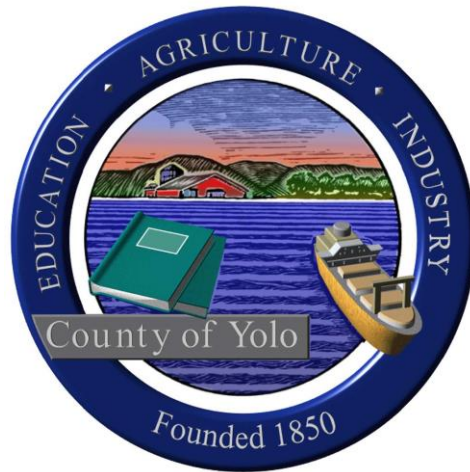


County of Yolo  
Department of Community Services



**Teichert Shifler Mining  
and Reclamation Project**

**Initial Study**

**August 2019**



1501 SPORTS DRIVE, SUITE A, • SACRAMENTO • CA • 95834  
OFFICE 916.372.6100 • FAX 916.419.610

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# INITIAL STUDY

August 2019

## A. BACKGROUND

1. Project Title: Teichert Shifler Mining and Reclamation Project (Zone File #2018-0078)
2. Lead Agency Name and Address: County of Yolo  
Department of Community Services  
292 W. Beamer St.  
Woodland, CA 95695
3. Contact Person and Phone Number: Stephanie Cormier  
Principal Planner  
(530) 666-8041
4. Project Location: Northeast of County Road 94B/County Road 22  
Yolo County, CA  
APNs 025-120-032, 025-120-033,  
025-430-001, and 025-430-002
5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address: Teichert Materials  
P.O. Box 15002  
Sacramento, CA 95815  
(916) 484-3317
6. Existing General Plan Designation: Agriculture (AG) and Mineral Resources Overlay
7. Existing Zoning Designation: Agricultural Intensive (A-N)
8. Proposed Zoning Designation: A-N/Sand and Gravel Overlay (SG-O)
9. Required Approvals from Other Public Agencies: Moore Canal relocation (YCFCWCD Board of Directors)  
Section 404 Permit (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)  
Water Quality Certification (Central Valley RWQCB)  
Waste Discharge Requirements (Central Valley RWQCB)  
SMARA Compliance Review (California Department of Conservation)
10. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

The project site consists of approximately 319 acres located three miles west of the City of Woodland in Yolo County, California. Currently, the central and southern portions of the project site consist primarily of actively managed agricultural land. Surrounding land uses include Teichert's Woodland Plant site to the northeast; Teichert's Storz mining site and the Cache Creek Nature Preserve to the northwest; agricultural land to the west; the Yolo Fliers Club golf course, the Watts-Woodland Airport, and Wild Wings residential subdivision

to the southwest; the Monument Hill Memorial Park cemetery and residences to the south; and agricultural lands to the east.

11. Project Description Summary:

The proposed project is mining of 41.6 million tons (35.25 million tons sold) of aggregate resources (sand and gravel) over a requested 30-year period at an annual rate not to exceed 2.6 million tons mined per year (2.2 million tons sold). Mining is proposed in two phases (see Figure 3). Reclamation is proposed in three phases (see Figure 4) to reclaim 116 acres of agricultural uses and provide 161 acres of pond and habitat uses. As a component of the project the applicant proposes relocation of the Moore Canal to the northerly portion of the project site. The project requires the following approvals from Yolo County: general plan amendment; Cache Creek Area Plan (CCAP) amendment; rezoning; mining permit approval; reclamation plan approval; Yolo County Code Section 10.4-405 20% Exceedance approval; streambank stabilization plan; flood hazard development permit (FHDP); and development agreement. If additional approvals are required they will be identified through the environmental impact analysis.

12. Status of Native American Consultation Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1:

In compliance with California Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21080.3.1 (also known as Assembly Bill (AB) 52), a project notification letter was distributed on December 18, 2019 to five tribes requesting consultation in Yolo County. On January 10, 2019, the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation responded with a request to initiate formal consultation on the project. Consultation efforts between the County and the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation are ongoing.

## B. SOURCES

The technical reports referenced in this Initial Study are available upon request and prior arrangement at the public counter at the Yolo County Department of Community Service, Planning Division located at 292 West Beamer Street, Woodland, CA 95695. The following documents are referenced information sources used for the purposes of this Initial Study:

1. California Department of Conservation. *California Important Farmland Finder*. Available at: <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF/>. Accessed January 2019.
2. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. *Yolo County, Fire Hazard Severity Zones in LRA*. October 5, 2007.
3. California Department of Transportation. *California Scenic Highway Mapping System*. Available at: [http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/16\\_livability/scenic\\_highways/index.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/16_livability/scenic_highways/index.htm). Accessed February 2019.
4. County of Yolo. *2018 Yolo Operational Area Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan*. December 2018.
5. County of Yolo. *Cache Creek Area Plan*. As amended.
6. County of Yolo. *2030 Countywide General Plan*. As amended.
7. County of Yolo. *Development Impact Fee Annual Report, FY 2016-2017*. December 2017.
8. County of Yolo. *Yolo County 2030 Countywide General Plan EIR*. SCH # 2008102034 certified November 10, 2009.
9. Department of Toxic Substances Control. *EnviroStor*. Available at: <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/>. Accessed February 2019.

10. Geocon Consultants, Inc. *Slope Stability Evaluation, Teichert Shifler Mining and Reclamation Project, Yolo County, California*. May 2016.
11. Peak & Associates, Inc. *Cultural Resource Assessment for the Shifler Mining and Reclamation Project, Yolo County, California*. January 2015.
12. Sacramento Area Council of Governments. *Watts-Woodland Airport, Comprehensive Land Use Plan*. Amended March 1993.
13. State Water Resources Control Board. *GeoTracker*. Available at: <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>. Accessed February 2019.
14. Teichert Aggregates. *Wetland Delineation for Shifler Property, Yolo County, California*. May 18, 2012.
15. Teichert Materials. *Biological Resources Assessment, Teichert Shifler Mining Project, Yolo County, California*. June 2018.
16. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. *Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination Form*. July 2, 2012.
17. Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District. *Handbook for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts*. July 11, 2007. Available at: <http://www.ysaqmd.org/documents/CEQAHandbook2007.pdf>. Accessed April 2019.

**C. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED**

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a “Potentially Significant Impact” or as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

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

**D. DETERMINATION**

On the basis of this initial study:

- I find that the Proposed Project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the Proposed Project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the applicant. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the Proposed Project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Stephanie Cormier, Principal Planner  
Printed Name

August 15, 2019

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

County of Yolo

\_\_\_\_\_  
For

## **E. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK**

The following sections describe the regulatory framework applicable to the proposed project, including relevant plans and ordinances, as well as previous approvals associated with operations at the nearby Teichert Woodland Plant.

### **Relevant Plans and Ordinances**

The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) was enacted by the State legislature in 1975 as a means of minimizing adverse environmental effects of surface mining, ensuring that mined lands are reclaimed to a usable condition and that the production and conservation of mineral resources are encouraged. Among other provisions, SMARA establishes State policy regarding reclamation of mined lands and minerals management practices. The proposed project would be subject to the requirements of SMARA.

In June 1996, Yolo County adopted the Cache Creek Area Plan (CCAP). The CCAP consists of two distinct complementary plans governing different areas of the overall plan area: The Cache Creek Resources Management Plan (CCRMP) and the Off-Channel Mining Plan (OCMP). In 2015, the County initiated an update to the CCAP to reflect changes in creek conditions, analysis of collected data, and new regulatory requirements. The update is underway and is expected to be complete prior to release of the Draft EIR for this project.

The OCMP represents an integrated planning framework for regulating off-channel gravel mining operations in the Cache Creek area. The ordinances that implement the OCMP include the Off-Channel Surface Mining Ordinance (OCSMO) and the Surface Mining Reclamation Ordinance (SMRO). These ordinances contain mining and reclamation requirements designed to protect public safety and the environment, protect water resources, conduct monitoring, and establish financial assurances. The proposed project would be subject to the provisions of the CCAP and all relevant implementing ordinances.

## **F. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION**

Teichert has been operating along Cache Creek near the City of Woodland since the 1950s. Teichert was one of the original participants in the CCAP. In 1996, Teichert received approvals for two long-term channel operations: Teichert Esparto and Teichert Woodland. Teichert Woodland included the Woodland Plant, as well as the Muller and Storz Properties. Subsequently Teichert received approval in 2012 for the Teichert Schwarzgruber operation, which amended the 1996 Teichert Woodland approval.

Currently, the Teichert Woodland, Esparto, and Schwarzgruber operations are permitted to mine a combined annual maximum of 2.6 million tons of aggregate (2.2 million tons sold). Teichert proposes to complete mining and reclamation at these sites and transfer the total combined annual tonnage to the Shifler site as part of a new proposed 30-year mining permit.

Mining on the Muller and Storz properties is complete. Reclamation activities on the Muller property are complete, and reclamation of the Storz property is currently underway. Mining on the Schwarzgruber property will be commencing at any time, and the applicant expects mining to conclude within approximately two years. The proposed project will entitle new land within the CCAP planning area for mining and provide an uninterrupted supply of material to the Teichert-Woodland plant following completion of mining at the Schwarzgruber site.

Section 8-2.233(d) of the Yolo County Code requires that any general plan amendments proposed by a private party must first be authorized for further study by the Board of Supervisors. On December 16, 2014, the County Board of Supervisors held a public hearing and authorized processing of the Teichert Shifler application.<sup>1</sup>

### **Approach to CEQA Analysis**

This Initial Study identifies and analyzes the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project. The information and analysis presented in this document are organized in accordance with the order of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) checklist in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. Where the analysis provided in this document identifies potentially significant environmental effects of the project, further evaluation of such effects will be provided in the EIR to be prepared for the project.

### **G. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The following provides a description of the project site location and setting, as well as the proposed project components and the discretionary actions required for the project.

#### **Project Location and Setting**

The project site consists of approximately 319 acres located three miles west of the City of Woodland in Yolo County, California (see Figure 1 and Figure 2).

The site contains all or portions of four parcels identified by Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 025-120-032, 025-120-033, 025-430-001, and 025-430-002. Currently, the central and southern portions of the project site consist primarily of actively managed agricultural land. The northern portion of the site consists of scattered oak trees and ruderal grassland vegetation, as well as an electric conveyor and associated gravel road formerly used to transport mined aggregate from Teichert's Storz mining site to the Woodland Plant located north of the project site. The Moore Canal, a concrete-lined water conveyance structure owned and operated by the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (YCFWCWD), bisects the central portion of the site from west to east. The Yolo County General Plan designates the site as Agriculture (AG) and a portion of the site has the Mineral Resource Overlay (MRO) designation. The site is zoned Agricultural Intensive (A-N).

