



County of Santa Cruz

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET, 4TH FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 454-2580 FAX: (831) 454-2131

KATHLEEN MOLLOY PREVISICH, PLANNING DIRECTOR

www.sccoplanning.com

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, the following project has been reviewed by the County Environmental Coordinator to determine if it has a potential to create significant impacts to the environment and, if so, how such impacts could be solved. A Negative Declaration is prepared in cases where the project is determined not to have any significant environmental impacts. Either a Mitigated Negative Declaration or Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is prepared for projects that may result in a significant impact to the environment.

Public review periods are provided for these Environmental Determinations according to the requirements of the County Environmental Review Guidelines. The environmental document is available for review at the County Planning Department located at 701 Ocean Street, in Santa Cruz. You may also view the environmental document on the web at www.sccoplanning.com under the Planning Department menu. If you have questions or comments about this Notice of Intent, please contact Todd Sexauer of the Environmental Review staff at (831) 454-3511.

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs or activities. If you require special assistance in order to review this information, please contact Bernice Shawver at (831) 454-3137 to make arrangements.

PROJECT: PAJARO VALLEY GROUNDWATER RECHARGE PROJECT

APP #: 171041

APN(S): 051-241-34

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County (RCD) proposes to construct a one-acre sediment basin (base elevation of 44.5 feet) and an adjacent four-acre groundwater recharge basin (base elevation of 30 feet and berm elevation of 53 feet). The proposed project involves up to 80,000 cubic yards of grading. The goal of the proposed project is to collect and infiltrate an estimated 350 acre feet per year (afy) of runoff into the Pajaro Valley Groundwater Basin.

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project is located at 959 Riverside Road near the intersection of Carlton Road and Highway 129 in Watsonville, California, approximately 900 feet north of the Pajaro River in the Pajaro River Watershed, Santa Cruz County, California. Santa Cruz County is bounded on the north by San Mateo County, on the south by Monterey and San Benito counties, on the east by Santa Clara County, and on the south and west by the Monterey Bay and the Pacific Ocean.

EXISTING ZONE DISTRICT: CA

APPLICANT: Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County

OWNER: Kelly-Thompson Ranch LLC

PROJECT PLANNER: Bob Loveland

EMAIL: Robert.Loveland@santacruzcounty.us

ACTION: Negative Declaration with Mitigations

REVIEW PERIOD: March 10, 2017 through April 10, 2017

This project will be considered at a public hearing by the Planning Commission. The time, date and location have not been set. When scheduling does occur, these items will be included in all public hearing notices for the project.



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<http://www.sccoplanning.com/>

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project: Pajaro Valley Groundwater Recharge Project

APN(S): 051-241-34

Project Description: The Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County (RCD) proposes to construct a one-acre sediment basin (base elevation of 44.5 feet) and an adjacent four-acre groundwater recharge basin (base elevation of 30 feet and berm elevation of 53 feet). The proposed project involves up to 80,000 cubic yards of grading. The goal of the proposed project is to collect and infiltrate an estimated 350 acre feet per year (afy) of runoff into the Pajaro Valley Groundwater Basin.

Project Location: The proposed project is located at 959 Riverside Road near the intersection of Carlton Road and Highway 129 in Watsonville, California, approximately 900 feet north of the Pajaro River in the Pajaro River Watershed, Santa Cruz County, California. Santa Cruz County is bounded on the north by San Mateo County, on the south by Monterey and San Benito counties, on the east by Santa Clara County, and on the south and west by the Monterey Bay and the Pacific Ocean.

Owner: Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County

Applicant: Kelly-Thompson Ranch LLC

Staff Planner: Bob Loveland, (831) 454-3163

Email: Robert.Loveland@santacruzcounty.us

This project will be considered at a public hearing by the Planning Commission. The time, date and location have not been set. When scheduling does occur, these items will be included in all public hearing notices for the project.

California Environmental Quality Act Mitigated Negative Declaration Findings:

Find, that this Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the decision-making body's independent judgment and analysis, and; that the decision-making body has reviewed and considered the information contained in this Mitigated Negative Declaration and the comments received during the public review period; and, that revisions in the project plans or proposals made by or agreed to by the project applicant would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur; and, on the basis of the whole record before the decision-making body (including this Mitigated Negative Declaration) that there is no substantial evidence that the project as revised will have a significant effect on the environment. The expected environmental impacts of the project are documented in the attached Initial Study on file with the County of Santa Cruz Clerk of the Board located at 701 Ocean Street, 5th Floor, Santa Cruz, California.

Review Period Ends: April 10, 2017

Date: _____

TODD SEXAUER, Environmental Coordinator
(831) 454-3511



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CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) INITIAL STUDY/ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Date: March 9, 2017

Application Number: 171041

Project Name: Pajaro Valley Groundwater
Recharge Project

**Staff
Planner:** Robert Loveland

I. OVERVIEW AND ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

APPLICANT: Resource Conservation
District of Santa Cruz County

APN(s): 051-241-34

OWNER: Kelly-Thompson Ranch LLC

SUPERVISORAL DISTRICT: 4

PROJECT LOCATION: The Pajaro Valley Groundwater Recharge Project site is located at 959 Riverside Road near the intersection of Carlton Road and Highway 129 in Watsonville, California, approximately 900 feet north of the Pajaro River in the Pajaro River Watershed, Santa Cruz County, California (see Figures 1 and 2). The County of Santa Cruz is bounded on the north by San Mateo County, on the south by Monterey and San Benito counties, on the east by Santa Clara County, and on the south and west by the Monterey Bay and the Pacific Ocean.

SUMMARY PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County (RCD) proposes to construct a one-acre sediment basin (base elevation of 44.5-feet) and an adjacent four-acre groundwater recharge basin (base elevation of 30-feet and berm elevation of 53-feet)(see Figure 3). The proposed project involves up to 80,000 cubic yards of grading. The goal of the proposed project is to collect and infiltrate an estimated 350 acre feet per year (afy) of runoff into the Pajaro Valley Groundwater Basin.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: *All of the following potential environmental impacts are evaluated in this Initial Study. Categories that are marked have been analyzed in greater detail based on project specific information.*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics and Visual Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Population and Housing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology and Soils | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities and Service Systems |

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: *All of the following potential environmental impacts are evaluated in this Initial Study. Categories that are marked have been analyzed in greater detail based on project specific information.*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards and Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Supply/Water Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use and Planning | |

DISCRETIONARY APPROVAL(S) BEING CONSIDERED:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Amendment | <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Development Permit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Division | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grading Permit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rezoning | <input type="checkbox"/> Riparian Exception |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Development Permit | <input type="checkbox"/> LAFCO Annexation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer Connection Permit | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES WHOSE APPROVAL IS REQUIRED (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):

Permit Type/Action

Agency

Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan

Regional Water Quality Control Board

Right-of-Way Encroachment Permit

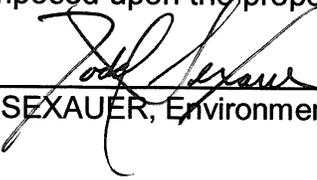
Caltrans District 5

DETERMINATION:

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment, and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made or agreed to by the project proponent. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a significant effect on the environment, and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required.
- I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** pursuant to applicable

standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.



TODD SEXAUER, Environmental Coordinator

3-9-17

Date



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Figure 1



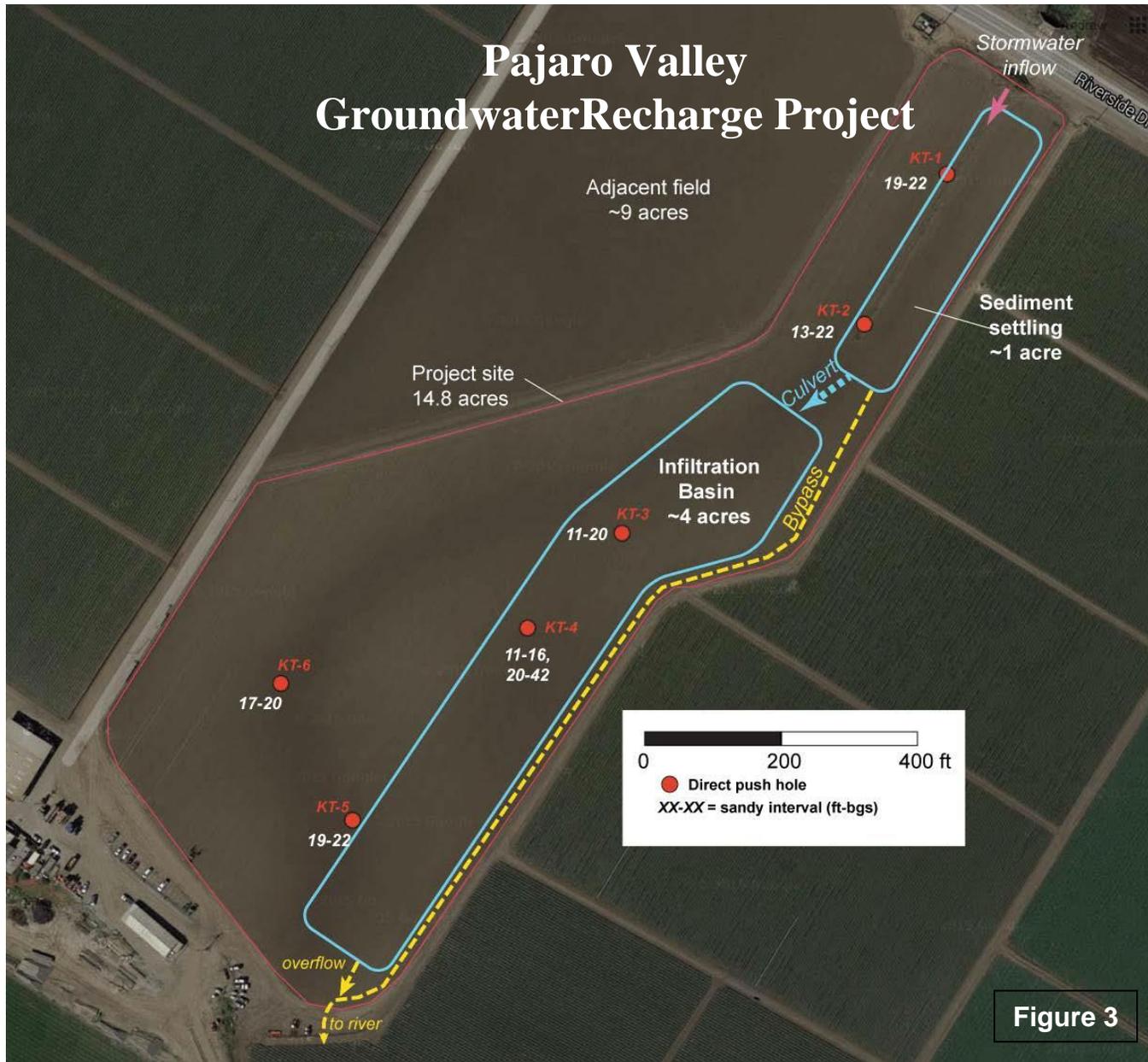
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Pajaro Valley Recharge Project





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II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS:

Parcel Size (acres): 158 acres
 Existing Land Use: Agricultural Use
 Vegetation: Agricultural Vegetation
 Slope in area affected by project: 0 - 30% 31 – 100% N/A
 Nearby Watercourse: Pajaro River
 Distance To: Pajaro River is 900 feet to the south of the project site

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND CONSTRAINTS:

Water Supply Watershed:	No	Fault Zone:	Near CFZ
Groundwater Recharge:	Yes	Scenic Corridor:	No
Timber or Mineral:	No	Historic:	No
Agricultural Resource:	Yes	Archaeology:	No
Biologically Sensitive Habitat:	No	Noise Constraint:	No
Fire Hazard:	No	Electric Power Lines:	No
Floodplain:	Yes	Solar Access:	No
Erosion:	No	Solar Orientation:	No
Landslide:	No	Hazardous Materials:	No
Liquefaction:	Yes	Other:	No

SERVICES:

Fire Protection:	PAJ-FSA	Drainage District:	Zone 7
School District:	PVUSD	Project Access:	N/A
Sewage Disposal:	CSA-12	Water Supply:	PVWMA

PLANNING POLICIES:

Zone District:	CA	Special Designation:
General Plan:	AG	
Urban Services Line:	<input type="checkbox"/> Inside	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outside
Coastal Zone:	<input type="checkbox"/> Inside	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outside

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND SURROUNDING LAND USES:

Santa Cruz County is situated along the northern end of Monterey Bay approximately 55 miles south of the City of San Francisco along the Central Coast. The Pacific Ocean and Monterey Bay to the west and south, the mountains inland, and the prime agricultural lands along both the northern and southern coast of the county create limitations on the style and amount of building that can take place. Simultaneously, these natural features create an environment that attracts both visitors and new residents every year. The natural landscape provides the basic features that set Santa Cruz apart from the surrounding counties and require specific

accommodations to ensure building is done in a safe, responsible and environmentally respectful manner.

