierran mixed conifer forest near Woodleaf contains Douglas fir, tanoak, incense cedar and Ponderosa pine. Higher elevation Sierran mixed conifer, such as near Strawberry Valley, contains more sugar pine and madrone. Conifer forest habitat has varying levels of disturbance due to timber harvest activities and human development; some areas have been masticated or emergent vegetation has been treated with herbicide, while other areas that have not been managed contain a dense understory of shrubs such as tanoak and Sierra chinquapin (*Chrysolepis sempervirens*). Pine plantations are less diverse and contain more disturbance and sparse understory vegetation.

Wetlands and riparian areas at all elevations throughout the project area are often dominated by, or include the presence of, Himalayan blackberry and various willow species. Creeks, such as Dry Creek, are found throughout Yuba County and provide a variety of high-quality riparian habitats that are relatively undisturbed. Lower elevation sections of Dry Creek, such as in Spenceville Wildlife Area, Sicard Flat, and Hammon Grove Park, are characterized by valley foothill riparian habitat, including California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) and valley oak riparian forest and woodlands. In higher elevations, riparian habitat is dominated by bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) and white alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*).

Based on implementation of SPR BIO-1, including review of occurrence data, species ranges, habitat requirements for each species, results of reconnaissance-level surveys, and habitat present within the project area 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). Fifty-one of the special-status plants and 46 of the special-status wildlife from the complete list of species were determined to have potential to occur in the project area (Attachment B). These species are discussed in detail under Impact BIO-1 (special-status plants) and Impact BIO-2 (special-status wildlife).

IMPACT BIO-1

Initial vegetation treatments and maintenance treatments could result in direct or indirect adverse effects on the 51 special-status plant species with habitat in the project area, if these species are present. Potential impacts resulting from maintenance activities would generally be the same as those resulting from initial vegetation treatments because the same treatment activities would occur. However, treatment frequency and intensity can determine whether effects on certain plant species are beneficial or adverse. Initial treatment that reduces overgrowth, opens the tree canopy to allow more light penetration, or removes invasive competitors can be beneficial for special-status plant populations; however, repeated treatments at too frequent intervals can have adverse effects on those same special-status plants.

SPR BIO-7 would apply to all treatment activities, including maintenance treatments, and protocol-level surveys for special-status plants would be conducted pursuant to *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities* (CDFW 2018a) prior to implementing mechanical treatment, manual treatment, prescribed burning, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory in any habitat potentially suitable for special-status plants. Pursuant to SPR BIO-7, surveys would not be required for those special-status plants not listed under ESA or CESA, if the target special-status plant species is an herbaceous annual species, stump-sprouting species, or geophyte species, and the specific treatments 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 seedbanks, stumps, or roots, rhizomes, bulbs and other underground parts of special-status plants. However, this would require that treatments in habitat potentially suitable for these special-status plants be restricted to the dormant season for these species and to treatments that do not disturb below the soil surface (i.e., manual treatments, herbicide application, prescribed burning) without prior knowledge of their presence, which may unnecessarily or infeasibly constrain treatment implementation. In this case, surveys could be conducted to determine presence or absence and, depending on the results, may provide greater flexibility with timing and types of treatments that may be implemented.

Twenty-three of the 51 special-status plant species that may occur within the project area are herbaceous annual species or geophytes, and are not listed under ESA or CESA, as indicated in Attachment B. Impacts on these species would be avoided by implementing non-ground-disturbing treatment activities (i.e., manual treatments, herbicide application, prescribed burning) during the dormant season (i.e., when the plant has no aboveground parts), which would typically occur after seed set and before germination. Typically, germination would occur after the first significant rainfall (approximately 0.5 inches), and cold snap, which generally occurs between October–December (Levine et. al 2008). Ground-disturbing treatment activities (i.e., mechanical treatments) and pile burning may result in impacts on these plant species even when dormant and would not be conducted without prior implementation of SPR BIO-7. If non-ground-disturbing 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 28 of the total 51 special-status plant species that have potential to occur within the project area are perennial or moss species, which could not be avoided in the same manner as herbaceous annual species or geophytes; therefore, protocol-level surveys under SPR BIO-7 would be necessary to identify and avoid these species prior to implementing treatment activities regardless of the timing of treatments.

Four species, chaparral sedge, Pine Hill flannelbush, Layne's ragwort, and Stebbins' morning-glory, are known to occur or may be present within treatment areas that contain gabbro or serpentine soils. Eight other species, Jepson's

onion, big-scale balsamroot, dissected-leaved toothwort, Plumas rayless daisy, Ahart's buckwheat, caribou coffeeberry, Cantelow's Lewisia, and Follett's monardella, are known to occur or may be present within treatment areas that contain serpentine soils. Gabbro soil is present throughout much of the project area. Serpentine soils have been mapped in the northern section of the project area near Woodleaf and Greenville; however, treatments will not occur within any areas containing these soils pursuant to SPR AQ-5. Areas with serpentine soils requiring avoidance will be delineated using maps prepared by the Natural Resources Conservation Service in the *Distribution of Ultramafic Soils* (NRCS 2014), or by conducting site-specific surveys for serpentine soils within these areas. Site-specific surveys will be conducted by a qualified RPF or soil scientist and will include updated mapping of serpentine soils within the project area as well as documentation of diagnostic features of serpentine soils such as the presence or serpentinite rock fragments and changes in the density, diversity, and productivity of vegetation. Because treatments within serpentine soil areas will be avoided, impacts on the eight special-status plant species associated with these soils would not occur.

Thirty-three of the 51 special-status plant species that have habitat potentially suitable in the project are typically associated with wet areas (e.g., creeks, streams, ponds, seeps, vernal pools, wetlands, marshes, mesic areas in forest or grassland, bogs). Pursuant to SPR HYD-4, WLPZs of 50 to 150 feet adjacent to all Class I and Class II streams and lakes (defined under Forest Practice Rules as a permanent natural body of water of any size, or an artificially impounded body of water having a surface area of at least one acre; CAL FIRE 2020) within the project area would be implemented and WLPZs of sufficient size to avoid degradation of downstream beneficial uses of water would be established adjacent to all Class III and Class IV (e.g., drainage canals, irrigation ditches) streams for mechanical treatments, manual treatments, prescribed burning, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory, which would minimize some adverse effects on these species. However, many types of wetlands habitats are not associated with streams and suitable wetland habitat for special-status plants as well as ponds smaller than 1 acre (i.e., not considered a lake under Forest Practice Rules) may occur outside of WLPZ. Furthermore, SPR HYD-4 is not an avoidance measure for special-status plants because it allows for vegetation removal within WLPZ as long as at least 75 percent surface cover is retained. Wetland delineations will be conducted to determine if other wetland, spring, and seep habitats are present within a project area, and where aquatic habitats are delineated, no-disturbance buffers of at least 25 feet will be implemented (except for broadcast burning in areas that contain only the cysts of special-status vernal pool invertebrates or seeds of annual special-status plants; refer to Impact BIO-4 below). Although these measures would avoid and minimize some adverse effects on special-status plants typically associated with aquatic habitats, all habitat potentially suitable for these 32 species cannot be avoided and existing WLPZs and protective buffers would not fully prevent impacts on the species. As a result, SPR BIO-7 would be implemented.

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 treatments, manual treatments, prescribed burning, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory would not occur unless a qualified RPF or biologist determines, based on substantial evidence, that the species would benefit from treatment in the occupied habitat area. In the case of plants listed under ESA or CESA, the determination of beneficial effects would need to be made in consultation with USFWS and/or CDFW. If treatments are determined to be beneficial and would be implemented in areas occupied by special-status plants, under the specific conditions described under BIO-1a and BIO-1b, additional impact minimization and avoidance measures or design alternatives to reduce impacts would be identified. An evaluation of the appropriate treatment design and frequency to maintain habitat function for special-status plants will be carried out by a qualified RPF or botanist. Therefore, habitat function for special-status plants would be maintained because treatment activities and maintenance treatments would be designed to ensure that treatments, including follow-up maintenance, retain habitat conditions suitable for the special-status plant species present such that these plants persist. If significant impacts on listed or non-listed special-status plants cannot feasibly be avoided, then Mitigation Measure BIO-1c will apply and compensatory mitigation will be required.

In addition, pursuant to SPR HYD-5, nontarget vegetation and special-status species would be protected from herbicides. No herbicides will be applied within a 50-foot buffer of ESA or CESA listed plant species or within 50 feet

of dry vernal pools. For spray applications in and adjacent to habitats suitable for special-status species, herbicides containing dye will be used to prevent overspray. Only herbicides labeled for use in aquatic environments would be used when working in areas where there is a possibility the herbicide could come into direct contact with water. In riparian habitats, herbicides would be applied by hand and only during low-flow periods or when seasonal streams are dry. To avoid nontarget vegetation via run-off or aerial drift, herbicide application will not occur during precipitation events, sustained winds, or when weather parameters exceed label specifications.

Conclusion

The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on special-status plants was examined in the Program EIR. This impact on special-status plants is within the scope of the Program EIR because, within the boundary of the project area, general habitat characteristics are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape (e.g., no resource is affected on land outside the treatable landscape that would not also be similarly affected within the treatable landscape), and the treatment activities and intensity of disturbance as a result of implementing treatment activities are consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the potential impact on special-status plants is also the same, as described above.

As described under Section 1.1.3, "Purpose of this PSA/Addendum," Yuba Water proposes to revise requirements under SPR GEO-1 and SPR GEO-3. Proposed revisions to SPR GEO-1 would allow for suspension of mechanical treatments, prescribed herbivory, and herbicide treatments if it is raining, soils are saturated, or soils are wet enough to be compacted by mechanical or prescribed herbivory activities, rather than when there is a minimum 30 percent chance of rain. Proposed amendments to SPR GEO-3 would revise the language to only stabilize bare soils disturbed by treatments within WLPZs and equipment limitation zones. These modifications constitute a revision to the program description analyzed in the Program EIR. The text revisions to SPR GEO-1 and GEO-3 are shown in underline and strikethrough in the MMRP (Attachment A).

Requirements under SPR GEO-1 are intended to prevent soil destabilization during precipitation events that could result in soil compaction and disturbance that could have adverse effects on special-status plants if present. Suspension of mechanical, prescribed herbivory, and herbicide treatments in the above-mentioned conditions (e.g., rain, saturated soils, or soils wet enough for compaction to occur) would provide the same level of protection for indirect effects on special-status plants resulting from soil destabilization as the original SPR GEO-1, because these activities would not continue during conditions where soil destabilization could occur. Suspension of these activities would not be based on weather forecasts alone, but rather if weather predictions materialize and lead to precipitation events. Therefore, proposed revisions to SPR GEO-1 would not result in a substantially more severe significant effect on special-status plants than what was covered in the Program EIR.

Requirements under SPR GEO-3 are intended to minimize the potential for erosion and substantial sediment discharge that could have adverse effects on special-status plants if present. The revised version of SPR GEO-3 would provide the same level of protection for indirect effects on special-status plants resulting from soil destabilization as the original SPR GEO-3, because soils will be stabilized in areas where runoff and sediment discharge have the potential to occur (i.e., WLPZs); therefore, this revision would not result in any new or substantially more severe impacts related to runoff or sediment discharge on special-status plants than what was covered in the Program EIR.

Biological resource SPRs that apply to project impacts under Impact BIO-1 are SPRs AD-1, AQ-3, AQ-4, BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-7, BIO-9, GEO-1, GEO-3, GEO-4, GEO-5, GEO-7, and HYD-5. Biological resource mitigation measures that apply to project impacts under Impact BIO-1 are Mitigation Measure BIO-1a, Mitigation Measure BIO-1b, and Mitigation Measure BIO-1c. As explained above, impacts on special-status plants resulting from the proposed project, including proposed revisions to SPR GEO-1 and SPR GEO-3, would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

IMPACT BIO-2

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

Wildlife Agency Consultation

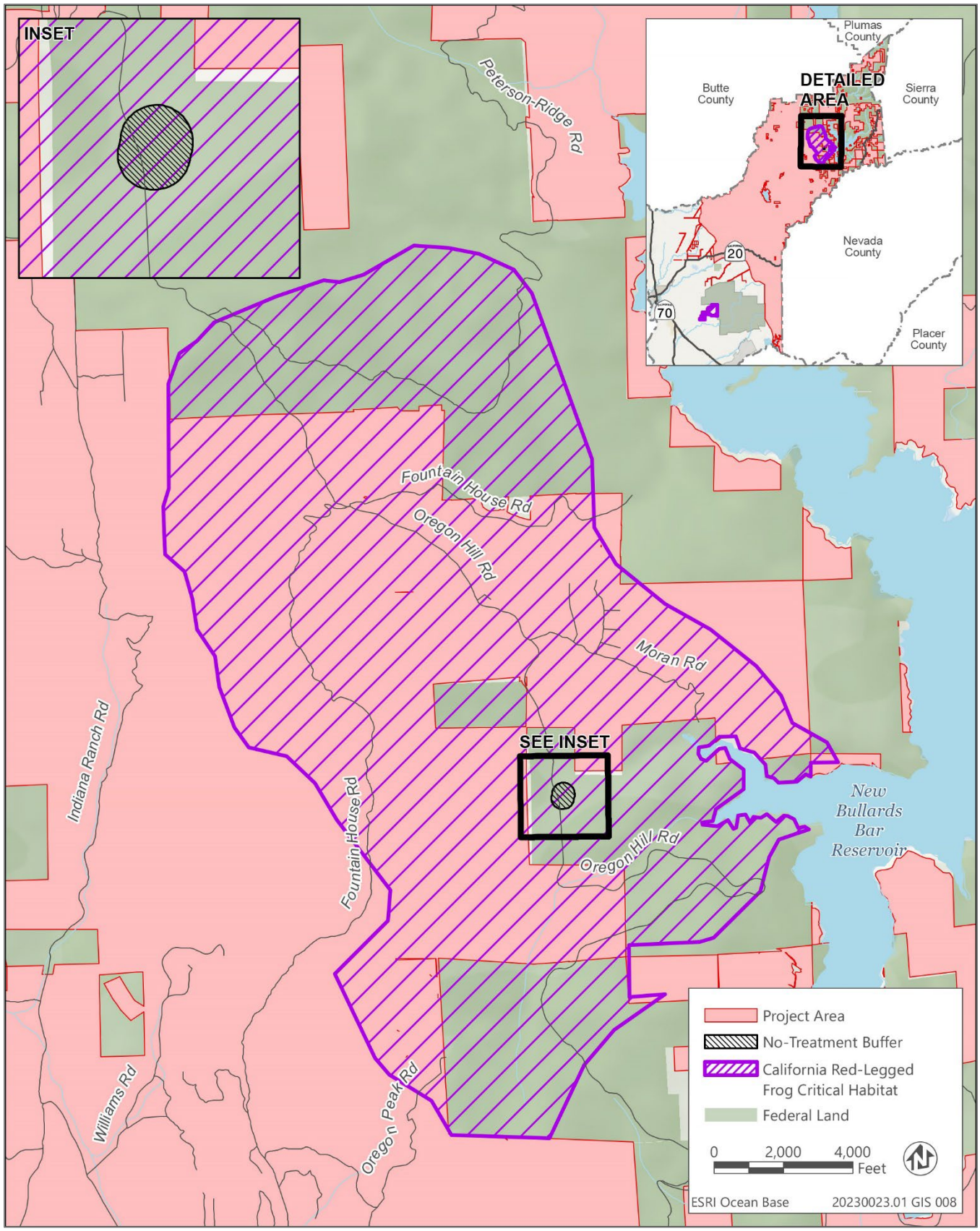
Pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-2a, Yuba Water must consult with USFWS and CDFW, as applicable (i.e., depending on the listing status of the species), about its determination that, with implementation of the proposed project, mortality, injury, or disturbance would not occur, and habitat function would be maintained for species listed as endangered or threatened under ESA; listed as endangered or threatened, or candidates for listing under CESA; or designated as fully protected under California Fish and Game Code. As noted below under the discussions for each species with a status included above, Yuba Water has conducted the wildlife agency consultation required under Mitigation Measure BIO-2a. Therefore, further consultation with USFWS and CDFW pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-2a for treatments covered by this PSA/Addendum would not be required.

California Red-Legged Frog

California red-legged frog historically occupied portions of the western slope of the Sierra Nevada from Shasta County south to Tulare County; however, these populations have been fragmented and nearly eliminated (USFWS 2002). There is one documented occurrence of California red-legged frog near the project area, within spring-fed tailings ponds near Little Oregon Creek west of New Bullards Bar Reservoir on US Forest Service land (CNDDB 2023, Attachment B). This occurrence was last verified in the CNDDB in 2003 (CNDDB 2023). California red-legged frogs have not been observed at this location since 2009 despite repeated survey efforts by the US Forest Service and this population is thought to be extirpated (USFWS 2023b). Ascent biologists visited the ponds during reconnaissance-level surveys and determined that the ponds may dry up earlier than is necessary to support California red-legged frog breeding, at least in some years. Approximately 6,324 acres of critical habitat for the species has been designated by USFWS in the area surrounding the documented occurrence, including portions of Little Oregon Creek, Burnt Bridge Creek, Oregon Hill Road, Moran Road, Peterson Ridge Road, and Fountain House Road (Figure 4.5-1). Because there is only one documented occurrence in Yuba County and the California red-legged frog population in the Sierra Nevada Foothill region is known to be small and fragmented, it is unlikely that the project area supports a large population of California red-legged frogs. Although California red-legged frogs have not been documented elsewhere in the project area, surveys have not been conducted throughout much of the area (e.g., within privately-owned land), and aquatic habitat, including perennial streams with deep pools (e.g., Little Oregon Creek, Willow Glen Creek, Prince Albert Creek), stock ponds (e.g., associated with private residences), seeps, and wetlands throughout the project area may provide habitat suitable for this species. The potential for initial treatment activities and maintenance treatments to result in adverse effects on California red-legged frogs was examined in the Program EIR.

Aquatic and Upland Habitat

Studies have demonstrated that California red-legged frogs remain very close to breeding ponds during the nonbreeding season and typically do not move more than a few hundred feet into upland habitats (Bulger et al. 2003; Fellers and Kleeman 2007); however, these studies were conducted in coastal watersheds where conditions are generally much wetter than Yuba County. A study focused on the California red-legged frog population in Hughes Pond at the headwaters of Jack Creek (abandoned lumber mill pond, Butte County; approximately 16 miles north of the project area) using radio tagged frogs determined that frogs in Hughes Pond did not travel greater than approximately 65 feet (20 meters) into upland habitats and that larger movements were only observed within aquatic habitats (Tatarian and Tatarian 2008). While similar studies have not been conducted for the possibly extirpated California red-legged frog population in Yuba County, it is likely that frogs in Yuba County would exhibit similar dispersal behaviors (i.e., strong fidelity to aquatic habitats) because the Sierra foothill habitat in Yuba County is similar to that in Butte County (e.g., elevation, rainfall average).



Sources: Data downloaded from CDFW and USFWS in 2024; adapted by Ascent in 2024.

Figure 4.5-1 California Red-Legged Frog Critical Habitat and 300-foot Buffer around the Known Occurrence

Pursuant to SPR HYD-4, a WLPZ of 50 to 150 feet adjacent to all Class I and Class II streams and lakes would be implemented and WLPZs of sufficient size to avoid degradation of downstream beneficial uses of water would be established adjacent to all Class III and Class IV streams (e.g., drainage canals, irrigation ditches). Also pursuant to SPR HYD-4, pile burning would be conducted outside of the WLPZs. Wetland delineations will be conducted to determine if other wetland, spring, and seep habitats are present within a project area, and where aquatic habitats are delineated, no-disturbance buffers of at least 25 feet will be implemented (except for broadcast burning in areas that contain only the cysts of special-status vernal pool invertebrates or seeds of annual special-status plants; refer to Impact BIO-4 below). Additionally, pursuant to SPR HYD-3, livestock would be excluded within 50 feet of environmentally sensitive areas such as Class I and II streams, ponds (including stock ponds suitable for California red-legged frog as determined by a qualified RPF or biologist), wetlands, or riparian areas during prescribed herbivory treatments using temporary fencing or active herding. However, these measures may not avoid impacts on California red-legged frogs if frogs are present outside of established WLPZs or buffers (e.g., greater than 150 feet from aquatic habitat), are present within ponds smaller than 1 acre (i.e., not considered a lake under Forest Practice Rules), or if manual treatment activities implemented within the WLPZ resulted in injury or mortality of frogs.

The one known occurrence of California red-legged frog is on US Forest Service land where no treatments would occur; therefore, impacts on this population, if present, would be avoided. As noted above, in addition to the area of the documented occurrence, aquatic breeding habitat potentially suitable for California red-legged frog is present in perennial streams with deep pools and stock ponds throughout the project area. Aquatic nonbreeding habitat potentially suitable for California red-legged frog is also potentially present (e.g., streams without deep pools, other wetlands). California red-legged frogs have not been documented in other ponds or streams in the project area and populations have been fragmented and nearly eliminated from the region (USFWS 2002); as a result, injury or mortality of California red-legged frogs is unlikely to occur as a result of treatments near these potentially suitable habitats outside the documented occurrence. Nonetheless, per SPR BIO-1, protective buffers will be implemented surrounding these habitats prior to commencement of treatment activities to further reduce the likelihood of impacts. To avoid injury or mortality of California red-legged frogs in aquatic habitat during the wet season (i.e., starting with the first frontal rain system depositing a minimum of 0.25 inch of rain after October 15 and ending on April 15), the following measures will be implemented: 1) a 300-foot no-disturbance buffer will be applied to Class I streams, Class II streams with water, permanent ponds, and wetlands that meet the definition of aquatic breeding habitat suitable for the species as determined by a qualified RPF or biologist; 2) a 30-foot no-disturbance buffer will be applied to Class I streams that do not meet the definition of aquatic breeding habitat suitable for the species as determined by a qualified RPF or biologist, dry Class II streams, and Class III streams; and 3) no mechanical treatments will occur within 75 feet of Class I streams that do not meet the definition of aquatic breeding habitat suitable for the species as determined by a qualified RPF or biologist, and dry Class II streams. During the dry season (i.e., starting April 15 and ending with the first frontal rain system depositing a minimum of 0.25 inch of rain after October 15), a 30-foot no-disturbance buffer will be applied to all Class I, Class II and Class III streams, permanent ponds, and wetlands, which meet the definition of aquatic habitat suitable for California red-legged frog as determined by a qualified RPF or biologist. Further, year-round measures would require all trees to be felled away from aquatic habitat suitable for California red-legged frogs, and would prohibit pile burning within 300 feet of these aquatic habitats year-round.

If these buffers are determined to be infeasible for certain treatments, then SPR BIO-10 would apply, and protocol-level surveys for California red-legged frog would be conducted by a qualified RPF or biologist pursuant to the *Revised Guidance on Site Assessments and Field Surveys for the California Red-Legged Frog* (USFWS 2005a) within aquatic habitat potentially suitable for the species. If California red-legged frogs are not detected within the project area during protocol-level surveys, then no mitigation for the species would be required and the buffers would not be required. If California red-legged frogs are identified during focused surveys, then a no-disturbance buffer of at least 300 feet would be implemented as described above for occupied habitat. If California red-legged frogs are detected, all treatment activities will pause, and USFWS will be contacted pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-2a to provide further guidance regarding avoidance measures.

The targeted use of the herbicides glyphosate, triclopyr, and imazapyr may be used (refer to Section 2.1.2, "Treatment Activities"). These herbicides are subject to the California Red-Legged Frog Injunction (Center for Biological Diversity v. US EPA [2006] Case No. 02-1580-JSW), which limits the use of herbicides within and adjacent to critical habitat

areas (EPA 2023). The application of the proposed herbicides is prohibited within 60 feet of California red-legged frog aquatic breeding critical habitat or nonbreeding aquatic critical habitat within critical habitat areas for the following uses: localized spot treatments using handheld devices on roadsides and in forests; individual tree removal using cut stump application; and basal bark application to individual plants. Tree injection applications are exempt from the injunction. As a result of this injunction, herbicide application (other than tree injection applications) will not occur within 60 feet of designated aquatic critical habitat for California red-legged frog. Designated critical habitat for California red-legged frog includes aquatic and upland habitats, and upland habitats greater than 60 feet from aquatic habitats within designated critical habitat for California red-legged frogs are not subject to the California Red-Legged Frog Injunction requirements. Pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-4, described above, prior to implementing herbicide treatments within this designated critical habitat, a qualified RPF or biologist will delineate the boundaries of aquatic habitat within the critical habitat boundary and will implement a 60-foot buffer within which herbicides subject to the California Red-Legged Frog Injunction will not be applied. Further, SPRs HAZ-5 and HAZ-6 require safe handling of herbicides (e.g., spill prevention, spill response) and compliance with current regulations for the application of herbicides, including the California Red-Legged Frog Injunction. SPR HYD-5 requires herbicide mixing sites be located away from non-target vegetation and waterways, use of dye in herbicides to avoid inadvertent overspray, restrictions on application in windy conditions, and restrictions on application during precipitation events.

Dispersal and Migration

While California red-legged frogs generally remain close to breeding ponds during the nonbreeding season, adults and juveniles 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. Movements through upland habitat are typically up to approximately 1.6 kilometers (1 mile) over the course of a wet season (Bulger et al. 2003). However, local studies suggest that upland movements in the Sierra foothills may be much more limited (Tatarian and Tatarian 2008). 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). The distance between the next nearest documented California red-legged frog occurrence and the occurrence near Little Oregon Creek is approximately 14 miles, substantially greater than the typical dispersal distance of the species (CNDDB 2023). It is unlikely that California red-legged frogs would migrate between these two locations. However, there are many additional potential aquatic breeding sites (e.g., ponds, streams) in the project area to which frogs from the documented occurrence, if this occurrence is not extirpated, could disperse.

California red-legged frogs generally make overland movements (i.e., dispersal, migration) during the wet season (i.e., October to May) and these movements are typically made at night (Bulger et al. 2003). While some nighttime prescribed burning, mastication, and mechanical felling may occur, treatment activities would mostly occur during the daytime, typically between 5:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., depending on the season. As noted above, it is unlikely that the project area supports a large population of California red-legged frogs, and as a result, upland habitat use by the species would likely be concentrated in areas within the typical dispersal distance of the documented occurrence west of New Bullards Bar Reservoir. As noted above, a telemetry study focused in Butte County determined that California red-legged frogs in similar environmental conditions did not travel greater than approximately 65 feet (20 meters) into upland habitats and that larger movements were only observed within aquatic habitats (Tatarian and Tatarian 2008). Therefore, the aquatic buffers described above would be sufficient to avoid dispersing and migrating California red-legged frogs in the project area, especially because the persistence of this population is unknown.

Habitat Function

Habitat function for California red-legged frogs would be maintained because implementation of SPRs, mitigation measures, and protective measures would result in retention of habitat features important to the species. Treatment activities and maintenance treatments would not occur within aquatic habitat; WLPZs of 50-150 feet adjacent to all Class I and Class II streams and lakes would be implemented within which treatments would be limited (e.g., no mechanical treatment, no fire ignition for broadcast burning, retention of at least 75 percent surface cover); WLPZs of sufficient size to avoid degradation of downstream beneficial uses of water would be established adjacent to all Class

III and Class IV (e.g., drainage canals, irrigation ditches) would be implemented; pile burning will be conducted outside of the WLPZs; no-disturbance buffers of at least 25 feet will be implemented surrounding other wetland, spring, and seep habitats; a 300-foot no-disturbance buffer surrounding the documented occurrence would be implemented; and application of certain herbicides subject to the California Red-Legged Frog Injunction would not be applied within 60 feet of aquatic critical habitat. Additionally, the largest down logs would be retained in ecological restoration treatment areas, up to three logs per acre beyond 300 feet from residences or within 100 feet on either side of a fire control feature or an ingress/egress road to private property with a preference for retaining the largest logs and those with cavities. Chipped biomass would not exceed 6 inches in depth and would average 3 inches in depth to prevent suppression of seed germination in areas where amphibians may require vegetative cover. Finally, within California red-legged frog critical habitat and within the 50-150-foot WLPZs, removal of understory vegetation will occur in a mosaic pattern, where some herbaceous understory remains such that cover is still available for California red-legged frog, with a minimum retention of 10 percent relative cover per acre.

SPRs identified in other resource areas (see Section 4.6, "Geology, Soils, Paleontology, and Mineral Resources,") would also avoid indirect adverse effects to aquatic habitat: SPR GEO-3 (requires stabilization of disturbed soil), SPR GEO-4 (requires erosion monitoring), SPR GEO-5 (requires use of water breaks to drain stormwater), SPR GEO-7 (limits heavy equipment on steep slopes), and HYD-1 (requires compliance with water quality regulations).

Pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-2a, Yuba Water contacted USFWS by email on August 9, 2024, to notify them of their proposed avoidance measures and their determination that habitat function would be maintained for California red-legged frog. Mitigation Measure BIO-2a requires consultation with USFWS on their proposed measures to avoid injury to or mortality of California red-legged frog and their determination for California red-legged frog habitat function maintenance. Consultation with USFWS is complete for California red-legged frog and the project-specific measures (see Mitigation Measure BIO-2a in the MMRP for measures; Attachment A) will be implemented.

This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog and Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog

Aquatic habitat potentially suitable for foothill yellow-legged frog (North Sierra Distinct Population Segment [DPS]) and Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog is present within Class I and Class II streams (both species), as well as marshes and ponds (Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog only) in the project area. Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog would be limited to areas greater than approximately 3,500 feet in elevation in the eastern portion of the project area (i.e., east of New Bullards Bar Reservoir). 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 2018b). Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog is a more aquatic species and typically is not found more than 4 feet from aquatic habitat (USFWS 2023c).

Pursuant to SPR HYD-4, a WLPZ of 50 to 150 feet adjacent to all Class I and Class II streams and lakes would be implemented. Additionally, pursuant to SPR HYD-3, livestock would be excluded within 50 feet of environmentally sensitive areas such as Class I and II streams or riparian areas during prescribed herbivory treatments using temporary fencing or active herding. However, these measures may not result in full avoidance of foothill yellow-legged frogs or Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs if frogs are present within ponds smaller than 1 acre (i.e., not considered a lake under Forest Practice Rules) or if manual activities implemented within the WLPZ resulted in injury or mortality of frogs. The potential for treatment activities, including maintenance treatments, to result in adverse effects on foothill yellow-legged frog and Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog was examined in the Program EIR.

Per SPR BIO-1, to fully avoid habitat potentially suitable for foothill yellow-legged frog and Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, a 200-foot no-disturbance buffer would be implemented prior to commencement of treatment activities by flagging an exclusion zone along perennial streams (Class I and Class II) adjacent to the project area, as well as ponds and lakes in areas greater than approximately 3,500 feet in elevation in the eastern portion of the project area. If the 200-foot no-disturbance buffer is determined to be infeasible for certain treatments, then SPR BIO-10 would apply, and focused visual encounter surveys for foothill yellow-legged frog and Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog would be conducted by a qualified RPF or biologist within suitable habitat areas prior to treatment activities. If foothill

yellow-legged frogs or Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs are not detected within the project area during focused surveys, then no mitigation for the species would be required. If foothill yellow-legged frogs or Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs are identified during focused surveys, Mitigation Measure BIO-2a for these species would be implemented.

Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2a, flagging areas for avoidance in which no treatment activities would occur, biological monitoring, and/or other measures recommended by a qualified RPF or biologist as necessary to avoid injury to or mortality of these species would be required.

Habitat function for foothill yellow-legged frog and Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog would be maintained because treatment activities and maintenance treatments would not occur within aquatic habitat, and pursuant to SPR HYD-4, treatments within stream WLPZs adjacent to the project area would be limited (e.g., no mechanical treatment, no fire ignition for broadcast burning, retention of at least 75 percent surface cover). Additionally, the largest down logs would be retained in ecological restoration treatment areas, up to three logs per acre beyond 300 feet from residences or within 100 feet on either side of a fire control feature or an ingress/egress road to private property with a preference for retaining the largest logs and those with cavities. Chipped biomass will not exceed 6 inches in depth and would average 3 inches in depth within WLPZs to prevent suppression of seed germination in areas where amphibians may require vegetative cover. Finally, within WLPZs, removal of understory vegetation will occur in a mosaic pattern, where some herbaceous understory remains such that cover is still available for amphibians, with a minimum retention of 10 percent relative cover per acre.

Pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-2a, Yuba Water must consult with USFWS and CDFW about its determination that mortality, injury, or disturbance would not occur, and habitat function would be maintained for foothill yellow-legged frog and Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog. Yuba Water contacted USFWS by email on August 9, 2024, to notify them of their proposed avoidance measures and their determination that habitat function would be maintained for Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog. Consultation with USFWS is complete for Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog and the project-specific measures (see Mitigation Measure BIO-2a in the MMRP for measures; Attachment A) will be implemented. Yuba Water also consulted with CDFW to seek technical input on the determination that habitat function would be maintained for foothill yellow-legged frog, as required. On August 7, 2024, Yuba Water sent a memo to CDFW describing the measures that would be taken to avoid mortality, injury, and disturbance to foothill yellow-legged frog and to maintain habitat function in compliance with Mitigation Measure BIO-2a. CDFW provided additional details regarding survey requirements for these species, and these refinements were incorporated into SPR BIO-10. No refinements to the project description resulted from this consultation.

This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

Western Spadefoot

Western spadefoot has potential to occur in low-elevation (i.e., less than approximately 1,000 feet) grassland and oak woodland habitats in the project area that contain vernal pools, wetlands, or other temporary pool habitat formed by winter rains (e.g., tire ruts) (refer to Attachment B for additional detail). Within the project area, these habitats may be present in areas west of Collins Lake and east of Beale Air Force Base. One recent study demonstrated that western spadefoot adults may burrow in upland habitat up to approximately 860 feet from breeding ponds (Baumberger et al. 2019).

Wetland delineations will be conducted to determine if seasonal wetland or vernal pool habitats are present within a project area, and where aquatic habitats are delineated, no-disturbance buffers of at least 25 feet will be implemented (except for broadcast burning in areas that contain only the cysts of special-status vernal pool invertebrates or seeds of annual special-status plants; refer to Impact BIO-4 below). Although these measures would avoid and minimize some adverse effects on breeding western spadefoot toads, 25-foot buffers would not be sufficient to prevent impacts on the species, especially if ground disturbing activities (e.g., mechanical treatments) would occur within 860 feet of vernal pools or seasonal wetlands. The potential for treatment activities and maintenance treatments to result in adverse effects on western spadefoot was examined in the Program EIR.

Per SPR BIO-1, if it is determined that adverse effects on western spadefoot can be clearly avoided by physically avoiding the habitat suitable for these species, then no additional measures would be required. However, because western spadefoot may be present relatively large distances (i.e., up to 860 feet) from breeding pools throughout the grassland and oak woodland habitat in low-elevation areas of the project area, it is unlikely that all habitat potentially suitable for this species can be avoided. As a result, SPR BIO-10 would apply, and focused surveys for western spadefoot would be conducted by a qualified RPF or biologist within habitat suitable for these species prior to implementation of mechanical treatments, manual treatments, prescribed burning, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory.

If western spadefoot toads are not detected within the project area during focused surveys, then no mitigation for the species would be required. If western spadefoot toads are detected during focused surveys, then Mitigation Measure BIO-2b would be implemented. Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2b, additional measure would be required, including flagging areas for avoidance, and/or other measures recommended by a qualified RPF or biologist as necessary to avoid injury to or mortality of this species.

Habitat function for western spadefoot would be maintained because treatment activities and maintenance treatments would not occur within aquatic habitat, and pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-4 (refer to Impact BIO-4 below), impacts on wetlands would be avoided through establishment of no-disturbance buffers (except for broadcast burning in areas that contain only the cysts of special-status vernal pool invertebrates or seeds of annual special-status plants). This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

Southern Long-Toed Salamander

Southern long-toed salamander has potential to occur in high-elevation (i.e., greater than approximately 3,500 feet) meadows, lakes, ponds, and streams in the project area (Attachment B). Adult southern long-toed salamanders can also be found under wood, logs, rocks, bark, or underground in animal burrows near aquatic breeding sites.

Pursuant to SPR HYD-4, a WLPZ of 50 to 150 feet adjacent to all Class I and Class II streams and lakes would be implemented. Additionally, pursuant to SPR HYD-3, livestock would be excluded within 50 feet of environmentally sensitive areas such as Class I and II streams, ponds, wetlands, or riparian areas during prescribed herbivory treatments using temporary fencing or active herding. However, these measures may not result in full avoidance of southern long-toed salamanders if individuals are present further than 150 feet from streams or lakes, or if manual activities implemented within the WLPZ resulted in injury or mortality of salamanders. The potential for treatment activities and maintenance treatments to result in adverse effects on southern long-toed salamander was examined in the Program EIR.

Per SPR BIO-1, if it is determined that adverse effects on southern long-toed salamanders can be clearly avoided by physically avoiding the habitat suitable for these species, then no mitigation would be required. However, because southern long-toed salamanders may be present relatively large distances (i.e., greater than 150 feet) from aquatic habitat in the project area, and because this upland movement distance is not well-defined, it is unlikely that all habitat potentially suitable for the species can be avoided. As a result, SPR BIO-10 would apply, and focused surveys for southern long-toed salamanders would be conducted by a qualified RPF or biologist within habitat suitable for the species prior to implementation of mechanical treatments, manual treatments, prescribed burning, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory.

If southern long-toed salamanders are not detected within the project area during focused surveys, then no mitigation for the species would be required. If the species is detected during focused surveys, then Mitigation Measure BIO-2b would be implemented. Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2b, additional measures would be required, including flagging areas for avoidance, relocation of individual animals by a qualified RPF or biologist with a valid CDFW scientific collecting permit, and/or other measures recommended by a qualified RPF or biologist as necessary to avoid injury to or mortality of southern long-toed salamanders.

Habitat function for southern long-toed salamanders would be maintained because treatment activities and maintenance treatments would not occur within aquatic habitat, and treatments within WLPZs adjacent to the project

area would be limited pursuant to SPR HYD-4 (e.g., no mechanical treatment, no fire ignition for broadcast burning, retention of at least 75 percent surface cover). Additionally, the largest down logs would be retained in ecological restoration treatment areas, up to three logs per acre beyond 300 feet from residences or within 100 feet on either side of a fire control feature or an ingress/egress road to private property with a preference for retaining the largest logs and those with cavities. Chipped biomass will not exceed 6 inches in depth and would average 3 inches in depth within WLPZs to prevent suppression of seed germination in areas where amphibians may require vegetative cover. Finally, within WLPZs, removal of understory vegetation will occur in a mosaic pattern, where some herbaceous understory remains such that cover is still available for amphibians, with a minimum retention of 10 percent relative cover per acre.

This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

Coast Horned Lizard

Coast horned lizard has potential to occur in the western half of the project area (i.e., west of New Bullards Bar Reservoir) within shrub habitat (e.g., mixed chaparral, montane chaparral, scrub) or oak woodland habitat. Treatment activities, including mechanical treatments, manual treatments, prescribed burning, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory would be implemented within these habitat types. Because these habitats would not be avoided through implementation of other measures, adverse effects on coast horned lizard could occur. The potential for treatment activities and maintenance treatments to result in adverse effects on coast horned lizard was examined in the Program EIR.

Per SPR BIO-1, if it is determined that adverse effects on coast horned lizard can be clearly avoided by physically avoiding the habitat suitable for these species, then no mitigation would be required. However, because coast horned lizards may be present within several habitats that would be treated, it is unlikely that all habitat potentially suitable for the species can be avoided. As a result, SPR BIO-10 would apply, and focused surveys for coast horned lizard would be conducted by a qualified RPF or biologist within habitat suitable for the species prior to implementation of mechanical treatments, manual treatments, prescribed burning, and herbicide application. Prescribed herbivory is not expected to result in loss of coast horned lizards because coast horned lizards are known to occupy rangelands where cattle are present and are capable of avoiding areas where livestock are concentrated.

If coast horned lizards are not detected within the project area during focused surveys, then no mitigation for the species would be required. If the species is detected during focused surveys, then Mitigation Measure BIO-2b would be implemented. Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2b, additional measure would be required, including flagging areas for avoidance, relocation of individual animals by a qualified RPF or biologist with a valid CDFW scientific collecting permit, and/or other measures recommended by a qualified RPF or biologist as necessary to avoid injury to or mortality of coast horned lizards.

Habitat function for coast horned lizard would be maintained because under SPR BIO-5, treatments implemented in chaparral will be designed to avoid type conversion of chaparral vegetation (the optimal habitat for this species) and to maintain chaparral habitat function. This will include determining the minimum percent cover of mature native shrubs to maintain habitat function, identifying the appropriate percent cover specific to the vegetation alliances present, and retaining a mix of middle to older aged shrubs to maintain heterogeneity. Mitigation Measures BIO-3a and BIO-3b would also result in the maintenance of habitat function of oak woodlands, which may provide habitat for this species. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

Giant Gartersnake

Giant gartersnake has potential to occur in lowland portions of the project area (i.e., less than approximately 300 feet in elevation) that contain perennial or intermittent streams, freshwater marsh, wetlands, drainage canals, or irrigation ditches. Upland habitat for giant gartersnake generally includes habitat up to 200 feet from occupied aquatic habitat (USFWS 1997).

Pursuant to SPR HYD-4, a WLPZ of 50 to 150 feet adjacent to all Class I and Class II streams and lakes would be implemented, and WLPZs of sufficient size to avoid degradation of downstream beneficial uses of water would be established adjacent to all Class III and Class IV (e.g., drainage canals, irrigation ditches) streams within the treatment area. Additionally, wetland delineations will be conducted to determine if seasonal wetland or freshwater marsh habitats are present within a treatment area, and where aquatic habitats are delineated, no-disturbance buffers of at least 25 feet will be implemented (except for broadcast burning in areas that contain only the cysts of special-status vernal pool invertebrates or seeds of annual special-status plants; refer to Impact BIO-4 below). Although these measures would avoid and minimize some adverse effects on giant gartersnakes, these measures may not result in full avoidance of giant gartersnakes, if snakes are present further than 25 feet of wetland habitat or 150 feet of stream habitat (especially if ground disturbing activities [e.g., mechanical treatments] would occur) or if manual treatment activities implemented within the WLPZ resulted in injury or mortality of snakes. The potential for treatment activities, including maintenance treatments, to result in adverse effects on giant gartersnakes was examined in the Program EIR.

Per SPR BIO-1, to fully avoid habitat potentially suitable for giant gartersnakes, a 200-foot no-disturbance buffer would be implemented prior to commencement of treatment activities by flagging along all streams, drainage canals, irrigation ditches, wetlands, and marsh habitat determined to contain habitat conditions suitable for the species by a qualified RPF or biologist, in lowland portions (i.e., less than approximately 300 feet in elevation) of a treatment area. If the no-disturbance buffer is determined to be infeasible, then Mitigation Measure BIO-2a for giant gartersnake may be required., as USFWS does not accept presence/absence surveys (e.g., conducted under SPR BIO-10) as proof of absence for giant gartersnake.

Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2a, the project proponent would require flagging areas for avoidance in which no treatment activities would occur, biological monitoring, and/or other measures recommended by CDFW and USFWS as necessary to avoid injury to or mortality of this species.

Habitat function for giant gartersnake would be maintained because treatment activities and maintenance treatments would not occur within aquatic habitat; treatments within WLPZs adjacent to the project area would be limited pursuant to SPR HYD-4 (e.g., no mechanical treatment, no fire ignition for broadcast burning, retention of at least 75 percent surface cover); pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-4 (refer to Impact BIO-4 below), impacts on wetlands would be avoided through establishment of no-disturbance buffers (except for broadcast burning in areas that contain only the cysts of special-status vernal pool invertebrates or seeds of annual special-status plants); and all aquatic habitat suitable for giant gartersnake would be avoided by a no-disturbance buffer of at least 200 feet.

Pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-2a, Yuba Water sent a memo to CDFW on August 7, 2024, and contacted USFWS by email on August 9, 2024, to notify them of their proposed avoidance measures and their determination that habitat function would be maintained for giant gartersnake. Mitigation Measure BIO-2a requires consultation with CDFW and USFWS on their proposed measures to avoid injury to or mortality of giant gartersnake and their determination for giant gartersnake habitat function maintenance. Consultation with CDFW and USFWS is complete for giant gartersnake and the project-specific measures (see Mitigation Measure BIO-2a in the MMRP for measures; Attachment A) will be implemented. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

Western Pond Turtle

Aquatic habitat suitable for western pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*) is present within ponds and streams in and adjacent to the project area, and this species could use upland habitat within the project area in the vicinity of these features. Western pond turtles may be present within upland habitat up to approximately 1,500 feet from aquatic habitat (Thomson et al. 2016). Western pond turtle is proposed for listing under ESA, and as such, currently does not have protection under ESA. However, it is possible that the species will be listed during the life of the project.

Pursuant to SPR HYD-4, a WLPZ of 50 to 150 feet adjacent to all Class I and Class II streams and lakes would be implemented, and WLPZs of sufficient size to avoid degradation of downstream beneficial uses of water would be established adjacent to all Class III and Class IV (e.g., drainage canals, irrigation ditches) streams. Additionally, pursuant to SPR HYD-3, livestock would be excluded within 50 feet of environmentally sensitive areas such as Class I

and II streams, ponds, wetlands, or riparian areas during prescribed herbivory treatments using temporary fencing or active herding. However, these measures may not avoid impacts on western pond turtles if turtles are present further than 150 feet from stream or lake habitat, are present within ponds smaller than 1 acre (i.e., not considered a lake under Forest Practice Rules), or if manual activities implemented within the WLPZ resulted in injury or mortality of turtles. The potential for treatment activities and maintenance treatments to result in adverse effects on western pond turtle was examined in the Program EIR.

Per SPR BIO-1, if it is determined that adverse effects on western pond turtles can be clearly avoided by physically avoiding the habitat suitable for these species, then no mitigation would be required. However, because western pond turtles may be present relatively large distances (i.e., up to approximately 1,500 feet) from aquatic habitat in the project area, it is unlikely that all habitat potentially suitable for the species can be avoided. As a result, SPR BIO-10 would apply, and focused visual encounter surveys for western pond turtle would be conducted by a qualified RPF or biologist within upland habitat areas suitable for the species prior to ground-disturbing treatment activities (i.e., mechanical treatments) and pile burning. If western pond turtles are identified during focused surveys, Mitigation Measure BIO-2b for this species would be implemented.

Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2b, additional measures would be required, including flagging areas for avoidance, and/or other measures recommended by a qualified RPF or biologist as necessary to avoid injury to or mortality of western pond turtles.

Habitat function for western pond turtle would be maintained because treatment activities and maintenance treatments would not occur within aquatic habitat, and pursuant to SPR HYD-4 treatments within stream WLPZs adjacent to the project area would be limited (e.g., no mechanical treatment, no fire ignition for prescribed burning, retention of at least 75 percent surface cover). Due to the proposal to list western pond turtle under ESA, Yuba Water contacted USFWS by email on August 92024 to notify USFWS of their proposed avoidance measures for western pond turtle and to seek technical assistance from USFWS on the determination that habitat function would be maintained for the species. Consultation with USFWS is complete for western pond turtle and the project-specific measures (see Mitigation Measure BIO-2b in the MMRP for measures; Attachment A) will be implemented.

This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

California Spotted Owl

The California spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*) Sierra Nevada DPS is proposed for listing under ESA, and as such, currently does not have protection under ESA. However, it is likely that the species will be listed during the life of the project. Much of the project area does not contain nesting habitat suitable for California spotted owl, due to the long-term management of some private land in the project area for commercial timber harvest, and the proximity to roads and existing level of disturbance (e.g., rural residential areas). However, portions of the project area contain mature forest that may contain nesting habitat suitable for California spotted owl due to the age and composition of the forest stands. Mature forests contain large trees and a high degree of canopy cover, and these habitats are classified under the CWHR classification system based on these features (CDFW 2023a). Habitats with small trees (i.e., 11–24 inches DBH, 12–24 feet crown diameter) are designated as CWHR size class 4; habitats with medium/large trees (i.e., greater than 24 inches DBH, greater than 24 feet crown diameter) are designated at CWHR size class 5; and multilayered habitats (i.e., with a distinct layer of size class 5 trees over a distinct layer of size class 4 and/or 3 trees, and total tree canopy closure of the layers greater than or equal to 60 percent) are designated as CWHR size class 6 (CDFW 2023a). Within each of these classifications, habitats can be further described based on forest canopy cover as "moderate (M)" (40- to 59-percent canopy cover) or "dense (D)" (60- to 100-percent canopy cover). In the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment mature forest is defined as CWHR types 4M, 4D, 5M, 5D, and 6. The project area contains approximately 64,740 acres of mapped mature forest habitat located mostly in the eastern half of the project area (i.e., east of Collins Lake) (Figure 4.5-2). Most of this mature forest habitat is located within ecological restoration treatment areas (i.e., approximately 38,000 acres); however, approximately 17,000 acres are located within WUI treatment areas and 9,400 acres are located within fuel break treatment areas. Mature forest mapped in the project area does not necessarily contain habitat suitable for California spotted owl; however, this mapping is a good

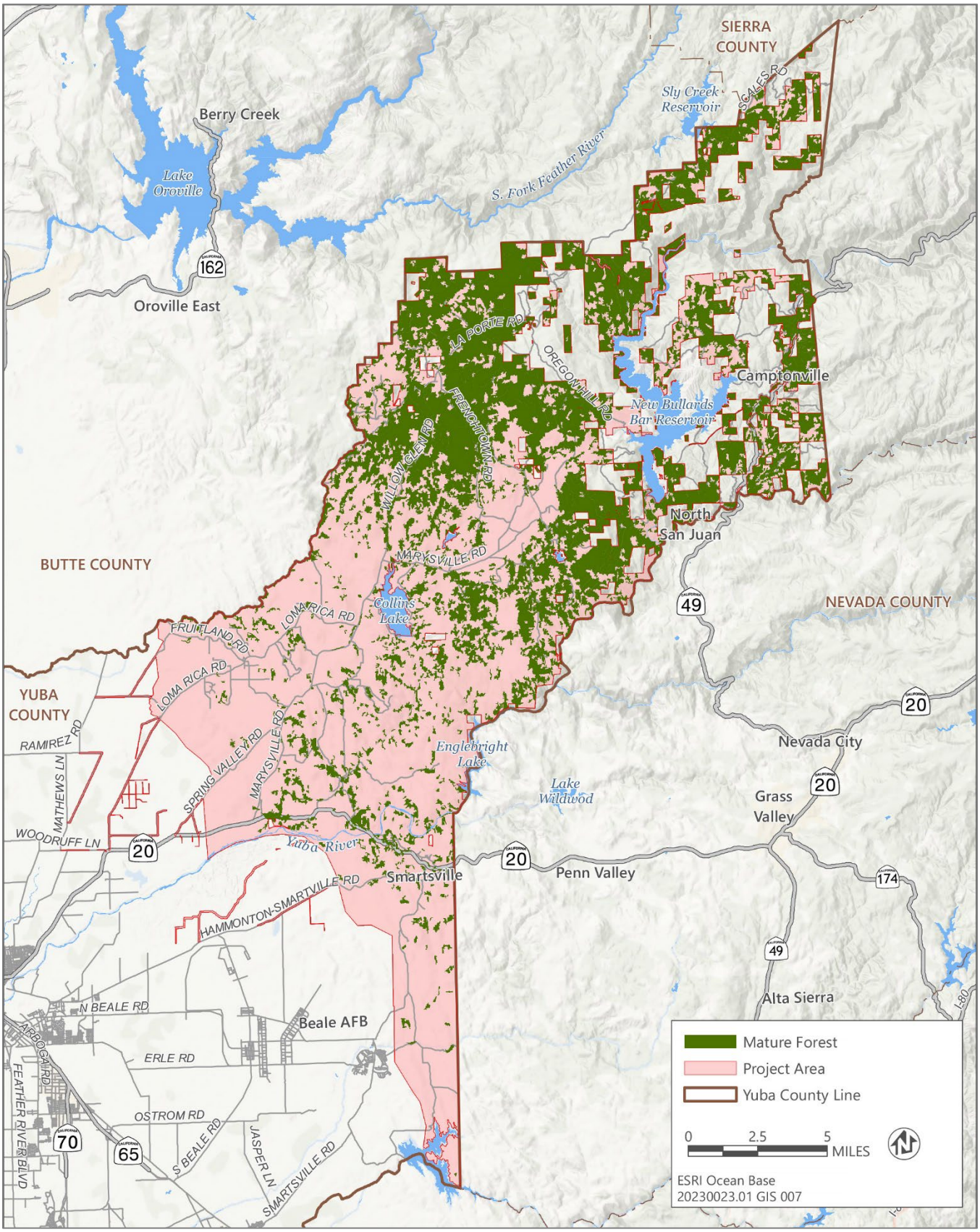
indication that habitat for the species could be present, and nesting habitat for California spotted owl is likely not present outside of these mapped areas. Further, mature forests located within WUI treatment areas are less likely to be occupied by California spotted owls because these areas are located near human development (e.g., rural residences) and subject to relatively greater levels of human disturbance than ecological restoration areas.