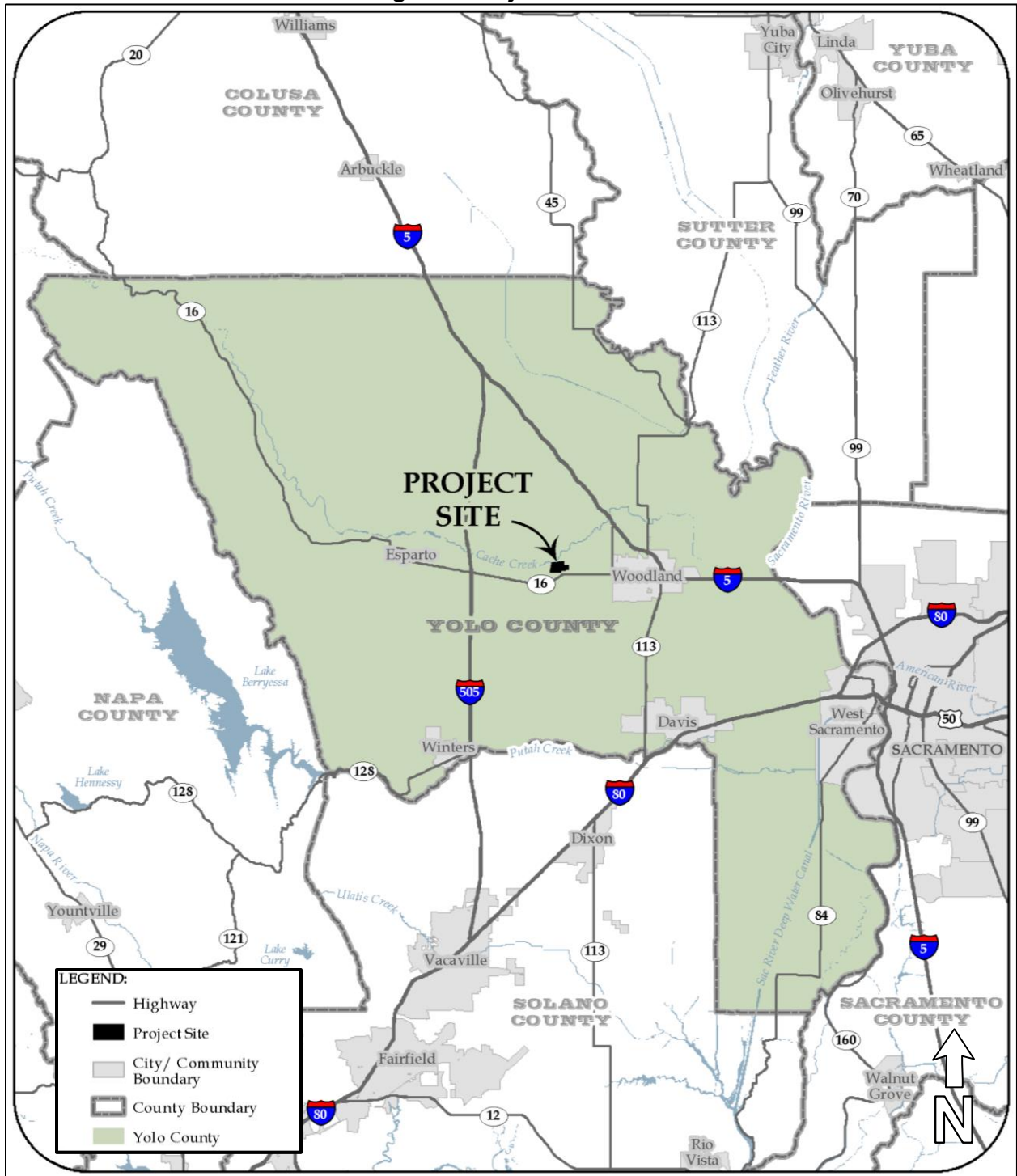
The project site is bounded by Cache Creek to the north, County Road (CR) 94B to the west, CR 22 to the south, and unpaved dirt access roads to the east. Surrounding land uses include Teichert's Woodland Plant site to the northeast; Teichert's Storz mining site and the Cache Creek Nature Preserve to the northwest; agricultural land and two single-family residences to the west; the Yolo Fliers Club golf course, the Watts-Woodland Airport, and Wild Wings residential subdivision to the southwest; the Monument Hill Memorial Park cemetery and residences to the south; and agricultural lands to the east (see Figure 3).

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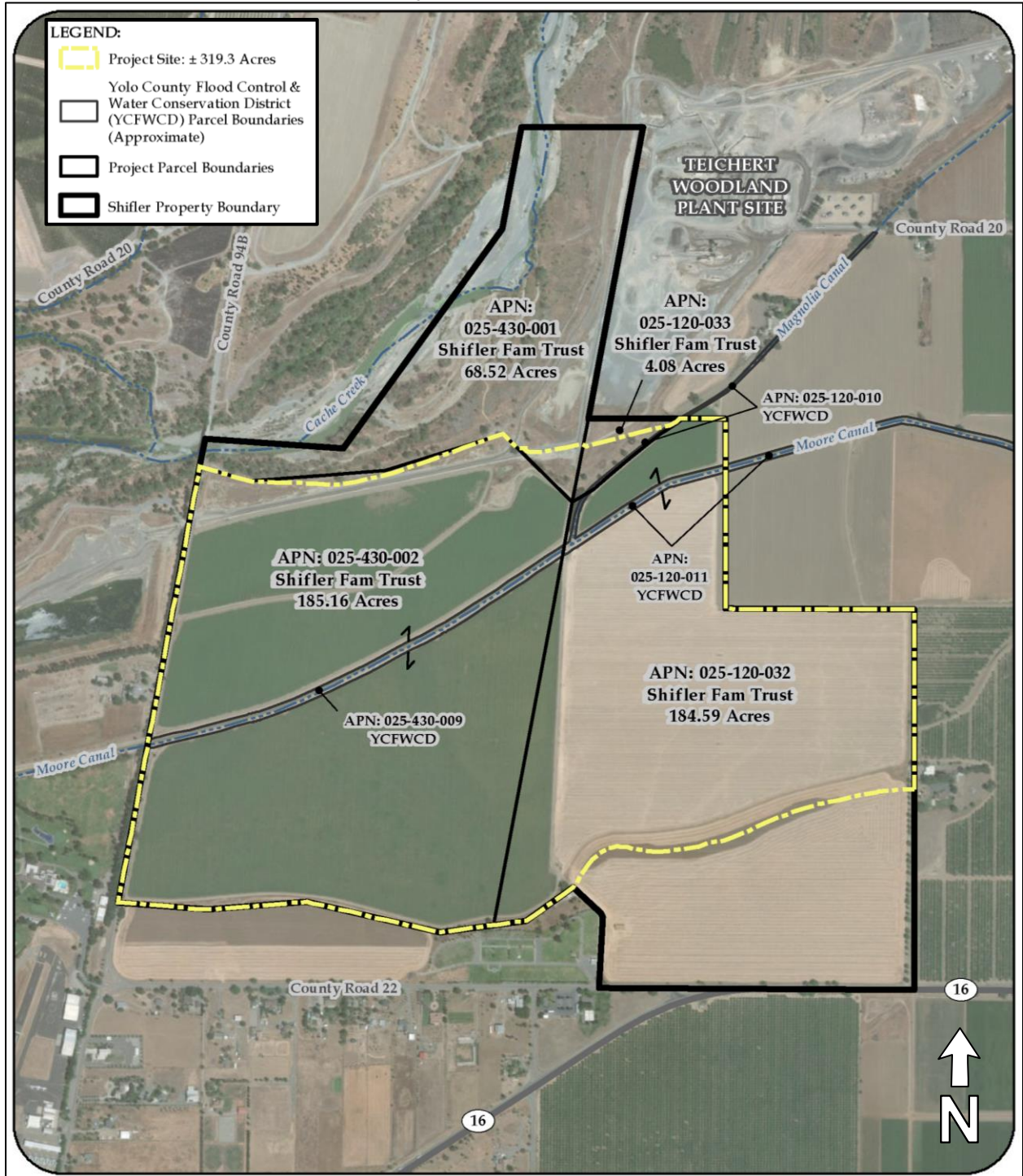
<sup>1</sup> Yolo County Board of Supervisors. *Minutes & Supporting Materials*. December 16, 2014.



**Figure 1**  
**Regional Project Location**



**Figure 2**  
**Project Site Boundaries**



**Figure 3**  
**Surrounding Uses**



## **Project Components**

The proposed project would include permitting of the project site as an aggregate mining site that would supply the existing Teichert Woodland Plant facility to the northeast of the site. The project components, including requested entitlements, are discussed in greater detail below.

### Mining Area, Depth, and Anticipated Reserves

The proposed project would allow for mining of approximately 277 acres of the 319-acre project site (see Figure 4). All of the proposed mining area would be off-channel and set back more than 200-feet from Cache Creek. Depth of mining would vary depending on the location, quality, and quantity of aggregate reserves present. Mining would occur in two phases: Phase A (98.1 acres) and Phase B (179.0 acres).

The proposed depths of mining would be approximately 40-feet below the existing ground surface in the southeastern portion of the mining area, approximately 65-feet below existing ground surface in the northwestern corner of the mining area, and approximately 70-feet below the existing ground surface in the southwestern corner of the mining area. The total amount of aggregate (sand and gravel) proposed to be mined would vary depending upon the quality, quantity, and location of aggregate onsite, but will not exceed 35.25 million tons (approximately 23.5 million cubic yards) sold (41.6 million tons mined). As discussed in greater detail below, the project applicant is seeking a 30-year off-channel mining permit that would allow for maximum aggregate sales of up to 2.6 million tons in a given year. The proposed mining activities would comply with the following minimum slopes, as described as a ratio of horizontal to vertical:

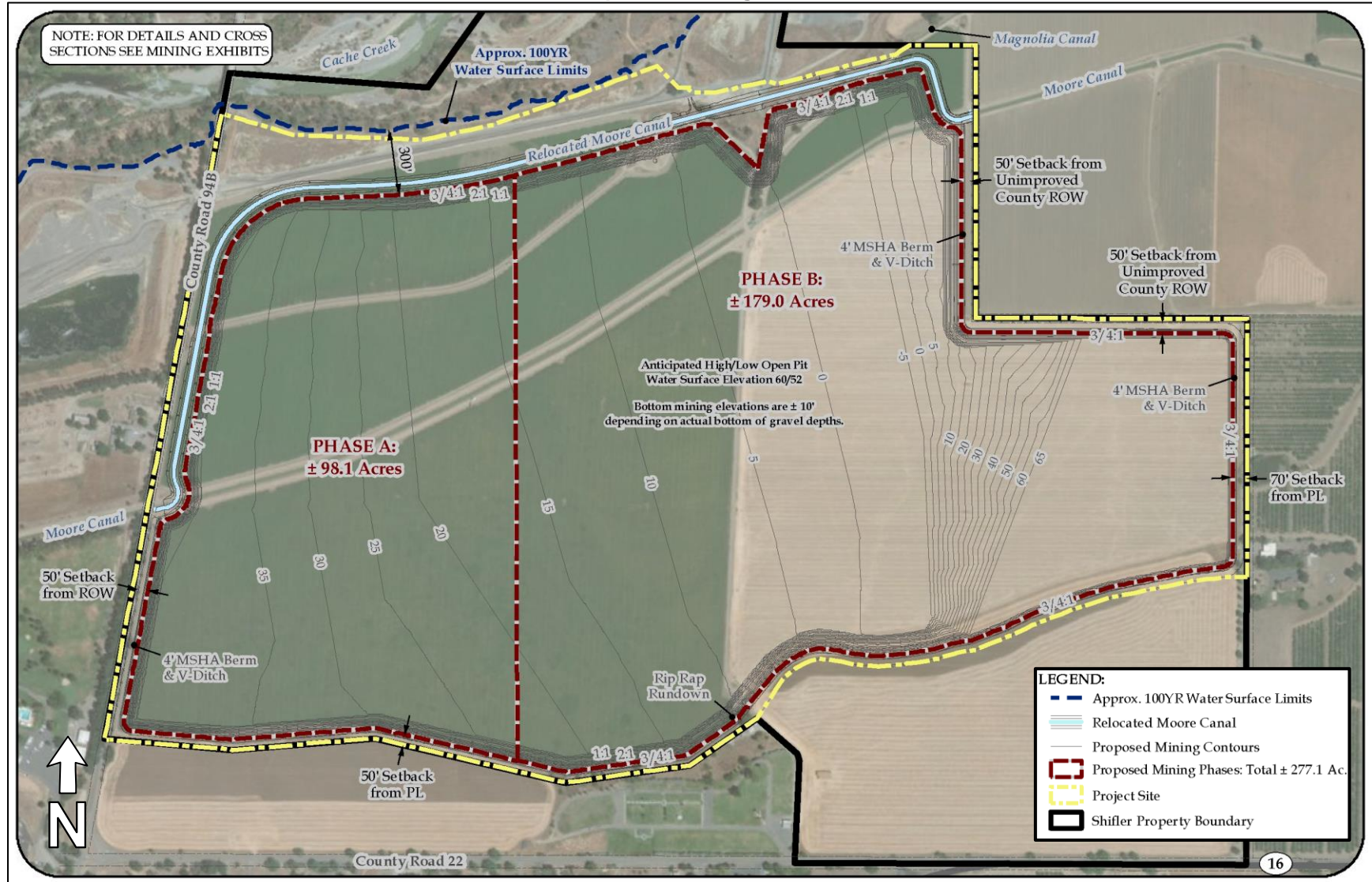
- 0.75:1 down to average low groundwater level during mining (52 feet above mean sea level [MSL]);
- 2:1 between average low groundwater level during mining (52 feet MSL) and five feet below average low groundwater level during mining (47 feet MSL); and
- 1:1 five feet or greater below average low groundwater level during mining (47 feet MSL).