The Pajaro Valley is intensively cropped, predominantly in caneberries, while the rangeland is used for cattle. Water is conveyed through a series of un-vegetated, anthropogenic ditches in attempt to reduce flooding and crop damage. The ditches provide little to no habitat for wildlife migration, as they are devoid of vegetation and consistently eroding. Peak surface flows during rainfall events are conveyed, with little to no treatment, through this ditch system and quickly lost to the Pajaro River and the Pacific Ocean. The Pajaro River is listed on the impaired waters list for nutrients, sediment and pathogens. Given the large drainage area and large surface flows during peak storm events, this project would provide a unique opportunity to infiltrate up to 350 afy and improve water quality before it reaches the Pajaro River.

The proposed project site is located at 959 Riverside Road near the intersection of Carlton Road and Highway 129 in Watsonville, California, in the Pajaro River Watershed. The proposed 158 acre project area is situated within the 460-acre Kelly-Thompson Ranch, LLC property, which is in the lower reach of the Pajaro River Basin in the southern Santa Cruz County. The site is currently farmed for the production of strawberries and lettuce. Approximately 1,550 acres of agricultural land and rangeland drain to the project site through two (2) 10 foot (ft) by 10 ft concrete box culverts (under Highway 129). Surface water flows 3,000 linear feet (LF) through the farm. In the past, the onsite irrigation ditch flowed through and bisected the entire project site, but presently the irrigation ditch has been reduced to approximately 400 feet in length.

PROJECT BACKGROUND:

Over the past several decades, groundwater pumping for agricultural and municipal use has led to an overdraft of the Pajaro Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin), a condition that is expected to worsen with climate change. Approximately 56,000 afy of water is drawn from the Basin to meet the needs of agriculture, households and commercial businesses. Nearly all that water (~98 %) is supplied from groundwater, and overdraft is estimated at 12,000 afy on average. Recent measurements indicate that groundwater elevations across the basin are below sea level, and seawater intrusion, which has been detected in coastal wells, is an immediate and direct threat to Pajaro Valley agriculture and ecosystem as well as to the drinking water supply for over 50,000 residents of the City of Watsonville. With seawater intrusion, elevated chloride concentrations make the groundwater unusable for irrigating the high value, salt-sensitive crops. The Pajaro Valley, along with much of California, has suffered from a multiyear drought and while there is disagreement amongst climate model projections as to the timing of precipitation patterns, there is agreement that the future will be generally drier, resulting in a higher frequency of droughts, less groundwater recharge, and increased climatic water deficit.

In March, 2016 the Board of Directors for the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency adopted a 5-year pilot study of the Recharge Net Metering (ReNeM) Program. The proposed project is consistent with the Pajaro Valley Groundwater Basin Management Plan Update and the Pajaro Watershed Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. The project will be implemented under the ReNeM program, the concept for which was recently adopted by the Board of Directors of the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency. The goal the ReNeM program is to provide financial incentives to landowners to build recharge facilities by offsetting some of the on-the-ground costs associated with operation and maintenance.

The project site was identified through a project funded by the Coastal Conservancy that mapped areas highly suitable for groundwater recharge. Suitability was confirmed by conducting a series of push tests at various spots on farm to determine that storm water collection and infiltration goals could be met through the construction of a recharge basin.

DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County (RCD) proposes to excavate up to 80,000 cubic yards of soil to create a one-acre sediment basin (base elevation of 44.5-feet) and an adjacent four-acre managed groundwater recharge basin (base elevation of 30-feet and berm elevation of 53-feet). The goal of the proposed project is to collect and infiltrate an estimated 350 afy of storm water runoff into the Pajaro Valley Groundwater Basin. The two basins would be connected with a new 36-inch diameter high-density polyethylene (HDPE) culvert, situated at a 2.3% slope. At the sediment basin outlet the RCD would install a gabion overflow weir and water would flow down the slope to a new rocked outlet located in the recharge basin.

The RCD would implement a water treatment system into the sediment and recharge basins and an overflow bypass channel would be established. The existing ditch south of the project site would function to contain overflow through this bypass channel. Within the four-acre groundwater recharge basin the RCD would construct a new drainage ditch with a four-foot base width.

Temporary Impacts

- Gravel Berm located at downstream (SW) end of project area
- Temporary dirt access path would be established
- Stockpile and Staging Area (28,000 square feet) located on the southwest side of the project site, just north of the existing access road.
- 380 linear feet of Silt Fencing to contain the downslope perimeter of the staging and stockpile areas.

All excavated soil would temporarily be stockpiled outside of the mapped 100-year floodplain in windrows near the project site adjacent to the existing farm. Soil temporarily stockpiled in windrows would not exceed 10 feet in height. The stockpiled soil would be used on nearby

farmland (APNs 110-131-05 and 051-241-34) to build up existing agricultural fields located outside of the mapped 100-year floodplain area.

Other components of the proposed project include preparing a storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) for submittal to the Regional Water Quality Control Board and collaborating with University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC) personnel to instrument the project site to measure flows, infiltration rate, and water quality resulting in a report of project effectiveness to be developed annually by UCSC with input from the RCD.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST

A. AESTHETICS AND VISUAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: The project site is located directly south of, and would be directly visible from Highway 129, which is/ is not designated in the County’s General Plan (1994) as a scenic road (County of Santa Cruz 1994) and is not considered a state scenic highway. The existing visual setting is agricultural. The proposed project is designed and landscaped to fit into this setting. Impacts during project construction would be temporary. **No impact.**

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2. <i>Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: The project site is located along Highway 129, which is not a County designated scenic road (County of Santa Cruz 1994) or a state designated scenic highway. The existing visual setting is agricultural. The proposed project is designed and landscaped to fit into this setting, and thus there would be no impact to scenic resources within sight of Highway 129. **No impact.**

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 3. <i>Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: The existing visual setting is agricultural. The proposed project is a groundwater detention basin, which has been designed and landscaped to fit into the existing visual character of the surrounding agricultural areas. **No impact.**

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 4. <i>Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion:

The proposed project does not include a new source of light or glare and would not affect either day or nighttime views in the area. **No impact.**

B. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <i>Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?

Discussion: The project site is mapped as containing Prime Farmland (State of California Department of Conservation California Important Farmland Finder [<http://maps.conservation.ca.gov/ciff/ciff.html>]). Construction of the proposed sediment detention basin and managed aquifer recharge facility would remove approximately five acres of mapped prime farmland from crop production. It should be noted that much of the area has a history of flooding and cannot be cropped year-round. The proposed detention basin and recharge facility would serve to benefit agriculture, and therefore, would be viewed as an agricultural use to help increase the productivity of the surrounding agricultural lands. Although the project would result in a redistribution of soils (excavated soils would be used to build up existing nearby agricultural fields located outside the floodplain), the proposed project would benefit agricultural and farming activities throughout the region through improving groundwater quality and quantity. This impact is considered **less than significant**.

2. *Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?*

Discussion: The project site is designated for Agriculture under the County of Santa Cruz General Plan (County of Santa Cruz 1994). The proposed project site is zoned for Commercial Agriculture (CA) under the Zoning Ordinance of the Santa Cruz County Code. CA zoned lands are specifically reserved for commercial agricultural pursuits such as the cultivation of plant crops, commercial raising of animals for grazing and livestock, and apiculture. Most CA zoned lands are also designated as an Agricultural Resource Type in the County General Plan. The Agricultural Resource designation identifies the quality of soil on the parcel and level of agricultural viability based on soil type. Principally permitted uses and structures on CA zoned lands are limited to those associated with commercial agriculture production. Agricultural Viability Determinations are required to prove that the parcel is not viable agricultural land and to facilitate a rezoning out of CA or a land division. The purpose of the proposed project is to increase the quantity and improve the quality of groundwater in the Pajaro Valley. Recent measurements indicate that groundwater elevations across the basin are below sea level, and seawater intrusion, which has been detected in coastal wells, is an immediate and direct threat to Pajaro Valley agriculture. With seawater intrusion, elevated chloride concentrations make the groundwater unusable for irrigating the high value, salt-sensitive crops. The proposed project actions will benefit agriculture within the Pajaro Valley and are principally permitted (Reservoirs and Ponds) within the CA zone. (SCCC 13.10.312(B)) The proposed project, therefore, is consistent with the applicable zoning

regulations for the project site. The project is not protected under a Williamson Act contract. Thus, the proposed project would have **no impact** on zoning for agriculture use or on a Williamson Act contract. Also see discussion under J-2 Land Use.

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 3. <i>Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: The project is not located near land designated as Timber Resource. Therefore, the project would not affect the resource or access to harvest the resource in the future. **No Impact.**

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 4. <i>Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: No forest land occurs on the project site or in the immediate vicinity. See discussion under B-3 above. **No impact.**

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5. <i>Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: Approximately five acres of agricultural land would be developed into a groundwater recharge basin, which would benefit agricultural and farming activities throughout the region through improving groundwater quality and quantity. **No impact.**

C. AIR QUALITY

The significance criteria established by the Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD) has been relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <i>Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

The project would not conflict with or obstruct any long-range air quality plans of the Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD) because, once complete, the project would have no operational air pollutant emissions; its only air pollutant emissions would occur

during its construction. All air pollutant emissions from general construction activity in the air basin are accounted for in the air quality plan emission inventories. Thus, the project has no capacity to interfere with air quality plan implementation/objectives. This impact is considered **less than significant**.

2. *Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?*

Discussion:

The North Central Coast Air Basin (NCCAB) does not meet state air quality standards for ozone and particulate matter (PM₁₀) (MBUAPCD, 2013a). These pollutants are emitted during construction activities.

Ozone is the main pollutant of concern for the NCCAB. Although the ozone precursors reactive organic gases (ROG) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) are present in project construction equipment exhaust, all ozone precursor emissions from general construction activity in the air basin are accounted for in the air quality plan emission inventories. Thus, project emissions would not cause additional or contribute substantially to existing ozone standard violations and are **less than significant**.

PM₁₀ is the other major pollutant of concern for the NCCAB. PM₁₀ emissions from construction activities can have significant localized impacts to nearby sensitive receptors.

When PM₁₀ from construction activities (e.g., in fugitive dust from excavation, grading, etc.) and in exhaust from construction equipment exceed 82 pounds per day, the MBUAPCD considers there to be a significant potential for adverse impact on local sensitive receptors. Construction projects that disturb site area below the screening level thresholds shown in Table 1 are assumed to emit PM₁₀ below the MBARD threshold of significance (MBUAPCD, 2013b). The proposed project would require earthmoving, but the disturbed daily acreage would average about 1.33 acres/day, substantially below the MBARD threshold.

Table 1: Construction Activity with Potentially Significant Impacts from Pollutant PM ₁₀	
Activity	Potential Threshold*
Construction site with minimal earthmoving	8.1 acres per day
Construction site with earthmoving (grading, excavation)	2.2 acres per day
<p>*Based on Midwest Research Institute, <u>Improvement of Specific Emission Factors</u> (1995). Assumes 21.75 working weekdays per month and daily watering of site.</p> <p>Note: Construction projects below the screening level thresholds shown above are assumed to be below the 82 lb/day threshold of significance, while projects with activity levels higher than those above may have a significant impact on air quality. Additional mitigation and analysis of the project impact may be necessary for those construction activities.</p> <p>Source: Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District, 2008.</p>	

Emissions from construction activities represent temporary impacts that are typically short in duration, depending on the size, phasing, and type of project. Air quality impacts can

nevertheless be acute during construction periods, resulting in significant localized impacts to air quality. Table 1 summarizes the threshold of significance for construction activities.