Several California spotted owl nest sites have been documented outside, but within 0.25 mile, of a treatment area; primarily within adjacent US Forest Service land and concentrated in higher elevation areas in the eastern half of the project area (CNDDB 2023). Up to 0.25 mile is the widely-accepted distance within which the species could be disturbed by noise and human activity (USFS 1993). It is likely that the known concentration of nests on US Forest Service land is due to regular surveys conducted by US Forest Service.

Portions of the project area that contain mature forest (Figure 4.5-2) may also contain nesting habitat for California spotted owl. Removal of nest trees would not occur because trees greater than 12 inches DBH would not be removed. Further, an average of 40 to 60 percent canopy closure would be retained post-treatment, and in forest habitats determined by a qualified RPF or biologist to be occupied (i.e., through implementation of protocol-level surveys under SPR BIO-10) or assumed to be occupied by California spotted owl (e.g., forests with canopy cover greater than 60 percent, late seral forest characteristics, complex forest structure), treatments would be designed to reduce canopy cover by no more than 30 percent from existing conditions, and a minimum of 60 percent canopy cover would be retained. Modification of California spotted owl is not expected to occur such that any habitat would be unsuitable for the species after treatment. However, treatment activities that include the use of heavy equipment, multiple vehicles, or loud hand tools (e.g., chainsaws) could result in disturbance of nesting California spotted owls in suitable nesting habitat within or adjacent to the project area, if these activities occur during the sensitive nesting season (March 1–August 15). The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on special-status birds was examined in the Program EIR.

Per SPR BIO-1, if it is determined that adverse effects on habitat suitable for California spotted owl can be clearly avoided by conducting treatments outside of the season of sensitivity (i.e., nesting season), then further mitigation would not be required. Because California spotted owl nesting occurrences are widespread throughout the eastern portion of Yuba County, to determine whether a documented California spotted owl nesting occurrence is present in or within 0.25 mile of the project area under SPR BIO-1, a qualified RPF or biologist will review California spotted owl occurrence data in the CNDDB and the project proponent will contact US Forest Service biologists from Tahoe National Forest or Plumas National Forest, as well as Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI), as applicable, to obtain any recent survey and occurrence data for California spotted owl on land adjacent to a treatment area that has not been made publicly available (e.g., in the CNDDB). SPI requires protocol-level surveys for California spotted owl pursuant to a habitat conservation plan (HCP), as described below (Impact BIO-8). If present, potential impacts on the nesting occurrence will be avoided by implementing a limited operating period within 0.25 mile of the occurrence during the spotted owl nesting season (March 1–August 15) for mechanical treatments, manual treatments, and prescribed burning activities.

Prescribed herbivory and herbicide application would not result in adverse effects on nesting spotted owls because prescribed herbivory would not occur in nesting habitat suitable for the species, and because these activities would not involve the use of loud and continuous noise from equipment or tools, significant habitat modification, or substantial visual stimuli from human presence close enough to a California spotted owl nest to result in disturbance of the nest.



Sources: Adapted by Ascent in 2024.

Figure 4.5-2 Mature Forest

If the limited operating period is determined to be infeasible, then SPR BIO-10 would apply, and protocol-level surveys for California spotted owl would be conducted by a qualified RPF or biologist within a 0.25-mile buffer surrounding the project area in habitat suitable for the species prior to implementation of treatment activities. Surveys for California spotted owl will be conducted pursuant to the *Protocol for Surveying for Spotted Owls in Proposed Management Activity Areas and Habitat Conservation Areas* (USFS 1993) or any protocol subsequently developed by USFWS should the species be listed. Surveys conducted on SPI-managed land would follow *Sierra Pacific Industries' HCP Spotted Owl Survey Protocol and Activity Center Protections*, which is based on the USFWS survey protocol for northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*; SPI 2020). The SPI California spotted owl survey protocol is similar to the US Forest Service protocol, but has some differences, including fewer required surveys (i.e., three surveys over one year) for disturbance-only (i.e., noise, smoke) projects (SPI 2020). These requirements were developed through negotiations with USFWS during the ESA Section 10 HCP process, are considered in combination with other required Conservation Measures under the HCP, and apply only to SPI-managed land. If nesting California spotted owls are not identified during protocol-level surveys, then further mitigation for the species would not be required. If nesting California spotted owls are identified during protocol-level surveys, Mitigation Measure BIO-2b would be implemented. Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2b, a no disturbance buffer of 0.25 mile would be established around active California spotted owl nests and no treatment activities would occur within this buffer.

Habitat function for California spotted owl would be maintained because treatment activities would not result in removal of trees (i.e., conifers, hardwoods) greater than 12 inches DBH and three to five snags would be retained per acre in areas greater than 500 feet from residences, which would be the most likely features to be used by this species due to the cover provided by larger trees. For ecological restoration treatments, canopy cover within forest habitats occupied or potentially occupied by California spotted owl would be maintained at 60 percent or greater, and treatments would be designed by a qualified RPF or silviculturist to maintain tree age class diversity and sufficient young understory trees to facilitate forest regeneration and long-term maintenance of habitat function. Due to the proposal to list the California spotted owl Sierra Nevada DPS as threatened under ESA, Yuba Water contacted USFWS by email on August 9, 2024 to notify USFWS of Yuba Water's proposed avoidance measures for California spotted owl and to seek technical assistance from USFWS on the determination that habitat function would be maintained for California spotted owl. Consultation with USFWS is complete for California spotted owl and the project-specific measures (see Mitigation Measure BIO-2b in the MMRP for measures; Attachment A) will be implemented. USFWS also informed Yuba Water that should the proposed ESA 4(d) rule for California spotted owl be issued when the species is listed, that the project would qualify for take exemption as a project conducting forest fuels management activities that reduce the risk of large-scale high-severity wildfires, and further consultation with USFWS would not be required. SPI has an adopted HCP that provides incidental take coverage for California spotted owl on SPI-managed land (*See* Impact BIO-8, below). Therefore, formal consultation with USFWS for these parcels in the project area has already been completed through the ESA Section 10 process, and technical assistance from USFWS pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-2a would not be required for these parcels.

This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

Special-Status Birds

Twenty-two additional special-status bird species may occur within the project area: bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), bank swallow (*Riparia riparia*), black swift (*Cypseloides niger*), burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), California black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus*), grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*), golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), great gray owl (*Strix nebulosa*), greater sandhill crane (*Antigone canadensis tabida*), loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), long-eared owl (*Asio otus*), American goshawk (*Accipiter atricapullus*), northern harrier (*Circus hudsonius*), olive-sided flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*), purple martin (*Progne subis*), song sparrow ("Modesto" population) (*Melospiza melodia*), Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), Vaux's swift (*Chaetura vauxi*), white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*), and yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*) (Attachment B).

Greater sandhill cranes are only expected to overwinter in the project area. This species overwinters and forages in grain fields and open wetlands, which may be present in lowland portions of the project area, but would not be

targeted for treatments. Treatment activities potentially conducted adjacent to these habitats would not be expected to adversely affect this species, because individuals could move to other nearby foraging habitats (e.g., adjacent agricultural fields) if temporarily displaced.

For the remaining 21 special-status bird species, treatment activities, including mechanical treatments, manual treatments, prescribed burning, and prescribed herbivory conducted during the nesting bird season (February 1–August 31) could result in direct loss of active nests if ground nests or trees or shrubs containing nests are removed or burned. For nests within vegetation that would not be removed, treatment activities including mechanical treatments, manual treatments, prescribed burning, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory could result in disturbance to active nests from auditory and visual stimulus (e.g., heavy equipment, chainsaws, vehicles, personnel, livestock) potentially resulting in abandonment and loss of eggs or chicks. Some of these species, including bank swallow and California black rail are associated with habitats that would not be targeted by treatments (e.g., river banks, marshes, wetlands). However, in forested areas, these habitats may be difficult to detect (e.g., hillslope seeps) and may be targeted for treatment (e.g., grassy slopes), and treatment activities conducted near these habitats could result in disturbance to these species. The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on special-status birds was examined in the Program EIR.

Per SPR BIO-1, if it is determined that adverse effects on habitat suitable for nesting special-status birds can be clearly avoided by physically avoiding habitat suitable for the species or 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 for treatments that would occur outside of the nesting bird season, which is generally February 1–August 31.

If conducting some treatments outside of the nesting bird season is determined to be infeasible, then SPR BIO-10 would apply, and focused nesting bird surveys for bald eagle, bank swallow, black swift, burrowing owl, California black rail, golden eagle, grasshopper sparrow, great gray owl, loggerhead shrike, long-eared owl, northern goshawk, northern harrier, olive-sided flycatcher, purple martin, song sparrow ("Modesto" population), Swainson's hawk, tricolored blackbird, Vaux's swift, white-tailed kite, yellow warbler, and yellow-breasted chat would be conducted by a qualified RPF or biologist prior to implementation of treatment activities. Established survey protocols will be followed for certain species including but not limited to burrowing owl (CDFW 2012), great gray owl (USFS 2016), northern goshawk (USFS 2006), and Swainson's hawk (Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory Committee 2000). Two special-status bird species, great gray owl and northern goshawk, are associated with mature forest habitats which are most likely to be present within US Forest Service land adjacent to the project area. Prior to implementing SPR BIO-10 for these species, the project proponent will contact US Forest Service biologists from Tahoe National Forest or Plumas National Forest, as applicable, to obtain any recent survey and occurrence data for great gray owl and northern goshawk that have not been made publicly available (e.g., in the CNDDB).

If no active bird nests are observed during focused surveys, then additional avoidance measures 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, bank swallow, California black rail, golden eagle, great gray owl, Swainson's hawk, tricolored blackbird, and white-tailed kite) and BIO-2b (for black swift, burrowing owl, grasshopper sparrow, loggerhead shrike, long-eared owl, northern goshawk, northern harrier, olive-sided flycatcher, purple martin, song sparrow ("Modesto" population), Vaux's swift, yellow warbler, and yellow-breasted chat) would be implemented.

Under Mitigation Measures BIO-2a or BIO-2b, a no-disturbance buffer of at least 1 mile would be established around active bald eagle and golden eagle nests; 0.25 mile for Swainson's hawk, white-tailed kite, great gray owl, and northern goshawk nests; 300 feet for tricolored blackbird colonies; 164 feet for burrowing owl; and at least 100 feet around the nests of other special-status birds, and no treatment activities would occur within this buffer until the chicks have fledged as determined by a qualified RPF or biologist. Additionally, trees containing 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) greater than 12 inches DBH and three to five snags would be retained per acre in areas greater than 500 feet from residences, which would be the most likely features to be used by these species due

to the cover provided by larger trees. Additionally, treatments within riparian habitat (which provides nesting habitat for several of the special-status bird species that may occur in the project area [e.g., song sparrow ("Modesto" population), tricolored blackbird, yellow warbler, yellow-breasted chat]) that is included within a WLPZ would be limited pursuant to SPR HYD-4 (e.g., no mechanical treatment, no fire ignition for prescribed burning, no pile burning, retention of at least 75 percent surface cover). Additionally, pursuant to SPR HYD-3, livestock would be excluded within 50 feet of environmentally sensitive areas such as Class I and II streams, ponds, wetlands, or riparian areas during prescribed herbivory treatments using temporary fencing or active herding.

Pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-2a, this determination for bald eagle, bank swallow, California black rail, golden eagle, great gray owl, Swainson's hawk, tricolored blackbird, and white-tailed kite must be made in consultation with CDFW. For the reasons summarized above, Yuba Water determined that implementation of treatments would maintain habitat function for bald eagle, bank swallow, California black rail, golden eagle, great gray owl, Swainson's hawk, tricolored blackbird, and white-tailed kite and consulted with CDFW to seek technical input on this determination, as required. On August 7, 2024, Yuba Water sent a memo to CDFW describing the measures that would be taken to avoid mortality, injury, and disturbance to bald eagle, bank swallow, California black rail, golden eagle, great gray owl, Swainson's hawk, tricolored blackbird, and white-tailed kite and to maintain habitat function in compliance with Mitigation Measure BIO-2a. No refinements to the project description resulted from this consultation.

This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

Special-Status Fish

Two special-status fish species may occur within the project area: Chinook salmon – Central Valley spring-run Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) and steelhead – Central Valley DPS (Attachment B). The potential for treatment activities and maintenance treatments to result in adverse effects on special-status fish was examined in the Program EIR.

Per SPR BIO-1, if it is determined that adverse effects on special-status fish can be clearly avoided by physically avoiding habitat for these species, then mitigation would not be required. Pursuant to SPR HYD-4, a WLPZ of 50 to 150 feet adjacent to all Class I and Class II streams and lakes would be implemented. Additionally, pursuant to SPR HYD-3, livestock would be excluded within 50 feet of environmentally sensitive areas such as Class I and II streams, ponds, wetlands, or riparian areas during prescribed herbivory treatments using temporary fencing or active herding. Adverse effects on special-status fish would be clearly avoided through implementation of these SPRs and further mitigation would not be required.

Habitat function for special-status fish would be maintained because treatment activities and maintenance treatments would not occur within aquatic habitat and treatments within WLPZs adjacent to the project area would be limited pursuant to SPR HYD-4 (e.g., no mechanical treatment, no fire ignition for prescribed burning, no pile burning, retention of at least 75 percent surface cover). This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

Crotch's Bumble Bee

Crotch's bumble bee, along with three other bumble bee species, was designated as a candidate for listing as endangered under CESA by the California Fish and Game Commission on May 31, 2022. In June of 2023, CDFW released *Survey Considerations for California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Candidate Bumble Bee Species*, which included survey and mitigation guidance for the four candidate species, as well as updated current range maps for each species (CDFW 2023b). Crotch's bumble bee has recently undergone declines in abundance and distribution and is no longer present across much of its historic range (Xerces Society 2018). However, the current range of the species includes most of Yuba County (CDFW 2023b). The nearest documented occurrences of Crotch's bumble bee were detected at Spenceville Wildlife Area from August 2023 and multiple sightings near Beale Air Force Base from April to July 2023 (Bumble Bee Watch 2023).

Bumble bees have three basic habitat requirements: suitable nesting sites for the colonies, availability of nectar and pollen from floral resources throughout the duration of the colony period (spring, summer, and fall), and

overwintering sites suitable for the queens. In California, Crotch's bumble bees typically inhabit open grassland and scrub habitats (Xerces Society 2018). Crotch's bumble bees nest underground and likely use, at least in part, old rodent burrows (Williams et al. 2014; Xerces Society 2018). Some bumble bees favor nest sites near woody transitional habitats and nest in holes or crevices in leaf litter, beneath woody debris, at the base of a tree, in herbaceous plant debris, or near grass clumps (Lanterman et al. 2019). Overwintering likely occurs primarily in woodlands (USFWS 2021). Overwintering queens may prefer shaded areas near trees in areas without dense vegetation and north-facing slopes (Liczner and Colla 2019; Williams et al. 2019). Bumble bees in California have been documented overwintering under 1–2 inches of duff, between leaf/needle litter and mineral soil (Williams et al. 2014). The project area contains habitat suitable for Crotch's bumble bee nesting, foraging, and overwintering.

Treatment activities including manual treatments, mechanical treatments, prescribed burning, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory could result in temporary removal of floral resources, as well as inadvertent destruction of bumble bee nests or overwintering sites, if present in the project area, through trampling, crushing, or removal of nesting or overwintering substrate (e.g., downed woody debris, leaf litter). The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on special-status bumble bees was examined in the Program EIR.

In the Program EIR, Mitigation Measure BIO-2g was proposed as a feasible set of actions to reduce potentially significant impacts on special-status bumble bees by requiring avoidance of prescribed burning and targeted ground application of herbicide treatment during the flight/nesting season and retention of habitat in the range of these species, or compensation for unavoidable loss of special-status bumble bees or habitat function. Recognizing the difficulty in detecting overwintering and nesting bumble bees and determining the occurrence and severity of impacts, limited information about nesting and overwintering behaviors, and the statewide scope of potential effects analyzed, for purposes of good faith and full disclosure under CEQA, this impact was designated in the Program EIR as potentially significant and unavoidable. However, addressing this potential effect at a project-specific level may result in a different significance conclusion if evidence supports it.

Per SPR BIO-1, if it is determined that adverse effects on Crotch's bumble bee will be clearly avoided by conducting treatments outside of the season of sensitivity or physically avoiding habitat for these species, then additional survey and avoidance measures would not be required. However, because Crotch's bumble bees may use habitat in the project area year-round, implementation of SPR BIO-10 would be required prior to treatment activities. Under SPR BIO-10, a habitat evaluation for special-status bumble bees would be conducted based on the recommendations within *Survey Considerations for California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Candidate Bumble Bee Species* (CDFW 2023b). If the habitat evaluation determines that habitat for this species is present within a treatment area, focused surveys for Crotch's bumble bee will be conducted following the recommendations in CDFW 2023 (or any additional, more recent guidance if developed by CDFW). In lieu of conducting focused surveys (e.g., if conducting a valid survey is not feasible), the potential presence of Crotch's bumble bee in the project area may be assumed. This survey guidance does not provide survey methods for determining the presence of overwintering bumble bees because overwintering habitat is not well understood (CDFW 2023b).

If Crotch's bumble bees are detected, then Mitigation Measure BIO-2g will be implemented and a no-disturbance buffer will be established around active nests for mechanical treatments. If presence of special-status bumble bees is assumed within habitat suitable for this species as determined pursuant to SPR BIO-10, then Mitigation Measure BIO-2g would apply and prescribed burning, mechanical treatments, and herbicide application will be avoided during the colony active season (April through August). Furthermore, Mitigation Measure BIO-2g includes additional measures to avoid mortality, injury, or disturbance to Crotch's bumble bees. These measures include conducting treatments in a patchy pattern to retain floral resources for active colonies and to provide refuge for overwintering bumble bees. Additional project-specific implementation has been added to Mitigation Measure BIO-2g based on feedback from CDFW, including restrictions on herbicide application techniques and division of the project area such that the entirety of overwintering or colony habitat is not treated in a single year to further provide refuge.

With implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-2g and applicable SPRs, habitat function for Crotch's bumble bee would be maintained during and after treatment implementation. Treatments would be designed and implemented in a patchy pattern to retain floral resources and provide refuge for bumble bees. Treatment activities in ecological restoration treatment areas would retain select logs and snags that provide wildlife habitat but do not pose safety

hazards, and some of these features may provide nesting or overwintering sites suitable for Crotch's bumble bee. The proposed vegetation treatments would not cause any conversion or loss of natural land cover or permanent soil disturbance that could remove availability of potential underground nesting or overwintering sites over the long term. Ecological restoration treatments in grassland areas would focus on broadcast burning and prescribed herbivory to promote native flora within the natural fire regime, retaining floral resources and other elements of habitat function for grassland species. SPR BIO-9 would be implemented, which would prevent the spread of invasive plants and noxious weeds through application of best management practices before, during, and after treatments. With implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-2g and applicable SPRs, the impact of the project on habitat function for Crotch's bumble bee would be less than significant with mitigation.

Pursuant to Mitigation Measures BIO-2a and BIO-2g, the determination that habitat function would be maintained for Crotch's bumble bee must be made in consultation with CDFW. For the reasons summarized above, Yuba Water determined that implementation of treatments would maintain habitat function for Crotch's bumble bee and consulted with CDFW to seek technical input on this determination, as required. On August 7, 2024, Yuba Water sent a memo to CDFW describing the measures that would be taken to avoid mortality, injury, and disturbance to Crotch's bumble bee and to maintain habitat function in compliance with Mitigation Measures BIO-2a an BIO-2g. No refinements to the project description resulted from this consultation. These potential effects would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

Monarch Butterfly

Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*) is a candidate for listing under ESA, and as such, currently does not have protection under ESA and is considered an "other special-status species" in the CalVTP Program EIR. However, it is possible that the species will be listed during the life of the project. There are several documented observations of breeding monarchs within South Yuba River State Park, approximately 3 miles south of the project area (Xerces Society et al. 2023). It is likely that there are additional undocumented occurrences of both monarch butterflies and milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.) plants in the project area. The project area is outside of the monarch overwintering range; however, it is within the breeding and foraging range and contains various natural habitats and floral resources that likely provide foraging or breeding habitat suitable for the species. Treatment activities, including mechanical treatment, manual treatment, prescribed burning, prescribed herbivory, and herbicide application could result in removal of floral resources, including monarch host plants (i.e., milkweed), or direct mortality of monarch butterflies. The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on monarch butterflies was examined in the Program EIR.

Implementation of treatments would not result in removal of overwintering habitat, because the project is outside of the overwintering range of monarch. Treatments would occur in habitat that may provide foraging or breeding habitat (i.e., milkweed) for monarchs. During the foraging and breeding season, monarchs are typically found in prairies, meadows, grasslands, and along roadsides (NPS 2023). In the project area, some foraging and breeding habitat for monarchs would occur in grasslands, which comprise approximately 14 percent of the total project area (Table 4.5-1). Common California milkweed species are not limited to grasslands, and can also occur in riparian areas, wetlands, open woodlands, and openings in forests. Treatments within riparian areas and wetlands would be avoided or limited pursuant to SPRs HYD-3, HYD-4, BIO-4, and Mitigation Measure BIO-4, and milkweed would not be targeted for treatments in these habitats. Further, most woodland and forest habitat in the project area does not contain openings or significant light infiltration due to the dense, overstocked nature of these habitats; thus, high quality habitat for milkweed is not likely present in woodlands or forests in the project area.

Treatment activities implemented within grassland habitat would be prescribed burning and prescribed herbivory. After prescribed burning in meadows located in the foothills of Butte County where purple milkweed (*Asclepias cordifolia*), showy milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*), and narrow-leaved milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*) were present, populations of milkweed species have either increased or been maintained (Hankins, pers. comm., 2022). In Spring of 2022, a monarch larva was observed on purple milkweed in an area that was burned in fall of 2021 (Hankins, pers. comm., 2022). Purple milkweed, showy milkweed, and narrow-leaved milkweed are all present in Yuba County, as is kotolo milkweed (*Asclepias eriocarpa*). Further, because milkweed has light, wind-blown seeds, deep rhizomes, and early successional status, showy milkweed has adaptations that typically promote fire survivorship and establishment in early postfire communities where milkweed populations are present near burned areas (Ulev 2005).

Removal of milkweed would not be targeted during prescribed herbivory treatments and livestock may avoid eating milkweed because the plants are unpalatable and contain glycosides that are toxic to cattle, goats, and sheep (Hall et al. 2020). Therefore, direct loss of monarch eggs or larvae during prescribed herbivory treatments would be limited.

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation has identified regionally appropriate monarch breeding habitat management windows to avoid impacts on monarch eggs and larvae (Xerces Society 2019). The window identified for the Central Valley region (i.e., lower elevation portions of the project area) during which management activities (e.g., mechanical treatments, prescribed burning) are recommended is October 31–March 15, and the window identified for the Sierra Nevada foothill region (the majority of the project area) is September 30–June 1 (Xerces Society 2019). Prescribed burning activities under the proposed project would occur from September through July, and while this mostly overlaps the recommended windows, prescribed burning could occur during the months of September, April, May, June, and July, when monarchs may be foraging and breeding in the project area.

While treatments would not target and are not expected to remove significant amounts of milkweed plants, and treatments may maintain grassland habitats or improve habitat for milkweed species in grasslands, woodlands, and forests, prescribed burning would occur during the monarch breeding season, and could result in loss of monarch eggs and larvae.

SPR BIO-10 would apply, and prior to implementation of treatment activities within habitats suitable for milkweed (i.e., grassland, woodland, forest, chaparral, meadows, riparian habitat, wetlands), focused surveys for monarch butterflies would be conducted by a qualified RPF or biologist or the species would be assumed to be present. If focused surveys are conducted and monarchs are not detected, then further mitigation for the species would not be required. If monarchs are detected during focused surveys, or are assumed to be present, then Mitigation Measure BIO-2e would be implemented. Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2e, several measures will be implemented to reduce the likelihood of mortality, injury, or disturbance to monarchs and to maintain habitat function. These measures include retention of host plants (i.e., native milkweed) and conducting treatments in a patchy pattern to retain floral resources and provide refuge for butterflies.

Habitat function for monarch would be maintained because treatment activities and maintenance treatments would not target monarch host plants and because all habitat suitable for monarch in the project area would not be treated at once (i.e., treatments in the project area would occur over the course of several years). Prescribed fire and prescribed herbivory would also reduce encroachment of woody species and maintain grassland areas where this encroachment is occurring, potentially maintaining grassland foraging and breeding habitat for monarchs. Because monarch is a candidate for listing under ESA, Yuba Water contacted USFWS by email on August 9 2024 to notify USFWS of their proposed avoidance measures for monarch and to seek technical assistance from USFWS on the determination that habitat function would be maintained for the species. Consultation with USFWS is complete for monarch and the project-specific measures (see Mitigation Measure BIO-2e in the MMRP for measures; Attachment A) will be implemented.

This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

Special-Status Vernal Pool Branchiopods

Three special-status vernal pool branchiopods may occur within the western, low-elevation (i.e., west of Marysville Road) portion of the project area where vernal pool grasslands are present: Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), and vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardi*) (Attachment B). Within the project area, these habitats may be present in areas west of Collins Lake and east of Beale Air Force Base. The potential for treatment activities and maintenance treatments to result in adverse effects on Conservancy fairy shrimp, vernal pool fairy shrimp, and vernal pool tadpole shrimp was examined in the Program EIR.

Wetland delineations will be conducted to determine if seasonal wetland or vernal pool habitats are present within a project area, and where aquatic habitats are delineated, no-disturbance buffers of at least 25 feet will be implemented (except for broadcast burning in areas that contain only the cysts of special-status vernal pool invertebrates or seeds of annual special-status plants; refer to Impact BIO-4 below). Although these measures would avoid and minimize some

adverse effects on special-status vernal pool branchiopods, 25-foot buffers would not be sufficient to prevent impacts on these species, especially if ground disturbing activities (e.g., mechanical treatments) would occur.

Per SPR BIO-1, to fully avoid impacts on special-status vernal pool branchiopods, presence of vernal pool branchiopods would be assumed within suitable vernal pool and similar seasonal wetland habitats identified during implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-4 (refer to Impact BIO-4 below), and SPR HYD-4 will be refined for specific application to this project to include a 250-foot no-disturbance buffer (as recommended by USFWS) around all seasonal wetland and vernal pool habitat in low-elevation, grassland and oak savanna portions of the project area with hardpan/claypan substrates. The 250-foot no-disturbance buffer would be implemented prior to commencement of treatment activities and the buffer would be demarcated with flagging or high-visibility fencing. Treatment activities would not occur within this buffer, except for broadcast burning (see discussion regarding revisions to Mitigation Measure BIO-4, below).

Habitat function for Conservancy fairy shrimp, vernal pool fairy shrimp, and vernal pool tadpole shrimp would be maintained because treatment activities and maintenance treatments would not occur within aquatic habitat and pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-4 (refer to Impact BIO-4 below), impacts on wetlands would be avoided through establishment of no-disturbance buffers. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

As described above under Section 1.1.3, "Purpose of This PSA/Addendum," Yuba Water proposes to revise requirements under Mitigation Measure BIO-4 to allow for broadcast burning within vernal pools where special-status vernal pool branchiopods are assumed to occur, which would require a revision from the restrictions in Mitigation Measure BIO-4 that prohibit broadcast burning within wetlands when special-status species are present. Proposed revisions to Mitigation Measure BIO-4 would not result in adverse impacts on conservancy fairy shrimp, vernal pool fairy shrimp, and vernal pool tadpole shrimp. The cysts of vernal pool invertebrates have been found to survive fire in the soil and will be present in burned pools following the next rainy season (Wells et al. 1997). Broadcast burning within vernal pools has been found to result in short-term reduction of nonnative grass cover and an increase in native species richness (Marty 2007), which contributes to general ecosystem health within vernal pools. In addition, reduction of natural fire frequency that may increase invasive species distribution has been identified as a threat to vernal pool species (USFWS 2005b). Broadcast burning within vernal pool habitat assumed to be occupied by special-status vernal pool branchiopods would be subject to the remaining conditions in Mitigation Measure BIO-4 that require wetland function to be maintained, that the burn be within the normal fire interval, and that no containment lines or pile burning are permitted within the vernal pool. Therefore, the proposed revision to Mitigation Measure BIO-4, specifically to allow broadcast burning within vernal pools that are assumed to be occupied by vernal pool invertebrates, would not result in a new or substantially more severe significant effect on conservancy fairy shrimp, vernal pool fairy shrimp, and vernal pool tadpole shrimp not addressed in the Program EIR. The text revision to Mitigation Measure BIO-4 is shown in underline and strikethrough in the MMRP (Attachment A).

Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle

Valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*) may be present in the western half of the project area (i.e., west of Dobbins, south of Marysville Road) in association with blue elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*) shrubs, which is the obligate host plant for this species (Attachment B). Documented occurrences of valley elderberry longhorn beetle in Yuba County are associated with the Yuba River and Honcutt Creek, west of the project area (CNDDB 2023). The currently accepted range of valley elderberry longhorn beetle is limited to areas below 500 feet in elevation (USFWS 2023d). Blue elderberry shrubs may be present within riparian habitats as well as chaparral, scrub, grassland, and open woodland (e.g., oak woodlands, oak savanna) habitats at elevations less than 500 feet. This species is also commonly found along roadsides. Treatment activities, including mechanical treatments, manual treatments, prescribed burning, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory could result in removal or damage of blue elderberry shrubs, which could constitute an adverse effect on valley elderberry longhorn beetle. The potential for treatment activities and maintenance treatments to result in adverse effects on valley elderberry longhorn beetle was examined in the Program EIR.

SPR BIO-10 would apply, and surveys would be conducted by a qualified RPF or biologist prior to treatment activities to identify any blue elderberry shrubs within or adjacent to (i.e., within 165 feet [50 meters]) the project area. If no blue elderberry shrubs are present in the project area or within 165 feet of the project area, or treatments can be modified to

avoid all elderberry shrubs by at least 165 feet (i.e., pursuant to SPR BIO-1), then further mitigation would not be required. If blue elderberry shrubs are present in the project area or within 165 feet of the project area, and treatments cannot be modified to avoid these shrubs by at least 165 feet, then implementation of SPR BIO-10 would also include protocol-level surveys following the protocol outlined in USFWS *Framework for Assessing Impacts to the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle* (USFWS 2017) to determine whether the blue elderberry shrubs are likely occupied by valley elderberry longhorn beetle (e.g., within riparian, within historic riparian, containing exit holes). Pursuant to the USFWS protocol, the project proponent may request technical assistance from USFWS for concurrence that a shrub is not likely to be occupied by valley elderberry longhorn beetle based on a number of factors including lack of exit holes, distance from riparian habitat, and elevation. Potential occupation of elderberry shrubs by valley elderberry longhorn beetles may also be assumed, in which case, surveys under SPR BIO-10 would not be required. If the blue elderberry shrubs are determined to be likely occupied or presumed to be occupied by valley elderberry longhorn beetle, then Mitigation Measure BIO-2a and BIO-2d for valley elderberry longhorn beetle would be implemented.

Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2a and BIO-2d, if blue elderberry shrubs potentially occupied by valley elderberry longhorn beetles can be avoided by a distance greater than 165 feet, then further mitigation would not be required. For all blue elderberry shrubs within 165 feet of the project area, protective measures would be required for the shrubs, including fencing and flagging a minimum avoidance area of 20 feet from the dripline of all shrubs within 165 feet of the project area and biological monitoring by a qualified RPF, biologist, or biological technician during treatment activities.

Habitat function for valley elderberry longhorn beetle would be maintained because treatment activities and maintenance treatments would not result in removal of potentially occupied blue elderberry shrub habitat pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-2d. Pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-2a for species listed under ESA, which includes valley elderberry longhorn beetle, Yuba Water must consult with USFWS for technical input on their proposed measures to avoid injury to or mortality of valley elderberry longhorn beetles and their determination for valley elderberry longhorn beetles habitat function maintenance. Yuba Water contacted USFWS by email on August 9, 2024 to notify USFWS of their proposed avoidance measures for valley elderberry longhorn beetle and to seek technical assistance from USFWS on the determination that habitat function would be maintained for valley elderberry longhorn beetle. Consultation with USFWS is complete for valley elderberry longhorn beetle and the project-specific measures (see Mitigation Measure BIO-2d in the MMRP for measures; Attachment A) will be implemented.

This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

American Badger

Habitat potentially suitable for American badger (*Taxidea taxus*) is present within grassland and open woodlands in the project area. Treatment activities, including mechanical treatments and prescribed burning could result in direct loss of active dens and potential loss of young. Manual treatments, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory are not expected to result in adverse effects on American badger dens. Personnel implementing manual treatments and herbicide application would conduct these activities on foot, and the likelihood of a den being inadvertently crushed or otherwise destroyed would be very low. Additionally, the likelihood of a badger den being crushed by livestock would be low due to the size and depth of the burrows and American badgers frequently burrow within rangelands where cattle are present. The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on American badger was examined in the Program EIR.

Per SPR BIO-1, if it is determined that adverse effects on American badger can be clearly avoided by conducting treatments outside of the season of sensitivity or physically avoiding habitat for these species, then mitigation would not be required. However, because American badgers may use a den year-round, and because focused surveys for American badgers have not been conducted, implementation of SPR BIO-10 would be required prior to mechanical treatments and prescribed burning. Under SPR BIO-10, focused surveys would be conducted for American badger dens within habitat suitable for the species (i.e., grasslands, open woodland) by a qualified RPF or biologist. If American badger dens are not detected during focused surveys, then further mitigation for the species would not be required. If American badger dens are detected during focused surveys, Mitigation Measure BIO-2b would be

implemented. Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2b, a no-disturbance buffer would be established around the den, the size of which would be determined by the qualified RPF or biologist and no mechanical treatments or prescribed burning would occur within this buffer.

Habitat function for American badger would be maintained because habitat suitable for the species (i.e., grasslands, open woodlands) would be maintained and additional open woodland habitat would likely be restored through thinning and removal of ladder fuels. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

Northern California Ringtail

Northern California ringtail (*Bassariscus astutus raptor*) is primarily nocturnal, and typically occurs in riparian areas, forests (including stands of various ages), and shrub habitats. Potential denning habitat includes rock outcrops, crevices, snags, large hardwoods, large conifers, and shrubs. Most of these habitats would be avoided, as live trees larger than 12 inches DBH would not be removed during treatment or maintenance activities and because rocky areas would not be targeted for vegetation treatment; however, shrubs would be targeted for treatment and would not be avoided through implementation of other measures. Ringtails are also known to use slash piles for resting. Slash piles associated with the project would be a maximum of 75 feet by 75 feet in area and 30 feet tall, which would likely provide rest habitat for this species. The potential for treatment activities, including maintenance treatments, to result in adverse effects on ringtail was examined in the Program EIR.

Per SPR BIO-1, if it is determined that adverse effects on 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. Manual treatments, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory treatments are not expected to result in adverse effects on ringtail dens because personnel would conduct these activities on foot, prescribed herbivory would be implemented in areas not likely to be occupied by ringtails (e.g., outside of riparian habitat and forest habitat), and the likelihood of a den being inadvertently crushed or otherwise destroyed would be very low. However, mechanical treatments and prescribed burning conducted during the ringtail maternity season (i.e., the period during which young would be present in a den, approximately April 15–June 30) could result in destruction of active dens within shrub habitat or disturbance to active dens potentially resulting in abandonment and loss of young, which may not yet be capable of fleeing. Adverse effects on ringtail would be clearly avoided for mechanical treatments and prescribed burning that would occur outside of the ringtail maternity season (April 15–June 30) under SPR BIO-1.

If conducting mechanical treatments or prescribed burning outside of the ringtail maternity season is determined to be infeasible for certain treatments, then SPR BIO-10 would apply, and presence of ringtail would be assumed, or focused surveys for ringtail would be conducted within the project area prior to implementation of mechanical treatments and prescribed burning. Surveys for ringtail will include the use of trail cameras, track plates, and other non-invasive survey methods to determine whether ringtails are present within the project area and would be conducted by a qualified RPF or biologist. If baited trail cameras are used, the qualified professionals should obtain a valid CDFW Scientific Collecting Permit. If ringtails are not detected during focused surveys, then further mitigation for the species would not be required. If ringtails are detected during focused surveys, then additional surveys would be required to determine whether an active ringtail den is present within the project area. If an active den is identified by a qualified RPF or biologist, Mitigation Measure BIO-2a would be implemented. Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2a, a no-disturbance buffer of at least 0.25 mile would be established around the den, and CDFW will be consulted and provided an opportunity to provide technical information on the size and shape of the den buffer. No mechanical treatments or prescribed burning would occur within this buffer.

If the presence of ringtail within the project area is assumed, then implementation of avoidance and minimization measures would be required pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-2a prior to and during implementation of mechanical treatments and prescribed burning between April 15 and June 30. Avoidance and minimization measures would include pre-treatment den surveys, daily sweeps of the project area, and biological monitoring.

Habitat function for ringtail would be maintained because treatment activities and maintenance treatments would not result in removal of trees (i.e., conifers, hardwoods) greater than 12 inches DBH and three to five snags would be retained per acre in areas greater than 500 feet from residences, which would be the most likely features to be used by this species due to the cover provided by larger trees, and rocky areas would not be targeted for vegetation treatment.

Pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-2a, and because northern California ringtail is a fully protected species under California Fish and Game Code, Yuba Water must consult with CDFW about its determination that mortality, injury, or disturbance would not occur, and habitat function would be maintained. For the reasons summarized above, Yuba Water determined that implementation of treatments would maintain habitat function for ringtail and consulted with CDFW to seek technical input on this determination, as required. On August 7, 2024, Yuba Water sent a memo to CDFW describing the measures that would be taken to avoid mortality, injury, and disturbance to ringtail and to maintain habitat function in compliance with Mitigation Measure BIO-2a. No refinements to the project description resulted from this consultation. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

Sierra Nevada Mountain Beaver

Habitat potentially suitable for Sierra Nevada mountain beaver (*Aplodontia rufa californica*) is only present in the extreme northeastern portion of the project area, east of Strawberry Valley (Attachment B). Sierra Nevada mountain beaver is associated with dense, shrubby habitat adjacent to creeks. This species is generally considered to be closely associated with aquatic habitat and is not found far from water.

Pursuant to SPR HYD-4, a WLPZ of 50 to 150 feet adjacent to all Class I and Class II streams and lakes would be implemented, and WLPZs of sufficient size to avoid degradation of downstream beneficial uses of water would be established adjacent to all Class III and Class IV (e.g., drainage canals, irrigation ditches) streams. Additionally, pursuant to SPR HYD-3, livestock would be excluded within 50 feet of environmentally sensitive areas such as Class I and II streams, ponds, wetlands, or riparian areas during prescribed herbivory treatments using temporary fencing or active herding. However, these measures may not avoid impacts on Sierra Nevada mountain beaver if beavers are present further than 150 feet from stream or lake habitat, or manual activities implemented within the WLPZ resulted in injury or mortality of mountain beavers. The potential for treatment activities and maintenance treatments to result in adverse effects on Sierra Nevada mountain beaver was examined in the Program EIR.

Per SPR BIO-1, if it is determined that adverse effects on Sierra Nevada mountain beaver can be clearly avoided by conducting treatments outside of the season of sensitivity (e.g., maternity season), then mitigation would not be required. However, this species is present year-round in the project area, and there is no reliable season during which impacts on this species could be avoided. Treatment activities, including mechanical treatments, manual treatments, prescribed burning, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory conducted within 200 feet of aquatic habitat suitable for Sierra Nevada mountain beavers (e.g., Class I and Class II streams with dense riparian vegetation and friable soils) could result in destruction of active burrows or disturbance to active burrows potentially resulting in abandonment and loss of young.

SPR BIO-10 would be required, and focused surveys (i.e., burrow searches) for Sierra Nevada mountain beavers would be conducted in areas up to 200 feet from aquatic habitat within the project area prior to implementation of treatment activities. If Sierra Nevada mountain beaver burrows are not detected during focused surveys, then further mitigation for the species would not be required. If Sierra Nevada mountain beaver burrows are detected during focused surveys, then additional surveys would be required to determine whether the burrow is active. If an active burrow is identified by a qualified RPF or biologist, Mitigation Measure BIO-2b would be implemented. Under Mitigation Measure BIO-2b, a no-disturbance buffer of at least 250 feet would be established around the burrow, and no treatment activities would occur within this buffer. A no-disturbance buffer of 250 feet is necessary to protect active Sierra Nevada mountain beaver burrows; this buffer size was adjusted to be larger than the general no-disturbance buffer of 100 feet provided in Mitigation Measure BIO-2b to provide adequate protection such that impacts would be less than significant under CEQA.

Habitat function for Sierra Nevada mountain beaver would be maintained because pursuant to SPR HYD-4, treatments within stream WLPZs adjacent to the project area would be limited (e.g., no mechanical treatment, no fire ignition for broadcast burning, retention of at least 75 percent surface cover) and pursuant to SPR HYD-3, livestock

would be excluded within 50 feet of environmentally sensitive areas such as Class I and II streams, ponds, wetlands, or riparian areas during prescribed herbivory treatments using temporary fencing or active herding. This would result in retention of habitat suitable for this species. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

Special-Status Bats

Habitat potentially suitable for four special-status bat species—pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*), western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*), and western red bat (*Lasiurus frantzii*)—is present within forest habitat, rocky areas, and human-made structures (e.g., barns, bridges) in the project area. Conifer plantations with trees 20 years and younger, which are present in some project areas, are not expected to provide habitat suitable for special-status bats, due to the relatively small size of the trees. Per SPR BIO-1, if it is determined that adverse effects on special-status bats can be clearly avoided by conducting treatments outside of the season of sensitivity (i.e., maternity season), then mitigation would not be required. Adverse effects on special-status bat maternity roosts would be clearly avoided by conducting initial and maintenance treatments outside of the bat maternity season (April 1–August 31) (Caltrans 2004).

Treatment activities, including mechanical treatments, manual treatments, prescribed burning, and prescribed herbivory conducted within habitat suitable for bats during the bat maternity season (April 1–August 31) could disturb active bat maternity roosts from auditory and visual stimuli (e.g., heavy equipment, chainsaws, vehicles, personnel, livestock) or smoke (e.g., broadcast burning, pile burning) potentially resulting in abandonment of the roost and loss of young. Herbicide treatments that would occur away from established roads would be limited to ground-based methods, such as using a backpack sprayer or painting herbicide onto cut stems and would be conducted by crews of 1-5 people; thus, these treatments would not be expected to result in substantial disturbance to special-status bat roosts. The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on special-status bats was examined in the Program EIR.

If conducting some mechanical treatments, manual treatments, prescribed burning, or prescribed herbivory would occur during the bat maternity season, then SPR BIO-10 would apply, and focused surveys for these species would be conducted by a qualified RPF or biologist within suitable habitat areas (e.g., excluding young plantations) prior to initiation of mechanical treatments, manual treatments, prescribed burning, and prescribed herbivory. 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, western mastiff bat, or western red bat roosts and mechanical treatments, manual treatments, prescribed burning, and prescribed herbivory would not occur within this buffer. A no-disturbance buffer of 250 feet is necessary to protect sensitive roosts 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 and maintenance treatments would not result in removal of trees (i.e., conifers, hardwoods) greater than 12 inches DBH and three to five snags would be retained per acre in areas greater than 500 feet from residences, which would be the most likely features to be used by this species due to the cover provided by larger trees, and rocky areas would not be targeted for vegetation treatment. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

Conclusion

The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on special-status wildlife was examined in the Program EIR. This impact on special-status wildlife is within the scope of the Program EIR because, within the boundary of the project area, general habitat characteristics are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape (e.g., no resource is affected on land outside the treatable landscape that would not also be similarly affected within the treatable landscape), and the treatment activities and intensity of disturbance as a result of implementing treatment activities are consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental conditions present in the areas outside the treatable

landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the potential impact on special-status wildlife is also the same, as described above. Biological resource SPRs that apply to project impacts under Impact BIO-2 are SPRs AD-1, BIO-1 through BIO-5, BIO-8, BIO-10, BIO-11, HAZ-5, HAZ-6, HYD-1, HYD-3, HYD-4, and HYD-5. Biological resource mitigation measures that apply to this impact are Mitigation Measures BIO-2a through BIO-2e, BIO-2g, BIO-3a through BIO-3c, and BIO-4. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

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, oak woodland, chaparral, and riparian habitat. Potential impacts resulting from maintenance activities would be generally the same as those resulting from initial vegetation treatments because the same treatment activities are proposed; however, retreatment at too great a frequency could result in additional adverse effects. The potential for treatment activities, including maintenance treatments, to result in adverse effects on sensitive habitats was examined in the Program EIR.

Based on the vegetation types present in the project area and the reconnaissance-level survey conducted pursuant to SPR BIO-1, 46 sensitive natural communities (i.e., natural communities with a rarity rank of S1, S2, or S3) may be present in the project area. The sensitive natural communities, their associated rarity rank, and the vegetation type within which the communities may occur are presented in Table 4.5-2, below. In addition, several oak woodland and forest types (i.e., blue oak woodland, blue oak-foothill pine, coastal oak woodland, valley oak woodland), which are sensitive habitats pursuant to the Oak Woodlands Conservation Act and Public Resources Code Section 21083.4, have been mapped in project area.

Table 4.5-2 Sensitive Natural Communities Documented or with Potential to Occur in the Project Area

Sensitive Natural Community[1]	Rarity Rank[2]	CWHR Type
Forest/Woodland		
Bigleaf maple forest*	S3	Douglas Fir, Montane Hardwood-Conifer, Montane Hardwood
California bay forest*	S3	Coastal Oak Woodland, Montane Hardwood
California buckeye grove*	S3	Montane Hardwood
Incense cedar forest*	S3	Sierran Mixed Conifer
Tanoak forest*	S3.2	Montane Hardwood
Ultramafic cypress woodland*	S3	Closed-Cone Pine-Cypress
Valley oak woodland*	S3	Valley Oak Woodland
Shrub/scrub		
Bush seepweed scrub	S3	Alkali Desert Scrub, Coastal Scrub
Canyon live oak - Interior live oak chaparral*	S3S4	Mixed Chaparral
Hoary, Common, and Stanford Manzanita Chaparral	S3	Mixed Chaparral
Shrub tanoak chaparral*	S3	Mixed Chaparral
Wright's buckwheat – Heermann's buckwheat – Utah butterfly-bush scrub	S3	Coastal Scrub
Herbaceous		
Alkali sacaton - scratchgrass - alkali cordgrass alkaline wet meadow	S2	Alkali Desert Scrub, Saline Emergent Wetland, Wet Meadow
Ashy ryegrass - creeping wildrye turfs	S3	Annual Grassland
Blue wild rye montane meadows	S3?	Perennial Grassland, Wet Meadow
California brome-blue wildrye prairie	S3	Perennial Grassland, Wet Meadow

Sensitive Natural Community[1]	Rarity Rank[2]	CWHR Type
California Button-celery Patch	S2	Annual Grassland
Deer grass bed*	S2?	Perennial Grassland
Fremont's goldfields – downingia vernal pools	S2	Annual Grassland
Fremont's Tidy-tips – Blow Wives Vernal Pool	S3	Annual Grassland
Goldenaster patch	S3	Annual Grassland, Coastal Scrub
Monolopia - leafy-stemmed tickseed fields	S3	Annual Grassland
Smooth goldfields - pale spike rush vernal pool bottoms	S2	Annual Grassland
Smooth goldfields vernal pool bottom	S2	Annual Grassland
Tar plant field	S2	Annual Grassland
Water blinks – annual checkerbloom vernal pool	S2	Annual Grassland
White-tip Clover Swales	S3	Annual Grassland
Riparian		
Black cottonwood forest	S3	Montane Riparian, Valley Foothill Riparian
Booth's willow - geyer's willow - yellow willow thickets	S2	Montane Riparian, Wet Meadow
Box-elder forest	S2.2	Valley Foothill Riparian
Button willow thicket*	S2	Valley Foothill Riparian
California sycamore woodland*	S3	Valley Foothill Riparian
California rose briar patch	S3	Valley Foothill Riparian
Fremont cottonwood forest*	S3.2	Montane Riparian, Valley Foothill Riparian
Goodding's willow - red willow riparian woodland and forest*	S3	Desert Riparian, Fresh Emergent Wetland, Valley Foothill Riparian
Hind's walnut and related stand*	S1.1	Montane Riparian
Mountain alder thicket	S3	Montane Riparian
Oregon ash grove*	S3.2	Montane Riparian, Valley Foothill Riparian
Red-osier dogwood - interior rose - currant thickets*	S3	Montane Riparian
Red osier thicket*	S3	Montane Riparian, Valley Foothill Riparian
Rocky mountain maple thicket	S3	Montane Riparian
Shining willow groves	S3.2	Valley Foothill Riparian
Torrent sedge patch	S3	Montane Riparian, Valley Foothill Riparian
Valley oak riparian forest and woodland*	S3	Valley Oak Woodland
Western labrador-tea thicket	S2	Montane Riparian
Wild grape shrubland*	S3	Montane Riparian, Valley Foothill Riparian

[1] These are designated sensitive natural communities with a state rarity rank of S1 (critically imperiled), S2 (imperiled), or S3 (vulnerable).

