YOLO COUNTY CENTRAL LANDFILL PERMIT REVISIONS

Response to Comments Document
Final Environmental Impact Report

SCH No. 2020080465

October 2021

Prepared for:

Yolo County Department of Community Services
292 W. Beamer Street
Woodland, CA 95695

Prepared by:

RCH GROUP
planning & environmental consulting

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Submitted by:

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YOLO COUNTY CENTRAL LANDFILL PERMIT REVISIONS RESPONSE TO COMMENTS DOCUMENT – FINAL EIR

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CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE OF THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

The Yolo County Central Landfill Permit Revisions Draft Environmental Impact Report (SCH #2020080465) was released for public review and comment in July 2021. After completion of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR), the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires the Lead Agency to consult with and obtain comments from public agencies that have legal jurisdiction with respect to the proposed project, and to provide the general public with opportunities to comment on the Draft EIR. CEQA also requires the Lead Agency to respond to significant environmental issues raised in the review and consultation process. The Lead Agency for the Yolo County Central Landfill Permit Revisions EIR is the Yolo County Department of Community Services.

The Yolo County Central Landfill Permit Revisions Draft EIR (SCH#2020080465) was released for a 45-day public review and comment period beginning July 30, 2021 and ending September 9, 2021. The Draft EIR was made available to responsible agencies, trustee agencies, state agencies with jurisdiction by law, and interested parties and individuals. The County held a public meeting on August 18, 2021, to receive verbal comments on the Draft EIR. This document has been prepared to respond to agency and public comments received on the Draft EIR. Together with the Draft EIR, this document constitutes the Final EIR for the project.

The Final EIR is an informational document prepared by the Lead Agency that must be considered by decision-makers before approving or denying a proposed project. As specified in CEQA Guidelines (Section 15132), the Final EIR shall consist of (a) the Draft EIR or a revision of the Draft; (b) comments and recommendations received on the Draft EIR either verbatim or in summary; (c) a list of persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the Draft EIR; (d) the responses of the Lead Agency to significant environmental points raised in the review and consultation process; and (e) any other information added by the Lead Agency.

B. REPORT ORGANIZATION

Chapter 2 of this document contains a list of persons who submitted written comments, and a list of persons who submitted oral comments at the public hearing on August 18, 2021. Chapter 3 of this document contains copies of comments received during the comment period and responses to those comments. Each comment is numbered in the margin of the comment letter. Responses to all written comments are found in the page immediately following the letter. The written comments and responses are referenced alphanumerically by letter and comment number; the

written comment letters are coded alphabetically A through C. For example, the first comment in the first Response to Comments letter (from the Regional Water Quality Control Board) is Letter A. The oral comment and response is referenced as Letter D. Chapter 4 of this document contains changes to the Draft EIR. Text changes to the DEIR are shown in underline for additions and ~~strikethrough~~ for deletions. Text changes are organized sequentially according to the page in the Draft EIR on which the text is changed.

C. PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Project Description has not changed since the publication of the Draft EIR in July 2021, nor have the impacts or mitigations changed because of the comments on the Draft EIR. **Figure 1** is the project location map, **Figure 2** is the existing Site Plan and **Figure 3** is the proposed Site Plan. For reader convenience, an overview of the Project (from the Draft EIR Notice of Availability) is repeated below, followed by Table 1 from the Draft EIR. Table 1 includes all the impacts evaluated in the Draft EIR, the recommended Mitigation Measures and the determination of impact significance.

Yolo County (County) is the Lead Agency for the preparation and review of the Draft EIR for the YCCL Permit Revisions (Project). The Project evaluated in the Draft EIR consists of several changes to YCCL's existing operations and permits including but not limited to the Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP), Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District Permits, and Waste Discharge Requirements. One aspect of the Project, development of a non-specific future off-site borrow area, may also require a mining permit under the state Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) and Yolo County's Agricultural Surface Mining and Reclamation Ordinance. The Project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because the Project requires several discretionary actions by public bodies.

The YCCL is a municipal solid waste (MSW) facility located in unincorporated Yolo County about two miles northeast of Davis, and five miles southeast of Woodland, near the intersection of County Roads 28H and 104. The site covers 725 acres and has been in operation since 1975. The YCCL is owned by Yolo County and operated by the County's Department of Community Services, Division of Integrated Waste Management (DIWM). The landfill is open seven days per week and accepts non-hazardous MSW, green waste and food waste, construction and demolition debris, liquid waste and recyclables.

The Project would be undertaken to allow the County greater flexibility in developing and implementing processes and operations that would reduce waste from the landfill, reduce environmental impacts of landfill operations, decrease greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, increase the recovery of materials and energy from waste, operate more efficiently and economically, and extend the facility's lifespan. Proposed changes to the design and operation of the YCCL that constitute the Project, and which were analyzed in the Draft EIR, include the following:

1. Increased Daily Permitted Tonnage
2. Wood Pellet Facility
3. Large Scale Floating Solar Photovoltaic System

4. Solar Photovoltaic System on Closed Landfill Units
5. Waste Gasification Facility
6. Expanded Biogas Utilization Options
7. Peaking Power Plant
8. New Class 2 Surface Impoundment
9. Organic Waste Fertilizer Facility
10. Stormwater Treatment System and Discharge
11. Additional Groundwater Pumping (Possible Treatment and Discharge)
12. Transfer Station
13. Non-Specific Future Off-Site Borrow Area
14. Thermal Pressure Hydrolysis System
15. Biogas to Methanol Pilot Facility

The Project alternatives evaluated in the Draft EIR included:

Alternative 1: No Project Alternative
Alternative 2: Reduced Tonnage Alternative
Alternative 3: Reduced Footprint Alternative

Adoption of the Project will require the following actions by the County:

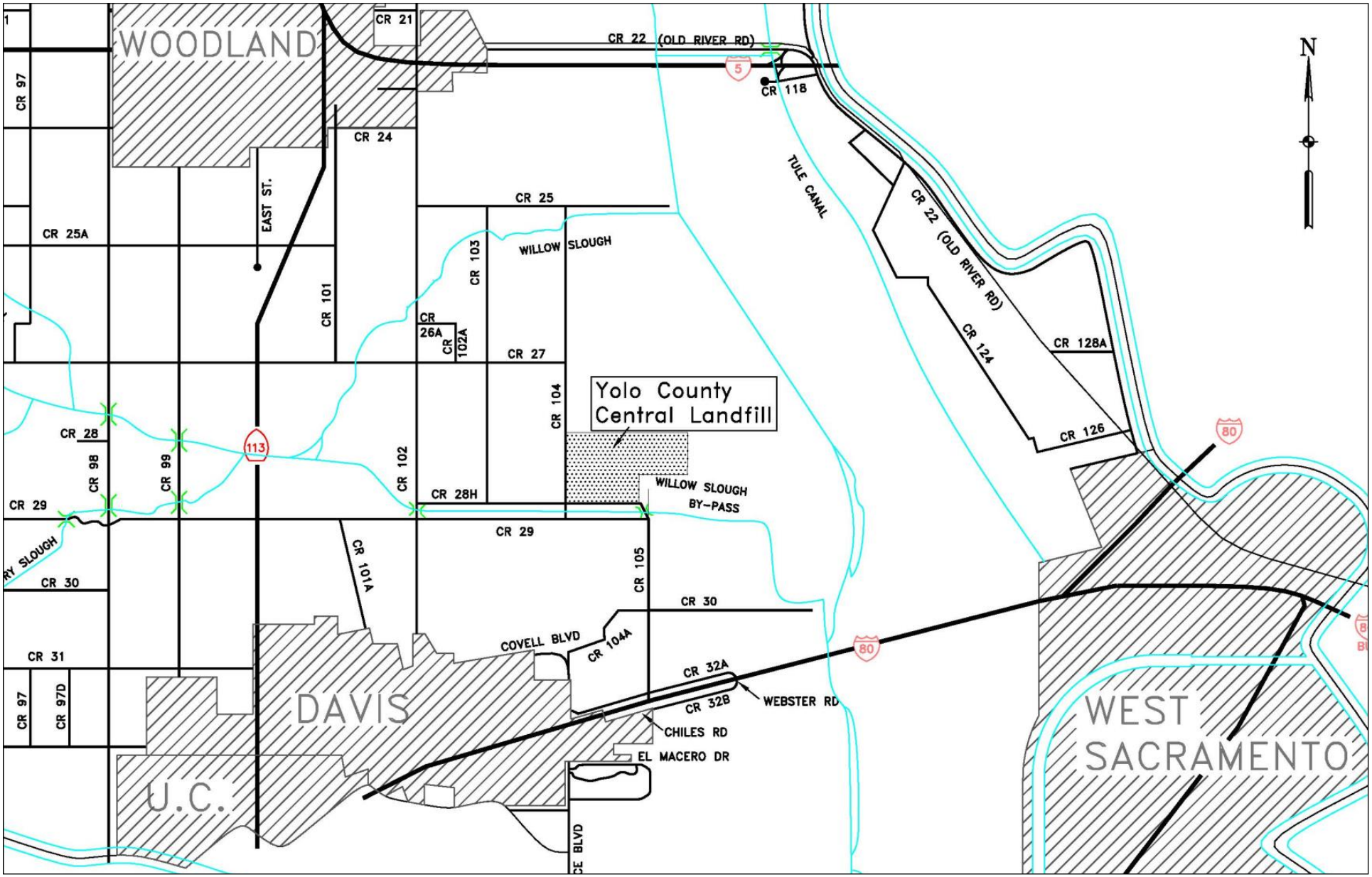
- Certification of the Final EIR for the Project;
- Adoption of a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP), Findings, and Statement of Overriding Considerations;
- Approval of the Site Plan; Other County permits such as Building and Grading Permits related to individual Project elements; possibly an agricultural surface mining and reclamation permit related to the non-specific future off-site borrow area.

Adoption of the Project will require the following actions by Other Government Agencies:

- CalRecycle must concur with the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA)'s decision to approve the SWFP Revision. Yolo County Environmental Health Division is the LEA for Yolo County.
- The Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District requires an Authority to Construct/ Permit to Operate (ATC/PTO) for equipment that emits air pollution related to the operation of the Project. Project elements may require revisions to current air quality permits for YCCL or additional air quality permits.
- The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) requires Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for operations that discharge water to land. The proposed Class 2 Surface impoundment would require WDRs. Construction activities would require coverage under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) State Construction General Permit. Ongoing operations, including any new wastewater discharges,

would be required to be covered under the Yolo Landfill NPDES Industrial General Permit. The groundwater pumping/treatment discharges would likely require site specific WDRs.

The Draft EIR analyzed impacts in the areas of Aesthetics/Visual, Land Use, Planning and Agriculture, Air Quality (including Odors), Biological Resources, Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources, Energy, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Public Health and Safety, Geology and Soils, Hydrology and Water Quality, Wildfire, Noise, Transportation, Public Services, Utilities and Service Systems, Cumulative Impacts, and Other CEQA-Required Analysis. Significant impacts are identified for Land Use, Planning, and Agriculture. The Draft EIR (Section ES.4 and Section 3.2, Impact 3.2.2) identified the conversion of agricultural land to a non-agricultural use (the offsite borrow area) as a significant and unavoidable project impact as well as a significant and unavoidable cumulative impact.



Source: Yolo County Community Services Department, 2020

Figure 1
Project Location Map

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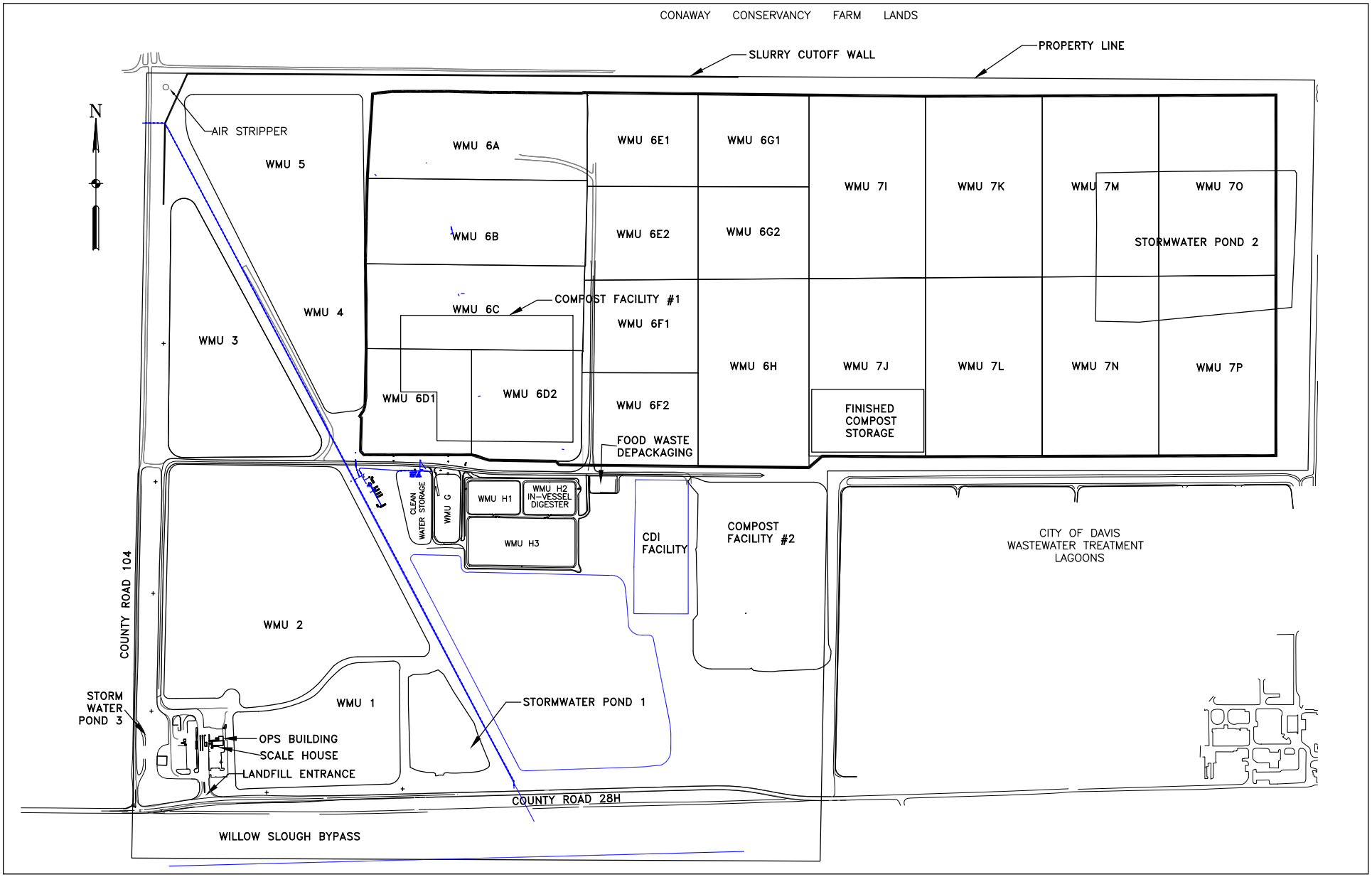