Two scrapers, an excavator, a front-end loader, a compactor, and a water truck are expected to operate simultaneously during each of 40 total work days; daily PM₁₀ emissions from equipment exhaust would average 2.2 pounds (lbs) /day. Thus, combined maximum daily PM₁₀ emissions from fugitive and equipment sources would not exceed the MBARD 82 lbs/day threshold, which is **less than significant**.

Best Management Practices

To reduce the generation of fugitive dust to the maximum feasible extent, construction best management practices (BMPs) will be implemented as recommended in *CEQA Air Quality Guidelines* (page 8-2) with the implementation of Mitigation Measure AQ-1 (MBUAPCD, 2008).

Dust Control Measures: The following controls will be implemented at the construction and staging sites as applicable:

- Water all active construction areas, as needed. Frequency should be based on the type of operation, soil, and wind exposure.
- Prohibit all grading activities during periods of high wind (over 15 mph).
- Haul trucks shall maintain at least 2'0" of freeboard.
- Cover all trucks hauling dirt, sand, or loose materials.
- Cover inactive storage piles.
- Install wheel washers at the entrance to construction sites for all exiting trucks.
- Sweep streets if visible soil material is carried out from the construction site.
- Post a publicly visible sign specifying the telephone number and person to contact regarding dust complaints. This person shall respond to complaints and take corrective action within 48 hours. The phone number of the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District shall be visible in compliance with Rule 402 (Nuisance).

3. *Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?*
-

Discussion:

Project construction emits PM₁₀ from fugitive dust and in diesel exhaust, but daily PM₁₀ emissions would not exceed the MBARD threshold, and so not be cumulatively considerable. In addition, the above Best Management Practices would be implemented according to the

MBUAPCD CEQA Air Quality Guidelines. Thus, the cumulative PM₁₀ emissions impact would be **less than significant**.

4. *Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?*

Discussion:

Diesel exhaust contains diesel particulate matter (DPM), a known carcinogen. Where construction activity occurs in proximity to sensitive receptors, there is a potential for adverse health impacts. Since project construction would occur over an eight-week period, the sensitive receptors would be affected for a minimal percentage of the 70-year exposure criteria used for assessing cancer risk. Thus, project emissions of DPM (i.e., 2.3 lbs/day, as determined by CalEEMod) would not be sufficient in quantity or duration to pose a significant risk to local sensitive receptors. This impact would be **less than significant**.

5. *Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?*

Discussion:

California ultralow sulfur diesel fuel with a maximum sulfur content of 15 ppm by weight would be used in all diesel-powered equipment, which minimizes emissions of sulfurous gases (sulfur dioxide, hydrogen sulfide, carbon disulfide, and carbonyl sulfide). Therefore, no objectionable odors are anticipated from construction activities associated with the proposed project, and no mitigation measures would be required. The proposed project would not create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people; therefore, impacts are expected to be **less than significant**.

D. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

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

Discussion: A list of regionally occurring special-status plant and animal species was compiled into tables based on the (U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service) USFWS species list, California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB) and California Native Plant Society (CNPS) lists (Tables 1-1 and 1-2 in Attachment 2). These tables provide a list of the distributions,

habitat types, and potential for each regionally occurring special-status species to occur within the vicinity of the project area.

Based on the review of database searches; review of applicable literature; and lack of suitable habitat and the disturbed nature of the project site, implementation of the proposed project is unlikely to impact special-status plant or animal species. However, because of the proximity to the Pajaro River, special-status species may inhabit the project site as a movement corridor. Biologist Gary Kittleson has conducted surveys for special-status animal species, including the federally threatened California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*) along the Pajaro River since 2004. Wildlife surveys were completed for the County of Santa Cruz Zone 7 Flood Control District in association with the Pajaro River Bench Excavation Project. Mr. Kittleson observed adult California red-legged frogs near the proposed project in between 2010 and 2013. No frogs have been observed since then (Kittleson pers. comm. 2016). Informal consultation between RCD and USFWS biologist Chad Mitcham occurred in December 2016. USFWS determined that no formal Endangered Species Act consultation would be required for the proposed project; however, the following mitigation measure shall be implemented to avoid potential impacts during construction. In addition, information consultation between RCD and CDFW environmental scientist Randi Adair occurred in September 2016. CDFW determined that no permit would be required for project activities.

Impacts

The project site contains low quality movement habitat for the federally threatened California red-legged frog. Construction of the proposed project could adversely affect individuals if they are in or adjacent to the project site during the 8 week construction period. As recommended by USFWS, implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1 will reduce short-term, construction-related effects on California red-legged frog to **less than significant with mitigation**.

Mitigation Measure

BIO-1: Conduct Preconstruction Survey

- Preconstruction surveys will be conducted by a qualified biologist immediately prior to the initiation of any ground disturbing activities and vegetation clearing. All suitable aquatic and upland habitat within the vicinity of the project site, including refugia habitat such as dense vegetation, small woody debris, refuse, burrows, etc., should be thoroughly inspected.
- A qualified biologist will be on-site or available by phone to respond in a timely manner throughout the project duration. This biologist will have the ability to stop construction if a special-status amphibian is encountered during construction. If an amphibian matching the description of a special-status amphibian is discovered at the

project site, all work that may harm the animal will be stopped until the animal is able to leave the construction zone.

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2. <i>Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations (e.g., wetland, native grassland, special forests, intertidal zone, etc.) or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: There are no mapped or designated sensitive biotic communities on or adjacent to the project site. The project site consists of a disked agricultural field and an irrigation ditch devoid of vegetation or sensitive natural communities regulated by the CDFW, or regulated under the California Fish and Game Code.

The Pajaro River is located 900 feet south of the project site and implementation of the proposed project would benefit the aquatic habitat through an increase in ground water quantity and improve ground water quality in the Pajaro River Watershed.

Implementation of the proposed project would have **no impact** on sensitive natural communities.

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| 3. <i>Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: There are no mapped or designated federally protected wetlands on the project site. The irrigation ditch at Highway 129 and in the project site was excavated in uplands and also lacks hydrophytic vegetation or hydrological connectivity to any natural waters and is not considered a water of the U.S. The Pajaro River is located approximately 900 feet south of the project site and implementation of the proposed project would likely benefit area wetlands through an increase in ground water quantity and improve ground water quality in the Pajaro River Watershed. Implementation of the proposed project would have **no impact** on federally protected wetlands.

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| 4. <i>Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or migratory wildlife</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

Discussion: The proposed project does not involve any activities that would interfere with the movements or migrations of fish or wildlife, or impede use of a known wildlife nursery site. **No impact.**

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5. <i>Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources (such as the Sensitive Habitat Ordinance, Riparian and Wetland Protection Ordinance, and the Significant Tree Protection Ordinance)?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: The project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances. There are no sensitive habitats or trees within the proposed project area. **No impact.**

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 6. <i>Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: The proposed project would not conflict with the provisions of any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. Therefore, **no impact** would occur.

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 7. <i>Produce nighttime lighting that would substantially illuminate wildlife habitats?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: All construction would be completed during daylight hours. No nighttime lighting impacts from project implementation would occur. **No impact.**

E. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: There are no existing structure(s) within the project area that could be designated as a historic resource on any federal, state or local inventory. Implementation of the proposed project would have **no impact** on historical resources.

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|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2. <i>Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|

resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?

Discussion:

Archival research at the Northwest Information Center, Sonoma State University (NWIC File No. 16-0821) and examination of the library and files of Tom Origer & Associates was conducted by Julia Franco and Janine Origer in November 2016. This research found that no archeological resources have been identified in the project area, and no mapped resources are identified on the site after a review of the County of Santa Cruz GIS database.

Impact

Because the ground surface, which includes the top 18-inches of soil, within the project site has been routinely altered as a result of farming, it is unlikely that previously unrecorded archaeological resource would be discovered during construction of the project. However, implementation of **Mitigation Measure CUL-1** would ensure that the potential impact of an accidental discovery of an archaeological resource would be considered **less than significant with mitigation**.

Mitigation Measure

CUL-1 – Compliance with County Code Section 16.40.040 During Construction

- Pursuant to Section 16.40.040 of the Santa Cruz County Code, if at any time during site preparation, excavation, or other ground disturbance associated with this project, archaeological or human remains are uncovered during construction, the responsible persons shall immediately cease and desist from all further site excavation and notify the sheriff-coroner and the Planning Director. If the coroner determines that the remains are not of recent origin, a full archeological investigation shall be conducted and representatives of the local Native California Indian group shall be contacted. Disturbance shall not resume until the significance of the archeological resource is determined and appropriate mitigations to preserve the resource on the site are established.

3. *Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?*

Discussion:

Impact

It is unlikely that unidentified Native American burials would underlie the project site, given its history of farming; however, implementation of **Mitigation Measure CUL-1** as described under E-2 would reduce this potential impact to **less than significant with mitigation**.

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| 4. | <i>Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as defined in Public Resources Code 21074?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: See discussion under Section Q of this IS/MND. **No impact.**

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|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5. | <i>Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: A review of the catalog for the collections of the University of California Museum of Paleontology found that no unique paleontological resources or unique geologic features are known to occur near the proposed project. **No impact.**

F. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:

- | | | | | | |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | <i>Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:</i> | | | | |
| A. | <i>Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| B. | <i>Strong seismic ground shaking?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| C. | <i>Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| D. | <i>Landslides?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion (A through D):

- A. & B. The project site is located outside the County and State fault zones (Santa Cruz County GIS website). The proposed project would not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects due to rupture of a known earthquake fault or seismic ground shaking because the project does not involve the construction of any structures. **No impact** would occur.
- C. Although the project site is located within a “very high” liquefaction zone (Santa Cruz County GIS website), the proposed project would not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects because the project does not involve the construction of any structures. **Less than significant** impact would occur.
- D. The project site is not located in a landslide hazard area (Santa Cruz County GIS website), and would not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects because the project site is relatively flat, and the project does not involve the construction of any structures. **No impact** would occur.

2. *Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?*

Discussion: While the project site is in a “very high” liquefaction zone, the project does not involve construction of any structures and there is no indication that the development site is subject to a significant potential for damage caused by any of these hazards. **Less than significant.**

3. *Develop land with a slope exceeding 30%?*

Discussion: No slopes on the project site exceed 30% on the property (Santa Cruz County GIS website). **No impact** is anticipated.

4. *Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?*

Discussion: Some potential for erosion exists during the construction phase of the project, however, this potential is minimal due to the relatively level nature of the site, and standard erosion controls are a required condition of the project. Prior to approval of a grading or building permit, the project must have an approved Erosion Control Plan (*Section 16.22.060 of the County Code*), which would specify detailed erosion and sedimentation control

measures. Impacts from soil erosion or loss of topsoil would be considered **less than significant**.

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5. <i>Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Section 1802.3.2 of the California Building Code (2007), creating substantial risks to life or property?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: Expansive soils shrink and swell because of moisture changes. This can cause heaving and cracking of slabs-on-grade, pavements, and structures founded on shallow foundations. Although the project site is located on expansive soils, the proposed project does not involve construction of new structures or buildings that would expose risks to life or property due to expansive soils. **No impact** would occur.

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 6. <i>Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks, leach fields, or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: No septic systems are proposed as part of the project. **No impacts** would occur.

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 7. <i>Result in coastal cliff erosion?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: The proposed project is not located near a coastal cliff or bluff; and therefore, would not contribute to coastal cliff erosion. **No impact**.

G. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <i>Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

Project construction, like all development, would be responsible for an incremental increase in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by usage of fossil fuels. Santa Cruz County has recently adopted a Climate Action Strategy (CAS) intended to establish specific emission reduction goals and necessary actions to reduce greenhouse gas levels to pre-1990 levels as required under AB 32 legislation (County of Santa Cruz 2013). The strategy intends to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption by implementing measures such as reducing vehicle miles traveled through the County and regional long range planning efforts and increasing energy efficiency in new and existing buildings and facilities. All project construction equipment would be required to comply with the Regional Air Quality Control

Board emissions requirements for construction equipment. Thus, impacts associated with the temporary increase in GHG emissions (total 106 metric tons) would be **less than significant**.