### Moore Canal Relocation

The proposed project would include relocation of Moore Canal to the western and northern boundaries of the proposed project site (see Figure 4). The relocated canal would be located a minimum of 200-feet from the existing top bank of Cache Creek, and the reclaimed mining slopes within 50-feet of the relocated canal would have 3:1 slopes.

The relocated Moore Canal would be concrete-lined and have an access road on each side for periodic maintenance by the YCFCWCD. Two over-crossings of the relocated Moore Canal would be constructed to facilitate the transport of aggregate by conveyor to the Woodland Plant site and to allow mining equipment to access the project site from the Woodland Plant site. Such over-crossings would remain after completion of mining and reclamation to allow vehicular access across the relocated Moore Canal.

**Figure 4**  
**Proposed Mining Plan**



### Setbacks and Landscaping

The proposed mining activities on the project site would comply with the following minimum setback requirements: 200 feet from existing channel bank of Cache Creek; 50 feet from the CR 94B right-of-way on west side of project site; and 50 feet from Woodland Plant site to the northeast. Berms and stockpiles could be located within mining setbacks; however, berms or stockpiles would not be located within 100 feet of the top of bank of Cache Creek.

Currently, various landscaping elements are located along the southern portion of the western perimeter of the project site along CR 94B. In addition, a landscape buffer is provided along a portion of the southern site boundary near CR 22. As part of the proposed project, the northern section of the western perimeter would be planted with native tree and shrub species prior to commencement of mining activities. The landscape buffer would extend along the north side of the relocated Moore Canal, eventually connecting with the existing Cache Creek riparian corridor.

In addition, the proposed project would include landscape screening to screen views of the proposed mining operations from the Monument Hill Memorial Park cemetery to the south of the project site. If agreed upon by the cemetery, the applicant is proposing that the visual screening would be planted on the cemetery property prior to commencement of mining activities on the project site.

### Operational Characteristics

The following sections summarize the proposed aggregate processing, mining characteristics, hours of operation, employment, site access, and stormwater, water supply, and wastewater associated with the proposed project.

#### *Aggregate Processing*

Aggregate mined from the project site would be processed at the existing Woodland Plant located northeast of the site. In order to transfer mined aggregate from the project site to the Woodland Plant, a conveyor over-crossing of the Moore Canal would be constructed on-site.

Aggregate trucks going to and from the Woodland Plant currently access the plant from its entrance on CR 20. These trucks are required to use designated haul routes of CR 20, CR 96, and State Route (SR) 16 to and from Interstates 5 and 505. Local deliveries are allowed to use roads other than SR 16, CR 20, or CR 96. The proposed project would not include changes to the designated haul routes.

#### *Mining Characteristics*

The applicant would remove and stockpile overburden on the mining site, by proposed phasing. Overburden is the soil that overlays the sand and gravel material proposed to be mined. Removal of overburden would be accomplished using scrapers, motor graders and bull dozers. Overburden would be progressively removed ahead of mining, and stockpiled in setback areas and internal storage locations until retrieved for reclamation. The top layers of topsoil would be placed in temporary berms and/or stockpiles and seeded with naturalized annual grasses and forbs. As required by Section 10-4.433 of the County's Off-Channel Surface Mining Ordinance (OCSMO), berms or stockpiles would not exceed 40 feet in height with slopes no steeper than 2:1 horizontal to vertical. Berms and/or stockpiles would potentially be located along the perimeter of mining areas, including within mining setbacks, to provide noise shielding of mining activities from nearby

noise-sensitive uses and to allow mining to occur without the need to relocate berms and/or stockpiles before reclamation occurs. However, as noted previously, the stockpiles would remain a minimum of 100 feet from the top of bank of Cache Creek.

Aggregate above the groundwater level would be harvested by scrapers and dozers. Aggregate mined below the water table would be extracted by a combination of equipment such as excavators, draglines, and potentially a floating dredge. Water trucks would be used to control dust. The proposed mining process would be the same as processes currently employed at other sites supplying the Woodland Plant.

### *Schedule and Employees*

Existing operations at the Woodland Plant and the associated Schwarzgruber mining site are governed by Condition 38 of the Schwarzgruber Use Permit, which states the following:

The hours of operation for the mining site are 6:00am to 6:00pm Monday through Saturday. Occasional 24-hour operations to fulfill contract requirements are allowed within the regulations established in Section 10-4.421 of the mining ordinance. The hours of operation for the Teichert-Woodland plant are 6:00am to 6:00pm Monday through Friday. For the months of August, September, and October, hours may be extended to 10:00pm (Monday through Friday) and 6:00am to 6:00pm Saturday and/or Sunday subject to compliance with Section 10-4.421 of the Mining Ordinance.

Operations at the project site would be consistent with the existing hours of operation for the Woodland Plant and the Schwarzgruber mining site.

The Woodland operation currently has 28 employees, including 22 operating engineers, one teamster, one laborer, and four clerical staff. The proposed project would maintain similar levels of employment. Employment at Teichert's Esparto operation has varied historically depending on production. While the Esparto operation is currently idle, it was operating at peak production as recently as April 2017. At peak production, the Esparto operation employed 24 people, including 18 operating engineers, one teamster, one laborer, and four clerical staff.

The applicant has indicated that once the Teichert Esparto operations cease, employees would be transferred over to the Teichert Woodland operation to accommodate the requested production increase. This would result in total employment for the Teichert Woodland operation, under peak production, of 52 people, including 40 operating engineers, two teamsters, two laborers, and eight clerical staff.

### *Site Access*

In order to allow mining equipment to move between the Woodland Plant and the Shifler mining site, an over-crossing of the relocated Moore Canal would be constructed as part of the proposed project. Aggregate trucks would continue to access the Woodland Plant site by way of the existing entrance on CR 20, using the existing haul routes discussed previously.

### *Stormwater, Water Supply, and Wastewater*

The project site would be graded to allow stormwater runoff to collect in the proposed mining pit, where the runoff would gradually percolate or evaporate. At the conclusion of mining, the site

would remain contoured such that stormwater runoff would be directed to the reclaimed mining area. New stormwater detention basins would be provided within the western and eastern reclaimed agricultural areas of the site. Based on the above, stormwater runoff would not leave the site during, or after completion of, the proposed mining activities.

The project site is currently provided with agricultural water from the YCFCWCD by way of the Moore Canal, which would continue to supply on-site agricultural activities during mining and after reclamation. The project site contains two abandoned wells: one agricultural well located near the western boundary of the site, and a domestic well located near the northern boundary of the site. The unused agricultural well would potentially be retained as a monitoring well, while the domestic well would be removed.

As occurs with existing mining operations, water for aggregate processing and dust suppression at the project site would be supplied by two wells at the Woodland Plant site. Processing water would be recycled through the use of settling ponds located at the Woodland Plant site. The discharge of aggregate wash water to the settling ponds at the Woodland Plant site would continue to be regulated through Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) issued by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The project would include modifications to the existing WDRs to allow for the use of fine sediment from aggregate processing (i.e., "fines") in the eventual reclamation of the project site. The processing fines would be pumped from the Woodland Plant site as a slurry (mix of water and fines) and discharged into the mining area/pond in accordance with the requirements of the revised WDRs.

Potable water demand would be met through bottled drinking water, which would be provided at the adjacent Woodland Plant. Portable toilet facilities would be provided on the Shifler site and existing portable toilet facilities would continue to be used at the adjacent Woodland Plant site.

### Reclamation Plan

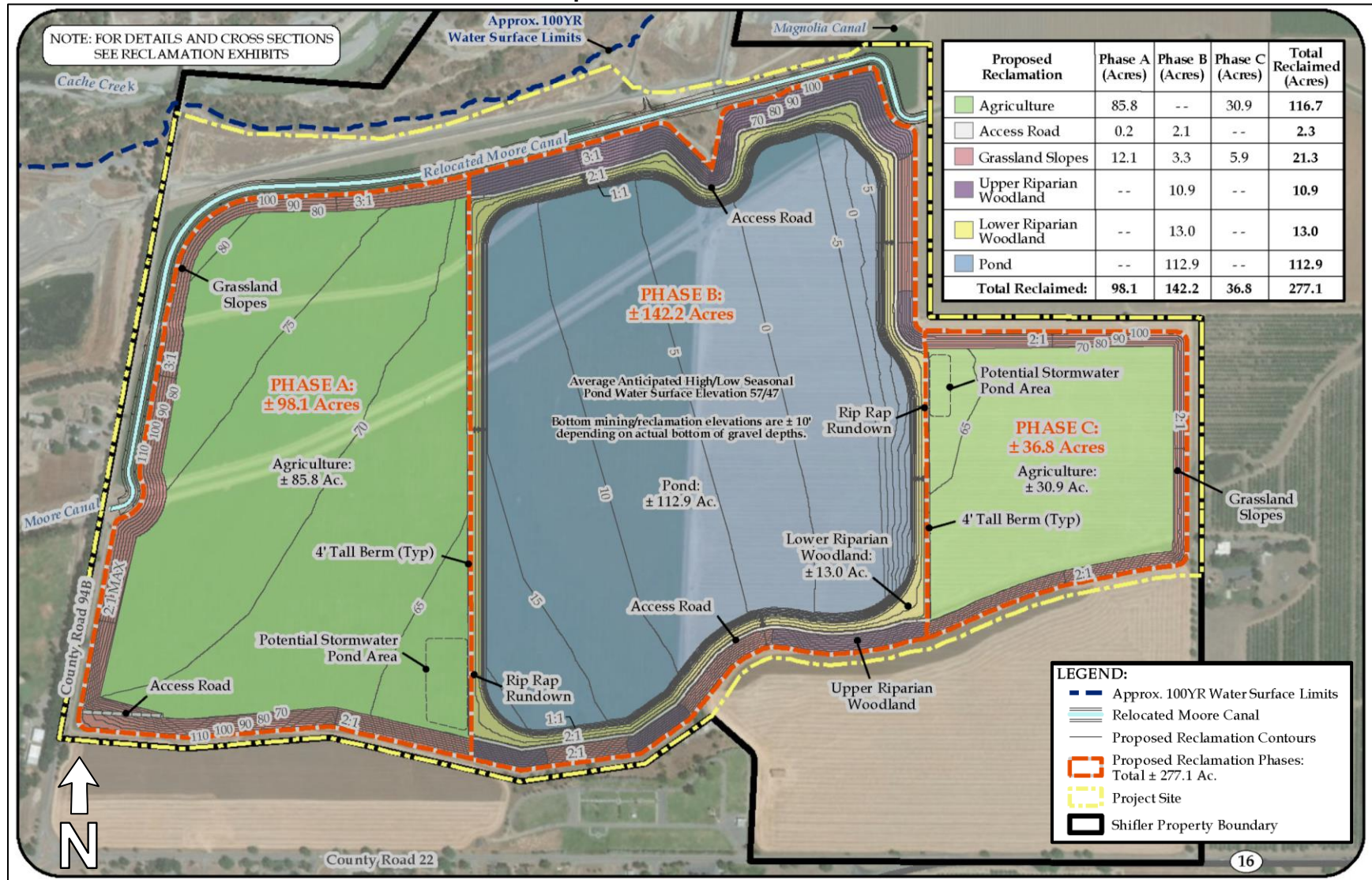
The applicant proposes to reclaim the 277 acre mining area to agriculture and habitat uses following mining (see Figure 5). Approximately 116 acres of the mining area would be reclaimed to agricultural use, while the remainder of the mining area would be reclaimed to a pond with riparian woodland along the fringes/shoreline. Slopes would be reclaimed to grassland. The amount of each habitat type could vary depending on actual mining depths and groundwater elevations.

