

TUOLUMNE RIVER REGIONAL PARK
MASTER PLAN DRAFT MEIR

APPENDIX A: Notice of Preparation / Initial Study

**TUOLUMNE RIVER REGIONAL PARK JOINT
POWERS AUTHORITY (JPA)**

• CITY OF MODESTO, CITY OF CERES, STANISLAUS COUNTY •

PROJECT:

NOTICE OF PREPARATION/INITIAL STUDY

**Tuolumne River Regional Park (TRRP)
Master Plan**

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TUOLUMNE RIVER REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN MASTER EIR

NOTICE OF PREPARATION / INITIAL STUDY

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I. Notice of Preparation Process

A. CEQA Authority

Section 21080.4 of the Public Resources Code requires the Tuolumne River Regional Park Joint Powers Authority (JPA), (comprised of the City of Modesto, the City of Ceres, and Stanislaus County), as lead agency, to notify certain public agencies that the JPA is preparing a Master Environmental Impact Report (Master EIR). Those public agencies are classified as either: "Responsible Agencies"; agencies "having jurisdiction by law over natural resources affected by the project," (so-called "Trustee Agencies"); or "appropriate Federal agencies."

The goal for the JPA's Notice of Preparation (NOP) process is to seek relevant guidance from appropriate public agencies to help us prepare the Master EIR for the Tuolumne River Regional Park (TRRP) Master Plan.

B. Your Expected Role as Public Agency

In accordance with Section 21080.4 of the Public Resources Code, the City of Modesto requests the following information from your agency:

Is your agency a "Responsible Agency," a "Trustee Agency," or an "appropriate Federal agency" for the TRRP Master Plan? If so, what statutory authority do you have over the TRRP Master Plan and/or its implementation?

What is the "scope and content of the environmental information" which your agency wishes to include in the Master EIR for the TRRP Master Plan. Section IV of this NOP is carefully structured to help you respond to this question. To the degree that the JPA has focused the environmental issues to be studied, we have stated so, and we have invited specific agencies to provide feedback to us on how well we have focused that issue. In any event, please feel free to comment on any aspect of this NOP.

Who will be the contact person(s) for your agency? Feel free to name more than one, if appropriate.

C. Purpose of the Master EIR

As Lead Agency, the JPA will prepare an EIR to assess the impacts of development of the TRRP Master Plan. The EIR will be prepared pursuant to CEQA (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Section 15000 et seq.), as amended. CEQA requires that all state and local government agencies consider the environmental consequences of projects over which they have discretionary authority.

The EIR is a public document that discloses the significant environmental impacts of a project and measures to reduce these effects; significant impacts that cannot be avoided; growth-inducing impacts; effects found not to be significant; and significant cumulative impacts of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects. An EIR is an informational document that is to be used in the planning and decision-making process.

Specifically, the JPA will be preparing a "Master EIR" for the TRRP Master Plan. Section 21157(b) of the Public Resources Code describes the minimum required contents of a Master EIR. A Master EIR may be prepared for projects consisting of smaller individual projects to be implemented in phases. The Master EIR may be used to limit review of subsequent projects that are within the scope of the Master EIR. Further, the Master EIR may identify subsequent projects that require additional focused environmental review for which there is not sufficient information reasonably available to support a full assessment of potential impacts in the Master EIR. The purpose of the Master EIR will be to perform environmental review for TRRP Master Plan pursuant to Section 21157 of the Public Resources Code.

II. Readers' Guide

As permitted under Sections 15063(f) and 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, this NOP is also intended to serve as the Initial Study for the TRRP Master Plan. We are requesting specific responses from all responsible agencies for the TRRP Master Plan. This NOP is divided into six sections, including this Readers' Guide. Contents of each section are summarized below.