* Species associated with these sensitive natural communities were observed during SPR BIO-1 reconnaissance-level surveys.

[2] Older ranks, which need to be updated, may still contain a decimal "threat" rank of .1, .2, or .3, where .1 indicates very threatened status, .2 indicates moderate threat, and .3 indicates few or no current known threats

Source: CNPS 2023a; Compiled by Ascent in 2023.

During reconnaissance-level surveys conducted pursuant to SPR BIO-1, several stands of Macnab cypress with greater than 50 percent cover were observed in the project area near Forsythe Road, Texas Hill Road, and the Brownsville Ponderosa Park and Community Center, meeting the requirements for an ultramafic cypress woodland sensitive natural community. Several species associated with other sensitive natural communities were also observed, including

bigleaf maple, California bay laurel (*Umbellaria californica*), California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*), incense cedar, tanoak, valley oak, interior live oak, canyon live oak, deer grass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*), button willow (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), California sycamore, Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), willow (*Salix* spp.), northern California black walnut (*Juglans hindsii*), Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*), dogwood (*Cornus* spp.), and wild grape (*Vitis californica*). While not all dominant species associated with sensitive natural communities included in Table 4.5-2 were observed during reconnaissance-level surveys, these communities may be present. As a result, prior to implementation of treatment activities, SPR BIO-3 would be implemented and a qualified RPF or biologist would identify sensitive natural communities in the project area to the alliance level pursuant to *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities* (CDFW 2018a).

Valley foothill and montane riparian habitat is present within the project area adjacent to streams, lakes, and ponds. SPR BIO-4 requires that treatments be designed to avoid loss or degradation of riparian habitat functions. Under SPR HYD-4, a WLPZ of 50 to 150 feet adjacent to all Class I and Class II streams and lakes would be implemented for mechanical treatments, manual treatments, prescribed burning, and prescribed herbivory which would limit the extent of treatment activities within riparian habitat. In addition, prescribed herbivory treatments would be excluded within 50 feet of environmentally sensitive areas such as waterbodies, wetlands, or riparian areas using temporary fencing or active herding, pursuant to SPR HYD-3. While these SPRs would reduce potential impacts on riparian habitat, the extent of riparian habitat within the project area has not been mapped and riparian habitat may be present outside of the areas incorporated within WLPZs. As a result, prior to implementation of treatment activities, SPR BIO-3 would need to be implemented to identify and map the extent of riparian habitat within the project area. As required under SPR BIO-4, treatments in riparian habitats would retain at least 75 percent of the overstory and 50 percent of the understory canopy of native riparian vegetation and would be limited to removal of uncharacteristic fuel loads (e.g., dead or dying vegetation, invasive plants). Additionally, prior to any treatments in riparian habitat, CDFW would be notified pursuant to California Fish and Game Code 1602, when required.

As described in Table 4.5-1, approximately 3,727 acres of chaparral habitat (i.e., mixed chaparral, montane chaparral) are present in the project area. Areas mapped as chaparral in CAL FIRE's FRAP vegetation layer were visited during reconnaissance-level surveys conducted pursuant to SPR BIO-1. These areas often contained greater than 10 percent tree cover and were more characteristic of open woodlands with a dense shrub understory or were areas previously clear cut that contained early successional shrub seedlings and saplings. Various types of chaparral habitat were found in some areas mapped as chaparral, as well as some areas mapped as other habitat types (i.e., montane hardwood conifer). Sticky whiteleaf manzanita was the dominant shrub species throughout most of the chaparral habitat observed during the reconnaissance surveys. Other shrub species commonly found in chaparral habitat in various compositions and percent cover were buck brush (*Ceanothus cuneatus*), green leaf manzanita, toyon, interior live oak, coffeeberry (*Frangula* spp.), inland scrub oak (*Quercus berberidifolia*), Macnab cypress, native cherry (*Prunus* ssp.), yerba santa (*Eriodictyon californicum*), and occasionally coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), golden fleece (*Ericameria arborescens*), and Jepson's Oregon grape (*Berberis aquifolium var. dictyota*).

There is potential for several sensitive natural communities to occur within the chaparral habitats in the project area (Table 4.5-2). Pursuant to SPR BIO-3, treatments will be designed to maintain the characteristics and membership rules of any vegetation alliance that is designated as a sensitive natural community. SPR BIO-5 requires avoidance of the environmental effects of type conversion within chaparral and that the habitat function of chaparral communities be maintained. The spatial scale within which the effects of type conversion are evaluated for this project comprises publicly owned lands in the region surrounding the project area within the following sub-watersheds: Brooks Creek-Yuba River, Camp Far West Reservoir-Bear River, Canyon Creek, Cherokee Creek-North Yuba River, Clark Slough-Feather River, Dobbins Creek-Yuba River, Grasshopper Slough-Dry Creek, Grizzly Creek-Middle Yuba River, Hutchinson Creek, Jack Slough, Little Oregon Creek-North Yuba River, Lost Creek, Lower Dry Creek, Middle Dry Creek, Mill Creek-North Yuba River, Oregon Creek, Oregon Gulch-South Fork Feather River, Oroleve Creek-South Fork Feather River, Prairie Creek-South Honcut Creek, Reeds Creek, Slacks Ravine-Deer Creek, Slate Creek, Tennessee Creek-South Honcut Creek, Upper Dry Creek, Vineyard Creek-Dry Creek, Willow Creek, and Woods Creek-Yuba River. The project area is located in these twenty sub-watersheds. In total, this encompasses 7,257 acres of chaparral habitat. This spatial scale (i.e., publicly-owned lands within the above listed sub-watersheds) is appropriate because these publicly owned lands have protected status as land managed by agencies including CDFW (including in the

project area), US Forest Service, or Bureau of Land Management. This is a substantial landscape scale at which ecologically functional habitat that retains chaparral vegetation composition can be maintained within the sub-watersheds.

Fuel break treatments would permanently remove up to a maximum of approximately 464 acres of chaparral habitat and WUI fuel reduction treatments would remove up to a maximum of approximately 1,063 acres of chaparral habitat from the project area. This constitutes approximately 21 percent of the 7,257 acres of chaparral within the publicly owned properties within and surrounding the treatment areas. Therefore, this would not constitute a landscape level conversion of chaparral habitat to other habitat types because the majority of chaparral habitat would be maintained and there would not be an overall loss of habitat function at the landscape level. Within the remaining approximately 2,200 acres of chaparral habitat in the project area, which would be subject to ecological restoration treatments, Yuba Water would design treatment types to maintain chaparral habitat function pursuant to SPR BIO-5. This includes maintaining at least 35 percent relative cover of chaparral vegetation, retaining a mix of middle to older aged shrubs to maintain heterogeneity and provide nurse plants for seeding, and implementing maintenance treatments at a frequency that allows regeneration of the characteristic species of each chaparral community within ecological restoration treatment areas. In addition, most fuel break, WUI fuel reduction, and ecological treatments would be implemented over a long-term period, and only a portion of the chaparral habitat in the total project area would be removed in any given year, resulting in a mosaic of different age groups of shrubs (i.e., older, middle-aged, younger) at any given time in the project area.

CAL FIRE's FRAP vegetation layer identifies the CWHR habitat coastal scrub in the project area. The FRAP vegetation layer is developed from various data sets representing the best available land cover data for the state, which are then converted to CWHR habitat types and merged into a single statewide vegetation layer. CWHR types are typically identified based on the alliance level (based on the most dominant species in the dominant layer), or in some cases, the group or macrogroup level (based on growth form and biogeography). Currently, there are only three CWHR scrub habitat types defined: coastal scrub, desert scrub, and alkali desert scrub. However, there are many more scrub vegetation alliances and associations recognized in the state than these three CWHR types currently described (i.e., each CWHR scrub type may be refined into more distinct vegetation alliances and associations). Therefore, various scrub types may be categorized as coastal scrub under CWHR when they are not in fact the sensitive coastal sage scrub habitat found along California's coast that SB 1260 and Public Resources Code 4482 are designed to protect. Areas mapped as coastal scrub in the project area are classified as *coastal* scrub due to this classification system conversion and *coastal* scrub does not actually exist in Yuba County. Some of these areas were visited during reconnaissance-level surveys and determined to be grassland with patches of Himalayan blackberry and coyote brush, or were characterized by tree species such as willows, olive (*Olea europaea*) and cherry plum (*Prunus cerasifera*).

Due to inconsistencies between mapped vegetation data and what is present on the ground the desktop analysis and reconnaissance survey must be supplemented with a focused field survey. Accordingly, SPR BIO-3 would be implemented and a qualified RPF or biologist will identify and map chaparral habitat in the project area prior to treatment activities.

Treatment activities are proposed to occur within habitat that has been mapped by CAL FIRE's FRAP vegetation layer as blue oak woodland, blue oak-foothill pine, or valley oak. It is possible that some of these mapped areas are not dominated by blue oak or valley oak and would not be sensitive habitats. However, during reconnaissance-level surveys conducted pursuant to SPR BIO-1, many areas were dominated by blue oak, valley oak, black oak, interior live oak, and canyon live oak and may meet the definition of sensitive habitats. As required under SPR BIO-3, oak woodlands within the project area will be mapped by an RPF or qualified biologist prior to treatment activities. Prior to implementing treatment activities, an RPF or qualified biologist will verify whether these mapped habitats are dominated by one or more species of oak and whether the habitats would qualify as oak woodlands. Mitigation Measure BIO-3a would apply in these areas. Under Mitigation Measure BIO-3a, if prescribed burning is proposed in field-verified oak woodland, the natural fire regime for the oak woodland habitat would be determined, and treatments within oak woodlands would be designed to restore this natural fire regime. Additionally, under Mitigation Measure BIO-3a, implementation of shaded fuel breaks would not remove more than 20 percent of the native vegetation relative cover in oak woodland habitat.

Treatments would retain vegetation types with characteristics qualifying as sensitive natural communities to the extent possible; 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, a qualified RPF or biologist would determine the natural fire regime, condition class, and fire return interval for each sensitive natural community and oak woodland type determined to be present in the project area. Initial and maintenance 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 and Mitigation Measure BIO-3c would apply, and unavoidable losses of these resources would be compensated through restoration or preservation of these vegetation types within or outside of the project area.

The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on sensitive habitats, as described above, was examined in the Program EIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, this impact on sensitive habitats is within the scope of the Program EIR, because, within the boundary of the project area, general habitat characteristics are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape (e.g., no resource is affected outside the treatable landscape that would not also be similarly affected within the treatable landscape), and the treatment activities and resulting intensity of disturbance are consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR. Biological resource SPRs that apply to project impacts under Impact BIO-3 are SPRs AD-1, BIO-1, through BIO-6, BIO-8, BIO-9, HYD-4, and HYD-5. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

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 Program EIR.

During the reconnaissance-level survey conducted pursuant to SPR BIO-1, many different types of aquatic habitats were observed including creeks of various sizes, seasonal wetlands, freshwater forested-shrub wetlands, vernal pools, stock ponds, rivers, and reservoirs. CAL FIRE's FRAP vegetation data for the project area includes approximately 620.6 acres of riverine habitat (i.e., rivers, streams), 554.5 acres of fresh emergent wetland habitat, 394.7 acres of lacustrine habitat (i.e., reservoirs, lakes, ponds), and 8.5 acres of wet meadow habitat (Table 4.5-1); however, it is very likely that this is an undercalculation of the amount of wetland habitat present in the project area because many aquatic and herbaceous wetland habitats, including seasonal streams and wetlands, are often too small to be included in the FRAP data. For example, vernal pools occur in many areas mapped as annual grasslands and are not accounted for in the FRAP vegetation data. There are 11 vegetation alliances described in the MCV that qualify as wetlands and are categorized and mapped as annual grassland in the FRAP vegetation data. Other wetlands, such as seeps, fens, and marshes may be hidden beneath a woodland or forest canopy making them undetectable from aerial or satellite imagery that is often used to map vegetation.

Pursuant to SPR HYD-4, a WLPZ of 50 to 150 feet adjacent to all Class I and Class II streams and lakes would be implemented, and WLPZs of sufficient size to avoid degradation of downstream beneficial uses of water would be established adjacent to all Class III and Class IV streams within the project area for mechanical treatments, manual treatments, prescribed burning, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory. Establishment of WLPZs would result in avoidance of all stream and pond habitat for manual, mechanical, herbicide, and pile burning treatments. In addition, prescribed herbivory treatments would be excluded within 50 feet of environmentally sensitive areas such as waterbodies, wetlands, or riparian areas using temporary fencing or active herding, pursuant to SPR HYD-3.

Additional wetlands may be present throughout the project area that have not been identified or mapped as well as ponds smaller than 1 acre (i.e., not considered a lake under Forest Practice Rules). Mitigation Measure BIO-4 would

apply for all treatment activities, and a qualified RPF or biologist would delineate the boundaries of these features; establish an appropriate buffer (with a minimum of 25 feet) around seasonal wetlands, springs, seeps, and other wetlands; and mark the buffer boundary with high-visibility flagging, fencing, stakes, or clear, existing landscape demarcations (e.g., edge of a roadway). A larger buffer may be required if wetlands or other aquatic habitats contain habitat potentially suitable for special-status plants or special-status wildlife (e.g., California red-legged frog, vernal pool branchiopods; see Impact BIO-2).

As described above under Section 1.1.3, "Purpose of This PSA/Addendum," Yuba Water proposes to revise requirements under Mitigation Measure BIO-4 to allow for broadcast burning within vernal pools where special-status vernal pool branchiopods are assumed to occur, which would require a revision from the restrictions in Mitigation Measure BIO-4 that prohibit broadcast burning within wetlands when special-status species are present. Proposed revisions to Mitigation Measure BIO-4 would allow for broadcast burning in vernal pools where the activity would have been previously excluded due to the presence of special-status vernal pool invertebrates and vernal pool plants. However, broadcast burning within vernal pools has been found to result in short-term decreases of non-native grasses and increases in native species richness (Marty 2007), which contributes to general ecosystem health within vernal pools. In addition, removal of natural fire frequency supporting invasive species distribution has been identified as a threat to vernal pool species (USFWS 2005b); the proposed project would help address this threat. Broadcast burning within vernal pool habitat occupied or assumed to be occupied by special-status vernal pool invertebrates and vernal pool plants would be subject to the remaining conditions in Mitigation Measure BIO-4 that require wetland function to be maintained, that the burn be within the normal fire interval, and that no ignition, containment lines or pile burning are permitted. Therefore, the proposed revision to Mitigation Measure BIO-4, specifically to allow broadcast burning within vernal pools that are occupied by vernal pool invertebrates and vernal pool plants, would not result in a new or substantially more severe significant effect on state or federally protected wetlands not addressed in the Program EIR. The text revision to Mitigation Measure BIO-4 is shown in underline and strikethrough in the MMRP (Attachment A).

The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on state or federally protected wetlands was examined in the Program EIR. This impact on wetlands is within the scope of the Program EIR because, within the boundary of the project area, general habitat characteristics are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape (e.g., no resource is affected on land outside the treatable landscape that would not also be similarly affected within the treatable landscape), and the treatment activities and intensity of disturbance as a result of implementing treatment activities are consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the potential impact on wetlands is also the same, as described above. Biological resource SPRs that apply to project impacts under Impact BIO-4 are SPRs AD-1, BIO-1, BIO-4, HYD-1, HYD-3 and HYD-4. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

IMPACT BIO-5

Initial vegetation treatments and maintenance treatments could result in direct or indirect adverse effects on wildlife movement corridors and nurseries. 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 Program EIR.

Based on review and survey of project-specific biological resources (SPR BIO-1), there is one mapped essential connectivity area in Yuba County, that follows the Yuba River east to west and tributaries to the Yuba River north to south along the Yuba County–Nevada County border (CDFW 2023c). Natural landscape blocks in the County include portions of the Spenceville Wildlife Area (east of Beale Air Force Base, managed by CDFW); areas adjacent to the

Yuba River (i.e., overlapping essential connectivity areas) as well as tributary creeks in the northeastern portion of the County; and natural habitat areas surrounding Browns Valley, Collins Lake, Brownsville, and Challenge (CDFW 2023c).

Portions of the project area not included in essential connectivity areas or natural landscape blocks contain natural habitat and are likely used as wildlife movement corridors to some degree, especially streams and associated riparian corridors. Many riparian areas in the project area (e.g., adjacent to Dry Creek) contain high-quality riparian vegetation that would provide excellent connectivity for wildlife movement through the project area. Also, while much of the project area has been managed for timber harvest or developed for rural residences, there are large, conserved areas within the project area (e.g., CDFW-managed land) and adjacent to the project area (US Forest Service-managed land).

WUI fuel reduction treatments would occur near existing roads and residences. The size and traffic level of the roads and level of development within residential areas varies; however, these areas generally are subject to ongoing disturbances (e.g., vehicle traffic, human activity) and some level of wildlife habitat fragmentation due to historic urban, residential, and agricultural development of the region. While habitat directly adjacent to development would not be considered optimal habitat, wildlife may move through these areas, or use some habitats for cover or as nursery sites, especially in relatively undeveloped areas.

Ecological restoration treatments and fuel breaks would occur in areas that contain less-disturbed wildlife habitat, and may function as consistent wildlife movement corridors, including riparian areas. Pursuant to SPR HYD-4, a WLPZ of 50 to 150 feet adjacent to all Class I and Class II streams and lakes would be implemented, which would limit the extent of treatment activities within riparian habitat (e.g., no mechanical treatment, no fire ignition for prescribed burning, retention of at least 75 percent surface cover) that would likely function as a wildlife movement corridor. Within WLPZs, removal of understory vegetation will occur in a mosaic pattern, where some herbaceous understory remains such that cover is still available for amphibians, with a minimum retention of 10 percent relative cover per acre. SPR BIO-12 would be implemented for treatments that would occur during the nesting bird season and would result in identification and avoidance of any common bird nursery sites (e.g., heron rookeries, egret rookeries). If during surveys conducted pursuant to SPR BIO-10 wildlife nursery sites (e.g., heron rookeries, deer fawning areas, common bat roosts) are detected, Mitigation Measure BIO-5 would apply to all treatment activities and a no-disturbance buffer would be established around these features, the size of which would be determined by a qualified biologist or RPF. Trees larger than 12 inches DBH would be retained and pursuant to SPRs BIO-3, BIO-4, and BIO-5, treatments in sensitive natural communities, riparian habitat, and chaparral or coastal scrub habitat, respectively, would be designed to maintain habitat function of these communities. SPR BIO-11 would require all temporary fencing associated with prescribed herbivory treatments to be wildlife-friendly, such that the chance of wildlife entanglement would be minimized. Fuel break treatments would primarily be shaded fuel breaks would retain forest canopy and forest structure. SPRs would limit the extent of treatment activities within and otherwise maintain the function of habitat that could function as a wildlife movement corridor.

Additionally, implementation of proposed treatments would not result in any conversion of land cover or create new barriers to wildlife movements within (locally) or across (regionally) the project area. With implementation of SPRs, habitat function within the project area would be maintained and there would not be a substantial change in the existing conditions that facilitate wildlife movement in the project area.

The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on wildlife movement corridors and nurseries was examined in the Program EIR. This impact is within the scope of the Program EIR because, within the boundary of the project area, general habitat characteristics are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape (e.g., no resource is affected on land outside the treatable landscape that would not also be similarly affected within the treatable landscape), and the treatment activities and extent of expected disturbance as a result of implementing treatment activities are consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the potential impact on wildlife movement corridors is also the same, as described above. SPRs that apply to project impacts under Impact BIO-5 are SPRs BIO-1, through BIO-5, BIO-10, BIO-11, and HYD-4. The biological resource mitigation measure that applies to project impacts under Impact BIO-5 is Mitigation Measure BIO-5. This

determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

IMPACT BIO-6

Initial treatment 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 nesting habitat suitable for birds is present throughout the project area. Treatment activities, including mechanical treatments, manual treatments, prescribed burning, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory, conducted during the nesting bird season (February 1–August 31) could result in direct loss of active nests or disturbance to active nests from auditory and visual stimulus (e.g., heavy equipment, chainsaws, vehicles, personnel) potentially resulting in abandonment and loss of eggs or chicks.

SPR BIO-12 would apply, and for treatments implemented during the nesting bird season, a survey for common nesting birds will be conducted within the project area by a qualified RPF or 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 will 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 RPF or biologist.

The project area is large (i.e., approximately 177,630 acres) and a large proportion of forested land in Yuba County is proposed for treatment using a long-term phased approach to implementation. Habitat retention standards would be applied to all treatments, as described under Section 2.1, "Proposed Treatments," including DBH limits for tree and shrub removal, canopy percent cover requirements, and downed log and snag retention standards. While treatment activities would remove vegetation and alter habitat structure (e.g., amount of cover, size-class distribution) locally, treatments would not cause permanent habitat degradation or conversion to a different habitat type that would substantially reduce habitat for common wildlife species over the long term with implementation of these standards and SPRs.

The potential for treatment activities to result in adverse effects on these resources was examined in the Program EIR. The potential for adverse effects on common wildlife, including nesting birds, is within the scope of the Program EIR because, within the boundary of the project area, general habitat characteristics are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape (e.g., no resource is affected on land outside the treatable landscape that would not also be similarly affected within the treatable landscape), and the treatment activities and extent of expected disturbance as a result of implementing treatment activities are consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the potential impact on common wildlife, including nesting birds is also the same, as described above. Biological resource SPRs that apply to project impacts under Impact BIO-6 are SPRs AD-1, BIO-1 through BIO-5, and BIO-12. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

IMPACT BIO-7

The only applicable local ordinance relevant to biological resources is the Yuba County General Plan Natural Resources Element, which contains an oak woodlands and tree preservation action (Action NR10.1). This action states that the County will adopt and implement a tree preservation and mitigation ordinance, which will implement state requirements for oak woodlands mitigation as required by Public Resources Code Section 21083.4. The County has not adopted or implemented a tree preservation and mitigation ordinance. Even though this ordinance has not been adopted, SPR BIO-1, SPR BIO-3, and Mitigation Measure BIO-3a would be implemented under Impact BIO-3, and these SPRs and mitigation measure would provide protection for oak woodland habitat (i.e., blue oak woodland, blue oak-foothill pine, live oak woodland, valley oak woodland) within the project area. There would be no conflict with local ordinances as a result of implementation of treatment activities.

The potential for treatment activities to result in conflicts with local policies or ordinances was examined in the Program EIR. The potential for the treatment project to conflict with local policies is within the scope of the Program EIR because vegetation treatment projects implemented under the CalVTP that are subject to local policies or ordinances would be required to comply with any applicable county, city, or other local policies, ordinances, and permitting procedures related to protection of biological resources, per SPR AD-3. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing regulatory conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the potential for conflicts with local policies or ordinances is also the same, as described above. Biological resource SPRs that apply to project impacts under Impact BIO-7 are SPRs AD-1, AD-3, BIO-1, and BIO-3. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

IMPACT BIO-8

There is one adopted HCP in the project area that applies to all property managed by SPI (SPI 2021). Approximately 19,600 acres of land managed by SPI is present in the project area. SPI acquired land in the project area previously managed by the Soper-Wheeler Company in 2022. Much of this land is not included in the current (2021) HCP update; however, the HCP notes that the HCP Plan Area may increase or decrease over time due to sale, purchase, or exchange of SPI lands, and that changes to the Plan Area will be provided to USFWS as part of annual reporting requirements. Therefore, the land recently purchased by SPI in the project area is covered by the HCP.

This HCP provides SPI with incidental take coverage for northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) and California spotted owl, which could be affected by SPI's land management activities. While California spotted owl is not currently listed under ESA, the HCP treats both owl species as if they are listed. Therefore, the HCP would provide incidental take coverage for California spotted owl if the species is listed in the future without further consultation. Covered activities under the HCP applicable to the project would be chipping, timber salvage, site preparation (e.g., chipping, mastication, prescribed burning, biomass processing), fuel break construction and maintenance, mastication of roadway rights-of-way, and transportation of materials and heavy equipment (SPI 2021). The HCP does not include prescribed herbivory or herbicide application as a covered activity. As described above, under Impact BIO-2, prescribed herbivory and herbicide application would not result in adverse effects on nesting spotted owls because these treatments would not occur in nesting habitat suitable for the species, and because these activities would not involve the use of loud and continuous noise from equipment or tools, significant habitat modification, or substantial visual stimuli from human presence close enough to a California spotted owl nest to result in disturbance of the nest.

Incidental take coverage for both owl species under the HCP is contingent upon implementation of Conservation Measures outlined in the HCP. These Conservation Measures include habitat protection, habitat restoration, reduction of potential for catastrophic fire, pre-operational nest surveys, protection of active reproductive sites (i.e., with seasonal buffers), retention standards for characteristics preferred by spotted owls (e.g., nest structures, wildlife trees, hardwoods, snags) to encourage forest structure heterogeneity, and management of barred owls (*Strix varia*) as stressors on spotted owls.

SPI is required to comply with terms of the HCP, including the Conservation Measures, for all treatment activities implemented as part of the project. Treatment activities are consistent with the covered activities outlined in the HCP. Pre-operational surveys and protection of active nest sites included in the HCP are consistent with USFWS standards and measures outlined under SPR BIO-10 and Mitigation Measure BIO-2b in Attachment A. Further, project habitat retention standards regarding canopy cover, DBH limits, and snag retention, are consistent with or more protective than habitat retention standards included in the HCP Conservation Measures. Therefore, SPI's participation in the project would not result in conflict with implementation of the HCP. Additionally, this HCP would apply only to land managed by SPI and for covered activities implemented by SPI and would not apply to other privately-owned or state-owned land in the project area. The project area is not within the plan area of any other adopted HCP or natural community conservation plans (NCCP). Therefore, treatments implemented in areas not managed by SPI would not conflict with any adopted HCP or NCCP.

The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing regulatory conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the potential for conflicts with an adopted HCP or NCCP is also the same, as described above. SPR AD-1 would apply to project impacts under Impact BIO-8. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

NEW BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE IMPACTS

The proposed treatments are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP Program EIR. Yuba Water 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 Program EIR (refer to Section 3.5.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.5.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final Program EIR). Including land from outside the CalVTP treatable landscape in the proposed project area constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR and revisions to SPRs constitute a revision to the Program. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions pertinent to biological resources that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts of the proposed treatment project are the same and, for the reasons described above, impacts are also consistent with those considered in the Program EIR. Revisions to SPR GEO-1 and GEO-3 would allow for work to continue if precipitation does not materialize and would limit soil stabilization to areas where runoff and sediment discharge have the potential to occur. Therefore, revisions to SPR GEO-1 and GEO-3 would be consistent with the intent of the SPRs and would not result in a new impact that was not covered in the Program EIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape and the revision to SPR GEO-1 and GEO-3 would not give rise to any new significant impacts not addressed in the Program EIR. Therefore, no new impact related to biological resources would occur that is not covered in the Program EIR.

4.6 GEOLOGY, SOILS, PALEONTOLOGY, AND MINERAL RESOURCES

Impact in the Program EIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the Program EIR	Identify Impact Significance in the Program EIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the Program EIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the Program EIR?	Is This Impact within the Scope of the Program EIR?
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	AQ-3 AQ-4 GEO-1 GEO-2 GEO-3 GEO-4 GEO-5 GEO-6 GEO-7 GEO-8 HYD-3 HYD-4	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact GEO-2: Increase Risk of Landslide	LTS	Impact GEO-2, pp. 3.7-29 – 3.7-30	Yes	AQ-3 GEO-3 GEO-4 GEO-7 GEO-8	NA	LTS	No	Yes

Notes: LTS = less than significant; NA = not applicable because there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the Program EIR for this impact.

New Geology, Soils, Paleontology, and Mineral Resource Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts on geology, soils, paleontology, and mineral resources that are not evaluated in the CalVTP Program EIR?	☐ Yes	☒ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

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

Discussion

The project area is located within the Sierra Nevada physiographic and geologic province. The geology of this province has also evolved through other smaller-scale local processes, such mass wasting, weathering, erosion, and sedimentation changing the landscape. Uplift along the eastern Sierra Nevada margin produced erosion and resulted in the predominantly east-to-west trends of incised drainages. Within the project area, granodiorite and mafic volcanics are generally found east of Brownsville, with large areas of gabbro rock found between Brownsville and Rackerby and in the Dobbins area (CGS 1992). Tertiary auriferous (gold-bearing) sediments, including auriferous river gravels deposited by the ancestral Yuba River, are present in the eastern portions of the project area. While eastern Yuba County soils on steep topography are the most prone to erosion when disturbed, the highest erosion hazards are located along the Yuba River between Smartsville and the northeast boundary of the county.

IMPACT GEO-1

Treatment types are ecological restoration, WUI fuel reduction, and fuel breaks, which would be implemented using mechanical treatment, manual treatment, prescribed burning, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory. Most of these activities would result in vegetation removal and soil disturbance. The potential for these treatment activities to cause substantial erosion or loss of topsoil was examined in the Program EIR. This impact is within the scope of the Program EIR because the use and type of equipment, extent of vegetation removal, and intensity of prescribed burning are consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR.

As described above under Section 1.1.3, "Purpose of this PSA/Addendum," Yuba Water proposes to revise the language under SPR GEO-1 to suspend mechanical treatments, prescribed herbivory, and herbicide treatments if: (1) it is raining, (2) soils are saturated, and/or (3) soils are wet enough to be compacted be mechanical activities. Activities that cause mechanical soil disturbance may resume when precipitation stops and soils are no longer saturated. In the region where the project is located, forecasts can include a chance of rain; however, precipitation sometimes does not materialize. Therefore, suspension of treatment activities in these cases could result in unnecessary loss of work time. Suspending mechanical treatments, prescribed herbivory, and herbicide treatments during precipitation events will minimize the risk of soil compaction and disturbance; therefore, this revision would not result in any new or substantially more sever impacts related to erosion. This revision is consistent with the purpose of SPR GEO-1 to suspend disturbance during heavy precipitation to minimize the risk of soil compaction and disturbance.

Additionally, Yuba Water proposes to revise the language under SPR GEO-3 to stabilize bare soils disturbed by treatments within WLPZs and equipment limitation zones, because the SPR as written could require soil stabilization in many areas where runoff and sediment discharge would not result in environmental impacts making the treatments unnecessarily costly and more time consuming. Soils will be stabilized in areas where runoff and sediment discharge have the potential to occur; therefore, this revision would not result in any new or substantially more severe impacts related to runoff or sediment discharge. This revision is consistent with the purpose of SPR GEO-3, which is to minimize the potential for erosion and substantial sediment discharge.

For these reasons, proposed revisions to SPR GEO-1 and GEO-3 would not result in substantial erosion or loss of topsoil or an increased risk of landslides, and revisions to SPR GEO-1 and GEO-3 would not result in a substantially more significant effect related to erosion or loss of topsoil and landslides than what was covered in the Program EIR.

The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the soil characteristics of the project area are essentially the same within and outside the CalVTP treatable landscape; therefore, the potential impact related to soil erosion is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this treatment project are AQ-3, AQ-4, GEO-1 through GEO-8, HYD-3, and HYD-4. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

IMPACT GEO-2

Treatments would include vegetation removal in areas with steep slopes. No historic or active landslides have been documented within the project area. In addition, the risk of deep-seated landslides is low in the project vicinity (Yuba County 2007). Two large landslides occurred near Bullards Bar in 1968 and 1972, however no other large slides have been documented within the area (Yuba County 2007). Along roadways, small slip outs and slumps are relatively common during severe winter storms. The potential for treatment activities to increase landslide risk was examined in the Program EIR. This impact is within the scope of the Program EIR because the extent of vegetation removal, intensity of treatment activities, and required avoidance of steep slopes and areas of instability are consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR.

As described above under Section 1.1.3, "Purpose of this PSA/Addendum," Yuba Water proposes to revise the language under SPR GEO-3 to stabilize bare soils disturbed by treatments within WLPZs and equipment limitation zones, because the SPR as written could require soil stabilization in many areas where runoff and sediment discharge

would not result in environmental impacts making the treatments unnecessarily costly and more time consuming. Soils will be stabilized in areas where runoff and sediment discharge have the potential to occur; therefore, this revision would not result in any new or substantially more severe impacts related to erosion or loss of topsoil or an increased risk of landslides. This revision is consistent with the purpose of SPR GEO-3, which is to minimize the potential for erosion and substantial sediment discharge.

For these reasons, proposed revisions to SPR GEO-3 would not result in substantial erosion or loss of topsoil or an increased risk of landslides, and revisions to SPR GEO-3 would not result in a substantially more significant effect related to erosion or loss of topsoil and landslides than what was covered in the Program EIR.

The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the potential impact related to landslide risk is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this treatment project are AQ-3, GEO-3, GEO-4, GEO-7, and GEO-8. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

NEW GEOLOGY, SOILS, PALEONTOLOGY, AND MINERAL RESOURCE IMPACTS

The proposed treatments are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP Program EIR. Yuba Water has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatments and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP Program EIR (refer to Section 3.7.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.7.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final Program EIR). Including land from outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR and revisions to SPRs constitute a revision to the Program. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions pertinent to geology, soils, paleontology, and mineral resources that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts of the proposed treatment project are the same and, for the reasons described above, impacts are also consistent with those covered in the Program EIR. Revisions to SPR GEO-1 and GEO-3 would allow for work to continue if precipitation does not materialize and would limit soil stabilization to areas where runoff and sediment discharge have the potential to occur. Therefore, revisions to SPR GEO-1 and GEO-3 would be consistent with the intent of the SPRs and would not result in a new impact that was not covered in the Program EIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape and the revision to SPR GEO-1 and GEO-3 would not give rise to any new significant impacts not addressed in the Program EIR. Therefore, no new impact related to geology, soils, paleontology, or mineral resources would occur that is not covered in the Program EIR.

4.7 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Impact in the Program EIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the Program EIR	Identify Impact Significance in the Program EIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the Program EIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the Program EIR?	Is This Impact within the Scope of the Program EIR?
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	AQ-3	GHG-2	PSU	No	Yes

Notes: LTS = less than significant; PSU = potentially significant and unavoidable; NA = not applicable because there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the Program EIR for this impact; None = there are SPRs and/or MMs identified in the Program EIR for this impact, but none are applicable to the treatment project.

New GHG Emissions Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts on GHG emissions that are not evaluated in the CalVTP Program EIR?	☐ 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 and prescribed burning during initial and maintenance 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 Program EIR. Consistent with the Program EIR, although GHG emissions would occur from equipment and vehicles used to implement treatments, the purpose of the proposed project is to reduce wildfire risk, which could reduce GHG emissions and increase carbon sequestration over the long term. This impact is within the scope of the Program EIR because the proposed activities, as well as the associated equipment, duration of use, and resultant GHG emissions, are consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the same plans, policies, and regulations adopted to reduce GHG emissions apply in the areas outside the treatable landscape, as well as areas within the treatable landscape; therefore, the GHG impact is also the same, as described above. SPR GHG-1 is not applicable to the proposed project because this project is not a registered offset project under the Board's Assembly Bill 1504 Carbon Inventory Process. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

IMPACT GHG-2

Use of vehicles and mechanical equipment and prescribed burning during initial and maintenance treatments would result in GHG emissions. The potential for treatments under the CalVTP to generate GHG emissions was examined in the Program EIR. This impact was found to be potentially significant and unavoidable after the application of all feasible mitigation measures because of the infeasibility of implementing specific emission reduction techniques and the uncertainties associated with all the parameters and objectives of prescribed burning. Mitigation Measure GHG-2 would be implemented and would reduce GHG emissions associated with prescribed burning. However, emissions generated by the treatment would still contribute to the annual emissions generated by the CalVTP, and this impact would remain significant and unavoidable, consistent with, and for the same reasons described in, the Program EIR.

This impact is within the scope of the Program EIR because the proposed activities, as well as the associated equipment and duration of use, and the intent of the treatments to reduce wildfire risk and GHG emissions related to wildfire are consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the climate conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the GHG impact is also the same, as described above. SPR AQ-3 is also applicable to this treatment and would contain the description of feasible GHG reduction techniques implemented per Mitigation Measure GHG-2. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

NEW IMPACTS RELATED TO GHG EMISSIONS

The proposed treatments are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP Program EIR. Yuba Water has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatments and determined they are consistent with the applicable regulatory and environmental conditions presented in the CalVTP Program EIR (refer to Section 3.8.1, "Regulatory Setting," and Section 3.8.2, "Environmental Setting," in Volume II of the Final Program EIR). Including land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions pertinent to the climate conditions that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts are the same and, for the reasons described above, impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those covered in the Program EIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts. Therefore, no new impact related to GHG emissions would occur.

4.8 ENERGY RESOURCES

Impact in the Program EIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the Program EIR	Identify Impact Significance in the Program EIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the Program EIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the Program EIR?	Is This Impact within the Scope of the Program EIR?
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

Notes: LTS = less than significant; NA = not applicable because there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the Program EIR for this impact.

New Energy Resource Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts on energy resources that are not evaluated in the CalVTP Program EIR?	☐ 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, mechanical equipment, and some manual equipment (e.g., chainsaws) during initial treatment and treatment maintenance 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 Program EIR. The consumption of energy during implementation of the treatment project is within the scope of the Program EIR because the types of activities, as well as the associated equipment and duration of proposed use, are consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, the existing energy consumption is essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape; therefore, the energy impact is also the same, as described above. No SPRs are applicable to this impact. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

NEW ENERGY RESOURCE IMPACTS

The proposed treatments are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP Program EIR. Yuba Water 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 Program EIR (refer to Section 3.9.1, "Regulatory Setting," and Section 3.9.2, "Environmental Setting," in Volume II of the Final Program EIR). Including land outside the treatable landscape in the proposed project area constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those considered in the Program EIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts. Therefore, no new impact related to energy resources would occur.

4.9 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Impact in the Program EIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered In the Program EIR	Identify Impact Significance in the Program EIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the Program EIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the Program EIR?	Is This Impact within the Scope of the Program EIR?
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	AD-3 HAZ-1 HYD-4	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	Yes	AD-3 HAZ-5 HAZ-6 HAZ-7 HAZ-8 HAZ-9	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact HAZ-3: Expose the Public or Environment to Significant Hazards from Disturbance to Known Hazardous Material Sites	LTSM	Impact HAZ-3, pp. 3.10-18 – 3.10-19	Yes	NA	HAZ-3	LTSM	No	Yes

Notes: LTS = less than significant; LTSM = less than significant with mitigation; NA = not applicable because there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the Program EIR 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 Program EIR?	☐ 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

Initial and maintenance treatment activities are mechanical treatments, manual treatments, prescribed burning, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory. These treatment activities would require the use of fuels and related accelerants, which are hazardous materials. The potential for treatment activities to cause a significant health hazard from the use of hazardous materials was examined in the Program EIR. This impact is within the scope of the Program EIR because the types of treatments and associated equipment and types of hazardous materials that would be used are consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, the exposure potential and regulatory conditions are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape; therefore, the hazardous material impact is also the same, as described above. SPR AD-3,

HYD-4, and HAZ-1 are applicable to this project. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

IMPACT HAZ-2

Treatments would include herbicide application to target plant species using ground-based methods, such as using a UTV or backpack sprayer or painting herbicide onto cut stems. No aerial spraying of herbicides would occur. The potential for treatment activities to cause a significant health hazard from the use of herbicides was examined in the Program EIR. This impact is within the scope of the Program EIR because the types of herbicides and application methods that would be used are consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the hazardous materials impact is also the same, as described above. SPRs AD-3 and HAZ-5 through HAZ-9 are applicable to this project. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

IMPACT HAZ-3

Initial and maintenance treatments would include soil disturbance and prescribed burning, which could expose workers, the public, or the environment to hazardous materials if a contaminated site is present within the project area. The potential for workers participating in treatment activities to encounter contamination that could expose them, the public, or the environment to hazardous materials was examined in the Program EIR. This impact was identified as potentially significant in the Program EIR because hazardous materials sites could be present within treatment sites throughout the large geographic extent of the treatable landscape, and the feasibility of implementing mitigation for exposure of people or the environment to hazards resulting from soil disturbance or burning in a hazardous materials site was uncertain.

As directed by Mitigation Measure HAZ-3, database searches for hazardous materials sites within the project area have been conducted. Eleven sites were identified within the project area that have been remediated and closed. In addition, two sites that are actively being remediated are located within the project area (Reinke's Chevron (T0611500088) and Strawberry Valley General Store (T0611500080)) (DTSC 2023; SWRCB 2023; CalEPA 2023). Because active remediation sites have been identified within the project area that have the potential to have contaminated soil, these areas will be marked and no prescribed burning or soil disturbing treatment activities will occur within 100 feet of the site boundaries in accordance with Mitigation Measure HAZ-3. Therefore, after the implementation of Mitigation Measure HAZ-3, it was determined that no hazardous materials sites would be disturbed by treatments and this impact would be less than significant.

The inclusion of land in the project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the potential to encounter hazardous materials and the regulatory conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the hazardous materials impact is also the same, as described above. No SPRs are applicable to this impact, and no additional mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

NEW HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPACTS

The proposed treatments are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP Program EIR. Yuba Water has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatments and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP Program EIR (refer to Section 3.10.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.10.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final Program EIR). Including land from outside the CalVTP treatable landscape in the proposed project areas constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions pertinent to hazardous materials that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts are the same and, for the reasons described above, impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those covered in the Program EIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts. Therefore, no new impact related to hazardous materials, public health, or safety would occur.

4.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Impact in the Program EIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the Program EIR	Identify Impact Significance in the Program EIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the Program EIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the Program EIR?	Is This Impact within the Scope of the Program EIR?
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	Yes	AQ-3 BIO-4 GEO-4 GEO-6 HYD-1 HYD-4	NA	LTS	No	Yes
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	BIO-1 GEO-1 GEO-2 GEO-3 GEO-4 GEO-5 GEO-7 GEO-8 HYD-1 HYD-2 HYD-4 HYD-5 HYD-6 HAZ-1 HAZ-5	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	Yes	HYD-3 HYD-4 GEO-1 GEO-3 GEO-4 GEO-7	NA	LTS	No	Yes
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	Yes	BIO-4 HAZ-5 HAZ-6 HAZ-7 HYD-1 HYD-5	NA	LTS	No	Yes

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

Notes: LTS = less than significant; NA = not applicable because there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the Program EIR for this impact.

New Hydrology and Water Quality Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts on hydrology and water quality that are not evaluated in the CalVTP Program EIR?	☐ Yes	☒ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

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

Discussion

The project area is located within the Yuba and South Honcut Creek/Feather River watersheds which are both part of the Sacramento River watershed. The climate in the project area is Mediterranean with cool, rainy winter months and a dry summer season. Most of the year's rain falls from late October through early April (Yuba County 2021). Significant hydrologic features in the project area include New Bullards Bar Reservoir, Collins Lake Reservoir, several small reservoirs, the perennial portions of Little Oregon Creek and Dry Creek, and the Yuba River. Numerous intermittent and ephemeral drainages are scattered throughout the project area; these drainages capture winter and spring rains but stop flowing in the dry summer months.

Several of the impacts below (i.e., HYD-1 through HYD-4) evaluate compliance with water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. All include implementation of SPR HYD-1, which requires compliance with such water quality regulations. The State Water Resources Control Board is requiring all projects using the CalVTP Program EIR to follow the requirements of their Vegetation Treatment General Order, which would meet the requirements of SPR HYD-1. Users of the CalVTP PSA process are automatically enrolled in the General Order and are required to implement all applicable SPRs and mitigation measures from the Program EIR. The General Order requires treatment implementation to comply with any applicable Basin Plan prohibitions.

IMPACT HYD-1

Initial and maintenance treatments would include prescribed burning. Ash and debris from treatment areas could be washed by runoff into adjacent drainages and streams. Prescribed burning would only occur outside of WLPZs, and WLPZs ranging from 50 to 150 feet will be implemented for Class I and Class II streams or lakes that are within the project area pursuant to SPR HYD-4. In addition, SPR HYD-4 requires the implementation of WLPZs for Class III and Class IV watercourses that are of a size to sufficiently prevent the degradation of downstream beneficial uses of water. The potential for prescribed burning activities to cause runoff and violate water quality regulations or degrade water quality was examined in the Program EIR. This impact is within the scope of the Program EIR because the use of low intensity prescribed burns and associated impacts on water quality are consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the

project area, the existing environmental conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the water quality impact from prescribed burning is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this treatment are AQ-3, BIO-4, GEO-4, GEO-6, HYD-1, and HYD-4. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

IMPACT HYD-2

Initial treatment activities would include mechanical and manual treatments. Although most of the project area has been designed to exclude streams and watercourses, WLPZs will be implemented for any watercourses or lakes that are within the project area pursuant to SPR HYD-4. The potential for mechanical and manual treatment activities to violate water quality regulations or degrade water quality was examined in the Program EIR. This impact is within the scope of the Program EIR because the use of heavy equipment and hand-held tools to remove vegetation and associated impacts on water quality are consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR.

As described above under Section 1.1.3, "Purpose of the PSA/Addendum," Yuba Water proposes to revise the language under SPR GEO-1 to suspend mechanical treatments, prescribed herbivory, and herbicide treatments if: (1) it is raining, (2) soils are saturated, and/or (3) soils are wet enough to be compacted be mechanical activities. Activities that cause mechanical soil disturbance may resume when precipitation stops and soils are no longer saturated. In the region where the project is located, forecasts often include a chance of rain; however, precipitation sometimes does not materialize. Therefore, suspension of treatment activities in these cases could result in unnecessary loss of work time. Suspending mechanical treatments, prescribed herbivory, and herbicide treatments during precipitation events will minimize the risk of soil disturbance and related water quality degradation; therefore, this revision would not result in any new or substantially more sever impacts related to water quality degradation. This revision is consistent with the purpose of SPR GEO-1 to suspend disturbance during heavy precipitation to minimize the risk of soil compaction and disturbance.

Additionally, Yuba Water proposes to revise the language under SPR GEO-3 to stabilize bare soils disturbed by treatments within WLPZs and equipment limitation zones, since the SPR as written could require soil stabilization in many areas where runoff and sediment discharge would not result in environmental impacts making the treatments unnecessarily costly and more time consuming. Soils will be stabilized in areas where runoff and sediment discharge have the potential to occur; therefore, this revision would not result in any new or substantially more severe impacts related to runoff or sediment discharge that could result in water quality degradation. This revision is consistent with the purpose of SPR GEO-3, which is to minimize the potential for erosion and substantial sediment discharge.

For these reasons, proposed revisions to SPR GEO-1 and GEO-3 would not result in substantial erosion or loss of topsoil or an increased risk of landslides, and revisions to SPR GEO-1 and GEO-3 would not result in a substantially more significant effect related to erosion or loss of topsoil and landslides than what was covered in the Program EIR.

The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the surface water conditions are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape; therefore, the water quality impact from manual and mechanical treatments is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this treatment are BIO-1, GEO-1 through GEO-5, GEO-7, GEO-8, HYD-1, HYD-2, HYD-4 through HYD-6, HAZ-1, and HAZ-5. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

IMPACT HYD-3

Initial treatment would include prescribed herbivory. Prescribed herbivory would primarily be used as a follow-up treatment to mechanical or manual treatments to reduce the growth of regenerating vegetation; and would generally consist of fencing livestock within targeted areas for several days to 2 weeks at a time and would generally occur 1 or 2 years following initial treatment when vegetation is tender and palatable, as described in Section 2.1.2, "Treatment Activities." As required by SPR HYD-3, environmentally sensitive areas such as ponds, wetlands, or riparian areas would be identified and livestock would be excluded from these areas during prescribed herbivory using temporary

fencing or active herding; a buffer of approximately 50 feet would be maintained between sensitive and actively grazed areas. WLPZs ranging from 50 to 150 feet would be implemented for any watercourses that are within the project area pursuant to SPR HYD-4. The potential for prescribed herbivory to violate water quality regulations or degrade water quality was examined in the Program EIR. This impact is within the scope of the Program EIR because the use of grazing animals (e.g., cattle, sheep, goats) and the grazing intensity to manage and remove vegetation are consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR.