Source: Yolo County Community Services Department, 2021

Figure 2 Existing Site Plan

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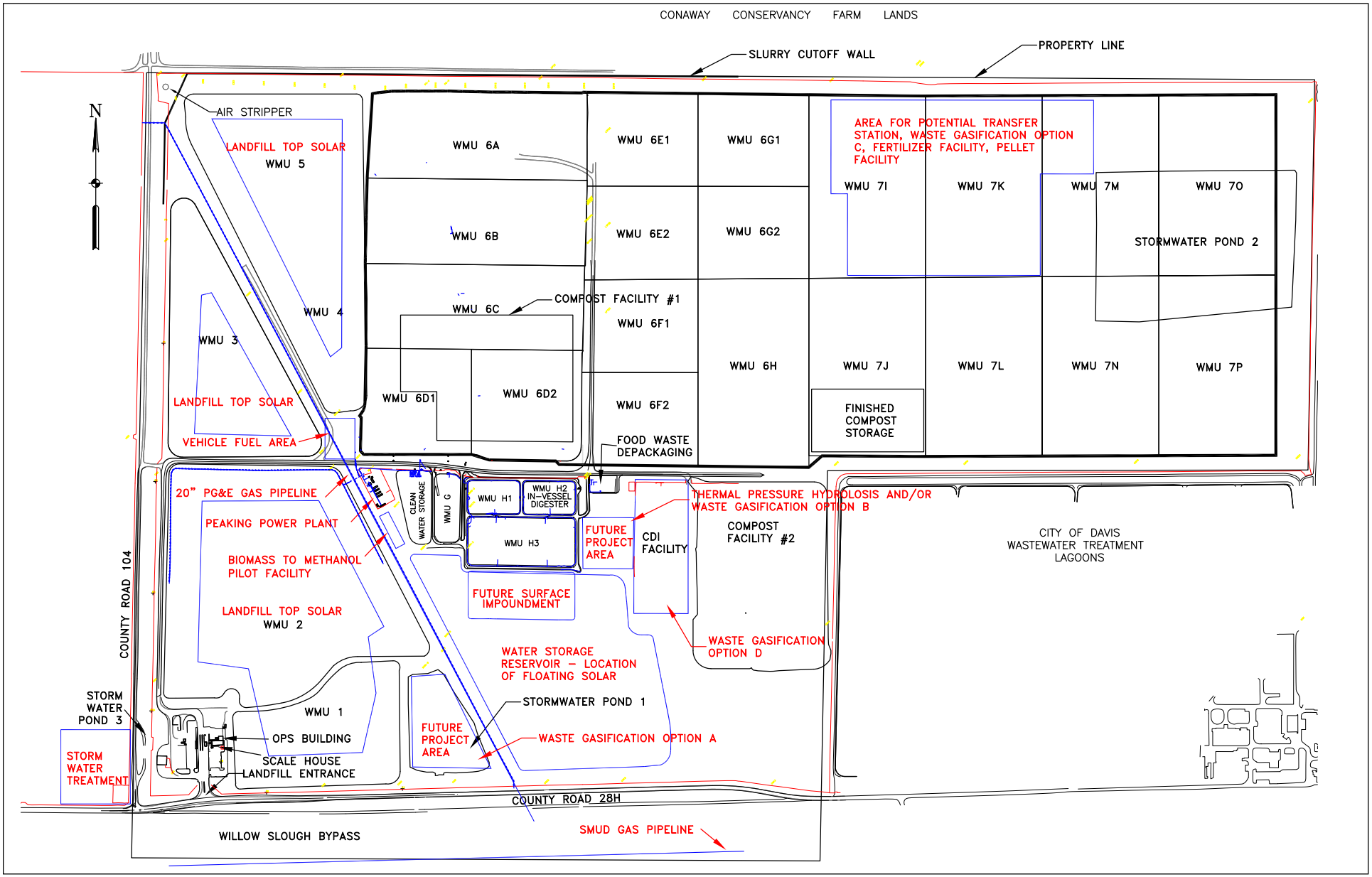

Source: Yolo County Community Services Department, 2021

Figure 3
Proposed Site Plan

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TABLE 1. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Impact	Mitigation Measure	Impact Significance	
		Before Mitigation	After Mitigation
3.1 AESTHETICS/VISUAL			
Impact 3.1.1: The Project could affect views from Vantage Point 1, views from Wildhorse Golf Course and adjacent recreational use path on the outskirts of the City of Davis, approximately 1.5 miles southwest of the southern edge of the YCCL, looking northeast.	None required.	LS	LS
Impact 3.1.2: The Project could affect views from Vantage Point 2 and Vantage Point 3, views from the intersection of Road 27 and Road 104, approximately 1 mile north of the northern boundary of the YCCL, looking southeast.	None required.	LS	LS
Impact 3.1.3: The Project could affect views from Vantage Point 4, views from Road 103, approximately 1 mile west of the western edge of the YCCL, looking east.	None required.	LS	LS
Impact 3.1.4: The Project could affect views from Vantage Point 5, views from south of Willow Slough Bypass, approximately 600 feet south of the southern edge of the YCCL, looking north.	None required.	LS	LS
Impact 3.1.5: The Project could affect views from Vantage Point 6, views from Road 30B, approximately 1.5 miles south of the southern boundary of the YCCL, looking north.	None required.	LS	LS
Impact 3.1.6: The Project activities at the YCCL could result in creation of increased amounts of windblown litter leaving the site.	None required.	LS	LS
Impact 3.1.7: The Project elements at the YCCL could result in creation of a new sources of light and glare.	**Mitigation Measure 3.1.7:** New lighting for Project Elements shall be arranged and controlled so as not to illuminate public rights of way or adjacent properties (i.e., downward facing lighting fixtures, dark sky friendly lighting fixtures, etc.).	S	LSM
Impact 3.1.8: Development of a non-specific off-site soil borrow area could degrade the visual character of the vicinity near the selected site.	**Mitigation Measure 3.1.8a:** Consistent with 2030 Yolo County General Plan Policy CC-1.8, development of the future off-site borrow area shall include visual screening along highways, freeways, roads, and trails. Visual screening could include retaining existing trees and vegetation, new landscaping or screen trees, or another option approved by the County. **Mitigation Measure 3.1.8b:** The off-site borrow area shall implement hours of operation that reduce or eliminate adverse effects of the off-site borrow area nighttime activities on nearby sensitive receptors, or operations controls such as directed lighting.	S	LSM

KEY: S - Significant SU – Significant and Unavoidable LS – Less than Significant LSM – Less than Significant with Mitigation NI – No Impact

TABLE 1. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES (CONTINUED)

Impact	Mitigation Measure	Impact Significance	
		Before Mitigation	After Mitigation
3.2 LAND USE, PLANNING AND AGRICULTURE			
Impact 3.2.1: Development of an off-site borrow area could result in conflicts with agricultural uses or Williamson Act contract.	**Mitigation Measure 3.2.1a:** The County shall site the off-site borrow area in a location not zoned or designated as agriculture land to the extent feasible. In the event that the only feasible off-site borrow area is zoned or designated as agricultural land, the County shall re-zone and re-designate the off-site borrow area site (to PQP and PQ, respectively) so the use of the site would not conflict with the land use designation.	S	LSM
Impact 3.2.2: Development of an off-site borrow area could result in conversion of farmland (including Prime Farmland, and non-prime farmland mapped as Unique Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance) to non-agricultural use.	**Mitigation Measure 3.2.2:** The County shall not locate the off-site borrow area or areas on agriculture farmland identified as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, to the extent feasible. The California Department of Conservation's "important farmlands" designation shall be used to identify the areas mapped as Prime, Unique, or Farmland of Statewide Importance. If the off-site borrow area includes Prime, Unique, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, then the County shall comply with the Agricultural Conservation and Mitigation Program, which requires up to three (3) acres of agricultural land shall be preserved for each acre of prime farmland converted to a predominantly non-agricultural use or zoning classification (3:1 ratio), or up to two (2) acres of agricultural land shall be preserved for each acre of non-prime farmland converted to a predominantly non-agricultural use or zoning classification (2:1 ratio). If the Project is determined exempt per Yolo County Code Sec. 8-2.404(c)(2)(ii), a minimum of one (1) acre of agricultural land shall be preserved for each acre of prime or non-prime farmland converted at the off-site borrow area to a predominantly non-agricultural use (1:1 ratio).	S	SU
3.3 AIR QUALITY			
Impact 3.3.1: Project construction activities could result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of emissions of criteria air pollutants and precursors.	**Mitigation Measure 3.3.1:** The following shall be implemented during Project construction ground disturbing activities: • Active construction sites shall be watered at least twice daily. • Vehicles on unpaved roads shall be limited to 15 mph.	S	LSM
Impact 3.3.2: Project-related mobile sources during operation could result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of emissions of criteria air pollutants and precursors.	**Mitigation Measure 3.3.2:** For Project elements planned to be operational before year 2030 (i.e. construction permits are approved) an updated emissions inventory shall be performed prior to operation in order to determine if NOx emissions from implemented Project element mobile sources exceed the YSAQMD's annual NOx threshold of significance. If the updated emissions inventory concludes that NOx emissions from Project mobile sources exceed the YSAQMD annual NOx threshold of significance, the County shall decrease annual NOx emissions from Project mobile sources to below the YSAQMD's threshold of significance. Methods to decrease annual NOx emissions from Project mobile sources include but are not limited to: • Use of alternatively fueled (electric, natural gas, etc.) off-road equipment and on-road heavy trucks. • Replacement of older vehicles and heavy equipment at YCCL with newer vehicles and heavy equipment with lower NOx emissions.	S	LSM

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TABLE 1. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES (CONTINUED)

Impact	Mitigation Measure	Impact Significance	
		Before Mitigation	After Mitigation
3.3 AIR QUALITY (cont.)			
Impact 3.3.2 (cont.)	• Replacement of older vehicles or heavy equipment at other locations in the County to offset NOx emissions below the YSAQMD's threshold of significance. • Another method approved by the County that would reduce annual NOx emissions in the YSAQMD such as purchasing offsets.		
Impact 3.3.3: Project operation of stationary sources could result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of emissions of criteria air pollutants and precursors, and/or could expose sensitive receptors to substantial concentrations of TACs.	None required.	LS	LS
Impact 3.3.4: Project-related on-road heavy trucks could expose sensitive receptors to substantial concentrations of TACs.	None required.	LS	LS
Impact 3.3.5: Project operations could generate odors that could adversely affect a substantial number of people.	None required.	LS	LS
3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES			
Impact 3.4.1: Temporary disturbance of potential giant garter snake habitat.	**Mitigation Measure 3.4.1a: Install and Maintain Exclusion and Construction Barrier Fencing between the Construction Area and Suitable Giant Garter Snake Habitat** The construction specifications shall require that YCCL retain an agency-approved biologist to identify the suitable giant garter snake aquatic and upland habitat that are to be avoided during construction. To reduce the likelihood of giant garter snakes entering the construction area, YCCL shall install exclusion fencing to the extent practicable along the boundary of the Project area and around the proposed staging area. The exclusion fencing shall be installed during the active period for giant garter snakes (May 1–October 1) to reduce the potential for injury and mortality during construction activities. Where access is required into and out of the Project area and staging areas the fencing shall be opened to allow traffic in and out but shall be closed at the end of each workday. The exclusion fencing shall be installed the maximum distance practicable from the aquatic habitat areas and shall be in place before construction activities (including any vegetation removal or equipment staging) are initiated. The exclusion fencing shall consist of 3-foot-tall silt fencing buried 4–6 inches below ground level. The exclusion fencing shall ensure that giant garter snakes are excluded from the construction area and that suitable upland and aquatic habitat is protected throughout construction. In addition to the exclusion fencing, orange construction barrier fencing shall also be installed that is commercial-quality, 4-foot-high, woven polypropylene (Tensor Polygrid or equivalent) or signs indicating a sensitive resource area placed approximately every 10 feet along exclusion fencing. The construction barrier fencing shall be tightly strung on posts with a maximum of 10-foot spacing. The orange construction barrier fencing can be attached to the exclusion fencing or the exclusion fencing can double as construction barrier fencing if it is orange in color and at least 4 feet tall.	S	LSM

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TABLE 1. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES (CONTINUED)

Impact	Mitigation Measure	Impact Significance	
		Before Mitigation	After Mitigation
3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (cont.)			
Impact 3.4.1 (cont.)	The fencing requirements shall be included in the construction specifications, and an agency-approved biological monitor shall be onsite to direct and monitor exclusion fence installation. The biological monitor shall be responsible for ensuring that the contractor maintains the protective fencing around giant garter snake habitat throughout construction. Weekly monitoring summary reports shall be provided to YCCL and applicable wildlife agencies, as necessary. **Mitigation Measure 3.4.1b: Conduct Environmental Awareness Training for Construction Employees** YCCL shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct environmental awareness training for construction crews before project implementation. The awareness training shall be provided to all construction personnel and shall brief personnel on the need to avoid effects on sensitive biological resources (i.e., non-wetland waters, giant garter snake and other special-status species habitats in and adjacent to the construction area, and active bird nests). The education program shall include a brief review of the special-status species with the potential to occur in the Project area (including their life history, habitat requirements, and photographs of the species). The training shall identify the portions of the Project area in which the species may occur, as well as their legal status and protection. The program also shall cover the relevant permit conditions and mitigation measures that must be followed by all construction personnel to reduce or avoid effects on these resources during project implementation through completion. The training shall emphasize the role that the construction crew plays in identifying and reporting any special-status species observations to the onsite biologist. Training shall identify the steps to be taken if a special-status species is found within the construction area (i.e., notifying the crew foreman, who would call the designated biologist). An environmental awareness handout that describes and illustrates sensitive resources to be avoided during project construction and identifies all relevant permit conditions shall be provided to each crew member. The crew foreman shall be responsible for ensuring that crew members adhere to the guidelines and restrictions. Education programs shall be conducted for appropriate new personnel as they are brought on the job. **Mitigation Measure 3.4.1c: Minimize Potential Impacts of Dewatering on Giant Garter Snake** YCCL shall implement the following measures to minimize potential impacts from dewatering aquatic giant garter snake habitat. • Areas with sufficient standing water shall be inspected for the presence of giant garter snakes by the agency-approved biologist immediately prior to dewatering. The approved biologist shall monitor the dewatering activity until the biologist determines that monitoring is no longer needed (e.g. once the work area is fully dewatered and once exclusion fencing has been installed).		

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TABLE 1. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES (CONTINUED)

Impact	Mitigation Measure	Impact Significance	
		Before Mitigation	After Mitigation
3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (cont.)			
Impact 3.4.1 (cont.)	• Work areas shall be sufficiently dry (no standing water) prior to excavating or filling of the dewatered habitat. Dewatered habitat must remain dry, with no water puddles remaining, for at least 15 consecutive days prior to excavating or filling of the habitat. If a site cannot be completely dewatered, netting and salvage of giant garter snake prey items may be necessary to discourage use by snakes. • If the work areas are not fully drained prior to construction due to existing site conditions (e.g., low water table that causes infiltration back into the work area), the approved biologist shall survey the work area for snakes each morning prior to construction activities in the channel. **Mitigation Measures 3.4.1d: Minimize Potential Impacts on Giant Garter Snakes and their Habitat** YCCL shall implement the following measures to minimize potential impacts on giant garter snakes and their habitat. These measures are consistent with the avoidance and minimization measures (AMMs) identified in the Yolo HCP/NCCP. • All construction activities that involve disturbance within giant garter snake habitat shall be confined to the snake's active season, May 1 through October 1. During this period, the potential for direct mortality is reduced because snakes are expected to move and avoid danger. • Construction vehicles shall observe the posted speed limit on hard-surfaced roads and a 10-mile-per-hour speed limit on unpaved roads during travel in the Project area. • Construction vehicles and equipment shall restrict off-road travel to the designated construction areas. • Construction vehicles and equipment left onsite overnight shall be thoroughly inspected each day for snakes (both underneath the vehicles and in open cabs) before they are moved. • All food-related trash shall be disposed of in closed containers and removed from the construction area daily during the construction period. Construction personnel shall not feed or otherwise attract fish or wildlife to the construction site. • No pets or firearms shall be allowed in the construction area. • To avoid entrapment of wildlife, all excavated steep-walled holes or trenches more than one foot deep shall either be properly covered or provided with one or more escape ramps constructed of earth fill or wooden planks at the end of each workday. If left open overnight, the hole or trench shall be inspected by the onsite biological monitor prior to it being backfilled. • To prevent possible resource damage from hazardous materials such as motor oil or gasoline, construction personnel shall not service vehicles or construction equipment within 200 feet of wet canals. If servicing is required, the area shall be properly contained to prevent runoff of contaminants.		

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TABLE 1. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES (CONTINUED)

Impact	Mitigation Measure	Impact Significance	
		Before Mitigation	After Mitigation
3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (cont.)			
Impact 3.4.1 (cont.)	• Maintain water quality and limit construction runoff into wetland areas through the use of hay bales, filter fences, vegetative buffer strips, or other accepted practices. No plastic, monofilament, jute, or similar erosion-control matting that could entangle snakes or other wildlife shall be permitted. **Mitigation Measure 3.4.1e: Conduct Preconstruction Surveys and Monitoring for Giant Garter Snake** YCCL shall conduct preconstruction surveys and monitoring for giant garter snake and shall implement the following measures: • Within 24 hours prior to ground-disturbing activities within suitable giant garter aquatic and upland habitat (undeveloped areas within 200 feet of suitable aquatic habitat), an agency-approved biologist shall conduct a preconstruction clearance survey for giant garter snake. If construction activities stop for a period of two weeks or more, conduct another preconstruction clearance survey within 24 hours prior to resuming construction activity. • A USFWS-approved biologist shall be onsite during initial ground disturbing activities within suitable aquatic and upland habitat to monitor construction activities and ensure that giant garter snake protection measures are being implemented properly. Once the Project area has been graded and ground disturbance has been completed, monitoring shall continue on a weekly basis, unless otherwise specified by project permits. • YCCL shall prepare a giant garter snake relocation plan which must be approved by the appropriate resource agencies prior to work in giant garter snake habitat. If a live giant garter snake is encountered during construction activities, immediately notify the project's biological monitor and USFWS and CDFW. The monitor shall stop construction in the vicinity of the snake, monitor the snake, and allow the snake to leave on its own. The monitor shall remain in the area for the remainder of the workday to ensure the snake is not harmed or, if it leaves the site, does not return. If the giant garter snake does not leave on its own, the qualified biologist shall relocate the snake consistent with the relocation plan described above. • The biological monitor shall prepare daily monitoring logs that include a description of construction activities; areas surveyed and monitored; communication with construction personnel, YCCL, and wildlife agencies; noncompliance issues and resolutions; and a list of all wildlife species observed during monitoring activities. The biological monitor shall also record all observations of Federally and State-listed species on CNDDB field sheets and submit to CDFW.		