- A. Sections I and II contain information regarding the use of the NOP and how it relates to preparation of a Master EIR for the project.
- B. A description of the proposed project ("Tuolumne River Regional Park Master Plan") is provided in Section III.
- C. Section IV, the bulk of this NOP, contains the description of "probable environmental effects" by topic and the requests for responses from responsible agencies.
- D. Section V provides a compilation of specific questions directed to specific agencies in Section IV (Probable Environmental Effects).
- E. Section VI provides the references used to develop this NOP.

III. Project Description

Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines requires that the NOP contain sufficient information describing the project to enable the responsible agencies to make a meaningful response. The following is a description of the proposed project for purposes of this NOP.

A. Project Location

The TRRP is located within the City of Modesto in Stanislaus County, California. The City of Modesto is situated 27 miles south of Stockton and 90 miles north of Fresno on State Route 99. The project area encompasses approximately 500 acres along the Tuolumne River and south of downtown Modesto. Most of the land is along the northern bank of the river; however, there are some parcels of parkland along the south bank as well. These parcels are much smaller in area and do not form a continuous band along the river. Overall, the TRRP stretches from Carpenter Road on the west to Mitchell Road on the east. Figure 1 depicts the project location and Figure 2 shows the proposed TRRP Master Plan.

B. Planning Process

The TRRP planning process began in late 1998 when the TRRP JPA issued a Request for Proposals to prepare the plan. In early 1999, a planning consulting team lead by EDAW was selected to assist the JPA to prepare a master plan for the park. The consultant team was to work with the TRRP Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC), appointed by the TRRP Commission, on the preparation of the plan. The CAC meets monthly and provides recommendations to the TRRP Commission on all matters related to the park.

At the outset of the planning process "stakeholder" meetings were held with approximately one dozen individuals representing political leaders, community interests and agency personnel. The purpose of these meetings was to gain an understanding of key issues associated with the TRRP.

To date, three broadly noticed public workshops have been held in Modesto at key intervals in the planning process. On September 29th, 1999 the first public workshop on the plan was held. During this meeting, participants were introduced to the site and asked to provide ideas for the park. The second public workshop was held on December 9, 1999. During this workshop, conceptual plans for the park and the Gateway Parcel were presented, and members of public were asked to provide comments on the plan. On February 14, 2000, a public presentation was made to a joint meeting of the TRRP Commission and Citizen's Advisory Committee. The meeting was open to the public for review and comment. A third public workshop was held on April 17, 2000 to present a refined master plan for the park. Each workshop was held in the evening, and

