



County of Yolo

Taro Echiburú, AICP
DIRECTOR

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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Yolo County Planning, Public Works and Environmental Services Department
DATE: September 17, 2015
SUBJECT: **Valley Vista Trail Extension Project**

Applicant: Yolo County
General Services Department
Parks Division
625 Court Street
Woodland, CA 95695

File Name: **ZF2015-0045**

Description of Project: The project is a request to expand the existing trail system in the Valley Vista Regional Park, previously known as the Otis Ranch Open Space Park, which is a Yolo County open space facility located in the steep and mountainous terrain of northwestern Yolo County. Valley Vista Regional Park and the adjoining Camp Haswell comprise approximately 700± acres of parkland within the Cache Creek watershed at the junction of Rumsey Canyon and the northern Capay Valley. The parklands adjoin Federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property. The proposed construction of new trails at Valley Vista Regional Park will serve to accommodate the public's increased interest for access to public open space areas rich in ecological resources.

Acquired in 2002 by the County, primarily for trail development and connecting hiking trails to the adjacent federally owned land, Valley Vista Regional Park covers an extensive elevation range providing linkage to natural habitats on public lands both north and south of Cache Creek. The first official Valley Vista trail was constructed in 2009 by Tuleyome, a volunteer, nonprofit organization whose mission is to protect the wild and agricultural heritages of the Inner Coastal Range and the Western Sacramento Valley.

All trail construction will occur on Yolo County park property and will be built to a Forest Service Class 3 trail standard, as prescribed by the Forest Service trail manual. Trail markers, consisting of four by four posts with arrows, distances, and trail names, will be placed at trail intersections. Design and installation of approximately four miles of new hiking trails at Valley Vista Regional Park will be accomplished by volunteers using hand tools to cut and shape the trail bed, trim brush, and install the directional trail marker posts. The project involves implementation of Recommendations in the Yolo County Parks and Open Space Master Plan for the development of additional hiking trails at Valley Vista Regional Park.

Environmental Determination: An Initial Study was prepared to examine potential areas of impact resulting from the event facility project. The Initial Study found that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment with the implementation of best management practices that were previously identified in the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the Parks and Open Space Master Plan. As a result, an Environmental Impact Report is not required and a Negative Declaration has been prepared.

Availability of Documents: The Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND) is now available for public review at the following location during normal business hours: the Yolo County Planning, Public Works and Environmental Services Department, 292 W. Beamer Street, Woodland, CA 95695. **The IS/ND has been posted to the Yolo County Web site and may be downloaded and printed at <http://www.yolocounty.org/community-services/planning-public-works/planning-division/current-projects>.** A PDF digital file of the IS/ND, or a hard (paper) copy of the IS/ND, are also available upon request from the Planning Division at the address or e-mail depicted below.

Comments on the Initial Study/Negative Declaration: The County requests your comments on the Initial Study/ Negative Declaration during a **30±-day review period**, which commences **September 17, 2015**, and **ends on October 23, 2015**.

The Initial Study/Negative Declaration may be obtained from, and comments (written, e-mailed, or oral) may be directed to:

Stephanie Cormier, Senior Planner
Yolo County Planning and Public Works Department
292 W. Beamer Street
Woodland, CA. 95695
(530) 666-8850
stephanie.cormier@yolocounty.org

All interested parties are invited to send written communications to the Yolo County Planning, Public Works and Environmental Services Department no later than the relevant ending date.



**YOLO COUNTY
PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**INITIAL STUDY / NEGATIVE DECLARATION
ZONE FILE # 2015-0045**

THE VALLEY VISTA TRAIL EXTENSION PROJECT

SEPTEMBER, 2015

Initial Environmental Study

1. **Project Title:** Zone File #2015-0045 (The Valley Vista Trail Extension Project)
2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:**
Yolo County Planning, Public Works and Environmental Services Department
292 West Beamer Street
Woodland, CA 95695
3. **Contact Person, Phone Number, E-Mail:**
Stephanie Cormier, Senior Planner
(530) 666-8850
stephanie.cormier@yolocounty.org
4. **Project Location:** The project is located within the Valley Vista Regional Park (previously referred to as Otis Ranch Open Space Park), an approximately 617-acre ranch that links Camp Haswell Park to the Bureau of Land Management land at the Blue Ridge Trail (APN: 018-260-023). See Figure 1 (Vicinity Map).
5. **Project Sponsor's Name and Address:**
Kevin Yarris
Yolo County General Services Department
625 Court Street
Woodland, CA 95695
6. **Land Owner's Name and Address:**
Yolo County
General Services Department (Parks Division)
Woodland, CA 95695
7. **General Plan Designation(s):** Open Space (OS)
8. **Zoning:** Public Open Space (POS)
9. **Description of the Project:** See attached "Project Description" on the following pages.
10. **Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:**

Relation to Project	Land Use	Zoning	General Plan Designation
Project Site	Open space, trails, mountainous terrain	Public Open Space (POS)	Open Space
North	Cache Creek and open space (public lands), Colusa County line	Public Open Space (POS)	Open Space
South	Open space, trails, steep terrain (BLM land)	Public Open Space (POS)	Open Space
East	SR 16 (scenic roadway), agricultural (grazing and open space)	Agricultural Extensive (A-X)	Agriculture
West	Open space, trails, steep terrain (BLM land)	Public Open Space (POS)	Open Space

11. Other public agencies whose approval is required: Yolo County Board of Supervisors.

12. Other Project Assumptions: The Initial Study assumes compliance with all applicable State, Federal, and local codes and regulations including, but not limited to, County of Yolo Improvement Standards, the California Building Code, the State Health and Safety Code, and the State Public Resources Code. The project is reviewed and analyzed under the County’s Parks and Open Space Master Plan. The purpose of the Master Plan is to provide information and guidance to staff, decision makers, and the public for the management, use, and future development of Yolo County parks and open space facilities, both individually and system-wide.

Project Description

The project is a request to expand the existing trail system in the Valley Vista Regional Park, previously known as the Otis Ranch Open Space Park, which is a Yolo County open space facility located in the steep and mountainous terrain of northwestern Yolo County. Valley Vista Regional Park and the adjoining Camp Haswell comprise approximately 700± acres of parkland within the Cache Creek watershed at the junction of Rumsey Canyon and the northern Capay Valley. Located on two contiguous parcels, the parklands provide two miles of continuous ownership by the County along Cache Creek. The parklands adjoin Federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property. The proposed construction of new trails at Valley Vista Regional Park will serve to accommodate the public’s increased interest for access to public open space areas rich in ecological resources.