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2. <i>Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

See the discussion under G-1 above. Impacts are anticipated to be **less than significant**.

H. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <i>Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment as a result of the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion: The proposed project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. No routine transport or disposal of hazardous materials is proposed. However, during construction, fuel would be used at the project site. In addition, fueling may occur within the limits of the staging area proposed to be located within 28,000 square feet on the south west side of the project site, just north of the existing access road. Best management practices would be used to ensure that no impacts would occur. Impacts are expected to be **less than significant**.

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2. <i>Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion: Please see discussion under H-1 above. Project impacts would be considered **less than significant**.

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 3. <i>Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: The project site is not within 0.25-mile of a school. The nearest school is Linscott Charter school, which is located 3.5 mile southwest of the project site. **No impact**.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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4. *Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?*

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Discussion: The project site is not located on a hazardous materials site. The closest State Response Site is at 627 Walker St., Watsonville, CA 95076, approximately 4.6 miles west of the project site (EnviroStor website 2016). **No impact.**

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Discussion: The project site is not located within two miles of a public airport or under a current airport land use plan. The closest public airport is Watsonville Municipal Airport, which is located 6.5 miles west of the project site. **No impact.**

6. *For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?*

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Discussion: The project site is not located near a private air strip. The closest private airstrip to the project is the Monterey Bay Academy Airport, which is located 10.5 miles west of the project site. **No impact.**

7. *Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?*

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Discussion: The proposed project would not conflict with implementation of the County of Santa Cruz Local Hazard Mitigation Plan 2015-2020 (County of Santa Cruz 2015). Therefore, **no impacts** to an adopted emergency response plan or evacuation Plan would occur from project implementation.

8. *Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?*

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Discussion: The project would be in an agricultural field owned by Kelly-Thompson Ranch, LLC. Project activities would not expose people or structures to risks involving wildland fires. **No impact.**

I. HYDROLOGY, WATER SUPPLY, AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: The project would not discharge runoff either directly or indirectly into a public or private water supply. No commercial or industrial activities are proposed that would generate a substantial amount of contaminants. No water quality standards or waste discharge requirements would be violated.

The Pajaro River is listed on the impaired waters list for nutrients, sediment, and pathogens. Given the large drainage area and large surface flows during peak storm events, this project provides a unique opportunity to infiltrate up to 350 afy and improve water quality before it reaches the Pajaro River.

Implementation of the proposed project would demonstrate the efficacy of managed aquifer recharge as a strategy to improve the quantity and quality of water resources in the PVWMA service area. The collection of samples and data is a required part of ReNeM program. Therefore, this project would have a beneficial effect on both the water quality and the groundwater table level. **No impact.**

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2. <i>Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: The proposed project would not substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level. See discussion in I-1 above. The proposed project would have a beneficial impact on groundwater. **No impact.**

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3. <i>Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?

Discussion: The project would alter the existing drainage pattern within the project site, but would provide a beneficial effect to water quality as discussed in I-1 above. Implementation would not result in erosion or siltation on or off-site.

An erosion control plan would also be required per Section 16.22.060 of the County Code. The Department of Public Works Drainage Section staff has reviewed and approved the proposed drainage plan. Impacts would be **less than significant**.

Best Management Practices.

The following water quality protection and erosion and sediment control Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be implemented, based on standard County requirements, to minimize construction-related contaminants and mobilization of sediment to the nearby Pajaro River in the project area. The BMPs will be selected to achieve maximum sediment removal and represent the best available technology that is economically achievable and are subject to review and approval by the County. T The BMPs will include, but are not limited to, the following.

- All earthwork or foundation activities involving rivers, ephemeral drainages, and culverts, will occur in the dry season (generally between June 1 and October 15).
- Equipment used in and around drainages will be in good working order and free of dripping or leaking engine fluids. All vehicle maintenance will be performed at least 300 feet from all drainages and wetlands. Any necessary equipment washing will be carried out where the water cannot flow into drainages or wetlands.
- Develop a hazardous material spill prevention control and countermeasure plan before construction begins that will minimize the potential for and the effects of hazardous or toxic substances spills during construction. The plan will include storage and containment procedures to prevent and respond to spills and will identify the parties responsible for monitoring the spill response. During construction, any spills will be cleaned up immediately according to the spill prevention and countermeasure plan. The County will review and approve the contractors' toxic materials spill prevention control and countermeasure plan before allowing construction to begin. Prohibit the following types of materials from being rinsed or washed into the streets, shoulder areas, or gutters: concrete; solvents and adhesives; thinners; paints; fuels; sawdust; dirt; gasoline; asphalt and concrete saw slurry; heavily chlorinated water.

- Any surplus concrete rubble, asphalt, or other rubble from construction/excavation will be taken to a local landfill.
- An erosion and sediment control plan will be prepared and implemented for the proposed project. It will include the following provisions and protocols. The SWPPP for the project will detail the applications and type of measures and the allowable exposure of unprotected soils.
- Discharge from dewatering operations, if needed, and runoff from disturbed areas will be made to conform to the water quality requirements of the waste discharge permit issued by the RWQCB.
- Temporary erosion control measures, such as sand bags, silt fences, will be applied throughout construction of the proposed project and will be removed after the working area is stabilized or as directed by the engineer. Soil exposure will be minimized through use of temporary BMPs, groundcover, and stabilization measures. Exposed dust - producing surfaces will be sprinkled daily, if necessary, until wet; this measure will be controlled to avoid producing runoff. Paved streets will be swept daily following construction activities.
- The contractor will conduct periodic maintenance of erosion and sediment control measures.
- An appropriate seed mix of appropriate species will be planted on disturbed areas upon completion of construction.
- Cover or apply nontoxic soil stabilizers to inactive construction areas (previously graded areas inactive for 10 days or more) that could contribute sediment to waterways.
- Enclose and cover exposed stockpiles of dirt or other loose, granular construction materials that could contribute sediment to waterways. Material stockpiles will be located in non - traffic areas only. Side slopes will not be steeper than 2:1 and the downslope perimeter will be surrounded by a filter fabric fence.
- Contain soil and filter runoff from disturbed areas by berms, vegetated filters, silt fencing, straw wattle, plastic sheeting, catch basins, or other means necessary to prevent the escape of sediment from the disturbed area.
- Use other temporary erosion control measures (such as silt fences, staked straw bales/wattles, silt/sediment basins and traps, check dams, geofabric, sandbag dikes, and temporary re-vegetation or other ground cover) to control erosion from disturbed

areas as necessary. Avoid earth or organic material from being deposited or placed where it may be directly carried into the channel.

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 4. <i>Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding, on- or off-site?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion: Although the proposed project would alter the existing drainage patterns of the site, it would not increase the rate or amount of surface water runoff. The project would have a beneficial effect on drainage of the site, as discussed in I-1 above. Impacts would be **less than significant**.

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5. <i>Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems, or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: The proposed project would not create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems. The project would have a beneficial effect on drainage systems, as discussed in I-1 above. There would be **no impact** to storm water runoff volumes or sources.

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 6. <i>Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion: The proposed project would not substantially degrade water quality; rather it would have a beneficial effect on water quality as discussed in I-1 above.

During construction, the proposed project has the potential to generate sediment and other pollutants that could migrate to surface waters. The grading and other activities would be required to perform under a SWPPP prepared in conformance with requirements of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) “General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activities (General Permit).” The General Permit presents a very specific process for construction projects to comply with the Clean Water Act’s provisions that relate to the control of pollutant discharge from “nonpoint” sources. The General Permit provides for compliance with the regulations through submittal of a Notice of Intent to comply with the format and content of the process developed for the General Permit, which includes development and implementation of a SWPPP. Construction impacts on water quality would be minimized through implementation of a SWPPP. Implementation

of BMPs as outlined in I-3 would also ensure that water quality impacts to the Pajaro River and its tributaries are less than significant.

Also, see discussion under I-3 above. Impacts would be **less than significant**.

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 7. <i>Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: Although a portion of the project site is located within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on the Santa Cruz County GIS, implementation of the project would not involve placement of any new housing within a 100-year flood hazard area (Santa Cruz County GIS website 2017). Therefore, the project would have **no impact** on flood hazards associated with housing.

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 8. <i>Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: The proposed project would construct an approximately 5-acre sediment detention basin and managed aquifer recharge facility. Although the project site is located within the 100-year floodplain, as mapped on the Santa Cruz County GIS, construction and operation of the proposed project would have no adverse impact on flood flows. The groundwater recharge station would provide a beneficial impact by capturing and redirecting flood waters to the Pajaro Valley Groundwater Basin. **No impact**.

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 9. <i>Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: The intent of the project is to construct an approximately one-acre sediment detention basin and four-acre managed aquifer recharge facility, and would not increase the risk of flooding. **No impact** would occur.

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 10. <i>Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: There are two primary types of tsunami vulnerability in Santa Cruz County. The first is a teletsunami or distant source tsunami from elsewhere in the Pacific Ocean. This type of tsunami can cause significant destruction in Santa Cruz County. However, this type

of tsunami would usually allow time for the Tsunami Warning System for the Pacific Ocean to warn threatened coastal areas in time for evacuation (County of Santa Cruz 2015).

The more vulnerable risk to the County of Santa Cruz is a tsunami generated as the result of an earthquake along one of the many earthquake faults in the region. Even a moderate earthquake could cause a local source tsunami from submarine land sliding in Monterey Bay. A local source tsunami generated by an earthquake on any of the faults affecting Santa Cruz County would arrive just minutes after the initial shock. The lack of warning time from such a nearby event would result in higher casualties than if it were a distant tsunami (County of Santa Cruz 2015).

The project site is located approximately 7.7 miles inland, it is located approximately 5.6 miles beyond the effects of a tsunami (Santa Cruz County GIS website 2016). In addition, no impact from a seiche or mudflow is anticipated. **No impact** would occur.

J. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Physically divide an established community?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: The project site is owned by the Kelly-Thompson Ranch, LLC is generally bound on the north by Highway 129 and on all other sides by the Kelly-Thompson Ranch (Figure 2). Apart from the rural residential uses, the area surrounding the project site is used for agricultural uses. There is no established community near the project site. Therefore, the project would not divide an established community. **No impact** would occur.

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2. <i>Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: The proposed project is consistent with the Pajaro Valley Groundwater Basin Management Plan Update and the Pajaro Watershed Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. In addition, the proposed project would conform to the applicable land use plans, policies and regulations either through project design or with the implementation of mitigation measures. The project would be consistent with the applicable policies and objectives in the General Plan and would comply with all applicable zoning and land use ordinances in the SCCC.

General Plan/Local Coastal Program

The site of the proposed project is designated for Agriculture under the Santa Cruz County General Plan (Santa Cruz County 1994). Commercial Agricultural land within the Agriculture General Plan designation is [intended to be maintained exclusively for long-term commercial agricultural uses]. The Agricultural designation restricts uses that are incompatible with commercial agriculture, such as high density residential development. The proposed project is consistent with the Agriculture General Plan land use designation because it would collect an estimated 350 afy of storm water runoff from surrounding agricultural lands and infiltrate it into the Pajaro Valley Groundwater Basin to assist in the reduction of groundwater overdraft and saltwater intrusion. This project is designed as a step towards achieving a sustainable groundwater basin that is used for both agricultural and potable uses.

The proposed project would support a number of other General Plan policies and objectives, as follows:

Objective 5.5a Watershed Protection: To protect and manage the watersheds of existing and future surface water supplies to preserve the quality and quantity of water produced and stored in these areas to meet the needs of County residents, local industry, agriculture, and the natural environment.

Objective 5.7 Maintaining Surface Water Quality: To protect and enhance surface water quality in the County's streams, coastal lagoons and marshes by establishing best management practices on adjacent land uses.

- Policy 5.7.3 Erosion Control for Streams and Lagoon Protection – For all new and existing development and land disturbances, require the installation and maintenance of sediment basins, and/or other strict erosion control measures, as needed to prevent siltation of streams and coastal lagoons.

