4.1 AESTHETICS

1. INTRODUCTION

This section assesses the effects of the proposed CCAP Update on the aesthetics and visual resources of the County. Government agencies and the public were provided an opportunity to comment on the proposed Project in response to a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an EIR and an Initial Study that provided a preliminary summary of potential impacts that could result from the Project. No comments related to aesthetics and visual resources were received.

The following subsections describe the existing landscape character in the area with emphasis on the Cache Creek corridor (CCRMP area) and adjacent lands (OCMP area). Existing visual resources within the CCAP Update area are identified. A brief description of the methods by which the CCAP Update could affect the visual character of CCAP area is provided. Photographs representing typical views and visual conditions within the planning area are provided in Figures 4.1-1 and 4.1-2.

2. SETTING

a. Physical Environment

The regional landscape of the CCAP Update area consists of broad, generally flat agricultural lands in the Sacramento Valley. Occasional rolling terrain and winding creeks are also part of this landscape. Expansive farm fields are dominant visual forms, including cultivated crop fields, pasture, or orchards (see Figures 4.1-1a and 4.1-1b). Non-agricultural tree cover is relatively sparse. The gently- to steeply-sloped hillsides of the Coast Range can be seen in long-range views as they rise to form the western horizon several miles to the west. The Sierra Nevada Mountains can be seen on clear days in very long-range views to the east. The CCAP area is dominated by the Cache Creek channel, agricultural land uses, existing mining operations (including aggregate processing plants), and low-density residential development located in the communities of Esparto, Madison, and Capay. These features contribute to the predominantly rural character of the area (see Figures 4.1-2a and 4.1-2b).

Farming operations in the CCAP area typically involve the use of heavy equipment (tractors, cultivators, harvesters, trucks, etc.) in a seasonal cycle of field preparation, planting, growing, and harvesting (see Figure 4.1-1b). The appearance of large farm equipment operating within the fields and traveling on local roads is common. The appearance of the fields themselves evolves annually, depending on the type and number of crops produced during a season. In the case of cultivated crops, fields appear as barren earth after harvesting and prior to planting. As the growing season progresses and the crops mature, the fields yield a dense, green cover, mechanically arranged into evenly spaced rows which gives the ground a highly ordered and organized appearance.

Within the CCAP area where agriculture dominates the broad, open landscape, Cache Creek is an important visual feature (see Figures 4.1-2a and 4.1-2b). The 14.5 mile segment of lower Cache Creek from Capay Dam eastward to the community of Yolo, forms the central core of the CCAP area. Commercial in-channel sand and gravel mining was terminated by the CCAP in 1996. The continuing restoration, bank stabilization and recovery of native vegetation and natural ecological processes within the creek channel (post in-channel mining) provides expanded areas of habitat and resources for native species, further increasing the value of lower Cache Creek as habitat within the matrix of agricultural and urban lands in Yolo County.

Figure 4.1-1a: From Monument Hills North 3.

Figure 4.1-1b: Agricultural Harvest.

Figure 4.1-2a: Cache Creek from CR94 Bridge looking Downstream.

Figure 4.1-2b: Cache Creek from CR94 Bridge looking Upstream.

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) maintains a list of highways that have been designated as State scenic highways. Yolo County has no designated federal or State Scenic Highways. A portion of SR 16 (from approximately the town of Capay at County Road 85, north to the County line) is identified by Caltrans as "eligible" for designation as a State Scenic Highway but is not officially designated. Yolo County has, however, designated this segment of SR 16 as a local scenic highway, and the portion of this segment is within the CCAP Update area as shown on Figure 4.1-3.

b. Regulatory Environment

(1) Federal and State

There are no applicable federal or State regulations regarding aesthetics and visual resources.