As described above under Section 1.1.3, "Purpose of the PSA/Addendum," Yuba Water proposes to revise the language under SPR GEO-1 to suspend mechanical treatments, prescribed herbivory, and herbicide treatments if: (1) it is raining, (2) soils are saturated, and/or (3) soils are wet enough to be compacted be mechanical activities. Activities that cause mechanical soil disturbance may resume when precipitation stops and soils are no longer saturated. In the region where the project is located, forecasts often include a chance of rain; however, precipitation sometimes does not materialize. Therefore, suspension of treatment activities in these cases could result in unnecessary loss of work time. Suspending mechanical treatments, prescribed herbivory, and herbicide treatments during precipitation events will minimize the risk of soil disturbance and related water quality degradation; therefore, this revision would not result in any new or substantially more sever impacts related to water quality degradation. This revision is consistent with the purpose of SPR GEO-1 to suspend disturbance during heavy precipitation to minimize the risk of soil compaction and disturbance.

Additionally, Yuba Water proposes to revise the language under SPR GEO-3 to stabilize bare soils disturbed by treatments within WLPZs and equipment limitation zones, since the SPR as written could require soil stabilization in many areas where runoff and sediment discharge would not result in environmental impacts making the treatments unnecessarily costly and more time consuming. Soils will be stabilized in areas where runoff and sediment discharge have the potential to occur; therefore, this revision would not result in any new or substantially more severe impacts related to runoff or sediment discharge that could result in water quality degradation. This revision is consistent with the purpose of SPR GEO-3, which is to minimize the potential for erosion and substantial sediment discharge.

For these reasons, proposed revisions to SPR GEO-1 and GEO-3 would not result in substantial erosion or loss of topsoil or an increased risk of landslides, and revisions to SPR GEO-1 and GEO-3 would not result in a substantially more significant effect related to erosion or loss of topsoil and landslides than what was covered in the Program EIR.

The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the surface water conditions are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape; therefore, the water quality impact from prescribed herbivory treatments is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this treatment are HYD-3, HYD-4, GEO-1, GEO-3, GEO-4, and GEO-7. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

IMPACT HYD-4

Initial and maintenance treatments would include the occasional use of herbicides to control resprouting hardwoods (e.g., tanoak, black oak, Pacific madrone, canyon live oak) and treat invasive plant species (e.g., broom, Himalayan blackberry). Herbicide application would be limited to ground-based methods such as using a backpack sprayer or painting herbicide onto cut stems. All herbicide application would comply with EPA and California Department of Pesticide Regulation label standards. The potential for the use of herbicides to violate water quality regulations or degrade water quality was examined in the Program EIR. This impact is within the scope of the Program EIR because the use of herbicides to remove vegetation and associated impacts on water quality are consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the water quality impact from use of herbicides is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this project are BIO-4, HAZ-5, HAZ-6, HAZ-7, HYD-1, and HYD-5. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

IMPACT HYD-5

Initial and maintenance 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 project area was examined in the Program EIR. This impact on site drainage is within the scope of the Program EIR because the types of treatments and treatment intensity are consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR.

As described above under Section 1.1.3, "Purpose of the PSA/Addendum," Yuba Water proposes to revise the language under SPR GEO-1 to suspend mechanical treatments, prescribed herbivory, and herbicide treatments if: (1) it is raining, (2) soils are saturated, and/or (3) soils are wet enough to be compacted be mechanical activities. Activities that cause mechanical soil disturbance may resume when precipitation stops and soils are no longer saturated. In the region where the project is located, forecasts often include a chance of rain; however, precipitation sometimes does not materialize. Therefore, suspension of treatment activities in these cases could result in unnecessary loss of work time. Suspending mechanical treatments, prescribed herbivory, and herbicide treatments during precipitation events will minimize the risk of soil disturbance and the potential to substantially alter an existing drainage pattern in the project area. Therefore, this revision would not result in any new or substantially more sever impacts related to existing drainage in the project area. This revision is consistent with the purpose of SPR GEO-1 to suspend disturbance during heavy precipitation to minimize the risk of soil compaction and disturbance.

For these reasons, proposed revisions to SPR GEO-1 would not result in substantial erosion or loss of topsoil, and revisions to SPR GEO-1 would not result in a substantially more significant effect related to erosion or loss of topsoil than what was covered in the Program EIR.

The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, surface water conditions are essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape; therefore, the impact related to alteration of site drainage patterns is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this treatment are GEO-1, GEO-2, GEO-5, HYD-4, and HYD-6. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

NEW HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY IMPACTS

The proposed treatments are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP Program EIR. Yuba Water 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 Program EIR (refer to Section 3.11.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.11.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final Program EIR). Including land from outside the CalVTP treatable landscape in the proposed project area constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR and revisions to SPRs constitute a revision to the Program. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions pertinent to hydrology and water quality that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those covered in the Program EIR. Revisions to SPR GEO-1 and GEO-3 would allow for work to continue if precipitation does not materialize and would limit soil stabilization to areas where runoff and sediment discharge have the potential to occur. Therefore, revisions to SPR GEO-1 and GEO-3 would be consistent with the intent of the SPRs and would not result in a new impact that was not covered in the Program EIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape and the revision to SPR GEO-1 and GEO-3 would not give rise to any new significant impacts. Therefore, no new impact related to hydrology and water quality would occur.

4.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING, POPULATION AND HOUSING

Impact in the Program EIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the Program EIR	Identify Impact Significance in the Program EIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the Program EIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the Program EIR?	Is This Impact within the Scope of the Program EIR?
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

Notes: LTS = less than significant; NA = not applicable because there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the Program EIR for this impact.

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

Treatment activities would occur on private property, Yuba Water property, and private and public roadways. Land use policies related to biological resources and noise are relevant to the project. Relevant policies are discussed in Sections 4.5, "Biological Resources," and 4.12, "Noise," respectively. 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 Program EIR. This impact is within the scope of the Program EIR because treatment types and activities are consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent considered in the Program EIR. However, the existing environmental conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the land use impact is also the same, as described above. SPR AD-3 requires compliance with applicable County plans, policies, and ordinances, such as those pertaining to noise, biological resources, and water resources. No conflict would occur because Yuba Water would adhere to SPR AD-3. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than covered in the Program EIR.

IMPACT LU-2

Implementation of initial treatments would require between one and 60 crew members depending on the treatment, along with their associated vehicles to travel to and from the project area. However, typical crews would consist of two to 10 people. Up to five crews could be conducting treatments simultaneously throughout the project area. Crew sizes would be consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR, and would not result in substantial population growth. The potential for treatments to result in substantial population growth as a result of increases in demand for employees was examined in the Program EIR. Impacts associated with short-term increases in the demand for workers during implementation of the treatment project are within the scope of the Program EIR because the number of workers required for implementation of the treatments is consistent with the crew sizes analyzed in the Program EIR for the types of treatments proposed. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the population and housing impact is also the same, as described above. No SPRs are applicable to this impact. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than covered in the Program EIR.

NEW LAND USE AND PLANNING, POPULATION AND HOUSING IMPACTS

The proposed treatments are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP Program EIR. Yuba Water 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 Program EIR (refer to Section 3.12.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.12.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final Program EIR). Including land from outside the treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions pertinent to land use, planning, population, and housing that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those covered in the Program EIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts not addressed in the Program EIR. Therefore, no new impact related to land use and planning, population and housing would occur that is not covered in the Program EIR.

4.12 NOISE

Impact in the Program EIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the Program EIR	Identify Impact Significance in the Program EIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the Program EIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the Program EIR?	Is This Impact within the Scope of the Program EIR?
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 NO1-2 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

Notes: LTS = less than significant; NA = not applicable because there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the Program EIR for this impact.

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

Initial and maintenance treatments would require heavy, noise-generating equipment. The proposed treatments would not require the use of helicopters, which was the loudest type of equipment evaluated in the Program EIR. Accordingly, equipment used to implement project treatments would have lower noise levels than the loudest evaluated in the Program EIR. Yuba County Code identifies noise limits for construction activities, which would also apply to vegetation treatment activities. Noise limits under the code prohibit the use of construction equipment between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Therefore, treatments within 500 feet of residences would occur between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. consistent with the County Code. This would avoid the potential to cause sleep disturbance to residents during the more noise-sensitive evening and nighttime hours. Treatment activities in areas that are not near residences would occur between approximately 5:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., depending on season; however, some nighttime prescribed burning, mastication, and mechanical felling may occur in these more remote areas. In addition, treatments would be dispersed throughout the county so noise increases at any one sensitive receptor would be limited. The potential for a substantial short-term increase in ambient noise levels from use of heavy equipment was examined in the Program EIR. This impact is within the scope of the Program EIR because the number and types of equipment proposed, and the duration of equipment use, are consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed

project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the exposure potential to any sensitive receptors present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the noise impact is also the same, as described above. SPRs AD-3 and NOI-1 through NOI-5 are applicable to this project. For any properties where residences are within 1,500 feet of a treatment area, SPR NOI-6 would also apply. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

IMPACT NOI-2

Initial and maintenance treatments would involve large trucks hauling heavy equipment to the project area. These haul truck trips would be dispersed on area roadways providing access to the project area including SR 20, SR 49, and public and private roadways throughout the county. Haul trucks on area highways is not expected to generate a noticeable increase in traffic-related noise. Haul truck trips on the local roadways could pass by residential receptors and the event of each truck passing by could increase the single event noise levels (SENL). The potential for a substantial short-term increase in SENL was examined in the Program EIR. This impact is within the scope of the Program EIR because the number and types of equipment proposed are consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR. The haul trips associated with the treatment would occur during daytime hours, which would avoid the potential to cause sleep disturbance to residents during the more noise-sensitive evening and nighttime hours. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the exposure potential is essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape; therefore, the noise impact is also the same, as described above. SPR NOI-1 is applicable to this treatment. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

NEW NOISE IMPACTS

The proposed treatments are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP Program EIR. Yuba Water has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatments and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP Program EIR (refer to Section 3.13.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.13.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final Program EIR). Including land from outside the CalVTP treatable landscape in the proposed project area constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions pertinent to noise that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts are the same and, for the reasons described above, impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those covered in the Program EIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts. Therefore, no new impact related to noise would occur.

4.13 RECREATION

Impact in the Program EIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the Program EIR	Identify Impact Significance in the Program EIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the Program EIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the Program EIR?	Is This Impact within the Scope of the Program EIR?
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

Notes: LTS = less than significant; NA = not applicable because there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the Program EIR for this impact.

New Recreation Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts on recreation that are not evaluated in the CalVTP Program EIR?	☐ Yes	☒ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion

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

Discussion

Recreation areas present within the project area include New Bullards Bar Reservoir, Lake Francis, Collins Lake, Lake Mildred, Lake of the Springs, Yuba River, Camp Far West Reservoir, Yuba Goldfields Recreation Area, Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area, and Spenceville Wildlife Area. Recreational activities within these areas include day use activities, boating, fishing, camping, and hunting. Dispersed recreation occurs in the Plumas National Forest and Tahoe National Forest. National Forest land is present adjacent to the project area mostly near New Bullards Bar Reservoir and east of the project area.

IMPACT REC-1

While most treatments would occur on private lands or adjacent to roadways in areas away from recreational features, vegetation treatment activities have the potential to disrupt recreational activities by degrading the experience of recreationists through the creation of noise, dust, degradation of scenic views, or increased traffic when treatments are implemented near recreation areas. The potential for vegetation treatment activities to disrupt recreation activities was examined in the Program EIR. The potential for the proposed treatment project to impact recreation is within the scope of the Program EIR because the treatment activities, and their duration and intensity are consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, the availability of recreational resources within the project area is essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape; therefore, the impact on recreation is also the same, as described above. The SPR applicable to this treatment is REC-1. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than covered in the Program EIR.

NEW RECREATION IMPACTS

The proposed treatments are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP Program EIR. Yuba Water 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 Program EIR (refer to Section 3.14.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.14.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final Program EIR). Including land from outside the treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions pertinent to recreation that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those covered in the Program EIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts. Therefore, no new impact related to recreation would occur.

4.14 TRANSPORTATION

Impact in the Program EIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the Program EIR	Identify Impact Significance in the Program EIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the Program EIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the Program EIR?	Is This Impact within the Scope of the Program EIR?
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 HYD-2 TRAN-1	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Impact TRAN-3: Result in a Net Increase in VMT for the Proposed CalVTP	SU	Impact TRAN-3, pp. 3.15-11 – 3.15-13	Yes	NA	AQ-1	SU	No	Yes

Notes: LTS = less than significant; SU = significant and unavoidable; NA = not applicable because there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the Program EIR for this impact.

New Transportation Impacts: Would the treatment result in other impacts on transportation that are not evaluated in the CalVTP Program EIR?	☐ 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

Initial and maintenance treatments would temporarily increase vehicular traffic along roadways throughout the project area, including SR 20, SR 49, La Porte Road, Frenchtown Road, Oregon Hill Road, Willow Glenn Road, Marysville Road, and various other public and private roadways. The proposed treatments would not all occur concurrently and increases in vehicle trips would be dispersed throughout the project area. 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 Program EIR. The proposed treatments would be short term, and temporary increases in traffic related to treatments are within the scope of the Program EIR because the treatment duration and limited number of vehicles (i.e., heavy equipment transport, crew vehicles for crew members) associated with the proposed treatments are consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing transportation conditions (e.g., roadways and road use) present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same

as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the transportation impact is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this treatment are AD-3 and TRAN-1. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

IMPACT TRAN-2

Treatments would not require the construction or alteration of any roadways. However, the proposed treatments would include prescribed burning, which would produce smoke and could potentially affect visibility along adjacent roadways such that a transportation hazard could occur. The potential for smoke to affect visibility along roadways during implementation of the treatment project was examined in the Program EIR. This impact is within the scope of the activities and impacts addressed in the Program EIR because the burn duration is consistent with that analyzed in the Program EIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing transportation conditions (e.g., roadways and road use) present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the transportation impact is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this treatment are AD-3, HYD-2, and TRAN-1. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

IMPACT TRAN-3

Treatments could temporarily increase vehicle miles travelled (VMT) above baseline conditions because the project area is dispersed throughout the county and would require vehicle trips to access the project area. This impact was identified as potentially significant and unavoidable in the Program EIR because implementation of the CalVTP would result in a net increase in VMT. As noted under Impact TRAN-3 in the Program EIR, individual vegetation treatment projects under the CalVTP are likely to generate fewer than 110 trips per day, which would be considered 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). Treatments are expected to require between one and 60 crew members depending on the treatment, along with their associated vehicles to travel to and from the project area. However, typical crews would consist of two to 10 people. Up to five crews could be conducting treatments simultaneously throughout the project area. Therefore, even if the maximum number of treatments occur simultaneously, the crew are sufficiently small that the total increase in VMT would not likely exceed 110 trips per day. In addition, as mentioned above, the increase in vehicle trips would be dispersed to multiple roadways. However, individual treatment projects would contribute to the overall annual net increase in VMT generated by the CalVTP. While carpooling would be encouraged under Mitigation Measure AQ-1, crew sizes would be small and may not all be employed with the same company. While the net increase in VMT is not expected to generate greater than 110 trips per day, because the project would contribute to the overall annual net increase in VMT generated by the CalVTP, it would contribute to the environmental significance conclusion in the Program EIR; therefore, for purposes of CEQA compliance, this PSA/Addendum notes the impact as potentially significant and unavoidable.

A temporary increase in VMT is within the scope of the activities and impacts addressed in the Program EIR because the number and duration of increased vehicle trips is consistent with that analyzed in the Program EIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing transportation conditions (e.g., roadways and road use) present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the transportation impact is also the same, as described above. No SPRs are applicable to this impact. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

NEW IMPACTS ON TRANSPORTATION

The proposed treatments are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP Program EIR. Yuba Water has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatments and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP Program EIR (refer to Section 3.15.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.15.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final Program EIR). Including land from outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions pertinent to transportation that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts are the same and, for the reasons described above, impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those covered in the Program EIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts not addressed in the Program EIR. Therefore, no new impact related to transportation would occur that is not covered in the Program EIR.

4.15 PUBLIC SERVICES, UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Impact in the Program EIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the Program EIR	Identify Impact Significance in the Program EIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the Program EIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the Program EIR?	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the Program EIR?
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	SU	Impact UTIL-2, pp. 3.16-10 – 3.16-12	No	NA	None	NA	No	Yes
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	NA	NA	NA	No	Yes

Notes: LTS = less than significant; SU = significant and unavoidable; NA = not applicable because there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the Program EIR for this impact; None = there are SPRs and/or MMs identified in the Program EIR for this impact, but none are applicable to the treatment project.

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

Treatment types are ecological restoration, WUI fuel reduction, and fuel breaks, which would be implemented using mechanical treatment, manual treatment, prescribed burning, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory. Prescribed burning would necessitate an on-site water supply as a safety precaution in case the burn goes out of prescription. If needed, water would be supplied from water trucks. In addition, prescribed herbivory could require a temporary on-site water supply, which would be supplied by existing stock ponds or with portable water troughs that can be filled from an existing water system, a municipal source, or from water brought in via truck. The potential increased demand for water was examined in the Program EIR. This impact is within the scope of the activities and

impacts addressed in the Program EIR because the size of the area proposed for prescribed burns, amount of water required for prescribed burning and prescribed herbivory, and water source types are consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental conditions present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the water supply impact is also the same, as described above. No SPRs are applicable to this impact. This determination is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

IMPACT UTIL-2

Biomass would be generated from vegetation removal within the treatment areas. Biomass generated by mechanical and manual treatments would be disposed of by pile burning, lop and scatter, or chipping. Invasive plant and noxious weed biomass would be treated onsite to eliminate seed and propagules or would be disposed of offsite at an appropriate waste collection facility to prevent reestablishment or spread of invasive plants and noxious weeds. Invasive plants and noxious weeds would not be chipped and spread, scattered, or mulched on site. This impact was identified as potentially significant and unavoidable in the Program EIR because biomass hauled offsite could exceed the capacity of existing infrastructure for handling biomass. For the proposed treatment project, biomass would not be hauled offsite except if required under limited conditions for invasive plant biomass. Therefore, there is little to no potential to exceed the capacity of existing infrastructure, and this impact does not apply to the proposed project.

IMPACT UTIL-3

This impact does not apply to the proposed project because 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 consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP Program EIR. Yuba Water has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatments and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP Program EIR (refer to Section 3.15.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.15.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final Program EIR). Including land in the proposed project area from outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions pertinent to public services, utilities, and service systems that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts are the same and, for the reasons described above, impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those covered in the Program EIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape would not give rise to any new significant impacts not addressed in the Program EIR. Therefore, no new impact related to public services, utilities, and service systems would occur that is not covered in the Program EIR.

4.16 WILDFIRE

Impact in the Program EIR			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the Program EIR	Identify Impact Significance in the Program EIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the Program EIR	Does the Impact Apply to the Treatment Project?	List SPRs Applicable to the Treatment Project	List MMs Applicable to the Treatment Project	Identify Impact Significance for Treatment Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the Program EIR?	Is This Impact within the Scope of the Program EIR?
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	AD-3 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	Yes	AD-3 AQ-3 GEO-3 GEO-4 GEO-5 GEO-8	NA	LTS	No	Yes

Notes: LTS = less than significant; NA = not applicable because there are no SPRs and/or MMs identified in the Program EIR for this impact.

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

Proposed vegetation treatment activities are mechanical treatment, manual treatment, prescribed burning, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory. Vegetation treatment involving mechanical equipment poses a risk of accidental ignition. However, machine-powered hand tools would have federal- or state-approved spark arrestors, which prevent the emissions of flammable debris, and vegetation treatment crews would carry one fire extinguisher per chainsaw and one long-handle shovel and one axe or pulaski, to quickly respond to an ignition should one occur. Temporary increases in risk associated with uncontrolled fire from prescribed burns could also occur. As discussed in Section 3.17.1, "Environmental Setting," in Volume II of the Final Program EIR, under "Prescribed Burn Planning and Implementation," implementing a prescribed burn requires extensive planning, including the preparation of prescription burn plans, smoke management plans, site-specific weather forecasting, public notifications, safety considerations, and ultimately favorable weather conditions so a burn can occur on a given day. Prior to implementing a broadcast burn, fire containment lines would be established by clearing vegetation surrounding the designated burn area to help prevent the accidental escape of fire. Water containers and safety equipment would be staged on site as necessary.

The potential increase in exposure to wildfire during implementation of treatments was examined in the Program EIR. Increased wildfire risk associated with the use of heavy equipment in vegetated areas and with prescribed burns is

within the scope of the Program EIR because the types of equipment and treatment duration and the types of prescribed burn methods proposed as part of the project are consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR. The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the wildfire risk is essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape; therefore, the wildfire impact is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this impact are AD-3, HAZ-2, HAZ-3, and HAZ-4. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

IMPACT WIL-2

Proposed vegetation treatment activities are mechanical treatment, manual treatment, prescribed burning, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory, which could exacerbate fire risk as described in Impact WIL-1 above. The potential for post-fire landslides and flooding was evaluated in the Program EIR. The potential exposure of people or structures to post-fire landslides and flooding are within the scope of the activities and impacts covered in the Program EIR because the equipment types and duration of treatments, and methods of prescribed burn implementation are consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR.

As described above under Section 1.1.3, "Purpose of the PSA/Addendum," Yuba Water proposes to revise the language under SPR GEO-3 to stabilize bare soils disturbed by treatments within WLPZs and equipment limitation zones, since the SPR as written could require soil stabilization in many areas where runoff and subsequent landslides or flooding would not result in environmental impacts making the treatments unnecessarily costly and more time consuming. Soils will be stabilized in areas where runoff and subsequent landslides or flooding have the potential to occur; therefore, this revision would not result in any new or substantially more severe impacts related to runoff that could result in post-wildfire landslides or flooding. This revision is consistent with the purpose of SPR GEO-3, which is to minimize the potential for runoff and subsequent landslides or flooding.

For these reasons, proposed revisions to SPR GEO-3 would not result in an increased risk of post-fire landslides and flooding, and revisions to SPR GEO-3 would not result in a substantially more significant effect related to post-fire landslide and flooding risk than what was covered in the Program EIR.

The inclusion of land in the proposed project area that is outside the CalVTP treatable landscape constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the wildfire risk of the project area is essentially the same within and outside the treatable landscape; therefore, the wildfire impact is also the same, as described above. SPRs applicable to this impact are AD-3, AQ-3, GEO-3 through GEO-5, and GEO-8. Although most mechanical treatment would occur from existing roads or skid trails or on flat to moderate slopes, SPR GEO-8 would apply if a treatment area contains steep slopes. 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. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the Program EIR and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the Program EIR.

NEW IMPACTS ON WILDFIRE

The proposed treatments are consistent with the treatment types and activities considered in the CalVTP Program EIR. Yuba Water has considered the site-specific characteristics of the proposed treatments and determined they are consistent with the applicable environmental and regulatory conditions presented in the CalVTP Program EIR (refer to Section 3.17.1, "Environmental Setting," and Section 3.17.2, "Regulatory Setting," in Volume II of the Final Program EIR). Including land from outside the CalVTP treatable landscape in the proposed project area constitutes a change to the geographic extent presented in the Program EIR. However, within the boundary of the project area, the existing environmental and regulatory conditions pertinent to wildfire that are present in the areas outside the treatable landscape are essentially the same as those within the treatable landscape; therefore, the impacts are the same and, for the reasons described above, impacts of the proposed treatment project are also consistent with those covered in

the Program EIR. Revisions to SPR GEO-3 would constitute a change to the project analyzed in the Program EIR. Revisions to SPR GEO-3 would stabilize bare soils disturbed by treatments within WLPZs and equipment limitation zones. This revision is consistent with the purpose of SPR GEO-3 which is to minimize the potential for runoff and subsequent landslides or flooding, as outlined in SPR GEO-3 and analyzed in the Program EIR; therefore, revisions to SPR GEO-3, would not result in a new impact that was not covered in the Program EIR. No changed circumstances are present, and the inclusion of areas outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape and the revisions to SPR GEO-3 would not give rise to any new significant impacts. Therefore, no new impact related to wildfire would occur that is not covered in the Program EIR.

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Attachment A

Mitigation Monitoring and
Reporting Program for the
New Bullards Bar Forest Health Project

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines (PRC Section 21081.6 and State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15091[d] and 15097) require public agencies "to adopt a reporting and monitoring program for changes to the project which it has adopted or made a condition of project approval to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment." A Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) is required for approval of the proposed project because the Project-Specific Analysis/Addendum to the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) Program Environmental Impact Report (Program EIR) (PSA/Addendum) identifies potential significant adverse impacts and all feasible mitigation measures have been adopted. Standard project requirements (SPRs), which are part of the project description, have been incorporated to avoid or minimize adverse effects. Where potentially significant impacts remain after application of SPRs, mitigation measures have been identified to further reduce and/or compensate for those impacts. While only mitigation measures are required to be covered in an MMRP, both SPRs and mitigation are included in this MMRP to assist in implementation of all environmental protection features of later activities consistent with the CalVTP Program EIR.

PURPOSE OF MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

This MMRP has been prepared to facilitate the implementation of SPRs and mitigation measures. The attached table presents the text of each SPR and mitigation measure from the CalVTP Program EIR that is applicable to the project, the timing of its planned implementation, the implementing entity, and the entity with monitoring responsibility. The numbering of SPRs and mitigation measures follows the numbering used in the Program EIR. SPRs and mitigation measures that are referenced more than once in the PSA are not duplicated in the MMRP. Instructions for project-specific implementation of certain SPRs and Mitigation Measures has been added to tailor the specific impact avoidance and minimization actions relevant to the proposed treatments, agency standard practices, and the conditions and resources present within each treatment site. In addition, non-substantive clarifying edits to mitigation measures in the Program EIR are shown in underline and strikethrough. In all cases, the additional project-specific implementation instruction and clarifying edits to mitigation measures maintain the SPRs and mitigation measures as equivalent or more effective than those presented in the Program EIR.

In 2020, Yuba Water approved the Yuba Foothills Heathy Forest Project PSA/Addendum, and in 2022, Yuba County approved the Yuba Roadside Fuel Treatment Project PSA/Addendum. MMRPs were adopted for both of these projects. Because the New Bullards Bar PSA/Addendum will supersede and cover treatments within these previously adopted PSA/Addenda, this MMRP will also supersede the adopted MMRPs for the Yuba Foothills Healthy Forest Project and the Yuba Roadside Fuel Treatment Project.

This MMRP will be adopted by the Yuba Water Agency with regard to its discretionary approval for the proposed project. As this PSA/Addendum is used for CEQA compliance of future discretionary approvals by other state and local agencies related to treatments in the project area, those agencies will adopt separate MMRPs that specify the SPRs and mitigation measures relevant to their approval and within their jurisdiction.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

As the CEQA lead agency, Yuba Water will be responsible for ensuring that implementation of mitigation measures and SPRs related to its discretionary approval occurs in accordance with the MMRP pursuant to Section 15097(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines. Yuba Water may partner with private landowners and contractors to implement the mitigation measures and SPRs. As pertinent to its discretionary approval, Yuba Water is responsible for taking actions necessary to implement the SPRs and mitigation measures according to the specifications provided for each measure and for demonstrating that the action has been successfully completed.

This responsibility pertains to other agencies that are seeking to use this PSA/Addendum for CEQA compliance related to their discretionary approval. For example, as a CEQA responsible agency, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) will be responsible for ensuring that implementation of mitigation measures and SPRs related to its discretionary approval for treatments on CDFW-owned lands occurs in accordance with the MMRP pursuant to Section 15097(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines. For future treatments requiring a discretionary approval by another agency (e.g., those that would be funded through future public funding sources that have not yet been requested/obtained or implemented by another agency) that agency would be responsible for adopting the MMRP for their portion of the project.

If desired by the lead or a responsible agency and pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15097(a), the agency can delegate monitoring and reporting responsibilities to another public agency or to a private entity that accepts the delegation; however, until the mitigation measures and SPRs have been completed, the agency remains responsible for ensuring that implementation of the measures occurs in accordance with this MMRP. For example, a public agency (e.g., Yuba Water, Yuba County, CAL FIRE, among others) may partner with the Yuba FSC to conduct treatments using this PSA/Addendum. Yuba FSC could implement the mitigation measures and SPRs, but the public agency remains responsible for ensuring that implementation of the measures occurs in accordance with this MMRP. The agency may delegate monitoring and reporting responsibility to the Yuba FSC.

REPORTING

Yuba Water and CDFW will document and describe the compliance of their respective work with the required SPRs and mitigation measures either by adapting the project-specific MMRP table or preparing a separate post-project implementation report pursuant to the requirements of SPR AD-7. For future treatments conducted by an agency other than Yuba Water or CDFW, that agency would be responsible for reporting compliance as described above. Or, pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15097(a), the agency may delegate monitoring and reporting responsibilities to another public agency or private entity who accepts this delegation.

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM TABLE

The categories identified in the attached MMRP table are described below.

- **SPRs and Mitigation Measures** – This column provides the text of the applicable SPR or adopted mitigation measure.
- **Timing** – This column identifies the time frame in which the SPR or mitigation measure will be implemented.
- **Implementing Entity** – This column identifies the party responsible for implementing the SPR or mitigation measure.
- **Verifying/Monitoring Entity** – This column identifies the party responsible for verifying and monitoring implementation of the SPR or mitigation measure.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR BIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCE MEASURES

The biological and cultural resource SPRs and mitigation measures in the attached MMRP table require that qualified individuals implement components of the measures. The CalVTP Program EIR requirements listed below will be met to be considered qualified and may be performed by individuals of various titles (including biologist, botanist, ecologist, Registered Professional Forester (RPF), biological technician, or supervised designees working at the direction of a qualified professional) as long as they are qualified for the task at hand.

Archaeologically Trained Resource Professional: To be qualified, an archaeologically-trained resource professional would hold a valid Archaeological Training Certificate issued by CAL FIRE and the Board of Forestry and Fire

Protection or equivalent state or local agency training or certification. Work performed by an archaeologically-trained resource professional must be reviewed and approved by a qualified archaeologist.

Qualified Archaeologist: To be qualified, an archaeologist would hold a Prehistoric Archeology, Historic Archeology, Conservation, Cultural Anthropology, or Curation degree from an accredited university and meet the Secretary of Interior's Qualifications Standards (36 CFR Part 61). The project proponent will review the resume and approve the qualifications of the archaeologists.

Qualified RPF or Biological Technician: To be qualified, an RPF or biological technician would 1) be knowledgeable in relevant species life histories and ecology, 2) be able to correctly identify relevant species and habitats, 3) have experience conducting biological monitoring of relevant species or resources, and 4) be knowledgeable about state and federal laws regarding the protection of special-status species. The project proponent will review the resume and approve the qualifications of RPFs or biological technicians.

Qualified RPF or Biologist: To be qualified, an RPF or biologist would hold a wildlife biology, botany, ecology, forestry, or other relevant degree from an accredited university and: 1) be knowledgeable in relevant species life histories and ecology, 2) be able to correctly identify relevant species and habitats, 3) have experience conducting field surveys of relevant species or resources, 4) be knowledgeable about survey protocols, 5) be knowledgeable about state and federal laws regarding the protection of special-status species, and 6) have experience with CDFW's California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) and Biogeographic Information and Observation System (BIOS). The project proponent will review the resume and approve the qualifications of RPFs or biologists. If species-specific protocol surveys are performed, surveys would be conducted by qualified RPFs or biologists with the minimum qualifications required by the appropriate protocols, including having CDFW or USFWS approval to conduct such surveys, if required by certain protocols.

Qualified RPF or Botanist: To be qualified, an RPF or botanist would 1) be knowledgeable about plant taxonomy, 2) be familiar with plants of the region, including special-status plants and sensitive natural communities, 3) have experience conducting floristic botanical field surveys as described in CDFW "Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities" (current version dated March 20, 2018), or experience conducting such botanical field surveys under the direction of an experienced botanical field surveyor, 4) be familiar with the *California Manual of Vegetation* (Sawyer et al. 2009 or current version, including updated natural communities data at http://vegetation.cnps.org/), and 5) be familiar with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to plants and plant collecting. The project proponent will review the resume and approve the qualifications of RPFs or botanists.

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/ Monitoring Entity
Administrative Standard Project Requirements			
SPR AD-1: Project Proponent Coordination For treatments coordinated with CAL FIRE, CAL FIRE will meet with the project proponent to discuss all natural and environmental resources that must be protected using SPRs and any applicable mitigation measures; identify any sensitive resources onsite; and discuss resource protection measures. For any prescribed burn treatments, CAL FIRE will also discuss the details of the burn plan in the incident action plan (IAP). This SPR applies to all treatment activities and treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	Prior to treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR AD-2: Delineate Protected Resources: The project proponent will clearly define the boundaries of the treatment area and protected resources on maps for the treatment area and with highly visible flagging or clear, existing landscape demarcations (e.g., edge of a roadway) prior to beginning any treatment to avoid disturbing the resource. "Protected Resources" refers to environmentally sensitive places within or adjacent to the treatment areas that would be avoided or protected to the extent feasible during planned treatment activities to sustain their natural qualities and processes. This work will be performed by a qualified person, as defined for the specific resource (e.g., qualified Registered Professional Forester or biologist). This SPR applies to all treatment activities and treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	Prior to treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR AD-3: Consistency with Local Plans, Policies, and Ordinances: The project proponent will design and implement the treatment in a manner that is consistent with applicable local plans (e.g., general plans, Community Wildfire Protection Plans, CAL FIRE Unit Fire Plans), policies, and ordinances to the extent the project is subject to them. This SPR applies to all treatment activities and treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	Prior to treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR AD-4: Public Notifications for Prescribed Burning: At least three days prior to the commencement of prescribed burning operations, the project proponent will: 1) post signs along the closest public roadway to the treatment area describing the activity and timing, and requesting persons in the area to contact a designated representative of the project proponent (contact information will be provided with the notice) if they have questions or smoke concerns; 2) publish a public interest notification in a local newspapers or other widely distributed media source describing the activity, timing, and contact information; 3) send the local county supervisor and county administrative officer (or equivalent official responsible for distribution of public information) a notification letter describing the activity, its necessity, timing, and measures being taken to protect the environment and prevent prescribed burn escape. This SPR applies only to prescribed burn treatment activities and all treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	At least three days prior to prescribed burn activities	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR AD-5: Maintain Site Cleanliness: If trash receptacles are used on-site, the project proponent will use fully covered trash receptacles with secure lids (wildlife proof) to contain all food, food scraps, food wrappers, beverages, and other worker generated miscellaneous trash. Remove all temporary non-biodegradable flagging, trash, debris, and barriers from the project site upon completion of project activities. This SPR applies to all treatment activities and all treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	Prior to treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/ Monitoring Entity
SPR AD-6: Public Notifications for Treatment Projects One to three days prior to the commencement of a treatment activity, the project proponent will post signs in a conspicuous location near the treatment area describing the activity and timing, and requesting persons in the area to contact a designated representative of the project proponent (contact information will be provided with the notice) if they have questions or concerns. This SPR applies to all treatment activities and all treatment types, including treatment maintenance. Prescribed burning is subject to the additional notification requirements of SPR AD-4. Project-Specific Implementation Notifications will not be required for work conducted on private property behind locked gates where public access is not permitted and treatments are not visible to public viewpoints.	One to three days prior to treatment activities	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR AD-7: Provide Information on Proposed, Approved, and Completed Treatment Projects For any vegetation treatment project using the CalVTP Program EIR for CEQA compliance, the project proponent will provide the information listed below to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) or CAL FIRE during the proposed, approved, and completed stages of the project. The Board or CAL FIRE will make this information available to the public via an online database or other mechanism. Information on proposed projects (PSA in progress): ▶ GIS data that include project location (as a point), or project latitude/longitude; ▶ project size (typically acres); ▶ treatment types and activities; and ▶ contact information for a representative of the project proponent. The project proponent will provide information on the proposed project to the Board or CAL FIRE as early as feasible in the planning phase. The project proponent will provide this information to the Board or CAL FIRE with sufficient lead time to allow those agencies to make the information available to the public at least two weeks prior to project approval. The project proponent may also make information available to the public via other mechanisms (e.g., the proponent's own website). Information on approved projects (PSA complete): ▶ A completed PSA Environmental Checklist; ▶ A completed Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (using Attachment A to the Environmental Checklist); ▶ GIS data that include a polygon(s) of the project area, showing the extent of each treatment type included in the project (ecological restoration, fuel break, WUI fuel reduction) Information on completed projects (following initial treatment): ▶ GIS data that include a polygon(s) of the treated area, showing the extent of each treatment type implemented (ecological restoration, fuel break, WUI fuel reduction) ▶ A post-project implementation report (referred to by CAL FIRE as a Completion Report) that includes	Prior to, during, and following treatment **Information on the proposed project (PSA in progress) was submitted to CAL FIRE on October 30, 2023.**	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/ Monitoring Entity
▪ Size of treated area (typically acres); ▪ Treatment types and activities; ▪ Dates of work; ▪ A list of the SPRs and mitigation measures that were implemented ▪ Any explanations regarding implementation if required by SPRs and mitigation measures (e.g., explanation for feasibility determination required by SPR BIO-12; explanation for reduction of a no-disturbance buffer below the general minimum size described in Mitigation Measures BIO-1a and BIO-2b). This SPR applies to all treatment activities and all treatment types, including treatment maintenance.			
SPR AD-8: Request Access for Post-Treatment Assessment For CAL FIRE projects, during contract development, CAL FIRE will include access to the treated area over a prescribed period (usually up to three years) to assess treatment effectiveness in achieving desired fuel conditions and other CalVTP objectives as well as any necessary maintenance, as a contract term for consideration by the landowner. For public landowners, access to the treated area over a prescribed period will be a requirement of the executed contract. This SPR applies to all treatment activities and all treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	Following treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
Aesthetic and Visual Resource Standard Project Requirements			
SPR AES-1: Vegetation Thinning and Edge Feathering The project proponent will thin and feather adjacent vegetation to break up or screen linear edges of the clearing and mimic forms of natural clearings as reasonable or appropriate for vegetation conditions. In general, thinning and feathering in irregular patches of varying densities, as well as a gradation of tall to short vegetation at the clearing edge, will achieve a natural transitional appearance. The contrast of a distinct clearing edge will be faded into this transitional band. This SPR only applies to mechanical and manual treatment activities and all treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	During treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR AES-2: Avoid Staging within Viewsheds The project proponent will store all treatment-related materials, including vehicles, vegetation treatment debris, and equipment, outside of the viewshed of public trails, parks, recreation areas, and roadways to the extent feasible. The project proponent will also locate materials staging and storage areas outside of the viewshed of public trails, parks, recreation areas, and roadways to the extent feasible. This SPR applies to all treatment activities and treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	During treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR AES-3: Provide Vegetation Screening The project proponent will preserve sufficient vegetation within, at the edge of, or adjacent to treatment areas to screen views from public trails, parks, recreation areas, and roadways as reasonable or appropriate for vegetation conditions. This SPR applies to all treatment activities and all treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	During treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/ Monitoring Entity
Air Quality Standard Project Requirements			
SPR AQ-1: Comply with Air Quality Regulations The project proponent will comply with the applicable air quality requirements of air districts within whose jurisdiction the project is located. This SPR applies to all treatment activities and all treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	During treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR AQ-2: Submit Smoke Management Plan The project proponent will submit a smoke management plan for all prescribed burns to the applicable air district, in accordance with 17 CCR Section 80160. Pursuant to this regulation a smoke management plan will not be required for burns less than 10 acres that also will not be conducted near smoke sensitive areas, unless otherwise directed by the air district. Burning will only be conducted in compliance with the burn authorization program of the applicable air district(s) having jurisdiction over the treatment area. Example of a smoke management plan is in Appendix PD-2. This SPR applies only to prescribed burning treatment activities and all treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	Prior to prescribed burn treatment activities	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR AQ-3: Create Burn Plan The project proponent will create a burn plan using the CAL FIRE burn plan template for all ~~prescribed~~ broadcast burns. The burn plan will include a fire behavior model output of First Order Fire Effects Model and BEHAVE or other fire behavior modeling simulation and that is performed by a qualified fire behavior technical specialist that predicts fire behavior, calculates consumption of fuels, tree mortality, predicted emissions, greenhouse gas emissions, and soil heating. The project proponent will minimize soil burn severity from broadcast burning to reduce the potential for runoff and soil erosion. The burn plan will be created with input from a qualified technician or certified State burn boss. This SPR applies only to ~~prescribed~~ broadcast burning treatment activities and all treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	Prior to prescribed burn (understory burn) treatment activities; doesn't apply to pile burning	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR AQ-4: Minimize Dust To minimize dust during treatment activities, the project proponent will implement the following measures: ▶ Limit the speed of vehicles and equipment traveling on unpaved areas to 15 miles per hour to reduce fugitive dust emissions, in accordance with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Fugitive Dust protocol. ▶ If road use creates excessive dust, the project proponent will wet appurtenant, unpaved, dirt roads using water trucks or treat roads with a non-toxic chemical dust suppressant (e.g., emulsion polymers, organic material) during dry, dusty conditions. Any dust suppressant product used will be environmentally benign (i.e., non-toxic to plants and will not negatively impact water quality) and its use will not be prohibited by ARB, EPA, or the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The project proponent will not over-water exposed areas such that the water results in runoff. The type of dust suppression method will be selected by the project proponent based on soil, traffic, site-specific conditions, and air quality regulations. ▶ Remove visible dust, silt, or mud tracked-out on to public paved roadways where sufficient water supplies and access to water is available. The project proponent will remove dust, silt, and mud from vehicles at the	During treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/ Monitoring Entity
conclusion of each workday, or at a minimum of every 24 hours for continuous treatment activities, in accordance with Vehicle Code Section 23113. ▶ Suspend ground-disturbing treatment activities, including land clearing and bulldozer lines, when there is visible dust transport (particulate pollution) outside the treatment boundary, if the particulate emissions may "cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or to the public, or that endanger the comfort, repose, health, or safety of any of those persons or the public, or that cause, or have a natural tendency to cause, injury or damage to business or property," per Health and Safety Code Section 41700. This SPR applies to all treatment activities and treatment types, including treatment maintenance.			
SPR AQ-5: Avoid Naturally Occurring Asbestos The project proponent will avoid ground-disturbing treatment activities in areas identified as likely to contain naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) per maps and guidance published by the California Geological Survey, unless an Asbestos Dust Control Plan (17 CCR Section 93105) is prepared and approved by the air district(s) with jurisdiction over the treatment area. Any NOA-related guidance provided by the applicable air district will be followed. This SPR applies to all treatment activities and treatment types, including treatment maintenance. **Project-Specific Implementation** An Asbestos Dust Control Plan will be prepared where serpentine soils are present as required under 17 CCR Section 93105. ▶ Ground disturbing activities are considered to be: ▪ Prescribed burning (containment lines); ▪ Pile burning; and ▪ Mechanical treatments. ▶ If avoidance is not feasible and disturbance of NOA-containing areas is limited to one acre or less, the following would be required, per Asbestos Airborne Toxic Control Measure (17 CCR Section 93105): ▪ Construction vehicle speed at the work site must be limited to 15 miles per hour or less; ▪ Prior to any ground disturbance, sufficient water must be applied to the area to be disturbed to prevent visible emissions from crossing the property line; ▪ Areas to be graded or excavated must be kept adequately wetted to prevent visible emissions from crossing the property line; ▪ Storage piles (soil from road repair) must be kept adequately wetted, treated with a chemical dust suppressant, or covered when material is not being added to or removed from the pile; ▪ Equipment must be washed down before moving from the property onto a paved public road; and ▪ Visible track-out on the paved public road must be cleaned using wet sweeping or a high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter equipped vacuum device within 24 hours.	Prior to and during treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/ Monitoring Entity
▪ If avoidance is not feasible and disturbance of NOA containing areas is greater than one acre, the following would be required, per Asbestos Airborne Toxic Control Measure (17 CCR Section 93105): ▪ An Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan for the operation will be submitted to and approved by the district before the start of any grading activity; and the provisions of that dust mitigation plan are implemented at the beginning and maintained throughout the duration of the grading activity.			
SPR AQ-6: Prescribed Burn Safety Procedures Prescribed burns planned and managed by non-CAL FIRE crews will follow all safety procedures required of CAL FIRE crew, including the implementation of an approved Incident Action Plan (IAP). The IAP will include the burn dates; burn hours; weather limitations; the specific burn prescription; a communications plan; a medical plan; a traffic plan; and special instructions such as minimizing smoke impacts to specific local roadways. The IAP will also assign responsibilities for coordination with the appropriate air district, such as conducting onsite briefings, posting notifications, weather monitoring during burning, and other burn related preparations. This SPR applies only to prescribed burning treatment activities and all treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	During prescribed burn treatment activities	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
Archaeological, Historical, and Tribal Cultural Resources Standard Project Requirements			
SPR CUL-1: Conduct Record Search An archaeological and historical resource record search will be conducted per the applicable state or local agency procedures. Instead of conducting a new search, the project proponent may use recent record searches containing the treatment area requested by a landowner or other public agency in accordance applicable agency guidance. This SPR applies to all treatment activities and treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	Prior to treatment **Record search of portions of the project area and 0.25-mile buffer has been conducted; updated searches will be conducted as needed prior to treatments; see PSA for a summary of results.**	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR CUL-2: Contact Geographically Affiliated Native American Tribes The project proponent will obtain the latest Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) provided Native Americans Contact List. Using the appropriate Native Americans Contact List, the project proponent will notify the California Native American Tribes in the counties where the treatment activity is located. The notification will contain the following: ▶ A written description of the treatment location and boundaries. ▶ Brief narrative of the treatment objectives. ▶ A description of the activities used (e.g., prescribed burning, mastication) and associated acreages. ▶ A map of the treatment area at a sufficient scale to indicate the spatial extent of activities. ▶ A request for information regarding potential impacts to cultural resources from the proposed treatment. ▶ A detailed description of the depth of excavation, if ground disturbance is expected. In addition, the project proponent will contact the NAHC for a review of their Sacred Lands File. This SPR applies to all treatment activities and treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	Prior to treatment **Tribes have been contacted and Sacred Lands File (SLF) query completed for portions of the project area; see PSA for a summary of consultation and SLF results.**	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/ Monitoring Entity
SPR-CUL-3: Pre-field Research The project proponent will conduct research prior to implementing treatments as part of the cultural resource investigation. The purpose of this research is to properly inform survey design, based on the types of resources likely to be encountered within the treatment area, and to be prepared to interpret, record, and evaluate these findings within the context of local history and prehistory. The qualified archaeologist and/or archaeologically-trained resource professional will review records, study maps, read pertinent ethnographic, archaeological, and historical literature specific to the area being studied, and conduct other tasks to maximize the effectiveness of the survey. This SPR applies to all treatment activities and treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	Prior to treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR CUL-4: Archaeological Surveys The project proponent will coordinate with an archaeologically-trained resource professional and/or qualified archaeologist to conduct a site-specific survey of the treatment area. The survey methodology (e.g., pedestrian survey, subsurface investigation) depends on whether the area has a low, moderate, or high sensitivity for resources, which is based on whether the records search, pre-field research, and/or Native American consultation identifies archaeological or historical resources near or within the treatment area. A survey report will be completed for every cultural resource survey completed. The specific requirements will comply with the applicable state or local agency procedures. This SPR applies to all treatment activities and treatment types, including treatment maintenance. **Project-Specific Implementation** The culturally affiliated tribe will be provided the opportunity to attend surveys of treatment areas where the tribe has previously expressed interest (e.g., refer to the project-specific cultural resource spreadsheet listing sites of interest to UAIC). A minimum of 2 weeks prior to a survey, the tribe will be invited to attend the survey with the archaeologically-trained resource professional and/or qualified archaeologist, and the tribe will be given the opportunity to interpret the site for the archaeological report.	Prior to treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR CUL-5: Treatment of Archaeological Resources If cultural resources are identified within a treatment area, and cannot be avoided, a qualified archaeologist will notify the culturally affiliated tribe(s) based on information provided by NAHC and assess, whether an archaeological find qualifies as a unique archaeological resource, an historical resource, or in coordination with said tribe(s), as a tribal cultural resource. The project proponent, in consultation with culturally affiliated tribe(s), will develop effective protection measures for important cultural resources located within treatment areas. These measures may include adjusting the treatment location or design to entirely avoid cultural resource locations or changing treatment activities so that damaging effects to cultural resources will not occur. These protection measures will be written in clear, enforceable language, and will be included in the survey report in accordance with applicable state or local agency procedures. This SPR applies to all treatment activities and treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	Prior to and during treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/ Monitoring Entity
Project-Specific Implementation: If cultural resources are identified within a treatment area and determined to be significant by an archaeologically-trained resource professional and/or qualified archaeologist, the site will be flagged and avoided. Any flagging will be removed after treatment to maintain the confidentiality of the site location.			
SPR CUL-6: Treatment of Tribal Cultural Resources The project proponent, in consultation with the culturally affiliated tribe(s), will develop effective protection measures for important tribal cultural resources located within treatment areas. These measures may include adjusting the treatment location or design to entirely avoid cultural resource locations or changing treatment activities so that damaging effects to cultural resources will not occur. The project proponent will provide the tribe(s) the opportunity to submit comments and participate in consultation to resolve issues of concern. The project proponent will defer implementing the treatment until the tribe approves protection measures, or if agreement cannot be reached after a good-faith effort, the proponent determines that any or all feasible measures have been implemented, where feasible, and the resource is either avoided or protected. This SPR applies to all treatment activities and treatment types, including treatment maintenance. **Project-Specific Implementation:** If tribal cultural resources are identified within a treatment area and determined to be significant by the culturally affiliated tribe(s), the site will be temporarily flagged. Any flagging will be removed after treatment to maintain the confidentiality of the site location. Measures to avoid impacts to an identified tribal cultural resource during treatment may include the following: ▶ Dense vegetation within the site boundaries will be hand-cleared. ▶ Duff will be removed from bedrock mortars and other modified features. ▶ The culturally affiliated tribe will be invited to inspect the resource after vegetation clearing to reassess the site boundary and will be invited to be present when treatment activities are occurring within an identified tribal cultural resource. ▶ Heavy equipment will not be used within the site boundary, as delineated by the protective flagging or marking. Trees within or near the boundaries of the site may be felled directionally out of the sites, so long as their removal will not affect contributing elements to the site, such as artifacts, features, or cultural soils. When tree removal occurs within the boundaries of sites, then the stumps should not be removed, but may be ground down. This minimizes the potential to impact subsurface cultural resources.	Prior to and during treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/ Monitoring Entity
SPR CUL-7: Avoid Built Historical Resources If the records search identifies built historical resources, as defined in Section 15064.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the project proponent will avoid these resources. Within a buffer of 100 feet of the built historical resource, there will be no prescribed burning or mechanical treatment activities. Buffers less than 100 feet for built historical resources will only be used after consultation with and receipt of written approval from a qualified archaeologist. If the records search does not identify known historical resources in the treatment area, but structures (i.e., buildings, bridges, roadways) over 50 years old that have not been evaluated for historic significance are present in the treatment area, they will similarly be avoided. This SPR applies to all treatment activities and treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	Prior to and during treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR CUL-8: Cultural Resource Training The project proponent will train all crew members and contractors implementing treatment activities on the protection of sensitive archaeological, historical, or tribal cultural resources. Workers will be trained to halt work if archaeological resources are encountered on a treatment site and the treatment method consists of physical disturbance of land surfaces (e.g., soil disturbance). This SPR applies to all treatment activities and treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	Prior to and during treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
Biological Resources Standard Project Requirements			
SPR BIO-1: Review and Survey Project-Specific Biological Resources The project proponent will require a qualified RPF or biologist to conduct a data review and reconnaissance-level survey prior to treatment, no more than one year prior to the submittal of the PSA, and no more than one year between completion of the PSA and implementation of the treatment project. The data reviewed will include the biological resources setting, species and sensitive natural communities tables, and habitat information in this Program EIR for the ecoregion(s) where the treatment will occur. It will also include review of the best available, current data for the area, including vegetation mapping data, species distribution/range information, CNDDB, California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California, relevant BIOS queries, and relevant general and regional plans. Reconnaissance-level biological surveys will be general surveys that include visual and auditory inspection for biological resources to help determine the environmental setting of a project site. The qualified surveyor will 1.) identify and document sensitive resources, such as riparian or other sensitive habitats, sensitive natural community, wetlands, or wildlife nursery site or habitat (including bird nests), and 2.) assess the suitability of habitat for special-status plant and animal species. The surveyor will also record any incidental wildlife observations. For each treatment project, habitat assessments will be completed at a time of year that is appropriate for identifying habitat and no more than one year prior to the submittal of the PSA, unless it can be demonstrated in the PSA that habitat assessments older than one year remain valid (e.g., site conditions are unchanged and no treatment activity has occurred since the assessment). If more than one year passes between completion of the PSA and initiation of the treatment project, the project proponent will verify the continued accuracy of the PSA prior to beginning the treatment project by reviewing for any data updates and/or visiting the site to verify conditions. Based on the results of the data review and reconnaissance-level survey, the project proponent, in consultation with a qualified RPF or biologist, will determine which one of the following best characterizes the treatment:	Prior to treatment **Initial data review and reconnaissance-level survey have been conducted, see PSA/ Addendum for results.**	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/ Monitoring Entity
1. **Suitable Habitat Is Present but Adverse Effects Can Be Clearly Avoided.** If, based on the data review and reconnaissance-level survey, the qualified RPF or biologist determines that suitable habitat for sensitive biological resources is present but adverse effects on the suitable habitat can clearly be avoided through one of the following methods, the avoidance mechanism will be implemented prior to initiating treatment and will remain in effect throughout the treatment: a. by physically avoiding the suitable habitat, or b. by conducting treatment outside of the season when a sensitive resource could be present within the suitable habitat or outside the season of sensitivity (e.g., outside of special-status bird nesting season, during dormant season of sensitive annual or geophytic plant species, or outside of maternity and rearing season at wildlife nursery sites). Physical avoidance will include flagging, fencing, stakes, or clear, existing landscape demarcations (e.g., edge of a roadway) to delineate the boundary of the avoidance area around the suitable habitat. For physical avoidance, a buffer may be implemented as determined necessary by the qualified RPF or biologist. **Project-Specific Implementation** <u>Special-status plants</u> ▶ To avoid impacts on the annual and perennial geophyte species identified in Attachment B, non-ground-disturbing treatment activities (i.e., manual treatments, herbicide application, prescribed burning) will be implemented only during the dormant season for these species (i.e., when the plant has no aboveground parts), which would generally occur during the winter, if feasible. If the limited operating period for annual and perennial geophyte species (i.e., only non-ground-disturbing treatment activities conducted during the dormant season) is determined to be infeasible, then protocol-level surveys will be required per SPR BIO-7. Note that ground-disturbing treatment activities (i.e., mechanical treatments, pile burning) may result in impacts on these plant species even when dormant, and will not be conducted without prior implementation of SPR BIO-7). <u>Special-Status Wildlife</u> ▶ Because there is no reliable season during which all impacts on Crotch's bumble bee, vernal pool branchiopods, and American badger could be avoided and avoidance of habitat is not feasible for these species, implementation of SPR BIO-10 would be required. ▶ Because there is no feasible no-disturbance buffer that would reduce all impacts on southern long-toed salamander, western spadefoot, coast horned lizard, and western pond turtle, and avoidance of habitat is not feasible for these species, implementation of SPR BIO-10 would be required. ▶ To avoid impacts on California red-legged frogs, the following measures will be implemented: ▪ During the wet season (i.e., starting with the first frontal rain system depositing a minimum of 0.25 inch of rain after October 15 and ending on April 15), the following measures will be implemented:			