Objective 5.8a Groundwater Protection: To protect the quantity and quality of the County's groundwater resources through an integrated program of land use regulation and runoff management in groundwater recharge areas, careful water quality monitoring and management of extractions consistent with long-term sustainable water supply yields.

Objective 5.8b Overdrafted Groundwater Basins: To act directly and coordinate and work with relevant water purveyors and agencies to eliminate long-term groundwater overdraft in all water basins where overdraft has been documented.

- Policy 5.8.5 Developing Groundwater Resources – Allow development of groundwater resources when consistent with sustainable yield, protection of stream flows, and maintenance of groundwater quality.

Objective 5.13 Commercial Agricultural Land: To maintain for exclusive agricultural use those lands identified on the County Agricultural Resources Map as best suited to the commercial production of food, fiber and ornamental crops and livestock and to prevent

conversion of commercial agricultural land to non-agricultural uses. To recognize that agriculture is a priority land use and to resolve policy conflicts in favor of preserving and promoting agriculture on designated commercial agricultural lands.

- Policy 5.13.5 Principal Permitted Uses on Commercial Agricultural (CA) Zoned Land – Maintain a Commercial Agricultural (CA) Zone District for application to commercial agricultural lands that are intended to be maintained exclusively for long-term commercial agricultural uses. Allow principal permitted uses in the CA Zone District to include only agricultural pursuits for the commercial cultivation of plant crops, including food, flower, and fiber crops and raising of animals including grazing and livestock production and, outside the coastal zone, timber harvesting operations.
- Policy 5.13.7 Agricultural Oriented Structures – Allow only agriculturally oriented structures or dwellings on Commercial Agricultural Land, including structures associated with recycled wastewater (i.e., tertiary treatment) facilities in the immediate proximity of existing municipal waste water treatment plant for the production of recycled wastewater to be used solely for agricultural irrigation; prohibit non-agricultural residential land use when in conflict with the fundamental objective of preserving agriculture.
- Policy 5.13.8 Location of Agricultural Support Facilities – Require agricultural support facilities, where permitted on designated Agricultural lands, to locate either off good agricultural soils, or when this is not feasible, on the perimeter of good agricultural soils.

Zoning Ordinance

The proposed project site is zoned for Commercial Agriculture (CA) under the Zoning Ordinance of the Santa Cruz County Code. CA zoned lands are specifically reserved for commercial agricultural pursuits such as the cultivation of plant crops, commercial raising of animals for grazing and livestock, and apiculture. Most CA zoned lands are also designated as an Agricultural Resource Type in the County General Plan. The Agricultural Resource designation identifies the quality of soil on the parcel and level of agricultural viability based on soil type. Permitted uses and structures on CA zoned lands are limited to those associated with commercial agriculture production. Agricultural Viability Determinations are required to prove that the parcel is not viable agricultural land and to facilitate a rezoning out of CA or a land division. “Reservoirs and Ponds” are principally permitted within the CA zone. (SCCC 13.10.312(B)) The proposed project, therefore, is consistent with the applicable zoning regulations for the project site.

Sensitive Habitat Protection Ordinance

The Sensitive Habitat Protection Ordinance is intended to minimize disturbance of biotic communities which are rare or especially valuable because of their special nature or role in an ecosystem, and which could be easily disturbed or degraded by human activity; to protect

and preserve these biotic resources for their genetic, scientific, and educational values; and to implement policies of the General Plan and the Local Coastal Program Land Use Plan.

The proposed project does not conflict with any regulations or policies adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. **No impacts** are anticipated.

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 3. <i>Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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Discussion: The proposed project would not conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan. **No impact** would occur.

K. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: The site does not contain any known mineral resources that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state. Therefore, **no impact** is anticipated from project implementation.

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| 2. <i>Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: The project site is zoned Commercial Agriculture, which is not considered to be an Extractive Use Zone (M-3) nor does it have a Land Use Designation with a Quarry Designation Overlay (County of Santa Cruz 1994). Therefore, no potentially significant loss of availability of a known mineral resource of locally important mineral resource recovery (extraction) site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan would occur because of this project. **No impact** would occur.

L. NOISE

Would the project result in:

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: Construction activities associated with the proposed project would result in a temporary increase in noise from the operation of construction equipment (excavators and

trucks) and construction workers at the project site. This increase in noise is expected to last for the duration of construction (2 months). Similarly, trucks and on-road vehicles would arrive at the project area via Highway 129, the closest available access route. Residences on Thompson Road and Riverside Drive are located approximately 0.5-mile northwest from project site and may experience increased noise levels during weekday, daylight (7:00 am to 7:00 pm) hours. The County of Santa Cruz does not have ordinance regulating construction noise. Per County Policy average hourly noise levels shall not exceed the General Plan threshold of 50 Leq during the day and 45 Leq during the night (County of Santa Cruz 1994). Construction activities would not violate a local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies. **No impact** would occur.

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2. <i>Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion: The use of construction equipment would potentially generate vibration in the project area. The nearest residential property is located at 105 Thompson Road approximately 0.5-mile to the north west of the project site. Due to this distance, none of the area residences would experience significant groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels during construction activities associated with the proposed project.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations require that a project-specific health and safety plan be developed prior to any construction activities by the construction contractor to identify any noise levels that would expose workers and the public to unsafe noise levels. Site-and project-specific, the health and safety plan would identify potential safety hazards in the construction area and would identify standard safety precautions to ensure worker health. The health and safety plan would also identify whom to contact in an emergency and the location of the nearest medical facility. Measures identified in the health and safety plan would be implemented to protect workers at the site. Therefore, this impact would be **less than significant**.

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3. <i>A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion: Construction of the project may result in a slight increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity. The noise generated from project construction would not differ from noise that results from farm equipment in the region. No permanent increase in ambient noise would result from the proposed project. This impact is considered **less than significant**.

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 4. <i>A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

Discussion: As mentioned in L-1 above, construction of the proposed project would result in a temporary increase in noise levels near the project. However, this increase in construction noise would be minor and short in duration (2 months). Residents west of the project site may hear limited construction noise, though not unlike the noise typically generated by existing farming operations and surrounding agricultural activities. Because construction noise would be only slightly louder than the existing baseline conditions, it is anticipated that temporary and periodic increases in construction noise levels would be **less than significant**.

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5. <i>For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: The proposed project is not within two miles of a public airport. The closest public airport, the Watsonville Municipal Airport, is located 6.5 miles from the project site. Therefore, the proposed project would not expose people residing or working in the project area. **No impact** is anticipated.

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 6. <i>For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: The proposed project is not within two miles of a private airstrip. The closest private airstrip, the Monterey Bay Academy Airport, is 10.6 miles from the project site. Therefore, the proposed project would not expose people residing or working in the project area. **No impact** is anticipated.

M. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: The proposed project would not induce substantial population growth in an area because the project does not propose any physical or regulatory change that would

remove a restriction to or encourage population growth. The project proposes only to recharge groundwater through a storm water collection system. **No impact** would occur.

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2. <i>Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: The proposed project would not displace any existing housing. **No impact** would occur.

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 3. <i>Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: The proposed project would not displace a substantial number of people since the project is intended to recharge groundwater through a storm water collection system. **No impact** would occur.

N. PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project:

1. *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:*

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. <i>Fire protection?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b. <i>Police protection?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c. <i>Schools?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d. <i>Parks?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e. <i>Other public facilities; including the maintenance of roads?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion (a through e): The proposed project would not create any temporary or long-term demands on public services and there would be no new fire protection, police, schools, or other public facilities constructed to serve the proposed project. The intent of the project

is to recharge groundwater through a storm water collection basin. The project would have **no impact** on public facilities or services.

O. RECREATION

Would the project:

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: The proposed project would not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities. **No impact.**

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2. <i>Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: The proposed project does not propose the expansion or construction of additional recreational facilities. **No impact.**

P. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

Would the project:

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <i>Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion: The proposed project would require daily access by up to eight (8) construction workers to the project site during earth moving activities and five (5) construction workers during erosion control. No more than 13 workers on site at one time. Construction vehicles would use Highway 129 to access the property, and existing paved and dirt roads within the vicinity of the project site to access the site. Construction traffic to the project site is expected to be two trips a day at the peak. In addition, no more than two vehicles would drive to the construction site daily during the construction period. In addition, the transport of approximately 80,000 cubic yards of excavated material by truck during construction to the

receiving parcel on the north side of Highway 129 could result in additional truck trips and delays on Highway 129 during construction. A traffic control plan will be prepared to mitigate this potential safety hazard (See discussion under P-4). Impacts would be temporary. Therefore, project traffic would not impact traffic on Highway 129 or other roads near the project. Anticipated traffic would not impact programs supporting alternative transportation. Further, the temporary increase during construction would not cause the Level of Service at any nearby intersection to drop below Level of Service D, consistent with General Plan Policy 3.12.1 (County of Santa Cruz 1994). This impact would be **less than significant**.

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <p>2. <i>Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?</i></p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: In 2000, at the request of the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, the County of Santa Cruz and other local jurisdictions exercised the option to be exempt from preparation and implementation of a Congestion Management Plan (CMP) per Assembly Bill 2419. The CMP statutes were initially established to create a tool for managing and reducing congestion; however, revisions to those statutes progressively eroded the effectiveness of the CMP. There is also duplication between the CMP and other transportation documents such as the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). In addition, the goals of the CMP may be carried out through the RTIP and the RTP. Any functions of the CMP which are useful, desirable and do not already exist in other documents may be incorporated into those documents.

The proposed project would not conflict with either the goals and/or policies of the RTP or with monitoring the delivery of state and federally-funded projects outlined in the RTIP. **No impact** would occur.

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <p>3. <i>Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?</i></p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: No change in air traffic patterns would result from project implementation. Therefore, **no impact** is anticipated.

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| <p>4. <i>Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or</i></p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|

dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

Discussion: The transport of approximately 80,000 cubic yards of excavated material to the receiving parcel on the north side of Highway 129 could result in temporary hazards from truck access to Highway 129.

Mitigation Measures

TRA-1: Truck Access Points to Highway 129

- A Right-of-Way Encroachment Permit shall be acquired from Caltrans District 5 to enter and exit Highway 129 during hauling of excavated material to the receiving site.
- A traffic control plan shall be prepared and approved by both Caltrans District 5 and the County of Santa Cruz Department of Public Works.
- Any truck access points shall include advance warning signage. Flaggers shall be used on Highway 129 in both directions to control traffic, allowing trucks to enter and exit both the construction site and material receiving site. Two-way traffic shall be maintained on Highway 129 at all times.
- When needed, paved access roads will be swept and cleared of any residual dirt resulting from the construction activity.

Implementation of the above mitigation measure would reduce impacts to a **less than significant** level.

5. *Result in inadequate emergency access?*

Discussion: The project’s road access meets County standards and has been approved by the local fire agency. **No Impact.**

6. *Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?*

Discussion: The proposed project design does not impact roads and therefore would not result in potential hazards to motorists, bicyclists, and/or pedestrians. **No impact** would occur.

Q. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

1. *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape*

that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| A. <i>Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources Code section 5020.1(k), or</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: The proposed project does not involve historical resources that are listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources or in a local register. There are no historical resources present on the project site. **No impacts** would occur.

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| B. <i>A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: The proposed project would construct an approximately 5-acre sediment detention basin and managed aquifer recharge facility for the purpose infiltrating up to 350 afy and improving water quality before it reaches the Pajaro River. Section 21080.3.1(b) of the California Public Resources Code (AB 52) requires a lead agency formally notify a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated within the geographic area of the discretionary project when formally requested. As of this writing, no California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the Santa Cruz County region have formally requested a consultation with the County of Santa Cruz (as Lead Agency under CEQA) regarding Tribal Cultural Resources. As a result, no Tribal Cultural Resources are known to occur in or near the project area. Therefore, **no impact** to the significance of a Tribal Cultural Resource is anticipated from project implementation.

R. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: The proposed project would not generate wastewater. Therefore, wastewater treatment requirements would not be exceeded. **No impacts** would occur.