(2) Local

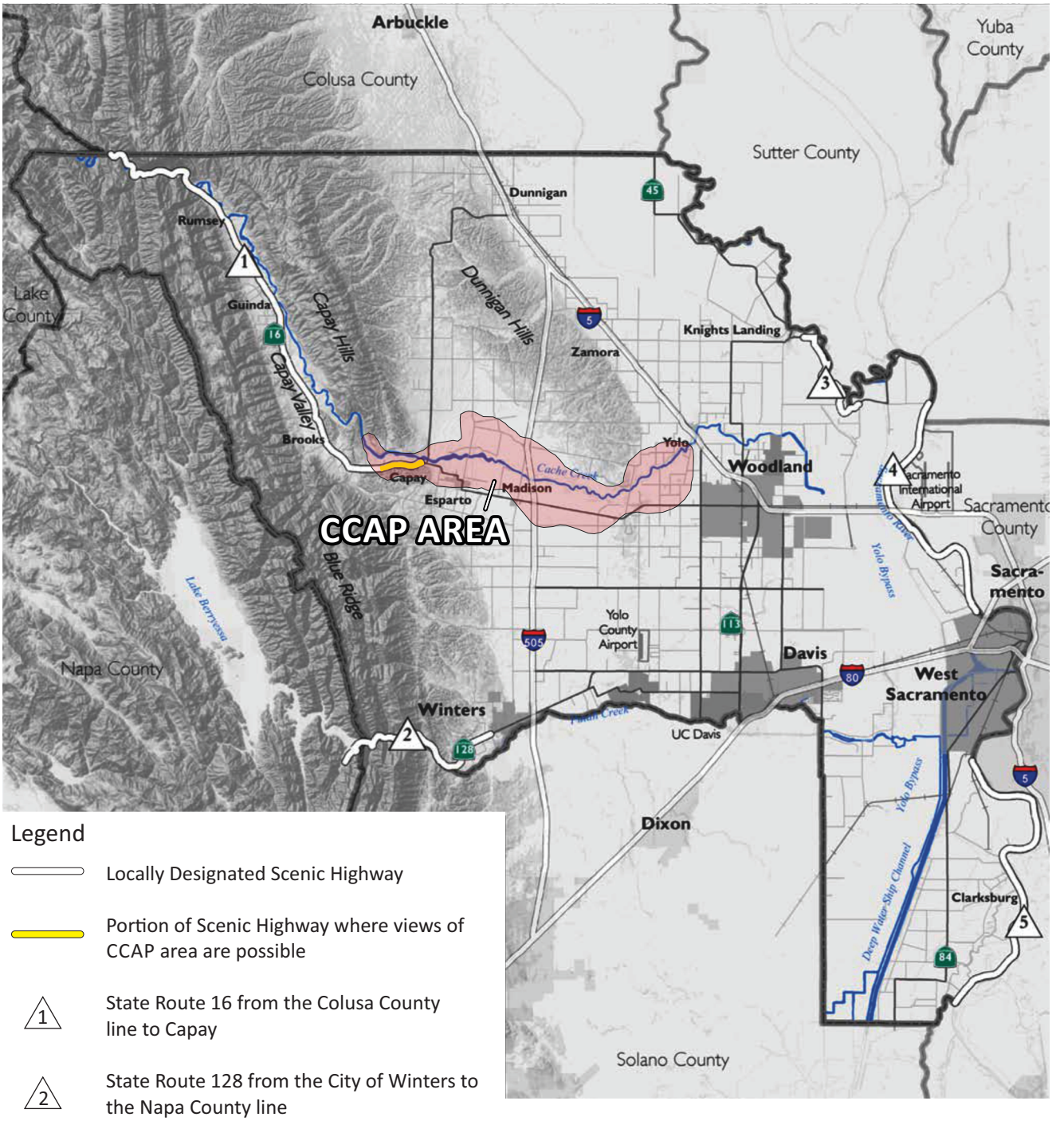
2030 Countywide General Plan. The 2030 Countywide General Plan[1] contains the following goals, policies, and actions related to aesthetics and scenic resources that are relevant to the proposed Project:

GOAL CC-1	Preservation of Rural Character. Ensure that the rural character of the County is protected and enhanced, including the unique and distinct character of the unincorporated communities.
Policy CC-1.2	Preserve and enhance the rural landscape as an important scenic feature of the County.
Policy CC-1.3	Protect the rural night sky as an important scenic feature to the greatest feasible extent where lighting is needed.
Policy CC-1.8	Screen visually obtrusive activities and facilities such as infrastructure and utility facilities, storage yards, outdoor parking and display areas, along highways, freeways, roads and trails.
Policy CC-1.10	Protect existing ridgelines and hillsides from visually incompatible development.
Policy CC-1.11	Require the development of open space corridors, bicycle paths and trails integrating waterways, scenic areas and County parks where appropriate, in collaboration with affected land owners as a part of project approval. The intent is to connect each community and city and other special places and corridors, throughout the County.
Policy CC-1.12	Preserve and enhance the scenic quality of the County's rural roadway system. Prohibit projects and activities that would obscure, detract from, or negatively affect the quality of views from designated scenic roadways or scenic highways.

[1] Yolo County, 2009, 2030 Countywide General Plan, November 10.

SCENIC HIGHWAYS

Figure 4.1-3



Legend

- Locally Designated Scenic Highway
- Portion of Scenic Highway where views of CCAP area are possible
- 1 State Route 16 from the Colusa County line to Capay
- 2 State Route 128 from the City of Winters to the Napa County line
- 3 County Roads 116 and 16 from the Town of Knights Landing to the Eastern terminus of County Road 16
- 4 County Road 117 and Old River Road from the northern terminus of County Road 117 to the City of West Sacramento
- 5 South River Road from Jefferson Boulevard in the City of the West Sacramento to the Sacramento County Line

0 7 Miles

Source: Yolo County GIS, 2009; modified by Baseline, 2018.