Located in the scenic Capay Valley in the upper reaches of the Cache Creek canyon, the existing “Valley Vista” trail provides access to Rumsey Knob, a steep knoll with an overlook of the Capay Valley and Rumsey Canyon. Although the County’s Parks and Open Space Master Plan (Master Plan) refers to the open space area as the Otis Ranch Open Space Park, the name was changed by the Board of Supervisors in 2010, to Valley Vista Regional Park, upon recommendation by the Parks, Recreation and Wildlife Advisory Committee.

Acquired in 2002 by the County, primarily for trail development and connecting hiking trails to the adjacent federally owned land, Valley Vista Regional Park covers an extensive elevation range providing linkage to natural habitats on public lands both north and south of Cache Creek. The first official Valley Vista trail was constructed in 2009 by Tuleyome, a volunteer, nonprofit organization whose mission is to protect the wild and agricultural heritages of the Inner Coastal Range and the Western Sacramento Valley. The group is active in Yolo County with strong advocacy in providing open space opportunities in the Cache Creek and Putah Creek watersheds. Previously, the ranch had some informal trails on the property, but no developed access into the interior and upper elevations.

The project proposes to create additional trails in Valley Vista Regional Park by extending the existing Valley Vista trail, and creating more loops around Pocket Canyon and smaller hiking loops closer to Camp Haswell. The overall goal of the project is to provide area enthusiasts with more open space access with hiking trail options that will eventually lead to linking the trail system to the greater Blue Ridge Trail through future cooperative efforts with the BLM. Moreover, the proposal meets one of the Master Plan recommendations to manage Camp Haswell and Valley Vista Regional Park as an integrated park unit for hiking and trail adventures. This overall recommendation is supported in the Master Plan through various measures, such as developing trailheads; developing a trail system with volunteer support and cooperation from interested organizations; providing a trail link to the adjoining BLM land and the Blue Ridge Trail; and, providing directional signage. The project also proposes additional fire risk management efforts, such as notification of park closures during high fire days.

All trail construction will occur on Yolo County park property and will be built to a Forest Service Class 3 trail standard, as prescribed by the Forest Service trail manual. Trail markers, consisting of four by four posts with arrows, distances, and trail names, will be placed at trail intersections. Design and installation of the approximately four miles of new hiking trails at Valley Vista Regional Park will be accomplished by volunteers using hand tools to cut and shape the trail bed, trim brush, and install the directional trail marker posts. Trail routes are expected to be flagged/identified in late fall, 2015, with actual trail construction beginning in the winter through early spring, 2016. As the summer heat sets in, volunteer activity stops and will be picked up again the following fall through spring seasons until the trails are completed. According to Tuleyome President, Andrew Folks, construction of the trails through volunteer efforts will take approximately 600 hours to complete.

The "Project" Under CEQA

This Initial Study is prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The term "project" is defined by CEQA as the whole of an action that has the potential, directly or ultimately, to result in a physical change to the environment (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378). This includes all phases of a project that are reasonably foreseeable, and all related projects that are directly linked to the project.

The "project" which is the subject of this Initial Study involves implementation of Recommendations in the Yolo County Parks and Open Space Master Plan for the development of additional hiking trails at Valley Vista Regional Park. Consideration of these activities was previously analyzed in the adopted Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Parks and Open Space Master Plan (Master Plan), prepared in January, 2006, and adopted in September, 2006. Specific mitigation measures adopted in the MND that are relevant to the proposed project are discussed in this Initial Study.

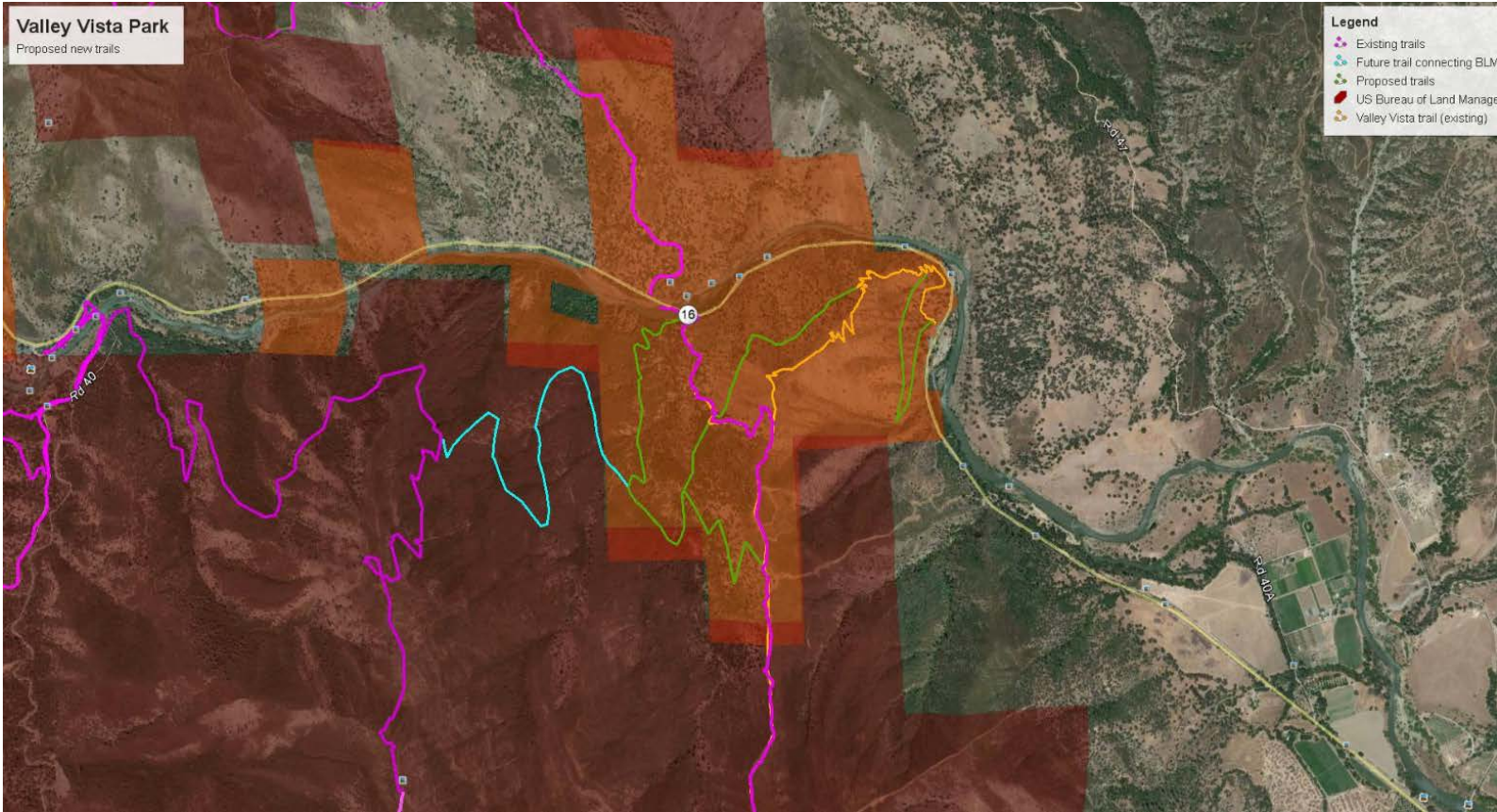
Figure 1
Vicinity Map



Aerial View



Figure 2
Site Plan



Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

The environmental factors checked below could potentially be affected by this project, involving at least two impacts that are a "Potentially Significant Impact" (before any proposed mitigation measures have been adopted or before any measures have been made or agreed to by the project proponent) as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural and Forestry Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology / Soils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation / Traffic | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