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TABLE 1. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES (CONTINUED)

Impact	Mitigation Measure	Impact Significance	
		Before Mitigation	After Mitigation
3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (cont.)			
Impact 3.4.1 (cont.)	**Mitigation Measure 3.4.1f: Restore Temporarily Disturbed Aquatic and Upland Habitat to Pre-project Conditions** Upon completion of proposed project, YCCL shall restore temporarily disturbed habitat for giant garter snake to pre-project conditions. Habitat shall be restored within one construction season.		
Impact 3.4.2: Disturbance to special-status species and removal of their suitable habitat from development of a new off-site borrow site.	**Mitigation Measure 3.4.2: Conduct biological and wetland surveys of off-site borrow area and apply mitigation measures based on survey results.** YCCL County shall conduct a biological resource survey of any Project area to be disturbed and nearby areas (e.g., including a 250-foot. buffer surrounding proposed borrow site), and/or enlarged buffer sufficient to comply with survey protocols (0.5-mile buffer for Swainson's hawk) that may be affected by the construction. At a minimum, each survey shall include the following: • A database search for occurrence of special status species within a 5-mile radius of the borrow site, • A site reconnaissance by a qualified biologist to identify occurrence or potential occurrence of special-status species and habitats on and around the development site, and • Consultation, as appropriate, with regulatory agencies regarding the results and incorporation of appropriate mitigation measures identified in this section for impacts to those sensitive resources.	S	LSM
Impact 3.4.3: Loss of western pond turtle habitat.	**Mitigation Measure 3.4.3: Conduct Preconstruction Surveys for Western Pond Turtle and Allow Turtles to Leave Work Area Unharmed** To avoid potential injury to or mortality of western pond turtles, YCCL shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct a preconstruction survey for western pond turtles immediately prior to construction activities (including vegetation removal) along suitable habitat and adjacent uplands. The biologist shall survey the aquatic habitat, canal banks, and adjacent upland habitat within the construction area immediately prior to disturbance. If a western pond turtle is found within the immediate work area during the preconstruction survey or during project activities, work shall cease in the area until the turtle is able to move out of the work area on its own. If the turtle does not move out of the area, the biologist shall coordinate with YCCL and CDFW to create and implement a live trapping plan and relocation effort. Information about the location of turtles seen during the preconstruction survey shall be included in the environmental awareness training (Mitigation Measure 3.4.1b) and provided directly to the construction crew working in that area to ensure that areas where turtles were observed are inspected each day prior to the start of work to ensure that no turtles are present. If a western pond turtle nest is discovered during the preconstruction survey or during project construction, YCCL's biologist would coordinate with CDFW to determine whether additional avoidance measures (e.g., no-disturbance buffer or monitoring) is prudent.	S	LSM

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TABLE 1. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES (CONTINUED)

Impact	Mitigation Measure	Impact Significance	
		Before Mitigation	After Mitigation
3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (cont.)			
Impact 3.4.4: Disturbance of nesting Swainson's hawks, white-tailed kite, tricolored blackbird, and other protected birds and raptors.	**Mitigation Measure 3.4.4: Conduct Vegetation Removal during the Non-Breeding Season and Conduct Pre-Construction Surveys for Nesting Migratory Birds and Raptors** Where vegetation removal is required to construct project features, YCCL shall conduct this activity during the non-breeding season for birds and raptors (generally between September 1 and February 28), to the extent feasible. If construction activities are planned during the nesting season (March 1– August 31), prior to the start of construction activities (including equipment staging and site preparation), YCCL shall retain a qualified wildlife biologist with knowledge of the relevant bird species to conduct nesting bird surveys. The surveys shall include a minimum of two separate surveys to look for active bird and raptor nests. Surveys shall include a search of all trees, shrubs, wetlands, and grassland vegetation that provide suitable nesting habitat in the Project area. In addition, nesting habitat within 1,320 feet from the Project area shall be surveyed for Swainson's hawk and a 500-foot radius around the Project area shall be surveyed for other nesting raptors, and a 100-foot radius around the Project area shall be surveyed for passerines. One survey should occur within 15 days prior to construction and the second survey should occur within 48 hours prior to the start of construction or vegetation removal (including grubbing). If no active nests are detected during these surveys, no additional measures are required. If an active nest is found in the survey area, a no-disturbance buffer shall be established around the nest site to avoid disturbance or destruction of the nest until the end of the breeding season (August 31) or until after a qualified wildlife biologist determines that the young have fledged and moved out of the Project area (this date varies by species). The extent of the nesting buffers shall be 1,300 feet for active tricolored blackbird colonies, 500-feet for Swainson's hawk, 300 feet for nesting raptors and 50-feet for passerine birds. The buffers may be adjusted based on environmental factors through coordination between the YCCL biologist and CDFW. Factors that may influence an adjusted buffer shall include the bird species, level of construction disturbance, line-of-sight between the nest and the disturbance, ambient levels of preexisting noise and other disturbances, and other topographical or artificial barriers.	S	LSM
Impact 3.4.5: Removal of suitable foraging habitat for Swainson's hawk.	**Mitigation Measure 3.4.5:** Prior to commencing any phase involving ground disturbance for facilities developed in Swainson's hawk foraging habitat as shown on Figure 3.4-3, YCCL shall compensate for the loss of Swainson's hawk foraging habitat through the preservation of appropriate acreage of suitable Swainson's hawk foraging habitat for that phase by participating in the Yolo HCP/NCCP. Solar panel development of the three sites may reduce the value of the areas for foraging potential by Swainson's hawk, however there would still be some habitat value to the sites for Swainson's hawks. The YCCL will work with CDFW and the administrator of the Yolo HCP/NCCP to identify the appropriate acreage based on the value of the grassland habitat after placement of the solar panels.	S	LSM

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TABLE 1. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES (CONTINUED)

<table>
<tr><th rowspan="2">Impact</th><th rowspan="2">Mitigation Measure</th><th colspan="2">Impact Significance</th></tr>
<tr><th>Before Mitigation</th><th>After Mitigation</th></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (cont.)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Impact 3.4.6: Disturbance of nesting and wintering burrowing owls.</td><td>Mitigation Measure 3.4.6: Conduct Pre-Construction Surveys for Burrowing Owl and Establish Exclusion Zones, if Necessary

YCCL shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct two separate pre-construction surveys for burrowing owl: no more than 30 days prior to initiating ground-disturbing activities (including grubbing and grading) within grassland habitat and then again within 3 days prior to construction. The preconstruction burrowing owl surveys shall be conducted in conjunction with the nesting bird surveys described under Mitigation Measure-3.4-3a and shall encompass the designated work area and a 500-foot buffer around this area where access is permitted. Areas where access is not permitted or is not accessible shall be surveyed using binoculars or a spotting scope.

If burrowing owls are identified during the survey area, YCCL shall minimize activities that shall affect occupied habitat as follows. Occupied habitat is considered fully avoided if the project footprint does not impinge on a non-disturbance buffer around the suitable burrow. For occupied burrowing owl nest burrows, this non-disturbance buffer could range from 150 to 1,500 feet (Table 3.4-3, Recommended Restricted Activity Dates and Setback Distances by Level of Disturbance for Burrowing Owls), depending on the time of year and the level of disturbance, based on current guidelines (California Department of Fish and Game 2012).

TABLE 3.4-3. RECOMMENDED RESTRICTED ACTIVITY DATES AND SETBACK DISTANCES BY LEVEL OF DISTURBANCE FOR BURROWING OWLS
<table><tr><th rowspan="2">Time of Year</th><th colspan="3">Level of Disturbance (feet) from Occupied Burrows</th></tr><tr><th>Low</th><th>Medium</th><th>High</th></tr><tr><td>April 1–August 15</td><td>600</td><td>1,500</td><td>1,500</td></tr><tr><td>August 16–October 15</td><td>600</td><td>600</td><td>1,500</td></tr><tr><td>October 16–March 31</td><td>150</td><td>300</td><td>1,500</td></tr></table>SOURCE: Yolo Habitat Conservancy 2018

The Yolo HCP/NCCP generally defines low, medium, and high levels of disturbances of burrowing owls as follows.

• Low: Typically, 71-80 decibels, generally characterized by the presence of passenger vehicles, small gas-powered engines (e.g., lawn mowers, small chain saws, portable generators), and high-tension power lines. Includes electric hand tools (except circular saws, impact wrenches and similar). Management and enhancement activities would typically fall under this category. Human activity in the immediate vicinity of burrowing owls would also constitute a low level of disturbance, regardless of the noise levels.</td><td>S</td><td>LSM</td></tr>
</table>

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TABLE 1. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES (CONTINUED)

Impact	Mitigation Measure	Impact Significance	
		Before Mitigation	After Mitigation
3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (cont.)			
Impact 3.4.6 (cont.)	• **Moderate:** Typically, 81-90 decibels, and would include medium- and large-sized construction equipment, such as backhoes, front end loaders, large pumps and generators, road graders, dozers, dump trucks, drill rigs, and other moderate to large diesel engines. Also includes power saws, large chainsaws, pneumatic drills and impact wrenches, and large gasoline-powered tools. Construction activities would normally fall under this category. • **High:** Typically, 91-100 decibels, and is generally characterized by impacting devices, jackhammers, compression ("jake") brakes on large trucks, and trains. This category includes both vibratory and impact pile drivers (smaller steel or wood piles) such as used to install piles and guard rails, and large pneumatic tools such as chipping machines. It may also include large diesel and gasoline engines, especially if in concert with other impacting devices. Felling of large trees (defined as dominant or subdominant trees in mature forests), truck horns, yarding tower whistles, and muffled or underground explosives are also included. Very few covered activities are expected to fall under this category, but some construction activities may result in this level of disturbance. The buffer size may be reduced based on existing vegetation, human development, and land use, as determined during coordination with CDFW. If the biologist finds the site to be occupied by western burrowing owls during the breeding season (February 1 to August 31), the project proponent shall avoid all nest sites, based on the buffer distances described above, during the remainder of the breeding season or while the nest is occupied by adults or young (occupation includes individuals or family groups that forage on or near the site following fledging). Construction may occur inside of the disturbance buffer during the breeding season if the nest is not disturbed and the YCCL develops an avoidance plan that is approved by all applicable resource agencies (i.e., Yolo Conservancy, CDFW) prior to project construction, based on the following criteria: • The avoidance plan is approved by all applicable resource agencies (i.e., CDFW, Yolo Conservancy). • A qualified biologist monitors the owls for at least three days prior to construction to determine baseline nesting and foraging behavior (i.e., behavior without construction). • The same qualified biologist monitors the owls during construction and finds no change in owl nesting and foraging behavior in response to construction activities. • If the qualified biologist identifies a change in owl nesting and foraging behavior as a result of construction activities, the qualified biologist shall have the authority to stop all construction related activities within the non-disturbance buffers described above. The qualified biologist shall report this information to YCCL and the applicable resources agencies within 24 hours, and the Conservancy shall require that these activities immediately cease within the non-disturbance buffer. Construction cannot resume within the buffer until the adults and juveniles from the occupied burrows have moved out of the Project area.		

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TABLE 1. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES (CONTINUED)

Impact	Mitigation Measure	Impact Significance	
		Before Mitigation	After Mitigation
3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (cont.)			
Impact 3.4.6 (cont.)	• If monitoring indicates that the nest is abandoned prior to the end of nesting season and the burrow is no longer in use by owls, YCCL may remove the non-disturbance buffer, only with concurrence from applicable resource agencies. If the burrow cannot be avoided by construction activity, the biologist shall excavate and collapse the burrow in accordance with CDFW's 2012 guidelines to prevent reoccupation after receiving approval from the wildlife agencies. If evidence of western burrowing owl is detected outside the breeding season (September 1 to January 31), the project proponent shall establish a non-disturbance buffer around occupied burrows, consistent with Table 3.4-3, as determined by a qualified biologist. Construction activities within the disturbance buffer are allowed if the following criteria are met to prevent owls from abandoning important overwintering sites: • A qualified biologist monitors the owls for at least three days prior to construction to determine baseline foraging behavior (i.e., behavior without construction). • The same qualified biologist monitors the owls during construction and finds no change in owl foraging behavior in response to construction activities. • If there is any change in owl roosting and foraging behavior as a result of construction activities, these activities shall cease within the buffer. • If the owls are gone for at least one week, YCCL may request approval from the applicable resource agencies for a qualified biologist to excavate and collapse usable burrows to prevent owls from reoccupying the site if the burrow cannot be avoided by construction activities. The qualified biologist shall install one-way doors for a 48-hour period prior to collapsing any potentially occupied burrows. After all usable burrows are excavated, the buffer shall be removed, and construction may continue. Monitoring must continue as described above for the nonbreeding season if the burrow remains active. A qualified biologist shall monitor the site, consistent with the requirements described above, to ensure that buffers are enforced, and owls are not disturbed. Exclusion and burrow closure shall not be conducted during the breeding season for any occupied burrow. If YCCL determines that passive relocation is necessary, they shall develop a burrowing owl exclusion plan in consultation with CDFW and Yolo Conservancy, as applicable. The methods shall be designed as described in the species monitoring guidelines (California Department of Fish and Game 2012) and consistent with the most up-to-date checklist of passive relocation techniques. This may include the installation of one-way doors in burrow entrances by a qualified biologist during the nonbreeding season. These doors shall be in place for 48 hours and monitored twice daily to ensure that the owls have left the burrow, after which time the biologist shall collapse the burrow to prevent reoccupation.		

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TABLE 1. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES (CONTINUED)

Impact	Mitigation Measure	Impact Significance	
		Before Mitigation	After Mitigation
3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (cont.)			
Impact 3.4.6 (cont.)	Burrows shall be excavated using hand tools. During excavation, an escape route shall be maintained at all times. This may include inserting an artificial structure, such as piping, into the burrow to prevent collapsing until the entire burrow can be excavated and it can be determined that no owls are trapped inside the burrow. Other methods of passive or active relocation may be used, based on best available science, if approved by the applicable resource agencies.		
Impact 3.4.7: Disturbance of nesting northern harrier and other protected ground-nesting birds and raptors.	**Implementation of Mitigation Measures 3.4.1b and 3.4.4.**	S	LSM
Impact 3.4.8: Potential adverse effects to special-status plants.	**Mitigation Measure 3.4.8a: Conduct appropriately timed floristic surveys** A qualified botanist shall conduct protocol-level floristic surveys of the Project area. The floristic surveys shall be appropriately timed to coincide with the blooming/identifiable period of the special status plants with potential to occur in the Project area and follow methods described in *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities* (CDFW 2018) and *Guidelines for Conducting and Reporting Botanical Inventories for Federally Listed, Proposed and Candidate Plants* (USFWS 2002). **Mitigation Measure 3.4.8b: Avoid special-status plant populations, minimize and/or compensate for substantial impacts** If special-status plants are detected in the Project area, the YCCL shall identify the populations with orange fencing for avoidance and notify CDFW and USFWS as appropriate. If the special-status plants cannot be avoided, addition minimization and mitigation measures shall be developed by the applicant and CDFW and USFWS prior to construction. These measures may include, but would not be limited to: • Minimizing impacts to the population(s) by restricting impacts to a few individuals. • Developing a transplantation plan that involves relocating plants to suitable habitat approved by CDFW and/or USFWS. • Monitoring affected populations for a minimum of 3 years to document success of transplantation efforts. • Restoring or enhancing the occupied habitat onsite or in the project region. The seasonal wetlands and non-native annual grassland have potential to be restored and/or enhanced. If mitigation is required, the applicant shall consult with CDFW and/or USFWS on constraints and opportunities for appropriate on-site habitat enhancement and/or creation for the affected species. • Protecting occupied habitat at another location in the region.	S	LSM

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TABLE 1. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES (CONTINUED)