After mining has ceased on the project site, all mining equipment would be removed. Reclamation of the project site would begin after mining ends. Once groundwater elevations have reached equilibrium, reclamation of the pit floor would occur. Overburden and processing fines generated from the Woodland Plant would be used to create any remaining slopes and benches within the mining area. Reclamation to habitat uses (pond, riparian wetland, riparian oak woodland, and grassland/slopes) would include a minimum of 12 inches of soil (topsoil/overburden/silt) to be placed on all surfaces.

Agricultural reclamation would require the use of overburden and processing fines to raise the pit floor elevation above the average high groundwater level followed by the placement of a minimum of four feet of salvaged reclamation soils (stockpiled topsoil and upper layers of overburden) on the created land. As required by Section 10-5.516 of the SMRO, the Reclamation Plan proposes reclaimed agricultural field elevations of a minimum of five feet above the average high groundwater elevations.



**Figure 5**  
**Proposed Reclamation Plan**



Average high groundwater levels would range from 75 feet MSL in the northwestern corner to 57 feet MSL in the southeastern corner of the western agricultural field, and from 57 feet MSL in the northwestern corner to 47 feet MSL in the southeastern corner of the eastern agricultural field.

### *Reclamation Phasing*

Section 10-5.522 of the SMRO requires that all proposed mining and reclamation plans include a phasing plan. The purpose of the phasing plan is to minimize the area of disturbed agricultural lands during each mining phase and to encourage the early completion of agricultural reclamation.

Under the proposed Reclamation Plan, mining and reclamation activities within the project site would be phased generally from west to east. Agricultural reclamation of the western portion of the project site would occur concurrently with mining activities within the eastern portion of the project site. As noted previously, mining would occur in two phases: Phase A (98.1 acres) and Phase B (179.0 acres). Reclamation would occur in three phases: Phase A (98.1 acres), Phase B (142.2 acres), and Phase C (36.8 acres).

### *Reclamation Slopes*

Reclamation of the project site would comply with the following minimum slopes, as described as a ratio of horizontal to vertical:

- 2:1 above average high reclaimed groundwater level (57 feet MSL at the reclaimed pond), except for reclaimed mining slopes that are within 50 feet of the relocated Moore Canal, which will have a minimum slope of 3:1;
- 4:1 between average high reclaimed groundwater level (57 feet MSL) and five feet below average high reclaimed groundwater level (52 feet MSL);
- 2:1 between 5 feet below average high reclaimed groundwater level (52 feet MSL) and five feet below average low reclaimed groundwater level (42 feet MSL); and
- 1:1 five feet or greater below average low reclaimed groundwater level (42 feet MSL).

### Net Gains

The project would include the preparation of a development agreement between the applicant and the County, which would include certain net public benefits, (referred to as “net gains”) such as land dedications and reclamation enhancements agreed to among the parties that will be analyzed in the EIR.

### **Required Discretionary Approvals**

The proposed project requires approval of the following discretionary entitlements.

### Lead Agency Approvals – Yolo County

The proposed project would require the following approvals from Yolo County:

- Amendment of the General Plan to extend the Mineral Resource Overlay over the entire project site;
- Amendment of the Cache Creek Area Plan to include the project site in the Off-Channel Mining Plan (OCMP) boundary;
- Rezoning to add a Sand and Gravel Overlay (SG-O) to the site;

- Approval of a 30-year Off-Channel Mining Permit;
- Approval of a Reclamation Plan;
- Approval of a request for 20 percent exceedance of annual production limits pursuant to Section 10.4-405 of the County Code;
- Approval of a Streambank Stabilization Plan;
- Approval of a Flood Hazard Development Permit;
- Authorization to execute a Development Agreement.

If additional approvals are determined to be necessary, they will be identified in the environmental impact report.

#### *General Plan/CCAP Amendments*

Per the Yolo County General Plan, the project site is designated AG, and a portion of the site is covered by the General Plan Mineral Resource Overlay (MRO) designation. The proposed project would include a GPA to extend the Mineral Resource Overlay designation to cover the entirety of the project site. In addition, the project would include an amendment to the Cache Creek Area Plan to include the project site in the OCMP boundary.

#### *Rezone*

As noted previously, the project site is currently zoned A-N. The proposed project would include a rezone to add an SG-O overlay to the site, resulting in a zoning designation of A-N/SGO. Surface mining operations are conditionally allowed in the A-N/SGO zone with the approval of a Use Permit (Yolo County Code sections 8-2.304, 8-2.906[g][3], and 10-4-501).

#### *Mining Permit/Use Permit*

The proposed project would require approval of a Mining Permit to allow surface mining on the project site for a 30-year period, allow processing of aggregate from the project site at the Woodland Plant, and increase the maximum permitted production at the Woodland Plant upon cessation of mining activities at the Esparto and Schwarzgruber sites. The duration of mining activities at the project site would vary depending on market demand and the quality and quantity of aggregate present on-site.

#### *Reclamation Plan*

Details related to the proposed Reclamation Plan are provided above under the “Project Components” section.

#### *Exceedance of Annual Production Limits*

Per Section 10-4.405 of the OCSMO, surface mines must operate within the limits of the annual production level established in the applicable use permit. Annual aggregate production may not exceed the established annual level, except to meet temporary market demand. Individual producers may exceed their maximum annual allocation by up to 20 percent in any one calendar year, so long as their running 10-year average does not exceed the maximum level. Aggregate sold in excess of the established annual level shall be subject to a \$0.10/ton surcharge. Consistent with Section 10-4.405, under the proposed project, production at the Woodland Plant may exceed

the Plant's production limitation by up to 20 percent (200,000 tons sold) in any year, provided that production over a consecutive 10-year period does not exceed 10 million tons sold.

#### *Streambank Stabilization Plan*

In support of a request to mine within 700 feet of the existing Cache Creek channel bank and within the streamway influence boundary (Section 10-4.429 of the OCSMO), the proposed project requires approval and implementation of a Streambank Stabilization Plan for the south bank of Cache Creek adjacent to the northern margin of the proposed mining area.

#### *Flood Hazard Development Permit*

According to Section 8-4.403 of the Yolo County Code of Ordinances, a Flood Hazard Development Permit (FHDP) shall be obtained before any construction or other development begins within any area of special flood hazards established in Section 8-4.302. "Development" includes "any manmade change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations, or storage of equipment or materials." According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map numbers 06113C0430H and 06113C0440G, the northern portion of the project site is located within a Special Flood Hazard Area subject to a 100-year flooding. Thus, the proposed project would require issuance of a Flood Hazard Development Permit from the County. A FHDP is also triggered by the request to mine closer than 700 feet from the banks of Cache Creek.

#### *Exceptions to Various Ordinance Sections*

Additional project approvals may be required. This will be concluded after the County analyzes the project for regulatory consistency and completes the Draft EIR.

#### *Development Agreement*

As discussed previously, the proposed project would include negotiation and execution of a development agreement between the applicant and the County.

#### Responsible Agency Approvals

The proposed project would require the following approvals from the responsible agencies listed:

- Approval of the proposed Moore Canal relocation (YCFCWCD Board of Directors);
- Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers);
- Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification (Central Valley RWQCB);
- Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for use of sediment fines from the Woodland Plant site for reclamation of the project site (Central Valley RWQCB); and
- SMARA Compliance Review (California Department of Conservation).

## H. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

The following Checklist contains the environmental checklist form presented in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. The checklist form is used to evaluate the impacts of the proposed project. A discussion follows each environmental issue identified in the checklist. For this checklist, the following designations are used:

**Potentially Significant Impact:** An impact that could be significant, and for which no mitigation has been identified. If any potentially significant impacts are identified, an EIR must be prepared.

**Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated:** An impact that requires mitigation to reduce the impact to a less-than-significant level.

**Less-Than-Significant Impact:** Any impact that would not be considered significant under CEQA relative to existing standards.

**No Impact:** The project would not have any impact.

<b>I. AESTHETICS.</b> <i>Would the project:</i>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion**

- a. Examples of typical scenic vistas include mountain ranges, ridgelines, or bodies of water as viewed from a highway, public space, or other area designated for the express purpose of viewing and sightseeing. In general, a project’s impact to a scenic vista would occur if development of the project would substantially change or remove a scenic vista. While the General Plan does not identify specific scenic vistas within the County, it does identify scenic values and character of the rural environmental as important. Also as noted in the General Plan EIR, the County has designated the following as local scenic roadways:<sup>2</sup>
- SR 16: Colusa County line to Capay;
  - SR 128: Winters to the Napa County line;
  - CR 116 and CR 116B: Knights Landing to the eastern terminus of CR 16;
  - CR 16 and CR 117 and Old River Road: CR 107 to West Sacramento; and
  - South River Road: West Sacramento city limits to Sacramento County line.

The project site is not located within the vicinity of any of the scenic roadways listed above. However, the existing on-site agricultural use of the site and the surrounding area is considered a scenic vista per the County. With implementation of the proposed project, the project site would be converted for the period of the permit, from agricultural uses to aggregate mining uses.

Based on the above, development of the proposed project could have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista, and a **potentially significant** impact could occur.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Aesthetics chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

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<sup>2</sup> County of Yolo. *Yolo County 2030 Countywide General Plan EIR* [pg. 754]. April 2009.

- b. According to the California Scenic Highway Mapping System, the proposed project site is not located within the vicinity of an officially designated State Scenic Highway.<sup>3</sup> Thus, the project would not substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State Scenic Highway, and a **less-than-significant** impact would occur.
- c. Public views of the project site include views from CR 22 to the south of the site and CR 94B to the west of the site. Currently, views of the site are primarily characterized by rural agricultural landscapes. With implementation of the proposed project, the project site would be converted for the period of the permit, from agricultural uses to aggregate mining uses. While the project would include landscaping and earthwork elements to help screen views of the site, the potential exists for the project to substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings. Thus, a **potentially significant** impact could occur.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Aesthetics chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

- d. The project site is located in a rural agricultural area. As such, relatively few sources of light and glare occur in the project vicinity. Existing sources of light and glare are primarily limited to headlights from vehicles travelling on CR 22 and CR 94B in the project area.

With implementation of the proposed project, mining operations on the project site would typically be limited to 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Monday through Saturday per the proposed Use Permit. However, limited nighttime mining activities may be required in specific situations. Specifically, for the months of August, September, and October, hours may be extended to 10:00 PM (Monday through Friday) and 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Saturday and/or Sunday subject to compliance with Section 10-4.421 of the County's OCSMO.

Nighttime mining activities would require illumination of select areas of the project site. All lighting would be arranged and controlled so as to limit light illumination of adjacent properties or public rights-of-way, consistent with Section 10-4.420 of the OCSMO. Nonetheless, given that the exact location and type of lighting fixtures required on-site is not currently known, the potential exists for the project to create a new source of substantial light or glare which could adversely affect nighttime views in the area, and a **potentially significant** impact could occur.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Aesthetics chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

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<sup>3</sup> California Department of Transportation. *California Scenic Highway Mapping System*. Available at: [http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/16\\_livability/scenic\\_highways/index.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/16_livability/scenic_highways/index.htm). Accessed February 2019.