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 to the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a significant effect on the environment, and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required.
- I find that the proposed project **MAY** have an impact on the environment that is "potentially significant" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" 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 the project is consistent with an adopted general plan and all potentially significant effects have been analyzed adequately in an earlier **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**, the project is exempt from further review under the California Environmental Quality Act under the requirements of Public Resources Code section 21083.3(b) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.



9.17.15

Stephanie Cormier

Planner's Signature

Date

Planner's Printed name

Purpose of this Initial Study

This Initial Study has been prepared consistent with CEQA Guideline Section 15063, to determine if the project as described herein may have a significant effect upon the environment.

Evaluation of Environmental Impacts

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except “No Impact” answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A “No Impact” answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A “No Impact” answer should be explained if it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. “Potentially Significant Impact” is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more “Potentially Significant Impact” entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
4. A “Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated” applies when the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from a “Potentially Significant Impact” to a “Less than Significant Impact”. The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less-than-significant level. (Mitigation measures from Section XVIII, “Earlier Analyses”, may be cross-referenced.)
5. A determination that a “Less than Significant Impact” would occur is appropriate when the project could create some identifiable impact, but the impact would be less than the threshold set by a performance standard or adopted policy. The initial study should describe the impact and state why it is found to be “less than significant.”
6. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration [Section 15063(c)(3)(D) of the California Government Code. Earlier analyses are discussed in Section XVIII at the end of the checklist.
7. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, when appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
8. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

I.	AESTHETICS.	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:					
a.	Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b.	Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings along a scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c.	Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d.	Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

- a) **Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista? and**
b) **Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings along a scenic highway?**

No Impact. For purposes of determining significance under CEQA a “scenic vista” is defined as a viewpoint that provides expansive views of a highly valued landscape for the benefit of the general public. The proposed project is located adjacent to State Route 16, which has been identified by the State of California as an eligible State Scenic Highway. The Yolo County General Plan designates State Highway 16, through the Capay Valley, as a local scenic highway. The project will provide increased access to the rich natural resources of Yolo County, including trail access to an elevation of over 1,700 feet high for views of Cache Creek, the northern Capay Valley and Rumsey Canyon, the Blue Ridge range, the Blue Cliffs, Sacramento Valley and the Sutter Buttes. The proposal, which includes linking a new four-mile hiking trail to existing trails that are accessed off trailheads located along Highway 16, is intended to better serve the recreational experience of visitors to the area. Though the project will create increased opportunities for new scenic vistas, the trails will not be visible from the existing locally designated scenic roadway since they are located above the highway. Thus, even with the addition of trail markers at trail intersections, no scenic resources will be damaged due to construction of additional trails in Valley Vista Regional Park.

- c) **Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?**

No Impact. The project proposes no construction of structures, other than the installation of directional trail markers at trail intersections. As described above, trails, both existing and proposed, at Valley Vista Regional Park will remain unseen from the public right-of-way due to the steep terrain of the project site. There are no nearby homes in the vicinity of the project. The project is not expected to degrade the existing aesthetic character of the site and its surroundings, and moreover relies on the surrounding natural beauty of the open space to draw hiking and nature enthusiasts and those interested in accessing public lands.

- d) **Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area?**

No Impact. The proposal will not introduce new sources lighting to the project area.

II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES.	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
<p>In determining whether impacts on agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and the forest carbon measurement methodology provided in the Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:</p>				
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or conflict with a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)) or timberland (as defined in Public Resources Code section 4526)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Involve other changes in the existing environment that, 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

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

No. The proposed project would not result in the conversion of any agricultural land uses. The site of the proposed project is currently used for open space and trail access to overlooks above Cache Creek through the canyon and ridge land areas. Approximately four miles of additional trail construction will be developed and linked to existing trails for non-motorized purposes. These are open space and recreational-related uses permitted by existing zoning. Soils within the project site are identified as Dibble clay loam, Millsholm rocky loam, Positas gravelly loam, riverwash, rock land, and water, which are all identified as non-prime, poor and very poor grade soils by the updated U.S. Soil Conservation Service *Soil Survey of Yolo County* (rock land and water are not rated). The project site is designated as "Other Land" on maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, which is a designation given to land that is not included in any of the other mapping categories. The project will not convert any lands that are identified as

“Prime Farmland,” “Unique Farmland,” or “Farmland of Statewide Importance” by the State of California to a non-agricultural use.

b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or conflict with a Williamson Act contract?

No Impact. The proposed project is located on POS (Public Open Space) zoned property and is not enrolled in the Williamson Act. The proposed project is classified as passive recreation under Section 8-2.804 of the County Code; such uses are allowed “by-right” in the POS Zone.

c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)) or timberland (as defined in Public Resources Code section 4526)?; and

d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No Impact. The proposed project would not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, or result in the loss or conversion of forest or timberland.

e) Involve other changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No Impact. As identified in (a), above, the project site has been shown on maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency as “Other Land.” The project will not result in the conversion of farmland to a non-agricultural use or the conversion of forest land to a non-forest use.

III. AIR QUALITY.	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Where applicable, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is a nonattainment area for an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

Thresholds of Significance:

The project site is within the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District (YSAQMD), and the Sacramento Valley Air Basin regulates air quality conditions within Yolo County. Yolo County is classified as a non-attainment area for several air pollutants, including ozone (O₃) and particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter (PM₁₀) for both federal and state standards, the partial non-attainment of the federal particulate matter 2.5 (PM_{2.5}), and is classified as a moderate maintenance area for carbon monoxide (CO) by the state.

Development projects are most likely to violate an air quality plan or standard, or contribute substantially to an existing or project air quality violation, through generation of vehicle trips.