Impact	Mitigation Measure	Impact Significance	
		Before Mitigation	After Mitigation
3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (cont.)			
Impact 3.4.9: Potential inadvertent loss or disturbance of riparian habitat located near the Project area.	**Mitigation Measure 3.4.9: Avoid Willow Slough Bypass and obtain permits as needed and comply with permit requirements** Project activities shall be designed to avoid surface activities within 300 feet of Willow Slough Bypass. If pipeline activities cannot be avoided within 300 feet of Willow Slough Bypass, the riparian corridor shall be delineated by a qualified biologist and orange construction fencing shall be installed along the outline of the corridor. Impacts to the Willow Slough Bypass shall be avoided through directional boring beneath the bypass. Should directional bores bore under Willow Slough Bypass, consultation with CDFW shall be required and if necessary, a Lake or Stream Bed Alteration Permit would be obtained. The levee along Willow Slough Bypass is regulated by the Central Valley Flood Protection Board and any work within 300 feet of the levee of designated floodways or regulated streams would require an Encroachment Permit.	S	LSM
Impact 3.4.10: Placement of fill material into Waters of the U.S. or Waters of the State.	**Mitigation Measure 3.4.10: Conduct protocol aquatic resources delineation and compensate for substantial adverse effects on state or federally protected wetlands and non-wetland waters** Prior to construction, a delineation of aquatic resources shall be conducted and submitted to USACE along with a request for verification. The delineation shall follow routine methods described in the *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual* (Environmental Laboratory 1987), *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual for the Arid West Region* (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2008), *A Field Guide to the Identification of the Ordinary High Water Mark* (OHWM) *in the Arid West Region of the Western United States* (Lichvar and McColley 2008), and the State Water Board's *Dredged and Fill Procedures* (State Water Resources Control Board 2019). The delineation shall be submitted to RWQCB if there are aquatic resources that are not waters of the United States, but still regulated by the State pursuant to the Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act. If waters of the United States are determined to be present in the Project area and would be filled by the proposed project, the applicant shall be required to obtain a Section 404 permit from USACE and a Section 401 permit from RWQCB. If the project would impact aquatic resources that are not regulated by USACE, the applicant shall be required to obtain Waste Discharge Requirements from the RWQCB. The USACE and/or RWQCB may require compensatory mitigation for impacts to jurisdictional aquatic resources. Should compensatory mitigation be required, it could be achieved by wetland enhancement or restoration in the Project area, which could be done in combination with the upland enhancement for special-status plant habitat discussed in Mitigation Measure 3.4.6b. If onsite mitigation is not available or feasible, the applicant shall purchase mitigation credits from a USACE/RWQCB-approved mitigation bank that services project's region.	S	LSM

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TABLE 1. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES (CONTINUED)

Impact	Mitigation Measure	Impact Significance	
		Before Mitigation	After Mitigation
3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (cont.)			
Impact 3.4.11: Potential interference with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impediment of the use of native wildlife nursery sites.	None required.	LS	LS
Impact 3.4.12: Potential for conflicting with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.	None required.	LS	LS
Impact 3.4.13: Potential conflict with provisions of an adopted HCP/NCCP.	None required.	LS	LS
3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES AND TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES			
Impact 3.5.1: The Project could either directly or indirectly result in impacts to cultural resources or TCRs.	**Mitigation Measure 3.5.1a:** If cultural resources are encountered during Project implementation, construction (or Project actions) shall, in accordance with CEQA Section 15064.5, be halted or diverted to allow an archaeologist an opportunity to assess the resource. **Mitigation Measure 3.5.1b:** Section 7050.5 and 7052 of the California Health and Safety Code and Section 5097 of the Public Resources Code shall be implemented in the event that human remains, or possible human remains are located. **Mitigation Measure 3.5.1c:** Prior to Project ground disturbing activities, the County shall notify the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation and arrange for a qualified personnel to conduct a cultural resources sensitivity training for all construction personnel who will be associated with the Project. The training shall be developed and conducted in coordination with a representative from the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. The training shall include relevant information regarding sensitive cultural resources, including applicable regulations, protocols for avoidance, and consequences of violating State laws and regulations. The cultural sensitivity training shall also describe appropriate avoidance and minimization measures for resources that have the potential to be located on the Project site and shall outline what to do and whom to contact if any potential tribal cultural resources are discovered.	S	LSM
Impact 3.5.2: Excavation of the non-specific future off-site borrow area could disturb previously unknown cultural resources or TCRs.	**Mitigation Measure 3.5.2a:** A cultural resources survey of the site selected for the off-site borrow area, including a site survey and records search, shall be conducted by a registered archeologist prior to commencement of soil borrow activities. Any potential disturbance of identified cultural resources on the site shall be properly mitigated on-site or through proper recording and removal of the artifacts. **Mitigation Measure 3.5.2b:** If cultural resources are encountered during soil borrow activities, such activities shall, in accordance with CEQA Section 15064.5, be halted or diverted to allow an archaeologist an opportunity to assess the resource.	S	LSM

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TABLE 1. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES (CONTINUED)

Impact	Mitigation Measure	Impact Significance	
		Before Mitigation	After Mitigation
3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES AND TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES (cont.)			
Impact 3.5.2 (cont.)	**Mitigation Measure 3.5.2c:** Section 7050.5 and 7052 of the California Health and Safety code and Section 5097 of the Public Resources Code shall be implemented in the event that human remains, or possible human remains are located at the site selected for the off-site borrow area. **Mitigation Measure 3.5.2d:** Prior to ground disturbance at the future off-site borrow area, the County shall notify the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation and arrange for a qualified personnel to conduct a cultural resources sensitivity training for all construction personnel who will be associated with the Project. The training shall be developed and conducted in coordination with a representative from the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. The training shall include relevant information regarding sensitive cultural resources, including applicable regulations, protocols for avoidance, and consequences of violating State laws and regulations. The cultural sensitivity training shall also describe appropriate avoidance and minimization measures for resources that have the potential to be located on the Project site and shall outline what to do and whom to contact if any potential tribal cultural resources are discovered.		
3.6 ENERGY			
Impact 3.6.1: Project construction or operation could result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources.	None required.	LS	LS
Impact 3.6.2: The Project could conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.	None required.	LS	LS
3.7 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS			
Impact 3.7.1: Project construction or operation could conflict with CARB's 2017 Scoping Plan.	None required.	LS	LS
3.8 PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY			
Impact 3.8.1: Operation of new Project element facilities (e.g., wood pellet facility, waste gasification facility, organic waste fertilizer facility, transfer station, thermal pressure hydrolysis system, peaking power plant, expanded biogas utilization options, and biogas to methanol pilot facility) could pose health and safety threats to workers at the YCCL.	**Mitigation Measure 3.8.1:** The Division of Integrated Waste Management (DIWM) (or the facility contractor) shall prepare a Health and Safety Plan (HASP) for all new Project Element facilities prior to commencement of new facility operations. Each HASP shall include staff training requirements, emergency procedures and equipment, personal protective equipment for facility staff, communications equipment and emergency contacts, hearing loss prevention, equipment maintenance, and other policies to ensure the protection of worker and public health and safety.	S	LSM

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TABLE 1. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES (CONTINUED)

Impact	Mitigation Measure	Impact Significance	
		Before Mitigation	After Mitigation
3.8 PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY (cont.)			
Impact 3.8.2: Implementation of new facilities and increasing the daily permitted tonnage at the YCCL could result in increases in gulls and other scavenging birds at the site, thus increasing the risk of bird strikes for aircraft approaching or departing from nearby airports.	None required.	LS	LS
3.9 GEOLOGY, SOILS AND SEISMICITY			
Impact 3.9.1: The Project could directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking.	None required.	LS	LS
Impact 3.9.2: During the development and operation of the non-specific future off-site borrow area, soil excavation could directly or indirectly cause substantial erosion or loss of topsoil.	None required.	LS	LS
Impact 3.9.3: The Proposed Project could directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction, landslides, or is the Project site 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.	None required.	LS	LS
Impact 3.9.4: Elements of the Project could be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property.	None required.	LS	LS
Impact 3.9.5: During the development and operation of the non-specific future off-site borrow area, soil excavation could directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource.	**Mitigation Measure 3.9.5:** Prior to initiation of any future off-site borrow area excavation activities 8 feet or more below the ground surface, the County shall provide pre-construction briefing(s) to supervisory personnel of any excavation contractor to alert them to the possibility of exposing significant paleontological resources within the Project area. The briefing shall discuss any paleontological objects that could be exposed, the need to stop excavation at the discovery, and the procedures to follow regarding discovery protection and notification of the County. An "Alert Sheet" shall be posted in conspicuous locations at the future off-site borrow area to alert personnel to the procedures and protocols to follow for the discovery of potentially significant paleontological	S	LSM

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TABLE 1. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES (CONTINUED)

Impact	Mitigation Measure	Impact Significance	
		Before Mitigation	After Mitigation
3.9 GEOLOGY, SOILS AND SEISMICITY (cont.)			
Impact 3.9.5 (cont.)	resources. If unique and/or significant paleontological resources are discovered during soil management activities (as determined by a qualified paleontologist), the County shall allow excavation, identification, cataloging and/or other documentation by the qualified paleontologist. If appropriate, the County shall donate the resource to a local agency, state university, or other applicable institution, for curation and display for public education purposes.		
3.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY			
Impact 3.10.1: The Project could violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality.	**Mitigation Measure 3.10.1:** The YCCL shall complete the following actions to monitor and evaluate groundwater extraction and retention during and following its Phase 1 groundwater extraction program (10 extraction wells): I. During the implementation period of the Phase 1 groundwater extraction program, YCCL shall continue to conduct regular groundwater level monitoring throughout each water year to assess the separation distance between the top of the groundwater table and bottom extent of the waste prism (5-foot separation) in WMUs 1-5. These data shall be reviewed annually to gauge the effectiveness of the groundwater extraction program. As required, water level monitoring data shall be submitted to the RWQCB. II. Within one year following the completion of the Phase 1 groundwater extraction well program, acquired annual groundwater elevation and extraction rate data shall be applied, as appropriate, to determine whether the 5-foot separation is adequately maintained, and to update and refine the site groundwater model and YCCL facility water balance. III. Groundwater level monitoring data, results of the updated groundwater model, and facility water balance shall be used to (a) determine the necessity and optimal location for additional extraction wells, (b) project the rate and quantity of extracted groundwater that would be necessary to maintain the 5-foot groundwater separation, and (c) determine whether storage area for that volume is available onsite. IV. If results of the updated groundwater model and updated facility water balance determine that additional extraction wells are necessary and would generate groundwater discharges in excess of onsite facility storage infrastructure available at that time, the County shall develop and implement alternative water storage strategies prior to installing and operating additional extraction wells. These alternatives could include: • Arrangements with neighboring properties to purchase excess stormwater for irrigation uses. • Acquiring additional property for land application of stored water or for construction of additional storage basins. • Developing technologies to enhance evaporative capacity of surface water.	S	LSM

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TABLE 1. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES (CONTINUED)

Impact	Mitigation Measure	Impact Significance	
		Before Mitigation	After Mitigation
3.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY (cont.)			
Impact 3.10.2: The Project could substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the Project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin.	None required.	LS	LS
Impact 3.10.3: The Project could 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 result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site.	None required.	LS	LS
Impact 3.10.4: The Project could 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 substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite.	None required.	LS	LS
Impact 3.10.5: The Project could 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 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.	None required.	LS	LS
Impact 3.10.6: The Project could 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 impede or redirect flood flows.	None required.	LS	LS
Impact 3.10.7: In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, the Project could risk release of pollutants due to inundation.	None required.	LS	LS
Impact 3.10.8: The Project could conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.	None required.	LS	LS

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TABLE 1. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES (CONTINUED)

Impact	Mitigation Measure	Impact Significance	
		Before Mitigation	After Mitigation
3.11 WILDFIRE			
Impact 3.11.1: The Project could result in an increased risk in wildfires.	None required.	LS	LS
Impact 3.11.2: The non-specific off-site borrow area Project element could create impacts related to wildfire.	None required.	LS	LS
3.12 NOISE			
Impact 3.12.1: New on-site Project elements that are proposed (including increased daily permitted tonnage, a peaking power plant, a wood pellet facility, a large scale floating solar photovoltaic system, a solar photovoltaic system on closed landfill units, a waste gasification facility, expanded biogas utilization options, a new class 2 surface impoundment, an organic waste fertilizer facility, development of a storm water treatment and drainage system, additional groundwater pumping with possible treatment and discharge, a transfer station, a thermal pressure hydrolysis system, and a biogas to methanol pilot facility) could increase noise levels at off-site residences on agriculturally-designated land.	**Mitigation Measure 3.12.1:** Construction activities for new facilities shall be limited to 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday.	S	LSM
Impact 3.12.2: Noise from activities at a future non-specific soil borrow site could affect sensitive receptors.	**Mitigation Measure 3.12.2a:** Soil borrow activities shall be located in areas with a buffer zone of 400 feet to the nearest residence on agriculturally-designated land. **Mitigation Measure 3.12.2b:** Soil borrow activities shall be limited to achieve a CNEL that does not exceed 75 dBA at the nearest residence on agriculturally-designated land. **Mitigation Measure 3.12.2c:** To avoid effects of nighttime operations, haul trips leaving the soil borrow area shall be limited to 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday.	S	LSM
Impact 3.12.3: Truck trips to and from the YCCL could increase noise levels at residences on agriculturally-designated land.	None required.	LS	LS
3.13 TRANSPORTATION			
Impact 3.13.1: The Project could conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities.	None required.	LS	LS

KEY: S - Significant SU – Significant and Unavoidable LS – Less than Significant LSM – Less than Significant with Mitigation NI – No Impact

TABLE 1. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES (CONTINUED)

Impact	Mitigation Measure	Impact Significance	
		Before Mitigation	After Mitigation
3.13 TRANSPORTATION (cont.)			
Impact 3.13.2: The Project could generate vehicle miles travelled (VMT) that could conflict or be inconsistent with State CEQA *Guidelines* §15064.3, subdivision (b).	None required.	LS	LS
Impact 3.13.3: The 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).	None required.	LS	LS
Impact 3.13.4: The Project could result in inadequate emergency access.	None required.	LS	LS
3.14 PUBLIC SERVICES, UTILITIES, AND SERVICE SYSTEMS			
Impact 3.14.1: The increased daily permitted tonnage (TPD) could increase the risk of fire occurring at the YCCL.	None required.	LS	LS
Impact 3.14.2: The Project element facilities (e.g., waste gasification facility, thermal pressure hydrolysis system, transfer station, peaking power plant, wood pellet facility, organic waste fertilizer facility, biomass to methanol pilot facility, and expanded biogas utilization options) could increase the risk of fire occurring at the YCCL.	**Mitigation Measure 3.14.2:** As part of the standard review process, the County shall review and approve a *Fire Prevention Control and Mitigation Plan* that shall be developed for each applicable Project element, which shall include but not be limited to: • Description of the measures the operator will take to prevent fires and to control and extinguish fires. • Identification and description of the equipment the operator will have available (on-site) to control and extinguish fires. • Description of the measures the operator will take to mitigate the impacts of any fire at the site to the public health and safety and the environment. • Description of the arrangements the operator has made with the local fire control authority to provide fire prevention, control, and suppression in the event of a fire.	S	LSM
Impact 3.14.3: The Project facilities could have water demands greater than water supplies.	None required.	LS	LS
Impact 3.14.4: The Non-Specific Future Off-Site Soil Borrow Area could create impacts related to public services and utilities.	None required.	LS	LS

KEY: S - Significant SU – Significant and Unavoidable LS – Less than Significant LSM – Less than Significant with Mitigation NI – No Impact

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CHAPTER 2

LIST OF PERSONS COMMENTING

A. WRITTEN AND ORAL COMMENTS

A list of persons that provided written comments on the Draft EIR is provided in **Table C&R-1**.

TABLE C&R-1. LIST OF WRITTEN AND ORAL COMMENTERS ON THE DRAFT EIR

Letter ID	Agency/Company	Commenter
A	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board	Peter G Minkel
B	California Department of Conservation	Baldev Gill
C	Department of Transportation	Lincoln Edward
D	Interested Party (Oral comment at the Public Meeting on August 18, 2021)	Jennifer Gilbert

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CHAPTER 3
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

A. WRITTEN COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

This chapter includes copies of the comment letters received regarding the Draft EIR that was published July 30, 2021. Comments were due back to the County by Sept 9, 2021. Three comments were received by September 9, 2021 and no additional written comments have been received after the comment deadline. Each comment letter is followed by responses. The responses emphasize issues related to the adequacy of the Draft EIR in identifying and analyzing the possible environmental impacts of the Project and possible approaches for avoiding or mitigating these impacts. Because all of the comment letters received regarding the Draft EIR are reproduced herein, they are part of the Final EIR for this Project. As such, these comments will be considered by decision-makers as they decide whether to certify the EIR and approve the Project. Each written comment letter is assigned a corresponding letter of the alphabet and the written comments are shown with numbered brackets which correlate to Yolo County Department of Community Services responses immediately following each written comment letter.