**II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES.**

*Would the project:*

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
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"/>
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>	✘
e. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion**

a,e. Per the Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP), the project site is currently classified as Prime Farmland.<sup>4</sup> In addition, the site is currently designated Agriculture per the County General Plan. Mining activities would result in the loss of up to 277 acres of Prime Farmland over the requested 30-year permit period. Upon completion of mining activities, approximately 116 acres of Prime Farmland would be created as part of the proposed reclamation plan. However, the project could result in the permanent net loss of approximately 161 acres of Prime Farmland.

Thus, the proposed project could directly convert Prime Farmland to a non-agricultural use, and a ***potentially significant*** impact could occur.

*Further analysis of the above impact, including the location and type of agricultural land to be created as part of the proposed reclamation plan, will be included in the Agricultural Resources chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

b. The project site is zoned A-N. Per Section 8-2.604.5(e) of the County Code of Ordinances, surface mining operations are conditionally allowed in the A-N zone with a Special Sand and Gravel Overlay Zone (-SGO) zone and a Use Permit. The proposed project includes a request for a Rezone to add the -SGO zone to the project site and an application for a Mining Permit to allow for mining of the site. With approval of both entitlements, the project would not conflict with the site’s existing agricultural zoning. In addition, while the project

<sup>4</sup> California Department of Conservation. *California Important Farmland Finder*. Available at: <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF/>. Accessed January 2019.



site was previously covered by a Williamson Act Contract, the contract expired in January 2016. Thus, a **less-than-significant** impact would occur related to conflicting with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract.

- c,d. The project area is not considered forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220[g]), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), and is not zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104[g]). Therefore, the proposed project would have **no impact** with regard to conversion of forest land or any potential conflict with forest land, timberland, or Timberland Production zoning.

**III. AIR QUALITY.**

*Would the project:*

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. 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?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

a,b. Yolo County is located within the Sacramento Valley Air Basin (SVAB) and under the jurisdiction of the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District (YSAQMD). The federal Clean Air Act (CAA) and the California Clean Air Act (CCAA) require that federal and State ambient air quality standards (AAQS) be established, respectively, for six common air pollutants, known as criteria pollutants. The SVAB is designated nonattainment for the federal particulate matter 2.5 microns in diameter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and the State particulate matter 10 microns in diameter (PM<sub>10</sub>) standards, as well as for both the federal and State ozone standards.

The CAA requires each state to prepare an air quality control plan referred to as a State Implementation Plan (SIP). The SIPs are modified periodically to reflect the latest emissions inventories, planning documents, and rules and regulations of the air basins, as reported by their jurisdictional agencies. Due to the nonattainment designations, YSAQMD, along with the other air districts in the SVAB region, periodically prepares and updates air quality plans that provide emission reduction strategies to achieve attainment of the federal AAQS, including control strategies to reduce air pollutant emissions via regulations, incentive programs, public education, and partnerships with other agencies.

General conformity requirements of the SIP include whether a project would cause or contribute to new violations of any federal AAQS, increase the frequency or severity of an existing violation of any federal AAQS, or delay timely attainment of any federal AAQS. In addition, a project would be considered to conflict with, or obstruct implementation of, an applicable air quality plan if the project would be inconsistent with the emissions inventories contained in the air quality plan. Emission inventories are developed based on projected increases in population, employment, regional vehicle miles traveled (VMT), and associated area sources within the region, which are based on regional projections that are, in turn, based on General Plans and zoning designations for the region.

Due to the nonattainment designations of the area, YSAQMD has developed plans to attain the State and federal standards for ozone and particulate matter. The plans include the 2013 Ozone Attainment Plan, the PM<sub>2.5</sub> Implementation/Maintenance Plan, and the 2012 Triennial Assessment and Plan Update. Adopted YSAQMD rules and regulations, as well as the thresholds of significance, have been developed with the intent to ensure continued attainment of AAQS, or to work towards attainment of AAQS for which the area is currently designated nonattainment, consistent with applicable air quality plans. Thus, by exceeding the YSAQMD's mass emission thresholds for operational or construction

emissions of ROG, NO<sub>x</sub>, or PM<sub>10</sub>, a project would be considered to conflict with or obstruct implementation of the YSAQMD's air quality planning efforts.

The proposed project would involve operation of heavy-duty mining equipment on the project site. Exhaust emissions would be generated by mining equipment, as well as equipment used for vegetation clearing and earth movement activities. Project mining activities also represent sources of fugitive dust, which includes PM emissions. Additional criteria pollutant emissions would be generated workers commuting to and from the project site. The aforementioned activities could result in increases in criteria pollutant emissions in the project vicinity above thresholds established by the YSAQMD. In addition, additional analysis is required to ensure that dust associated with the proposed project would not adversely affect nearby agricultural operations.

Construction and operational emissions associated with the proposed project, in combination with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects within the project region could either delay attainment of the standards or require the adoption of additional controls on existing and future air pollution sources to offset emission increases. Thus, the project could cumulatively contribute to regional air quality health effects through emissions of criteria and mobile source air pollutants. Based on the above, the proposed project could result in a **potentially significant** impact with regard to air quality

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

- c. Some land uses are considered more sensitive to air pollution than others, due to the types of population groups or activities involved. Heightened sensitivity may be caused by health problems, proximity to the emissions source, and/or duration of exposure to air pollutants. Children, pregnant women, the elderly, and those with existing health problems are especially vulnerable to the effects of air pollution. Sensitive receptors are typically defined as facilities where sensitive receptor population groups (i.e., children, the elderly, the acutely ill, and the chronically ill) are likely to be located. Accordingly, land uses that are typically considered to be sensitive receptors include residences, schools, playgrounds, childcare centers, retirement homes, convalescent homes, hospitals, and medical clinics. The nearest existing sensitive receptors would be the single-family residences located south and west of the site.

The major pollutants of concern are localized carbon monoxide (CO) emissions and toxic air contaminant (TAC) emissions. Implementation of the proposed project would involve operation of heavy-duty mining and construction equipment on the project site throughout the duration of the proposed mining activities. Given that exhaust from such equipment would result in localized CO and TAC emissions, further analysis of such emission sources is required.

Because the proposed project could involve CO and TAC emissions associated with construction and mining equipment, the project could expose existing sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. Accordingly, impacts related to exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations could be **potentially significant**.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

- d. Emissions such as those leading to odors have the potential to adversely affect sensitive receptors within the project area. Pollutants of principal concern include emissions leading to odors, emission of dust, or emissions considered to constitute air pollutants. Air pollutants have been discussed in section “a” through “c” above. Therefore, the following discussion focuses on emissions of odors and dust.

According to the YSAQMD, common types of facilities that are known to produce odors include, but are not limited to, wastewater treatment facilities, chemical or fiberglass manufacturing, landfills, composting facilities, food processing facilities, refineries, dairies, and asphalt or rendering plants.<sup>5</sup> Manifestations of a person’s reaction to odors can range from psychological (e.g., irritation, anger, or anxiety) to physiological (e.g., circulatory and respiratory effects, nausea, vomiting, and headache). The presence of an odor impact is dependent on a number of variables including: the nature of the odor source; the frequency of odor generation; the intensity of odor; the distance of odor source to sensitive receptors; wind direction; and sensitivity of the receptor.

Due to the subjective nature of odor impacts, the number of variables that can influence the potential for an odor impact, and the variety of odor sources, quantitative analysis to determine the presence of a significant odor impact is difficult. Typical odor-generating land uses include, but are not limited to, wastewater treatment plants, landfills, and composting facilities. The proposed project would not introduce any such land uses and is not located in the vicinity of any such existing or planned land uses. However, existing operations at the nearby Woodland Plant include processing of hot asphalt, which may be considered an odor-generating use. Given that the proposed project would indirectly enable such operations to continue, further analysis of asphalt processing odors is required.

Earthmoving activities and mining operations involve the use of diesel fueled equipment and heavy-duty trucks, which could create odors associated with diesel fumes that may be considered objectionable. However, project operations would be required to comply with all applicable YSAQMD rules and regulations, particularly associated with permitting of air pollutant sources. The aforementioned regulations would help to minimize emissions, including emissions leading to odors. Accordingly, substantial objectionable odors would not be expected to occur associated with the proposed mining activities.

It should be noted that YSAQMD regulates objectionable odors through Rule 2.5 (Nuisance), which prohibits any person or source from emitting air contaminants or other material that result in any of the following: cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or to the public; endanger the comfort, repose, health, or safety of any such persons or the public; or have a natural tendency to cause injury or damage to business or property. Rule 2.5 is enforced based on complaints. If complaints are received, the YSAQMD is required to investigate the complaint, as well as determine and ensure a solution for the source of the complaint, which could include operational modifications. Thus, although not anticipated, if odor complaints are made

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<sup>5</sup> Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District. *Handbook for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts* [pg. 14]. July 11, 2007. Available at: <http://www.ysaqmd.org/documents/CEQAHandbook2007.pdf>. Accessed April 2019.

during the proposed mining operations, the YSAQMD would ensure that such odors are addressed and any potential odor effects reduced to less than significant levels.

Nonetheless, given that the proposed project would allow for existing asphalt processing operations at the Woodland Plant to continue, potentially resulting in emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people, a **potentially significant** impact could result.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

**IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES.**

*Would the project:*

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
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 Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of wildlife nursery sites?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Conservation Community Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion**

- a. According to a Biological Resources Assessment prepared for the proposed project by Teichert Materials, the project site provides habitat for a Sanford’s arrowhead, a special-status plant species.<sup>6</sup> In addition, the potential exists for the following special-status wildlife species to occur on-site: valley elderberry longhorn beetle, western pond turtle, white-tailed kite, Swainson’s hawk, northern harrier, short-eared owl, loggerhead shrike, yellow-billed magpie, tricolored blackbird, special-status bats, and other migratory birds and nesting raptors protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Therefore, the proposed project could have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on a species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, or U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Thus, a **potentially significant** impact could occur.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Biological Resources chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

<sup>6</sup> Teichert Materials. *Biological Resources Assessment, Teichert Shifler Mining Project, Yolo County, California*. June 2018

- b,c. Per a Wetland Delineation prepared for the project site by Teichert Aggregates and subsequently verified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,<sup>7</sup> the project site contains potential wetlands and waters of the U.S., including seasonal wetlands, marsh habitat, a pond, an irrigation canal, and a drainage ditch. Thus, the project could have a substantial adverse effect on riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and could have a substantial adverse effect on State or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means. Thus, a **potentially significant** impact could occur.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Biological Resources chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

- d. Wildlife movement corridors link together areas of suitable wildlife habitat that are otherwise separated by rugged terrain, changes in vegetation, or by areas of human disturbance or urban development. Topography and other natural factors in combination with urbanization can fragment or separate large open-space areas. The fragmentation of natural habitat can create isolated “islands” of vegetation and habitat that may not provide sufficient area to accommodate sustainable populations and can adversely impact genetic and species diversity.

The project site is bounded by CR 94B to the west Cache Creek to the north, and CR 22 to the south. Such features currently limit the movement of wildlife through the project area. In addition, the ongoing disturbances associated with agricultural production uses on-site preclude the use of the site as a wildlife nursery site. However, given that Cache Creek within the vicinity of the project currently acts as a wildlife corridor, the project could potentially interfere with the movement of resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, or with established resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of wildlife nursery sites. Thus, a **potentially significant** impact could occur.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Biological Resources chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

- e. Per the Biological Resources Assessment, the project site contains a total of 52 native valley oaks located along the northern site boundary, north of the Moore Canal. With implementation of the proposed project, a portion of the existing trees would require removal to accommodate the proposed mining operation. While the County does not have any ordinances or other mandatory standards related to tree preservation, the proposed tree removal could conflict with County policies related to protection of oak trees. Thus, the project could result in a **potentially significant** impact related to conflicting with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, including local tree preservation policies.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Biological Resources chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

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<sup>7</sup> Teichert Aggregates. *Wetland Delineation for Shifler Property, Yolo County, California*. May 18, 2012. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. *Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination Form*. July 2, 2012.