For the evaluation of project-related air quality impacts, the YSAQMD recommends the use of the following thresholds of significance:

- Long-term Emissions of Criteria Air Pollutants (ROG, NO_x, and PM₁₀)—The criteria air pollutants of primary concern include ozone-precursor pollutants (ROG and NO_x) and PM₁₀. Significance thresholds have been developed for project-generated emissions of reactive organic gases (ROG), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and particulate matter of 10 microns or less (PM₁₀). Because PM_{2.5} is a subset of PM₁₀, a separate significance threshold has not been established for PM_{2.5}. Operational impacts associated with the proposed project would be considered significant if project-generated emissions would exceed YSAQMD-recommended significance thresholds, as identified below:

Table AQ-1 YSAQMD-Recommended Quantitative Thresholds of Significance for Criteria Air Pollutants	
Pollutant	Threshold
Reactive Organic Gases (ROG)	10 tons/year (approx. 55 lbs/day)
Oxides of Nitrogen (NO _x)	10 tons/year (approx. 55 lbs/day)
Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀)	80 lbs/day
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	Violation of State ambient air quality standard
<i>Source: Handbook for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality impacts (YSAQMD, 2007)</i>	

- Emissions of Criteria Air Pollutants (ROG, NO_x, and PM₁₀)—Construction impacts associated with the proposed project would be considered significant if project-generated emissions would exceed YSAQMD-recommended significance thresholds, as identified in Table AQ-1, and recommended control measures are not incorporated.
- Conflict with or Obstruct Implementation of Applicable Air Quality Plan— Projects resulting in the development of a new land use or a change in planned land use designation may result in a significant increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMT). Substantial increases in VMT, as well as, the installation of new area sources of emissions, may result in significant increases of criteria air pollutants that may conflict with the emissions inventories contained in regional air quality control plans. For this reason and given the region’s non-attainment status for ozone and PM₁₀, project-generated emissions of ozone precursor pollutants (i.e., ROG and NO_x) or PM₁₀ that would exceed the YSAQMD’s recommended project-level significance thresholds, would also be considered to potentially conflict with or obstruct implementation of regional air quality attainment plans.
- Local Mobile-Source CO Concentrations—Local mobile source impacts associated with the proposed project would be considered significant if the project contributes to CO concentrations at receptor locations in excess of the CAAQS (i.e., 9.0 ppm for 8 hours or 20 ppm for 1 hour).
- Toxic Air Contaminants. Exposure to toxic air contaminants (TAC) would be considered significant if the probability of contracting cancer for the Maximally Exposed Individual (i.e., maximum individual risk) would exceed 10 in 1 million or would result in a Hazard Index greater than 1.
- Odors. Odor impacts associated with the proposed project would be considered significant if the project has the potential to frequently expose members of the public to objectionable odors.

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

No Impact. The project would not substantially conflict with or obstruct implementation of the Yolo Solano Air Quality Management District Air Quality Attainment Plan (1992), the Sacramento Area Regional Ozone Attainment Plan (1994), or the goals and objectives of the Yolo County 2030 Countywide General Plan.

b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?

No Impact. The Yolo-Solano Region is a non-attainment area for state particulate matter (PM₁₀) and ozone standards, the federal ozone standard, and the partial non-attainment of the federal particulate matter 2.5 (PM_{2.5}). Development of additional trails at the Valley Vista Regional Park would not contribute significantly to air quality impacts during trail building activities. The activities, such as cutting and shaping the trail bed, trimming brush, and installing directional trail marker posts, are all done with hand tools and it is unlikely such activity could create substantial impacts related to dust and other emissions. Additionally, trail building will occur during the winter and early spring months when conditions are less likely to result in adverse effects. Fugitive dust from volunteers using hand tools is expected to be insignificant. There will be no impacts to air quality standards.

c) 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)?

Less than Significant Impact. Development projects are considered cumulatively significant by the YSAQMD if: (1) the project requires a change in the existing land use designation (i.e., general plan amendment, rezone); and (2) projected emissions (ROG, NO_x, or PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) of the project are greater than the emissions anticipated for the site if developed under the existing land use designation. The project is the construction of additional trails in the northwestern and remote region of the County. The project is expected to occur during winter and early spring months and will take approximately 600 hours of volunteer work. All trail building activities will be done with hand tools and are not expected to generate considerable levels of emissions on a temporary basis.

Long-term mobile source emissions from users accessing the trails would also not exceed thresholds established by the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District Handbook (2007) and would not be cumulatively considerable for any non-attainment pollutant from the project. The project site is expected to be accessed by those already using the trail system; the additional trails will provide alternative hiking options with different scenic vantages. Although some use of the site may increase slightly due to the construction of new trails it is not expected to be significant. Use of the area is generally not high, but there are those that regularly access the County-owned open space lands. The proposed project would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant.

d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

No Impact. The proposed project is located in the northwestern region of the County and is surrounded by hundreds of acres of public lands of a similar nature. The steep and mountainous terrain in the vicinity of the project site is not inhabited by residences. The closest community to the County-owned open space land is the town of Rumsey, located to the southeast. Rumsey is a sparsely populated community, about 2.25 miles away, and will not be affected by the addition of trails at the 617-acre project site. There are no nearby sensitive receptors that will be exposed to pollutants as a result of the project.

e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

No Impact. The new trails at Valley Vista Regional Park will not generate objectionable odors.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES.	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marshes, vernal pools, coastal wetlands, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

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

No Impact. The terrain of Vista Valley Regional Park is steep and mountainous with a topographic contrast that is dramatic, including high ridges overlooking the creek and canyon, and areas of patchy, mixed chaparral habitat at the mostly higher elevations. The large size of the property and the linkage it provides to natural habitats on public lands to the north and south of Cache Creek enhances its environmental resource value. One of the overarching themes in the Parks and Open Space Master Plan is to optimize the attributes of open space facilities for the preservation of their natural value as a benefit of the public and resource conservation in a manner that maintains ecological value. Generally, these natural areas are intended for passive recreation uses that are of low impact and secondary to the retention of natural vegetation, habitat, and processes. Allowable primary public uses in these open space areas include walking and hiking trails and nature appreciation.

Background reports prepared for the Master Plan, including the Existing Conditions & Resources Assessment Report, November 2004, and the Conservation Opportunities Background Report, May 2005, indicate that low-intensity recreation, such as hiking trails, would not be expected to significantly affect the natural habitat values in the Valley Vista Regional Park. No special status species, or their habitat, have been identified in the project vicinity, and given the low-intensity nature of the proposal, no species or their habitat are expected to be impacted by the development of additional hiking trails in Valley Vista Regional Park.