CALIFORNIA Water Boards

GAVIN NEWSOM GOVERNOR

JARED BLUMENFELD SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

10 September 2021

Stephanie Cormier
Yolo County
292 West Beamer Street
Woodland, CA 95695
stephanie.cormier@yolocounty.org

COMMENTS TO REQUEST FOR REVIEW FOR THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT, YOLO COUNTY CENTRAL LANDFILL (YCCL) PERMIT REVISIONS PROJECT, SCH#2020080465, YOLO COUNTY

Pursuant to the State Clearinghouse's 29 July 2021 request, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has reviewed the *Request for Review for the Draft Environmental Impact Report* for the Yolo County Central Landfill (YCCL) Permit Revisions Project, located in Yolo County.

Our agency is delegated with the responsibility of protecting the quality of surface and groundwaters of the state; therefore our comments will address concerns surrounding those issues.

I. Regulatory Setting

Basin Plan

The Central Valley Water Board is required to formulate and adopt Basin Plans for all areas within the Central Valley region under Section 13240 of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Each Basin Plan must contain water quality objectives to ensure the reasonable protection of beneficial uses, as well as a program of implementation for achieving water quality objectives with the Basin Plans. Federal regulations require each state to adopt water quality standards to protect the public health or welfare, enhance the quality of water and serve the purposes of the Clean Water Act. In California, the beneficial uses, water quality objectives, and the Antidegradation Policy are the State's water quality standards. Water quality standards are also contained in the National Toxics Rule, 40 CFR Section 131.36, and the California Toxics Rule, 40 CFR Section 131.38.

A-1

The Basin Plan is subject to modification as necessary, considering applicable laws, policies, technologies, water quality conditions and priorities. The original Basin Plans were adopted in 1975, and have been updated and revised periodically as required, using Basin Plan amendments. Once the Central Valley Water Board has adopted a Basin Plan amendment in noticed public hearings, it must be approved by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Office of

Administrative Law (OAL) and in some cases, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Basin Plan amendments only become effective after they have been approved by the OAL and in some cases, the USEPA. Every three (3) years, a review of the Basin Plan is completed that assesses the appropriateness of existing standards and evaluates and prioritizes Basin Planning issues. For more information on the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins*, please visit our website: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/

A-1 cont.

Antidegradation Considerations

All wastewater discharges must comply with the Antidegradation Policy (State Water Board Resolution 68-16) and the Antidegradation Implementation Policy contained in the Basin Plan. The Antidegradation Implementation Policy is available on page 74 at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/sacsjr_201805.pdf

In part it states:

Any discharge of waste to high quality waters must apply best practicable treatment or control not only to prevent a condition of pollution or nuisance from occurring, but also to maintain the highest water quality possible consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the State.

This information must be presented as an analysis of the impacts and potential impacts of the discharge on water quality, as measured by background concentrations and applicable water quality objectives.

The antidegradation analysis is a mandatory element in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and land discharge Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) permitting processes. The environmental review document should evaluate potential impacts to both surface and groundwater quality.

A-2

II. Permitting Requirements

Construction Storm Water General Permit

Dischargers whose project disturb one or more acres of soil or where projects disturb less than one acre but are part of a larger common plan of development that in total disturbs one or more acres, are required to obtain coverage under the General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Construction General Permit), Construction General Permit Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ. Construction activity subject to this permit includes clearing, grading, grubbing, disturbances to the ground, such as stockpiling, or excavation, but does not include regular maintenance activities performed to restore the original line, grade, or capacity of the facility. The Construction General Permit requires the development and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). For more information on the Construction General Permit, visit the State Water Resources Control Board website at:

A-3

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/constpermits.shtml

A-3 cont.

Phase I and II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permits[1]

The Phase I and II MS4 permits require the Permittees reduce pollutants and runoff flows from new development and redevelopment using Best Management Practices (BMPs) to the maximum extent practicable (MEP). MS4 Permittees have their own development standards, also known as Low Impact Development (LID)/post-construction standards that include a hydromodification component. The MS4 permits also require specific design concepts for LID/post-construction BMPs in the early stages of a project during the entitlement and CEQA process and the development plan review process.

A-4

For more information on which Phase I MS4 Permit this project applies to, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/storm_water/municipal_permits/

For more information on the Phase II MS4 permit and who it applies to, visit the State Water Resources Control Board at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/phase_ii_municipal.shtml

Industrial Storm Water General Permit

Storm water discharges associated with industrial sites must comply with the regulations contained in the Industrial Storm Water General Permit Order No. 2014-0057-DWQ. For more information on the Industrial Storm Water General Permit, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/storm_water/industrial_general_permits/index.shtml

A-5

Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit

If the project will involve the discharge of dredged or fill material in navigable waters or wetlands, a permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act may be needed from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). If a Section 404 permit is required by the USACE, the Central Valley Water Board will review the permit application to ensure that discharge will not violate water quality standards. If the project requires surface water drainage realignment, the applicant is advised to contact the Department of Fish and Game for information on Streambed Alteration Permit requirements. If you have any questions regarding the Clean Water Act

A-6

[1] Municipal Permits = The Phase I Municipal Separate Storm Water System (MS4) Permit covers medium sized Municipalities (serving between 100,000 and 250,000 people) and large sized municipalities (serving over 250,000 people). The Phase II MS4 provides coverage for small municipalities, including non-traditional Small MS4s, which include military bases, public campuses, prisons and hospitals.

Section 404 permits, please contact the Regulatory Division of the Sacramento District of USACE at (916) 557-5250.

Clean Water Act Section 401 Permit – Water Quality Certification

If an USACE permit (e.g., Non-Reporting Nationwide Permit, Nationwide Permit, Letter of Permission, Individual Permit, Regional General Permit, Programmatic General Permit), or any other federal permit (e.g., Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act or Section 9 from the United States Coast Guard), is required for this project due to the disturbance of waters of the United States (such as streams and wetlands), then a Water Quality Certification must be obtained from the Central Valley Water Board prior to initiation of project activities. There are no waivers for 401 Water Quality Certifications. For more information on the Water Quality Certification, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/water_quality_certification/

A-6 cont.

Waste Discharge Requirements – Discharges to Waters of the State

If USACE determines that only non-jurisdictional waters of the State (i.e., "non-federal" waters of the State) are present in the proposed project area, the proposed project may require a Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) permit to be issued by Central Valley Water Board. Under the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, discharges to all waters of the State, including all wetlands and other waters of the State including, but not limited to, isolated wetlands, are subject to State regulation. For more information on the Waste Discharges to Surface Water NPDES Program and WDR processes, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/waste_to_surface_water/

A-7

Projects involving excavation or fill activities impacting less than 0.2 acre or 400 linear feet of non-jurisdictional waters of the state and projects involving dredging activities impacting less than 50 cubic yards of non-jurisdictional waters of the state may be eligible for coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ (General Order 2004-0004). For more information on the General Order 2004-0004, visit the State Water Resources Control Board website at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2004/wqo/wqo2004-0004.pdf

Dewatering Permit

If the proposed project includes construction or groundwater dewatering to be discharged to land, the proponent may apply for coverage under State Water Board General Water Quality Order (Low Threat General Order) 2003-0003 or the Central Valley Water Board's Waiver of Report of Waste Discharge and Waste Discharge Requirements (Low Threat Waiver) R5-2018-0085. Small temporary construction dewatering projects are projects that discharge groundwater to land from excavation activities or dewatering of underground utility vaults. Dischargers seeking coverage

A-8

under the General Order or Waiver must file a Notice of Intent with the Central Valley Water Board prior to beginning discharge.

For more information regarding the Low Threat General Order and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2003/wqo/wqo2003-0003.pdf

For more information regarding the Low Threat Waiver and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/waivers/r5-2018-0085.pdf

Limited Threat General NPDES Permit
If the proposed project includes construction dewatering and it is necessary to discharge the groundwater to waters of the United States, the proposed project will require coverage under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Dewatering discharges are typically considered a low or limited threat to water quality and may be covered under the General Order for *Limited Threat Discharges to Surface Water* (Limited Threat General Order). A complete Notice of Intent must be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board to obtain coverage under the Limited Threat General Order. For more information regarding the Limited Threat General Order and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2016-0076-01.pdf

A-8 cont.

NPDES Permit
If the proposed project discharges waste that could affect the quality of surface waters of the State, other than into a community sewer system, the proposed project will require coverage under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. A complete Report of Waste Discharge must be submitted with the Central Valley Water Board to obtain a NPDES Permit. For more information regarding the NPDES Permit and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/help/permit/

A-9

If you have questions regarding these comments, please contact me at (916) 464-4684 or Peter.Minkel2@waterboards.ca.gov.

Peter G. Minkel
Engineering Geologist

cc: State Clearinghouse unit, Governor's Office of Planning and Research, Sacramento

Response to Comment A-1

The assessment of impacts to water quality considered and comprehensively applied the requirements of applicable regulations (see Draft EIR Section 3.10.2, p.3.10-22 under "Methodology") presented in the environmental setting section and the regulatory setting section of the Hydrology and Water Quality chapter (Draft EIR Section 3.10.1, *et seq*.). The current *Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins* (Basin Plan), with effective amendments, is described in detail in the Draft EIR, including designated beneficial uses for surface and groundwaters, water quality objectives, and impaired waters relevant to the Project (see Draft EIR Section 3.10.1, p.3.10-6 to 3.10-8 under "Surface Water Quality" and p. 3.10-18 under "Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act"). A discussion of the National Toxics Rule, 40 CFR, is presented in the regulatory setting (see Draft EIR Section 3.10.1, p. 3.10-17). A detailed and comprehensive analysis of impacts to water quality from implementation of the Project is presented in the Draft EIR (Section 3.10.2, *et seq*.), and includes consideration of the Basin Plan requirements, including relevant water quality objectives (see Draft EIR Impact 3.10.1, p 3.10-24, and Impact 3.10.8, p. 3.10-36).

Response to Comment A-2

The Anti-Degradation Policy (SWRCB Resolution No. 68-16) is discussed in Draft EIR Section 3.10.1 under "State Regulations" (Draft EIR p. 3.10-21). See Response A-1 for additional details regarding the Basin Plan and the consideration of applicable regulations in the detailed and comprehensive analysis of impacts to water quality (Draft EIR Section 3.10.2, *et seq*.), which includes discussion of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) permitting processes.

Response to Comment A-3

The Construction Stormwater General Permit (CGP) is discussed in Draft EIR Section 3.10.1 under "NPDES Waste Discharge Program" (Draft EIR p. 3.10-18 to 3.10-21). See Response A-1 for additional details regarding the consideration of applicable regulations in the detailed and comprehensive analysis of impacts to water quality presented in the Draft EIR (Draft EIR Section 3.10.2, *et seq*.). Draft EIR Impact 3.10-1 (p. 3.10-24) includes detailed discussion of NPDES requirements, including the CGP requirements and reporting process, as part of the assessment of construction related water quality impacts.

Response to Comment A-4

NPDES requirements relevant to the Project are discussed in Draft EIR Section 3.10.1 under "NPDES Waste Discharge Program" (Draft EIR p. 3.10-18 to 3.10-21). See Response A-1 for additional details regarding the consideration of applicable regulations in the detailed and comprehensive analysis of impacts to water quality. See Response A-5 regarding the application of specific NPDES and WDR requirements to the Project in the context of detailed water quality and hydrologic related impact analyses presented in the Draft EIR.

Response to Comment A-5

The YCCL Industrial Stormwater General Permit (General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity Order 2014-0057-DWQ, Waste Discharge Identification Number [WDID] 5S57I029034) and YCCL Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR Order No. R5-2016-0094) are discussed in detail in Draft EIR Section 3.10.1 under "NPDES Waste Discharge Program" (Draft EIR p. 3.10-18 to 3.10-21). See Response A-1 for additional details regarding the consideration of applicable regulations in the detailed and comprehensive analysis of impacts to water quality presented in the Draft EIR (Draft EIR Section 3.10.2, *et seq*.). Draft EIR Impact 3.10-1 (p. 3.10-24) includes detailed discussion of the requirements of the Industrial Stormwater General Permit as well as WDR requirements as part of the assessment of proposed YCCL operational-phase water quality impacts. Draft EIR Impact 3.10-3 (p. 3.10-33), Impact 3.10-4 (p. 3.10-34), and Impact 3.10-5 (p. 3.10-35) include detailed discussion of the requirements of the Industrial Stormwater General Permit as well as WDR requirements as part of the assessment of impacts relating to altered drainage patterns, hydromodification, stormwater runoff rates, drainage, flooding, polluted runoff, and the conveyance capacity of planned and existing stormwater drainage systems from proposed YCCL operations.

Response to Comment A-6

The Clean Water Act, including Section 401 (Water Quality Certification) and Section 404 (Placement of Fill in US Waters), is described in detail in Draft EIR Section 3.4.3 under "Clean Water Act" (Draft EIR p. 3.4-29) and under "Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act" (Draft EIR p. 3.4-32). Requirements of the Clean Water Act are considered as part of the analysis of impacts relating to aquatic resources, including wetlands, presented in Impact 3.4.10 (Draft EIR p. 3.4-49). Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act are further described in Draft EIR Section 3.10.2 under "Clean Water Act" (Draft EIR p. 3.10-16) and consideration of the requirements of the Clean Water Act are comprehensively applied to the assessment of water quality impacts presented in the Draft EIR (Draft EIR Section 3.10.2, *et seq*.).

Response to Comment A-7

See Response A-5.

Response to Comment A-8

Water quality impacts relating to construction dewatering activities are presented in Draft EIR Section 3.10.2 under Impact 3.10.1 (see "Construction of Facilities at YCCL Site", Draft EIR p. 3.10-24 to 3.10-26). See Response A-1, A-3, and A-5 for additional details regarding the consideration of applicable regulations in the detailed analysis of impacts to water quality (Draft EIR Section 3.10.2, *et seq*.), which includes discussion of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements as well as water quality regulations administered by the SWRCB and CVRWQCB.

Response to Comment A-9

See Response A-1, A-2, A-3, and A-5 regarding NPDES requirements relevant to the Project and the application of specific NPDES and WDR requirements to the Project in the context of water quality and hydrologic related impact analyses presented in the Draft EIR.

California
Department of Conservation
Geologic Energy Management Division

Gavin Newsom, Governor
David Shabazian, Director
801 K Street, MS 18-05
Sacramento, CA 95814
T: (916) 445-9686

09/08/2021

County: Yolo - Yolo County Department of Community Services
Stephanie Cormier
292 W. Beamer Street, Woodland, CA 95695, USA
stephanie.cormier@yolocounty.org

Construction Site Well Review (CSWR) ID: 1012305

Assessor Parcel Number(s): 042140001, 042140002, 042140006

Property Owner(s): Yolo County

Project Location Address: 44090 County Road 28H Woodland, California 95776

Project Title: Yolo County Central Landfill Permit Revisions

Public Resources Code (PRC) § 3208.1 establishes well reabandonment responsibility when a previously plugged and abandoned well will be impacted by planned property development or construction activities. Local permitting agencies, property owners, and/or developers should be aware of, and fully understand, that significant and potentially dangerous issues may be associated with development near oil, gas, and geothermal wells. B-1

The California Geologic Energy Mangagement Division (CalGEM) has received and reviewed the above referenced project dated 9/8/2021. To assist local permitting agencies, property owners, and developers in making wise land use decisions regarding potential development near oil, gas, or geothermal wells, the Division provides the following well evaluation.

The project is located in Yolo County, within the boundaries of the following fields: B-2

Any Field

Our records indicate there are 2 known oil or gas wells located within the project boundary as identified in the application.

- Number of wells Not Abandoned to Current Division Requirements as Prescribed by Law and Projected to Be Built Over or Have Future Access Impeded by this project: 2

- Number of wells Not Abandoned to Current Division Requirements as Prescribed by Law and Not Projected to Be Built Over or Have Future Access Impeded by this project: 0

- Number of wells Abandoned to Current Division Requirements as Prescribed by Law and Projected to Be Built Over or Have Future Access Impeded by this project: 0

- Number of wells Abandoned to Current Division Requirements as Prescribed by Law and Not Projected to Be Built Over or Have Future Access Impeded by this project: 0

B-2 cont.

As indicated in PRC § 3106, the Division has statutory authority over the drilling, operation, maintenance, and abandonment of oil, gas, and geothermal wells, and attendant facilities, to prevent, as far as possible, damage to life, health, property, and natural resources; damage to underground oil, gas, and geothermal deposits; and damage to underground and surface waters suitable for irrigation or domestic purposes. In addition to the Division's authority to order work on wells pursuant to PRC §§ 3208.1 and 3224, it has authority to issue civil and criminal penalties under PRC §§ 3236, 3236.5, and 3359 for violations within the Division's jurisdictional authority. The Division does not regulate grading, excavations, or other land use issues.