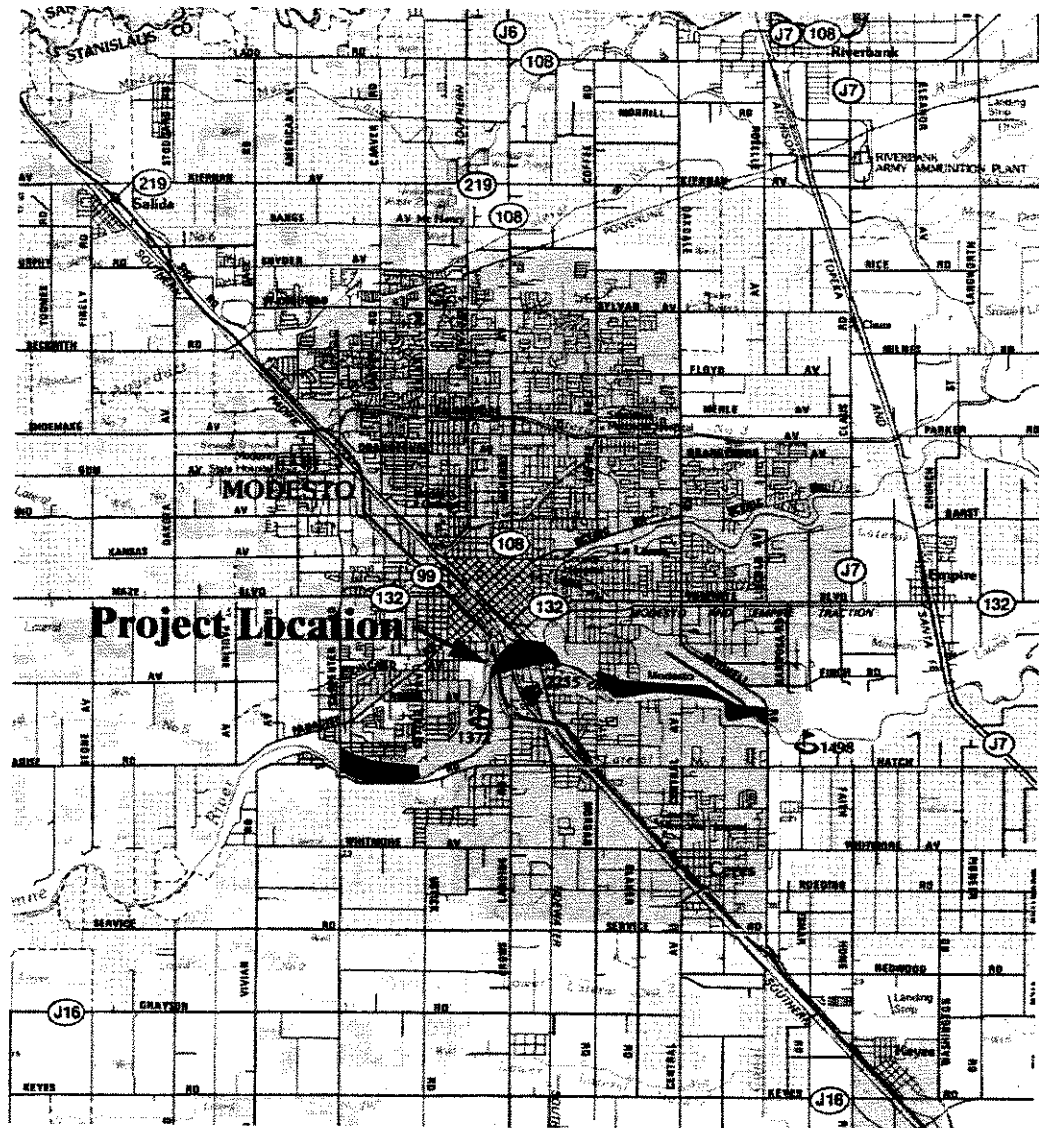


Figure 1: Project Location

was well attended, with approximately 50 to 60 members of the public in attendance. Meetings with the JPA staff (i.e., Modesto, Ceres and Stanislaus County) and regulatory agencies were also convened earlier in the day on September 29th, December 9th, and April 17th. Currently, JPA staff is hosting public workshops on the TRRP Master Plan in different locations of Stanislaus County.

In addition to the public workshops, project briefings were held with various local, State and federal departments/agencies to provide information about the park master planning process and to receive input from these groups.

C. Project Objectives

Section 15124 of the CEQA Guidelines requires an EIR to include a description of the objectives of the proposed project. The following are project objectives that have been identified for the proposed project.

1. Restore a continuous riparian corridor along the length of the river.
2. Provide a continuous bicycle and pedestrian trail from Carpenter Road to Mitchell Road with connections across the river.
3. Provide a variety of recreational experiences, including opportunities for both active and passive activities.
4. Enhance the environmental values of the park.
5. Provide access to the river.
6. Integrate educational and interpretive elements into the park design.

D. Project Description

The TRRP Master Plan is a land use vision and framework for improvements that will create a regional riverfront park approximately 500 acres in size. The Master Plan identifies six distinct areas of the park from west to east. These planning areas are identified in Figure 2. The corresponding numbers for the planning areas are used throughout this document for reference.

The following sections provide further description of the components of the Master Plan for the planning areas.

1. Carpenter Road Area

The Carpenter Road Area is approximately 180 acres in size. The former landfill site that is included in this area would be reclaimed to allow for public and park activities in the area. Because of the regulatory constraints related to landfill reclamation, development activities for this area will be identified as a subsequent project in the Master EIR. Included in the Master Plan is the development of a

Figure 2: TRRP Planning Areas

**See Figure III-4
Page III-11**

river promenade trail, restoration of the riparian corridor, creation of stormwater wetlands, and the development of a regional sports complex.