- b) **Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?**
- c) **Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marshes, vernal pools, coastal wetlands, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?**

No Impact. The project is not located on or near riparian habitat or any protected wetlands as indicated by the Wetlands Mapper provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A wetlands delineation has not been prepared for the project. No impacts are expected to occur on riparian habitat and the project will not impact any wetlands.

- d) **Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?**

No Impact. Implementation of the project is not expected to interfere in any substantial way with the movement of fish or wildlife species.

- e) **Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?**

No Impact. The proposed project would not conflict with any other local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. The County does not have any other conservation ordinances, except for a voluntary oak tree preservation ordinance that seeks to minimize damage and require replacement when oak groves are affected by development. There are no proposed oak tree removals to accommodate the project.

- f) **Conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?**

No Impact. The Yolo County Natural Heritage Program, a Joint Powers Agency composed of the County, the cities, and other entities, is in the process of preparing a Natural Communities Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP) for Yolo County. The NCCP/HCP will focus on protecting habitat of terrestrial (land, non-fish) species. No conflict with the developing NCCP/HCP is anticipated, as the habitat maps prepared for the NCCP/HCP identify no covered species within the project vicinity.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES.		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:					
a.	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b.	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c.	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d.	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- a) **Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?**
- b) **Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5? and**
- c) **Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?**

No Impact. The project site is not known to have any historical significant or significant characteristics as defined by the criteria within the CEQA Guidelines. The Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) that was prepared and subsequently adopted for the Parks and Open Space Master Plan, 2006, indicated that adoption and general implementation of the Master Plan would not be expected to have any adverse effects on known cultural resources in the County due to several recommendations in the Master Plan that call for managing resources in the natural areas. The Master Plan promotes open space management, which supports opportunities to preserve, protect, and interpret known cultural resources. There are no identified culturally-sensitive resources in the project area, and given the steep, dry hillsides, it is unlikely that the area was once inhabited. The project is not expected to impact any archaeological or paleontological resources.

- d) **Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?**

Less than Significant Impact. No human remains are known or predicted to exist in the project area. However, the potential exists during construction to uncover previously unidentified resources. Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code states that when human remains are discovered, no further site disturbance shall occur until the County coroner has determined that the remains are not subject to the provisions of Section 27491 of the Government Code or any other related provisions of law concerning investigation of the circumstances, manner and cause of any death, and the recommendation concerning the treatment and disposition of the human remains have been made to the person responsible for the excavation, in the manner provided in Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code. If the coroner determines that the remains are not subject to his or her authority and the remains are recognized to be those of a Native American, the coroner shall contact the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS.	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1. 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.				
2. Strong seismic groundshaking?				
3. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				
4. Landslides?				
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable or that would become unstable as a result of the project and potentially result in an on-site or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems in areas where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

The project site occurs within the southwestern part of the Northern California Inner Coast Ranges, comprised of the Great Valley Sequence (layered sedimentary rocks formed at a tectonic plate margin). The extensively exposed rock formations consist of about 40,000 feet of Jurassic and Cretaceous shale, siltstone, sandstone, conglomerate and limestone. Soils within the area form rugged hills, mountains, and intervening valleys, with ridges trending to the northwest. The soils are shallow, well-drained, and are formed in material weathered from sandstone or shale. The slope varies from 8 percent to 50 percent. Soils on steeper slopes may have a potential for erosion and mass movements during high rainfall events.

- a) **Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:**
- i) **Rupture or 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 California Geological Survey Special Publication 42).**

No Impact. The project is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Special Study Zone; however, one fault affecting Yolo County has been identified by the California Division of Mines and Geology as subject to surface rupture under the Act. This fault, the Hunting Creek Fault, is located in the mountainous area near the junctions of Yolo, Lake, and Napa Counties. Although most of the fault trace is located outside the extreme northwestern corner of Yolo County, its proximity to the project site has nevertheless been documented. The site can be expected to experience moderate to strong ground shaking during future seismic events along major active faults throughout Northern California or on smaller active faults located in the project vicinity, as previously identified. The project proposes no development or construction of structures, other than building trails and installation of trail markers. Because the project does not include future activities that would lead to major construction activities involving large populations of permanent occupants, ground rupture that would expose people to substantial adverse effects is unlikely to result in any significant impacts.

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

No Impact. Ground shaking occurs as a result of energy released during faulting, which could potentially result in the damage or collapse of buildings and other structures, depending on the magnitude of the earthquake, the location of the epicenter, and the character and duration of the ground motion. However, the project site is not within the vicinity of buildings or other structures and proposes no development or erection of buildings. It is unlikely the project will result in a significant impact.

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

No Impact. Soil liquefaction occurs when ground shaking from an earthquake causes a sediment layer saturated with groundwater to lose strength and take on the characteristics of a fluid. Factors determining the liquefaction potential are the level and duration of seismic ground motions, the type and consistency of soils, and the depth to groundwater. Although liquefaction poses a hazard to engineered structures, the project proposes no construction, other than the development of hiking trails and installation of trail markers.

iv) Landslides?

No Impact. A landslide involves the downslope transport of soil, rock, and sometimes vegetative material *en masse*, primarily under the influence of gravity. Landslides occur when shear stress (primarily weight) exceeds shear strength of the soil/rock. The shear strength of the soil/rock may be reduced during high rainfall periods when materials become saturated. Landslides also may be induced by ground shaking from earthquakes.

The project site is located in areas of steep canyon walls with 50 to 90 percent rock outcrops and soils that are well drained. Approval of the project may expose people or structures to potential landslides. However, should any landslide danger be identified, the County would close the park until conditions were ameliorated.

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Less than Significant Impact. Erosion naturally occurs at the project site due to surface runoff and other processes. The project proposes installation of an additional four-mile trail that will be built using hand tools to cut and shape the trail bed and to trim brush. This level of construction activity does not present a high risk for erosion; however, visitor uses resulting from the project may be associated with some level of mobilization of surface soils. The MND adopted for the Master Plan identified mitigation measures that require the County to use appropriate best management practices in future activities when implementing recommendations in the Master Plan. As discussed in the Project Description of this Initial Study, the proposed project meets the Master Plan recommendation for developing a trail

system with volunteer support and cooperation from interested organizations, providing a trail link to the adjoining BLM land and the Blue Ridge Trail, and providing directional signage. In developing this proposal to implement a component of the Master Plan, the County shall be required to identify and incorporate a set of Best Management Practices (BMPs) in an effort to minimize erosion resulting from construction of trails. Reference should be made to state manuals and guidelines, as applicable. Thus, with the incorporation of Mitigation Measure Geology/Soils-1: Best Management Practices, as required in the Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Plan adopted with the Parks and Open Space Master Plan, potential effects associated with erosion will be less than significant.