B-3

If during development activities, any wells are encountered that were not part of this review, the property owner is expected to immediately notify the Division's construction site well review engineer in the Northern district office, and file for Division review an amended site plan with well casing diagrams. The District office will send a follow-up well evaluation letter to the property owner and local permitting agency.

B-4

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (562) 637-4400 or via email at Baldev.Gill@conservation.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Baldev Gill
Acting Chief Deputy

cc: Ogonna Obinwa - Submitter
cc: Stephanie Cormier - Plan Checker
cc: Yolo County - Property Owner

Wells Not Abandoned to Current Division Requirements as Prescribed by Law & Projected to be Built Over or Have Future Access Impeded

The wells listed below are not abandoned to current Division requirements as prescribed by law, and based upon information provided, are projected to be built over or have future access impeded. **The Division expects these wells to be reabandoned in compliance with current California law, prior to development activities.**

API	Well Designation	Operator	Well Evaluations
0411320200	Miles 1-30	Chevron U.S.A. Inc.	Well is missing hydrocarbon plug (CCR 1723.1). Hence, this well does not meet the current standard for plugging and abandonment
0411320366	Yolo-Day Unit 1 29	Great Basins Petroleum Co.	Well is missing hydrocarbon plug (CCR 1723.1). Hence, this well does not meet the current standard for plugging and abandonment

B-5

Response to Comment B-1

Comment noted.

Response to Comment B-2

As indicated, the California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) has identified 2 oil or gas wells located within the boundaries of the Yolo County Central Landfill. These wells are identified as "Not Abandoned to Current Division Requirements".

The Division of Integrated Waste Management (DIWM) has determined that the two wells are not in the Project development areas for the Project elements in the EIR. DIWM is exploring the location of the two wells because they may be in locations permitted for future landfill activities. DIWM will follow up with the Department of Conservation (Geologic Energy Management Division) at the conclusion of the exploration and discuss what they have found and approach for next steps.

Response to Comment B-3

None of the Project elements include drilling, operation, maintenance, or abandonment of oil, gas, or geothermal wells.

Response to Comment B-4

YCCL staff will notify CalGEM if any oil, gas, or geothermal wells are encountered that were not part of this review.

Response to Comment B-5

The table identifies the two wells that, according to CalGEM files, are not abandoned to current Division requirements. As indicated in response to Comment B-5, the wells identified in this comment are not in the Project development and would not be affected by the Project.

From: Lincoln, Edward@DOT
To: Stephanie Cormier
Cc: Padilla, Alex@DOT
Subject: Yolo County Central Landfill Permit Revisions
Date: Thursday, September 9, 2021 3:17:33 PM

Hi Stephanie,

Caltrans does not have any comments for the Yolo County Central Landfill Permit Revisions. If there are changes in the future, please let us know. C-1

Thank You.

Edward Lincoln
Transportation Planner
Planning, Local Assistance, and Sustainability
California Department of Transportation, District 3
703 B Street | Marysville, CA 95901
Email: edward.lincoln@dot.ca.gov
www.dot.ca.gov/D3/
M-F, 7-3:30pm
Office: (530) 565-3963

Response to Comment C-1

Comment noted.

B. ORAL COMMENTS

The County and RCH Group held a zoom webinar hearing on August 18, 2021, to inform participants on the evaluations in the Draft EIR, explain the EIR process and upcoming schedules, and receive verbal comments on the Draft EIR. A PowerPoint was displayed to present the Project to the public and summarize key aspects of the Project. Topic areas comprised:

- An introduction to the Project team,
- Overview of the California Environmental Quality Act,
- Project elements,
- Impacts and mitigation measures, and
- Alternatives to the Project.

The meeting was then opened for public and agency comments and one oral comment was received.

Paul Miller

From: Paul Miller
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 9:38 PM
To: Jeff Kieffer
Cc: Stephanie Cormier
Subject: Jennifer Gilbert Question in the Webinar

Jeff,

Finally got back to this item.

Her question was

"Does the wood pellet facility meet the SB 1383 definitions for recovered organic waste product?"

When she spoke she indicated that cities have to purchase a certain amount of product and it would be good if they could buy these from the landfill.
But they would have to meet the difinitions.

D-1

That's it

Paul Miller
Managing Principal
pmiller@TheRCHGroup.com
(916) 212-9600 Mobile

Response to Comment D-1

In September 2016, Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383) passed and set methane emission reduction targets for California, to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants (essentially greenhouse gas emissions).

SB 1383 requires a 50% reduction of statewide disposal of organic waste from the 2014 level by January 1, 2020 and a 75% reduction of statewide disposal of organic waste by January 1, 2025. Many of the Project elements are included in the YCCL EIR to assist in reducing the disposal of organic waste. The Draft EIR (p. 3.7-11) identifies SB 1383 in the Project Objectives (Draft EIR, p. 2-12).

SB 1383 also requires jurisdictions to procure (purchase) compost and renewable transportation fuel annually based on population. The comment asks if the wood pellet facility would meet the SB 1383 definition for a recovered organic waste product. Would the purchase of wood pellets help jurisdictions meet 1383 procurement requirements?

While SB 1383 is highly focused on building composting infrastructure, the wood pellet facility would use compost "overs" that are a byproduct of composting (the fraction that is too large to efficiently compost). The County would need to defend why the manufacturing of the pellets is a complementary process associated with composting, and should be able to have this approved as diversion and it should be considered a recovered organics waste product (M. Juhler, 2021).

Another option for procurement would be for a jurisdiction to purchase the compost overs and give them to the wood pellet facility (N. Edgar, 2021).

Marissa Juhler. Waste Reduction and Sustainability Manager, Yolo County Central Landfill. Email to Jeff Kieffer. August 26, 2021.

Neil Edgar, Executive Director at California Compost Coalition, Personal Communication with RCH Group, September 28, 2021.

CHAPTER 4
TEXT CHANGES TO THE DRAFT EIR

The following text changes are made to the Draft EIR and incorporated as part of the Final EIR. Revisions to the Draft EIR are shown in <u>underline</u> for additions and ~~strikethrough~~ for deletions.

These changes comprise minor edits to the Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the Yolo County Central Landfill Permit Revision EIR. Revisions herein do not result in new significant environmental impacts, do not constitute significant new information, nor do they alter the conclusions of the environmental analysis. The change to Impact 3.2.2 was a mistake in Table ES-1. The Draft EIR (Section ES.4 and Section 3.2, Impact 3.2.2) identified the conversion of agricultural land to a non-agricultural use (the offsite borrow area) as a significant and unavoidable project impact as well as a significant and unavoidable cumulative impact.

The text on page ES-1 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

2. To increase the County's ability to divert waste (including organics) from the landfill and continue to meet the state-mandated diversion goals provided in SB 1383 ~~AB 1383~~, other state mandates to reduce waste from landfill (AB 341), and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (AB 32);

The text in Table ES-1 on page ES-13 of the DEIR is revised as follows:

Impact 3.2.2: Development of an off-site borrow area could result in conversion of farmland (including Prime Farmland, and non-prime farmland mapped as Unique Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance) to non-agricultural use.	**Mitigation Measure 3.2.2:** The County shall not locate the off-site borrow area or areas on agriculture farmland identified as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, to the extent feasible. The California Department of Conservation's "important farmlands" designation shall be used to identify the areas mapped as Prime, Unique, or Farmland of Statewide Importance. If the off-site borrow area includes Prime, Unique, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, then the County shall comply with the Agricultural Conservation and Mitigation Program, which requires up to three (3) acres of agricultural land shall be preserved for each acre of prime farmland converted to a predominantly non-agricultural use or zoning classification (3:1 ratio), or up to two (2) acres of agricultural land shall be preserved for each acre of non-prime farmland converted to a predominantly non-agricultural use or zoning classification (2:1 ratio). If the Project is determined exempt per Yolo County Code Sec. 8-2.404(c)(2)(ii), a minimum of one (1) acre of agricultural land shall be preserved for each acre of prime or non-prime farmland converted at the off-site borrow area to a predominantly non-agricultural use (1:1 ratio).	S	<u>SU</u> ~~LSM~~

The text on page 2.4-12 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> *Objective 2*. To increase the County's ability to divert waste (including organics) from the landfill and continue to meet the state-mandated diversion goals provided in ~~AB~~ SB 1383, other state mandates to reduce waste from landfill (AB 341) and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (AB 32).

The text on page 5.2-2 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> *Objective 2*. To increase the County's ability to divert waste (including organics) from the landfill and continue to meet the state-mandated diversion goals provided in ~~AB~~ SB 1383, other state-mandates to reduce waste from landfill (AB 341) and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (AB 32).

The text on page 5.7-14 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

> *Objective 2*. To increase the County's ability to divert waste (including organics) from the landfill and continue to meet the state-mandated diversion goals provided in ~~AB~~ SB 1383, other state-mandates to reduce waste from landfill (AB 341) and reduce GHG emissions (AB 32).

APPENDIX A

DRAFT MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Throughout the Draft EIR mitigation measures have been identified and incorporated in a comprehensive Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP). Public Resources Code Section 21081.6(a) requires lead agencies to adopt a MMRP including all measures to mitigate or avoid significant adverse impacts on the environment. The MMRP will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for adoption at the time of project approval.

CEQA Guideline §15097 directs the Lead Agency, Yolo County, to adopt a program for monitoring or reporting on the revisions which it has required in the project and the measures it has imposed to mitigate or avoid significant environmental effects. The MMRP is required to ensure that the mitigation measures and project revisions identified in the EIR are implemented. The MMRP will be monitored by various departments of Yolo County. State CEQA Guidelines §15370 defines "mitigation" as:

- Avoiding the impact completely by not taking a certain action or parts of an action;
- Minimizing the impact by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation;
- Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment;
- Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations, during the life of the action;
- Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

Note: *Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code; Reference: Sections 21002, 21002.1, 21081, and 21100(c), Public Resources Code.*

DRAFT MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM - YOLO COUNTY CENTRAL LANDFILL PERMIT REVISIONS

Mitigation Measure	Enforcement and Monitoring Responsibility	Timing/ Implementation	Verification (Date and Initials)
3.1 AESTHETICS/VISUAL			
Mitigation Measure 3.1.7: New lighting for Project Elements shall be arranged and controlled so as not to illuminate public rights of way or adjacent properties (i.e., downward facing lighting fixtures, dark sky friendly lighting fixtures, etc.).	Department of Community Services	Prior to facility construction.	
Mitigation Measure 3.1.8a: Consistent with 2030 Yolo County General Plan Policy CC-1.8, development of the future off-site borrow area shall include visual screening along highways, freeways, roads, and trails. Visual screening could include retaining existing trees and vegetation, new landscaping or screen trees, or another option approved by the County.	Department of Community Services	Prior to excavation at a future off-site borrow area.	
Mitigation Measure 3.1.8b: The off-site borrow area shall implement hours of operation that reduce or eliminate adverse effects of the off-site borrow area nighttime activities on nearby sensitive receptors, or operations controls such as directed lighting.	Department of Community Services	Ongoing once off-site borrow area is operational.	
3.2 LAND USE, PLANNING AND AGRICULTURE			
Mitigation Measure 3.2.1a: The County shall site the off-site borrow area in a location not zoned or designated as agriculture land to the extent feasible. In the event that the only feasible off-site borrow area is zoned or designated as agricultural land, the County shall re-zone and re-designate the off-site borrow area site (to PQP and PQ, respectively) so the use of the site would not conflict with the land use designation.	Department of Community Services	If located on agricultural land, a designation and zone change would be required prior to operation.	
Mitigation Measure 3.2.2: The County shall not locate the off-site borrow area or areas on agriculture farmland identified as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, to the extent feasible. The California Department of Conservation's "important farmlands" designation shall be used to identify the areas mapped as Prime, Unique, or Farmland of Statewide Importance. If the off-site borrow area includes Prime, Unique, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, then the County shall comply with the Agricultural Conservation and Mitigation Program, which requires up to three (3) acres of agricultural land shall be preserved for each acre of prime farmland converted to a predominantly non-agricultural use or zoning classification (3:1 ratio), or up to two (2) acres of agricultural land shall be preserved for each acre of non-prime farmland converted to a predominantly non-agricultural use or zoning classification (2:1 ratio). If the Project is determined exempt per Yolo County Code Sec. 8-2.404(c)(2)(ii), a minimum of one (1) acre of agricultural land shall be preserved for each acre of prime or non-prime farmland converted at the off-site borrow area to a predominantly non-agricultural use (1:1 ratio).	Department of Community Services	Compliance with Agricultural Conservation and Mitigation Program prior to operation.	

DRAFT MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM - YOLO COUNTY CENTRAL LANDFILL PERMIT REVISIONS

Mitigation Measure	Enforcement and Monitoring Responsibility	Timing/ Implementation	Verification (Date and Initials)
3.3 AIR QUALITY			
Mitigation Measure 3.3.1: The following shall be implemented during Project construction ground disturbing activities: • Active construction sites shall be watered at least twice daily. • Vehicles on unpaved roads shall be limited to 15 mph.	Department of Community Services / YSAQMD	On-going during construction activities for Project elements.	
Mitigation Measure 3.3.2: For Project elements planned to be operational before year 2030 (i.e. construction permits are approved) an updated emissions inventory shall be performed prior to operation in order to determine if NOx emissions from implemented Project element mobile sources exceed the YSAQMD's annual NOx threshold of significance. If the updated emissions inventory concludes that NOx emissions from Project mobile sources exceed the YSAQMD annual NOx threshold of significance, the County shall decrease annual NOx emissions from Project mobile sources to below the YSAQMD's threshold of significance. Methods to decrease annual NOx emissions from Project mobile sources include but are not limited to: • Use of alternatively fueled (electric, natural gas, etc.) off-road equipment and on-road heavy trucks. • Replacement of older vehicles and heavy equipment at YCCL with newer vehicles and heavy equipment with lower NOx emissions. • Replacement of older vehicles or heavy equipment at other locations in the County to offset NOx emissions below the YSAQMD's threshold of significance. • Another method approved by the County that would reduce annual NOx emissions in the YSAQMD such as purchasing offsets.	Department of Community Services / YSAQMD	Prior to implementation for Project elements that are operational before 2030.	
3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES			
Mitigation Measure 3.4.1a: Install and Maintain Exclusion and Construction Barrier Fencing between the Construction Area and Suitable Giant Garter Snake Habitat The construction specifications shall require that YCCL retain an agency-approved biologist to identify the suitable giant garter snake aquatic and upland habitat that are to be avoided during construction. To reduce the likelihood of giant garter snakes entering the construction area, YCCL shall install exclusion fencing to the extent practicable along the boundary of the Project area and around the proposed staging area. The exclusion fencing shall be installed during the active period for giant garter snakes (May 1–October 1) to reduce the potential for injury and mortality during construction activities. Where access is required into and out of the Project area and staging areas the fencing shall be opened to allow traffic in and out but shall be closed at the end of each workday. The exclusion fencing shall be installed the maximum distance practicable from the aquatic habitat areas and shall be in place before construction activities (including any vegetation removal or equipment staging) are initiated.	Department of Community Services / USFWS, as needed	Prior to and during construction activities for Project elements.	

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Mitigation Measure	Enforcement and Monitoring Responsibility	Timing/ Implementation	Verification (Date and Initials)
3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (cont.)			
The exclusion fencing shall consist of 3-foot-tall silt fencing buried 4–6 inches below ground level. The exclusion fencing shall ensure that giant garter snakes are excluded from the construction area and that suitable upland and aquatic habitat is protected throughout construction. In addition to the exclusion fencing, orange construction barrier fencing shall also be installed that is commercial-quality, 4-foot-high, woven polypropylene (Tensor Polygrid or equivalent) or signs indicating a sensitive resource area placed approximately every 10 feet along exclusion fencing. The construction barrier fencing shall be tightly strung on posts with a maximum of 10-foot spacing. The orange construction barrier fencing can be attached to the exclusion fencing or the exclusion fencing can double as construction barrier fencing if it is orange in color and at least 4 feet tall. The fencing requirements shall be included in the construction specifications, and an agency-approved biological monitor shall be onsite to direct and monitor exclusion fence installation. The biological monitor shall be responsible for ensuring that the contractor maintains the protective fencing around giant garter snake habitat throughout construction. Weekly monitoring summary reports shall be provided to YCCL and applicable wildlife agencies, as necessary.			
Mitigation Measure 3.4.1b: Conduct Environmental Awareness Training for Construction Employees YCCL shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct environmental awareness training for construction crews before project implementation. The awareness training shall be provided to all construction personnel and shall brief personnel on the need to avoid effects on sensitive biological resources (i.e., non-wetland waters, giant garter snake and other special-status species habitats in and adjacent to the construction area, and active bird nests). The education program shall include a brief review of the special-status species with the potential to occur in the Project area (including their life history, habitat requirements, and photographs of the species). The training shall identify the portions of the Project area in which the species may occur, as well as their legal status and protection. The program also shall cover the relevant permit conditions and mitigation measures that must be followed by all construction personnel to reduce or avoid effects on these resources during project implementation through completion. The training shall emphasize the role that the construction crew plays in identifying and reporting any special-status species observations to the onsite biologist. Training shall identify the steps to be taken if a special-status species is found within the construction area (i.e., notifying the crew foreman, who would call the designated biologist).	Department of Community Services	Prior to and during construction activities for Project elements.	