- f. The Yolo Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP) was recently adopted by the Yolo Habitat Conservancy. Yolo County is a member agency and joint permit holder. The project site is located within the boundaries of the Yolo HCP/NCCP. The project will be required to be consistent with, and mitigate impacts to certain species through, the HCP/NCCP. The potential exists for the proposed project to conflict with applicable standards within the HCP/NCCP, and a **potentially significant** impact could occur.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Biological Resources chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*



**V. CULTURAL RESOURCES.**

*Would the project:*

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a unique archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries.	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion**

- a. Historical resources are features that are associated with the lives of historically important persons and/or historically significant events, that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region or method of construction, or that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to the pre-history or history of the local area, California, or the nation. Examples of typical historical resources include, but are not limited to, buildings, farmsteads, rail lines, bridges, and trash scatters containing objects such as colored glass and ceramics. Per a Cultural Resource Assessment prepared for the proposed project by Peak & Associates, Inc., the existing on-site Moore Canal, which would be relocated as part of the project, could be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historic Places (CRHP).<sup>8</sup> Therefore, the project could cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, and a ***potentially significant*** impact could occur.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Cultural Resources chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

- b,c. The Cultural Resource Assessment prepared for the proposed project included the results of a record search of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) for potential historic and prehistoric resources within the project area. Based on the results of the record search, the site does not contain any recorded prehistoric cultural resources. Furthermore, the site has been subject to continual disturbance associated with ongoing agricultural uses.

Nonetheless, the potential exists that unknown archeological resources could occur within the project area. Considering that unknown archaeological resources, including human remains, have the potential to exist on-site, ground-disturbing activity related to the proposed mining activities could encounter such resources. Therefore, the proposed project could cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 and/or disturb human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries. Consequently, impacts could be considered ***potentially significant***.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Cultural Resources chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

<sup>8</sup> Peak & Associates, Inc. *Cultural Resource Assessment for the Shifler Mining and Reclamation Project, Yolo County, California*. January 2015.

<b>VI. ENERGY.</b> <i>Would the project:</i>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than- Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than- Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion**

- a,b. The proposed mining operations, as well as earthmoving activities associated with future reclamation of the site, would involve use of heavy-duty diesel equipment over an extended period of time. In addition, the project would involve electricity use associated with operation of mechanical equipment, including a conveyor system that would be used to transfer mined aggregate to the nearby Woodland Plant site. Overall, electricity demand associated with the project would be approximately 28,634 peak kilowatt hours per day. As such, further analysis is necessary to ensure that the project would not result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources or conflict with or obstruct a State or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. Thus, a **potentially significant** impact could occur.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

**VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS.**

*Would the project:*

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv. Landslides?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✘
f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion**

The following discussion is based on a Slope Stability Evaluation prepared for the proposed project by Geocon Consultants, Inc.<sup>9</sup>

- ai-ii. According to the Slope Stability Evaluation, the Great Valley Fault System and a segment of the Dunnigan Hills Fault, located eight miles to the west and northwest of the site, respectively, are the closest known active faults relative to the site. Given that known surface expressions of fault traces do not exist within the site, fault rupture hazard is not a significant geologic hazard at the site. Furthermore, the site is not located within a State-designated Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. Nonetheless, due to the site's proximity to nearby active faults, the project site could be subject to earthquakes and associated

<sup>9</sup> Geocon Consultants, Inc. *Slope Stability Evaluation, Teichert Shifler Mining and Reclamation Project, Yolo County, California*. May 2016.

seismic ground shaking. Further analysis is necessary to ensure that such seismic shaking would not adversely affect slopes created by the proposed mining operations. Therefore, a ***potentially significant*** impact could occur related to substantial adverse effects, including risk, injury, or death, associated with strong seismic ground shaking.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

aiii,aiv,

- c. The proposed project's potential effects related to liquefaction, landslides, lateral spreading, and subsidence/settlement are discussed in detail below.

#### Liquefaction

Liquefaction is the temporary transformation of loose, saturated granular sediments from a solid state to a liquefied state as a result of seismic ground shaking. In the process, the soil undergoes transient loss of strength, which commonly causes ground displacement or ground failure to occur. Because saturated soils are a necessary condition for liquefaction, soil layers in areas where the groundwater table is near the surface have higher liquefaction potential than those in which the water table is located at greater depths. As noted in the General Plan EIR, liquefaction risk is generally anticipated to be higher within the Great Valley portion of the County, particularly, along the floodplains of streams, where sediments are sandier than other areas. Given that the project site is located adjacent to Cache Creek, the potential exists for the proposed project to be subject to liquefaction risks.

#### Landslides

Seismically-induced landslides are triggered by earthquake ground shaking. The risk of landslide hazard is greatest in areas with steep, unstable slopes. The proposed project would involve the temporary creation of substantial slopes associated with mining operations. In addition, the proposed reclamation plan would include creation of permanent slopes within the project site. Therefore, further study is necessary to ensure the proposed project would not result in adverse effects related to landslides.

#### Lateral Spreading

Lateral spreading is horizontal/lateral ground movement of relatively flat-lying soil deposits towards a free face such as an excavation, channel, or open body of water; typically, lateral spreading is associated with liquefaction of one or more subsurface layers near the bottom of the exposed slope. Given that the project would include the creation of exposed slopes, risks related to lateral spreading could potentially occur.

#### Subsidence/Settlement

Loose unsaturated sandy soils can settle during strong seismic shaking. As noted in the Slope Stability Evaluation, the project site is underlain by layers of poorly graded sand and gravel. Therefore, further study is required to ensure that the proposed project would not result in substantial adverse effects related to subsidence or settlement of on-site soils.

## Conclusion

Based on the above discussion, further analysis of on-site soil conditions is necessary to ensure that the proposed project would not result in adverse effects related to liquefaction, landslides, lateral spreading, or subsidence/settlement. Thus, a **potentially significant** impact could occur related to directly or indirectly causing substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death, involving liquefaction or landslides and being located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, potentially resulting in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

- b. Issues related to erosion and degradation of water quality during construction are discussed in Section X, Hydrology and Water Quality, of this Initial Study, under question 'a'. As noted therein, the project site would be graded to allow stormwater runoff to collect in the proposed mining pit, where the runoff would gradually percolate or evaporate. At the conclusion of mining, the site would remain contoured such that stormwater runoff would be directed to the reclaimed mining area. New stormwater detention basins would be provided within the western and eastern reclaimed agricultural areas of the site.

Nonetheless, during removal of overburden and subsequent mining activities, the potential exists for wind and water erosion to discharge sediment and/or pollutants into stormwater runoff, which could adversely affect water quality within Cache Creek. In addition, the project would include modifications to the existing RWQCB WDRs for the Woodland Plant facility to allow for the use of fine sediment from aggregate processing (i.e., "fines") in the eventual reclamation of the project site. Thus, the project could result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil, and a **potentially significant** impact could occur.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Hydrology and Water Quality chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

- d. The proposed project would not include construction of foundations or development of habitable structures that could be subject to potential risks related to expansive soils. The only permanent structures associated with the proposed project are the Moore Canal, which would be relocated as part of the project, and the proposed conveyor system that would be used to transfer mined aggregate to the Woodland Plant facility. Nonetheless, expansive soils, if present on-site, could pose a potential risk to the slopes of the proposed mining pit, as well as the success of the proposed reclamation plan. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a **potentially significant** impact related to being located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1B of the Uniform Building Code, thereby creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

- e. The construction or operation of septic tanks or other alternative wastewater disposal systems is not included as part of the project. Portable toilet facilities would be provided at the project site and existing portable toilet facilities would continue to be used at the adjacent Woodland Plant. Therefore, **no impact** regarding the capability of soil to adequately support the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems would occur.
- f. Per the County's General Plan EIR, unique geologic features are not common in Yolo County.<sup>10</sup> The General Plan does not identify any such features in the project area. Given that the project site consists primarily of agricultural land, the proposed project would not result in the destruction of unique geologic features.

However, the potential exists for paleontological resources to occur within the project site. Should previously unknown paleontological resources exist within the project site, ground-disturbing activity such as grading and excavating associated with implementation of the proposed project would have the potential to disturb or destroy such resources. Therefore, the proposed project could result in the direct or indirect destruction of a unique paleontological resource, and a **potentially significant** impact could occur.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

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<sup>10</sup> County of Yolo. *Yolo County 2030 Countywide General Plan EIR*. April 2009.

**VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.**

*Would the project:*

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
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 type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gasses?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>a,b. Emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) contributing to global climate change are attributable in large part to human activities associated with the industrial/manufacturing, utility, transportation, residential, and agricultural sectors. Therefore, the cumulative global emissions of GHGs contributing to global climate change can be attributed to every nation, region, and city, and virtually every individual on Earth. An individual project's GHG emissions are at a micro-scale level relative to global emissions and effects to global climate change; however, an individual project could result in a cumulatively considerable incremental contribution to a significant cumulative macro-scale impact. As such, impacts related to emissions of GHG are inherently considered cumulative impacts.</p>				

Implementation of the proposed project would cumulatively contribute to increases of GHG emissions. Estimated GHG emissions attributable to the project would be primarily associated with increases of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and, to a lesser extent, other GHG pollutants, such as methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) associated with area sources, mobile sources or vehicles, and electricity use. As such, the proposed project would generate GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment, or conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs. Specifically, project compliance with the requirements of the County's adopted Climate Action Plan<sup>11</sup> will be examined. Therefore, impacts related to GHG emissions and global climate change could be cumulatively considerable and considered **potentially significant**.

*Further analysis of the above impact, including consistency with the County's Climate Action Plan, will be included in the Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

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<sup>11</sup> Yolo County. *Climate Action Plan: A Strategy for Smart Growth Implementation, Greenhouse Gas Reduction, and Adaptation to Global Climate Change*. Adopted March 15, 2011.

**IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.**

*Would the project:*

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
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"/>
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the likely release of hazardous materials into the environment?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>
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"/>	✘
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 or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. 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"/>
g. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to the risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion**

- a. Proposed mining, processing, and reclamation activities associated with the proposed project could require the use of hazardous materials, primarily fuels and oils for operation and maintenance of equipment, similar to what is used for the existing agricultural activities on the project site and the aggregate processing activities on the adjacent Woodland Plant site. The rate of such usage would not result in a net increase from existing conditions, because existing production at Teichert's Esparto mining site would be transferred to the Woodland Plant once operations on that site are completed. In addition, hazardous materials storage associated with the project would be required to comply with the applicable regulations included in Section 10-4.419.1 of the OCSMO. Nonetheless, given that the proposed project would involve the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials, a ***potentially significant*** impact could occur.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Hazards and Hazardous Materials chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*



- b. Given that the project site is subject to ongoing agricultural production uses, the potential exists for on-site soils to be contaminated with herbicides and/or pesticides. If present in sufficient concentrations, such chemicals could pose a risk to workers involved in earth-moving activities at the project site. In addition, the project site contains two existing abandoned wells that would require removal as part of the proposed project. Therefore, the proposed project could create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the likely release of hazardous materials into the environment, and a **potentially significant** impact could occur.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Hazards and Hazardous Materials chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

- c. The nearest school relative to the project site is Willow Oak School, located approximately 1.5 miles east of the site. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a **less-than-significant** impact related to hazardous emissions or the handling of hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school.
- d. Per the SWRCB GeoTracker database and the Department of Toxic Substances Control EnviroStor data management system, the project site is not located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.<sup>12</sup> Therefore, the project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment associated with such, and **no impact** would occur.
- e. The nearest airport to the project site is the privately-owned Watts-Woodland Airport, located southwest of the site across CR 94B. The project site lies within airport safety zones identified in the Watts-Woodland Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP).<sup>13</sup> As shown in Figure 10 of the CLUP, the northwestern portion of the project site north of the Moore Canal lies within Safety Area 2 (Approach-Departure Zone), while the remainder of the project site lies within Safety Area 3 (Overflight Zone). The CLUP lists incompatible land uses within Safety Area 2 as residential development greater than five acres per residence and uses that would attract people, such as shopping centers, restaurants, schools, factories, hospitals, office complexes, stadiums, auditoriums, arenas, recreation facilities, or churches. For Safety Area 3, incompatible uses include any use that would result in large assemblies of people, such as hospitals, stadiums and arenas, auditoriums and concert halls, regional shopping centers, and jails and detention centers. The proposed project would not include any of the types of incompatible uses listed in the CLUP. However, given that the proposed project would include future reclamation of a portion of the project site with a pond, the potential exists that increased bird activity at the project site could result in safety hazards related to bird strikes at the Watts-Woodland Airport. Therefore, the project could result in a **potentially significant** impact related to creating a safety hazard for people working in the project area.