BASELINE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

Policy CC-1.13 The following routes are designated as local scenic roadways, as shown in Figure LU-3 (Scenic Highways) [see Figure 4.1-3]:

- State Route 16 (Colusa County line to Capay)
- State Route 128 (Winters to Napa County line)
- County Roads 116 and 116B (Knights Landing to eastern terminus of County Road 16)
- County Roads 16 and 117 and Old River Road (County Road 107 to West Sacramento)
- South River Road (West Sacramento City Limits to Sacramento County line)

CCAP Plans and Regulations The existing plan policies and ordinances related to aesthetics are presented below. The CCAP Update proposed minor changes to some of these policies and ordinances (which are not shown here). Refer to Table 4.1-1, located at the end of this section, for the proposed relevant CCAP Update changes to these policies and ordinances.

OCMP

2.2 GOALS

2.2-2 Encourage the production and conservation of mineral resources, balanced by the consideration of important social values, including recreation, watershed, wildlife, agriculture, aesthetics, flood control, and other environmental factors.

Off-Channel Ordinance

Section 10-4.103. Purposes. [excerpt]

The purposes of this chapter are as follows:

(a) The extraction of sand and gravel is essential to the continued economic wellbeing of the state and to the needs of society. Although the County encourages the production of sand and gravel, consideration must also be balanced by other societal values, including but not limited to recreation, water resources, wildlife, agriculture, and aesthetics;

Section 10-4.404. Aesthetics.

The visibility of mining operations, facilities, and landform alterations from public and viewpoints and nearby residences shall be minimized, based on an assessment of site-specific visual characteristics and viewing conditions. The use of berms, vegetative screens, seeding, special plant materials and contouring the sides and top surfaces of modified landforms, or other measures, shall be incorporated into the individual mine and reclamation plans as appropriate.

Section 10-4.420. Lighting.

All lighting shall be arranged and controlled so as not to illuminate public rights-of-way or adjacent properties.

Section 10-4.429. Setbacks. [excerpt]

(h) No mining activities shall occur within two-thousand (2,000) feet of the community boundaries of Capay, Esparto, Madison, Woodland, and/or Yolo. This setback may be reduced by up to five-hundred (500) feet when existing mature vegetation, proposed landscape buffers of a sufficient

height and density to create a visual buffer (consisting of native species and fence-row habitat appropriate to the area), or other site specific characteristics reduce potential incompatibilities between urban land uses and mining. Commercial mining shall not take place east of County Road 96.

Reclamation Ordinance

Section 10-5.502. Aesthetics.

Means of improving the appearance of the landscape after mining has been completed shall be assessed based on site-specific visual characteristics, site lines, and view corridors. The use and placement of berms, vegetative screens, special plant materials, grading slopes, and contouring the sides and top surfaces of modified landforms to mimic surrounding landforms, or other measures, shall be incorporated into the mine reclamation plan as appropriate.

Section 10-5.521. Permanent stockpiles.

There shall be no permanent piles of mine waste and/or overburden. Berms established for visual screening and noise abatement shall be contoured to conform visually with the surrounding topography.

3. IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

a. Significance Criteria

The following significance criteria are based on the changes to CEQA, including Appendix G, that were adopted by the California Natural Resources Agency on December 28, 2018.[2] The following criteria are for the topics of aesthetic resources and have not changed from the previously adopted CEQA criteria that were identified in the NOP/Initial Study released in May 2017 with one relevant exception; per the adopted 2019 changes, the phrase "public views of" was added to criterion c) (shown below in italics).

A significant impact to aesthetic resources could occur if the project would:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

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

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

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

b. Impacts Found Less than Significant in Initial Study

The Initial Study evaluated the potential impacts of the proposed Project that would occur during Project implementation based on the significance criteria listed in Subsection 3.a, above. The Project was found to have a potentially significant impact associated with each of the criteria and therefore each is analyzed below.

[2] http://resources.ca.gov/ceqa/ accessed January 9, 2019.

c. Approach

The proposed CCAP Update is comprised of a series of specific text changes to eight policy and regulatory County plans and ordinances that govern the County's activities along Lower Cache Creek. The proposed text changes (some of which have the potential to result in impacts related to aesthetics and scenic vistas) are identified in Table 4.1-1, located at the end of this section. Proposed CCAP changes are discussed in the impact analysis below.

d. Impacts Analysis

Impact AES-1: The CCAP Update would not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista. (LTS)

The 2030 Countywide General Plan identifies several scenic vistas of importance in Yolo County, including the County's rural character and landscape (Goal CC-1 and Policy CC-1.2), the night sky (Policy CC-1.3), and ridgelines and hillsides (Policy CC-1.10). The General Plan also specifies that obtrusive activities and facilities such as infrastructure and utility facilities, storage yards, outdoor parking and display areas should be visually screened along highways, freeways, roads and trails (Policy CC-1.8). Based on these General Plan policies, scenic vistas are interpreted to be the rural landscape in general (which occurs throughout the CCAP area), the night sky, and ridgelines and hillsides (e.g., the Coast Range foothills to the west and the Dunnigan Hills to the north) that can be viewed from the CCAP area.