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/ Monitoring Entity
• A 300-foot no-disturbance buffer will be applied to Class I streams, Class II streams with water, permanent ponds, and wetlands that meet the definition of aquatic breeding habitat suitable for the species as determined by a qualified RPF or biologist; • A 30-foot no-disturbance buffer will be applied to Class I streams that do not meet the definition of aquatic breeding habitat suitable for the species as determined by a qualified RPF or biologist, dry Class II streams, and Class III streams; and • No mechanical treatments will occur within 75 feet of Class I streams that do not meet the definition of aquatic breeding habitat suitable for the species as determined by a qualified RPF or biologist, and within 75 feet of dry Class II streams. ▪ During the dry season (i.e., starting April 15 and ending with the first frontal rain system depositing a minimum of 0.25 inch of rain after October 15), a 30-foot no-disturbance buffer will be applied to all Class I, Class II, and Class III streams, permanent ponds, and wetlands, that meet the definition of aquatic habitat suitable for California red-legged frog as determined by a qualified RPF or biologist. ▪ Further, year-round measures would require all trees to be felled away from aquatic habitat suitable for California red-legged frogs, and no pile burning within 300 feet of these aquatic habitats year-round. ▪ If avoidance measures for California red-legged frogs are not feasible, then SPR BIO-10 would be implemented. ▶ To avoid impacts on foothill yellow-legged frog and Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, a no-disturbance buffer of 200 feet will be implemented adjacent to all perennial (i.e., Class I and Class II) streams, as well as ponds and lakes in areas greater than approximately 3,500 feet in elevation, if feasible. If the 200-foot no-disturbance buffer is determined to be infeasible for certain treatments, then SPR BIO-10 will be implemented within suitable habitat areas. ▶ To avoid impacts on giant gartersnake, a 200-foot no-disturbance buffer will be implemented prior to commencement of treatment activities by flagging along all streams, drainage canals, irrigation ditches, wetlands, and marsh habitat determined to contain habitat conditions suitable for the species (i.e., emergent, herbaceous wetland vegetation such as cattails and bulrushes, upland habitat with grassy banks and openings in the waterside vegetation for basking) by a qualified RPF or biologist, in lowland portions (i.e., less than approximately 400 feet in elevation) of the project area. If the no-disturbance buffer is determined to be infeasible, then Mitigation Measure BIO-2a would be implemented, as CDFW and USFWS does not accept presence/absence surveys (e.g., conducted under SPR BIO-10) as proof of absence for giant gartersnake. ▶ To avoid impacts on California spotted owl, the following measures will be implemented: ▪ To determine whether a documented California spotted owl nesting occurrence is present within 0.25 mile of the treatment area, a qualified RPF or biologist will review California spotted owl occurrence data in the CNDDB and YWA will contact US Forest Service biologists from Tahoe National Forest or Plumas National Forest or Sierra Pacific Industries, as applicable, to obtain any recent survey and occurrence data for California spotted owl that have not been made publicly available (e.g., in the CNDDB).			

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/ Monitoring Entity
▪ If a nesting occurrence is determined to be present, or if nesting habitat suitable for California spotted owl as determined by a qualified RPF or biologist is present within or within 0.25 mile of a treatment area, potential impacts on the nesting occurrence or nesting habitat will be avoided by implementing a limited operating period within 0.25 mile of the occurrence or nesting habitat during the spotted owl nesting season (March 1–August 30) for mechanical treatments, manual treatments, and prescribed burning, if feasible. If the limited operating period is determined to be infeasible, then SPR BIO-10 will be implemented. ▶ To avoid impacts on special-status nesting birds, a limited operating period for mechanical treatments, manual treatments, prescribed burning, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory from February 1 to August 31 will be implemented, if feasible. If conducting some treatments outside of the nesting bird season is determined to be infeasible, then SPR BIO-10 will be implemented. ▶ To avoid impacts on valley elderberry longhorn beetle, blue elderberry shrubs within or adjacent to a treatment area will be avoided (i.e., no removal, no ground disturbance) by at least 165 feet in suitable habitat. If some treatments cannot be modified to avoid these shrubs by at least 165 feet, then SPR BIO-10 will be implemented. ▶ To avoid impacts on northern California ringtail, a limited operating period for mechanical treatments and prescribed burning (including broadcast and pile burning) from April 15 to June 30 will be implemented, if feasible. If conducting some mechanical treatments and prescribed burning outside of the ringtail maternity season is determined to be infeasible for certain treatments, then SPR BIO-10 will be implemented. ▶ To avoid impacts on Sierra Nevada mountain beaver, a limited operating period for mechanical treatments, manual treatments, prescribed burning, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory conducted within 200 feet of Class I and Class II streams with dense riparian vegetation and friable soils in treatment areas east of Strawberry Valley will be implemented, if feasible. If conducting some treatments within 200 feet of aquatic habitat in the range of Sierra Nevada mountain beaver is determined to be infeasible for certain treatments, then SPR BIO-10 will apply. ▶ To avoid impacts on special-status bat maternity colonies, a limited operating period for mechanical treatments, manual treatments, prescribed burning, and prescribed herbivory from April 1 to August 31 will be implemented, if feasible. If it is infeasible to follow the limited operating period, focused or protocol-level surveys will be required per SPR BIO-10. **2. Suitable Habitat is Present and Adverse Effects Cannot Be Clearly Avoided.** Further review and surveys will be conducted to determine presence/absence of sensitive biological resources that may be affected, as described in the SPRs below. Further review may include contacting USFWS, NOAA Fisheries, CDFW, CNPS, or local resource agencies as necessary to determine the potential for special-status species or other sensitive biological resources to be affected by the treatment activity. Focused or protocol-level surveys will be conducted as necessary to determine presence/absence. If protocol surveys are conducted, survey procedures will adhere to methodologies approved by resource agencies and the scientific community, such as those that are available on the CDFW webpage at: https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Survey-Protocols. Specific			

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/ Monitoring Entity
survey requirements are addressed for each resource type in relevant SPRs (e.g., additional survey requirements are presented for special-status plants in SPR BIO-7). This SPR applies to all treatment activities and treatment types, including treatment maintenance.			
SPR BIO-2: Require Biological Resource Training for Workers The project proponent will require crew members and contractors to receive training from a qualified RPF or biologist prior to beginning a treatment project. The training will describe the appropriate work practices necessary to effectively implement the biological SPRs and mitigation measures and to comply with the applicable environmental laws and regulations. The training will include the identification, relevant life history information, and avoidance of pertinent special-status species; identification and avoidance of sensitive natural communities and habitats with the potential to occur in the treatment area; impact minimization procedures; and reporting requirements. The training will instruct workers when it is appropriate to stop work and allow wildlife encountered during treatment activities to leave the area unharmed and when it is necessary to report encounters to a qualified RPF, biologist, or biological technician. The qualified RPF, biologist, or biological technician will immediately contact CDFW or USFWS, as appropriate, if any wildlife protected by the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) or Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) is encountered and cannot leave the site on its own (without being handled). This SPR applies to all treatment activities and treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	Prior to and during treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
Sensitive Natural Communities and Other Sensitive Habitats			
SPR BIO-3: Survey Sensitive Natural Communities and Other Sensitive Habitats If SPR BIO-1 determines that sensitive natural communities or sensitive habitats may be present and adverse effects cannot be avoided, the project proponent will: ▶ require a qualified RPF or biologist to perform a protocol-level survey following the CDFW "Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities" (current version dated March 20, 2018) of the treatment area prior to the start of treatment activities for sensitive natural communities and sensitive habitats. Sensitive natural communities will be identified using the best means possible, including keying them out using the most current edition of *A Manual of California Vegetation* (including updated natural communities data at http://vegetation.cnps.org/), or referring to relevant reports (e.g., reports found on the VegCAMP website). ▶ map and digitally record, using a Global Positioning System (GPS), the limits of any potential sensitive habitat and sensitive natural community identified in the treatment area. This SPR applies to all treatment activities and treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	Prior to treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR BIO-4: Design Treatment to Avoid Loss or Degradation of Riparian Habitat Function Project proponents, in consultation with a qualified RPF or qualified biologist, will design treatments in riparian habitats to retain or improve habitat functions by implementing the following within riparian habitats: ▶ Retain at least 75 percent of the overstory and 50 percent of the understory canopy of native riparian vegetation within the limits of riparian habitat identified and mapped during surveys conducted pursuant to	Prior to and during treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW Future treatments involving other agencies:	Yuba Water or CDFW Future treatments involving other agencies:

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SPR BIO-3. Native riparian vegetation will be retained in a well distributed multi-storied stand composed of a diversity of species similar to that found before the start of treatment activities. ▶ Treatments will be limited to removal of uncharacteristic fuel loads (e.g., removing dead or dying vegetation), trimming/limbing of woody species as necessary to reduce ladder fuels, and select thinning of vegetation to restore densities that are characteristic of healthy stands of the riparian vegetation types characteristic of the region. This includes hand removal (or mechanized removal where topography allows) of dead or dying riparian trees and shrubs, invasive plant removal, selective thinning, and removal of encroaching upland species. ▶ Removal of large, native riparian hardwood trees (e.g., willow, ash, maple, oak, alder, sycamore, cottonwood) will be minimized to the extent feasible and 75 percent of the pretreatment native riparian hardwood tree canopy will be retained. Because tree size varies depending on vegetation type present and site conditions, the tree size retention parameter will be determined on a site-specific basis depending on vegetation type present and setting; however, live, healthy, native trees that are considered large for that type of tree and large relative to other trees in that location will be retained. A scientifically-based, project-specific explanation substantiating the retention size parameter for native riparian hardwood tree removal will be provided in the Biological Resources Discussion of the PSA. Consideration of factors such as site hydrology, erosion potential, suitability of wildlife habitat, presence of sufficient seed trees, light availability, and changes in stream shading may inform the tree size retention requirements. ▶ Removed trees will be felled away from adjacent streams or waterbodies and piled outside of the riparian vegetation zone (unless there is an ecological reason to do otherwise that is approved by applicable regulatory agencies, such as adding large woody material to a stream to enhance fish habitat, e.g., see *Accelerated Wood Recruitment and Timber Operations: Process Guidance from the California Timber Harvest Review Team Agencies and National Marine Fisheries Service*). ▶ Vegetation removal that could reduce stream shading and increase stream temperatures will be avoided. ▶ Ground disturbance within riparian habitats will be limited to the minimum necessary to implement effective treatments. This will consist of the minimum disturbance area necessary to reduce hazardous fuels and return the riparian community to a natural fire regime (i.e., Condition Class 1) considering historic fire return intervals, climate change, and land use constraints. ▶ Only hand application of herbicides approved for use in aquatic environments will be allowed and only during low-flow periods or when seasonal streams are dry. ▶ The project proponent will notify CDFW when required by pursuant to California Fish and Game Code Section 1602 prior to implementing any treatment activities in riparian habitats. Notification will identify the treatment activities, map the vegetation to be removed, identify the impact avoidance identification methods to be used (e.g., flagging), and appropriate protections for the retention of shaded riverine habitat, including buffers and other applicable measures to prevent erosion into the waterway. ▶ In consideration of spatial variability of riparian vegetation types and condition and consistent with California Forest Practice Rules Section 916.9(v) (February 2019 version), a different set of vegetation retention standards and protection measures from those specified in the above bullets may be implemented on a site-specific		To be determined	To be determined

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/ Monitoring Entity
basis if the qualified RPF and the project proponent demonstrate through substantial evidence that alternative design measures provide a more effective means of achieving the treatment objectives and would result in effects to the Beneficial Functions of Riparian Zones equal or more favorable than those expected to result from application of the above measures. Deviation from the above design specifications, different protection measures and design standards will only be approved when the treatment plan incorporates an evaluation of beneficial functions of the riparian habitat and with written concurrence from CDFW. This SPR applies to all treatment activities and treatment types, including treatment maintenance.			
SPR BIO-5: Avoid Environmental Effects of Type Conversion and Maintain Habitat Function in Chaparral and Coastal Sage Scrub The project proponent will design treatment activities to avoid type conversion where native coastal sage scrub and chaparral are present. An ecological definition of type conversion is used in the CalVTP Program EIR for assessment of environmental effects: a change from a vegetation type dominated by native shrub species that are characteristic of chaparral and coastal sage scrub vegetation alliances to a vegetation type characterized predominantly by weedy herbaceous cover or annual grasslands. For the Program EIR, type conversion is considered in terms of habitat function, which is defined here as the arrangement and capability of habitat features to provide refuge, food source, and reproduction habitat to plants and animals, and thereby contribute to the conservation of biological and genetic diversity and evolutionary processes (de Groot et al. 2002). Some modification of habitat characteristics may occur provided habitat function is maintained (i.e., the location, essential habitat features, and species supported are not substantially changed). During the reconnaissance-level survey required in SPR BIO-1, a qualified RPF or biologist will identify chaparral and coastal sage scrub vegetation to the alliance level and determine the condition class and fire return interval departure of the chaparral and/or coastal sage scrub present in each treatment area. For all treatment types in chaparral and coastal sage scrub, the project proponent, in consultation with a qualified RPF or qualified biologist will: ▶ Develop a treatment design that avoids environmental effects of type conversion in chaparral and coastal sage scrub vegetation alliances, which will include evaluating and determining the appropriate spatial scale at which the proponent would consider type conversion, and substantiating its appropriateness. The project proponent will demonstrate with substantial evidence that the habitat function of chaparral and coastal sage scrub would be at least maintained within the identified spatial scale at which type conversion is evaluated for the specific treatment project. Consideration of factors such as site hydrology, erosion potential, suitability of wildlife habitat, spatial needs of sensitive species, presence of sufficient seed plants and nurse plants, light availability, and edge effects may inform the determination of an appropriate spatial scale. ▶ The treatment design will maintain a minimum percent cover of mature native shrubs within the treatment area to maintain habitat function; the appropriate percent cover will be identified by the project proponent in the development of treatment design and be specific to the vegetation alliances that are present in the identified spatial scale used to evaluate type conversion. Mature native shrubs that are retained will be distributed contiguously or in patches within the stand. If the stand consists of multiple age classes, patches	Prior to and during treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/ Monitoring Entity
representing a range of middle to old age classes will be retained to maintain and improve heterogeneity, to the extent needed to avoid type conversion. These SPR requirements apply to all treatment activities and all treatment types, including treatment maintenance. Additional measures will be applied to ecological restoration treatment types: ▶ For ecological restoration treatment types, complete removal of the mature shrub layer will not occur in native chaparral and coastal sage scrub vegetation types. ▶ Ecological restoration treatments will not be implemented in vegetation types that are within their natural fire return interval (i.e., time since last burn is less than the average time listed as the fire return interval range in Table 3.6-1) unless the project proponent demonstrates with substantial evidence that the habitat function of chaparral and coastal sage scrub would be improved. ▶ A minimum of 35 percent relative cover of existing shrubs and associated native vegetation will be retained at existing densities in patches distributed in a mosaic pattern within the treated area or the shrub canopy will be thinned by no more than 20 percent from baseline density (i.e., if baseline shrub canopy density is 60 percent, post treatment shrub canopy density will be no less than 40 percent). A different percent relative cover can be retained if the project proponent demonstrates with substantial evidence that alternative treatment design measures would result in effects on the habitat function of chaparral and coastal sage scrub that are equal or more favorable than those expected to result from application of the above measures. Biological considerations that may inform a deviation from the minimum 35 percent relative cover retention include but are not limited to soil moisture requirements, increased soil temperatures, changes in light/shading, presence of sufficient seed plants and nurse plants, erosion potential, and site hydrology. ▶ If the stand within the treatment area consists of multiple age classes, patches representing a range of middle to old age classes will be retained to maintain and improve heterogeneity. These SPR requirements apply to all treatment activities and only the ecosystem restoration treatment type, including treatment maintenance. A determination of compliance with the SB 1260 prohibition of type conversion in chaparral and coastal sage scrub is a statutory issue separate from CEQA compliance that may involve factors additional to the ecological definition and habitat functions presented in the Program EIR, such as geographic context. It is beyond the legal scope of the Program EIR to define SB 1260 type conversion and statutory compliance. The project proponent, acting as lead agency for the proposed later treatment project, will be responsible for defining type conversion in the context of the project and making the finding that type conversion would not occur, as required by SB 1260. The project proponent will determine its criteria for defining and avoiding type conversion and, in making its findings, may draw upon information presented in this Program EIR.			

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/ Monitoring Entity
SPR BIO-6: Prevent Spread of Plant Pathogens When working in sensitive natural communities, riparian habitats, or oak woodlands that are at risk from plant pathogens (e.g., Ione chaparral, blue oak woodland), the project proponent will implement the following best management practices to prevent the spread of *Phytopthora* and other plant pathogens (e.g., ~~pitch canker (*Fusarium*),~~ goldspotted oak borer, shot hole borer, bark beetle): ▶ clean and sanitize vehicles, equipment, tools, footwear, and clothes before arriving at a treatment site and when leaving a contaminated site, or a site in a county where contamination is a risk; ▶ include training on *Phytopthora* diseases and other plant pathogens in the worker awareness training; ▶ minimize soil disturbance as much as possible by limiting the number of vehicles, avoiding off-road travel as much as possible, and limiting use of mechanized equipment; ▶ minimize movement of soil and plant material within the site, especially between areas with high and low risk of contamination; ▶ clean soil and debris from equipment and sanitize hand tools, buckets, gloves, and footwear when moving from high risk to low risk areas or between widely separated portions of a treatment area; and ▶ follow the procedures listed in Guidance for plant pathogen prevention when working at contaminated restoration sites or with rare plants and sensitive habitat (Working Group for *Phytoptheras* in Native Habitats 2016). This SPR applies to all treatment activities and treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	Prior to and during treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR BIO-7: Survey for Special-Status Plants If SPR BIO-1 determines that suitable habitat for special-status plant species is present and cannot be avoided, the project proponent will require a qualified RPF or botanist to conduct protocol-level surveys for special-status plant species with the potential to be affected by a treatment prior to initiation of the treatment. The survey will follow the methods in the current version of CDFW's "Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities." Surveys to determine the presence or absence of special-status plant species will be conducted in suitable habitat that could be affected by the treatment and timed to coincide with the blooming or other appropriate phenological period of the target species (as determined by a qualified RPF or botanist), or all species in the same genus as the target species will be assumed to be special-status. If potentially occurring special-status plants are listed under CESA or ESA, protocol-level surveys to determine presence/absence of the listed species will be conducted in all circumstances, unless determined otherwise by CDFW or USFWS. For other special-status plants not listed under CESA or ESA, as defined in Section 3.6.1 of this Program EIR, surveys will not be required under the following circumstances: ▶ If protocol-level surveys, consisting of at least two survey visits (e.g., early blooming season and later blooming season) during a normal weather year, have been completed in the 5 years before implementation of the	Prior to treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/ Monitoring Entity
treatment project and no special-status plants were found, and no treatment activity has occurred following the protocol-level survey, treatment may proceed without additional plant surveys. ▶ If the target special-status plant species is an herbaceous annual, stump-sprouting, or geophyte species, the treatment may be carried out during the dormant season for that species or when the species has completed its annual lifecycle without conducting presence/absence surveys provided the treatment will not alter habitat or destroy seeds, stumps, or roots, rhizomes, bulbs and other underground parts in a way that would make it unsuitable for the target species to reestablish following treatment. This SPR applies to all treatment activities and treatment types, including treatment maintenance. **Project-Specific Implementation** ▶ If the limited operating period for annual and perennial geophyte species (i.e., non-ground-disturbing treatment activities conducted during the dormant season) is determined to be infeasible, then protocol-level surveys for these species will be conducted prior to implementation of treatments. ▶ Protocol-level surveys will be conducted for perennial species prior to implementation of treatments.			
Invasive Plants and Wildlife			
SPR BIO-9: Prevent Spread of Invasive Plants, Noxious Weeds, and Invasive Wildlife The project proponent will take the following actions to prevent the spread of invasive plants, noxious weeds, and invasive wildlife (e.g., New Zealand mudsnail): ▶ clean clothing, footwear, and equipment used during treatments of soil, seeds, vegetative matter, other debris or seed-bearing material, or water (e.g., rivers, streams, creeks, lakes) before entering the treatment area or when leaving an area with infestations of invasive plants, noxious weeds, or invasive wildlife; ▶ for all heavy equipment and vehicles traveling off road, pressure wash, if feasible, or otherwise appropriately decontaminate equipment at a designated weed-cleaning station prior to entering the treatment area from an area with infestations of invasive plants, noxious weeds, or invasive wildlife. Anti-fungal wash agents will be specified if the equipment has been exposed to any pathogen that could affect native species; ▶ inspect all heavy equipment, vehicles, tools, or other treatment-related materials for sand, mud, or other signs that weed seeds or propagules could be present prior to use in the treatment area. If the equipment is not clean, the qualified RPF or biological technician will deny entry to the work areas; ▶ stage equipment in areas free of invasive plant infestations unless there are no uninfested areas present within a reasonable proximity to the treatment area; ▶ identify significant infestations of invasive plant species (i.e., those rated as invasive by Cal-IPC or designated as noxious weeds by California Department of Food and Agriculture) during reconnaissance-level surveys and target them for removal during treatment activities. Treatment methods will be selected based on the invasive species present and may include herbicide application, manual or mechanical treatments, prescribed burning, and/or herbivory, and will be designed to maximize success in killing or removing the invasive plants and preventing reestablishment based on the life history characteristics of the invasive plant species present.	Prior to and during treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/ Monitoring Entity
Treatments will be focused on removing invasive plant species that cause ecological harm to native vegetation types, especially those that can alter fire cycles; ▶ treat invasive plant biomass onsite to eliminate seeds and propagules and prevent reestablishment or dispose of invasive plant biomass offsite at an appropriate waste collection facility (if not kept on site); transport invasive plant materials in a closed container or bag to prevent the spread of propagules during transport; and ▶ implement Fire and Fuel Management BMPs outlined in the "Preventing the Spread of Invasive Plants: Best Management Practices for Land Mangers" (Cal-IPC 2012, or current version). This SPR applies to all treatment activities and treatment types, including treatment maintenance.			
Wildlife			
SPR BIO-10: Survey for Special-Status Wildlife and Nursery Sites If SPR BIO-1 determines that suitable habitat for special-status wildlife species or nurseries of any wildlife species is present and cannot be avoided, the project proponent will require a qualified RPF or biologist to conduct focused or protocol-level surveys for special-status wildlife species or nursery sites (e.g., bat maternity roosts, deer fawning areas, heron or egret rookeries, monarch overwintering sites) with potential to be directly or indirectly affected by a treatment activity. The survey area will be determined by a qualified RPF or biologist based on the species and habitats and any recommended buffer distances in agency protocols. The qualified RPF or biologist will determine if following an established protocol is required, and the project proponent may consult with CDFW and/or USFWS for technical information regarding appropriate survey protocols. Unless otherwise specified in a protocol, the survey will be conducted no more than 14 days prior to the beginning of treatment activities. Focused or protocol surveys for a special-status species with potential to occur in the treatment area may not be required if presence of the species is assumed. This SPR applies to all treatment activities and treatment types, including treatment maintenance. **Project-Specific Implementation** ▶ If implementing the buffers for potential habitat for California red-legged frog described under SPR BIO-1 is determined to be infeasible, to avoid impacts on California red-legged frog, protocol-level surveys for California red-legged frog will be conducted by a qualified RPF or biologist pursuant to the *Revised Guidance on Site Assessments and Field Surveys for the California Red-Legged Frog* (USFWS 2005) within aquatic habitat potentially suitable for the species. ▶ If California red-legged frogs are not detected within the treatment area during protocol-level surveys, then no mitigation for the species would be required and the buffers described under SPR BIO-1 will not be required in the treatment area. ▶ If California red-legged frogs are identified during focused surveys, Mitigation Measure BIO-2a for this species will be implemented in addition to the 300-foot limited activity buffers described above. ▶ If the 200-foot no-disturbance buffer for foothill yellow-legged frog and Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog is determined to be infeasible, to avoid impacts on the species, focused visual encounter surveys for these	No more than 14 days prior to treatment, unless otherwise specified in a protocol	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/ Monitoring Entity
species will be conducted prior to treatment activities within 200 feet of perennial (i.e., Class I and Class II) streams and ponds, and lakes in areas greater than approximately 3,500 feet in elevation. Visual encounter surveys will include, at a minimum, a tadpole survey in the late spring/early summer and a second survey for subadults and adults in the late summer. In lieu of visual encounter surveys, a pre-activity survey will be conducted within 7 days prior to treatment activities. If foothill yellow-legged frogs or Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs are identified during focused surveys, Mitigation Measure BIO-2a for these species will be implemented. ▶ Because no-disturbance buffers for western spadefoot are not feasible (pursuant to SPR BIO-1), to avoid impacts on western spadefoot, focused surveys will be conducted in aquatic (i.e., vernal pool, wetland) and upland (i.e., grassland and oak woodland within approximately 860 feet of aquatic habitat) habitat suitable for the species prior to implementation of treatment activities in grasslands and oak woodland habitat. Focused surveys will be conducted during the breeding season (i.e., late winter to the end of March) to increase the probability of detecting the species. If western spadefoot toads are detected during focused surveys, then Mitigation Measure BIO-2b will be implemented. If, pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-2b, avoidance of a confirmed breeding pond by 860 feet is not feasible, then additional surveys in upland habitat (e.g., burrow surveys) will be required. ▶ Because no-disturbance buffers for southern long-toed salamanders are not feasible (pursuant to SPR BIO-1), to avoid impacts on southern long-toed salamanders, focused surveys (i.e., walk and turn surveys) will be conducted in habitat suitable for the species within 500 feet of aquatic habitat (i.e., streams, ponds, wetlands, seeps) prior to implementing treatment activities within 500 feet of aquatic habitat. If the species is detected during focused surveys, then Mitigation Measure BIO-2b will be implemented. ▶ Because no-disturbance buffers for coast horned lizards are not feasible (pursuant to SPR BIO-1), to avoid impacts on coast horned lizard, focused surveys (i.e., visual surveys) will be conducted in habitat suitable for the species (i.e., chaparral, coastal scrub, open oak woodlands) prior to implementing treatment activities within these habitats. If the species is detected during focused surveys, then Mitigation Measure BIO-2b will be implemented. ▶ Because no-disturbance buffers for western pond turtle are not feasible (pursuant to SPR BIO-1), to avoid impacts on western pond turtle, focused visual encounter surveys for the species and for potentially suitable burrows will be conducted within habitat areas suitable for the species prior to treatment activities within approximately 1,500 feet of aquatic habitat (i.e., streams, ponds). If burrows potentially suitable for western pond turtle are detected, the RPF or qualified biologist will inspect the burrow to determine whether it is occupied (e.g., using a burrow scope). If western pond turtles are identified during focused surveys, Mitigation Measure BIO-2b for this species will be implemented. ▶ If the limited operating period for California spotted owl is determined to be infeasible, to avoid impacts on the species, protocol-level surveys for California spotted owl will be conducted by a qualified RPF or biologist within a 0.25-mile buffer surrounding the treatment area prior to implementation of treatment activities where a documented nest or nesting habitat is present within 0.25 mile of the treatment area. Surveys for California			

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/ Monitoring Entity
spotted owl will be conducted pursuant to the *Protocol for Surveying for Spotted Owls in Proposed Management Activity Areas and Habitat Conservation Areas* (US Forest Service 1993) or any protocol subsequently developed by USFWS should the species be listed. SPI-managed land would follow *Sierra Pacific Industries' HCP Spotted Owl Survey Protocol and Activity Center Protections*, which is based on the USFWS survey protocol for northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*; SPI 2020). If nesting California spotted owls are identified during protocol-level surveys, Mitigation Measure BIO-2b will be implemented.			
▶ If the limited operating period for nesting birds is determined to be infeasible, to avoid impacts on special-status birds (i.e., bald eagle, bank swallow, black swift, burrowing owl, California black rail, golden eagle, grasshopper sparrow, great gray owl, loggerhead shrike, long-eared owl, northern goshawk, northern harrier, olive-sided flycatcher, purple martin, song sparrow ("Modesto" population), Swainson's hawk, tricolored blackbird, Vaux's swift, white-tailed kite, yellow warbler, yellow-breasted chat), focused surveys (i.e., nest searches) for nests of these species will be conducted prior to implementing treatment activities during the nesting bird season (February 1–August 31). The search areas will be 1 mile for bald eagle and golden eagle; 0.25 mile for great gray owl, Swainson's hawk, and white-tailed kite; and 500 feet for other special-status bird species. If nesting special-status birds are detected during focused surveys, Mitigation Measure BIO-2a will be implemented depending on the species detected. Prior to conducting focused surveys, YWA will contact US Forest Service biologists from Tahoe National Forest or Plumas National Forest, as applicable, to obtain any recent survey and occurrence data for great gray owl and northern goshawk that have not been made publicly available (e.g., in the CNDDB). If active special-status bird nests are observed during focused surveys, then mitigation measures BIO-2a (for bald eagle, bank swallow, black swift, California black rail, golden eagle, great gray owl, Swainson's hawk, tricolored blackbird, and white-tailed kite) and BIO-2b (for burrowing owl, grasshopper sparrow, loggerhead shrike, long-eared owl, northern goshawk, olive-sided flycatcher, purple martin, song sparrow ("Modesto" population), Vaux's swift, yellow warbler, and yellow-breasted chat) will be implemented.			
▶ Because limited operating periods for special-status bumble bees are not feasible, to avoid impacts on Crotch's bumble bees, a habitat assessment for Crotch's bumble bees will be conducted based on the guidance in the *Survey Considerations for California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Candidate Bumble Bee Species* (CDFW 2023). If the habitat assessment determines that habitat suitable for Crotch's bumble bee is present within a treatment area, then focused surveys for the species will be conducted prior to implementing treatments, or presence of this species will be assumed. The habitat assessment and survey will be conducted following the *Survey Considerations for California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Candidate Bumble Bee Species* (CDFW 2023). If Crotch's bumble bees are detected during focused surveys or assumed to be present in the project area, Mitigation Measure BIO-2g would be implemented.			
▶ Vernal pool branchiopods are assumed to occur in vernal pool habitats in low-elevation, grassland and oak savanna portions of the project area with hardpan/claypan substrates. SPR HYD-4 (including project-specific implementation) and Mitigation Measure BIO-4 would be implemented.			
▶ Because limited operating periods for special-status butterflies are not feasible, to avoid impacts on monarch, presence of the species in the project area will be assumed, and Mitigation Measure BIO-2e would be			

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/ Monitoring Entity
implemented. Focused surveys for Monarch host plants (milkweed [*Asclepias* spp.]) will be conducted in and within 10 feet of the project area prior to implementing treatment activities. If milkweed are detected during focused surveys, further surveys for monarch butterfly eggs, larvae, and pupae may be conducted or presence of monarch may be assumed. If milkweed host plants are detected during focused surveys and monarch butterfly is detected or assumed present, Mitigation Measure BIO-2e would be implemented. ▶ To avoid impacts on valley elderberry longhorn beetle in the western half of the treatment area (i.e., west of Dobbins, south of Marysville Road), surveys will be conducted by a qualified RPF or biologist prior to treatment activities to identify any blue elderberry shrubs within or adjacent to (i.e., within 165 feet [50 meters]) the treatment area. If no blue elderberry shrubs are present in the treatment area or within 165 feet of the treatment area, or treatments can be modified to avoid all elderberry shrubs by at least 165 feet, then further mitigation would not be required. If blue elderberry shrubs are present in the treatment area or within 165 feet of the treatment area, and treatments cannot be modified to avoid these shrubs by at least 165 feet, then implementation of SPR BIO-10 would also include protocol-level surveys following the protocol outlined in USFWS *Framework for Assessing Impacts to the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle* (USFWS 2017) to determine whether the blue elderberry shrubs are likely occupied by valley elderberry longhorn beetle (e.g., within riparian, within historic riparian, containing exit holes). Potential occupation of elderberry shrubs by valley elderberry longhorn beetles may also be presumed, in which case, protocol-level surveys under SPR BIO-10 would not be required. If the blue elderberry shrubs are determined to be likely occupied or presumed to be occupied by valley elderberry longhorn beetle, then mitigation measures BIO-2a and BIO-2d for valley elderberry longhorn beetle will be implemented. ▶ To avoid impacts on American badgers, a focused survey for the species and for potential dens will be conducted prior to implementing mechanical treatments and prescribed burning in habitat suitable for the species (i.e., grassland, open woodland). If American badger dens are detected during focused surveys, Mitigation Measure BIO-2b will be implemented. ▶ If the limited operating period for northern California ringtail is determined to be infeasible, to avoid impacts on the species, focused surveys for ringtail, including non-invasive survey methods (e.g., trail cameras, track plates, hair snares), will be conducted prior to implementing mechanical treatments and prescribed burning during the ringtail maternity season (April 15–June 30). If presence of ringtail is assumed or an active den is identified during focused surveys by a qualified RPF or biologist, Mitigation Measure BIO-2a will be implemented. ▶ If the no-disturbance buffer for Sierra Nevada mountain beaver is determined to be infeasible, to avoid impacts on the species, focused surveys (i.e., burrow searches) for Sierra Nevada mountain beavers will be conducted prior to implementing treatment activities within 200 feet of suitable aquatic habitat in the range of the species. If an active Sierra Nevada mountain beaver burrow is identified by a qualified RPF or biologist, Mitigation Measure BIO-2b will be implemented. ▶ To avoid impacts on special-status bats (i.e., pallid bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, western mastiff bat, western red bat), focused surveys for maternity roosts of these species will be conducted prior to implementing			

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/ Monitoring Entity
treatment activities (except for herbicide application) during the bat maternity season (April 1–August 31). This survey requirement does not apply in young conifer plantations, which do not provide roost habitat suitable for special-status bats. If special-status bat roosts are identified during focused surveys, Mitigation Measure BIO-2b for special-status bats will be implemented.			
SPR BIO-11: Install Wildlife-Friendly Fencing (Prescribed Herbivory) If temporary fencing is required for prescribed herbivory treatment, a wildlife-friendly fencing design will be used. The project proponent will require a qualified RPF or biologist to review and approve the design before installation to minimize the risk of wildlife entanglement. The fencing design will meet the following standards: ▶ Minimize the chance of wildlife entanglement by avoiding barbed wire, loose or broken wires, or any material that could impale or snag a leaping animal; and, if feasible, keeping electric netting-type fencing electrified at all times or laid down while not in use. ▶ Charge temporary electric fencing with intermittent pulse energizers; continuous output fence chargers will not be permitted. ▶ Allow wildlife to jump over easily without injury by installing fencing that can flex as animals pass over it and installing the top wire low enough (no more than approximately 40 inches high on flat ground) to allow adult ungulates to jump over it. The determination of appropriate fence height will consider slope, as steep slopes are more difficult for wildlife to pass. ▶ Be highly visible to birds and mammals by using high-visibility tape or wire, flagging, or other markers. This SPR applies only to prescribed herbivory and all treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	Prior to treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR BIO-12: Protect Common Nesting Birds, Including Raptors The project proponent will schedule treatment activities to avoid the active nesting season of common native bird species, including raptors, that could be present within or adjacent to the treatment site, if feasible. Common native birds are species not otherwise treated as special status in the CalVTP Program EIR. The active nesting season will be defined by the qualified RPF or biologist. If active nesting season avoidance is not feasible, a qualified RPF or biologist will conduct a survey for common nesting birds, including raptors. Existing records (e.g., CNDDB, eBird database, State Wildlife Action Plan) should be reviewed in advance of the survey to identity the common nesting birds, including raptors, that are known to occur in the vicinity of the treatment site. The survey area will encompass reasonably accessible areas of the treatment site and the immediately surrounding vicinity viewable from the treatment site. The survey area will be determined by a qualified RPF or biologist, based on the potential species in the area, location of suitable nesting habitat, and type of treatment. For vegetation removal or project activities that would occur during the nesting season, the survey will be conducted at a time that balances the effectiveness of detecting nests and the reasonable consideration of potential avoidance strategies. Typically, this timeframe would be up to 3 weeks before treatment. The survey will occur in a single survey period of sufficient duration to reasonably detect nesting birds, including raptors, typically one day for most treatment projects (depending on the size, configuration, and vegetation density in the treatment site), and conducted during the active time of day for target species, typically close to dawn and/or dusk. The survey	Conduct a survey for common nesting birds (if needed) at a time that balances the effectiveness of detecting nests and the reasonable consideration of potential avoidance strategies (typically no more than approximately 14 days before treatment); if an active nest is observed, implement avoidance strategies prior to and during treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/ Monitoring Entity
may be conducted concurrently with other biological surveys, if they are required by other SPRs. Survey methods will be tailored by the qualified RPF or biologist to site and habitat conditions, typically involving walking throughout the survey area, visually searching for nests and birds exhibiting behavior that is typical of breeding (e.g., delivering food). If an active nest is observed (i.e., presence of eggs and/or chicks) or determined to likely be present based on nesting bird behavior, the project proponent will implement a feasible strategy to avoid disturbance of active nests, which may include, but is not limited to, one or more of the following: ▶ **Establish Buffer.** The project proponent will establish a temporary, species-appropriate buffer around the nest sufficient to reasonably expect that breeding would not be disrupted. Treatment activities will be implemented outside of the buffer. The buffer location will be determined by a qualified RPF or biologist. Factors to be considered for determining buffer location will include: presence of natural buffers provided by vegetation or topography, nest height above ground, baseline levels of noise and human activity, species sensitivity, and expected treatment activities. Nests of common birds within the buffer need not be monitored during treatment. However, buffers will be maintained until young fledge or the nest becomes inactive, as determined by the qualified RPF, biologist, or biological technician. ▶ **Modify Treatment.** The project proponent will modify the treatment in the vicinity of an active nest to avoid disturbance of active nests (e.g., by implementing manual treatment methods, rather than mechanical treatment methods). Treatment modifications will be determined by the project proponent in coordination with the qualified RPF or biologist. ▶ **Defer Treatment.** The project proponent will defer the timing of treatment in the portion(s) of the treatment site that could disturb the active nest. If this avoidance strategy is implemented, treatment activity will not commence until young fledge or the nest becomes inactive, as determined by the qualified RPF, biologist, or biological technician. Feasible actions will be taken by the project proponent to avoid loss of common native bird nests. The feasibility of implementing the avoidance strategies will be determined by the project proponent based on whether implementation of this SPR will preclude completing the treatment project within the reasonable period of time necessary to meet CalVTP program objectives, including, but not limited to, protection of vulnerable communities. Considerations may include limitations on the presence of environmental and atmospheric conditions necessary to execute treatment prescriptions (e.g., the limited seasonal windows during which prescribed burning can occur when vegetation moisture, weather, wind, and other physical conditions are suitable). If it is infeasible to avoid loss of common bird nests (not including raptor nests), the project proponent will document the reasons implementation of the avoidance strategies is infeasible in the PSA. After completion of the PSA and prior to or during treatment implementation, if there is any change in the feasibility of avoidance strategies from those explained in the PSA, this will be documented in the post-project implementation report (referred to by CAL FIRE as a Completion Report). The following avoidance strategies may also be considered together with or in lieu of other actions for implementation by a project proponent to avoid disturbance to raptor nests:			