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<sup>12</sup> State Water Resources Control Board. *GeoTracker*. Available at: <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>. Accessed February 2019.

Department of Toxic Substances Control. *EnviroStor*. Available at: <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/>. Accessed February 2019.

<sup>13</sup> Sacramento Area Council of Governments. *Watts-Woodland Airport, Comprehensive Land Use Plan*. Amended March 1993.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Hazards and Hazardous Materials chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

- f. Emergency planning within the County is guided by the *2018 Yolo Operational Area Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan*.<sup>14</sup> The proposed project would not include substantial modifications to the existing roadway system in the project area. Consistent with Section 10-4.419 of the OCSMO, all haul truck traffic associated with the project would be limited to approved haul routes. However, given that the proposed project would generate truck traffic on local roadways, further analysis is required to ensure that such traffic would not conflict with established evacuation routes. Therefore, the proposed project could interfere with an emergency evacuation or response plan, and a **potentially significant** impact could occur.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Hazards and Hazardous Materials chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

- g. Issues related to wildfire hazards are discussed in Section XX, Wildfire, of this Initial Study. As noted therein, the project site is not located within a Very High or High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ).<sup>15</sup> In addition, the site is bordered by actively managed agricultural land to the east, CR 22 to the south, and CR 94B to the west. Such features would reduce the potential for wildfire to spread to the project site. Furthermore, the project would not include the development of housing or habitable structures within the project site. The proposed mining activities would reduce total amount of on-site combustible vegetation, thereby preventing fire risks at the nearby residential developments. Upon completion of mining operations, approximately 116 acres of the mining area would be reclaimed to agricultural use, while the remainder of the mining area would be reclaimed to a pond with riparian woodland along the fringes/shoreline.

Therefore, the proposed project would not expose people or structures to the risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands, and a **less-than-significant** impact would occur.

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<sup>14</sup> County of Yolo. *2018 Yolo Operational Area Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan*. December 2018.

<sup>15</sup> California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. *Yolo County, Fire Hazard Severity Zones in LRA*. October 5, 2007.

**X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY.**

*Would the project:*

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
i. Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. 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; or	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv. Impede or redirect flood flows?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion**

- a. Mining and reclamation activities associated with the proposed project would involve the exposure of topsoil due to grading and excavation of the site. During the early phases of mining, the overburden on the site would be removed using scrapers, motor graders and bull dozers. Overburden would be progressively removed ahead of mining and stockpiled in setback areas and internal storage locations until retrieved for reclamation. The top layers of topsoil would be placed in temporary berms and/or stockpiles and seeded with naturalized annual grasses and forbs. As required by Section 10-4.433 of the OCSMO, berms or stockpiles would not exceed 40 feet in height with slopes no steeper than 2:1 horizontal to vertical. The stockpiles would remain a minimum of 100 feet from the top of bank of Cache Creek.

During removal of overburden and subsequent mining activities, the potential exists for wind and water erosion to discharge sediment and/or pollutants into stormwater runoff, which could adversely affect water quality within Cache Creek. In addition, the project would include modifications to the existing RWQCB WDRs for the Woodland Plant facility to allow for the use of fine sediment from aggregate processing (i.e., “fines”) in the eventual reclamation of the project site. The processing fines would be pumped from the Woodland

Plant facility as a slurry (mix of water and fines) and discharged into the mining area/pond in accordance with the requirements of the revised WDRs.

Based on the above, the proposed project could result in the violation of water quality standards and degradation of water quality, and a **potentially significant** impact could occur.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Hydrology and Water Quality chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

- b,e. The proposed project would rely on groundwater supplies to provide dust suppression at the project site and for aggregate processing at the Woodland Plant site. Groundwater would be supplied by two existing wells located at the Woodland Plant site. In addition, the proposed project would result in the exposure of groundwater during creation of the mining pit. Further analysis is required to ensure that such activities would not degrade groundwater quality and would not conflict with Section 10-4.417, Groundwater Monitoring Programs, of the OCSMO. Thus, the proposed project could result in a **potentially significant** impact related to impacts to groundwater.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Hydrology and Water Quality chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

- ci-iii. Mining and reclamation activities associated with the proposed project would alter the existing drainage patterns within the project site. Specifically, the project site would be graded to allow stormwater runoff to collect in the proposed mining pit, where the runoff would gradually percolate or evaporate. At the conclusion of mining, the site would remain contoured such that stormwater runoff would be directed to the reclaimed mining area. New stormwater detention basins would be provided within the western and eastern reclaimed agricultural areas of the site. Thus, stormwater runoff would not leave the site during, or after completion of, the proposed mining activities.

Given the substantial drainage modifications that would occur with the proposed project, further study is required to ensure that such modifications would not result in substantial erosion, siltation, or flooding on- or off-site, 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. Thus, a **potentially significant** impact could occur.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Hydrology and Water Quality chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

- civ,d. The project site is not located near the ocean and, thus, would not be subject to tsunami hazards. In addition, the site is not located within the vicinity of a large closed body of water such as a lake or reservoir that could be subject to risks from seiches. However, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map numbers 06113C0430H and 06113C0440G, the northern portion of the project site is located within a Special Flood Hazard Area subject to a 100-year flooding. In addition, per Figure HS-5 in the General Plan, the project site is located within a Dam Inundation Zone associated with the Indian Valley Reservoir dam. Therefore, the proposed project could result in a **potentially significant** impact related to impeding or redirecting flood

flows, and could pose a risk related to the release of pollutants due to project inundation due to flooding.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Hydrology and Water Quality chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

<b>XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING.</b> <i>Would the project:</i>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than- Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than- Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Physically divide an established community?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion**

a. A project risks dividing an established community if the project would introduce infrastructure or alter land use so as to change the land use conditions in the surrounding community, or isolate an existing land use. Currently, two existing single-family homes are located to the west of the site, and additional single-family development is located to the south and southwest of the site. Given that the proposed project has the potential to alter land use conditions within the project area, a **potentially significant** impact could occur related to physically dividing an established community.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Land Use and Planning chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

b. Per the Yolo County General Plan, the project site is designated AG, and a portion of the site is included in in the Mineral Resource Overlay designation. The site is zoned A-N. The proposed project would include a GPA to extend the Mineral Resource Overlay (MRO) designation to cover the entirety of the project site, and a Rezone to add an SGO to the site, resulting in a zoning designation of A-N/SGO. In addition, the project would include an amendment to the Cache Creek Area Plan to include the project site in the OCMP boundary. Surface mining operations are conditionally allowed in the A-N/SG-O zone with the approval of a Use Permit.

Given that the proposed project would require a GPA and Rezone, further analysis of the project’s consistency with applicable land use policies, plans, and regulations is required to ensure that the project would not cause a significant environmental impact due to conflicts with such standards. Potential inconsistencies to be evaluated in the EIR include, but are not limited to, conflicts with the buffer standards included in the OCSMO, consistency with the CCAP (including planned revisions as part of the ongoing CCAP update), conflicts with the Yolo Fliers Club golf course, and conflicts with the Monument Hill Memorial Park cemetery. Thus, a **potentially significant** impact could occur.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Land Use and Planning chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

**XII. MINERAL RESOURCES.**

*Would the project:*

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
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"/>
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"/>

**Discussion**

a,b. Per the Department of Conservation, the project site is located within Mineral Resource Zone 2 (MRZ-2) and Mineral Resource Zone 3 (MRZ-3), which signifies that the site contains both known significant mineral resources and known mineral deposits that could qualify as mineral resources.<sup>16</sup> Given that the proposed project would including mining of the project site to extract such resources, the proposed project could result in the loss of availability of known mineral resources. Thus, a ***potentially significant*** impact could occur.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

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<sup>16</sup> County of Yolo. 2030 Countywide General Plan [pg. CO-43 to -36]. Amended May 8, 2018.

**XIII. NOISE.**

*Would the project result in:*

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or 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"/>

**Discussion**

- a. The proposed project would include mining of the project site and subsequent reclamation of the site for agriculture and open space uses. Operations associated with the project could potentially increase ambient noise levels due to operation of the proposed electrical conveyor, excavation activities, increased truck traffic on local roadways, and extension of the operational lifetime of the existing Woodland Plant. Noise levels generated by the project may result in exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of established thresholds in the Yolo County General Plan and the County Code of Ordinances, which include noise standards for mining operations in Section 10-4.421 of the OCSMO. The project could cause a substantial permanent, temporary, or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project. Therefore, a **potentially significant** impact could occur.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Noise chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

- b. Human and structural response to different vibration levels is influenced by a number of factors, including ground type, distance between source and receptor, duration, and the number of perceived vibration events. The proposed project could cause elevated vibration due to operation of heavy-duty equipment on the site during earthmoving and mining operations. In the event that such groundborne vibration occurs within the vicinity of the existing sensitive receptors to the west and south of the project site, the project could expose people to or generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels, and a **potentially significant** impact could occur.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Noise chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

- c. The nearest airport to the project site is the privately-owned Watts-Woodland Airport, located southwest of the site across CR 94B. As noted previously, per the Watts-Woodland Airport CLUP, the northwestern portion of the project site north of the Moore Canal lies within Safety Area 2 (Approach-Departure Zone), while the remainder of the



project site lies within Safety Area 3 (Overflight Zone). The proposed project would not include the construction of housing or habitable structures within the site. Therefore, the proposed project would not expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels related to air traffic, and a ***less-than-significant*** impact would occur.

<b>XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING.</b> <i>Would the project:</i>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than- Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than- Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through projects in an undeveloped area or extension of major infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion**

a,b. The proposed project would not include the development of new housing. In addition, employees required for the proposed mining operations would be transferred from the existing Esparto Plant. Thus, while the project would employ approximately 24 workers, such employees would not result in an increase of the overall workforce associated with aggregate mining and processing in the project area. With the proposed transfer of the Esparto production allotment to the Woodland Plant, total employment at the Woodland Plant under peak production would consist of 52 people, including 40 operating engineers, two teamsters, two laborers, and eight clerical staff.

In addition, the project site is located adjacent to the existing Woodland Plant facility, and other approved mining sites are located within close proximity to the site (see Figure 3). Thus, the project would not be located within an undeveloped area. The project would not require the extension of major infrastructure; as discussed previously, water supplies required for project operations would be provided by existing wells at the Woodland Plant, and the project would not require connections to public wastewater or stormwater infrastructure. Furthermore, given that the project site is currently used for agricultural production and does not contain any existing habitable structures, the project would not displace existing people housing.

Therefore, the proposed project would not induce substantial unplanned population growth in the project area, either directly or indirectly, and would not displace substantial numbers of existing housing or people such that replacement housing would be required elsewhere in the County. Thus, a ***less-than-significant*** impact would occur.