2. Golf Course Area

Currently, the JPA does not own land in this reach. Therefore, the acreage of this zone is not included in the Master Plan. However, the Master Plan advocates a narrow trail and riparian restoration easement along the river's edge in this reach.

3. Gateway Parcel

The Gateway Parcel would be the focal point of the TRRP Master Plan and would contain the majority of the active recreational and physical improvements. This area encompasses approximately 90 acres. A plan view of the Master Plan for the Gateway Parcel is provided in Figure 2. The Master Plan for the Gateway Parcel includes a river promenade trail and an internal trail system, riparian corridor restoration, multi-use meadows for community events and informal park activities, an "amphimeadow" (an outdoor amphitheater within a natural "meadow-like" setting) that seats 5,000 people, a children's play area, and parking for approximately 530 cars. The Master Plan also includes the removal of Dennett Dam as a subsequent project.

4. Gallo/Mancini Area

Mancini Park is approximately 25 acres. In this area, the plan includes the river promenade trail, restoration of the riparian corridor, and pedestrian/bike crossing across Dry Creek to the Gateway Parcel.

5. Legion Park

The Legion Park area is approximately 50 acres and would include the river promenade trail, restoration of the riparian corridor, picnic areas, a canoe/kayak beach, small group public event space, and a pedestrian/bike river crossing to Mancini Park.

6. The Airport Area

The Airport Area is approximately 160 acres and is influenced by the adjacent airport in terms of appropriate uses and activities. Overall, this is a low use area focused on study and enjoyment of the natural environment. For this area, the Master Plan includes the river promenade trail, restoration of the riparian corridor, and a river overlook and fishing pier.

E. Project Alternatives

Though alternative approaches were discussed throughout the planning process described in Section IIIB, at this time the JPA has not identified any specific

project alternatives for examination in the Master EIR. In the EIR, the State CEQA Guidelines require that the description and comparative analysis of a range of reasonable alternatives be developed to avoid or substantially lessen one or more of the significant effects identified for the project analyzed in the EIR. The Master EIR will include this analysis. Respondents may suggest project alternatives for analysis in the EIR.

F. Subsequent Projects

As allowed by the Public Resources Code, Section 21157(b)(3), the Master EIR will identify subsequent projects for which there is not sufficient information reasonably available to support a full assessment of potential impacts in the Master EIR. These activities would require additional focused environmental review prior to their implementation. Based upon the JPA's initial assessment of planned activities and projects, the following are expected to be identified in the Master EIR as "subsequent projects":

1. Landfill closure plan and subsequent development over the landfill (Planning Area 1)
2. Regional sports complex (Planning Area 1)
3. Treatment plant redesign or relocation (Planning Area 1)
4. Removal of Dennett Dam (Planning Area 3)
5. Special events at the Gateway Parcel (Planning Area 3)
6. Special events and/or concerts at the amphimeadow (Planning Area 3)
7. Pedestrian bridge overcrossings (Planning Areas 2, 3, 4, and 5)
8. Fishing piers and river overlooks (not specifically located)



Gateway Parcel: Conceptual Development Plan

Figure 3: Gateway Parcel Plan

IV. Probable Environmental Impacts

As allowed by CEQA Guidelines Section 15082, the JPA has reviewed the proposed project and made an initial determination of which probable environmental effects need to be studied further and which environmental effects require no further analysis. This section provides sufficient information to responsible agencies reviewing the NOP on the project's probable environmental effects. This section also asks for responses from those agencies that are identified in Appendix B of the CEQA Guidelines as having statutory authority over specific areas of environmental expertise.

A. Traffic and Circulation Needs

THIS ISSUE WILL BE STUDIED IN THE MASTER EIR.