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/ Monitoring Entity
▶ **Monitor Active Raptor Nest During Treatment.** A qualified RPF, biologist, or biological technician will monitor an active raptor nest during treatment activities to identify signs of agitation, nest defense, or other behaviors that signal disturbance of the active nest is likely (e.g., standing up from a brooding position, flying off the nest). If breeding raptors are showing signs of nest disturbance, one of the other avoidance strategies (establish buffer, modify treatment or defer treatment) will be implemented or a pause in the treatment activity will occur until the disturbance behavior ceases. ▶ **Retention of Raptor Nest Trees.** Trees with visible raptor nests, whether occupied or not, will be retained. This SPR applies to all treatment activities and treatment types, including treatment maintenance.			
Geology, Soils, Paleontology, and Mineral Resource Standard Project Requirements			
SPR GEO-1 Suspend Disturbance during Heavy Precipitation: The project proponent will suspend mechanical, prescribed herbivory (i.e., goats and sheep only), and herbicide treatments if: (1) it is raining, (2) soils are saturated, and/or (3) soils are wet enough to be compacted by mechanical or prescribed herbivory activities. ~~if the National Weather Service forecast is a "chance" (30 percent or more) of rain within the next 24 hours~~ The project proponent will be prepared to completely suspend mechanical, prescribed herbivory (i.e., goats and sheep only), and herbicide treatment activities prior to the initiation of the rain event. Activities that cause mechanical soil disturbance may resume when precipitation stops and soils are no longer saturated (i.e., when soil and/or surface material pore spaces are filled with water to such an extent that runoff is likely to occur). Indicators of saturated soil conditions may include, but are not limited to: (1) areas of ponded water, (2) pumping of fines from the soil or road surfacing, (3) loss of bearing strength resulting in the deflection of soil or road surfaces under a load, such as the creation of wheel ruts, (4) spinning or churning of wheels or tracks that produces a wet slurry, or (5) inadequate traction without blading wet soil or surfacing materials, or (6) tire track imprints or hoof marks in the soil. This SPR applies only to mechanical, prescribed herbivory (i.e., goats and sheep only), and herbicide treatment activities and all treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	During treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR GEO-2: Limit High Ground Pressure Vehicles The project proponent will limit heavy equipment that could cause soil disturbance or compaction to be driven through treatment areas when soils are wet and saturated to avoid compaction and/or damage to soil structure. Saturated soil means that soil and/or surface material pore spaces are filled with water to such an extent that runoff is likely to occur. If use of heavy equipment is required in saturated areas, other measures such as operating on organic debris, using low ground pressure vehicles, or operating on frozen soils/snow covered soils will be implemented to minimize soil compaction. Existing compacted road surfaces are exempted as they are already compacted from use. This SPR applies only to mechanical treatment activities and all treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	During treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/ Monitoring Entity
SPR GEO-3: Stabilize Disturbed Soil Areas The project proponent will stabilize bare soil disturbed during mechanical, prescribed herbivory treatments, and prescribed burns within WLPZs and equipment limitation zones~~that result in exposure of bare soil over 50 percent or more of the treatment area with mulch or equivalent immediately after treatment activities, to the maximum extent practicable~~, to minimize the potential for substantial sediment discharge. If mechanical, prescribed herbivory, or prescribed burn treatment activities could result in substantial sediment discharge from soil disturbed by machinery, animal hooves, or being bare, organic material from mastication or mulch will be incorporated onto bare soils within WLPZs and equipment limitation zones~~at least 75 percent of the disturbed soil surface where the soil erosion hazard is moderate or high, and 50 percent of the disturbed soil surface where soil erosion hazard is low~~ to help prevent erosion. Where slash mulch is used, it will be packed into the ground surface with heavy equipment so that it is sufficiently in contact with the soil surface. This SPR only applies to mechanical, prescribed herbivory, and prescribed burns that result in exposure of bare soil within WLPZs and equipment limitation zones~~over 50 percent of the project area treatment activities~~ and all treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	During mechanical and prescribed burn activities that result in exposure of bare soil over 50 percent or more of the treatment area	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR GEO-4: Erosion Monitoring The project proponent will inspect treatment areas for the proper implementation of erosion control SPRs and mitigations prior to the rainy season. If erosion control measures are not properly implemented, they will be remediated prior to the first rainfall event per SPR GEO-3 and GEO-8. Additionally, the project proponent will inspect for evidence of erosion after the first large storm or rainfall event (i.e., ≥ 1.5 inches in 24 hours) as soon as is feasible after the event. Any area of erosion that will result in substantial sediment discharge will be remediated within 48 hours per the methods stated in SPRs GEO-3 and GEO-8. This SPR applies only to mechanical, prescribed herbivory, and prescribed burning treatment activities and all treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	Inspect treatment areas for the proper implementation of erosion control SPRs and mitigations prior to the rainy season; if erosion control measures are not properly implemented, remediate prior to the first rainfall event; inspect for evidence of erosion after the first large storm or rainfall event (i.e., ≥ 1.5 inches in 24 hours) as soon as is feasible after the event; any area of erosion that will result in substantial sediment discharge will be remediated within 48 hours	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR GEO-5: Drain Stormwater via Water Breaks The project proponent will drain compacted and/or bare linear treatment areas capable of generating storm runoff via water breaks using the spacing and erosion control guidelines contained in Sections 914.6, 934.6, and 954.6(c) of the California Forest Practice Rules (February 2019 version). Where waterbreaks cannot effectively disperse surface runoff, including where waterbreaks cause surface run-off to be concentrated on downslopes, other erosion controls will be installed as needed to maintain site productivity by minimizing soil loss. This SPR applies only to mechanical, manual, and prescribed burn treatment activities and all treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	During mechanical, manual, and prescribed burn treatment activities	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/ Monitoring Entity
SPR GEO-6: Minimize Burn Pile Size The project proponent will not create burn piles that exceed 20 feet in length, width, or diameter, except when on landings, road surfaces, or on contour to minimize the spatial extent of soil damage. In addition, burn piles will not occupy more than 15 percent of the total treatment area (Busse et al. 2014). The project proponent will not locate burn piles in a Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone as defined in SPR HYD-4. This SPR applies to mechanical, manual, and prescribed burning treatment activities and all treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	During mechanical, manual, and prescribed burn treatment activities	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR GEO-7: Minimize Erosion To minimize erosion, the project proponent will: (1) Prohibit use of heavy equipment where any of the following conditions are present: (i) Slopes steeper than 65 percent. (ii) Slopes steeper than 50 percent where the erosion hazard rating is high or extreme. (iii) Slopes steeper than 50 percent that lead without flattening to sufficiently dissipate water flow and trap sediment before it reaches a watercourse or lake. (2) On slopes between 50 percent and 65 percent where the erosion hazard rating is moderate, and all slope percentages are for average slope steepness based on sample areas that are 20 acres, or less, heavy equipment will be limited to: (i) Existing tractor roads that do not require reconstruction, or (ii) New tractor roads flagged by the project proponent prior to the treatment activity. (3) Prescribed herbivory treatments will not be used in areas with over 50 percent slope. This SPR applies to all treatment activities and all treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	During treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR GEO-8: Steep Slopes The project proponent will require a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) or licensed geologist to evaluate treatment areas with slopes greater than 50 percent for unstable areas (areas with potential for landslide) and unstable soils (soil with moderate to high erosion hazard). If unstable areas or soils are identified within the treatment area, are unavoidable, and will be potentially directly or indirectly affected by the treatment, a licensed geologist (P.G. or C.E.G.) will determine the potential for landslide, erosion, of other issue related to unstable soils and identity measures (e.g., those in SPR GEO-7) that will be implemented by the project proponent such that substantial erosion or loss of topsoil would not occur. This SPR applies only to mechanical treatment activities and WUI fuel reduction, non-shaded fuel breaks, and ecological restoration treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	Prior to and during treatment on slopes greater than 50 percent	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/ Monitoring Entity
Hazardous Material and Public Health and Safety Standard Project Requirements			
SPR HAZ-1: Maintain All Equipment The project proponent will maintain all diesel- and gasoline-powered equipment per manufacturer's specifications, and in compliance with all state and federal emissions requirements. Maintenance records will be available for verification. Prior to the start of treatment activities, the project proponent will inspect all equipment for leaks and inspect everyday thereafter until equipment is removed from the site. Any equipment found leaking will be promptly removed. This SPR applies to all treatment activities and treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	Inspect all equipment for leaks prior to treatment; inspect everyday thereafter until equipment is removed from the site; promptly remove any leaking equipment; maintain all diesel- and gasoline-powered equipment per manufacturer's specifications and in compliance with all state and federal emissions requirements during treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR HAZ-2: Require Spark Arrestors The project proponent will require mechanized hand tools to have federal- or state-approved spark arrestors. This SPR applies only to manual treatment activities and all treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	During manual treatment activities	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR HAZ-3: Require Fire Extinguishers The project proponent will require tree cutting crews to carry one fire extinguisher per chainsaw. Each vehicle would be equipped with one long-handled shovel and one axe or Pulaski consistent with PRC Section 4428. This SPR applies only to manual treatment activities and all treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	During manual treatment activities	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR HAZ-4 Prohibit Smoking in Vegetated Areas The project proponent will require that smoking is only permitted in designated smoking areas barren or cleared to mineral soil at least 3 feet in diameter (PRC Section 4423.4). This SPR applies to all treatment activities and treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	During treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/ Monitoring Entity
SPR HAZ-5: Spill Prevention and Response Plan The project proponent or licensed Pest Control Advisor (PCA) will prepare a Spill Prevention and Response Plan (SPRP) prior to beginning any herbicide treatment activities to provide protection to onsite workers, the public, and the environment from accidental leaks or spills of herbicides, adjuvants, or other potential contaminants. The SPRP will include (but not be limited to): ▶ a map that delineates staging areas, and storage, loading, and mixing areas for herbicides; ▶ a list of items required in an onsite spill kit that will be maintained throughout the life of the activity; ▶ procedures for the proper storage, use, and disposal of any herbicides, adjuvants, or other chemicals used in vegetation treatment. This SPR applies only to herbicide treatment activities and all treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	Prepare SPRP prior to beginning any herbicide treatment activities; implement measures during herbicide treatment activities	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR HAZ-6: Comply with Herbicide Application Regulations The project proponent will coordinate pesticide use with the applicable County Agricultural Commissioner(s), and all required licenses and permits will be obtained prior to herbicide application. The project proponent will prepare all herbicide applications to do the following: ▶ Be implemented consistent with recommendations prepared annually by a licensed PCA. ▶ Comply with all appropriate laws and regulations pertaining to the use of pesticides and safety standards for employees and the public, as governed by the EPA, DPR, and applicable local jurisdictions. ▶ Adhere to label directions for application rates and methods, storage, transportation, mixing, container disposal, and weather limitations to application such as wind speed, humidity, temperature, and precipitation. ▶ Be applied by an applicator appropriately licensed by the State. This SPR applies only to herbicide treatment activities and all treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	Prior to herbicide treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR HAZ-7: Triple Rinse Herbicide Containers The project proponent will triple rinse all herbicide and adjuvant containers with clean water at an approved site, and dispose of rinsate by placing it in the batch tank for application per 3 CCR Section 6684. The project proponent will puncture used containers on the top and bottom to render them unusable, unless said containers are part of a manufacturer's container recycling program, in which case the manufacturer's instructions will be followed. Disposal of non-recyclable containers will be at legal dumpsites. Equipment will not be cleaned, and personnel will not be washed in a manner that would allow contaminated water to directly enter any body of water within the treatment area or adjacent watersheds. Disposal of all herbicides will follow label requirements and waste disposal regulations. This SPR applies only to herbicide treatment activities and all treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	During all herbicide treatment activities	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/ Monitoring Entity
SPR HAZ-8: Minimize Herbicide Drift to Public Areas The project proponent will employ the following herbicide application parameters during herbicide application to minimize drift into public areas: ▶ application will cease when weather parameters exceed label specifications or when sustained winds at the site of application exceeds 7 miles per hour (whichever is more conservative); ▶ spray nozzles will be configured to produce the largest appropriate droplet size to minimize drift; ▶ low nozzle pressures (30-70 pounds per square inch) will be utilized to minimize drift; and ▶ spray nozzles will be kept within 24 inches of vegetation during spraying. This SPR applies only to herbicide treatment activities and all treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	During all herbicide treatment activities	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR HAZ-9: Notification of Herbicide Use in the Vicinity of Public Areas For herbicide applications occurring within or adjacent to public recreation areas, residential areas, schools, or any other public areas within 500 feet, the project proponent will post signs at each end of herbicide treatment areas and any intersecting trails notifying the public of the use of herbicides. The signs will include the signal word (i.e., Danger, Warning or Caution), product name, and manufacturer; active ingredient; EPA registration number; target pest; treatment location; date and time of application; restricted entry interval, if applicable per the label requirements; date which notification sign may be removed; and a contact person with a telephone number. Signs will be posted prior to the start of treatment and notification will remain in place for at least 72 hours after treatment ceases. This SPR applies only to herbicide treatment activities and all treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	During herbicide treatment activities occurring within or adjacent to public recreation areas, residential areas, schools, or any other public areas within 500 feet	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
Hydrology and Water Quality Standard Project Requirements			
SPR HYD-1: Comply with Water Quality Regulations Project proponents must also conduct proposed vegetation treatments in conformance with appropriate RWQCB timber, vegetation and land disturbance related Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) and/or related Conditional Waivers of Waste Discharge Requirements (Waivers), and appropriate Basin Plan Prohibitions. Where these regulatory requirements differ, the most restrictive will apply. If applicable, this includes compliance with the conditions of general waste discharge requirements (WDR) and waste discharge requirement waivers for timber or silviculture activities where these waivers are designed to apply to non-commercial fuel reduction and forest health projects. In general, WDR and Waivers of waste discharge requirements for fuel reduction and forest health activities require that wastes, including but not limited to petroleum products, soil, silt, sand, clay, rock, felled trees, slash, sawdust, bark, ash, and pesticides must not be discharged to surface waters or placed where it may be carried into surface waters; and that Water Board staff must be allowed reasonable access to the property in order to determine compliance with the waiver conditions. The specifications for each WDR and Waiver vary by region. Regions 2 (San Francisco Bay), 4 (Los Angeles), 8 (Santa Ana), and 7 (Colorado River) are highly urban or minimally forested and do not offer WDRs or Waivers for fuel reduction or vegetation management activities. The current applicable WDRs and Waivers for timber and vegetation management activities are included in Appendix HYD-1. This SPR applies to all treatment activities and treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	During treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/ Monitoring Entity
Project-Specific Implementation Vegetation treatment activities may result in discharges to waters of the state; therefore; compliance with Water Code sections 13260(a)(1) and 13264 are required. YWA will use the State Water Board's Vegetation Treatment General Order, which provides a mechanism for Water Code compliance for projects that prepare a CalVTP PSA or PSA/Addendum. The project will be automatically enrolled (through implementation of SPR AD-7) in the State Water Board's Vegetation Treatment General Order. The project's automatic enrollment satisfies the requirements of SPR HYD-1.			
SPR HYD-2: Avoid Construction of New Roads The project proponent will not construct or reconstruct (i.e., cutting or filling involving less than 50 cubic yards/0.25 linear road miles) any new roads (including temporary roads). This SPR applies to all treatment activities and treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	Prior to treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR HYD-3: Water Quality Protections for Prescribed Herbivory The project proponent will include the following water quality protections for all prescribed herbivory treatments: ▶ Environmentally sensitive areas such as waterbodies, wetlands, or riparian areas will be identified in the treatment prescription and excluded from prescribed herbivory project areas using temporary fencing or active herding. A buffer of approximately 50 feet will be maintained between sensitive and actively grazed areas. ▶ Water will be provided for grazing animals in the form of an on-site stock pond or a portable water source located outside of environmentally sensitive areas. ▶ Treatment prescriptions will be designed to protect soil stability. Grazing animals will be herded out of an area if accelerated soil erosion is observed. This SPR applies to prescribed herbivory treatment activities and all treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	Prior to prescribed herbivory treatment activities	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR HYD-4: Identify and Protect Watercourse and Lake Protection Zones The project proponent will establish Watercourse and Lake Protection Zones (WLPZs) on either side of watercourses as defined in the table below, which is based on 14 CCR Section 916.5 of the California Forest Practice Rules (February 2019 version). WLPZ's are classified based on the uses of the stream and the presence of aquatic life. Wider WLPZs are required for steep slopes.	Establish WLPZs during design of treatment project; implement WLPZ protections during treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Procedures for Determining Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone (WLPZ) Widths

Water Class	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV
Water Class Characteristics or Key Indicator Beneficial Use	1) Domestic supplies, including springs, on site and/or within 100 feet downstream of the operations area and/or 2) Fish always or seasonally present onsite, includes habitat to sustain fish migration and spawning.	1) Fish always or seasonally present offsite within 1000 feet downstream and/or 2) Aquatic habitat for nonfish aquatic species. 3) Excludes Class III waters that are tributary to Class I waters.	No aquatic life present, watercourse showing evidence of being capable of sediment transport to Class I and II waters under normal high-water flow conditions after completion of timber operations.	Man-made watercourses, usually downstream, established domestic, agricultural, hydroelectric supply or other beneficial use.
WLPZ Width (ft) – Distance from top of bank to the edge of WLPZ				
< 30 % Slope	75	50	Sufficient to prevent the degradation of downstream beneficial uses of water. Determined on a site-specific basis.	
30-50 % Slope	100	75		
>50 % Slope	150	100		

Source: 14 CCR Section 916.5 [936.5, 956.5] (February 2019 version)

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/Monitoring Entity
The following WLPZ protections will be applied for all treatments: ▶ Treatment activities with WLPZs will retain at least 75 percent surface cover and undisturbed area to act as a filter strip for raindrop energy dissipation and for wildlife habitat. If this percentage is reduced a qualified RPF will provide the project proponent with a site- and/or treatment activity-specific explanation for the percent surface cover reduction, which will be included in the PSA. After completion of the PSA and prior to or during treatment implementation, if there is any deviation (e.g., further reduction) from the reduced percent as explained in the PSA, this will be documented in the post-project implementation report (referred to by CAL FIRE as a Completion Report). This requirement is based on 14 CCR Section 916.4 [936.4, 956.4] Subsection (b)(6) (February 2019 version) and 14 CCR Section 916.5 (February 2019 version). ▶ Equipment, including tractors and vehicles, must not be driven in wet areas or WLPZs, except over existing roads or watercourse crossings where vehicle tires or tracks remain dry. ▶ Equipment used in vegetation removal operations will not be serviced in WLPZs, within wet meadows or other wet areas, or in locations that would allow grease, oil, or fuel to pass into lakes, watercourses, or wet areas. ▶ WLPZs will be kept free of slash, debris, and other material that harm the beneficial uses of water. Accidental deposits will be removed immediately. ▶ Burn piles will be located outside of WLPZs. ▶ No fire ignition (nor use of associated accelerants) will occur within WLPZs however low intensity backing fires may be allowed to enter or spread into WLPZs. ▶ Within Class I and Class II WLPZs, locations where project operations expose a continuous area of mineral soil 800 square feet or larger shall be treated for reduction of soil loss. Treatment shall occur prior to October 15th and disturbances that are created after October 15th shall be treated within 10 days. Stabilization measures shall be selected that will prevent significant movement of soil into water bodies and may include but are not limited to mulching, rip-rap, grass seeding, or chemical soil stabilizers. ▶ Where mineral soil has been exposed by project operations on approaches to watercourse crossings of Class I, II, or III within a WLPZ, the disturbed area shall be stabilized to the extent necessary to prevent the discharge of soil into watercourses or lakes in amounts that would adversely affect the quality and beneficial uses of the watercourse. ▶ Where necessary to protect beneficial uses of water from project operations, protection measures such as seeding, mulching, or replanting shall be used to retain and improve the natural ability of the ground cover within the WLPZ to filter sediment, minimize soil erosion, and stabilize banks of watercourses and lakes. ▶ Equipment limitation zones (ELZs) will be designated adjacent to Class III and Class IV watercourses with minimum widths of 25 feet where side-slope is less than 30 percent and 50 feet where side-slope is 30 percent or greater. An RPF will describe the limitations of heavy equipment within the ELZ and, where appropriate, will include additional measures to protect the beneficial uses of water. This SPR applies to all treatment activities and treatment types, including treatment maintenance.			

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/Monitoring Entity
Project-Specific Implementation Refined to include a 250-foot no-disturbance buffer (as recommended by USFWS) around all vernal pool and similar seasonal wetland habitat in low-elevation, grassland and oak savanna portions of the treatment area with hardpan/claypan substrates. The 250-foot no-disturbance buffer will be implemented prior to commencement of treatment activities and the buffer will be demarcated with flagging or high-visibility fencing.			
SPR HYD-5: Protect Non-Target Vegetation and Special-status Species from Herbicides The project proponent will implement the following measures when applying herbicides: ▶ Locate herbicide mixing sites in areas devoid of vegetation and where there is no potential of a spill reaching non-target vegetation or a waterway. ▶ Use only herbicides labeled for use in aquatic environments when working in riparian habitats or other areas where there is a possibility the herbicide could come into direct contact with water. Only hand application of herbicides will be allowed in riparian habitats and only during low-flow periods or when seasonal streams are dry. ▶ No terrestrial or aquatic herbicides will be applied within WLPZs of Class I and II watercourses, if feasible. If this is not feasible, hand application of herbicides labeled for use in aquatic environments may be used within the WLPZ provided that the project proponent notifies the applicable regional water quality control board no fewer than 15 days prior to herbicide application. The feasibility of avoiding herbicide application within WLPZ of Class I and II watercourses will be determined by the project proponent and may be based on whether doing so will preclude achieving CalVTP program objectives, including, but not limited to, protection of vulnerable communities. The reasons for infeasibility will be documented in the PSA. ▶ No herbicides will be applied within a 50-foot buffer of ESA or CESA listed plant species or within 50 feet of dry vernal pools. ▶ For spray applications in and adjacent to habitats suitable for special-status species, use herbicides containing dye (registered for aquatic use by DPR, if warranted) to prevent overspray. ▶ Application will cease when weather parameters exceed label specifications or when sustained winds at the site of application exceeds 7 miles per hour (whichever is more conservative). ▶ No herbicide will be applied during precipitation events or if precipitation is forecast 24 hours before or after project activities. This SPR applies to herbicide treatment activities and all treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	During herbicide treatment activities	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR HYD-6: Protect Existing Drainage Systems If a treatment activity is adjacent to a roadway with stormwater drainage infrastructure, the existing stormwater drainage infrastructure will be marked prior to ground disturbing activities. If a drainage structure or infiltration system is inadvertently disturbed or modified during project activities, the project proponent will coordinate with owner of the system or feature to repair any damage and restore pre-project drainage conditions. This SPR applies to all treatment activities and treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	Mark existing stormwater drainage infrastructure prior to ground disturbing activities; if a drainage structure or infiltration system is inadvertently	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/Monitoring Entity
	disturbed or modified during treatment, coordinate with owner to repair damage and restore pre-project drainage conditions		
Noise Standard Project Requirements			
SPR NOI-1: Limit Heavy Equipment Use to Daytime Hours The project proponent will require that operation of heavy equipment associated with treatment activities (heavy off-road equipment, tools, and delivery of equipment and materials) will occur during daytime hours if such noise would be audible to receptors (e.g., residential land uses, schools, hospitals, places of worship). Cities and counties in the treatable landscape typically restrict construction-noise (which would apply to vegetation treatment noise) to particular daytime hours. If the project proponent is subject to local noise ordinance, it will adhere to those to the extent the project is subject to them. If the applicable jurisdiction does not have a noise ordinance or policy restricting the time-of-day when noise-generating activity can occur noise-generating vegetation treatment activity will be limited to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Sunday and federal holidays. If the project proponent is not subject to local ordinances (e.g., CAL FIRE), it will adhere to the restrictions stated above or may elect to adhere to the restrictions identified by the local ordinance encompassing the treatment area. This SPR applies to all treatment activities and treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	During treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR NOI-2: Equipment Maintenance The project proponent will require that all powered treatment equipment and power tools will be used and maintained according to manufacturer specifications. All diesel- and gasoline-powered treatment equipment will be properly maintained and equipped with noise-reduction intake and exhaust mufflers and engine shrouds, in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations. This SPR applies to all activities and all treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	During treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR NOI-3: Engine Shroud Closure The project proponent will require that engine shrouds be closed during equipment operation. This SPR applies only to mechanical treatment activities and all treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	During treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/Monitoring Entity
SPR NOI-4: Locate Staging Areas Away from Noise-Sensitive Land Uses The project proponent will locate treatment activities, equipment, and equipment staging areas away from nearby noise-sensitive land uses (e.g., residential land uses, schools, hospitals, places of worship), to the extent feasible, to minimize noise exposure. This SPR applies to all treatment activities and treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	During treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR NOI-5: Restrict Equipment Idle Time The project proponent will require that all motorized equipment be shut down when not in use. Idling of equipment and haul trucks will be limited to 5 minutes. This SPR applies to all treatment activities and all treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	During treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
SPR NOI-6: Notify Nearby Off-Site Noise-Sensitive Receptors For treatment activities utilizing heavy equipment, the project proponent will notify noise-sensitive receptors (e.g., residential land uses, schools, hospitals, places of worship) located within 1,500 feet of the treatment activity. Notification will include anticipated dates and hours during which treatment activities are anticipated to occur and contact information, including a daytime telephone number, of the project representative. Recommendations to assist noise-sensitive land uses in reducing interior noise levels (e.g., closing windows and doors) will also be included in the notification. This SPR applies only to mechanical treatment activities and all treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	Prior to mechanical treatment activities within 1,500 feet of noise-sensitive receptors	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
Recreation Standard Project Requirements			
SPR REC-1: Notify Recreational Users of Temporary Closures If a treatment activity would require temporary closure of a public recreation area or facility, the project proponent will coordinate with the owner/manager of that recreation area or facility. If temporary closure of a recreation area or facility is required, the project proponent will work with the owner/manager to post notifications of the closure at least 2 weeks prior to the commencement of the treatment activities. Additionally, notification of the treatment activity will be provided to the Administrative Officer (or equivalent official responsible for distribution of public information) of the county(ies) in which the affected recreation area or facility is located. This SPR applies to all treatment activities and treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	If a temporary closure of a public recreation area or facility is required, post notifications at least 14 days prior to treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Standard Project Requirements	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/Monitoring Entity
Transportation Standard Project Requirements			
SPR TRAN-1: Implement Traffic Control during Treatments Prior to initiating vegetation treatment activities the project proponent will work with the agency(ies) with jurisdiction over affected roadways to determine if a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) is needed. A TMP will be needed if traffic generated by the project would result in obstructions, hazards, or delays exceeding applicable jurisdictional standards along access routes for individual vegetation treatments. If needed, a TMP will be prepared to provide measures to reduce potential traffic obstructions, hazards, and service level degradation along affected roadway facilities. The scope of the TMP will depend on the type, intensity, and duration of the specific treatment activities under the CalVTP. Measures included in the TMP could include (but are not be limited to) construction signage to provide motorists with notification and information when approaching or traveling along the affected roadway facilities, flaggers for lane closures to provide temporary traffic control along affected roadway facilities, treatment schedule restrictions to avoid seasons or time periods of peak vehicle traffic, haul-trip, delivery, and/or commute time restrictions that would be implemented to avoid peak traffic days and times along affected roadway facilities. If the TMP identifies impacts on transportation facilities outside of the jurisdiction of the project proponent, the TMP will be submitted to the agency with jurisdiction over the affected roadways prior to commencement of vegetation treatment projects. This SPR applies to all treatment activities and treatment types, including treatment maintenance. Smoke generated during prescribed burn operations could potentially affect driver visibility and traffic operations along nearby roadways. Direct smoke impacts to roadway visibility and indirect impacts related to driver distraction will be considered during the planning phase of burning operations. Smoke impacts and smoke management practices specific to traffic operations during prescribed fire operations will be identified and addressed within the TMP. The TMP will include measures to monitor smoke dispersion onto public roadways, and traffic control operations will be initiated in the event burning operations could affect traffic safety along any roadways. This SPR applies only to prescribed burn treatment activities and all treatment types, including treatment maintenance.	Prepare TMP prior to treatment and implement during treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Mitigation Measures	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/Monitoring Entity
Aesthetics			
Mitigation Measure AES-3: Conduct Visual Reconnaissance for Non-Shaded Fuel Breaks and Relocate or Feather and Screen Publicly Visible Non-Shaded Fuel Breaks The project proponent will conduct a visual reconnaissance of the treatment area prior to implementing non-shaded fuel breaks to observe the surrounding landscape and determine if public viewing locations, including scenic vistas, public trails, and state scenic highways, have views of the proposed treatment area. If none are identified, the non-shaded fuel break may be implemented without additional visual mitigation. If the project proponent identifies public viewing points, including heavily used scenic vistas, public trails, recreation areas, and state scenic highways with lengthy views (i.e., longer than a few seconds) of a proposed non-shaded fuel break treatment area, the project proponent will, prior to implementation, attempt to identify any feasible change in location of the fuel break to reduce its visibility from public viewpoints. If no feasible location changes exist that would reduce impacts to public viewers and achieve the intended wildfire risk reduction objectives of the proposed non-shaded fuel break, the project proponent will implement, where feasible, a shaded fuel break rather than a non-shaded fuel break, if the shaded fuel break would achieve the intended wildfire risk reduction objectives. With the shaded fuel break, the project proponent will thin and feather adjacent vegetation to break up the linear edges of the fuel break and strategically preserve vegetation at the edge of the fuel break, as feasible, to help screen public views and minimize the contrast between the fuel break and surrounding vegetation.	Conduct visual reconnaissance prior to implementing non-shaded fuel breaks; implement feasible mitigation prior to and during treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
Air Quality			
Mitigation Measure AQ-1: Implement On-Road Vehicle and Off-Road Equipment Exhaust Emission Reduction Techniques Where feasible, project proponents will implement emission reduction techniques to reduce exhaust emissions from off-road equipment. It is acknowledged that due to cost, availability, and the limits of current technology, there may be circumstances where implementation of certain emission reduction techniques will not feasible. The project proponent will document the emission reduction techniques that will be applied and will explain the reasons other techniques that could reduce emissions are infeasible. Techniques for reducing emissions may include, but are not limited to, the following: ▶ Diesel-powered off-road equipment used in construction will meet EPA's Tier 4 emission standards as defined in 40 CFR 1039 and comply with the exhaust emission test procedures and provisions of 40 CFR Parts 1065 and 1068. Tier 3 models can be used if a Tier 4 version of the equipment type is not yet produced by manufacturers. This measure can also be achieved by using battery-electric off-road equipment as it becomes available. Prior to implementation of treatment activities, the project proponent will demonstrate the ability to supply the compliant equipment. A copy of each unit's certified tier specification or model year specification and operating permit (if applicable) will be available upon request at the time of mobilization of each unit of equipment.	During treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Mitigation Measures	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/Monitoring Entity
▶ Use renewable diesel fuel in diesel-powered construction equipment. Renewable diesel fuel must meet the following criteria: ▪ meet California's Low Carbon Fuel Standards and be certified by CARB Executive Officer; ▪ be hydrogenation-derived (reaction with hydrogen at high temperatures) from 100 percent biomass material (i.e., non-petroleum sources), such as animal fats and vegetables; ▪ contain no fatty acids or functionalized fatty acid esters; and ▪ have a chemical structure that is identical to petroleum-based diesel and complies with American Society for Testing and Materials D975 requirements for diesel fuels to ensure compatibility with all existing diesel engines. ▶ Electric- and gasoline-powered equipment will be substituted for diesel-powered equipment. ▶ Workers will be encouraged to carpool to work sites, and/or use public transportation for their commutes. ▶ Off-road equipment, diesel trucks, and generators will be equipped with Best Available Control Technology for emission reductions of NO_X and PM.			
Archaeological, Historical, and Tribal Cultural Resources			
Mitigation Measure CUL-2: Protect Inadvertent Discoveries of Unique Archaeological Resources or Subsurface Historical Resources If any prehistoric or historic-era subsurface archaeological features or deposits, including locally darkened soil ("midden"), that could conceal cultural deposits, are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, all ground-disturbing activity within 100 feet of the resources will be halted and a qualified archaeologist will assess the significance of the find. The qualified archaeologist will work with the project proponent to develop a primary records report that will comply with applicable state or local agency procedures. If the archaeologist determines that further information is needed to evaluate significance, a data recovery plan will be prepared. If the find is determined to be significant by the qualified archaeologist (i.e., because the find constitutes a unique archaeological resource, subsurface historical resource, or tribal cultural resource), the archaeologist will work with the project proponent to develop appropriate procedures to protect the integrity of the resource. Procedures could include preservation in place (which is the preferred manner of mitigating impacts to archaeological sites), archival research, subsurface testing, or recovery of scientifically consequential information from and about the resource. Any find will be recorded standard DPR Primary Record forms (Form DPR 523) will be submitted to the appropriate regional information center.	During ground-disturbing activities	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Mitigation Measures	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/Monitoring Entity
Biological Resources			
Mitigation Measure BIO-1a: Avoid Loss of Special-Status Plants Listed under ESA or CESA If listed plants are determined to be present through application of SPR BIO-1 and SPR BIO-7, the project proponent will avoid and protect these species by establishing a no-disturbance buffer around the area occupied by listed plants and marking the buffer boundary with high-visibility flagging, fencing, stakes, or clear, existing landscape demarcations (e.g., edge of a roadway), exceptions to this requirement are listed later in this measure. The no-disturbance buffers will generally be a minimum of 50 feet from listed plants, but the size and shape of the buffer zone may be adjusted if a qualified RPF or botanist determines that a smaller buffer will be sufficient to avoid killing or damaging listed plants or that a larger buffer is necessary to sufficiently protect plants from the treatment activity. The appropriate buffer size will be determined based on plant phenology at the time of treatment (e.g., whether the plants are in a dormant, vegetative, or flowering state), the individual species' vulnerability to the treatment method being used, and environmental conditions and terrain. For example, paint-on or wicking application of herbicides to invasive plants may be implemented within 50 feet of listed plant species without posing a risk, especially if the listed plants are dormant at the time of application. Consideration of factors such as site hydrology, changes in light, edge effects, and potential introduction of invasive plants and noxious weeds may inform the determination of buffer width. If a no-disturbance buffer is reduced below 50 feet from a listed plant, a qualified RPF or botanist will provide the project proponent with a site- and/or treatment activity-specific explanation for the buffer reduction, which will be included in the PSA. After completion of the PSA and prior to or during treatment implementation, if there is any deviation (e.g., further reduction) from the reduced buffer as explained in the PSA, this will be documented in the post-project implementation report (referred to by CAL FIRE as a Completion Report) with a science-based justification for the deviation. No fire ignition (and associated use of accelerants) will occur within 50 feet of listed plants. For species listed under ESA or CESA, if the project proponent cannot avoid loss by implementing no-disturbance buffers, the project proponent will implement Mitigation Measure BIO-1c. The only exception to this mitigation approach is in cases where it is determined by a qualified RPF or botanist, in consultation with CDFW and USFWS, as appropriate depending on species status and location, that the listed plants would benefit from treatment in the occupied habitat area even though some of the listed plants may be lost during treatment activities. For a treatment to be considered beneficial to listed special-status plants, the qualified RPF or botanist will demonstrate with substantial evidence that habitat function is reasonably expected to improve with implementation of the treatment (e.g., by citing scientific studies demonstrating that the species (or similar species) has benefitted from increased sunlight due to canopy opening, eradication of invasive species, or otherwise reduced competition for resources), and the substantial evidence will be included in the PSA. If it is determined that treatment activities would be beneficial to listed plants, no compensatory mitigation for loss of individuals will be required.	Prior to and during treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Mitigation Measures	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/Monitoring Entity
Mitigation Measure BIO-1b: Avoid Loss of Special-Status Plants Not Listed Under ESA or CESA If non-listed special-status plant species (i.e., species not listed under ESA or CESA, but meeting the definition of special-status as stated in Section 3.6.1 of the Program EIR) are determined to be present through application of SPR BIO-1 and SPR BIO-7, the project proponent will implement the following measures to avoid loss of individuals and maintain habitat function of occupied habitat: ▶ Physically avoid the area occupied by the special-status plants by establishing a no-disturbance buffer around the area occupied by species and marking the buffer boundary with high-visibility flagging, fencing, stakes, or clear, existing landscape demarcations (e.g., edge of a roadway). The no-disturbance buffers will generally be a minimum of 50 feet from special-status plants, but the size and shape of the buffer zone may be adjusted if a qualified RPF or botanist determines that a smaller buffer will be sufficient to avoid loss of or damaging to special-status plants or that a larger buffer is necessary to sufficiently protect plants from the treatment activity. The appropriate size and shape of the buffer zone will be determined by a qualified RPF or botanist and will depend on plant phenology at the time of treatment (e.g., whether the plants are in a dormant, vegetative, or flowering state), the individual species' vulnerability to the treatment method being used, and environmental conditions and terrain. Consideration of factors such as site hydrology, changes in light, edge effects, and potential introduction of invasive plants and noxious weeds may inform an appropriate buffer size and shape. ▶ Treatments may be conducted within this buffer if the potentially affected special-status plant species is a geophytic, stump-sprouting, or annual species, and the treatment can be conducted outside of the growing season (e.g., after it has completed its annual life cycle) or during the dormant season using only treatment activities that would not damage the stump, root system or other underground parts of special-status plants or destroy the seedbank. ▶ Treatments will be designed to maintain the function of special-status plant habitat. For example, for a fuel break proposed in treatment areas occupied by special-status plants, if the removal of shade cover would degrade the special-status plant habitat despite the requirement to physically or seasonally avoid the special-status plant itself, habitat function would be diminished and the treatment would need to be modified or precluded from implementation. ▶ No fire ignition (and associated use of accelerants) will occur within the special-status plant buffer. A qualified RPF or botanist with knowledge of the special-status plant species habitat and life history will review the treatment design and applicable impact minimization measures (potentially including others not listed above) to determine if the anticipated residual effects of the treatment would be significant under CEQA because implementation of the treatment would not maintain habitat function of the special-status plant habitat (i.e., the habitat would be rendered unsuitable) or because the loss of special-status plants would substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a special-status plant species. If the project proponent determines the impact on special-status plants would be less than significant, no further mitigation will be required. If the project proponent determines that the loss of special-status plants or degradation of occupied habitat would be significant under CEQA after implementing feasible treatment design alternatives and impact minimization measures, then Mitigation Measure BIO-1c will be implemented.	Prior to and during treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Mitigation Measures	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/Monitoring Entity
The only exception to this mitigation approach is in cases where it is determined by a qualified RPF or botanist that the special-status plants would benefit from treatment in the occupied habitat area even though some of the non-listed special-status plants may be killed during treatment activities. For a treatment to be considered beneficial to non-listed special-status plants, the qualified RPF or botanist will demonstrate with substantial evidence that habitat function is reasonably expected to improve with implementation of the treatment (e.g., by citing scientific studies demonstrating that the species (or similar species) has benefitted from increased sunlight due to canopy opening, eradication of invasive species, or otherwise reduced competition for resources), and the substantial evidence will be included in the PSA. If it is determined that treatment activities would be beneficial to special-status plants, no compensatory mitigation will be required.			
Mitigation Measure BIO-1c: Compensate for Unavoidable Loss of Special-Status Plants If significant impacts on listed or non-listed special-status plants cannot feasibly be avoided as specified under the circumstances described under Mitigation Measures BIO-1a and 1b, the project proponent will prepare a Compensatory Mitigation Plan that identifies the residual significant impacts that require compensatory mitigation and describes the compensatory mitigation strategy being implemented and how unavoidable losses of special-status plants will be compensated. The project proponent will consult with CDFW and/or any other applicable responsible agency prior to finalizing the Compensatory Mitigation Plan to satisfy that responsible agency's requirements (e.g., permits, approvals) within the plan. If the special-status plant taxa are listed under ESA or CESA, the plan will be submitted to CDFW and/or USFWS (as appropriate) for review and comment. The first priority for compensatory mitigation will be preserving and enhancing existing populations outside of the treatment area in perpetuity, or if that is not an option because existing populations that can be preserved in perpetuity are not available, one of the following mitigation options will be implemented by the project proponent instead: ▶ creating populations on mitigation sites outside of the treatment area through seed collection and dispersal (annual species) or transplantation (perennial species); ▶ purchasing mitigation credits from a CDFW- or USFWS-approved conservation or mitigation bank in sufficient quantities to offset the loss of occupied habitat; and ▶ if the affected special-status plants are not listed under ESA or CESA, compensatory mitigation may include restoring or enhancing degraded habitats so that they are made suitable to support special-status plant species in the future. If relocation efforts are part of the Compensatory Mitigation Plan, the plan will include details on the methods to be used, including collection, storage, propagation, receptor site preparation, installation, long-term protection and management, monitoring and reporting requirements, success criteria, and remedial action responsibilities should the initial effort fail to meet long-term monitoring requirements. The following performance standards will be applied for relocation:	Prior to and during treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Mitigation Measures	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/Monitoring Entity
▶ the extent of occupied area will be substantially similar to the affected occupied habitat and will be suitable for self-producing populations. Re-located/re-established populations will be considered suitable for self-producing when: ▶ habitat conditions allow for plants to reestablish annually for a minimum of 5 years with no human intervention, such as supplemental seeding; and ▶ reestablished habitats contain an occupied area comparable to existing occupied habitat areas in similar habitat types in the region. If preservation of existing populations or creation of new populations is part of the mitigation plan, the Compensatory Mitigation Plan will include a summary of the proposed compensation lands and actions (e.g., the number and type of credits, location of mitigation bank or easement, restoration or enhancement actions), parties responsible for the long-term management of the land, and the legal and funding mechanisms (e.g., holder of conservation easement or fee title). The project proponent will submit evidence that the necessary mitigation has been implemented or that the project proponent has entered into a legal agreement to implement it and that compensatory plant populations will be preserved in perpetuity. If mitigation includes dedication of conservation easements, purchase of mitigation credits, or other offsite conservation measures, the details of these measures will be included in the mitigation plan, including information on responsible parties for long-term management, conservation easement holders, long-term management requirements, funding assurances, and success criteria such as those listed above and other details, as appropriate to target the preservation of long term viable populations. If mitigation includes restoring or enhancing habitat within the treatment area or outside of the treatment area, the Compensatory Mitigation Plan will include a description of the proposed habitat improvements, success criteria that demonstrate the performance standard of maintained habitat function has been met, legal and funding mechanisms, and parties responsible for long-term management and monitoring of the restored habitat. If the loss of occupied habitat cannot be offset (e.g., if preservation of existing populations or creation of new populations through relocation efforts are not available for a certain species), and as a result treatment activities would substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of listed plant species, then the treatment will not qualify as within the scope of this Program EIR. Compensatory mitigation may be satisfied through compliance with permit conditions, or other authorizations obtained by the project proponent (e.g., incidental take permit for state-listed plants), if these requirements are equally or more effective than the mitigation identified above.			
Mitigation Measure BIO-2a: Avoid Mortality, Injury, or Disturbance and Maintain Habitat Function for Listed Wildlife Species and California Fully Protected Species (All Treatment Activities) If California Fully Protected Species or species listed under ESA or CESA are observed during reconnaissance surveys (conducted pursuant to SPR BIO-1) or focused or protocol-level surveys (conducted pursuant to SPR BIO-10), the project proponent will avoid adverse effects to the species by implementing the following.	Prior to and during treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Mitigation Measures	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/Monitoring Entity
Avoid Mortality, Injury, or Disturbance of Individuals The project proponent will implement one of the following two measures to avoid mortality, injury, or disturbance of individuals: 1. Treatment will not be implemented within the occupied habitat. Any treatment activities outside occupied habitat will be a sufficient distance from the occupied habitat such that mortality, injury, or disturbance of the species will not occur, as determined by a qualified RPF or biologist using the most current and commonly-accepted science and considering published agency guidance; OR 2. Treatment will be implemented outside the sensitive period of the species' life history (e.g., outside the breeding or nesting season) during which the species may be more susceptible to disturbance, or disturbance could result in loss of eggs or young. For species present year-round, CDFW and/or USFWS/NOAA Fisheries will be consulted to determine if there is a period of time within which treatment could occur that would avoid mortality, injury, or disturbance of the species. ▶ For species listed under ESA or CESA, if the project proponent cannot avoid mortality, injury or disturbance by implementing one of the two options listed above, the project proponent will implement Mitigation Measure BIO-2c. Injury or mortality of California Fully Protected Species is prohibited pursuant to Sections 3511, 4700, 5050, and 5515 of the California Fish and Game Code and will be avoided. **Maintain Habitat Function** ▶ The project proponent will design treatment activities to maintain the habitat function, by implementing the following: ▪ While performing review and surveys for SPR BIO-1 and SPR BIO-10, a qualified RPF or biologist will identify any habitat features that are necessary for survival (e.g., habitat necessary for breeding, foraging, shelter, movement) of the affected wildlife species (e.g., trees with complex structure, trees with large cavities, trees with nesting platforms; dens; tree snags; large raptor nests [including inactive nests]; downed woody debris; food sources). These habitat features will be marked and treatments applied to the features will be designed to minimize or avoid the loss or degradation of suitable habitat for listed species during treatments. Identification and treatment of these features will be based on the life history and habitat requirements of the affected species and the most current, commonly accepted science. ▪ If it is determined during implementation of SPR BIO-1 and SPR BIO-10 that listed or fully protected wildlife with specific requirements for high canopy cover (e.g., Humboldt marten, fisher, spotted owl, coastal California gnatcatcher, riparian woodrat) are present within a treatment area, then tree or shrub canopy cover within existing suitable areas will be retained at the percentage preferred by the species (as determined by expert opinion, published habitat association information, or other documented standards that are commonly accepted [e.g., 50 percent for coastal California gnatcatcher]) such that habitat function is maintained.			

Mitigation Measures	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/Monitoring Entity
A qualified RPF or biologist will determine if, after implementation of the impact avoidance measures listed above, the habitat function will remain for the affected species after implementation of the treatment. Because this measure pertains to species listed under CESA or ESA or are fully protected, the qualified RPF or biologist will consult with CDFW and/or USFWS/NOAA Fisheries regarding the determination that habitat function is maintained. If the lead agency determines after consultation that the treatment will not maintain habitat function for the special-status species, the project proponent will implement Mitigation Measure BIO-2c. **Project-Specific Implementation** If California Fully Protected Species or species listed under ESA or CESA are observed during focused or protocol-level surveys (conducted pursuant to SPR BIO-10) or assumed present, YWA will avoid adverse effects to the species by implementing the following. <u>California red-legged frog</u> ▶ If California red-legged frogs are detected during protocol-level surveys, a 300-foot no-disturbance buffer will be implemented and YWA will require flagging areas for avoidance in which no treatment activities will occur, installation of exclusionary fencing, biological monitoring, or other measures recommended by USFWS as necessary to avoid injury to or mortality of California red-legged frog. <u>Other wildlife</u> ▶ If foothill yellow-legged frogs or Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs are detected during focused surveys, YWA will contact CDFW (both species) and USFWS (Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog), as applicable, and will require flagging areas for avoidance in which no treatment activities will occur, biological monitoring, or other measures recommended by CDFW (both species) and USFWS (Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog only) as necessary to avoid injury to or mortality of foothill yellow-legged frogs or Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs. ▶ If the 200-foot no-disturbance buffer (per SPR BIO-1) for giant gartersnake is determined to be infeasible, then the project proponent would contact CDFW and USFWS, and would require flagging areas for avoidance in which no treatment activities would occur, biological monitoring, and/or other measures recommended by CDFW and USFWS as necessary to avoid injury to or mortality of this species. ▶ If active special-status bird nests are detected during focused surveys, a no-disturbance buffer of at least 1 mile will be established around active bald eagle and golden eagle nests; 0.25 mile for Swainson's hawk, white-tailed kite, and great gray owl nests; at least 300 feet for tricolored blackbird colonies; and at least 100 feet around the nests of other special-status birds, and no treatment activities will occur within this buffer until the chicks have fledged as determined by a qualified RPF or biologist. Additionally, trees containing bald eagle nests will not be removed pursuant to the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. <u>Northern California Ringtail</u> ▶ If the limited operating period for northern California ringtail is determined to be infeasible and ringtails are detected during focused surveys implemented under SPR BIO-10, then additional surveys will be required to determine whether an active ringtail den is present within the treatment area. If an active den is identified by a qualified RPF or biologist, a no-disturbance buffer of at least 0.25 mile will be implemented around the			

Mitigation Measures	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/Monitoring Entity
den, and mechanical treatments and prescribed burning will not proceed within the buffer until at least the end of the ringtail maternity season (June 30). The qualified RPF or biologist will confirm that the den is unoccupied before treatment activities resume. ▶ If the limited operating period for ringtail is determined to be infeasible and presence of ringtails is assumed, then the following avoidance and minimization measures will be required: ▪ **Year-Round Take Avoidance Measures.** During mechanical treatment activities in heavy brush habitat (e.g., dense conifer saplings, blackberry, shrubs), and after the standard equipment warm-up period, heavy machinery activities in heavy brush habitat will be conducted slowly and cautiously. For example, the head of a masticator will pause above a patch of heavy brush for several seconds before removing the brush. A qualified RPF or biologist will explain this process to contractors and will observe mechanical treatments on the first day of work to ensure that the methods are understood and implemented properly; this could be combined with other pre-activity survey or contractor awareness training requirements. Contractors will watch for ringtail as they masticate in heavy brush. If a ringtail is observed, the contractor will direct treatment activities to halt, and the ringtail will be allowed to leave the area unharmed before treatment begins. If a ringtail is observed outside of maternity season, the qualified RPF or biologist will be contacted and will perform a sweep of the treatment area before work resumes. If the qualified RPF or biologist observes a resting ringtail or active non-maternity den, treatment activities will not occur within that day's treatment area until the ringtail leaves the area on its own. If the qualified RPF or biologist observes a ringtail or confirms the contractor's observation (i.e., based on contractor description or photograph), the occurrence will be reported to CDFW at R2Timber@wildlife.ca.gov. ▪ **Den Surveys.** Within seven days prior to the start of mechanical treatments and prescribed burning during the ringtail maternity season, a qualified RPF or biologist will conduct a den search in the treatment area to be treated the next week. The qualified RPF or biologist will search for large trees (i.e., greater than 12 inches diameter at breast height [dbh]) with appropriate cavities (i.e., holes larger than 3 inches in diameter, cavities extending approximately 12 inches down from the cavity hole). If found, the qualified RPF or biologist will inspect the cavity using a cell phone with a flash, or other tools (e.g., borescopes) to determine whether ringtails are present. Areas (e.g., large trees) with appropriate den habitat, occupied or not, will be marked (i.e., with flagging, spray paint), for inspection during future sweeps (as described below). The qualified RPF or biologist will also search for dens in dense brush habitat and will note any sightings of fleeing adult ringtails. • **Active Dens.** If active ringtail dens are discovered during a den survey or daily sweep, a no-disturbance buffer of at least 0.25 mile will be implemented around the den, and mechanical treatments and prescribed burning will not proceed within the buffer until at least the end of the ringtail maternity season (June 30). The qualified RPF or biologist will confirm that the den is unoccupied before treatment activities resume. The 0.25-mile buffer will incorporate the den and an area greater than the typical ringtail home range in northern California (Wyatt, pers. comm.,			

Mitigation Measures	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/Monitoring Entity
2021). If an active den is discovered, CDFW (R2Timber@wildlife.ca.gov) will be notified of the den and buffer location. CDFW will be provided an opportunity to visit the site and provide technical information on the size and shape of the den buffer. ▪ **Daily Sweeps, Training, and Monitoring.** If active ringtail dens are not discovered, the following measures will be implemented to avoid inadvertent destruction of active dens that eluded detection during the den search as well as take of adult ringtails and kits. • **Daily Sweeps.** On the first morning of work for mechanical treatments or prescribed burning, a qualified RPF or biologist will conduct a sweep of the area to be treated that and will search all habitat suitable for ringtails where mastication will occur that day (i.e., larger trees, heavy brush, rock piles) for active dens or adults, including the trees with cavities previously marked by the qualified RPF or biologist. On following days, a trained contractor will search all areas previously marked by the qualified RPF or biologist for active dens (see training requirements below under "Training and Monitoring"). If an active den is discovered during a daily sweep, the qualified RPF or biologist will be notified, all work will stop, a no-disturbance buffer of at least 0.25 mile will be implemented around the den, and the requirements described above under "Active Dens" will be followed. • **Training and Monitoring.** On the first morning of work for mechanical treatments or prescribed burning, the qualified RPF or biologist will provide biological resource training (as required under CalVTP Program EIR SPR BIO-2) for all contractors. In addition to standard biological resource training, the qualified RPF or biologist will provide additional training specific to ringtail that will include the following elements: o Description of ringtail appearance (i.e., physical features, typical size); o Description of typical ringtail behavior; o Description of denning habitat suitable for ringtail, particularly in that week's treatment area. The approximate location of large trees with cavities that were previously marked will be noted; o Measures required during operation, including daily sweeps of habitat suitable for ringtail where mastication will occur that day (i.e., heavy brush habitat, previously marked tree cavities), year-round take avoidance measures, and required increased vigilance when operating in heavy brush; o Measures required if a ringtail is spotted (i.e., all work halts until a qualified RPF or biologist can conduct a den search and sweep; if the qualified RPF or biologist observes a ringtail or confirms the contractor's observation, the occurrence will be reported to CDFW at R2Timber@wildlife.ca.gov); o Measures required if a ringtail den is found (i.e., 0.25-mile no-disturbance buffer and requirements described above under "Active Dens" will be followed);			

Mitigation Measures	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/Monitoring Entity
○ Definition of and legal consequences for take of ringtail (i.e., fined and/or imprisoned following terms in Section 12008.1 of the California Fish and Game Code); and ○ Requirements for contacting CDFW (R2Timber@wildlife.ca.gov), which include the following circumstances: – ringtails observed during treatment activities (notify within 3 business days); – active ringtail den discovered (notify within 24 hours); – or take of ringtail occurs (notify within 24 hours).			
Mitigation Measure BIO-2b: Avoid Mortality, Injury, or Disturbance and Maintain Habitat Function for Other Special-Status Wildlife Species (All Treatment Activities) If other special-status wildlife species (i.e., species not listed under CESA or ESA or California Fully Protected, but meeting the definition of special status as stated in Section 3.6.1 of the Program EIR) are observed during reconnaissance surveys (conducted pursuant to SPR BIO-1) or focused or protocol-level surveys (conducted pursuant to SPR BIO-10), the project proponent will avoid or minimize adverse effects to the species by implementing the following. **Avoid Mortality, Injury, or Disturbance of Individuals** ▶ The project proponent will implement the following to avoid mortality, injury, or disturbance of individuals: For all treatment activities except prescribed burning, the project proponent will establish a no-disturbance buffer around occupied sites (e.g., nests, dens, roosts, middens, burrows, nurseries). Buffer size will be determined by a qualified RPF or biologist using the most current, commonly accepted science and will consider published agency guidance; however, buffers will generally be a minimum of 100 feet, unless site conditions indicate a smaller buffer would be sufficient for protection or a larger buffer would be needed. Factors to be considered in determining buffer size will include, but not be limited to, the species' tolerance to disturbance; the presence of natural buffers provided by vegetation or topography; nest height; locations of foraging territory; baseline levels of noise and human activity; and treatment activity. Buffer size may be adjusted if the qualified RPF or biologist determines that such an adjustment would not be likely to adversely affect (i.e., cause mortality, injury, or disturbance to) the species within the nest, den, burrow, or other occupied site. If a no-disturbance buffer is reduced below 100 feet from an occupied site, a qualified RPF or biologist will provide the project proponent with a site- and/or treatment activity-specific explanation for the buffer reduction, which will be included in the PSA. After completion of the PSA and prior to or during treatment implementation, if there is any deviation (e.g., further reduction) from the reduced buffer as explained in the PSA, this will be documented in the post-project implementation report (referred to by CAL FIRE as a Completion Report). ▶ No-disturbance buffers will be marked with high-visibility flagging, fencing, stakes, or clear, existing landscape demarcations (e.g., edge of a roadway). No activity will occur within the buffer areas until the qualified RPF or biologist has determined that the young have fledged or dispersed; the nest, den, or other occurrence is no longer active; or reducing the buffer would not likely result in disturbance, mortality, or	Prior to and during treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Mitigation Measures	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/Monitoring Entity
injury. A qualified RPF, biologist, or biological technician will be required to monitor the effectiveness of the no-disturbance buffer around the nest, den, burrow, or other occurrence during treatment. If treatment activities cause agitated behavior of the individual(s), the buffer distance will be increased, or treatment activities modified until the agitated behavior stops. The qualified RPF, biologist, or biological technician will have the authority to stop any treatment activities that could result in mortality, injury or disturbance to special-status species. ▶ For prescribed burning, the project proponent will implement the treatment outside the sensitive period of the species' life history (e.g., outside the breeding or nesting season) during which the species may be more susceptible to disturbance, or disturbance could result in loss of eggs or young. For species present year-round, the qualified RPF or biologist will determine the period of time within which prescribed burning could occur that will avoid or minimize mortality, injury, or disturbance of the species. The project proponent may consult with CDFW and/or USFWS for technical information regarding appropriate limited operating periods. **Maintain Habitat Function** ▶ For all treatment activities, the project proponent will design treatment activities to maintain the habitat function by implementing the following: ▶ While performing review and surveys for SPR BIO-1 and SPR BIO-10, a qualified RPF or biologist will identify any habitat features that are necessary for survival (e.g., habitat necessary for breeding, foraging, shelter, movement) of the affected wildlife species (e.g., trees with complex structure, trees with large cavities, trees with nesting platforms; tree snags; large raptor nests [including inactive nests]; downed woody debris). These habitat features will be marked and treatments applied to the features will be designed to minimize or avoid the loss or degradation of suitable habitat for listed species during treatments. Identification and treatment of these features will be based on the life history and habitat requirements of the affected species and the most current, commonly accepted science. ▶ If it is determined during implementation of SPR BIO-1 and SPR BIO-10 that special-status wildlife with specific requirements for high canopy cover (e.g., northern goshawk, Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare) are present within a treatment area, then tree or shrub canopy cover within existing suitable areas will be retained at the percentage preferred by the species (as determined by expert opinion, published habitat association information, or other documented standards that are commonly accepted) such that the habitat function is maintained. ▶ A qualified RPF or biologist will determine if, after implementation of the impact avoidance measures listed above, the habitat function will remain for the affected species after implementation of the treatment. The qualified RPF or biologist may consult with CDFW and/or USFWS for technical information regarding habitat function. A qualified RPF or biologist with knowledge of the special-status wildlife species habitat and life history will review the treatment design and applicable impact minimization measures (potentially including others not listed above) to determine if the anticipated residual effects of the treatment would be significant under CEQA because			

Mitigation Measures	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/Monitoring Entity
implementation of the treatment will not maintain habitat function of the special-status wildlife species' habitat or because the loss of special-status wildlife would substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a special-status wildlife species. If the project proponent determines the impact on special-status wildlife would be less than significant, no further mitigation will be required. If the project proponent determines that the loss of special-status wildlife or degradation of occupied habitat would be significant under CEQA after implementing feasible treatment design alternatives and impact minimization measures, then Mitigation Measure BIO-2c will be implemented. The only exception to this mitigation approach is in cases where it is determined by a qualified RPF or biologist that the non-listed special-status wildlife would benefit from treatment in the occupied habitat area even though some of the non-listed special-status wildlife may be killed, injured, or disturbed during treatment activities. For a treatment to be considered beneficial to non-listed special-status wildlife, the qualified RPF or biologist will demonstrate with substantial evidence that habitat function is reasonably expected to improve with implementation of the treatment (e.g., by citing scientific studies demonstrating that the species (or similar species) has benefitted from increased sunlight due to canopy opening, eradication of invasive species, or otherwise reduced competition for resources), and the substantial evidence will be included in the PSA. If it is determined that treatment activities would be beneficial to special-status wildlife, no compensatory mitigation will be required. The qualified RPF or biologist may consult with CDFW and/or USFWS for technical information regarding the determination that a non-listed special-status species would benefit from the treatment. **Project-Specific Implementation** If other (i.e., non-listed) special-status wildlife species are observed during focused or protocol-level surveys (conducted pursuant to SPR BIO-10), YWA will avoid or minimize adverse effects to the species by implementing the following. ▶ If breeding western spadefoot are detected during focused surveys, a no-disturbance buffer of 860 feet will be established around confirmed breeding ponds. If an 860-foot no-disturbance buffer is not feasible, then additional upland surveys including within burrows (e.g., using a borescope) would be required pursuant to SPR BIO-10 within 860 feet of the breeding ponds. If western spadefoot toads are not observed during the upland survey, then the no-disturbance buffer around the breeding pond may be reduced to 250 feet. If western spadefoot toads are detected in burrows in upland areas adjacent to the breeding pond, then the no-disturbance buffer will be maintained at 860 feet. ▶ If southern long-toed salamanders, coast horned lizards, or western pond turtles are detected during focused surveys, YWA will require flagging areas for avoidance, relocation of individual animals by a qualified RPF or biologist with a valid CDFW scientific collecting permit, and/or other measures recommended by CDFW as necessary to avoid injury to or mortality of these species. ▶ If nesting California spotted owls are identified during protocol-level surveys, a no disturbance buffer of 0.25 mile will be established around active California spotted owl nests and no treatment activities will occur within this buffer until the chicks have fledged as determined by a qualified RPF or biologist.			