Proposed Revisions to In-Channel Plans and Regulations

CCRMP in-channel aggregate removal, restoration, and bank stabilization projects that could occur under the CCAP Update include earthmoving activities and the use of heavy equipment largely within the Cache Creek channel (below the channel banks). These activities would be out of sight to most viewers and have little to no ability to have a substantial adverse effect on views of the rural landscape, the night sky, or ridgelines and hillsides. In addition, the potential in-channel projects that could occur under CCAP would not include construction of infrastructure, utility facilities, storage yards, or outdoor parking that could adversely affect scenic vistas. Therefore, this impact is less than significant

Proposed Revisions to Off-Channel Plans and Regulations

As indicated in Table 4.1-1 (at the end of this chapter), the CCAP Update would result in application of the SGR overlay district on 1,188 new acres within the OCMP planning area which would allow future mining consistent with the program but on acreage not previously evaluated in the original OCMP and OCMP EIR. The potential new mining areas would be located within (and constrained to) the "Future Proposed Mining" areas shown on Figure 3-4.

Establishment of a new off-channel mining facility (which would include heavy equipment operation in the vicinity of rural landscape views and construction of a processing plant) within the SGR overlay area is the only activity that could occur under the CCAP Update that would have the potential to have a substantial adverse effect on views of the rural landscape, the night sky, or ridgelines and hillsides. However, several CCAP regulations in the Mining Ordinance address the potential for off-channel mining facilities to have adverse aesthetic effects on scenic vistas, including:

Section 10-4.404. Aesthetics. Requires that the visibility of mining operations, facilities, and landform alterations from public and viewpoints and nearby residences be minimized, based on site-specific conditions by using berms, vegetative screens, seeding, and contouring the sides and top surfaces of modified landforms. Compliance with this regulation would ensure that adverse effects of active mining on rural landscape vistas would be minimized.

Section 10-4.429. Setbacks. Requires that mining activities not occur within 2,000 feet of the community boundaries of Capay, Esparto, Madison, Woodland, and/or Yolo (or as close as 500 feet when mature vegetation screening would create a visual buffer). Compliance with this regulation would ensure that distant view of hillsides and ridgelines would not be obscured or damaged.

Section 10·4.430. Site maintenance. Requires that during operations, the site must be kept free of debris and maintained in a neat and orderly manner so as not to create any hazardous or unsightly conditions; and that all overburden must be stockpiled and all stumps; brush, or other debris resulting from excavation and/or processing be properly disposed.

Section 10-5.502. Aesthetics. Requires that mine reclamation plans include the use and placement of berms, vegetative screens, special plant materials, grading slopes, and contouring the sides and top surfaces of modified landforms to mimic surrounding landforms, or other measures into the mine reclamation plan as appropriate. Compliance with this regulation would ensure that adverse effects of post-mining landscape modifications on rural landscape vistas would be minimized.

Section 10-4.420. Lighting. Requires that all lighting associate with off-channel mining operations be arranged and controlled so as not to illuminate public rights-of-way or adjacent properties. Implementation of this ordinance would ensure that lighting at the mining facilities is not directed away from the facility, which could cause glare and reduce the visibility of the night sky. In addition, as required by State law and Mining Ordinance Section 10-4.505, new proposed mining operations that could be located in the “Future Proposed Mining” areas shown on Figure 3-4 would be subject to CEQA review. This project-level CEQA review would include aesthetics analysis, to ensure that site specific measures are implemented to further reduce any adverse effects on scenic vistas.

Compliance with these existing regulations would ensure that potential impacts related to off-channel CCAP Update activities are less than significant.

Impact AES-2: The CCAP Update would not substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway. (LTS)

Proposed Revisions to In-Channel Plans and Regulations

Designated scenic resources in Yolo County are those along identified scenic roadways (listed in General Plan Policy CC-1.13). It is possible that the CCRMP area could be viewed from the SR 16 portion of the County designated scenic roadway within the CCAP Update area. The other scenic roadways are located at a considerable distance from the CCRMP area and do not include any views or vistas of the CCRMP area.

In general, potential impacts to scenic resources associated with continued in-channel sediment removal and restoration projects under the CCAP Update would be largely beneficial as they would reduce or eliminate adverse visual conditions associated with eroded or scoured portions of the channel or banks and protect against future erosion. The temporary use of excavation and earthmoving equipment in the channel and along its banks would be of relatively short duration and not out of context in an area that is accustomed to agricultural and gravel mining trucks and equipment use. CCAP Update proposed changes are discussed in more detail below.