**XV. PUBLIC SERVICES.**

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

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Fire protection?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Police protection?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Parks?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Other Public Facilities?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion**

- a,b. Fire protection services within the project area are provided by the Willow Oak Fire Protection District. The nearest fire station is located directly south of the project site at 18111 CR 94B. Police protection services in the project area are provided by the Yolo County Sheriff’s Office, headquartered at 140 Tony Diaz Drive in the City of Woodland, approximately 8.5 miles east of the project site.

The proposed project would consist of mining and subsequent reclamation activities at the project site. Further analysis is required to determine whether the operations associated with the project would increase demand for fire or police protection services. Therefore, in the absence of further analysis, the proposed project could have a **potentially significant** impact related to the need for new or physically altered fire or police protection facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Public Services, Utilities, and Service Systems chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

- c. The proposed project would not include the construction of new homes and, thus, would not introduce new residents to the project area. As such, the project would not result in increased demand for schools. Therefore, the proposed project would have a **less-than-significant** impact related to the need for new or physically altered schools, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts.

- d.e. The project would include the preparation of a development agreement between the applicant and the County, which would include certain net public benefits, (referred to as “net gains”) such as land dedications and reclamation enhancements agreed to among the parties that will be analyzed in the EIR. The County typically seeks to achieve net gains in the following categories: dedication of property; construction of open space improvements (such as trails, staging areas, habitat restoration, etc.); commitments to provide additional program funding; sales tax place of sale agreements; and other public benefits. Given that the proposed project could potentially include the construction of recreation facilities, further analysis is required to ensure that adverse effects to the environment would not occur. Thus, the proposed project could result in a **potentially**

**significant** impact related to the need for new or physically altered parks and other public facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Public Services, Utilities, and Service Systems chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

**XVI. RECREATION.**  
*Would the project:*

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

**Discussion**

- a. Given that the proposed project would not include residential development and would not induce population growth within the project area, the project would not result in increased demand for park and recreation facilities. Therefore, the project would not result in substantial physical deterioration of any existing neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities. Consequently, a **less-than-significant** impact would occur.
- b. As discussed under Section XV, Public Services, the development agreement to be prepared between the project applicant and the County may include construction of recreation facilities. Thus, the proposed project could result in a **potentially significant** impact related to construction or expansion of recreational facilities.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Public Services, Utilities, and Service Systems chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

**XVII. TRANSPORTATION.**

*Would the project:*

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric 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"/>
d. Result in inadequate emergency access?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion**

- a. The proposed project would result in vehicle traffic on local roadways in the project area associated with worker and haul truck trips. Vehicle trip generation associated with the project would essentially replace trip generation associated with the existing Esparto Plant and, thus, the project is not expected to result in a substantial net increase in traffic volumes at area roadway segments and intersections. Nonetheless, further study is required to ensure that project traffic would not be substantial in relation to the existing and/or planned future year traffic load and capacity of the roadway system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections). In addition, the project could exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service (LOS) standard established by the County General Plan for roads affected by project traffic. Therefore, the project could result in a **potentially significant** impact related to conflicting with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Transportation chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

- b. Section 15064.3 of the CEQA Guidelines provides specific considerations for evaluating a project's transportation impacts. Per Section 15064.3, analysis of vehicle miles travelled (VMT) attributable to a project is the most appropriate measure of transportation impacts. Other relevant considerations may include the effects of the project on transit and non-motorized travel. Except as provided in Section 15064.3(b)(2) regarding roadway capacity, a project's effect on automobile delay does not constitute a significant transportation impact under CEQA. However, as noted under question 'a' above, evaluation of LOS will be provided in the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR in order to ensure consistency with the County's General Plan.

Given that the proposed project would result in increased vehicle trip generation on local roadways, further analysis of VMT attributable to the project is required to ensure that the project would not conflict with Section 15064.3(b) of the CEQA Guidelines. Thus, a **potentially significant** impact could occur.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Transportation chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

- c,d. In order to allow mining equipment to move between the Woodland Plant site and the project site, an over-crossing of the relocated Moore Canal would be constructed as part of the proposed project. Aggregate trucks would continue to access the Woodland Plant site by way of the existing entrance on CR 20. Given that the project would not alter access along the existing roadways in the site vicinity, the project would not substantially increase hazards due to introduction of a geometric design feature. In addition, aggregate truck traffic to and from the Woodland Plant site would continue to be required to use designated haul routes of CR 20, CR 96, and SR 16 to and from Interstates 5 and 505. Local deliveries would continue to use other local roadways. Thus, the project would not introduce a new incompatible use to local roadways. Furthermore, the proposed over-crossing connecting to the Woodland Plant site would provide adequate emergency access to the project site.

Nonetheless, project truck traffic on local County roads could result in potential safety impacts, as well as degradation of existing roadway surfaces due to increased wear and tear. Therefore, the proposed project could substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment), and could result in inadequate emergency access. Thus, a **potentially significant** impact could occur.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Transportation chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

**XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES.**

*Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American Tribe, and that is:*

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k).	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion**

a,b. As part of the Cultural Resource Assessment prepared for the proposed project, a search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File was prepared for the project site.<sup>17</sup> The search of the Sacred Lands File did not yield any information regarding the presence of Tribal Cultural Resources within the project site or the immediate area. In addition, as discussed in Section V of this Initial Study, the project site has been subject to continual disturbance associated with ongoing agricultural activities.

In compliance with California Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21080.3.1(also known as Assembly Bill (AB) 52), a project notification letter was distributed on December 18, 2019 to various tribes that have requested such notification. On January 10, 2019, the Yocha Dehe Yintun Nation responded with a request to initiate formal consultation on the project. Consultation efforts between the County and the Yoche Dehe Wintun Nation are ongoing.

Based on the history of disturbance at the project site and the lack of identified cultural resources at the site, known Tribal Cultural Resources do not likely exist within the proposed project site. Nevertheless, the possibility exists that construction of the proposed project could result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of a Tribal Cultural Resource if previously unknown cultural resources are uncovered during grading or other ground-disturbing activities. Thus, a **potentially significant** impact to tribal cultural resources could occur.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Cultural Resources chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

<sup>17</sup> Peak & Associates, Inc. *Cultural Resource Assessment for the Shifler Mining and Reclamation Project, Yolo County, California.* January 2015.



**XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS.**

*Would the project:*

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion**

- a. Currently, water for ongoing agricultural activities at the project site is provided by the YCFCWCD by way of the Moore Canal, which would continue to supply agricultural water to the site during the proposed mining activities and after reclamation of the site. As part of the proposed project the Moore Canal would be relocated to follow the western and northern boundary of the proposed project site. The applicant is proposing that the relocated canal be located a minimum of 200-feet from the existing top bank of Cache Creek, and the reclaimed mining slopes within 50-feet of the relocated canal will have 3:1 slopes. The relocated Moore Canal would be concrete-lined and have an access road on each side for periodic maintenance by the YCFCWCD. In addition to the relocation of Moore Canal, the project would include construction of on-site stormwater management facilities and connection to existing electrical infrastructure in the project area.

The project would not require the relocation or construction of new wastewater treatment infrastructure, as portable toilet facilities would be provided at the project site and existing portable toilet facilities would continue to be used at the adjacent Woodland Plant. In addition, connection to existing natural gas or telecommunications infrastructure would not be required for the proposed mining and reclamation activities.

Based on the above, the proposed project would not require the relocation or construction of new wastewater treatment, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities. However, the project could result in a **potentially significant** impact related to requiring or resulting in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, storm water drainage, or electric

power facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Public Services, Utilities, and Service Systems chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

- b. As discussed in Section X, Hydrology and Water Quality, of this Initial Study, the proposed project would rely on groundwater supplies to provide dust suppression at the project site and for aggregate processing at the Woodland Plant site. Groundwater would be supplied by two existing wells located at the Woodland Plant site. Further analysis is necessary to ensure that adequate groundwater supplies would be available to serve the project. Therefore, the proposed project could result in a **potentially significant** impact related to having sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years.

*Further analysis of the above impact will be included in the Public Services, Utilities, and Service Systems chapter of the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

- c. As noted above, portable toilet facilities would be provided at the project site and existing portable toilet facilities would continue to be used at the adjacent Woodland Plant. The project would not require connection to public wastewater conveyance and treatment infrastructure. On-site portable toilets would be maintained by a private third-party servicer under contract with the project applicant. Wastewater generated by the project would be hauled to a wastewater treatment plant with adequate capacity and disposed of in accordance with all applicable federal, State, and local regulations. Given that the proposed project would include approximately 28 employees and would not be accessible to the general public, the total quantity of wastewater generated by the project would not be substantial. Furthermore, any increase in wastewater generation occurring as a result of the project would be offset by equivalent reductions in wastewater generation due to planned closure of the nearby Schwarzgruber mining site.

Based on the above, the proposed project would not be served by a wastewater treatment provider, and a **less-than-significant** impact would occur related to wastewater treatment capacity.

- d,e. The proposed mining and reclamation activities would not generate a substantial quantity of solid waste. In addition, any minor increases in solid waste generation occurring as a result of the proposed project would be offset by equivalent reductions in solid waste generation due to planned closure of the nearby Schwarzgruber mining site.

Based on the above, the proposed project would not generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals and would comply with federal, State, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Therefore, a **less-than-significant** impact related to solid waste would occur as a result of the proposed project.

**XX. WILDFIRE.**

*If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:*

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>✘</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>✘</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>✘</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>✘</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion**

a-d. According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Fire and Resource Assessment Program, the project site is not located within or near a Very High or High FHSZ.<sup>18</sup> Only the northernmost portion of the site adjacent to Cache Creek is mapped as a Moderate FHSZ, while the remainder of the site is not located within a FHSZ. In addition, the site is bordered by actively managed agricultural land to the east, CR 22 to the south, and CR 94B to the west. Such features would reduce the potential for wildfire to spread to the project site. Furthermore, the project would not include the development of housing or habitable structures within the project site. Thus, the proposed project would not be expected to be subject to or result in substantial adverse effects related to wildfires, and a **less-than-significant** impact would occur.

<sup>18</sup> California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. *Yolo County, Fire Hazard Severity Zones in LRA*. October 5, 2007.

<b>XXI.MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.</b>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Does the project have the potential to substantially 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"/>
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"/>
c. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion**

a. As discussed in Section IV, Biological Resources, of this Initial Study, the proposed project could potentially result in impacts to special-status plant and wildlife species and other biological resources. Thus, implementation of the proposed project could have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment by potentially reducing the habitat for special-status plant and animal species. In addition, the project could have a substantial adverse effect on riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities, including oak woodlands. Furthermore, as noted in Section V, the existing on-site Moore Canal, which would be relocated as part of the project, could be eligible for inclusion in the CRHP. As such, and in the absence of further study, the project could eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. Thus, a ***potentially significant*** impact could occur.

*Further analysis of the above impacts will be included in the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

b. The proposed project in conjunction with other development within Yolo County could incrementally contribute to cumulative impacts in the project area. In particular, as discussed in Section III, Air Quality, of this Initial Study, the proposed project could cumulatively contribute to regional air quality health effects through emissions of criteria and mobile source air pollutants. Per Section VIII, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, mining and reclamation activities associated with proposed project would contribute to increases of GHG emissions that are associated with global climate change, and impacts related to GHG emissions and global climate change could be cumulatively considerable. Thus, a ***potentially significant*** impact could occur.

*Further analysis of the above impacts will be included in the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*

- c. As described in this Initial Study, implementation of the proposed project could result in impacts related to air quality, hazardous materials, and excess noise levels. As such, in the absence of further study, the project could cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, and a **potentially significant** impact could occur.

*Further analysis of the above impacts will be included in the Shifler Mining & Reclamation Project EIR being prepared for the project.*