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2. <i>Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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Discussion: The proposed groundwater recharge project would not require water or wastewater treatment. The proposed project would only use small amounts of water during construction for dust control. **No impact.**

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 3. <i>Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: The proposed groundwater recharge project would not generate increased runoff; therefore, it would not result in the need for new or expanded drainage facilities. As discussed in section I-1, the project would have a beneficial effect on storm water drainage. **No impact** would occur.

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 4. <i>Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: The proposed project would only use small amounts of water during construction for dust control. No water use would be required during the operational phase of the project. **No impact.**

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5. <i>Result in determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: The proposed project would only use small amounts of water during construction for dust control. No wastewater would be generated. No water use would be required during the operational phase of the project. **No impacts** are expected to occur from project implementation.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
--------------------------------	--	------------------------------	-----------

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 6. <i>Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: The proposed would not generate solid waste during the operational phase of the project. All excavated soil will be stockpiled outside the project site and adjacent to the existing farm. Excess soil will be used on adjacent farmland to build up existing agricultural fields. **No impact.**

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 7. <i>Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: The project would comply with all federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste disposal. **No impact** would occur.

S. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <i>Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion: The potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory were considered in the response to each question in Section III (A through Q) of this Initial Study. Resources that have been evaluated as significant that would be potentially impacted by the project, particularly biological and cultural resources. However, mitigation has been included that clearly reduces these effects to a level below significance. This mitigation includes:

- BIO-1 Conduct preconstruction surveys for the CRLF; and
- CUL-1 Compliance with County Code Section 16.40.040 during construction.

As a result of this evaluation, there is no substantial evidence that, after mitigation, significant effects associated with this project would result. Therefore, this project has been determined not to meet this Mandatory Finding of Significance and this impact is considered **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: In addition to project specific impacts, this evaluation considered the projects potential for incremental effects that are cumulatively considerable. As a result of this evaluation, there were determined to be no potentially significant cumulative effects related to probable future projects. Mitigation has been included that clearly reduces these potential effects of the proposed project to a level below significance. As a result of this evaluation, there is no substantial evidence that there are cumulative effects associated with this project. Therefore, this project has been determined not to meet this Mandatory Finding of Significance. **No impact.**

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion: In the evaluation of environmental impacts in this Initial Study, the potential for adverse direct or indirect impacts to human beings were considered in the response to specific questions in Section III (A through Q). Impacts to transportation/traffic have been evaluated as potentially significant. However, mitigation has been included that clearly reduces these effects to a level below significance. This mitigation includes:

- TRA-1 Truck access points to Highway 129

As a result of this evaluation, there is no substantial evidence that, after mitigation, significant effects associated with this project would result. Therefore, this project has been determined not to meet this Mandatory Finding of Significance and this impact is considered **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

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Attachment 1

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program



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County of Santa Cruz

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET, 4TH FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
 (831) 454-2580 FAX: (831) 454-2131 TDD: (831) 454-2123
 KATHLEEN MOLLOY PREVISICH, PLANNING DIRECTOR

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM for the PAJARO VALLEY GROUNDWATER RECHARGE PROJECT Application No. 171041, March 9, 2017

No.	Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsibility for Compliance	Method of Compliance	Timing of Compliance
Biological Resources					
California Red-legged Frog					
BIO-1	Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game, or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<p>Conduct Preconstruction Survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preconstruction surveys will be conducted by a qualified biologist immediately prior to the initiation of any ground disturbing activities and vegetation clearing. All suitable aquatic and upland habitat within the vicinity of the project site, including refugia habitat such as dense vegetation, small woody debris, refuse, burrows, etc., should be thoroughly inspected. A qualified biologist will be on-site or available by phone to respond in a timely manner throughout the project duration. This biologist will have the ability to stop construction if a special-status amphibian is encountered during construction. If an amphibian matching the description of a special-status amphibian is discovered at the project site, all work that may harm the animal will be stopped until the animal is able to leave the construction zone. 	The Resource Conservation District, Contractor, and Project Biologist	To be monitored by the County Planning Department, the Land Trust, Contractor, and the Project Biologist.	To be implemented prior to and during project construction.
Cultural Resources					
CUL-1	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?	Pursuant to Section 16.40.040 of the Santa Cruz County Code, if at any time during site preparation, excavation, or other ground disturbance associated with this project, archaeological or human remains are uncovered during construction, the responsible persons shall immediately cease and desist from all further site excavation and notify the sheriff-coroner and the Planning Director. If the coroner determines that the remains are not of recent origin, a full archeological investigation shall be conducted and representatives of the local Native California Indian group shall be contacted. Disturbance shall not resume until the significance of the archeological resource is determined and appropriate mitigations to preserve the resource on the site are established.	The Resource Conservation District and contractor	To be implemented by a qualified archaeologist.	To be implemented during project construction.

No.	Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsibility for Compliance	Method of Compliance	Timing of Compliance
Transportation/Traffic					
TRA-1	Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<p>Truck Access Points to Highway 129</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Right-of-Way Encroachment Permit shall be acquired from Caltrans District 5 to enter and exit Highway 129 during hauling of excavated material to the receiving site. • A traffic control plan shall be prepared and approved by both Caltrans District 5 and the County of Santa Cruz Department of Public Works. • Any truck access points shall include advance warning signage. Flaggers shall be used on Highway 129 in both directions to control traffic, allowing trucks to enter and exit both the construction site and material receiving site. Two-way traffic shall be maintained on Highway 129 at all times. • When needed, paved access roads will be swept and cleared of any residual dirt resulting from the construction activity. 	The Resource Conservation District and Contractor	To be enforced by Caltrans District 5 Right-of-Way	To be implemented prior to and during project construction.

Attachment 2

Special Status Species Tables



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Table 1-1. Special Status Plant Species with Potential to Occur in the Pajaro Valley Groundwater Recharge Project Study Area

Species Name	Common Name	Federal, State, & CNPS Listing ¹	Habitat Preferences & Distribution Information	Flowering Phenology/ Life Form	Habitat Suitability & Local Distribution	Potential For Occurrence
<i>Ceanothus ferrisiae</i>	Coyote ceanothus	FE, 1B.1	Chaparral, Coastal scrub, Valley and foothill grassland, serpentinite. 120-460m	Jan-May evergreen shrub	No suitable vegetation associations present. No CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) records from region.	None
<i>Chorizanthe pungens</i> var. <i>pungens</i>	Monterey spineflower	FT, 1B.2	Coastal dunes, chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub. Sandy soils in coastal dunes or more inland within chaparral or other habitats. 0-150m.	April-August annual herb	No suitable vegetation present. Nearest CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) record is more than 1-mile from project site.	None
<i>Chorizanthe robusta</i> var. <i>robusta</i>	robust spineflower	FE, 1B.1	Cismontane woodland, coastal dunes, coastal scrub. Sandy terraces and bluffs or in loose sand. 3-120m.	April-September annual herb	No suitable vegetation associations present. No CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) records from region.	None
<i>Cordylanthus rigidus</i> ssp. <i>littoralis</i>	seaside bird's-beak	SE, 1B.1	Closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal. Sandy, often disturbed sites, usually within chaparral or coastal scrub. 0-215m.	April-October annual herb (hemiparasitic)	No suitable vegetation associations present. No CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) records from region.	None
<i>Dudleya abramsii</i> ssp. <i>setchellii</i>	Santa Clara Valley dudleya	FE, 1B.1	Santa Clara serpentinite, Cismontane woodland, Valley and foothill grassland, 60-455m.	April-October perennial herb	No suitable vegetation associations present. No CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) records from region.	None

Species Name	Common Name	Federal, State, & CNPS Listing ¹	Habitat Preferences & Distribution Information	Flowering Phenology/ Life Form	Habitat Suitability & Local Distribution	Potential For Occurrence
<i>Gilia tenuiflora</i> <i>spp. Arenaria</i>	Monterey gilia	FE, FT, 1B.2	Coastal strand, Chaparral, Northern Coastal scrub with habitat including sandy and coastal dunes. Almost always occurs in non-wetlands when found in California. 0-40m.	April-June Annual herb	No suitable vegetation associations present. No CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) records from region.	None
<i>Holocarpha macradenia</i>	Santa Cruz tarplant	FT, CH, SE, 1B.1	Coastal prairie, valley and foothill grassland. Light, sandy soil or sandy clay; often with nonnatives. 10-260m.	June-October annual herb	No suitable vegetation associations present. Nearest CNDDDB record approx. 2.5 miles from the project site.	None
<i>Pedicularis dudleyi</i>	Dudley's lousewort	SR, 1B.2	Occurs in maritime chaparral, cismontane woodland, North Coast coniferous forest, and valley and foothill grassland. Known from fewer than ten occurrences from MNT, SLO, and SMT counties between 60-900m.	April-June perennial herb	No suitable vegetation associations present. No CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) records from region.	None
<i>Piperia yadonii</i>	Yadon's rein orchid	FE, 1B.1	Closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, coastal bluff scrub. On sandstone and sandy soil, but poorly drained and often dry. 10-415m.	February-August perennial herb	No suitable vegetation associations present. No CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) records from region.	None

Species Name	Common Name	Federal, State, & CNPS Listing ¹	Habitat Preferences & Distribution Information	Flowering Phenology/ Life Form	Habitat Suitability & Local Distribution	Potential For Occurrence
<i>Plagiobothrys diffusus</i>	San Francisco popcornflower	SE, 1B.1	Occurs in coastal prairie and valley and foothill grassland. Known from ALA, SCR, and SMT counties between 60-360m. Presumed extirpated from SFO County. Recognized as <i>P. reticulatus</i> var. <i>rossianorum</i> in TJM.	March-June annual herb	No suitable vegetation associations present. No CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) records from region.	None
California Native Plant Society Listed and Locally Rare Species						
<i>Arctostaphylos andersonii</i>	Anderson's manzanita	1B.2	Occurs in openings and edges of broadleaved upland forest, chaparral, and North Coast coniferous forest. Known from SCL, SCR, and SMT counties between 60-730m.	November-April shrub (evergreen)	No suitable vegetation associations present. No CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) records from region.	None
<i>Arctostaphylos hookeri</i> ssp. <i>hookeri</i>	Hooker's manzanita	1B.2	Chaparral, coastal scrub, closed-cone coniferous forest, cismontane woodland. Sandy soils, sandy shales, sandstone outcrops. 85-300m.	January-June perennial evergreen shrub	No suitable vegetation associations present. No CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) records from region.	None
<i>Arctostaphylos pajaroensis</i>	Pajaro manzanita	1B.1	Occurs in chaparral on sandy soils. Known from MNT and SBT counties between 30-760m. Presumed extirpated from SCR County.	December-March shrub (evergreen)	No suitable vegetation associations present. Nearest CNDDDB record approx. 2 miles from the project site.	Not expected

Species Name	Common Name	Federal, State, & CNPS Listing ¹	Habitat Preferences & Distribution Information	Flowering Phenology/ Life Form	Habitat Suitability & Local Distribution	Potential For Occurrence
<i>Balsamorhiza macrolepis</i>	Big-scale balsamaroot	1B.2	Valley grassland and Foothill woodland. Occurs on slopes of these habitat communities from 90-1740m elevation.	March-June Perennial herb	No suitable vegetation associations present. No CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) records from region.	None
<i>California macrophylla</i>	Round-leaved filaree	1B.2	Occurs in Valley grassland and foothill woodland communities. 15-1200m.	March-May Annual herb	No suitable vegetation associations present. No CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) records from region.	None
<i>Calyptridium parryi var. hesseae</i>	Santa Cruz Mountains pussypaws	1B.1	Occurs on sandy or gravelly sites in openings of chaparral and cismontane woodland. Known <20 occurrences from MNT, SCL, and SCR counties. 305-1,530m.	May-August annual herb	No suitable vegetation associations present. No CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) records from region.	None
<i>Castilleja rubicundula var. rubicundula</i>	Pink creamsacs	1B.2	Occurs in serpentinite sites in open Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, meadows and seeps and Valley and foothill grassland communities.	April-June Annual herb (hermiparasitic)	No suitable vegetation associations present. No CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) records from region.	None