As indicated in Table 4.1-1 (at the end of this chapter) the CCAP Update would revise the boundary and area of the Cache Creek channel resulting in modifications to the streambed and

channel banks. The CCAP Update would rename the “Test 3 Run Boundary” to the “Channel Form Template.” In addition, the In-Channel Ordinance would allow an increase in the amount of aggregate material that could be removed from the channel during any given year for purposes of channel maintenance and erosion control. These changes to the CCAP documents and ordinances could result in a modest change in the shape of the Cache Creek channel banks, potentially expanding them in some areas and narrowing them in others. For example, a CCRMP bank stabilization project could include excavation and smoothing of a channel bank and installation of erosion resistant materials on the bank to increase bank stability. This type of project would be of relatively short duration (limited to the dry season, with no more than four months of activity)

The equipment used to implement a typical bank stabilization project could include excavators, bulldozers, scrapers, and haul trucks. The nearest location that an in-stream CCRMP project could occur to the designated scenic roadway segment of SR 16 is over one-quarter mile away from SR 16, and the views from the roadway are partially obstructed by trees and buildings in the vicinity of Capay. In addition, the use of heavy equipment along the banks of Cache Creek (whether it be related to agriculture or ongoing in-channel projects) is not unexpected or out of context in this area. In addition, an in-channel project would not affect any (visible from SR 16) special rock outcroppings (in-channel rock outcroppings would only be visible from bridges over the creek) or historic buildings (no historic buildings are located within the channel). It is possible that some trees could be affected by the in-channel work. However, one of the main goals of the in-channel work would be to stabilize the channel banks and increase the amount riparian vegetation (including trees). Therefore, the project is expected to have beneficial effect on scenic resources. Due to the: 1) short-term nature of potential in-channel sediment removal and restoration projects; 2) the distant and partially obstructed views of the potential in-channel work sites from SR 16; and 3) the common and routinely visible use of equipment in the area, potential adverse impacts to scenic resources during CCRMP in-channel maintenance projects would be less than significant.

Upon completion of bank stabilization or erosion control projects, the change to the landscape would not be discernable from the scenic portion of SR 16 because: 1) most of the work would be done below the channel bank (which cannot be seen from a distance); and 2) the distant and partially obstructed views of the potential creek work sites from SR 16 near Capay. In addition, the in-channel projects would contribute to restoration of riparian vegetation and a more natural landscape character along the channel and would prevent future channel bank failures which could be a benefit to the visual resources. For these reasons, the potential for adverse impacts to scenic resources after completion of CCRMP in-channel projects would be less than significant.

Proposed Revisions to Off-Channel Plans and Regulations

As indicated in Table 4.1-1 (at the end of this chapter), the CCAP Update would result in application of the SGR overlay district on 1,188 new acres within the OCMP planning area which would allow future mining consistent with the program but on acreage not previously evaluated in the original OCMP and OCMP EIR. The potential new mining areas would be located within (and constrained to) the “Future Proposed Mining” areas shown on Figure 3-4. The nearest potential new mining site to the SR 16 scenic roadway segment near Capay is over 2 miles away and would not be visible from the roadway. Therefore, establishing new mining operations within the OCMP area would not result in new aesthetic impacts to scenic resources.

Impact AES-3: Sediment removal and/or mining operations under the CCAP Update could degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings. (LTS)

Proposed Revisions to In-Channel Plans and Regulations

"Public views" are defined in the revised CEQA Guidelines (Appendix G) as those that are experienced from a publicly accessible vantage point. CCRMP in-channel aggregate removal and restoration projects could include the use of heavy equipment, which, if visible from public viewing areas, could potentially cause a short-term (assumed generally to be less than four to six months) aesthetic impact. In addition, since the CCAP Update would increase the amount of aggregate material that could be removed from the channel each year (see updates to In-Channel Ordinance Section 10-3.409 in Table 4.1-1), it is possible that the intensity of equipment operation in the channel could increase under the CCAP Update. This work would include the following types of projects:

- Habitat preservation and restoration
- Aquifer recharge and conjunctive water use
- Channel stabilization and maintenance
- Managed public open space and recreation

The potential aesthetic impacts related to the proposed changes related to in-channel restoration activities were evaluated in the 1996 CCRMP EIR. The CCRMP EIR found that actions occurring under the CCRMP would have mostly beneficial visual effects, and less-than-significant short-term impacts related to equipment use and active modification/restoration of the channel. Under the proposed CCAP Update, similar in-channel restoration projects would continue to occur as have occurred under the CCAP program for the past 20 years.

In-channel restoration CCRMP-related work would be conducted within the channel (below the channel banks) away from public roads and viewpoints and therefore would be out of sight to most viewers. This type of work is not out of context in this area (i.e., there has been a long history of in-channel gravel mining and agriculture-related equipment routinely operates on the lands adjacent to Cache Creek). In addition, in-channel activities would still be occasional and short-term and be expected to improve channel and bank conditions, resulting in a mostly beneficial visual effect in the long term. These types of projects, many of which include the addition or restoration of native riparian trees and shrubs to the stream setting are themselves visually beneficial. Wildlife preserves would attract various species whose visual presence would contribute to a more natural landscape character and would add visual diversity and interest.

Therefore, due to: 1) the short-term nature of potential in-channel maintenance projects; 2) the location of the work out of sight to most viewers; and 3) the common and routinely visible use of mining and agriculture equipment in the area, potential adverse impacts to existing visual character or quality of public views of the site would be less than significant.