Mitigation Measures	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/Monitoring Entity
Should the proposed ESA 4(d) rule for California spotted owl be issued when the species is listed, the project would qualify for take exemption as a project conducting forest fuels management activities that reduce the risk of large-scale high-severity wildfires, and further consultation with USFWS would not be required. ▶ If active special-status bird nests are detected during focused surveys, a no-disturbance buffer of at least 0.25 mile for northern goshawk nests, 164 feet for burrowing owl, and at least 100 feet around the nests of other special-status birds will be established, and no treatment activities will occur within this buffer until the chicks have fledged as determined by a qualified RPF or biologist. ▶ If an active American badger den is detected during focused surveys, a no-disturbance buffer of at least 500 feet will be established around the den, and no mechanical treatment or prescribed burning will occur within this buffer until the den is no longer occupied as determined by a qualified RPF or biologist. Buffer size may be reduced or adjusted if recommended by a qualified biologist in consultation with CDFW. ▶ If active Sierra Nevada mountain beaver dens are detected during focused surveys, a no-disturbance buffer of at least 250 feet will be established around the burrow, and no treatment activities will occur within this buffer. ▶ If an active pallid bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, western mastiff bat, or western red bat roost is detected during focused surveys, then a no-disturbance buffer of 250 feet will be established around the roost, and mechanical treatments, manual treatments, and prescribed burning will not occur within this buffer.			
Mitigation Measure BIO-2d: Implement Protective Measures for Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (All Treatment Activities) If elderberry shrubs within the documented range of valley elderberry longhorn beetle are identified during review and surveys for SPR BIO-1, and valley elderberry longhorn beetle or likely occupied suitable elderberry habitat (e.g., within riparian, within historic riparian, containing exit holes) is confirmed to be present during protocol-level surveys following the protocol outlined in USFWS *Framework for Assessing Impacts to the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle* (USFWS 2017) per SPR BIO-10, the following protective measures will be implemented to avoid and minimize impacts to valley elderberry longhorn beetle: ▶ If elderberry shrubs are 165 feet or more from the treatment area, and treatment activities would not encroach within this distance, direct or indirect impacts are not expected and further mitigation is not required. ▶ If elderberry shrubs are located within 165 feet of the treatment area, the following measures will be implemented: ▪ A minimum avoidance area of at least 20 feet from the dripline of each elderberry plant will be fenced or flagged and maintained to avoid direct impacts (e.g., damage to root system) that could damage or kill the plant, with the exception of the following activities: • Manual trimming of elderberry shrubs will only occur between November and February and will avoid removal of any branches or stems that are greater than or equal to 1 inch in diameter to avoid and minimize adverse effects on valley elderberry longhorn beetle.	Prior to and during treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Mitigation Measures	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/Monitoring Entity
• Manual or mechanical vegetation treatment within the drip-line of any elderberry shrub will be limited to the season when adults are not active (August - February), will be limited to methods that do not cause ground disturbance, and will avoid damaging the elderberry. ▪ A qualified RPF, biologist, or biological technician familiar with valley elderberry longhorn beetle and its life history will monitor the work area to verify the avoidance and minimization measures are implemented. The qualified RPF, biologist, or biological technician will have the authority to stop any treatment activities that could result in potential adverse effects to valley elderberry longhorn beetle. If the project proponent cannot implement the measures above to avoid mortality, injury, or disturbance of VELB or degradation of occupied habitat such that its function would not be maintained, the project proponent will implement Mitigation Measure BIO-2c.			
Mitigation Measure BIO-2e: Design Treatment to Retain Special-Status Butterfly Host Plants (All Treatment Activities) If federally listed butterflies are identified as occurring or having potential to occur during review and surveys for SPR BIO-1 and confirmed during protocol-level surveys per SPR BIO-10, then the following measures will be implemented: ▶ Treatment areas within the range of these species will be surveyed for the host plant for each species (Table 3.6-34). ▶ Host plants for federally listed butterflies within the occupied habitat will be marked with high-visibility flagging, fencing, or stakes, and no treatment activities will occur within 10 feet of these plants. ▶ Because prescribed herbivory could result in the indiscriminate removal of the host plants for federally listed butterflies, this treatment type will not be used within occupied habitat of any federally listed butterfly species, unless it is known that the host plant is unpalatable to the herbivore. ▶ Treatment areas that are not occupied but are within the range of the federally listed butterfly will be divided into as many treatment units as feasible such that the entirety of the habitat is not treated within the same year. ▶ Treatments will be conducted in a patchy pattern to the extent feasible in areas that are not occupied but are within the range of the federally listed butterfly, such that the entirety of the habitat is not burned or removed and untreated portions of suitable habitat are retained. If the project proponent cannot implement the measures above to avoid mortality, injury, or disturbance of federally listed butterflies or degradation of occupied habitat (host plants) such that its function would not be maintained, the project proponent will implement Mitigation Measure BIO-2c. **CESA and ESA Listed Species.** A qualified RPF or biologist will determine if, after implementation of any feasible impact avoidance measures (potentially including others not listed above), the treatment will result in mortality, injury, or disturbance, or if after implementation of the treatment, habitat function will remain for the affected species. For species listed under CESA or ESA or that are fully protected, the qualified RPF or biologist will consult with CDFW and/or USFWS regarding this determination. If consultation determines that mortality, injury, or disturbance of listed butterflies or degradation of occupied habitat such that its function would not be maintained would occur, the project proponent will implement Mitigation Measure BIO-2c.	Prior to and during treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Table 3.6-34 Special-Status Butterflies and Associated Host Plants

Butterfly Species	Host Plants
bay checkerspot butterfly	dwarf plantain (*Plantago virginica*), purple owl's clover (*Castilleja exserta*)
Behren's silverspot butterfly	blue violet (*Viola adunca*)
callippe silverspot butterfly	California golden violet (*Viola pedunculata*)
Carson wandering skipper	salt grass (*Distichlis spicata*)
El Segundo blue butterfly	seacliff buckwheat (*Eriogonum parvifolium*)
Hermes copper butterfly	spiny redberry (*Rhamnus crocea*)
Kern primrose sphinx moth	plains evening-primrose (*Camissonia contorta*), field primrose (*Camissonia campestris*)
Laguna Mountains skipper	Cleveland's horkelia (*Horkelia clevelandii*), sticky cinquefoil (*Drymocallis glandulosa*)
Lange's metalmark butterfly	naked-stemmed buckwheat (*Eriogonum nudum*)
lotis blue butterfly	seaside bird's foot trefoil (*Hosackia gracilis*)
Mission blue butterfly	lupine (*Lupinus* spp.)
Myrtle's silverspot butterfly	blue violet
Oregon silverspot butterfly	blue violet
Palos Verdes blue butterfly	Santa Barbara milkvetch (*Astragalus trichopodus*), common deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*)
San Bruno elfin butterfly	broadleaf stonecrop (*Sedum spathulifolium*), manzanita (*Arctostaphylos* spp.), huckleberry (*Vaccinuum* spp.)
Smith's blue butterfly	seacliff buckwheat, seaside buckwheat (*Eriogonum latifolium*)
Quino checkerspot butterfly	dwarf plantain, purple owl's clover

Mitigation Measures	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/Monitoring Entity
Other Special-status Species. A qualified RPF or biologist with knowledge of the special-status species' habitat and life history will review the treatment design and applicable impact minimization measures (potentially including others not listed above) to determine if the anticipated residual effects of the treatment would be significant under CEQA, because implementation of the treatment will not maintain habitat function of the special-status species' habitat or because the loss of special-status individuals would substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a special-status species. If the project proponent determines the impact on special-status butterflies would be less than significant, no further mitigation will be required. If the project proponent determines that the loss of special-status butterflies or degradation of occupied habitat would be significant under CEQA after implementing feasible treatment design alternatives and impact minimization measures, then Mitigation Measure BIO-2c will be implemented.			

Mitigation Measures	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/Monitoring Entity
The only exception to this mitigation approach is in cases where it is determined by a qualified RPF or biologist that the special-status butterfly species would benefit from treatment in the occupied habitat area even though some may be killed, injured or disturbed during treatment activities. For a treatment to be considered beneficial to special-status butterfly species, the qualified RPF or biologist will demonstrate with substantial evidence that habitat function is reasonably expected to improve with implementation of the treatment (e.g., by citing scientific studies demonstrating that the species (or similar species) has benefitted from increased sunlight due to canopy opening, eradication of invasive species, or otherwise reduced competition for resources). If it is determined that treatment activities would be beneficial to special-status butterflies, no compensatory mitigation will be required. **Project-Specific Implementation** ▶ If host plants for monarch butterflies are detected, and monarch eggs, larvae, or pupae are detected during focused surveys pursuant to SPR BIO-10 or assumed to be present, host plants will be marked with high-visibility flagging, fencing, or stakes, and no treatment activities will occur within 10 feet of these plants if feasible. ▶ If monarch butterflies are detected during focused surveys pursuant to SPR BIO-10, or presence is assumed, treatments will be conducted in a patchy pattern to the extent feasible in grasslands and oak woodlands, such that the entirety of the habitat is not burned or removed and untreated portions of suitable habitat and floral resources are retained.			
Mitigation Measure BIO-2g: Design Treatment to Avoid Mortality, Injury, or Disturbance and Maintain Habitat Function for Special-Status Bumble Bees (All Treatment Activities) If special-status bumble bees are identified as occurring during review and surveys under SPR BIO-1 and confirmed during protocol-level surveys per SPR BIO-10, or if suitable habitat for special-status bumble bees is identified during review and surveys under SPR BIO-1 (e.g., wet meadow, forest meadow, riparian, grassland, or coastal scrub habitat containing sufficient floral resources within the range of the species), then the project proponent will implement the following measures, as feasible: ▶ Prescribed burning within occupied or suitable habitat for special-status bumble bees will occur from October through February to avoid the bumble bee flight season. ▶ Treatment areas in occupied or suitable habitat will be divided into a sufficient number of treatment units such that the entirety of the habitat is not treated within the same year; the objective of this measure is to provide refuge for special-status bumble bees during treatment activities and temporary retention of suitable floral resources proximate to the treatment area. ▶ Treatments will be conducted in a patchy pattern to the extent feasible in occupied or suitable habitat, such that the entirety of the habitat is not burned or removed and untreated portions of occupied or suitable habitat are retained (e.g., fire breaks will be aligned to allow for areas of unburned floral resources for special-status bumble bees within the treatment area). ▶ Herbicides will not be applied to flowering native plants within occupied or suitable habitat to the extent feasible during the flight season (March through September).	Prior to and during treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Mitigation Measures	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/Monitoring Entity
CESA and ESA Listed Species. A qualified RPF or biologist will determine if, after implementation of feasible avoidance measures (potentially including others not listed above), the treatment will result in mortality, injury, or disturbance to the species, or if after implementation of the treatment, habitat function will remain for the affected species. For species listed under CESA or ESA or that are fully protected, the qualified RPF or biologist will consult with CDFW and/or USFWS regarding this determination. If consultation determines that mortality, injury, or disturbance of listed bumble bees (in the event the Candidate listing is confirmed) or degradation of occupied (or assumed to be occupied) habitat such that its function would not be maintained would occur, the project proponent will implement Mitigation Measure BIO-2c. **Other Special-status Species.** A qualified RPF or biologist with knowledge of the special-status species' habitat and life history will review the treatment design and applicable impact minimization measures (potentially including others not listed above) to determine if the anticipated residual effects of the treatment would be significant under CEQA because implementation of the treatment will not maintain habitat function of the special-status species' habitat or because the loss of special-status individuals would substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a special-status species. If the project proponent determines the impact on special-status bumble bees would be less than significant, no further mitigation will be required. If the project proponent determines that the loss of special-status bumble bees or degradation of occupied (or assumed to be occupied) habitat would be significant under CEQA after implementing feasible treatment design alternatives and impact minimization measures, then Mitigation Measure BIO-2c will be implemented. The only exception to this mitigation approach is in cases where it is determined by a qualified RPF or biologist that the special-status bumble bee species would benefit from treatment in the occupied (or assumed to be occupied) habitat area even though some of the non-listed special-status bumble bees may be killed, injured, or disturbed during treatment activities. For a treatment to be considered beneficial to special-status bumble bee species, the qualified RPF or biologist will demonstrate with substantial evidence that habitat function is reasonably expected to improve with implementation of the treatment (e.g., by citing scientific studies demonstrating that the species (or similar species) has benefitted from increased sunlight due to canopy opening, eradication of invasive species, or otherwise reduced competition for resources), and the substantial evidence will be included in the PSA. If it is determined that treatment activities would be beneficial to special-status bumble bees, no compensatory mitigation will be required. **Project-Specific Implementation** To avoid impacts on Crotch's bumble bee, the following measures will be implemented when implementation of surveys under SPR BIO-10 results in identification of habitat suitable for the species and the species is detected, or presence of the species is assumed: ▶ If Crotch's bumble bees are detected during focused surveys, a no-disturbance buffer of at least 50 feet will be established around any identified nest colonies, and no mechanical treatment activities will occur within this buffer until the nesting colony is no longer occupied as determined by a qualified RPF or biologist. Buffer size may be reduced or adjusted if recommended by a qualified biologist in consultation with CDFW.			

Mitigation Measures	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/Monitoring Entity
▶ If surveys for nest colonies are not conducted and presence is assumed, mechanical treatment will not occur during the flight season (April through August) in habitats determined to be suitable for nesting Crotch bumble bees by a qualified RPF or biologist. ▶ Herbicides will not be applied to flowering native plants within occupied or suitable habitat during the flight season (April through August), and herbicide application will not target native flowering plants while blooming. Herbicide application will be conducted with ground-level application only (i.e., paint-on stems, backpack hand-applicator, hypo-hatchet tree injection, hand placement of pellets). ▶ Prescribed burning and biomass disposal will be designed to avoid bumble bee nest colonies and floral resources: ▪ Burn piles that remain on site for greater than one year will be surveyed for bumble bee nests prior to burning by a qualified biologist, or they will be burned during the season when bumble bees are inactive (October through February). ▪ Broadcast burning in habitat suitable for Crotch bumble bees will be restricted to October 31 – February 28 to protect emergent bumble bee floral resources. ▶ Treatment areas in occupied or suitable colony or overwintering habitat will be divided into multiple treatment units such that the entirety of the habitat is not treated within the same year. The scale will be determined by a qualified biologist or RPF. The objective of this measure is to provide refuge for special-status bumble bees during treatment activities and temporary retention of suitable floral resources proximate to the treatment area. ▶ Treatments will be conducted in a patchy pattern to the extent feasible in occupied or suitable habitat, such that the entirety of the habitat is not burned or removed and untreated portions of occupied or suitable habitat are retained (e.g., fire breaks will be aligned to allow for areas of unburned floral resources for special-status bumble bees within the treatment area).			
Mitigation Measure BIO-3a: Design Treatments to Avoid Loss of Sensitive Natural Communities and Oak Woodlands The project proponent will implement the following measures when working in treatment areas that contain sensitive natural communities identified during surveys conducted pursuant to SPR BIO-3: ▶ Reference the *Manual of California Vegetation*, Appendix 2, Table A2, *Fire Characteristics* (Sawyer et al. 2009 or current version, including updated natural communities data at http://vegetation.cnps.org/) or other best available information to determine the natural fire regime of the specific sensitive natural community type (i.e., alliance) present. The condition class and fire return interval departure of the vegetation alliances present will also be determined. ▶ Design treatments in sensitive natural communities and oak woodlands to restore the natural fire regime and return vegetation composition and structure to their natural condition to maintain or improve habitat function of the affected sensitive natural community. Treatments will be designed to replicate the fire regime attributes for the affected sensitive natural community or oak woodland type including seasonality, fire return interval, fire size, spatial complexity, fireline intensity, severity, and fire type as described in *Fire in California's Ecosystems* (Van Wagtendonk et al. 2018) and the *Manual of California Vegetation* (Sawyer et al. 2009 or	Prior to and during treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Mitigation Measures	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/Monitoring Entity
current version, including updated natural communities data at http://vegetation.cnps.org/). Treatments will not be implemented in sensitive natural communities that are within their natural fire return interval (i.e., time since last burn is less than the average time required for that vegetation type to recover from fire) or within Condition Class 1. ▶ To the extent feasible, no fuel breaks will be created in sensitive natural communities with rarity ranks of S1 (critically imperiled) and S2 (imperiled). ▶ To the extent feasible, fuel breaks will not remove more than 20 percent of the native vegetation relative cover from a stand of sensitive natural community vegetation in sensitive natural communities with a rarity rank of S3 (vulnerable) or in oak woodlands. In forest and woodland sensitive natural communities with a rarity rank of S3, and in oak woodlands, only shaded fuel breaks will be installed, and they will not be installed in more than 20 percent of the stand of sensitive natural community or oak woodland vegetation (i.e., if the sensitive natural community covers 100 acres, no more than 20 acres will be converted to create the fuel break). ▶ Use prescribed burning as the primary treatment activity in sensitive natural communities that are fire dependent (e.g., closed-cone forest and woodland alliances, chaparral alliances characterized by fire-stimulated, obligate seeders), to the extent feasible and appropriate based on the fire regime attributes as described in *Fire in California's Ecosystems* (Van Wagtendonk et al. 2018) and the *Manual of California Vegetation* (Sawyer et al. 2009 or current version, including updated natural communities data at http://vegetation.cnps.org/). ▶ Time prescribed herbivory to occur when non-target vegetation is not susceptible to damage (e.g. non-target vegetation is dormant or has completed its reproductive cycle for the year). For example, use herbivores to control invasive plants growing in sensitive habitats or sensitive natural communities when sensitive vegetation is dormant but invasive plants are growing. Timing of herbivory to avoid non-target vegetation will be determined by a qualified botanist, RPF, or biologist based on the specific vegetation alliance being treated, the life forms and life conditions of its characteristic plant species, and the sensitivity of the non-target vegetation to the effects of herbivory. The feasibility of implementing the avoidance measures will be determined by the project proponent based on whether implementation of this mitigation measure will preclude completing the treatment project within the reasonable period of time necessary to meet CalVTP program objectives, including, but not limited to, protection of vulnerable communities. If the avoidance measures are determined by the project proponent to be infeasible, the project proponent will document the reasons implementation of the avoidance strategies are infeasible in the PSA. After completion of the PSA and prior to or during treatment implementation, if there is any change in the feasibility of avoidance strategies from those explained in the PSA, this will be documented in the post-project implementation report (referred to by CAL FIRE as a Completion Report). A qualified RPF or botanist with knowledge of the affected sensitive natural community will review the treatment design and applicable impact minimization measures (potentially including others not listed above) to determine if the anticipated residual effects of the treatment would be significant under CEQA because implementation of the treatment will not maintain habitat functions of the sensitive natural community or oak woodland. If the project			

Mitigation Measures	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/Monitoring Entity
proponent determines the impact on sensitive natural communities or oak woodlands would be less than significant, no further mitigation will be required. If the project proponent determines that the loss or degradation of sensitive natural communities or oak woodlands would be significant under CEQA after implementing feasible treatment design alternatives and impact minimization measures, then Mitigation Measure BIO-3b will be implemented. The only exception to this mitigation approach is in cases where it is determined by a qualified RPF or botanist that the sensitive natural community or oak woodland would benefit from treatment in the occupied habitat area even though some loss may occur during treatment activities. For a treatment to be considered beneficial to a sensitive natural community or oak woodland, the qualified RPF or botanist will demonstrate with substantial evidence that habitat function is reasonably expected to improve with implementation of the treatment (e.g., by citing scientific studies demonstrating that the community (or similar community) has benefitted from increased sunlight due to canopy opening, eradication of invasive species, or otherwise reduced competition for resources), and the substantial evidence will be included in the PSA. If it is determined that treatment activities would be beneficial to sensitive natural communities or oak woodlands, no compensatory mitigation will be required.			
Mitigation Measure BIO-3b: Compensate for Loss of Sensitive Natural Communities and Oak Woodlands If significant impacts on sensitive natural communities or oak woodlands cannot feasibly be avoided or reduced as specified under Mitigation Measure BIO-3a, the project proponent will implement the following actions: ▶ Compensate for unavoidable losses of sensitive natural community and oak woodland acreage and function by: ▪ restoring sensitive natural community or oak woodland functions and acreage within the treatment area; ▪ restoring degraded sensitive natural communities or oak woodlands outside of the treatment area at a sufficient ratio to offset the loss of acreage and habitat function; or ▪ preserving existing sensitive natural communities or oak woodlands of equal or better value to the sensitive natural community lost through a conservation easement at a sufficient ratio to offset the loss of acreage and habitat function. ▶ The project proponent will prepare a Compensatory Mitigation Plan that identifies the residual significant effects on sensitive natural communities or oak woodlands that require compensatory mitigation and describes the compensatory mitigation strategy being implemented to reduce residual effects, and: 1. For preserving existing habitat outside of the treatment area in perpetuity, the Compensatory Mitigation Plan will include a summary of the proposed compensation lands (e.g., the number and type of credits, location of mitigation bank or easement), parties responsible for the long-term management of the land, and the legal and funding mechanism for long-term conservation (e.g., holder of conservation easement or fee title). The project proponent will submit evidence that the necessary mitigation has been implemented or that the project proponent has entered into a legal agreement to implement it and that compensatory habitat will be preserved in perpetuity. 2. For restoring or enhancing habitat within the treatment area or outside of the treatment area, the Compensatory Mitigation Plan will include a description of the proposed habitat improvements, success	Prior to and during treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Mitigation Measures	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/Monitoring Entity
criteria that demonstrate the performance standard of maintained habitat function has been met, legal and funding mechanisms, and parties responsible for long-term management and monitoring of the restored or enhanced habitat. The project proponent will consult with CDFW and/or any other applicable responsible agency prior to finalizing the Compensatory Mitigation Plan in order to satisfy that responsible agency's requirements (e.g., permits, approvals) within the plan.			
Mitigation Measure BIO-3c: Compensate for Unavoidable Loss of Riparian Habitat If, after implementation of SPR BIO-4, impacts to riparian habitat remain significant under CEQA, the project proponent will implement the following: ▶ Compensate for unavoidable losses of riparian habitat acreage and function by: ▪ restoring riparian habitat functions and acreage within the treatment area; ▪ restoring degraded riparian habitat outside of the treatment area; ▪ purchasing riparian habitat credits at a CDFW-approved mitigation bank; or ▪ preserving existing riparian habitat of equal or better value to the riparian habitat lost through a conservation easement at a sufficient ratio to offset the loss of riparian habitat function and value. ▶ The project proponent will prepare a Compensatory Mitigation Plan that identifies the residual significant effects on riparian habitat that require compensatory mitigation and describes the compensatory mitigation strategy being implemented to reduce residual effects, and: 1. For preserving existing riparian habitat outside of the treatment area in perpetuity, the Compensatory Mitigation Plan will include a summary of the proposed compensation lands (e.g., the number and type of credits, location of mitigation bank or easement), parties responsible for the long-term management of the land, and the legal and funding mechanism for long-term conservation (e.g., holder of conservation easement or fee title). The project proponent will submit evidence that the necessary mitigation has been implemented or that the project proponent has entered into a legal agreement to implement it and that compensatory plant populations will be preserved in perpetuity. 2. For restoring or enhancing riparian habitat within the treatment area or outside of the treatment area, the Compensatory Mitigation Plan will include a description of the proposed habitat improvements, success criteria that demonstrate the performance standard of maintained habitat function has been met, legal and funding mechanisms, and parties responsible for long-term management and monitoring of the restored or enhanced habitat. The project proponent will consult with CDFW and/or any other applicable responsible agency prior to finalizing the Compensatory Mitigation Plan to satisfy that responsible agency's requirements (e.g., permits, approvals) within the plan. Compensatory mitigation may be satisfied through compliance with permit conditions, or other authorizations obtained by the project proponent (e.g., Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement), if these requirements are equally or more effective than the mitigation identified above.	Prior to and during treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Mitigation Measures	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/Monitoring Entity
Mitigation Measure BIO-4: Avoid State and Federally Protected Wetlands Impacts to wetlands will be avoided using the following measures: ▶ The qualified RPF or biologist will delineate the boundaries of federally protected wetlands according to methods established in the USACE wetlands delineation manual (Environmental Laboratory 1987) and the appropriate regional supplement for the ecoregion in which the treatment is being implemented. ▶ The qualified RPF or biologist will delineate the boundaries of wetlands that may not meet the definition of waters of the United States, but would qualify as waters of the state, according to the state wetland procedures (California Water Boards 2019 or current procedures). ▶ A qualified RPF or biologist will establish a buffer around wetlands and mark the buffer boundary with high-visibility flagging, fencing, stakes, or clear, existing landscape demarcations (e.g., edge of a roadway). The buffer will be a minimum width of 25 feet but may be larger if deemed necessary. The appropriate size and shape of the buffer zone will be determined in coordination with the qualified RPF or biologist and will depend on the type of wetland present (e.g., seasonal wetland, wet meadow, freshwater marsh, vernal pool), the timing of treatment (e.g., wet or dry time of year), whether any special-status species may occupy the wetland and the species' vulnerability to the treatment activities, environmental conditions and terrain, and the treatment activity being implemented. ▶ A qualified RPF or biological technician will periodically inspect the materials demarcating the buffer to confirm that they are intact and visible, and wetland impacts are being avoided. ▶ Within this buffer, herbicide application is prohibited. ▶ Within this buffer, soil disturbance is prohibited. Accordingly, the following activities are not allowed within the buffer zone: mechanical treatments, prescribed herbivory, equipment and vehicle access or staging. ▶ Only prescribed (broadcast) burning may be implemented in wetland habitats if it is determined by a qualified RPF or biologist that: ▪ No special-status species are present in the wetland habitat other than the cysts of special-status vernal pool invertebrates or seeds of annual special-status plants. ▪ The wetland habitat function would be maintained. ▪ The prescribed burn is within the normal fire return interval for the wetland vegetation types present ▪ Fire containment lines and pile burning are prohibited within the buffer No fire ignition (and associated use of accelerants) will occur within the wetland buffer	Prior to and during treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Mitigation Measures	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/Monitoring Entity
Mitigation Measure BIO-5: Retain Nursery Habitat and Implement Buffers to Avoid Nursery Sites The project proponent will implement the following measures while working in treatment areas that contain nursery sites identified in surveys conducted pursuant to SPR BIO-10: ▶ Retain Known Nursery Sites. A qualified RPF or biologist will identify the important habitat features of the wildlife nursery and, prior to treatment activities, will mark these features for avoidance and retention during treatment. Establish Avoidance Buffers. The project proponent will establish a non-disturbance buffer around the nursery site if activities are required while the nursery site is active/occupied. The appropriate size and shape of the buffer will be determined by a qualified RPF or biologist, based on potential effects of project-related habitat disturbance, noise, visual disturbance, and other factors. No treatment activity will commence within the buffer area until a qualified RPF or biologist confirms that the nursery site is no longer active/occupied. Monitoring of the effectiveness of the non-disturbance buffer around the nursery site by a qualified RPF, biologist, or biological technician during and after treatment activities will be required. If treatment activities cause agitated behavior of the individual(s), the buffer distance will be increased, or treatment activities modified until the agitated behavior stops. The qualified RPF, biologist, or biological technician will have the authority to stop any treatment activities that could result in potential adverse effects to special-status species.	Prior to and during treatment	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined
Greenhouse Gas Emissions			
Mitigation Measure GHG-2: Implement GHG Emission Reduction Techniques During Prescribed Burns When planning for and conducting a prescribed burn, project proponents implementing a prescribed burn will incorporate feasible methods for reducing GHG emissions, including the following, which are identified in the *National Wildfire Coordinating Group Smoke Management Guide for Prescribed Fire* (NWCG 2018): ▶ reduce the total area burned by isolating and leaving large fuels (e.g., large logs, snags) unburned; ▶ reduce the total area burned through mosaic burning; ▶ burn when fuels have a higher fuel moisture content; ▶ reduce fuel loading by removing fuels before ignition. Methods to remove fuels include mechanical treatments, manual treatments, prescribed herbivory, and biomass utilization; and ▶ schedule burns before new fuels appear. As the science evolves, other feasible methods or technologies to sequester carbon could be incorporated, such as conservation burning, a technique for burning woody material that reduces the production of smoke particulates and carbon released into the atmosphere and generates more biochar. Biochar is produced from the material left over after the burn and spread with compost to increase soil organic matter and soil carbon sequestration. Technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions may also include portable units that perform gasification to produce electricity or pyrolysis that produces biooil that can be used as liquid fuel and/or syngas that can be used to generate electricity. The project proponent will document in the Burn Plan required pursuant to SPR AQ-3 which methods for reducing GHG emissions can feasibly be integrated into the treatment design.	Prior to and during prescribed burn activities	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

Mitigation Measures	Timing	Implementing Entity	Verifying/Monitoring Entity
Hazardous Materials, Public Health and Safety			
Mitigation Measure HAZ-3: Identify and Avoid Known Hazardous Waste Sites Prior to the start of vegetation treatment activities requiring soil disturbance (i.e., mechanical treatments) or prescribed burning, CAL FIRE and other project proponents will make reasonable efforts to check with the landowner or other entity with jurisdiction (e.g., California Department of Parks and Recreation) to determine if there are any sites known to have previously used, stored, or disposed of hazardous materials. If it is determined that hazardous materials sites could be located within the boundary of a treatment site, the project proponent will conduct a DTSC EnviroStor web search (https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/) and consult DTSC's Cortese List to identify any known contamination sites within the project site. If a proposed mechanical treatment or prescribed burn is located on a site included on the DTSC Cortese List as containing potential soil contamination that has not been cleaned up and deemed closed by DTSC, the area will be marked and no prescribed burning or soil disturbing treatment activities will occur within 100 feet of the site boundaries. If it is determined through coordination with landowners or after review of the Cortese List that no potential or known contamination is located on a project site, the project may proceed as planned.	During PSA preparation **Database searches are complete; see results in the PSA**	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined	Yuba Water or CDFW **Future treatments involving other agencies:** To be determined

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Attachment B

Biological Resources

Special-Status Plant Species Known to Occur in the Vicinity of the Project Area and Their Potential for Occurrence in the Project Area

Species	Listing Status[1] Federal	Listing Status[1] State	CRPR	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence[2]
Jepson's onion *Allium jepsonii*	—	—	1B.2	Ultramafic. Chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest. On serpentine soils in Sierra foothills, volcanic soil on Table Mountain. On slopes and flats; usually in an open area. 1,165–3,705 feet in elevation. Blooms April–August. Geophyte.	*May occur*. The project area contains chaparral, blue-oak foothill pine, Ponderosa pine, montane-hardwood conifer, Sierran mixed conifer, and Douglas fir habitat on serpentine soil suitable for this species.
Ferris' milk-vetch *Astragalus tener* var. *ferrisiae*	—	—	1B.1	Wetland. Meadows and seeps, valley and foothill grassland. Subalkaline flats on overflow land in the Central Valley; usually seen in dry, adobe soil. 15–245 feet in elevation. Blooms April–May. Annual.	*May occur*. Species was documented in 1891 in Yuba/Sutter Counties near Yuba City, outside of the treatment area (CNDDB 2024). Vernally moist and subalkaline flat habitat potentially suitable for this species is present in Yuba County and may be present within the treatment area.
Heartscale *Atriplex cordulata* var. *cordulata*	—	—	1B.2	Chenopod scrub, valley and foothill grassland, meadows and seeps. Alkaline flats and scalds in the Central Valley, sandy soils. 10–900 feet in elevation. Blooms April–October. Annual.	*Not expected to occur*. The project area is out of geographical range of this species.
Lesser saltscale *Atriplex minuscula*	—	—	1B.1	Alkali playa. Chenopod scrub, playas, valley and foothill grassland. In alkali sink and grassland in sandy, alkaline soils. 0–740 feet in elevation. Blooms May–October. Annual.	*Not expected to occur*. The project area is out of geographical range of this species.
Subtle orache *Atriplex subtilis*	—	—	1B.2	Valley and foothill grassland. Alkaline soils. 65–330 feet in elevation. Blooms June–September. Annual.	*Not expected to occur*. The project area is out of geographical range of this species.
Big-scale balsamroot *Balsamorhiza macrolepis*	—	—	1B.2	Ultramafic. Chaparral, valley and foothill grassland, cismontane woodland. Sometimes on serpentine. 115–4,805 feet in elevation. Blooms March–June. Perennial.	*May occur*. The project area contains chaparral, grassland, and blue-oak foothill pine habitat on serpentine soil suitable for this species.
Constance's rockcress *Boechera constancei*	—	—	1B.1	Chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest. Mostly on open, bare, serpentine slopes and outcrops in chaparral and woodland. 3,200–6,645 feet in elevation. Blooms May–July. Perennial.	*Not expected to occur*. The project area is out of geographical range of this species.
Upswept moonwort *Botrychium ascendens*	—	—	2B.3	Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps. Grassy fields, coniferous woods near springs and creeks. 3,660–10,710 feet in elevation. Blooms July–August. Geophyte.	*May occur*. The project area contains wet meadow, wetland, and creek habitat within Sierran mixed conifer, Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, and montane hardwood conifer habitat suitable for this species.
Mingan moonwort *Botrychium minganense*	—	—	2B.2	Creekbanks in mixed conifer forest. 3,900–10,810 feet in elevation. Blooms July–September. Perennial rhizomatous herb.	*May occur*. The project area contains creekbanks in mixed conifer forest habitat suitable for this species.

Species	Listing Status[1] Federal	Listing Status[1] State	CRPR	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence[2]
Western goblin *Botrychium montanum*	—	—	2B.1	Old growth. Lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps. Creekbanks in old-growth forest. 4,690–7,970 feet in elevation. Blooms July–September. Geophyte.	*May occur*. The project area contains wetland and creek habitat within old growth forest habitat suitable for this species.
Northwestern moonwort *Botrychium pinnatum*	—	—	2B.3	Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, upper montane coniferous forest. Creekbanks. 5,395–6,710 feet in elevation. Blooms July–October. Geophyte.	*Not expected to occur*. The project area is below the known elevational range for this species.
Watershield *Brasenia schreberi*	—	—	2B.3	Wetland. Freshwater marshes and swamps. Aquatic from water bodies both natural and artificial in California. 100–7,220 feet in elevation. Blooms June–September. Geophyte.	*May occur*. The project area contains wetland, pond, and lake habitat suitable for this species.
Green shield-moss *Buxbaumia viridis*	—	—	2B.2	Lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest, subalpine coniferous forest. Well-rotted logs and in peaty soil and humus. 3,200–7,220 feet in elevation. Perennial.	May occur. The project area contains Sierran mixed conifer, Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, montane hardwood conifer, and blue oak foothill pine habitat suitable for this species.
Stebbins' morning-glory *Calystegia stebbinsii*	FE	SE	1B.1	Chaparral, cismontane woodland. On red clay soils of the Pine Hill formation; gabbro or serpentine; open areas. 985–2,380 feet in elevation. Blooms April–July. Geophyte.	*May occur*. Gabbro and serpentine habitat potentially suitable for this species is present within the treatment area.
Dissected-leaved toothwort *Cardamine pachystigma var. dissectifolia*	—	—	1B.2	Ultramafic. Chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest. Serpentine outcrops and gravelly serpentine talus. 985–3,115 feet in elevation. Blooms February–May. Geophyte.	*May occur*. The project area contains chaparral, blue-oak foothill pine, Ponderosa pine, montane-hardwood conifer, Sierran mixed conifer, and Douglas fir habitat on serpentine soil suitable for this species.
Sierra arching sedge *Carex cyrtostachya*	—	—	1B.2	Lower montane coniferous forest, riparian forest, marshes and swamps, meadows and seeps. Mesic sites. 1,985–4,560 feet in elevation. Blooms May–August. Perennial.	*May occur*. The project area contains wet meadow, wetland, and montane riparian habitat suitable for this species. There are multiple occurrences less than 50 ft outside of the project boundary in the northern section of the project area (CNDDB 2023).
Woolly-fruited sedge *Carex lasiocarpa*	—	—	2B.3	Wetland. Bogs and fens, marshes and swamps. Sphagnum bogs, freshwater marsh, lake margins. 1,970–6,400 feet in elevation. Blooms June–July. Geophyte.	*May occur*. The project area contains wetland, pond and lake habitat suitable for this species.
Mud sedge *Carex limosa*	—	—	2B.2	Bogs and fens, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps, upper montane coniferous forest. In floating bogs and soggy meadows and edges of lakes. 4,495–9,155 feet in elevation. Blooms June–August. Geophyte.	*May occur*. The project area contains wetland, wet meadow, pond and lake habitat suitable for this species.

Species	Listing Status[1] Federal	Listing Status[1] State	CRPR	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence[2]
Pointed broom sedge *Carex scoparia* var. *scoparia*	—	—	2B.2	Great Basin scrub. Wet, open places. 3,970–3,970 feet in elevation. Blooms May. Perennial.	*Not expected to occur*. The project area is out of geographical range of this species.
Chaparral sedge *Carex xerophila*	—	—	1B.2	Ultramafic. Chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest. Serpentinite, gabbroic. 900–2,525 feet in elevation. Blooms March–June. Perennial.	*Known to occur*. There are three occurrences of chaparral sedge in the project area off Ponderosa Way and Lantana Way Road (CNDDB 2023). Additional occurrences were found during SPR BIO-1 reconnaissance surveys on private timberland off Forbestown Rd, Indiana Ranch Rd, and Forsythe Rd. There may be additional occurrences on ultramafic soils in the project area.
Pink creamsacs *Castilleja rubicundula* var. *rubicundula*	—	—	1B.2	Ultramafic. Chaparral, cismontane woodland, meadows and seeps, valley and foothill grassland. Openings in chaparral or grasslands. On serpentine. 65–3,000 feet in elevation. Blooms April–June. Annual.	*Not expected to occur*. The project area is out of geographical range of this species.
Pappose tarplant *Centromadia parryi* ssp. *parryi*	—	—	1B.2	Chaparral, coastal prairie, meadows and seeps, coastal salt marsh, valley and foothill grassland. Vernally mesic, often alkaline sites. 5–1,380 feet in elevation. Blooms May–November. Annual.	*Not expected to occur*. The project area is out of geographical range of this species.
White-stemmed clarkia *Clarkia gracilis* ssp. *albicaulis*	—	—	1B.2	Ultramafic. Chaparral, cismontane woodland. Dry, grassy openings in chaparral or foothill woodland. Sometimes on serpentine. 690–3,610 feet in elevation. Blooms May–July. Annual.	*Not expected to occur*. The project area is out of geographical range of this species.
Mildred's clarkia *Clarkia mildrediae* ssp. *mildrediae*	—	—	1B.3	Cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest. On decomposed granite; sometimes on roadsides. 805–5,610 feet in elevation. Blooms May–August. Annual.	*May occur*. The project area contains montane hardwood conifer, Sierran mixed conifer, Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, blue oak foothill pine, oak woodland, montane hardwood, and roadside habitat on granitic soils suitable for this species.
Mosquin's clarkia *Clarkia mosquinii*	—	—	1B.1	Cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest. Usually on steep, rocky cutbanks and slopes. 605–4,005 feet in elevation. Blooms May–July. Annual.	*May occur*. The project area contains oak woodland, Sierran mixed conifer, Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, montane hardwood, and montane hardwood conifer habitat suitable for this species. There is a known occurrence of Mosquin's clarkia less than 10 feet from the project area boundary near North Loop Road (CNDDB 2023).
Northern coralroot *Corallorhiza trifida*	—	—	2B.1	Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps. Wet, open to shaded, generally coniferous forest. In California, under firs, in partial shade. 3,985–5,710 feet in elevation. Blooms June–July. Geophyte.	*May occur*. The project area contains wet meadow, Sierran mixed conifer, Douglas fir, and montane hardwood conifer habitat suitable for this species.

Species	Listing Status[1] Federal	Listing Status[1] State	CRPR	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence[2]
Recurved larkspur *Delphinium recurvatum*	—	—	1B.2	Chenopod scrub, valley and foothill grassland, cismontane woodland. On alkaline soils; often in valley saltbush or valley chenopod scrub. 10–2,590 feet in elevation. Blooms March–June. Perennial.	*May occur*. This species was documented around what is now Yuba City in 1900 in Yuba/Sutter Counties, though now assumed extirpated from this location (CNDDB 2024). This occurrence is outside of the treatment area. Grasslands with alkaline soils potentially suitable for this species are present within Yuba County and may be present in the treatment area.
Dwarf downingia *Downingia pusilla*	—	—	2B.2	Wetland. Valley and foothill grassland (mesic sites), vernal pools. Vernal lake and pool margins with a variety of associates. In several types of vernal pools. 5–1,610 feet in elevation. Blooms March–May. Annual.	*May occur*. The western side of the project area contains grassland and oak woodland habitat that contain vernal pools or seasonal wetlands suitable for this species. There are two occurrences of dwarf downingia on the western side of the project area that are in the general vicinity of State Highway 20 and Beale Air Force Base (CNDDB 2023). It is unknown if the species occurs within the project boundary.
Yellow willowherb *Epilobium luteum*	—	—	2B.3	Wetland. Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps. Along streams and in seeps. 5,185–7,220 feet in elevation. Blooms July–September. Perennial.	*Not expected to occur*. The project area is below the known elevational range for this species.
Clifton's eremogone *Eremogone cliftonii*	—	—	1B.3	Lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest, chaparral. Openings; granitic substrates. 1,460–5,805 feet in elevation. Blooms April–September. Perennial.	*May occur*. The project area contains montane hardwood conifer, Sierran mixed conifer, Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, blue oak foothill pine, and chaparral habitat on granitic soils suitable for this species.
Starved daisy *Erigeron miser*	—	—	1B.3	Upper montane coniferous forest. Rocky, granitic outcrops. 5,085–9,105 feet in elevation. Blooms June–October. Perennial.	*Not expected to occur*. The project area is below the known elevational range for this species.
Plumas rayless daisy *Erigeron lassenianus* var. *deficiens*	—	—	1B.3	Ultramafic. Lower montane coniferous forest. Gravelly, open sites. Sometimes on serpentine; sometimes on disturbed sites. 4,445–6,510 feet in elevation. Blooms June–September. Perennial.	*May occur*. The project area contains serpentine and gravelly soils suitable for this species.
Ahart's buckwheat *Eriogonum umbellatum* var. *ahartii*	—	—	1B.2	Ultramafic. Cismontane woodland, chaparral. Serpentinite. On slopes, in openings. 900–4,855 feet in elevation. Blooms June–September. Perennial.	*Known to occur*. There are many occurrences of Ahart's buckwheat in northern Yuba County, including three occurrences within the project area near Old Knox, Forbestown, and Slapjack Creek road (CNDDB 2023). Additional occurrences were observed during SPR BIO-1 reconnaissance survey on private timberland property off Forbestown Road. There may be additional occurrences on ultramafic soils in the project area.

Species	Listing Status[1] Federal	Listing Status[1] State	CRPR	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence[2]
Fern-leaved monkeyflower *Erythranthe filicifolia*	—	—	1B.2	Chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps. Usually slow-draining, ephemeral seeps among exfoliating granitic slabs. 1,360–5,610 feet in elevation. Blooms April–June. Annual.	*May occur*. The project area contains wetland habitat on granitic substrate suitable for this species.
Subalpine aster *Eurybia merita*	—	—	2B.3	Upper montane coniferous forest. 4,265–6,560 feet in elevation. Perennial.	*Not expected to occur*. The project area is out of geographical range of this species.
Minute pocket moss *Fissidens pauperculus*	—	—	1B.2	Moss growing on damp soil on stream banks and in dry streambeds. 35–3,360 feet in elevation. Perennial.	*May occur*. The project area contains streambed and bank habitat suitable for this species. There are multiple occurrences just outside the northern section of the project area (CNDDB 2023).
Caribou coffeeberry *Frangula purshiana* ssp. *ultramafica*	—	—	1B.2	Ultramafic. Lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest, chaparral, meadows and seeps. On serpentine. 2,380–6,005 feet in elevation. Blooms May–July. Perennial.	*May occur*. The project area contains chaparral, blue-oak foothill pine, Ponderosa pine, montane-hardwood conifer, Sierran mixed conifer, Douglas fir, and wet meadow habitat on serpentine soil suitable for this species.
Pine Hill flannelbush *Fremontodendron decumbens*	FE	SR	1B.2	Ultramafic. Chaparral, cismontane woodland. Rocky ridges; gabbro or serpentine endemic; often among rocks and boulders. 1,395–2,510 feet in elevation. Blooms April–July. Perennial.	*Known to occur*. There are two occurrences of Pine Hill flannelbush in the project area in the vicinity of Marysville Road and Jiggs Road (CNDDB 2023). There may be additional occurrences on ultramafic soils in the project area.
Adobe-lily *Fritillaria pluriflora*	—	—	1B.2	Ultramafic. Chaparral, cismontane woodland, foothill grassland. Usually on clay soils; sometimes serpentine. 150–3,100 feet in elevation. Blooms February–April. Geophyte.	*Not expected to occur*. The project area is out of geographical range of this species.
Boggs Lake hedge-hyssop *Gratiola heterosepala*	—	SE	1B.2	Wetland. Marshes and swamps (freshwater), vernal pools. Clay soils; usually in vernal pools, sometimes on lake margins. 35–7,790 feet in elevation. Blooms April–August. Annual.	*May occur*. The project area contains vernal pool, seasonal wetland, pond, and lake habitat suitable for this species.
Buttercup-leaf hemieva *Hemieva ranunculifolia*	—	—	2B.2	Wetland. Upper montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps. Mesic sites; rocky. 4,920–8,200 feet in elevation. Blooms June–August. Perennial.	*Not expected to occur*. The project area is below the known elevational range for this species.
Water star-grass *Heteranthera dubia*	—	—	2B.2	Marshes and swamps. Alkaline, still or slow-moving water. Requires a pH of 7 or higher, usually in slightly eutrophic waters. 50–4,955 feet in elevation. Blooms July–October. Perennial.	*Not expected to occur*. The project area is out of geographical range of this species.
Woolly rose-mallow *Hibiscus lasiocarpos* var. *occidentalis*	—	—	1B.2	Wetland. Marshes and swamps (freshwater). Moist, freshwater-soaked river banks and low peat islands in sloughs; can also occur on riprap and levees. In California, known from the delta watershed. 0–510 feet in elevation. Blooms June–September. Geophyte.	*Not expected to occur*. The project area is out of geographical range of this species.