Species Name	Common Name	Federal, State, & CNPS Listing ¹	Habitat Preferences & Distribution Information	Flowering Phenology/ Life Form	Habitat Suitability & Local Distribution	Potential For Occurrence
<i>Centromadia parryi</i> ssp. <i>congdonii</i>	Congdon's tarplant	1B.2	Valley and foothill grassland. Alkaline soils, sometimes described as heavy white clay. 1-230m.	May-November annual herb	Potentially suitable vegetation may be present. Nearest CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) record is approx. 1.25 miles from site.	None
<i>Clarkia concinna</i> ssp. <i>automixa</i>	Santa Clara red ribbons	4.3	Occurs in chaparral and cismontane woodland. Known from ALA and SCL counties between 90-1,500m	May-July annual herb	No suitable vegetation associations present. No CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) records from region.	None
<i>Ericameria fasciculata</i>	Eastwood's goldenbush	1B.1	Closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral (maritime), coastal scrub, coastal dunes. In sandy openings. 30-275m.	July-October perennial evergreen shrub	No suitable vegetation associations present. No CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) records from region.	None
<i>Eriogonum nortonii</i>	Pinnacles buckwheat	1B.3	Occurs in Chaparral and Valley grassland communities with sandy soils that are often sites with recent burns. 90-670m.	May-August Annual herb	No suitable vegetation associations present. No CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) records from region.	None
<i>Eryngium aristulatum</i> var. <i>hooveri</i>	Hoover's button-celery	1B.1	Occurs in Freshwater wetlands and wetland-riparian communities and vernal pool habitats. 3-45m.	June-August Annual or perennial herb	No suitable vegetation associations present. No CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) records from region.	None

Species Name	Common Name	Federal, State, & CNPS Listing ¹	Habitat Preferences & Distribution Information	Flowering Phenology/ Life Form	Habitat Suitability & Local Distribution	Potential For Occurrence
<i>Erysimum ammophilum</i>	sand-loving wallflower	1B.2	Occurs in sandy openings in chaparral (maritime), coastal dunes, and coastal scrub. Known from MNT, SBA, SCR, SDG, and SMT counties, and SRO between 0-60 m.	February-June perennial herb	No suitable vegetation associations present. No CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) records from region.	None
<i>Fritillaria liliacea</i>	fragrant fritillary	1B.2	Cismontane woodland, coastal prairie, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland near the coast, on clay or serpentinite. Known from ALA, CCA, MNT, MRN, SBT, SCL, SFO, SMT, SOL and SON counties between 3-410m.	February-April perennial herb (bulbiferous)	No suitable vegetation associations present. No CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) records from region.	None
<i>Hoita strobilina</i>	Loma Prieta hoita	1B.1	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, riparian woodland. Serpentine; mesic sites.	May-October perennial herb	No suitable vegetation associations present. No CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) records from region.	None
<i>Horkelia cuneata</i> var. <i>sericea</i>	Kellogg's horkelia	1B.1	Occurs on sandy or gravelly site of openings in closed-cone coniferous forest, maritime chaparral, coastal dunes, and coastal scrub. Known MNT, SBA, SCR, SLO, and SMT counties 10-200m. Presumed extirpated from ALA, MRN, and SFO counties.	April-September perennial herb	No suitable vegetation associations present. No CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) records from region.	None

Species Name	Common Name	Federal, State, & CNPS Listing ¹	Habitat Preferences & Distribution Information	Flowering Phenology/ Life Form	Habitat Suitability & Local Distribution	Potential For Occurrence
<i>Legenere limosa</i>	Legenere	1B.1	Valley grassland, freshwater wetlands and wetland-riparian. Occurs mainly in vernal-pool and similar wetland habitats. 18-750m.	April-June Annual herb	No suitable vegetation associations present. No CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) records from region.	None
<i>Lessingia micradenia</i> var. <i>glabrata</i>	smooth lessingia	1B.2	Chaparral. Serpentine; often on roadsides. 120-485m.	July-November annual herb	No suitable vegetation associations present. No CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) records from region.	None
<i>Malacothamnus arcuatus</i>	arcuate bush-mallow	1B.2	Occurs in chaparral. Known from SCL, SCR, and SMT counties between 15-355 meters. Chaparral. Gravelly alluvium. 80-355m.	April-September shrub (evergreen)	No suitable vegetation associations present. No CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) records from region.	None
<i>Monolopia gracilens</i>	woodland woollythreads	1B.2	Occurs on serpentine substrate in broadleafed upland forest (openings), chaparral (openings), cismontane woodland, North Coast coniferous forest (openings), and valley and foothill grassland. Known from ALA, CCA, MNT, SCL, SCR, SLO, and SMT counties between 100-1,200m.	February-July annual herb	No suitable vegetation is present at the site. CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) record shows occurrence of this species along the Parajo River that runs adjacent to the site approx. 0.25 miles from the project site	None
<i>Penstemon rattanii</i> var. <i>kleei</i>	Santa Cruz Mountains beardtongue	1B.2	Occurs in chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, and North Coast coniferous forest. Known from SCL and SCR counties between 400-1,100m. Known from <10 occurrences.	May-June perennial herb	No suitable vegetation associations present. No CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) records from region.	None

Species Name	Common Name	Federal, State, & CNPS Listing ¹	Habitat Preferences & Distribution Information	Flowering Phenology/ Life Form	Habitat Suitability & Local Distribution	Potential For Occurrence
<i>Plagiobothrys chorisianus</i> var. <i>chorisianus</i>	Choris' popcornflower	1B.2	Occurs on mesic sites in chaparral, coastal prairie, and coastal scrub and in grassy moist places, ephemeral drainages, coastal scrub, and chaparral. It has been recorded as occurring in Alameda, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, and San Mateo but may be extirpated in Alameda Co. 15-160m.	March-June annual	No suitable vegetation associations present. No CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) records from region.	None
<i>Puccinellia simplex</i>	California alkali grass	1B.2	Occurs in alkaline, vernal mesic soils and in sinks, flats and around lake margins. It is associated with Chenopod scrub, meadows and seeps, valley and foothill grasslands and vernal pool communities. 2-930m	March-May Annual grass	No suitable vegetation associations present. No CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) records from region.	None
<i>Rosa pinetorum</i>	pine rose	1B.2	Occurs in closed-cone coniferous forest. Known from MNT and SCR counties between 2-300m. Possible hybrid of <i>R. spithamea</i> , <i>R. gymnocarpa</i> , or others; further study needed.	May-July shrub (deciduous)	No suitable vegetation associations present. No CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) records from region.	None
<i>Streptanthus albidus</i> ssp. <i>peramoenus</i>	most beautiful jewel-flower	1B.2	Chaparral, valley and foothill grassland, cismontane woodland. Serpentine outcrops, on ridges and slopes. 120-730m.	March-October annual herb	No suitable vegetation associations present. No CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) records from region.	None

Species Name	Common Name	Federal, State, & CNPS Listing ¹	Habitat Preferences & Distribution Information	Flowering Phenology/ Life Form	Habitat Suitability & Local Distribution	Potential For Occurrence
<i>Trifolium buckwestiorum</i>	Santa Cruz clover	1B.1	Occurs on gravelly margins of broad-leaved upland forest, cismontane woodland, and coastal prairie. Often occurs in roadbeds. Known from MEN, MNT, SCR, and SON counties between 105-610m.	April-October annual herb	No suitable vegetation associations present. No CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) records from region.	None
<i>Trifolium hydrophilum</i>	saline clover	1B.2	Marshes and swamps, valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools. Mesic, alkaline sites. 0-300m.	April-June annual herb	No suitable vegetation associations present. No CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) records from region.	None

STATUS CODES:

FEDERAL

FE = Listed as Endangered by the USFWS
 FT = Listed as Threatened by the USFWS
 FC = Candidate for Federal listing

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY (CNPS STATUS)

1A – Plants presumed extinct in California
 1B – Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere
 2 – Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere
 3 – Plants about which we need more information – a review list
 4 – Plants of limited distribution – a watch list

STATE

CE = Listed as Endangered by the State of California
 CT = Listed as Threatened by the State of California

CNPS THREAT CODE EXTENSIONS:

.1 -- Seriously endangered in California.
 .2 -- Fairly endangered in California.
 .3 -- Not very endangered in California

Table 1-2. Special Status Wildlife Species with Potential to Occur in the Pajaro Valley Groundwater Recharge Project Study Area

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing Status ¹	Habitat Requirements	Habitat Suitability & Local Distribution	Potential for Occurrence
Invertebrates					
<i>Adela oplerella</i>	Opler's longhorn moth	-	Endemic to grasslands where it's larval food plant, <i>Platystemon californicus</i> (cream cups) grow. The species occurs in areas of serpentine soil such as serpentine grassland sites.	This species has been recorded at sites extending along the west side of the San Francisco Bay, Alameda, Marin, Sonoma, Santa Cruz and Santa Clara counties and the inner Coast Ranges. No suitable habitat supporting larval food plant species present within the project site.	None
<i>Bombus caliginosus</i>	Obscure bumble bee	-	Inhabits open grassy coastal prairies and Coast Range meadows. Nesting occurs underground and above ground in abandon bird nests. These are colonial insects with eusocial behaviors.	Distributed in coastal regions from northern Washington to southern California. No suitable nesting habitat present within the project site.	None
<i>Bombus crotchii</i>	Crotch bumble bee	-	Inhabits open grassland and scrub communities. They nest underground and are colonial in nature. It food plants include milkweeds, dustymaidens, lupines, medics, phacelias and sages.	Found from central California to Baja California del Norte, Mexico. This includes the western edges of the deserts and the Central Valley especially the southern most part. No suitable associated habitat, including food plant habitat, within the project study area.	None
<i>Bombus occidentalis</i>	Western bumble bee	-	These eusocial insects live in colonies and are dependent on available nesting sites. Open grassland and scrub community types are typically inhabited by this species of bee although availability of this habitat has caused a significant decline in population size.	This species has undergone a drastic decline in size throughout much of its historic range. It now is found in smaller numbers throughout central California, Oregon and Washington, but these populations have largely disappeared. No suitable habitat for nesting available within the project area. Nearest CNDDDB record approx. 2.5 miles from the project site.	None

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing Status ¹	Habitat Requirements	Habitat Suitability & Local Distribution	Potential for Occurrence
<i>Coelus globosus</i>	globose dune beetle	-	Inhabitant of coastal sand dune habitat, from Bodega Head in Sonoma county south to Ensenada, Mexico. Inhabits foredunes and sand hummocks; it burrows beneath the sand surface and is most common beneath dune vegetation.	No suitable habitat to provide burrowing potential present within the project study area.	None
<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	monarch butterfly	-	Roosts located in wind-protected tree groves (eucalyptus, Monterey pine, cypress), with nectar and water sources nearby. Host plant is the milkweed (<i>Asclepius</i> spp.) Lifespan reaches >9 months. Fall migration occurs from August-October.	Winter roost sites extend along the coast from northern Mendocino to Baja California, Mexico. No suitable wintering habitat present within the project study area. Species is considered extirpated from Contra Costa and Alameda Counties.	None
<i>Euphydryas editha bayensis</i>	Bay checkerspot butterfly	FT, CH	Exist on shallow, serpentine-derived soils (i.e. high in magnesium and heavy metals and low in nutrients). The main larvae host plant is the dwarf plantain (<i>Plantago erecta</i>).	Occurs in six primary areas including the San Francisco Peninsula, San Mateo county, and four occurrences in Santa Clara county. Historically this species occurred east, west and south of the San Francisco Bay from Twin Peaks in San Francisco and Mount Diablo, south to near Hollister. No suitable associated habitat present to provide host plants within the project study area.	None
<i>Helminthoglypta sequoicola consors</i>	Redwood shoulderband	-	A terrestrial species associated with redwood forests. Heavily redwood-timbered canyons, generally found inland.	Range includes San Mateo, Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey counties. Endemic to Mendocino County, known from type specimens from Big River, Navarro River, and Russian Gulch watersheds. Listed in CNDDDB (2010) in North Coast Region. Project is outside range of this species.	None
<i>Optioservus canus</i>	Pinnacles optioservus riffle beetle	-	Generally, prefer gravel or rocky streams and often occur on moss covered rocks. Adults and larval stages of this species crawl on rocks and gravel in riffle areas.	No suitable associated habitat to support either the adult or larval stages of this species within the project study area.	None