Proposed Revisions to Off-Channel Plans and Regulations

The 1996 OCMP and OCMP EIR determined that if new mining operations were to be established where they are highly visible, the mining operations could adversely affect the existing visual character or quality of public views. The OCMP and supporting Mining Ordinance include policies and ordinances intended to minimize potential adverse effects on views and vistas from new off-channel mining projects. The Mining Ordinance (Sections 10-4.429, 10-4.430, and 10-4.502) would help limit direct, close-range visual exposure of mining facilities and operations, as follows:

Section 10-4.429. Setbacks. Requires that mining activities not occur within 2,000 feet of the community boundaries of Capay, Esparto, Madison, Woodland, and/or Yolo (or as close as 500 feet when mature vegetation screening would create a visual buffer). Compliance with this regulation would ensure that distant view of hillsides and ridgelines would not be obscured or damaged.

Section 10·4.430. Site maintenance. Requires that during operations, the site must be kept free of debris and maintained in a neat and orderly manner so as not to create any hazardous or unsightly conditions; and that all overburden must be stockpiled and all stumps; brush, or other debris resulting from excavation and/or processing be properly disposed.

Section 10-5.502. Aesthetics. Requires that mine reclamation plans include the use and placement of berms, vegetative screens, special plant materials, grading slopes, and contouring the sides and top surfaces of modified landforms to mimic surrounding landforms, or other measures into the mine reclamation plan as appropriate. Compliance with this regulation would ensure that adverse effects of post-mining landscape modifications on rural landscape vistas would be minimized.

The Mining Ordinance regulations listed above will help limit adverse visual effects during active mining on existing views and vistas. Even so, mining operations will be visible, to some degree, from various public viewpoints. As required by State law and Mining Ordinance Section 10-4.505, new proposed mining operations that could be located in the “Future Proposed Mining” areas shown on Figure 3-4 would be subject to CEQA review. In conjunction with the required environmental review of individual projects permitted under the OCMP, the visibility of mining operations, facilities and landform alterations from public viewpoints would be assessed based on site specific visual characteristics and viewing conditions. The use of berms, vegetative screens, seeding, special plant materials and contouring the sides and top surfaces of modified landforms, or other measures, may be incorporated into the individual mine and reclamation plans, as appropriate.

Based on the requirements of existing regulations, potential impacts related to degradation of the existing visual character of the site and its surroundings would be less than significant.

Impact AES-4: Activities under the CCAP Update would not create a new source of substantial light or glare which could adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. (LTS)

Proposed Revisions to In-Channel Plans and Regulations

None of the actions described in the CCRMP/CCIP update would introduce new sources of light or glare. Under the CCRMP/CCIP, night time work would not occur except in response to emergencies. Equipment used in ongoing channel maintenance activities under the CCRMP would be similar to the equipment that has been used in the past. This equipment has not caused new light or glare issues and is not expected to do so in the future. Therefore, this is a less than significant impact.

Proposed Revisions to Off-Channel Plans and Regulations

As described in the 1996 OCMP EIR, in order to avoid disruptions of traffic on major roads, it has become customary for the State and local governments to perform road construction and resurfacing at night. Since asphalt cools quickly, it must be delivered for use soon after it is mixed. The OCMP does not prohibit mining- and processing-related activities after dark. Night lighting of mining facilities and headlights of heavy equipment traveling around the processing

facilities and stockpiles could potentially affect nearby sensitive receptors, depending on their proximity to the light sources.

The OCMP and supporting Mining Ordinance includes policies and ordinances that address and minimize adverse effects of night lighting by controlling spillover light and ensuring that night lighting does not extend to public areas or adjacent properties, and would keep new facilities a sufficient distance from potential sensitive receptors. In addition to Section 10-4.429(a) of the Mining Ordinance that requires setbacks for mining and processing activities. The Mining Ordinance (Section 10-4.420) specifically addresses lighting by requiring that all lighting used in off-channel mining operations be arranged and controlled so as not to illuminate public rights-of-way or adjacent properties (Table 4.1-1).

The Mining Ordinance regulations listed above would ensure that light and glare impacts generated by potential new mining operations and facilities are less than significant.