Species	Listing Status[1] Federal	Listing Status[1] State	CRPR	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence[2]
Webber's ivesia *Ivesia webberi*	FT	—	1B.1	Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, pinyon and juniper woodland. Rocky or gravelly volcanic soils. 3,395–6,300 feet in elevation. Blooms May–July. Perennial.	*Not expected to occur*. The project area is out of geographical range of this species.
Finger rush *Juncus digitatus*	—	—	1B.1	Wetland. Cismontane woodland (openings), lower montane coniferous forest (openings), vernal pools. In full sun, in the vernally damp ground of seeps, vernal pools and swales on gentle slopes over volcanic bedrock. 1,970–2,590 feet in elevation. Blooms May–June. Annual.	*May occur*. The project area contains wet meadows, vernal pools, and seasonal wetlands suitable for this species.
Ahart's dwarf rush *Juncus leiospermus var. ahartii*	—	—	1B.2	Valley and foothill grassland. Restricted to the edges of vernal pools in grassland. 100–330 feet in elevation. Blooms March–May. Annual.	*May occur*. The western side of the project area contains grassland and oak woodland habitat that contain vernal pools or seasonal wetlands suitable for this species.
Red Bluff dwarf rush *Juncus leiospermus var. leiospermus*	—	—	1B.1	Chaparral, valley and foothill grassland, cismontane woodland, vernal pools, meadows and seeps. Vernally mesic sites. Sometimes on edges of vernal pools. 100–3,365 feet in elevation. Blooms March–June. Annual.	*May occur*. The project area contains wet meadow habitat as well as vernal pools and seasonal wetlands within grassland and oak woodland habitat suitable for this species.
Legenere *Legenere limosa*	—	—	1B.1	Vernal pools, wetland. In beds of vernal pools. 5–2,885 feet in elevation. Blooms April–June. Annual.	*May occur*. The western side of the project area contains grassland and oak woodland habitat that contain vernal pools or seasonal wetlands suitable for this species.
Cantelow's lewisia *Lewisia cantelovii*	—	—	1B.2	Ultramafic. Broadleafed upland forest, lower montane coniferous forest, cismontane woodland, chaparral. Mesic rock outcrops and wet cliffs, usually in moss or clubmoss; on granitics or sometimes on serpentine. 1,085–4,495 feet in elevation. Blooms May–October. Perennial.	*May occur*. The project area contains chaparral, montane hardwood conifer, Sierran mixed conifer, Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, blue oak foothill pine, oak woodland, and montane hardwood habitat on granitic and serpentine substrate suitable for this species.
Butte County meadowfoam *Limnanthes floccosa ssp. californica*	FE	SE	1B.1	Vernal pools, valley and foothill grassland, wetland. Wet or flowing drainages and depressions; often not in discrete vernal pools; soils are usually Redding clay with rocks. 150–3,050 feet in elevation. Blooms March–May. Annual.	*May occur*. The western side of the project area contains grassland and oak woodland habitat that contain vernal pools or seasonal wetlands and Redding soil type suitable for this species.
Inundated bog-clubmoss *Lycopodiella inundata*	—	—	2B.2	Wetland. Bogs and fens, lower montane coniferous forest, marshes and swamps. Peat bogs, muddy depressions, pond margins. 150–4,020 feet in elevation. Blooms June–September. Geophyte.	*May occur*. The project area contains wetland and pond habitat within coniferous forest suitable for this species.
Shevock's copper moss *Mielichhoferia shevockii*	—	—	1B.2	Cismontane woodland. Moss on metamorphic rocks containing heavy metals; mesic sites. On rocks along roads. 2,460–4,595 feet in elevation. Perennial.	*May occur*. The project area contains mesic and roadside habitat as well as various rock types that may contain heavy metals suitable for this species.

Species	Listing Status[1] Federal	Listing Status[1] State	CRPR	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence[2]
Follett's monardella *Monardella follettii*	—	—	1B.2	Ultramafic. Lower montane coniferous forest. Open rocky serpentine slopes. 1,970–6,560 feet in elevation. Blooms June–September. Perennial.	*May occur*. The project area contains blue-oak foothill pine, Ponderosa pine, montane-hardwood conifer, Sierran mixed conifer, and Douglas fir habitat on serpentine soil suitable for this species.
Veiny monardella *Monardella venosa*	—	—	1B.1	Valley and foothill grassland, cismontane woodland. In heavy clay; mostly with grassland associates. Rediscovered in 1992. 100–1,330 feet in elevation. Blooms May–July. Annual.	*May occur*. The project area contains heavy clay grassland habitat suitable for this species.
Baker's navarretia *Navarretia leucocephala* ssp. *bakeri*	—	—	1B.1	Wetland. Cismontane woodland, meadows and seeps, vernal pools, valley and foothill grassland, lower montane coniferous forest. Vernal pools and swales; adobe or alkaline soils. 15–5,710 feet in elevation. Blooms April–July. Annual.	*Not expected to occur*. The project area is out of geographical range of this species.
Slender orcutt grass *Orcuttia tenuis*	FT	SE	1B.1	Vernal pools, wetland. Often in gravelly substrate. 80–5,760 feet in elevation. Blooms May–September Annual.	*May occur*. The western side of the project area contains grassland and oak woodland habitat that contain vernal pools or seasonal wetlands suitable for this species.
Tall alpine-aster *Oreostemma elatum*	—	—	1B.2	Bogs and fens, meadows and seeps, upper montane coniferous forest. Mesic sites. 3,790–6,710 feet in elevation. Blooms June–August. Perennial.	*Not expected to occur*. The project area is out of geographical range of this species.
Lewis Rose's ragwort *Packera eurycephala* var. *lewisrosei*	—	—	1B.2	Ultramafic. Cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, chaparral. Steep slopes and in canyons in serpentine soil, often along or near roads. 900–6,200 feet in elevation. Blooms March–July. Perennial.	*Not expected to occur*. The project area is out of geographical range of this species.
Layne's ragwort *Packera layneae*	FT	SR	1B.2	Ultramafic. Chaparral, cismontane woodland. Ultramafic soil (serpentine or gabbro); occasionally along streams. 655–3,560 feet in elevation. Blooms April–August. Perennial.	*Known to occur*. There are two occurrences of Layne's ragwort in the project area near La Porte Road (CNDDB 2023). There may be additional occurrences on ultramafic soils in the project area.
Ahart's paronychia *Paronychia ahartii*	—	—	1B.1	Wetland. Valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools, cismontane woodland. Stony, nearly barren clay of swales and higher ground around vernal pools. 100–1,675 feet in elevation. Blooms February–June. Annual.	*May occur*. The western side of the project area contains grassland and oak woodland habitat that contain vernal pools or seasonal wetlands suitable for this species.
Closed-throated beardtongue *Penstemon personatus*	—	—	1B.2	Lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest, chaparral. Usually on north-facing slopes in metavolcanic soils. 3,495–6,955 feet in elevation. Blooms June–September. Perennial.	*Not expected to occur*. The project area is out of geographical range of this species.
Stebbins' phacelia *Phacelia stebbinsii*	—	—	1B.2	Lower montane coniferous forest, cismontane woodland, meadows, and seeps. Among rocks and rubble on metamorphic rock benches. 2,000–6,595 feet in elevation. Blooms May–July. Annual.	*Not expected to occur*. The project area is out of geographical range of this species.

Species	Listing Status[1] Federal	Listing Status[1] State	CRPR	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence[2]
Sierra blue grass *Poa sierrae*	—	—	1B.3	Lower montane coniferous forest. Shady, moist, rocky slopes. Often in canyons. 1,200–4,920 feet in elevation. Blooms April–July. Geophyte.	*May occur*. The project area contains mesic, shady, canyon habitat suitable for this species.
Flexuose threadmoss *Pohlia flexuosa*	—	—	2B.1	Lower montane coniferous forest. Roadsides, rocky seeps. 3,115–3,365 feet in elevation. Perennial.	*Known to occur*. There is one known occurrence of flexuose threadmoss in the project area near Slate Creek (CNDDB 2023). There may be additional occurrences in habitat suitable for this species in the project area.
Hartweg's golden sunburst *Pseudobahia bahiifolia*	FE	SE	1B.1	Valley and foothill grassland, cismontane woodland. Clay soils, often acidic. Predominantly on the northern slopes of knolls, but also along shady creeks or near vernal pools. 195–560 feet in elevation. Blooms March–April. Annual.	*Not expected to occur*. The only occurrence documented near the project area was an 1847 collection in Yuba/Sutter Counties near Marysville that has since been extirpated and was likely a misidentification (CNDDB 2023). All other occurrences are south of Stockton.
California alkali grass *Puccinellia simplex*	—	—	1B.2	Meadows and seeps, chenopod scrub, valley and foothill grasslands, vernal pools. Alkaline, vernally mesic. Sinks, flats, and lake margins. 5–3,000 feet in elevation. Blooms March–May. Annual.	*Not expected to occur*. The project area is outside the known range of this species. All known occurrences in California are west of Yuba City in the Central Valley (CNDDB 2023).
Sticky pyrrocoma *Pyrrocoma lucida*	—	—	1B.2	Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, Great Basin scrub. Alkaline flats, clay soils. 2,495–6,855 feet in elevation. Blooms July–October. Perennial.	*May occur*. There is one occurrence of sticky pyrrocoma in the general vicinity of Camptonville near Highway 49, known from a 1935 collection (CNDDB 2023). The project area contains wet meadow habitat and wetlands within Sierran mixed conifer, Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, and montane hardwood conifer habitat suitable for this species.
Alder buckthorn *Rhamnus alnifolia*	—	—	2B.2	Wetland. Meadows and seeps, lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest, riparian scrub. Mesic sites. 4,690–7,005 feet in elevation. Blooms May–July. Perennial.	*May occur*. The project area contains wet meadow and montane riparian habitat as well as wetlands within Sierran mixed conifer, Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, and montane hardwood conifer habitat suitable for this species. However, the closest known occurrences are 17 miles north and east of the project site (CNDDB 2023). Most known occurrences in California are above 4,600 feet in elevation.
Brownish beaked-rush *Rhynchospora capitellata*	—	—	2B.2	Wetland. Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps, upper montane coniferous forest. Mesic sites. 150–5,610 feet in elevation. Blooms July–August. Perennial.	*Known to occur*. There is one known occurrence of brownish beaked-rush in the project area near Conifer Lane (CNDDB 2023). There may be additional occurrences in habitat suitable for this species in the project area.

Species	Listing Status[1] Federal	Listing Status[1] State	CRPR	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence[2]
Sanford's arrowhead *Sagittaria sanfordii*	—	—	1B.2	Wetland. Marshes and swamps. In standing or slow-moving freshwater ponds, marshes, and ditches. 0–2,135 feet in elevation. Blooms May–October. Geophyte.	*May occur*. The project area contains wetland, pond, and ditch habitat suitable for this species.
Water bulrush *Schoenoplectus subterminalis*	—	—	2B.3	Wetland. Marshes and swamps, bogs and fens. Montane lake margins, in shallow water. 2,460–7,380 feet in elevation. Blooms June–August. Geophyte.	*Not expected to occur*. The project area is outside the known geographical range of this species.
Siskiyou jellyskin lichen *Scytinium siskiyouense*	—	—	1B.1	Lower montane coniferous forest, North coast coniferous. Epiphytic, usually on the bark of Fagaceae, such as *Quercus* or *Chrysolepis*. 2,085–4,790 feet in elevation. Lichen.	*May occur*. The project area contains Quercus species that may provide suitable habitat for this species.
Canyon Creek stonecrop *Sedum paradisum* ssp. *paradisum*	—	—	1B.3	Chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, subalpine coniferous forest, broadleafed upland forest. Rock faces, in crevices of exposed granite. 2,790–6,200 feet in elevation. Blooms May–June. Perennial.	*Not expected to occur*. The project area is outside the known geographical range of this species.
Scadden Flat checkerbloom *Sidalcea stipularis*	—	SE	1B.1	Wetland. Marshes and swamps. Wet montane marshes fed by springs. 2,295–2,430 feet in elevation. Blooms July–August. Geophyte.	*Not expected to occur*. The project area is outside the known geographical range of this species. Scadden Flat checkerbloom is only known to occur in a small geographical range within Nevada County.
Hairy marsh hedge-nettle *Stachys pilosa*	—	—	2B.3	Great Basin scrub, meadows and seeps. Mesic sites. 2,575–6,710 feet in elevation. Blooms June–August. Geophyte.	*Not expected to occur*. The project area is outside the known geographical range of this species.
Long-leaved starwort *Stellaria longifolia*	—	—	2B.2	Wetland. Bogs and fens, meadows and seeps, riparian woodland, upper montane coniferous forest. Moist areas. 2,955–6,005 feet in elevation. Blooms May–August. Geophyte.	*Not expected to occur*. The project area is outside the known geographical range of this species.
True's mountain jewelflower *Streptanthus tortuosus* ssp. *truei*	—	—	1B.1	Lower montane coniferous forest. Partial shade on steep rocky slopes. 2,510–2,820 feet in elevation. Blooms June–July. Perennial.	*May occur*. Two of the four known occurrences of True's mountain jewelflower are known from the steep canyons surrounding the Middle Yuba River, east of the project area (CNDDB 2023). The project area contains portions of steep canyon habitat along the Middle Yuba River suitable for this species.
Cylindrical trichodon *Trichodon cylindricus*	—	—	2B.2	Broadleafed upland forest, upper montane coniferous forest. Moss growing in openings on sandy or clay soils on roadsides, stream banks, trails or in fields. 165–4,920 feet in elevation. Perennial.	*May occur*. The project area contains sandy and clay soil suitable for this species.
Butte County golden clover *Trifolium jokerstii*	—	—	1B.2	Wetland. Valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools. Mesic sites in grassland. 165–1,265 feet in elevation. Blooms March–May. Annual.	*Not expected to occur*. The project area is outside the known geographical range of this species.

Species	Listing Status[1] Federal	Listing Status[1] State	CRPR	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence[2]
Greene's tuctoria *Tuctoria greenei*	FE	SR	1B.1	Vernal pools, wetland. Vernal pools in open grasslands. 80–4,345 feet in elevation. Blooms May–July. Annual.	*May occur*. The western side of the project area contains grassland habitat that contain vernal pools or seasonal wetlands suitable for this species.
Flat-leaved bladderwort *Utricularia intermedia*	—	—	2B.2	Wetland. Bogs and fens, meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps, vernal pools. Mesic meadows, lake margins, marshes, fens. 2,200–8,710 feet in elevation. Blooms July–August. Perennial.	*Not expected to occur*. The project area is outside the known geographical range of this species.
Oval-leaved viburnum *Viburnum ellipticum*	—	—	2B.3	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest. 705–4,595 feet in elevation. Blooms May–June. Perennial.	*Not expected to occur*. The project area is outside the known geographical range of this species.
Brazilian watermeal *Wolffia brasiliensis*	—	—	2B.3	Wetland. Marshes and swamps. Shallow freshwater marshes. 65–330 feet in elevation. Blooms April–December. Perennial.	*Known to occur*. There is one known occurrence of Brazilian watermeal in the project area near Camp Far West Road (CNDDB 2023). The presence of this occurrence was confirmed during SPR BIO-1 reconnaissance surveys. There may be additional occurrences in habitat suitable for this species in the project area.

Notes: CRPR = California Rare Plant Rank; CEQA = California Environmental Quality Act; ESA = Endangered Species Act; NPPA = Native Plant Protection Act

1 Legal Status Definitions

Federal:

FE Federally Listed as Endangered (legally protected by ESA)

FT Federally Listed as Threatened (legally protected by ESA)

State:

SE State Listed as Endangered (legally protected by CESA)

SR State Listed as Rare (legally protected by NPPA)

California Rare Plant Ranks (CRPR):

1A Plant species that are presumed extirpated or extinct because they have not been seen or collected in the wild in California for many years. A plant is extinct if it no longer occurs anywhere. A plant that is extirpated from California has been eliminated from California but may still occur elsewhere in its range.

1B Plant species considered rare or endangered in California and elsewhere (protected under CEQA, but not legally protected under ESA or CESA).

2B Plant species considered rare or endangered in California but more common elsewhere (protected under CEQA, but not legally protected under ESA or CESA).

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)

2 Potential for Occurrence Definitions

Not expected to occur: Species is unlikely to be present because of poor habitat quality, lack of suitable habitat features, or restricted current distribution of the species.

May occur: Suitable habitat is available and there have been nearby recorded occurrences of the species.

Known to occur: The species has been observed within the project area.

Sources: CNPS 2023; CNDDB 2023.

Special-Status Wildlife Species Known to Occur in the Vicinity of the Project Area and Their Potential for Occurrence in the Project Area

Species	Listing Status[1] Federal	Listing Status[1] State	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence[2]
Amphibians and Reptiles				
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*. There is one known occurrence of California red-legged frog in Yuba County, near Little Oregon Creek west of New Bullards Bar Reservoir (CNDDB 2023). California red-legged frogs have not been observed at this location since 2009 despite repeated survey efforts and are thought to be extirpated (USFWS 2023b). Aquatic habitat, including perennial streams with deep pools, stock ponds, seeps, and wetlands throughout Yuba County provide habitat suitable for this species.
California tiger salamander *Ambystoma californiense*	FT	ST	Need underground refuges, especially ground squirrel burrows, and vernal pools or other seasonal water sources for breeding.	*Not expected to occur*. The project area is outside of the documented range of California tiger salamander.
Coast horned lizard *Phrynosoma blainvillii*	—	SSC	Frequents a wide variety of habitats, most common in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes. Open areas for sunning, bushes for cover, patches of loose soil for burial, and abundant supply of ants and other insects.	*May occur*. The documented range of coast horned lizard includes the portion of Yuba County west of New Bullards Bar Reservoir. Shrub habitat in the County may provide habitat suitable for this species.
Foothill yellow-legged frog (North Sierra DPS) *Rana boylii* pop. 3	—	ST	Yuba River to Middle Fork American River, and Sutter Buttes. Subbasins (HU 8) Butte Creek, Honcut Headwaters - Lower Feather, Upper Yuba, Upper Bear, Upper Coon - Upper Auburn, North Fork American, and Lower American in Sutter, Yuba, Sierra, Nevada, and Placer counties. Partly shaded shallow streams and riffles with a rocky substrate in a variety of habitats. Needs at least some cobble-sized substrate for egg-laying and at least 15 weeks to attain metamorphosis.	*May occur*. There are many documented occurrences of foothill yellow-legged frog throughout Yuba County including within the Yuba River, South Honcutt Creek, Dry Creek, Indian Creek, Little Oregon Creek, Brandy Creek, Willow Creek, Grizzly Creek, Oregon Creek, Moonshine Creek, and Yellowjacket Creek (CNDDB 2023). Perennial streams (i.e., Class I streams, Class II streams) in the County may provide habitat suitable for this species.
Giant gartersnake *Thamnophis gigas*	FT	ST	Prefers freshwater marsh and low gradient streams. Has adapted to drainage canals and irrigation ditches. This is the most aquatic of the garter snakes in California.	*May occur*. There are two documented occurrences of giant gartersnake in Yuba County: one within marsh habitat approximately 4 miles southwest of Loma Rica and one near the Feather River approximately 0.3 mile south of the Plumas Lake community in southwestern Yuba County (CNDDB 2023). Lowland areas (i.e., less than 300 ft in elevation) in Yuba County with freshwater marsh, wetlands, streams, drainage canals, or irrigation ditches may provide habitat suitable for this species.

Species	Listing Status[1] Federal	Listing Status[1] State	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence[2]
Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog *Rana sierrae*	FE	ST	Lakes, ponds, marshes, meadows, and streams at high elevations (i.e., approximately 3,500–12,000 ft). Always encountered within a few feet of water. Tadpoles may require 2 to 4 years to complete their aquatic development.	*May occur*. There is one documented occurrence of Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog within Gold Run Creek in the extreme northeastern portion of the County (CNDDB 2023). The range of this species includes the portion of Yuba County east and northeast of New Bullards Bar Reservoir and aquatic habitats (i.e., lakes, ponds, marshes, meadows, streams) above approximately 3,500 ft in elevation may provide habitat suitable for this species.
Southern long-toed salamander *Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum*	—	SSC	High elevation meadows and lakes in the Sierra Nevada, Cascade, and Klamath mountains. Aquatic larvae occur in ponds and lakes. Outside of breeding season adults are terrestrial and associated with underground burrows of mammals and moist areas under logs and rocks.	*May occur*. There is one documented occurrence of southern long-toed salamander within Slate Creek in the extreme northeast portion of the County (CNDDB 2023). The range of this species includes the portion of Yuba County northeast of New Bullards Bar Reservoir and aquatic habitats (i.e., meadows, lakes, ponds, streams) within high elevation (i.e., greater than 3,500 ft) portions of northeastern Yuba County may provide habitat suitable for this species.
Western pond turtle *Actinemys marmorata*	FP	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 km from water for egg-laying.	*May occur*. There are several documented occurrences of western pond turtle in Yuba County, including within Dry Creek, Best Slough, and the Yuba River (CNDDB 2023). Aquatic habitat throughout Yuba County, including streams, ponds, lakes, and irrigation ditches, may provide habitat suitable for this species.
Western spadefoot *Spea hammondii*	FP	SSC	Occurs primarily in grassland habitats, but can be found in valley-foothill hardwood woodlands. Vernal pools are essential for breeding and egg-laying.	*May occur*. The range of western spadefoot includes low elevation areas (i.e., less than 1,000 feet) in Yuba County. Low elevation grassland habitat in Yuba County that contains vernal pools or wetlands may provide habitat suitable for this species.
Birds				
American goshawk *Accipiter atricapillus*	—	SSC	Within, and in vicinity of, coniferous forest. Uses old nests, and maintains alternate sites. Usually nests on north slopes, near water. Red fir, lodgepole pine, Jeffrey pine, and aspens are typical nest trees.	*May occur*. There are no documented occurrences of nesting American goshawks in Yuba County; however, there are several in Butte and Nevada Counties near the Yuba County border (CNDDB 2023). The documented range of American goshawk includes the eastern portion of Yuba County, east of Oregon House, and forest habitat in this portion of the County may provide habitat suitable for this species.

Species	Listing Status[1] Federal	Listing Status[1] State	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence[2]
Bald eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	FD	SE FP	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 bald eagles have been documented near New Bullards Bar Reservoir and Collins Lake (CNDDB 2023). Bald eagles may nest near these lakes or near other large waterbodies in or directly adjacent to Yuba County, including Lake Mildred, Yuba River, Camp Far West Reservoir, or Sly Creek Reservoir.
Bank swallow *Riparia riparia*	—	ST	Colonial nester; nests primarily in riparian and other lowland habitats west of the desert. Requires vertical banks/cliffs with fine-textured/sandy soils near streams, rivers, lakes, ocean to dig nesting hole.	*May occur*. Bank swallow colonies have been documented along the Feather River on the border of Yuba County and Sutter County (CNDDB 2023). Some stretches of the Yuba River may provide bank habitat suitable for this species.
Black swift *Cypseloides niger*	—	SCC	Coastal belt of Santa Cruz and Monterey counties; central and southern Sierra Nevada; San Bernardino and San Jacinto mountains. Breeds in small colonies on cliffs behind or adjacent to waterfalls in deep canyons and sea-bluffs above the surf; forages widely.	*May occur*. The range of black swift includes areas east of New Bullards Bar Reservoir. Canyon habitats in Yuba County may provide nesting habitat suitable for this species.
Burrowing owl *Athene cunicularia*	—	SSC	Open, dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation. Subterranean nester, dependent upon burrowing mammals, most notably, the California ground squirrel.	*May occur*. There is one documented occurrence of a nesting burrowing owl in Yuba County near Beale Air Force Base (CNDDB 2023). The year-round range of this species includes lowland areas (i.e., less than approximately 300 ft in elevation) of Yuba County and the winter range of the species includes portions of the county west of Dobbins. Grassland habitat within these portions of the County may provide nesting or wintering habitat suitable for burrowing owls.
California black rail *Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus*	—	ST FP	Inhabits freshwater marshes, wet meadows, and shallow margins of saltwater marshes bordering larger bays. Needs water depths of about 1 inch that do not fluctuate during the year and dense vegetation for nesting habitat.	*May occur*. There are many documented occurrences of black rail in Yuba County, all of which are located in lower elevation areas of the County west and south of Collins Lake (CNDDB 2023). Marsh habitat in the western portion of Yuba County may provide habitat suitable for this species.
California spotted owl *Strix occidentalis occidentalis*	FP	SSC	Mixed conifer forest, often with an understory of black oaks and other deciduous hardwoods. Canopy closure greater than 40 percent. Most often found in deep-shaded canyons, on north-facing slopes, and within approximately 1,000 feet of water.	*May occur*. There are many documented occurrences of nesting California spotted owls in Yuba County, largely concentrated east of Dobbins and Brownsville in the eastern half of the County (CNDDB 2023). Habitat suitable for spotted owls (i.e., forests with canopy closure greater than 40 percent) is present sporadically throughout the eastern half of the County.

Species	Listing Status[1] Federal	Listing Status[1] State	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence[2]
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*. The project area is within the range of this species and there are several observations of the species in the vicinity of the project area (eBird 2020). Nesting habitat potentially suitable for golden eagle is present in large trees and canyons within treatment areas.
Grasshopper sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum*	—	SSC	Dense grasslands on rolling hills, lowland plains, in valleys and on hillsides on lower mountain slopes. Favors native grasslands with a mix of grasses, forbs and scattered shrubs. Loosely colonial when nesting.	*May occur*. The documented grasshopper sparrow range includes the western portion of Yuba County, west of Dobbins. Grassland habitat in the western portion of the County may provide habitat suitable for this species.
Great gray owl *Strix nebulosa*	—	SE	Resident of mixed conifer or red fir forest habitat, in or on edge of meadows. Requires large diameter snags in a forest with high canopy closure, which provide a cool sub-canopy microclimate.	*May occur*. There is one documented occurrence of great gray owl in Yuba County, approximately 3.8 miles east of New Bullards Bar Reservoir on private timberland (CNDDB 2023). The documented range of great gray owl includes the eastern half of the county, east of Dobbins and including Brownsville (i.e., areas greater than approximately 1,500 ft in elevation). Forest habitat with large diameter snags near meadows in the eastern portion of the County may provide habitat suitable for great gray owl.
Greater sandhill crane *Antigone canadensis tabida*	—	ST FP	Nests in wetland habitats in northeastern California; winters in the Central Valley. Prefers grain fields within 4 miles of a shallow body of water used as a communal roost site; irrigated pasture used as loafing sites.	*May occur*. Greater sandhill cranes are not expected to nest in the project area; however, the winter range of greater sandhill crane includes lower elevations (i.e., below approximately 200 feet in elevation) in Yuba County. Agricultural areas in these low elevation areas may provide habitat suitable for greater sandhill cranes.
Least Bell's vireo *Vireo bellii pusillus*	FE	SE	Summer resident of Southern California in low riparian in vicinity of water or in dry river bottoms; below 2,000 feet. Nests placed along margins of bushes or on twigs projecting into pathways, usually willow, *Baccharis*, mesquite.	*Not expected to occur*. The project area is outside of the current known range of least Bell's vireo.
Loggerhead shrike *Lanius ludovicianus*	—	SSC	Broken woodlands, savannah, pinyon-juniper, Joshua tree, and riparian woodlands, desert oases, scrub and washes. Prefers open country for hunting, with perches for scanning, and fairly dense shrubs and brush for nesting.	*May occur*. There are no documented occurrences of nesting loggerhead shrikes in Yuba County; however, nesting habitat suitable for this species is present in the project area within woodlands and shrub habitats.

Species	Listing Status[1] Federal	Listing Status[1] State	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence[2]
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 breeding range of long-eared owl includes portions of Yuba County greater than approximately 150 feet in elevation (i.e., east of Beale Air Force Base, including Browns Valley). Riparian habitat and oak woodlands adjacent to streams in the county may provide nesting habitat suitable for long-eared owl.
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 patches of dense, often tall vegetation, usually at marsh edge; nest built of a large mound of sticks in wet areas.	*May occur*. There are several documented occurrences of nesting northern harriers on Beale Air Force Base (CNDDB 2023). The year-round range of this species includes lowland areas (i.e., less than approximately 300 ft in elevation) of Yuba County and the winter range of the species includes portions of the county west of Dobbins. Marsh and grassland habitat within these portions of the County may provide nesting or wintering habitat suitable for northern harrier.
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 range of olive-sided flycatcher includes the eastern half of Yuba County (i.e., east of Dobbins). Forest habitats in the eastern half of Yuba County may provide nesting habitat suitable for this species.
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 project area is within the range of this species and there are several observations of the species in the vicinity of the project area (eBird 2024). Nesting habitat potentially suitable for purple martin is present in large trees or snags within treatment areas.
Song sparrow ("Modesto" population) *Melospiza melodia*	—	SSC	Emergent freshwater marshes, riparian willow thickets, riparian forests of valley oak, and vegetated irrigation canals and levees.	*May occur*. The song sparrow ("Modesto" population) range overlaps western Yuba County (i.e., west of Browns Valley, Beale Air Force Base area, west of Beale Air Force Base). Treatment areas within the western portion of Yuba County that contain marsh or riparian habitat may provide nesting habitat suitable for song sparrow ("Modesto" population).
Swainson's hawk *Buteo swainsoni*	—	ST	Breeds in grasslands with scattered trees, juniper-sage flats, riparian areas, savannahs, and agricultural or ranch lands with groves or lines of trees. Requires adjacent suitable foraging areas such as grasslands, or alfalfa or grain fields supporting rodent populations.	*May occur*. The Swainson's hawk range overlaps western Yuba County (i.e., west of Browns Valley, Beale Air Force Base area, west of Beale Air Force Base). Treatment areas within the western portion of Yuba County may contain nesting habitat suitable for Swainson's hawk.

Species	Listing Status[1] Federal	Listing Status[1] State	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence[2]
Tricolored blackbird *Agelaius tricolor*	—	ST SSC	Highly colonial species, most numerous in Central Valley and vicinity. Largely endemic to California. Requires open water, protected nesting substrate, and foraging area with insect prey within a few miles of the colony.	*May occur*. There are several documented occurrences of tricolored blackbird colonies in low elevation portions of Yuba County (i.e., less than approximately 100 ft in elevation) near Loma Rica Road, the Yuba River, and Beale Air Force Base (CNDDB 2023). The documented range of tricolored blackbird includes the western portion of the County west of Dobbins. Marsh, riparian, or other habitat suitable for this species (e.g., blackberry brambles) in the western portion of Yuba County may provide nesting habitat suitable for this species.
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 range of Vaux's swift includes the eastern half of Yuba County (i.e., east of Dobbins). Forest habitats in the eastern half of Yuba County may provide nesting habitat suitable for this species.
Western yellow-billed cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*	FT	SE	Riparian forest nester, along the broad, lower flood-bottoms of larger river systems. Nests in riparian jungles of willow, often mixed with cottonwoods, with lower story of blackberry, nettles, or wild grape.	*Not expected to occur*. The documented range of western yellow-billed cuckoo includes only the southwestern corner of Yuba County west of Wheatland, including Yankee Slough, Dry Creek, and the Feather River. Riparian forest habitat in this portion of the county associated with the aforementioned streams may provide nesting habitat suitable for this species; however, this portion of the county is not included in the project area.
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*. There is one documented white-tailed kite nesting occurrence near the Yuba County Airport west of Olivehurst. The documented range of white-tailed kite includes the western portion of the County, west of Dobbins. Woodland and riparian forest habitat in the western portion of Yuba County may provide nesting habitat suitable for white-tailed kite.
Willow flycatcher *Empidonax traillii*	—	SE	Inhabits extensive thickets of low, dense willows on edge of wet meadows, ponds, or backwaters; 2,000-8,000 feet elevation. Requires dense willow thickets for nesting/roosting. Low, exposed branches are used for singing posts/hunting perches.	*Not expected to occur*. Yuba County is outside of the documented range of Willow flycatcher.
Yellow warbler *Setophaga petechia*	—	SSC	Riparian plant associations in close proximity to water. Also nests in shrubs in open conifer forests in Cascades and Sierra Nevada. Frequently found nesting and foraging in willow shrubs and thickets, and in other riparian plants including cottonwoods, sycamores, ash, and alders.	*May occur*. The breeding range of yellow warbler includes the eastern half of Yuba County. Riparian habitat within the project area may provide nesting habitat suitable for this species.

Species	Listing Status[1] Federal	Listing Status[1] State	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence[2]
Yellow-breasted chat *Icteria virens*	—	SSC	Summer resident; inhabits riparian thickets of willow and other brushy tangles near watercourses. Nests in low, dense riparian vegetation, consisting of willow, blackberry, wild grape; forages and nests within 10 feet of ground.	*May occur*. The breeding range of yellow-breasted chat includes the eastern half of Yuba County. Riparian habitat within the project area may provide nesting habitat suitable for this species.
Fish				
Chinook salmon - Central Valley spring-run ESU *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* pop. 6	FT	ST	Adult numbers depend on pool depth and volume, amount of cover, and proximity to gravel. Federal listing refers to populations spawning in Sacramento River and tributaries.	*May occur*. In Yuba County, Chinook salmon have been documented west of New Bullards Bar Reservoir in the Yuba River, Deer Creek, and Dry Creek (CNDDB 2023). The historic range of Chinook salmon included streams east of New Bullards Bar Reservoir; however, these streams are now anthropogenically blocked.
Green sturgeon - southern DPS *Acipenser medirostris* pop. 1	FT	—	Spawns in the Sacramento, Feather and Yuba Rivers. Presence in upper Stanislaus and San Joaquin Rivers may indicate spawning. Non-spawning adults occupy marine/estuarine waters. Delta Estuary is important for rearing juveniles.	*Not expected to occur*. Green sturgeon is known to occur in the Yuba River near the project area; however, the range of this species does not overlap the project area.
Sacramento splittail *Pogonichthys macrolepidotus*	—	SSC	Endemic to the lakes and rivers of the Central Valley, but now confined to the Delta, Suisun Bay and associated marshes. Slow moving river sections, dead end sloughs. Requires flooded vegetation for spawning and foraging for young.	*Not expected to occur*. The range of Sacramento splittail does not overlap the project area.
Steelhead - Central Valley DPS *Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus* pop. 11	FT	—	Sacramento/San Joaquin flowing waters. Populations in the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and their tributaries.	*May occur*. In Yuba County, steelhead have been documented in the Yuba and Feather Rivers, west of New Bullards Bar Reservoir (CNDDB 2023). The historic range of steelhead included streams east of New Bullards Bar Reservoir; however, these streams are now anthropogenically blocked.
Invertebrates				
Conservancy fairy shrimp *Branchinecta conservatio*	FE	—	Endemic to the grasslands of the northern two-thirds of the Central Valley; found in large, turbid pools. Inhabit astatic pools located in swales formed by old, braided alluvium; filled by winter/spring rains, last until June.	*May occur*. The current range of conservancy fairy shrimp overlaps with Yuba County, and is generally limited to areas west of Browns Valley and in areas including and surrounding Beale Air Force Base (south of SR 20). Grassland and oak savanna habitats that contain vernal pools or seasonal wetlands in the western portion of the project area may provide habitat suitable for this species.

Species	Listing Status[1] Federal	Listing Status[1] State	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence[2]
Crotch's bumble bee *Bombus crotchii*	—	SC	Found primarily in California: mediterranean, Pacific coast, western desert, Great Valley, and adjacent foothills through most of southwestern California. Habitat includes open grassland and scrub. Nests underground.	*May occur*. There are two recent (2022) occurrences of Crotch's bumble bee in Yuba County near Beale Air Force Base (Bumble Bee Watch 2023). While Crotch's bumble bee has recently undergone a dramatic decline in abundance and distribution and is no longer present across much of its historic range, most of Yuba County is within the currently accepted range of the species (CDFW 2023).
Monarch *Danaus plexippus*	FC	—	Monarch butterfly habitat requirements include host plants for larvae; adult nectar sources; and sites for roosting, thermoregulation, mating, hibernation, and predator escape. Additionally, monarch butterfly requires conditions and resources for initiating and completing migration both to and from winter roosting areas. Along their migration routes and on their summer ranges, monarch butterflies require two suites of plants: (1) host plants for monarch caterpillars, which are primarily milkweeds (*Asclepias* spp.) within the family Apocynaceae upon which adult monarchs lay eggs; and (2) nectar-producing flowering plants of many species that provide food for adult butterflies. Having both host and nectar plants available from early spring to late fall and along migration corridors is critical to the survival of migrating pollinators. In the Western United States, annual migration patterns for monarch butterflies are related to areas where milkweed grows. Abundance of adult monarchs is driven by annual precipitation that supports late-season milkweeds suitable for caterpillars, and by suitable temperature regimes that allow for completion of the monarch life cycle. During the foraging and breeding season, monarchs are typically found in prairies, meadows, grasslands, and along roadsides (NPS 2017). Winter roost sites extend along the coast from northern Mendocino to Baja California, Mexico. Roosts located in wind-protected tree groves (eucalyptus, Monterey pine, cypress), with nectar and water sources nearby.	*May occur*. While the project area is located too far inland and otherwise does not contain the conditions favored by overwintering monarchs, monarch foraging and breeding habitat, including grasslands with milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.) and other nectar sources, is present within the project area.

Species	Listing Status[1] Federal	Listing Status[1] State	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence[2]
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle *Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*	FT	—	Occurs only in the Central Valley of California, in association with blue elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*). Prefers to lay eggs in elderberry stems 2-8 inches in diameter; some preference shown for "stressed" elderberry shrubs.	*May occur*. There are several documented occurrences of valley elderberry longhorn beetle in Yuba County near the Yuba River, Feather River, and South Honcutt Creek (CNDDB 2023). The current range of valley elderberry longhorn beetle overlaps with Yuba County, and is limited to areas less than 500 ft in elevation, including west of Dobbins and south of Marysville Road. Treatment areas within this portion of Yuba County that contain blue elderberry shrubs may provide habitat suitable for valley elderberry longhorn beetle.
Vernal pool fairy shrimp *Branchinecta lynchi*	FT	—	Endemic to the grasslands of the Central Valley, Central Coast mountains, and South Coast mountains, in astatic rain-filled pools. Inhabit small, clear-water sandstone-depression pools and grassed swale, earth slump, or basalt-flow depression pools.	*May occur*. There are many documented occurrences of vernal pool fairy shrimp in Yuba County in the vicinity of Beale Air Force Base (CNDDB 2023). The current range of vernal pool fairy shrimp overlaps with Yuba County, and is generally limited to areas west of Dobbins and Brownsville. Grassland and oak savanna habitats that contain vernal pools or seasonal wetlands in the western portion of the project area may provide habitat suitable for this species.
Vernal pool tadpole shrimp *Lepidurus packardi*	FE	—	Inhabits vernal pools and swales in the Sacramento Valley containing clear to highly turbid water. Pools commonly found in grass bottomed swales of unplowed grasslands. Some pools are mud-bottomed and highly turbid.	*May occur*. There are many documented occurrences of vernal pool tadpole shrimp in Yuba County in the vicinity of Beale Air Force Base (CNDDB 2023). The current range of vernal pool tadpole shrimp overlaps with Yuba County, and is generally limited to areas west of Marysville Road (north of SR 20) and in areas including and surrounding Beale Air Force Base (south of SR 20). Grassland and oak savanna habitats that contain vernal pools or seasonal wetlands in the western portion of the project area may provide habitat suitable for this species.

Species	Listing Status[1] Federal	Listing Status[1] State	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence[2]
Western bumble bee *Bombus occidentalis*	—	SC	Once common throughout much of its range, in California, this species is now largely restricted to high elevation sites in the Sierra Nevada and the northern California coast. Habitat includes open grassy areas, chaparral, scrub, and meadows. Requires suitable nesting sites for the colonies, availability of nectar and pollen from floral resources throughout the duration of the colony period (spring, summer, and fall), and suitable overwintering sites for the queens.	*Not expected to occur*. There is one historic (1931) occurrence of western bumble bee in Yuba County near Strawberry Valley (CNDDB 2023). The project area is within the historic range of this species. However, western bumble bee has recently undergone a dramatic decline in abundance and distribution and is no longer present across much of its historic range. Western bumble bee populations are now found only in higher elevation sites in the Sierra Nevada (Xerces Society 2018), which are above the elevation range of the project area.
Mammals				
American badger *Taxidea taxus*	—	SSC	Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable soils. Needs sufficient food, friable soils and open, uncultivated ground. Preys on burrowing rodents. Digs burrows.	*May occur*. The documented range of American badger includes all of Yuba County. Grassland habitat and open woodlands throughout the County may provide habitat suitable for this species.
Fisher - West Coast DPS *Pekania pennanti*	—	SSC	Intermediate to large-tree stages of coniferous forests and deciduous-riparian areas with high percent canopy closure. Uses cavities, snags, logs and rocky areas for cover and denning. Needs large areas of mature, dense forest. Endangered status applies to Southern Sierra DPS.	*Not expected to occur*. Fisher is considered to be extirpated from most of the northern and central Sierra Nevada (Zielinski et al. 1995; Sweitzer et al. 2015) and has not been detected within or in the vicinity of the project areas since the 1980s (CNDDB 2023).
Northern California ringtail *Bassariscus astutus raptor*	—	FP	Dens most often in rock crevices, boulder piles, or talus, but also tree hollows, root cavities, and rural buildings. Rarely use same den for more than a few days. Females with litters change dens within 10 days of birth and almost daily after 20 days.	*May occur*. The documented range of ringtail includes all of Yuba County. Riparian, forest, woodland, and shrub habitats in the county may provide habitat suitable for ringtail.
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.	*May occur*. The documented range of pallid bat includes all of Yuba County. Large trees in woodlands, forests, or rural residential areas or rocky areas within the county may provide roosting habitat suitable for pallid bats.
Sierra Nevada mountain beaver *Aplodontia rufa californica*	—	SSC	Dense growth of small deciduous trees and shrubs, wet soil, and abundance of forbs in the Sierra Nevada and east slope. Needs dense understory for food and cover. Burrows into soft soil. Needs abundant supply of water. Primarily occurs in areas greater than 2,700 feet in elevation.	*May occur*. The documented range of Sierra Nevada mountain beaver overlaps the extreme northeastern portion of Yuba County, east of Strawberry Valley. Dense, shrubby habitat associated with creeks in the eastern portion of the project area may provide habitat suitable for Sierra Nevada mountain beaver.

Species	Listing Status[1] Federal	Listing Status[1] State	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence[2]
Sierra Nevada red fox *Vulpes vulpes necator*	FC	ST	Historically found from the Cascades down to the Sierra Nevada. Found in a variety of habitats from wet meadows to forested areas. Use dense vegetation and rocky areas for cover and den sites. Prefer forests interspersed with meadows or alpine fell-fields.	*Not expected to occur*. While Yuba County is within the historic range of this species, only two small populations of Sierra Nevada red fox are currently known: one near Lassen Peak and one near Sonora Pass.
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.	*May occur*. The documented range of Townsend's big-eared bat includes all of Yuba County. Large trees in woodlands, forests, or rural residential areas or human-made structures (e.g., bridges, barns) within the county may provide roosting habitat suitable for Townsend's big-eared bats.
Western mastiff bat *Eumops perotis californicus*	—	SSC	Many open, semi-arid to arid habitats, including conifer and deciduous woodlands, coastal scrub, grasslands, and chaparral. Roosts in crevices in cliff faces, high buildings, trees, and tunnels.	*May occur*. The documented range of western red bat includes all of Yuba County. Large trees in woodlands, forests, or rural residential areas; rocky areas; or human-made structures within the county may provide roosting habitat suitable for western mastiff bats.
Western red bat *Lasiurus frantzii*	—	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*. There is one documented occurrence of western red bat in Yuba County approximately 5 miles east of Browns Valley (CNDDB 2023). Trees in woodlands, forests, riparian corridors, or orchards within the county may provide roosting habitat suitable for western red bat.

Notes: CNDDB = California Natural Diversity Database; CEQA = California Environmental Quality Act

1 Legal Status Definitions

Federal:

FE Federally Listed as Endangered (legally protected)
FT Federally Listed as Threatened (legally protected)
FD Federally Delisted
FP Proposed for Listing under the federal Endangered Species Act

State:

FP Fully Protected (legally protected)
SSC Species of Special Concern (no formal protection other than CEQA consideration)
SE State Listed as Endangered (legally protected)
ST State Listed as Threatened (legally protected)
SC State Candidate for listing (legally protected)
SD State Delisted

2 Potential for Occurrence Definitions

Not expected to occur: Species is unlikely to be present because of poor habitat quality, lack of suitable habitat features, or restricted current distribution of the species.
May occur: Suitable habitat is available; however, there are little to no other indicators that the species might be present.
Known to occur: Species has been documented within the treatment site.

Sources: Bumble Bee Watch 2023; CNDDB 2023; eBird 2024; Sweitzer et al. 2015; USFWS 2023a; USFWS 2023b; Xerces Society 2018; Zielinski et al. 1995.

Wildlife and Wildlife Sign Observed on the Project Site During 2023 SPR BIO-1 Surveys

Common Name	Species Name
Birds	
Red-winged blackbird	*Agelaius phoeniceus*
Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*
Domestic duck	*Anas platyrhynchos domesticus*
California scrub-jay	*Aphelocoma californica*
Golden eagle	*Aquila chrysaetos*
Great egret	*Ardea alba*
Oak titmouse	*Baeolophus inornatus*
Canada goose	*Branta canadensis*
Red-tailed hawk	*Buteo jamaicensis*
Red-shouldered hawk	*Buteo lineatus*
California quail	*Callipepla californica*
Anna's hummingbird	*Calypte anna*
Lesser goldfinch	*Carduelis psaltria*
House finch	*Carpodacus mexicanus*
Turkey vulture	*Cathartes aura*
Belted kingfisher	*Ceryle alcyon*
Wrentit	*Chamaea fasciata*
Snow goose	*Chen caerulescens*
Northern flicker	*Colaptes auratus*
Common raven	*Corvus corax*
Steller's jay	*Cyanocitta stelleri*
Tundra swan	*Cygnus columbianus*
Yellow-rumped warbler	*Dendroica coronata*
White-tailed kite	*Elanus leucurus*
Brewer's blackbird	*Euphagus cyanocephalus*
American kestrel	*Falco sparverius*
Varied thrush	*Ixoreus naevius*
Dark-eyed junco	*Junco hyemalis*
California gull	*Larus californicus*
Acorn woodpecker	*Melanerpes formicivorus*
Lewis' woodpecker	*Melanerpes lewis*
Wild turkey	*Meleagris gallopavo*
Song sparrow	*Melospiza melodia*
Townsend's solitaire	*Myadestes townsendi*
Osprey (nest)	*Pandion haliaetus*
Savannah sparrow	*Passerculus sandwichensis*
Band-tailed pigeon	*Patagioenas fasciata*
Cliff swallow	*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*
Double-crested cormorant	*Phalacrocorax auritus*

Common Name	Species Name
Nuttall's woodpecker	*Picoides nuttallii*
California towhee	*Pipilo crissalis*
Spotted towhee	*Pipilo maculatus*
Black-capped chickadee	*Poecile atricapillus*
Bushtit	*Psaltriparus minimus*
Ruby-crowned kinglet	*Regulus calendula*
Black phoebe	*Sayornis nigricans*
Western bluebird	*Sialia mexicana*
White-breasted nuthatch	*Sitta carolinensis*
American goldfinch	*Spinus tristis*
Western meadowlark	*Sturnella neglecta*
European starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*
Bewick's wren	*Thryomanes bewickii*
American robin	*Turdus migratorius*
Western kingbird	*Tyrannus verticalis*
Mourning dove	*Zenaida macroura*
Golden-crowned sparrow	*Zonotrichia atricapilla*
White-crowned sparrow	*Zonotrichia leucophrys*
Amphibians	
Sierran treefrog	*Pseudacris sierra*
Bullfrog	*Rana catesbeiana*
Mammals	
Coyote (scat)	*Canis latrans*
Mule deer	*Odocoileus hemionus*
Woodrat (nest)	*Neotoma* sp.
Gopher (burrow)	*Thomomys* sp.
Black-tailed jackrabbit	*Lepus californicus*
Striped skunk	*Mephitis mephitis*
Northern river otter (scat)	*Lontra canadensis*
Raccoon (tracks)	*Procyon lotor*
Western gray squirrel	*Sciurus griseus*
Black bear (scat)	*Ursus americanus*
Invertebrates/Fish	
Banana slug	*Ariolimax buttoni*
Gall wasp (galls)	Family *Cynipidae*
Mosquitofish	*Gambusia affinis*
Signal crayfish	*Pacifastacus leniusculus*
Seed shrimp	Order *Podocopida*
Scarab beetle	Family *Scarabaedidae*

Source: Data provide by Ascent in 2023.

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