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

Less than Significant Impact. See (b), above. The project is located on unstable geologic materials, which may affect the stability of the underlying materials or the underlying materials to potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse. The project site contains steep to very steep areas that are 50 to 90 percent rock outcrops, with soils that are well-drained and steep to very steep loams over sandstone. With the incorporation of Mitigation Measure Geology/Soils-1: Best Management Practices, as prescribed in the MND prepared for the Master Plan, potential effects associated with localized seismic shaking would be less than significant.

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

No Impact. The existence of substantial areas of expansive and/or corrosive soils has not been documented in the project area, and the project proposes no construction of permanent structures.

e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?

No Impact. The proposed project will not be served by a septic system.

VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS/CLIMATE CHANGE.		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:					
a.	Generate greenhouse gas emissions either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b.	Conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c.	Be affected by climate change impacts, e.g., sea level rise, increased wildfire dangers, diminishing snow pack and water supplies, etc.?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The issue of combating climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) has been the subject of state legislation (AB 32 and SB 375). The Governor's Office of Planning and Research has adopted changes to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, and the environmental checklist which is used for Initial Studies such as this one. The changes to the checklist, which were approved in 2010, are incorporated above in the two questions related to a project's GHG impacts. A third question has been added by Yolo County to consider potential impacts related to climate change's effect on individual projects, such as sea level rise and increased wildfire dangers.

Yolo County has adopted General Plan policies and a Climate Action Plan (CAP) which addresses these issues. In order to demonstrate project-level compliance with CEQA relevant to GHG emissions and climate change impacts, applications for discretionary projects must demonstrate consistency with the General Plan and CAP. The adopted 2030 Yolo Countywide General Plan contains the following relevant policies and actions:

Policy CO-8.2: Use the development review process to achieve measurable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

Action CO-A117: Pursuant to the adopted Climate Action Plan (CAP), the County shall take all feasible measures to reduce its total carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) emissions within the unincorporated area (excluding those of other jurisdictions, e.g., UC-Davis, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, DQ University, school districts, special districts, reclamation districts, etc.), from 648,252 metric tons (MT) of CO₂e in 2008 to 613,651 MT of CO₂e by 2020. In addition, the County shall strive to further reduce total CO₂e emissions within the unincorporated area to 447,965 MT by 2030. These reductions shall be achieved through the measures and actions provided for in the adopted CAP, including those measures that address the need to adapt to climate change. (Implements Policy CO-8.1)

Action CO-A118: Pursuant to and based on the CAP, the following thresholds shall be used for determining the significance of GHG emissions and climate change impacts associated with future projects:

- 1) Impacts associated with GHG emissions from projects that are consistent with the General Plan and otherwise exempt from CEQA are determined to be less than significant and further CEQA analysis for this area of impact is not required.

2) Impacts associated with GHG emissions from projects that are consistent with the General Plan, fall within the assumptions of the General Plan EIR, consistent with the CAP, and not exempt from CEQA are determined to be less than significant or mitigated to a less than significant level, and further CEQA analysis for this area of impact is generally not required.

To be determined consistent with the CAP, a project must demonstrate that it is included in the growth projections upon which the CAP modeling is based, and that it incorporates applicable strategies and measures from the CAP as binding and enforceable components of the project.

3) Impacts associated with GHG emissions from projects that are not consistent with the General Plan, do not fall within the assumptions of the General Plan EIR, and/or are not consistent with the CAP, and are subject to CEQA review are rebuttably presumed to be significant and further CEQA analysis is required. The applicant must demonstrate to the County's satisfaction how the project will achieve its fair share of the established targets including:

- Use of alternative design components and/or operational protocols to achieve the required GHG reductions; and
- Use of real, additional, permanent, verifiable and enforceable offsets to achieve required GHG reductions. To the greatest feasible extent, offsets shall be: locally based, project relevant, and consistent with other long term goals of the County.

The project must also be able to demonstrate that it would not substantially interfere with implementation of CAP strategies, measures, or actions. (Implements Policy CO-8.5)

DISCUSSION

a) **Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?**

Less than Significant Impact. The proposed project is consistent with the General Plan since it is an allowed use within the open space district and further anticipated in the Parks and Open Space Master Plan. The project could create a small amount of GHG emissions due to vehicle trips generated during construction of the trails during the winter and early spring seasons. However, these emissions would be of a temporary nature and/or such a short duration that they are not expected to have a significant impact. Long-term GHG impacts from the addition of hiking trails at the Valley Vista Regional Park would be caused by users accessing the site for hiking and nature appreciation. However, extending the trail system at Valley Vista Regional Park is not expected to increase the overall existing use of the site, which is already in low use, as there are no improvements at the site, including established parking, restroom facilities, or other amenities. The proposed project is not considered to have an individually significant or cumulatively considerable impact on global climate change.

b) **Conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?**

No Impact. The proposed project would not conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted to reduce GHG emissions, including the numerous policies of the adopted 2030 Yolo Countywide General Plan and Climate Action Plan, or the Parks and Open Space Master Plan that calls for resource management of open space and other natural areas.

c) **Be affected by climate change impacts, e.g., sea level rise, increased wildfire dangers, diminishing snow pack and water supplies, etc.?**

Less than Significant Impact. The project site is potentially at risk of wildfire danger, particularly during the dry season. While the project might lead to a slight increase in recreational use of the site, the extreme heat and lack of water in the area will likely dissuade users from accessing the area during the fire season. The project proposes no construction of permanent structures, and impacts are considered less than significant.

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:					
a.	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b.	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and/or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c.	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d.	Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e.	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f.	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"/>
g.	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"/>
h.	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

- a) **Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials? *and***
- b) **Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and/or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?**

No Impact. The proposed project would not result in any new transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials beyond existing levels, and all hazardous materials (if any) will be stored and handled in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local requirements, including Yolo County Environmental Health regulations. Hazardous impacts to the public or environment would be negligible.

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- c) **Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?**

No Impact. The project site is not located within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school.

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

No Impact. The project will not be located on a site that has been included on a list of hazardous materials sites.

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

No Impact. The project is not within three miles of a public airport, and not within the runway clearance zones established to protect the adjoining land uses in the vicinity from noise and safety hazards associated with aviation accidents. There would be no safety hazard related to public airports that would endanger people residing or working in the project area.

- f) **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?**

No Impact. The project site is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip.

- g) **Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?**

No Impact. The project would not affect any adopted emergency response or evacuation plan.