Table 4.1-1: Proposed CCAP Updates Related to Aesthetics

Aesthetics	
	CCAP DOCUMENT CHANGE
Channel Form Template	
CCRMP (page 38)	2.4-3 Implement the Channel Form Template~~Test 3 Run Boundary~~ described in the 2017~~1995~~ Technical Studies to reshape the Cache Creek channel based on best available data and hydraulic modeling tools. ~~Continue to gather HEC-model erosion and deposition data to initiate streambed and channel alteration projects.~~Continue to collect and analyze channel topography (LiDAR) data, and update the CCRMP hydraulic model with those data. Based on outcomes of these analyses, the TAC can determine the need for streambed and channel alteration projects . Altering the channel banks and profiles will assist in returning the creek to a form that is more similar to its historical condition. This will result in reduced erosion, increased in-channel recharge, and additional riparian habitat opportunities.
Increase in Potential Off-Channel Mining Area	
OCMP (page 14)	**Planning Area for OCMP and CCRMP~~The Cache Creek Resources Management Plan~~** The planning area for the OCMP is defined as the area contained within the Mineral Resource Zones (28,130 acres), minus the planning~~in channel~~ area regulated under the CCRMP (2,266 acres), or a total of 25,864 acres (see Figure 4). Within the OCMP planning area, 1,900 acres are currently approved for excavation which is a subset of the 2,464-acre total for all approved mine sites (area zoned Sand and Gravel Overlay or SGO), 1,001 acres are zoned currently to allow for future mining (Sand and Gravel Reserve Overlay or SGRO), and another 1,188 acres are proposed to be rezoned for future mining, as described below. The planning area for the CCRMP is equal to the active in-channel area of the creek system, as defined by the delineated~~present~~ channel bank line or the 100-year flood elevation~~, described in the Westside Tributaries Study prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,~~ whichever is wider ~~(see Figure 3)~~ modified as described in the CCRMP . The in-channel area encompasses 5,109~~around 4,956~~ acres, including 2,266~~1,600~~ acres within the CCRMP~~present channel~~ boundary, plus several thousand acres located in the floodplain north of the City of Woodland (see Figure 3). ~~Subtracting this acreage from the 28,130 acres included in the State MRZs, leaves a total of approximately 23,174 acres within the planning area of the Off-Channel Mining Plan. As described in the following section, however, only 2,887 acres of the plan area are proposed to be rezoned to allow for off-channel mining over the next fifty years, or about 12 percent of the OCMP planning area.~~
In-Channel Material Removal Requirements	
In-Channel ~~Maintenance Mining~~ Ordinance (page 5)	**Section 10-3.40~~96~~. ~~Excavation~~ Limitations on Removal of Material.** (a) Where gravel bars are to be removed, there ~~excavated, aggregate removal~~ shall be ~~limited to the downstream portion~~minimal disturbance of ~~the deposit and may not exceed seventy-five (75) percent of the length of the bar. At least twenty-five (25) percent of the upstream portion of the gravel bar shall be retained, in order to allow for the establishment of~~ established, mature riparian vegetation and there shall be preservation of geomorphic controls on channel gradient where they exist. Complete removal of gravel bars may be recommended by the TAC and approved by the Director only if hydraulic conditions related to the bar are recognized to threaten structures and property. (b) Aggregate material to be removed from the streambed or streambank under approved in-channel projects shall be removed~~excavated~~ as soon as is practicable after deposition, prior to the establishment of

	vegetation. No stockpiles shall be left within the channel after material removal~~excavation~~ has been completed. (c) The amount of aggregate removed from the channel shall be limited to the average annual amount of sand and gravel (and associated fines) deposited since the last prior year of in-channel material removal ~~during the previous year~~ as estimated by the TAC based on channel topography and bathymetry,~~morphology data~~ not to exceed 690,800 ~~(approximately 200,000~~ tons annually on average~~)~~ over a ten-year period, except where ~~bank excavation~~bank widening is necessary ~~to widen the channel~~ as a part of implementing ~~the Test 3 Run~~ the Channel Form Template, ~~Boundary,~~ or where potential erosion and flooding problems exist. The amount and location of in-channel aggregate material removal shall be carried out according to the ongoing recommendations of the TAC and any related County approvals, with the voluntary cooperation of the landowners.
Mining Ordinance	**Section 10-4.420. Lighting.** All lighting shall be arranged and controlled so as not to illuminate public rights-of-way or adjacent properties.
	Section 10-4.429. Setbacks. All off-channel surface mining operations shall comply with the following setbacks: (a) New processing plants and material stockpiles shall be located a minimum of one-thousand (1,000) feet from public rights-of-way, public recreation areas, and/or off-site residences, unless alternate measures to reduce potential noise, dust, and aesthetic impacts are developed and implemented; (b) Soil stockpiles shall be located a minimum of five-hundred (500) feet from public rights-of-way, public recreation areas, and off-site residences, unless alternate measures to reduce potential dust and aesthetic impacts are developed and implemented; (c) Off-channel excavations shall maintain a minimum one-thousand (1,000) foot setback from public rights-of-way and adjacent property lines of off-site residences, unless a landscaped buffer is provided or site-specific characteristics reduce potential aesthetic impacts. Where landscaped buffers are proposed, the setback for off-channel excavations may be reduced to a minimum of fifty (50) feet from either the property line or the adjoining right-of-way, whichever is greater. Where mining occurs within one-thousand (1,000) feet of a public right-of-way, operators shall phase mining such that no more than fifty (50) acres of the area that lies within one-thousand (1,000) feet of the right-of-way would be actively disturbed at any time, except where operations are adequately screened from public view. Where adequate screening exists in the form of mature vegetation and/or constructed berms that effectively block public views, the area of active disturbance within one-thousand (1,000) feet of the right-of-way shall not exceed the area that is screened by more than fifty (50) acres at any one time. Actively disturbed areas are defined as those on which mining operations of any kind, or the implementation of reclamation such as grading, seeding, or installation of plant material are taking place. (d) Off-channel excavations shall provide a minimum 50-foot setback from the neighboring property line to allow for access around the pit during mining and after reclamation for maintenance, safety, and other purposes. (e~~d~~) Proposed off-channel excavations located within the streamway influence zone~~boundary~~ shall be set back a minimum of seven-hundred (700) feet from the existing channel bank, unless it is demonstrated that a smaller distance will not adversely affect channel stability. Under no circumstances should off-channel excavations be located within 200 feet of the existing channel bank. ~~The evaluation~~Evaluations of proposed off-channel excavations within 700 feet of the ~~potential for adverse effects of~~channel bank ~~erosion or~~