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing Status ¹	Habitat Requirements	Habitat Suitability & Local Distribution	Potential for Occurrence
<i>Tryonia imitator</i>	mimic tryonia (=California brackishwater snail)	-	Inhabits coastal lagoons, estuaries and salt marshes, from Sonoma county south to San Diego county. Found only in permanently submerged areas in a variety of sediment types; able to withstand a wide range of salinities.	No permanently submerged habitat in project area, therefore suitable habitat is not present within the project study area.	None
Fish					
<i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i>	tidewater goby	FE, CSC, CH	Found in shallow lagoons and lower stream reaches, they need fairly still but not stagnant water and high oxygen levels.	Known from lower Watsonville Slough. No suitable habitat is present within the project study area.	None
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i>	steelhead - central California coast DPS	FT, CH, NMFS	Spawns in freshwater in areas with suitable spawning gravels; juveniles require cool, clean water, cover, and sufficient dissolved oxygen.	No records from region. Project will benefit nearby Pajaro River water quality. Pajaro River is designated Critical Habitat for this species.	None
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i>	steelhead - south/central California coast DPS	FT, CSC, NMFS	Spawns in freshwater in areas with suitable spawning gravels; juveniles require cool, clean water, cover, and sufficient dissolved oxygen.	No records from region although critical habitat is designated in the Pajaro River for this species.	None
<i>Spirinchus thaleichthys</i>	Longfin smelt	FC, ST, CSC	Spawns in low salinity or freshwater reaches of coastal rivers and tributary streams; spawning occurs from January to March typically	Known upstream of Rio Vista on the Sacramento River in the Delta through Suisun Marsh and Suisun Bay; known in San Pablo Bay, San Francisco Bay, South San Francisco Bay, The Gulf of the Farallones, and Humboldt Bay. No suitable spawning or rearing habitat is present within the project study area.	None
Amphibians					

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing Status ¹	Habitat Requirements	Habitat Suitability & Local Distribution	Potential for Occurrence
<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>	California tiger salamander	FT, CH, ST, CSC	Central valley DPS federally listed as threatened. Santa Barbara and Sonoma counties DPS federally listed as endangered. Need underground refuges, especially ground squirrel burrows and vernal pools or other seasonal water sources for breeding. CTS have been documented to travel distances of up to 1.6 km. The active season follows the onset of autumn rains and continues through early spring.	Range includes the Central Valley and Central Coast ranges from Colusa County south to San Luis Obispo and Kern counties from sea level to 1,054 meters (3,460 feet) in elevation with two distinct populations within Sonoma and Santa Barbara counties. No suitable burrows or water sources to support breeding salamanders. There is no suitable upland habitat present within the project study area.	None
<i>Ambystoma macrodactylum croceum</i>	Santa Cruz long-toed salamander	FE, SE, FP	Wet meadows near sea level in a few restricted locales in Santa Cruz and Monterey counties. Aquatic larvae prefer shallow (<12 inches) water, using clumps of vegetation or debris for cover. Adults use mammal burrows.	No suitable habitat is present	None
<i>Aneides niger</i>	Santa Cruz black salamander	CSC	Habitat is known to include mixed deciduous woodland, coniferous forests and coastal grasslands. Can be found under rocks near streams, in talus, under damp logs and other debris.	Known to be endemic to California with a range limited to west of the San Francisco Bay and south of the San Francisco Peninsula from Santa Cruz County and western Santa Clara County, and to southern portion of San Mateo County in the northern extent of the range. No suitable habitat is available within the project site.	None
<i>Dicamptodon ensatus</i>	California giant salamander	FT, FT, WL	Occurs in wet coastal forests near clear, cold permanent or semi-permanent streams and seepages.	Endemic to California, locally found in Sonoma and Marin Counties as well as south of the San Francisco Bay, San Mateo County and to southern Santa Cruz County. No suitable forested habitat is present within the project site.	None

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing Status ¹	Habitat Requirements	Habitat Suitability & Local Distribution	Potential for Occurrence
<i>Rana boylei</i>	foothill yellow-legged frog	CSC	Breeds in creeks and rivers; uses both creeks and stream banks to forage.	No suitable habitat present.	None
<i>Rana draytonii</i>	California red-legged frog	FT, CH, CSC	Lowlands or foothills in or near sources of water with shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation.	This species has not been recorded from Pajaro River in vicinity of project since 2013. Unlikely to occur in project area.	Not Expected
<i>Taricha torosa</i>	Coast Range newt	CSC	Found in wet forests, oak forests, chaparral and rolling grasslands.	Endemic to California, found along the coast and coast range mountains from Mendocino county south to San Diego county. No suitable habitat present within the project site.	None
Reptiles					
<i>Anniella pulchra nigra</i>	black legless lizard	CSC	Sand dunes and sandy soils in the Monterey Bay and Morro Bay regions. Inhabit sandy soil/dune areas with bush lupine and mock heather as dominant plants. Moist soil is essential.	Species known to occur in the lower Pajaro River Lagoon and dunes (Hunt 1983). No suitable dune habitat present in project site.	Not Expected
<i>Anniella pulchra pulchra</i>	silvery legless lizard	CSC	Sandy or loose loamy soils under sparse vegetation. Soil moisture is essential. They prefer soils with a high moisture content.	Species known from lower Pajaro River Lagoon and dunes. No suitable sandy soils present within the project site.	None

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing Status ¹	Habitat Requirements	Habitat Suitability & Local Distribution	Potential for Occurrence
<i>Emys marmorata</i>	western pond turtle	CSC	Permanent ponds and slow-moving streams and rivers with open areas for basking.	Known to breed and occupy the Pajaro River. No suitable permanently ponded slow-moving water bodies present within the project site. Low likelihood for this species to occupy site, though within range for upland movements from water.	Not expected
Birds					
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Cooper's hawk	WL	Typically found in forests and woodlands. Nest in pines, oaks, Douglas-firs, beeches, spruces and other densely populated woodland tree species.	Breeds across southern Canada and southward to the southern extent of the United States and Central Mexico. Winters throughout the US and Mexico. No suitable nesting habitat present within the site.	None
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	tricolored blackbird	SCT, CSC	Open water, protected nesting substrate (blackberry/cattails), and foraging areas with insect prey. Breeding colonies require a nearby source of water, suitable nesting substrate and natural grassland, woodland, or agricultural cropland biomes in which to forage. Historically, breeding colonies had been strongly associated with emergent marshes, but more recently there has been a shift to non-natively vegetated and active agricultural areas (USFWS 2015).	No suitable nesting habitat is present within the project site.	None
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden eagle	FP	Favor partially or completely open space near mountains, hills and cliffs. Utilize habitats ranging from arctic to desert, including tundra, shrublands, grasslands, coniferous forests, farmland and riparian corridors.	No suitable nesting habitat is present within the project site. Agricultural fields provide suitable foraging habitat for this species.	None

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing Status ¹	Habitat Requirements	Habitat Suitability & Local Distribution	Potential for Occurrence
<i>Asio flammeus</i>	short-eared owl	CSC	Inhabits open grasslands, prairies, marshes and agricultural fields with commaiscent cover and abundant small mammal prey. Nests on the ground in a shallow depression. Breeding begins in April.	Suitable wintering habitat is present within the project site. No suitable nesting habitat present.	None
<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	burrowing owl	CSC	Valley bottoms and foothills with low vegetation and fossorial mammal activity.	No suitable burrowing habitat present within the project site.	None
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i>	western snowy plover	FT, CH, CSC	Inhabit coastal beaches above the normal high-tide limit in flat, open areas with sandy or saline substrates; vegetation and driftwood are usually sparse or absent.	No suitable wintering habitat present within the project site.	None
<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	white-tailed kite	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.	No suitable nesting habitat present within the project site.	None
<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	American peregrine falcon	DL, DL, FP	Habitat includes many terrestrial landscapes in North America; mainly cliffs and nesting near water. Utilize open habitat for foraging. Will also utilize artificial habitats like towers, bridges and buildings.	Most widely found in Northern California; migrates long distances along the western coast of the US. No suitable nesting habitat present within the project site.	None
<i>Rallus longirostris obsoletus</i>	California clapper rail	FE, SE, FP	Salt-water and brackish marshes traversed by tidal sloughs in the vicinity of San Francisco bay. Associated with abundant growths of pickleweed, but feeds away from cover on invertebrates from mud-bottomed sloughs.	No CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) records within 5 miles of project study area; nearest record from Elkhorn Slough area, 1978. No suitable habitat available within the project study area.	None

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing Status ¹	Habitat Requirements	Habitat Suitability & Local Distribution	Potential for Occurrence
<i>Riparia riparia</i>	bank swallow	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.	No suitable nesting habitat present. Nearest CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) record is for a nesting colony located at mouth of Pajaro River	Not Expected
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	Least Bell's vireo	FE, SE	Found in dense brush, mesquite, willow-cottonwood forest, streamside thickets, and scrub oak, in arid regions, often near water; moist woodland, bottomlands, woodland edge, scattered cover and hedgerows in cultivated areas, brush in winter.	No suitable habitat present. No records from region.	None
Mammals					
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	pallid bat	CSC	Deserts, grasslands, shrublands, woodlands and forests. Most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting. Roosts must protect from high temperatures. Sensitive to disturbance of roosting sites.	No suitable habitat present. No records within 5 miles of project site.	None
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	Townsend's big-eared bat	SCT, SSC	Utilize a variety of habitats near caves or other roosting sites. Found in pine forests and arid desert scrub habitats; prefer large open areas. Forage near the foliage of trees and shrubs, 10-30m off the ground. Hibernates fall-spring.	No suitable roosting habitat near or within the project site.	None
<i>Dipodomys venustus venustus</i>	Santa Cruz kangaroo rat	-	Silverleaf manzanita mixed chaparral in the Zayante Sand Hills of the Santa Cruz Mountains. Needs soft, well-drained sand.	No suitable habitat present. No records from region.	None

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing Status ¹	Habitat Requirements	Habitat Suitability & Local Distribution	Potential for Occurrence
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Hoary bat	-	Found throughout California. A solitary foliage rooster that prefers evergreens, but will use deciduous trees in forested habitats, particularly in edge habitat. May forage in small to large groups. Feeds primarily on moths, but will eat a variety of other insects. Migrates great distances.	This is the widest ranging bat in North America and can be found anywhere in California with a patchy distribution in desert regions. The species winters along the coastal southern portion of California and will typically breed farther north and inland of this winter range (Vaughn and Krutzsch, 1954). No suitable edge habitat to provide roosting or foraging availability for this species within the project site.	None
<i>Reithrodontomys megalotis distichlis</i>	Salinas harvest mouse	-	Known only from the Monterey Bay region. Occurs in fresh and brackish water wetlands and probably in the adjacent uplands around the mouth of the Salinas River.	Project area is outside of known range. No records within 5 miles of project study area. Single CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) occurrence in region from Strawberry Canyon, 1927.	None
<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	American badger	CSC	Open areas with friable soils within woodland, grassland, savannah and desert habitats.	Single CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) occurrence in region is collection made in 1909, Aptos. No suitable habitat present within the project site.	None

EXPLANATION OF STATE AND FEDERAL LISTING CODES:

FEDERAL

FE = Federally listed as Endangered
 FT = Federally listed as Threatened
 FPE = Candidate for Federal listing
 DL = Delisted

FPD = Federally proposed for delisting
 FC = Federal candidate species (former Category 1 candidates)
 SC = Species of Concern (NMFS regulated species only)
 CH = Critical Habitat (Proposed or Final) is designated

STATE

SE = State listed as Endangered
 ST = State listed as Threatened
 SR = State listed as Rare
 SCE = State candidate for listing as Endangered
 SCT = State candidate for listing as Threatened
 CSC = California Species of Special Concern

FP = Fully Protected
 WL = Watch List