- h) **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?**

Less than Impact. The project site is located in a wildland area and, therefore, may be at risk from wildland fires. While the proposed changes, i.e., additional hiking trails at Valley Vista Regional Park, may lead to increased recreational use in the area, the distance from water and extreme heat during late spring through early fall will likely dissuade users from accessing the project site during the fire season. The area is typically accessed during cooler months of the year when fire is not as much of a concern. Firebreaks, currently in existence throughout the project vicinity, will not be disturbed with construction activities, including trail marker identification. The Bureau of Land Management and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and other state and local agencies coordinate on prescribed burning to keep fire fuel levels low. As required by policies in the Master Plan, specifically, Management & Operations Action-10 (Controlled Burns), and Mitigation Measure Hazards-1, identified in the MND prepared for the Master Plan, Yolo County will implement a burn plan and suppression program for any controlled burning activity performed in open space/parkland areas, by complying with fire district operations and fire suppression plans. Additionally, in accordance with applicable sections of the County Code, the County has the authority to close a park or open space facility in the interest of public safety should conditions warrant such actions, such as risk of fire. Taking into consideration these aforementioned preventative measures, risk of wildland fires by people accessing additional trails at Valley Vista Regional Park will be less than significant.

IX.	HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY.	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:					
a.	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b.	Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge, resulting in a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level that would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c.	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on-site or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d.	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 that would result in flooding on-site or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e.	Create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f.	Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g.	Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area, as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h.	Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect floodflows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j.	Contribute to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?

No Impact. The proposed project would not discharge any pollutants into the water system, nor result in any violations of existing requirements. No water quality standards or waste discharge requirements will be violated.

b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells

would drop to a level that would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?

No Impact. The proposed project would not affect any onsite well and would not deplete groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge. There will be no impacts to groundwater production rates.

- c) **Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial on- or off-site erosion or siltation?**
- d) **Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through 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 on- or off-site flooding?**
- e) **Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff? *and***
- f) **Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?**

No Impact. The proposed project is located on hilly, steep and mountainous terrain in the northwestern and remote region of Yolo County. The property has historically been maintained in open space uses and prior to official trail development in 2009 had only informal trails established through limited public use. The existing Valley Vista trail was established in 2009 and the project proposes to expand upon this existing trail by adding an additional four-mile trail that will provide extended opportunities for linkage to other public lands. The MND adopted for the Master Plan found that implementation of the Plan would not be associated in any evident way with activities that would substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of an area around a park or future activity. No addition of impervious or partially impervious surfaces will result from expansion and creation of additional trails in Valley Vista Regional Park. With the implementation of Mitigation Measure Geology/Soils-1 (previously identified in Section VI, above), which requires best management practices that protect sensitive habitat, minimize erosion, and prevent or substantially reduce water quality effects resulting from construction and management activities, no additional impacts to water quality are anticipated.

- g) **Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?**

No Impact. The project does not propose any residential uses, and is not located within a 100-year flood plain as mapped by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency).

- h) **Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?**

No Impact. The project is not located within a 100-year flood plain and would not impede any flood flows or subject individuals on the project site to risk from flooding.

- 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?**

Less than Significant Impact. Although the project site is not located immediately downstream of a dam or adjacent to a levee that could expose individuals to risk from flooding, the access areas, i.e., existing trailheads that will connect to the proposed project, are within a dam inundation zone. Flooding in the region is minimized by dams on the north fork of the creek. The Indian Valley and Cache Creek Dams are water retention structures managed by their local reclamation districts for irrigation purposes. The structures are annually inspected by the State and inspected and managed daily by the Yolo County Flood Control Districts. Flooding of the trail access areas as a result of the failure of a levee is a possibility, and the MND for the Master Plan includes a mitigation measure to

require the County to close parks/open space areas at times when high water and possible flooding is anticipated. Thus, with the implementation of Mitigation Measure Hydrology & Water Quality – 3, impacts would be less than significant.

j) Result in inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

No Impact. See (i), above. The project is not located in an area that could potentially pose a seiche or tsunami hazard.

X. LAND USE AND PLANNING.	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, a general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

a) Physically divide an established community?

No Impact. The project is a proposal for enhancements to a recreational area, located within an open space district and surrounded by recreational and open space uses. The project will not divide an established community.

b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, a general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

No Impact. The proposed project would not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. The project site is zoned for open space uses, including passive recreation, with a history of low impact recreational and open space uses. Although not a component of the Yolo County General Plan, the Parks and Open Space Master Plan implements the conservation of open space protection in Yolo County and is required to remain consistent with the General Plan.

c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?

No Impact. The County does not have an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) or Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP), although a draft plan is now being prepared by the Yolo County Habitat/Natural Community Conservation Plan Joint Powers Agency (the Joint Powers Agency).

XI.	MINERAL RESOURCES.	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:					
a.	Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b.	Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

- a) **Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?; and**
- b) **Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?**

No Impact. The project area is not located within any identified area of significant aggregate deposits, as classified by the State Department of Mines and Geology. Most aggregate resources in Yolo County are located along Cache Creek in the Esparto-Woodland area.

XII. NOISE.	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project result in:				
a. Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in a local general plan or noise ordinance, or in other applicable local, state, or federal standards?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Yolo County has not adopted a noise ordinance which sets specific noise levels for different zoning districts or for different land uses in the unincorporated area. However, the State of California Department of Health Services developed recommended Community Noise Exposure standards, which are set forth in the State's General Plan Guidelines (2003). These standards are also included in the Yolo County 2030 Countywide General Plan and used to provide guidance for new development projects. The recommended standards provide acceptable ranges of decibel (dB) levels. The noise levels are in the context of Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) measurements, which reflect an averaged noise level over a 24-hour or annual period.

DISCUSSION

- a) **Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or in other applicable local, state, or federal standards?;**
- b) **Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?; and**
- c) **A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?**

No Impact. The project site is surrounded by open space land uses in the steep and mountainous terrain located in the remote region of northwestern Yolo County. Implementation of the project would not expose persons to significant noise levels, nor would it lead to the generation of noise levels in excess of standards. Constructing additional trails at Valley Vista Regional Park would not result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels or excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels.

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- d) **A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?**

No Impact. Noise associated with construction of additional hiking trails using hand tools will be negligible.

- e) **For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?; *and***
- f) **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?**

No Impact. The proposed project site is not located within an airport land use plan, or a private airstrip. Implementation of the proposed project would not expose individuals to excessive noise levels.

XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING.		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:					
a.	Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b.	Displace a substantial number of existing housing units, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c.	Displace a substantial number of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

- a) **Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?;**
- b) **Displace a substantial number of existing housing units, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?; and**
- c) **Displace a substantial number of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?**

No Impact. The proposed project would not result in increases in population and would not displace any existing housing or current residents.

XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES.	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities or a 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 following public services:				
a. Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

a) Fire protection?