~~failure of the land separating pits located less than seven-hundred (700) feet from the active channel~~ shall ~~address~~demonstrate, at a minimum, the following:

(1) The two-hundred (200) foot setback area ~~shall~~does not include portions of the ~~former historic~~historically active ~~floodplain or~~channel.

(2)The two-hundred (200) foot setback area does not include formerly mined lands separated from the active channel by levees or unmined areas less than two-hundred (200) feet wide (measured perpendicular to the active channel).

~~(2) Identification of the former historic positions of the Cache Creek channels as delineated in the CCRMP Technical Studies, and determination if the proposed project is located within the limits of the historic channel.~~

(3) ~~Description of current~~Acceptable channel hydraulic conditions (based on existing or site-specific hydraulic models) for the Cache Creek channel adjacent to the site and extending not less than one-thousand (1,000) feet upstream and downstream of the site.

(4) ~~Determination~~Acceptable level of ~~the~~ erosion potential of the ~~stream~~channel bank adjacent to the site ~~made~~based on ~~the basis of~~predicted stream flow velocity and ~~estimated~~ shear stress on bank materials during ~~100~~a 100-year ~~flood flows~~flow and ~~historic~~historical patterns of erosion.

(5) ~~Analytical~~Acceptable level of stability of the slopes separating the mining area from the creek channel based on an analytical slope stability analysis in conformance with Sections 10-4.426 and 10-5.517 of this title~~. The analysis of the slopes separating the mining area from the creek channel shall include~~ that includes evaluation of stability conditions during 100-year ~~flood~~peak flows in the channel.

(6) ~~Future proposed~~Appropriate bank stabilization designs, if ~~recommended, shall not conflict~~needed, consistent with channel design recommendations of the Cache Creek Resource Management Plan ~~unless~~or approved by the Technical Advisory Committee.

(7) The condition of flood protection structures and the integrity of the land within the approved setback zone separating the mining areas and the channel shall be inspected annually by a Registered Civil Engineer and reported to the Director. The annual report shall include recommendations for remedial action for identified erosion problems (see also Reclamation Ordinance Section 10-5.506)

Approval of any off-channel mining project located within seven-hundred (700) feet of the existing channel bank shall be contingent upon an enforceable agreement which requires the project operator to participate in the completion of identified channel improvement projects along the frontage of their property, consistent with the CCRMP and CCIP, including implementation of the Channel Form Template. The agreement shall require that the operator provide a bond or other financial instrument for maintenance during the mining and reclamation period of any bank stabilization features required of the mining project. The agreement shall also require that a deed restriction be placed on the underlying property which requires maintenance of the streambank protection by future owners of the property. Maintenance of the bank stabilization features following completion of reclamation shall be the responsibility of the property owner.

(f) Off-channel excavations shall be set back a minimum of twenty-five (25) feet from riparian vegetation; and

(g) Recreational facilities shall be located a minimum of one-hundred and fifty (150) feet from private dwellings, with a landscaped buffer provided to reduce noise and maintain privacy, unless the dwelling is proposed to be an integral component of the recreational facility.

(h) No mining activities shall occur within two-thousand (2,000) feet of the community boundaries of Capay, Esparto, Madison, Woodland, and/or

	Yolo. This setback may be reduced by up to five-hundred (500) feet when existing mature vegetation, proposed landscape buffers of a sufficient height and density to create a visual buffer (consisting of native species and fence-row habitat appropriate to the area), or other site-specific characteristics reduce potential incompatibilities between urban land uses and mining. Commercial mining shall not take place east of County Road 96.
	Section 10-4.430. Site maintenance. During operations, the site shall be kept free of debris and maintained in a neat and orderly manner so as not to create any hazardous or unsightly conditions. All overburden shall be stockpiled and all stumps, brush, or other debris resulting from excavation and/or processing shall be properly disposed.
	Section 10-4.505. Applications: Review. The Director shall notify the Department in writing of any application for a surface mining permit within thirty (30) days of its being filed. The application shall also be circulated to all other agencies of jurisdiction for their review and comments in accordance with CEQA, or other applicable regulatory requirements. In addition, a notice of the filing of a reclamation plan shall be mailed to any other person with an interest in the application, who has deposited a self-addressed, stamped envelope with the Agency for the purpose of receiving a notice of the filing.