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Mitigation Measure	Enforcement and Monitoring Responsibility	Timing/ Implementation	Verification (Date and Initials)
3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (cont.)			
An environmental awareness handout that describes and illustrates sensitive resources to be avoided during project construction and identifies all relevant permit conditions shall be provided to each crew member. The crew foreman shall be responsible for ensuring that crew members adhere to the guidelines and restrictions. Education programs shall be conducted for appropriate new personnel as they are brought on the job.			
Mitigation Measure 3.4.1c: Minimize Potential Impacts of Dewatering on Giant Garter Snake YCCL shall implement the following measures to minimize potential impacts from dewatering aquatic giant garter snake habitat. • Areas with sufficient standing water shall be inspected for the presence of giant garter snakes by the agency-approved biologist immediately prior to dewatering. The approved biologist shall monitor the dewatering activity until the biologist determines that monitoring is no longer needed (e.g. once the work area is fully dewatered and once exclusion fencing has been installed). • Work areas shall be sufficiently dry (no standing water) prior to excavating or filling of the dewatered habitat. Dewatered habitat must remain dry, with no water puddles remaining, for at least 15 consecutive days prior to excavating or filling of the habitat. If a site cannot be completely dewatered, netting and salvage of giant garter snake prey items may be necessary to discourage use by snakes. • If the work areas are not fully drained prior to construction due to existing site conditions (e.g., low water table that causes infiltration back into the work area), the approved biologist shall survey the work area for snakes each morning prior to construction activities in the channel.	Department of Community Services / USFWS, as needed.	Prior to and during construction activities for Project elements.	
Mitigation Measures 3.4.1d: Minimize Potential Impacts on Giant Garter Snakes and their Habitat YCCL shall implement the following measures to minimize potential impacts on giant garter snakes and their habitat. These measures are consistent with the avoidance and minimization measures (AMMs) identified in the Yolo HCP/NCCP. • All construction activities that involve disturbance within giant garter snake habitat shall be confined to the snake's active season, May 1 through October 1. During this period, the potential for direct mortality is reduced because snakes are expected to move and avoid danger. • Construction vehicles shall observe the posted speed limit on hard-surfaced roads and a 10-mile-per-hour speed limit on unpaved roads during travel in the Project area.	Department of Community Services and Yolo Habitat Conservancy	On-going during construction activities for Project elements.	

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Mitigation Measure	Enforcement and Monitoring Responsibility	Timing/ Implementation	Verification (Date and Initials)
3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (cont.)			
• Construction vehicles and equipment shall restrict off-road travel to the designated construction areas. • Construction vehicles and equipment left onsite overnight shall be thoroughly inspected each day for snakes (both underneath the vehicles and in open cabs) before they are moved. • All food-related trash shall be disposed of in closed containers and removed from the construction area daily during the construction period. Construction personnel shall not feed or otherwise attract fish or wildlife to the construction site. • No pets or firearms shall be allowed in the construction area. • To avoid entrapment of wildlife, all excavated steep-walled holes or trenches more than one foot deep shall either be properly covered or provided with one or more escape ramps constructed of earth fill or wooden planks at the end of each workday. If left open overnight, the hole or trench shall be inspected by the onsite biological monitor prior to it being backfilled. • To prevent possible resource damage from hazardous materials such as motor oil or gasoline, construction personnel shall not service vehicles or construction equipment within 200 feet of wet canals. If servicing is required, the area shall be properly contained to prevent runoff of contaminants. • Maintain water quality and limit construction runoff into wetland areas through the use of hay bales, filter fences, vegetative buffer strips, or other accepted practices. No plastic, monofilament, jute, or similar erosion-control matting that could entangle snakes or other wildlife shall be permitted.			
Mitigation Measure 3.4.1e: Conduct Preconstruction Surveys and Monitoring for Giant Garter Snake YCCL shall conduct preconstruction surveys and monitoring for giant garter snake and shall implement the following measures: • Within 24 hours prior to ground-disturbing activities within suitable giant garter aquatic and upland habitat (undeveloped areas within 200 feet of suitable aquatic habitat), an agency-approved biologist shall conduct a preconstruction clearance survey for giant garter snake. If construction activities stop for a period of two weeks or more, conduct another preconstruction clearance survey within 24 hours prior to resuming construction activity. • A USFWS-approved biologist shall be onsite during initial ground disturbing activities within suitable aquatic and upland habitat to monitor construction activities and ensure that giant garter snake protection measures are being implemented properly. Once the Project area has been graded and ground disturbance has been completed, monitoring shall continue on a weekly basis, unless otherwise specified by project permits.	Department of Community Services approved biologists and USFWS approved biologists, CDFW, as needed	Relocation Plan prior to construction of Project Elements. Within 24 hours of start of construction, within Giant Garter Snake habitat and during initial ground disturbing activities within suitable habitat. Ongoing log.	

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Mitigation Measure	Enforcement and Monitoring Responsibility	Timing/ Implementation	Verification (Date and Initials)
3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (cont.)			
• YCCL shall prepare a giant garter snake relocation plan which must be approved by the appropriate resource agencies prior to work in giant garter snake habitat. If a live giant garter snake is encountered during construction activities, immediately notify the project's biological monitor and USFWS and CDFW. The monitor shall stop construction in the vicinity of the snake, monitor the snake, and allow the snake to leave on its own. The monitor shall remain in the area for the remainder of the workday to ensure the snake is not harmed or, if it leaves the site, does not return. If the giant garter snake does not leave on its own, the qualified biologist shall relocate the snake consistent with the relocation plan described above. • The biological monitor shall prepare daily monitoring logs that include a description of construction activities; areas surveyed and monitored; communication with construction personnel, YCCL, and wildlife agencies; noncompliance issues and resolutions; and a list of all wildlife species observed during monitoring activities. The biological monitor shall also record all observations of Federally and State-listed species on CNDDB field sheets and submit to CDFW.			
Mitigation Measure 3.4.1f: Restore Temporarily Disturbed Aquatic and Upland Habitat to Pre-project Conditions Upon completion of proposed project, YCCL shall restore temporarily disturbed habitat for giant garter snake to pre-project conditions. Habitat shall be restored within one construction season.	Department of Community Services	Within one construction season after completion of Project elements.	
Mitigation Measure 3.4.2: Conduct biological and wetland surveys of off-site borrow area and apply mitigation measures based on survey results. YCCL County shall conduct a biological resource survey of any Project area to be disturbed and nearby areas (e.g., including a 250-foot. buffer surrounding proposed borrow site), and/or enlarged buffer sufficient to comply with survey protocols (0.5-mile buffer for Swainson's hawk) that may be affected by the construction. At a minimum, each survey shall include the following: • A database search for occurrence of special status species within a 5-mile radius of the borrow site, • A site reconnaissance by a qualified biologist to identify occurrence or potential occurrence of special-status species and habitats on and around the development site, and • Consultation, as appropriate, with regulatory agencies regarding the results and incorporation of appropriate mitigation measures identified in this section for impacts to those sensitive resources.	Department of Community Services approved biologists.	Prior to construction of off-site borrow area.	

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Mitigation Measure	Enforcement and Monitoring Responsibility	Timing/ Implementation	Verification (Date and Initials)
3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (cont.)			
Mitigation Measure 3.4.3: Conduct Preconstruction Surveys for Western Pond Turtle and Allow Turtles to Leave Work Area Unharmed To avoid potential injury to or mortality of western pond turtles, YCCL shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct a preconstruction survey for western pond turtles immediately prior to construction activities (including vegetation removal) along suitable habitat and adjacent uplands. The biologist shall survey the aquatic habitat, canal banks, and adjacent upland habitat within the construction area immediately prior to disturbance. If a western pond turtle is found within the immediate work area during the preconstruction survey or during project activities, work shall cease in the area until the turtle is able to move out of the work area on its own. If the turtle does not move out of the area, the biologist shall coordinate with YCCL and CDFW to create and implement a live trapping plan and relocation effort. Information about the location of turtles seen during the preconstruction survey shall be included in the environmental awareness training (Mitigation Measure 3.4.1b) and provided directly to the construction crew working in that area to ensure that areas where turtles were observed are inspected each day prior to the start of work to ensure that no turtles are present. If a western pond turtle nest is discovered during the preconstruction survey or during project construction, YCCL's biologist would coordinate with CDFW to determine whether additional avoidance measures (e.g., no-disturbance buffer or monitoring) is prudent.	Department of Community Services approved biologists and CDFW, as needed	Prior to construction and on-going during construction of Project Elements.	
Mitigation Measure 3.4.4: Conduct Vegetation Removal during the Non-Breeding Season and Conduct Pre-Construction Surveys for Nesting Migratory Birds and Raptors Where vegetation removal is required to construct project features, YCCL shall conduct this activity during the non-breeding season for birds and raptors (generally between September 1 and February 28), to the extent feasible. If construction activities are planned during the nesting season (March 1– August 31), prior to the start of construction activities (including equipment staging and site preparation), YCCL shall retain a qualified wildlife biologist with knowledge of the relevant bird species to conduct nesting bird surveys. The surveys shall include a minimum of two separate surveys to look for active bird and raptor nests. Surveys shall include a search of all trees, shrubs, wetlands, and grassland vegetation that provide suitable nesting habitat in the Project area. In addition, nesting habitat within 1,320 feet from the Project area shall be surveyed for Swainson's hawk and a 500-foot radius around the Project area shall be surveyed for other nesting raptors, and a 100-foot radius	Department of Community Services approved biologists and CDFW, as needed	Prior to construction and on-going during construction of Project elements for construction activities planned during the nesting season (March 1 – August 31).	

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Mitigation Measure	Enforcement and Monitoring Responsibility	Timing/ Implementation	Verification (Date and Initials)
3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (cont.)			
around the Project area shall be surveyed for passerines. One survey should occur within 15 days prior to construction and the second survey should occur within 48 hours prior to the start of construction or vegetation removal (including grubbing). If no active nests are detected during these surveys, no additional measures are required. If an active nest is found in the survey area, a no-disturbance buffer shall be established around the nest site to avoid disturbance or destruction of the nest until the end of the breeding season (August 31) or until after a qualified wildlife biologist determines that the young have fledged and moved out of the Project area (this date varies by species). The extent of the nesting buffers shall be 1,300 feet for active tricolored blackbird colonies, 500-feet for Swainson's hawk, 300 feet for nesting raptors and 50-feet for passerine birds. The buffers may be adjusted based on environmental factors through coordination between the YCCL biologist and CDFW. Factors that may influence an adjusted buffer shall include the bird species, level of construction disturbance, line-of-sight between the nest and the disturbance, ambient levels of preexisting noise and other disturbances, and other topographical or artificial barriers.			
Mitigation Measure 3.4.5: Prior to commencing any phase involving ground disturbance for facilities developed in Swainson's hawk foraging habitat as shown on Figure 3.4-3, YCCL shall compensate for the loss of Swainson's hawk foraging habitat through the preservation of appropriate acreage of suitable Swainson's hawk foraging habitat for that phase by participating in the Yolo HCP/NCCP. Solar panel development of the three sites may reduce the value of the areas for foraging potential by Swainson's hawk, however there would still be some habitat value to the sites for Swainson's hawks. The YCCL will work with CDFW and the administrator of the Yolo HCP/NCCP to identify the appropriate acreage based on the value of the grassland habitat after placement of the solar panels.	Department of Community Services, Yolo Habitat Conservancy	Prior to construction of Project Elements disturbing Swainson's hawk foraging habitat.	
Mitigation Measure 3.4.6: Conduct Pre-Construction Surveys for Burrowing Owl and Establish Exclusion Zones, if Necessary YCCL shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct two separate pre-construction surveys for burrowing owl: no more than 30 days prior to initiating ground-disturbing activities (including grubbing and grading) within grassland habitat and then again within 3 days prior to construction. The preconstruction burrowing owl surveys shall be conducted in conjunction with the nesting bird surveys described under Mitigation Measure-3.4-3a and shall encompass the designated work area and a 500-foot buffer around this area where access is permitted. Areas where access is not permitted or is not accessible shall be surveyed using binoculars or a spotting scope.	Department of Community Services approved biologists, Yolo Habitat Conservancy, and CDFW, as needed	No more than 30 days prior to ground-disturbing activities withing grassland habitat and again within 3 days prior to construction, and on-going, as required by mitigation measure.	

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Mitigation Measure	Enforcement and Monitoring Responsibility	Timing/ Implementation	Verification (Date and Initials)
3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (cont.)			

If burrowing owls are identified during the survey area, YCCL shall minimize activities that shall affect occupied habitat as follows. Occupied habitat is considered fully avoided if the project footprint does not impinge on a non-disturbance buffer around the suitable burrow. For occupied burrowing owl nest burrows, this non-disturbance buffer could range from 150 to 1,500 feet (**Table 3.4-3**, Recommended Restricted Activity Dates and Setback Distances by Level of Disturbance for Burrowing Owls), depending on the time of year and the level of disturbance, based on current guidelines (California Department of Fish and Game 2012).

TABLE 3.4-3. RECOMMENDED RESTRICTED ACTIVITY DATES AND SETBACK DISTANCES BY LEVEL OF DISTURBANCE FOR BURROWING OWLS

	Level of Disturbance (feet) from Occupied Burrows		
Time of Year	**Low**	**Medium**	**High**
April 1–August 15	600	1,500	1,500
August 16–October 15	600	600	1,500
October 16–March 31	150	300	1,500

SOURCE: Yolo Habitat Conservancy 2018

The Yolo HCP/NCCP generally defines low, medium, and high levels of disturbances of burrowing owls as follows.

- **Low:** Typically, 71-80 decibels, generally characterized by the presence of passenger vehicles, small gas-powered engines (e.g., lawn mowers, small chain saws, portable generators), and high-tension power lines. Includes electric hand tools (except circular saws, impact wrenches and similar). Management and enhancement activities would typically fall under this category. Human activity in the immediate vicinity of burrowing owls would also constitute a low level of disturbance, regardless of the noise levels.
- **Moderate:** Typically, 81-90 decibels, and would include medium- and large-sized construction equipment, such as backhoes, front end loaders, large pumps and generators, road graders, dozers, dump trucks, drill rigs, and other moderate to large diesel engines. Also includes power saws, large chainsaws, pneumatic drills and impact wrenches, and large gasoline-powered tools. Construction activities would normally fall under this category.

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Mitigation Measure	Enforcement and Monitoring Responsibility	Timing/ Implementation	Verification (Date and Initials)
3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (cont.)			
• **High:** Typically, 91-100 decibels, and is generally characterized by impacting devices, jackhammers, compression ("jake") brakes on large trucks, and trains. This category includes both vibratory and impact pile drivers (smaller steel or wood piles) such as used to install piles and guard rails, and large pneumatic tools such as chipping machines. It may also include large diesel and gasoline engines, especially if in concert with other impacting devices. Felling of large trees (defined as dominant or subdominant trees in mature forests), truck horns, yarding tower whistles, and muffled or underground explosives are also included. Very few covered activities are expected to fall under this category, but some construction activities may result in this level of disturbance. The buffer size may be reduced based on existing vegetation, human development, and land use, as determined during coordination with CDFW. If the biologist finds the site to be occupied by western burrowing owls during the breeding season (February 1 to August 31), the project proponent shall avoid all nest sites, based on the buffer distances described above, during the remainder of the breeding season or while the nest is occupied by adults or young (occupation includes individuals or family groups that forage on or near the site following fledging). Construction may occur inside of the disturbance buffer during the breeding season if the nest is not disturbed and the YCCL develops an avoidance plan that is approved by all applicable resource agencies (i.e., Yolo Conservancy, CDFW) prior to project construction, based on the following criteria: • The avoidance plan is approved by all applicable resource agencies (i.e., CDFW, Yolo Conservancy). • A qualified biologist monitors the owls for at least three days prior to construction to determine baseline nesting and foraging behavior (i.e., behavior without construction). • The same qualified biologist monitors the owls during construction and finds no change in owl nesting and foraging behavior in response to construction activities. • If the qualified biologist identifies a change in owl nesting and foraging behavior as a result of construction activities, the qualified biologist shall have the authority to stop all construction related activities within the non-disturbance buffers described above. The qualified biologist shall report this information to YCCL and the applicable resources agencies within 24 hours, and the Conservancy shall require that these activities immediately cease within the non-disturbance buffer. Construction cannot resume within the buffer until the adults and juveniles from the occupied burrows have moved out of the Project area.			