Less than Significant Impact. The Capay Valley Fire Protection District and California Department of Forestry provide primary service to the project site. Construction of additional trails at Valley Vista Regional Park could create a minor impact to fire protection services for those accessing the site during high fire season. Although, for reasons addressed in Section VII, Hazards, it is unlikely that the project site will be significantly accessed during the fire season due to lack of water resources and other amenities in the project area. Additionally, Yolo County has the authority, under applicable sections of the County Code, to close public parks and open space areas during “red flag” days to minimize risk of fire for visitors.

b) Police Protection?

Less than Significant Impact. Although the proposed project could bring additional visitors to the remote area, it would not be expected to significantly impact police services provided by the Yolo County Sheriff’s Department.

- c) Schools?;**
- d) Parks?; and**
- e) Other public facilities?**

No Impact. The proposed trail construction project will not result in any new housing and would not generate any additional demand for schools, parks, or other public facilities such as libraries, hospitals, satellite County offices, etc.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
XV.	RECREATION.				
Would the project:					
a.	Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b.	Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

- a) **Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?; and**
- b) **Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?**

No Impact. The proposed project implements recommendations in the Parks and Open Space Master Plan that call for additional trails that link public lands. The Master Plan promotes responsible management of the County’s open space system. While implementation of the project would add to the passive recreational opportunities in the area, there is an overall regional need for increased access to recreational and open space areas on public lands. The project would not require the construction of nor include additional recreational facilities.

XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC.		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:					
a.	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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b.	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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c.	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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d.	Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e.	Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f.	Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The roadway network within unincorporated Yolo County consists primarily of two lane roads that are designed to serve small farming communities and agricultural uses. The project site is located in the remote northwestern region of Yolo County and is accessed off State Route 16, close to the Colusa County line. State Route 16 is defined as a conventional two-lane highway, which is identified as a State-maintained highway facility used as a primary connection between major traffic generators or as a primary link in State and national highway networks (Yolo County, 2009).

Level of Service (LOS) is a quantitative measure of traffic operating conditions whereby a letter grade A through F is assigned to an intersection or roadway segment, representing progressively worsening traffic conditions. LOS A, B, and C are considered satisfactory to most motorists, and allow for the relatively free movement of traffic. LOS D is marginally acceptable, with noticeable delays and unstable traffic speeds. LOS E and F are associated with increased congestion and delay. The State Route 16 Transportation Concept Report (Caltrans, December 20024) identifies the 20-year concept and ultimate facility for State Route 16 as maintaining the existing two-lane conventional highway with the addition of passing lanes, left-turn lanes and bicycle facilities in some sections where feasible. Caltrans has established a concept LOS of C for State Route 16 between the Yolo/Colusa County line and Mossy Creek Bridge (located north of the town of Brooks). (Yolo County, 2009).

DISCUSSION

- a) **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?; and**
- b) **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?**

Less than Significant Impact. The proposed project may result in a limited number of vehicle trips by volunteers to construct the additional four-mile trail at Valley Vista Regional Park. It is anticipated that work will begin in late fall, 2015, and go through the early spring months of 2016, and start up again the next fall through spring, repeating each year until completion of the trail, which will take approximately 600 hours of volunteer time. Project implementation through completion is expected to generate minimal short-term traffic. Access to the new trails would be provided off SR 16 at existing trailhead locations. The increase in visitor usage is not expected to be significant, though the site is accessed regularly by a limited number of users. The additional vehicle trips generated due to a slight increase in visitor usage would not be expected to be substantial in relation to existing traffic loads, and would not exceed any levels of service standards of nearby roads or intersections. Impacts are expected to be less than significant.

- c) **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?**

No Impact. The project site is not located within the vicinity of a public airport, and would not affect air traffic patterns.

- d) **Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?**

No Impact. The project site is located in northwest Yolo County off of State Highway 16, approximately two miles north of Rumsey. The project does not propose any new development other than the addition of a four-mile trail at Valley Vista Regional Park. The proposed trail development does not involve any changes to the state highway that could substantially increase hazards due to a design feature.

- e) **Result in inadequate emergency access?**

No Impact. Although implementation of the project may promote increased use of the remote open space parkland, the project does not present new onsite changes or other conditions that could result in inadequate emergency access.

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

No Impact. The project would not result in any permanent features that would affect or alter existing public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities nor interfere with the construction of any planned facilities.

XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS.		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:					
a.	Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b.	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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c.	Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d.	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or would new or expanded entitlements be needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e.	Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f.	Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g.	Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?

No Impact. The proposed project would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements, as the project includes no development of permanent facilities or the installation of temporary facilities, such as portable restrooms.

b) 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?; and

c) Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

No Impact. The proposed project would not result in the construction of new water, wastewater treatment, or storm water drainage facilities.

d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or would new or expanded entitlements be needed?

No Impact. The property is not served by a water source. No water supplies will be needed to accommodate additional trails at Valley Vista Regional Park.

- e) **Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?**

No Impact. The project site is not served by a wastewater treatment facility.

- f) **Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?; and**
g) **Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?**

No Impact. The project would not impact the disposal capacity of the landfill, and would be required to comply with all solid waste regulations (as applicable) as implemented and enforced by Yolo County.

XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

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

No Impact. Based on the analysis provided in this Initial Study the project would not degrade the quality of the environment nor impact any biological resources. No important examples of major periods of California history or prehistory in California were identified.

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

No Impact. Based on the analysis provided in this Initial Study, the project would have no significant cumulative impacts.

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

Less than Significant Impact. Based on the analysis provided in this Initial Study, impacts to human beings resulting from the proposed project would be less than significant. The project as proposed, and with the implementation of relevant action measures in the Parks and Open Space Master Plan, would not have substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. The project will be required to comply with all applicable mitigation measures that were identified in the Initial Study prepared for the Master Plan to reduce erosion and minimize water quality impacts through the

use of best management practices, as well as safety and emergency measures to reduce hazards with respect to risk of wildland fires and flood events. Overall impacts from implementation of the project will be less than significant.

References

- Project description and application materials provided by applicant
- Yolo County, 2009. *Yolo County 2030 Countywide General Plan*, adopted November, 2009 and *Yolo County 2030 Countywide General Plan Final EIR*, April 2009
- Yolo County, 2006. *Parks and Open Space Master Plan*, adopted September, 2006, and Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, prepared January 2006.
- Yolo County, 2004, *Existing Conditions and Resources Assessment Report*, prepared for the Parks and Open Space Master Plan, November 2004.
- Yolo County, 2005, *Environmental Resources and Conservation Opportunities, A Background Report for the Parks and Open Space Master Plan*, prepared May, 2005.
- Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District, 2007. *Handbook for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts*, July, 2007.
- Yolo County Zoning Ordinance, *Title 8, Chapter 2 of the County Code*, 2014, as amended