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Mitigation Measure	Enforcement and Monitoring Responsibility	Timing/ Implementation	Verification (Date and Initials)
3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (cont.)			
• If monitoring indicates that the nest is abandoned prior to the end of nesting season and the burrow is no longer in use by owls, YCCL may remove the non-disturbance buffer, only with concurrence from applicable resource agencies. If the burrow cannot be avoided by construction activity, the biologist shall excavate and collapse the burrow in accordance with CDFW's 2012 guidelines to prevent reoccupation after receiving approval from the wildlife agencies. If evidence of western burrowing owl is detected outside the breeding season (September 1 to January 31), the project proponent shall establish a non-disturbance buffer around occupied burrows, consistent with Table 3.4-3, as determined by a qualified biologist. Construction activities within the disturbance buffer are allowed if the following criteria are met to prevent owls from abandoning important overwintering sites: • A qualified biologist monitors the owls for at least three days prior to construction to determine baseline foraging behavior (i.e., behavior without construction). • The same qualified biologist monitors the owls during construction and finds no change in owl foraging behavior in response to construction activities. • If there is any change in owl roosting and foraging behavior as a result of construction activities, these activities shall cease within the buffer. • If the owls are gone for at least one week, YCCL may request approval from the applicable resource agencies for a qualified biologist to excavate and collapse usable burrows to prevent owls from reoccupying the site if the burrow cannot be avoided by construction activities. The qualified biologist shall install one-way doors for a 48-hour period prior to collapsing any potentially occupied burrows. After all usable burrows are excavated, the buffer shall be removed, and construction may continue. Monitoring must continue as described above for the nonbreeding season if the burrow remains active. A qualified biologist shall monitor the site, consistent with the requirements described above, to ensure that buffers are enforced, and owls are not disturbed. Exclusion and burrow closure shall not be conducted during the breeding season for any occupied burrow. If YCCL determines that passive relocation is necessary, they shall develop a burrowing owl exclusion plan in consultation with CDFW and Yolo Conservancy, as applicable. The methods shall be designed as described in the species monitoring guidelines (California Department of Fish and Game 2012) and consistent with the most up-to-date checklist of passive relocation techniques. This may include the installation of one-way doors in burrow entrances by a qualified biologist during the nonbreeding season. These doors shall be in place for 48 hours and monitored twice daily to ensure that the owls have left the burrow, after which time the biologist shall collapse the burrow to prevent reoccupation. Burrows shall be excavated using hand tools. During excavation, an escape route shall be maintained at all times. This may include inserting an artificial structure, such as			

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Mitigation Measure	Enforcement and Monitoring Responsibility	Timing/ Implementation	Verification (Date and Initials)
3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (cont.)			
piping, into the burrow to prevent collapsing until the entire burrow can be excavated and it can be determined that no owls are trapped inside the burrow. Other methods of passive or active relocation may be used, based on best available science, if approved by the applicable resource agencies.			
Mitigation Measure 3.4.1b and 3.4.4: Conduct Environmental Awareness Training for Construction Employees and Pre-Construction Nesting Surveys These measures also apply to disturbance of nesting northern harrier and other protected ground-nesting birds and raptors (EIR Impact 3.4.7)	Department of Community Services approved biologists and CDFW, as needed	Prior to construction and on-going during construction of Project elements for construction activities planned during the nesting season (March 1 – August 31).	
Mitigation Measure 3.4.8a: Conduct appropriately timed floristic surveys A qualified botanist shall conduct protocol-level floristic surveys of the Project area. The floristic surveys shall be appropriately timed to coincide with the blooming/identifiable period of the special status plants with potential to occur in the Project area and follow methods described in *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities* (CDFW 2018) and *Guidelines for Conducting and Reporting Botanical Inventories for Federally Listed, Proposed and Candidate Plants* (USFWS 2002).	Department of Community Services approved biologists, and USFWS and CDFW, as needed	During blooming season, prior to construction of Project elements.	
Mitigation Measure 3.4.8b: Avoid special-status plant populations, minimize and/or compensate for substantial impacts If special-status plants are detected in the Project area, the YCCL shall identify the populations with orange fencing for avoidance and notify CDFW and USFWS as appropriate. If the special-status plants cannot be avoided, addition minimization and mitigation measures shall be developed by the applicant and CDFW and USFWS prior to construction. These measures may include, but would not be limited to: • Minimizing impacts to the population(s) by restricting impacts to a few individuals. • Developing a transplantation plan that involves relocating plants to suitable habitat approved by CDFW and/or USFWS. • Monitoring affected populations for a minimum of 3 years to document success of transplantation efforts. • Restoring or enhancing the occupied habitat onsite or in the project region. The seasonal wetlands and non-native annual grassland have potential to be restored and/or enhanced. If mitigation is required, the applicant shall consult with CDFW and/or USFWS on constraints and opportunities for appropriate on-site habitat enhancement and/or creation for the affected species. • Protecting occupied habitat at another location in the region.	Department of Community Services approved biologists, and USFWS and CDFW, as needed	Prior to construction of Project elements and through restoration projects, as needed.	

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Mitigation Measure	Enforcement and Monitoring Responsibility	Timing/ Implementation	Verification (Date and Initials)
3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (cont.)			
Mitigation Measure 3.4.9: Avoid Willow Slough Bypass and obtain permits as needed and comply with permit requirements Project activities shall be designed to avoid surface activities within 300 feet of Willow Slough Bypass. If pipeline activities cannot be avoided within 300 feet of Willow Slough Bypass, the riparian corridor shall be delineated by a qualified biologist and orange construction fencing shall be installed along the outline of the corridor. Impacts to the Willow Slough Bypass shall be avoided through directional boring beneath the bypass. Should directional bores bore under Willow Slough Bypass, consultation with CDFW shall be required and if necessary, a Lake or Stream Bed Alteration Permit would be obtained. The levee along Willow Slough Bypass is regulated by the Central Valley Flood Protection Board and any work within 300 feet of the levee of designated floodways or regulated streams would require an Encroachment Permit.	Department of Community Services approved biologists, and USFWS and CDFW, and CVFPB, as needed	Prior to construction activities within 300 feet of Willow Slough.	
Mitigation Measure 3.4.10: Conduct protocol aquatic resources delineation and compensate for substantial adverse effects on state or federally protected wetlands and non-wetland waters Prior to construction, a delineation of aquatic resources shall be conducted and submitted to USACE along with a request for verification. The delineation shall follow routine methods described in the *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual* (Environmental Laboratory 1987), *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual for the Arid West Region* (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2008), *A Field Guide to the Identification of the Ordinary High Water Mark* (OHWM) *in the Arid West Region of the Western United States* (Lichvar and McColley 2008), and the State Water Board's *Dredged and Fill Procedures* (State Water Resources Control Board 2019). The delineation shall be submitted to RWQCB if there are aquatic resources that are not waters of the United States, but still regulated by the State pursuant to the Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act. If waters of the United States are determined to be present in the Project area and would be filled by the proposed project, the applicant shall be required to obtain a Section 404 permit from USACE and a Section 401 permit from RWQCB. If the project would impact aquatic resources that are not regulated by USACE, the applicant shall be required to obtain Waste Discharge Requirements from the RWQCB. The USACE and/or RWQCB may require compensatory mitigation for impacts to jurisdictional aquatic resources. Should compensatory mitigation be required, it could be achieved by wetland enhancement or restoration in the Project area, which could be done in combination with the upland enhancement for special-status plant habitat discussed in Mitigation Measure 3.4.6b. If onsite mitigation is not available or feasible, the applicant shall purchase mitigation credits from a USACE/RWQCB-approved mitigation bank that services project's region.	Department of Community Services, USACE, and CVRWQCB	Prior to construction that may affect aquatic resources.	

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Mitigation Measure	Enforcement and Monitoring Responsibility	Timing/ Implementation	Verification (Date and Initials)
3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES AND TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES			
Mitigation Measure 3.5.1a: If cultural resources are encountered during Project implementation, construction (or Project actions) shall, in accordance with CEQA Section 15064.5, be halted or diverted to allow an archaeologist an opportunity to assess the resource.	Department of Community Services	On-going during construction activities.	
Mitigation Measure 3.5.1b: Section 7050.5 and 7052 of the California Health and Safety Code and Section 5097 of the Public Resources Code shall be implemented in the event that human remains, or possible human remains are located.	Department of Community Services, Yolo County Sheriff's Office, Coroner's Office	If possible human remains are found.	
Mitigation Measure 3.5.1c: Prior to Project ground disturbing activities, the County shall notify the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation and arrange for a qualified personnel to conduct a cultural resources sensitivity training for all construction personnel who will be associated with the Project. The training shall be developed and conducted in coordination with a representative from the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. The training shall include relevant information regarding sensitive cultural resources, including applicable regulations, protocols for avoidance, and consequences of violating State laws and regulations. The cultural sensitivity training shall also describe appropriate avoidance and minimization measures for resources that have the potential to be located on the Project site and shall outline what to do and whom to contact if any potential tribal cultural resources are discovered.	Department of Community Services, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation	Prior to ground disturbing activities for Project elements.	
Mitigation Measure 3.5.2a: A cultural resources survey of the site selected for the off-site borrow area, including a site survey and records search, shall be conducted by a registered archeologist prior to commencement of soil borrow activities. Any potential disturbance of identified cultural resources on the site shall be properly mitigated on-site or through proper recording and removal of the artifacts.	Department of Community Services, registered archeologist	Prior to ground disturbing activities at the off-site borrow area.	
Mitigation Measure 3.5.2b: If cultural resources are encountered during soil borrow activities, such activities shall, in accordance with CEQA Section 15064.5, be halted or diverted to allow an archaeologist an opportunity to assess the resource.	Department of Community Services, registered archeologist	When cultural resources are encountered.	
Mitigation Measure 3.5.2c: Section 7050.5 and 7052 of the California Health and Safety code and Section 5097 of the Public Resources Code shall be implemented in the event that human remains, or possible human remains are located at the site selected for the off-site borrow area.	Department of Community Services, Yolo County Sheriff's Office, Coroner's Office	If possible human remains are found at the off-site borrow area.	

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Mitigation Measure	Enforcement and Monitoring Responsibility	Timing/ Implementation	Verification (Date and Initials)
3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES AND TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES (cont.)			
Mitigation Measure 3.5.2d: Prior to ground disturbance at the future off-site borrow area, the County shall notify the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation and arrange for a qualified personnel to conduct a cultural resources sensitivity training for all construction personnel who will be associated with the Project. The training shall be developed and conducted in coordination with a representative from the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. The training shall include relevant information regarding sensitive cultural resources, including applicable regulations, protocols for avoidance, and consequences of violating State laws and regulations. The cultural sensitivity training shall also describe appropriate avoidance and minimization measures for resources that have the potential to be located on the Project site and shall outline what to do and whom to contact if any potential tribal cultural resources are discovered.	Department of Community Services, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation	Prior to ground disturbing activities at the off-site borrow area.	
3.8 PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY			
Mitigation Measure 3.8.1: The Division of Integrated Waste Management (DIWM) (or the facility contractor) shall prepare a Health and Safety Plan (HASP) for all new Project Element facilities prior to commencement of new facility operations. Each HASP shall include staff training requirements, emergency procedures and equipment, personal protective equipment for facility staff, communications equipment and emergency contacts, hearing loss prevention, equipment maintenance, and other policies to ensure the protection of worker and public health and safety.	Department of Community Services, Division of Integrated Waste Management (DIWM)	Prior to commencement of new Project element facility operations.	
3.9 GEOLOGY, SOILS AND SEISMICITY			
Mitigation Measure 3.9.5: Prior to initiation of any future off-site borrow area excavation activities 8 feet or more below the ground surface, the County shall provide pre-construction briefing(s) to supervisory personnel of any excavation contractor to alert them to the possibility of exposing significant paleontological resources within the Project area. The briefing shall discuss any paleontological objects that could be exposed, the need to stop excavation at the discovery, and the procedures to follow regarding discovery protection and notification of the County. An "Alert Sheet" shall be posted in conspicuous locations at the future off-site borrow area to alert personnel to the procedures and protocols to follow for the discovery of potentially significant paleontological resources. If unique and/or significant paleontological resources are discovered during soil management activities (as determined by a qualified paleontologist), the County shall allow excavation, identification, cataloging and/or other documentation by the qualified paleontologist. If appropriate, the County shall donate the resource to a local agency, state university, or other applicable institution, for curation and display for public education purposes.	Department of Community Services, and qualified paleontologist, if needed.	Prior to initiation of any future off-site borrow area excavation activities 8 feet or more below the ground surface and during excavations if unique and/or significant paleontological resources are discovered.	

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Mitigation Measure	Enforcement and Monitoring Responsibility	Timing/ Implementation	Verification (Date and Initials)
3.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY			
Mitigation Measure 3.10.1: The YCCL shall complete the following actions to monitor and evaluate groundwater extraction and retention during and following its Phase 1 groundwater extraction program (10 extraction wells): V. During the implementation period of the Phase 1 groundwater extraction program, YCCL shall continue to conduct regular groundwater level monitoring throughout each water year to assess the separation distance between the top of the groundwater table and bottom extent of the waste prism (5-foot separation) in WMUs 1-5. These data shall be reviewed annually to gauge the effectiveness of the groundwater extraction program. As required, water level monitoring data shall be submitted to the RWQCB. VI. Within one year following the completion of the Phase 1 groundwater extraction well program, acquired annual groundwater elevation and extraction rate data shall be applied, as appropriate, to determine whether the 5-foot separation is adequately maintained, and to update and refine the site groundwater model and YCCL facility water balance. VII. Groundwater level monitoring data, results of the updated groundwater model, and facility water balance shall be used to (a) determine the necessity and optimal location for additional extraction wells, (b) project the rate and quantity of extracted groundwater that would be necessary to maintain the 5-foot groundwater separation, and (c) determine whether storage area for that volume is available onsite. VIII. If results of the updated groundwater model and updated facility water balance determine that additional extraction wells are necessary and would generate groundwater discharges in excess of onsite facility storage infrastructure available at that time, the County shall develop and implement alternative water storage strategies prior to installing and operating additional extraction wells. These alternatives could include: • Arrangements with neighboring properties to purchase excess stormwater for irrigation uses. • Acquiring additional property for land application of stored water or for construction of additional storage basins. • Developing technologies to enhance evaporative capacity of surface water.	Department of Community Services, CVRWQCB	On-going during Phase 1 groundwater extraction program.	

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Mitigation Measure	Enforcement and Monitoring Responsibility	Timing/ Implementation	Verification (Date and Initials)
3.12 NOISE			
Mitigation Measure 3.12.1: Construction activities for new facilities shall be limited to 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday.	Department of Community Services	During construction of Project elements.	
Mitigation Measure 3.12.2a: Soil borrow activities shall be located in areas with a buffer zone of 400 feet to the nearest residence on agriculturally-designated land.	Department of Community Services	Ongoing during off-site soil borrow activities.	
Mitigation Measure 3.12.2b: Soil borrow activities shall be limited to achieve a CNEL that does not exceed 75 dBA at the nearest residence on agriculturally-designated land.	Department of Community Services	Ongoing during off-site soil borrow activities.	
Mitigation Measure 3.12.2c: To avoid effects of nighttime operations, haul trips leaving the soil borrow area shall be limited to 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday.	Department of Community Services	Ongoing during off-site soil borrow activities.	
3.14 PUBLIC SERVICES, UTILITIES, AND SERVICE SYSTEMS			
Mitigation Measure 3.14.2: As part of the standard review process, the County shall review and approve a *Fire Prevention Control and Mitigation Plan* that shall be developed for each applicable Project element, which shall include but not be limited to: • Description of the measures the operator will take to prevent fires and to control and extinguish fires. • Identification and description of the equipment the operator will have available (on-site) to control and extinguish fires. • Description of the measures the operator will take to mitigate the impacts of any fire at the site to the public health and safety and the environment. • Description of the arrangements the operator has made with the local fire control authority to provide fire prevention, control, and suppression in the event of a fire.	Department of Community Services, City of Davis Fire Chief	Prior to occupancy of each applicable Project element.	