1. "Probable Environmental Effects": (CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1)(C))

Based on the traffic analysis prepared for the Modesto General Plan (1990), roadways within the vicinity of the TRRP are generally operating at good levels of service (i.e., LOS C or better). Congested links in the vicinity of the planning area include the Ninth Street Bridge (LOS E) and B Street between 9th and 11th Streets (LOS F). Congestion occurs during the AM and/or PM peak commute hours. Under the buildout of the General Plan, these routes are anticipated to remain congested.

Implementation of the TRRP Master Plan would include recreational improvements throughout most of the planning area that would attract increased numbers of people to the park. The Gateway Parcel in particular would become a major recreational destination for the region as a whole. In general, peak recreational traffic occurs during off-peak hours (i.e., weekends or evenings).

The potential for large events to take place at the Gateway Parcel could be expected to cause a substantial increase in traffic. At the present time, events that accommodate 5,000 to 10,000 people are periodically staged at the nearby Legion Park portion of the TRRP and at the Gallo winery. Implementation of the project would relocate these types of large events to the Gateway Parcel. In addition, the development of facilities, such as the proposed amphimeadow (5,000-person capacity), could result in programming of additional special events. These events would cause a substantial increase in traffic in the area. Special events could also generate significant parking demands.

Though it is acknowledged that parking demands and traffic generated by special events could create significant traffic impacts, the environmental effects of special events and concerts at the Gateway Parcel will not be

examined in detail in the Master EIR. As allowed by Section 21157(b)(3) of the Public Resources Code, the Master EIR will identify these activities as subsequent projects for which there is not sufficient information reasonably available to support a full assessment of potential impacts in the Master EIR. These activities would require additional subsequent environmental review to be implemented.

The TRRP Master Plan would provide a system of Class I bicycle and pedestrian paths through the park that would link to other non-motorized routes in the area. The Plan provides for three bridge crossings: (1) over Dry Creek between Gateway and the Gallo properties; (2) across the Tuolumne River at Mancini Park; (3) across the Tuolumne River in the vicinity of the Dryden Golf Course. This system would provide excellent improvements to the overall circulation system which is currently fragmented in the east-west direction (due to the land use patterns) and in the north-south direction (the river creates a barrier to circulation in this direction). In order to provide pedestrian connections between the Gateway Parcel and adjacent urban areas and neighborhoods, crossings of the new Tuolumne Boulevard extension would be required.

The Master EIR will identify and evaluate traffic-generated effects caused by the implementation of the TRRP Master Plan. Further, the Master EIR will provide a description of potential impacts of anticipated subsequent projects for which there is not sufficient information reasonably available to support a full assessment of potential impacts in the Master EIR.

2. "Meaningful Responses" are requested from potentially Responsible Agencies: (CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1))

The parties/agencies listed below may have statutory responsibility in this environmental area; some are listed in Appendix B of the CEQA Guidelines. The questions below are to determine if there is any information related to your agency's area of responsibility that should be considered in the TRRP Master Plan EIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(b)).

a. City of Modesto Engineering and Transportation Department
(Glen Lewis, Director)

Is there information relating to the above Traffic and Circulation items that you would like to have included in the EIR? If so, also indicate what analysis should be included in the TRRP Master Plan EIR.

b. City of Ceres Planning and Community Development Director
(Randy Hatch)

Is there information relating to the above Traffic and Circulation items that you would like to have included in the EIR? If so, also indicate what analysis should be included in the TRRP Master Plan EIR.

- c. City of Ceres Public Works Director (Joe Hollstein)

Is there information relating to the above Traffic and Circulation items that you would like to have included in the EIR? If so, also indicate what analysis should be included in the TRRP Master Plan EIR.

- d. Stanislaus County Planning and Community Development Director (Ron Freitas)

Is there information relating to the above Traffic and Circulation items you wish to provide in response to this NOP? If so, also indicate what analysis should be included in the TRRP Master Plan EIR.

- e. Stanislaus County Public Works Director (George Stillman)

Is there any information regarding the County's circulation system that you wish to have included in the EIR? If so, also indicate what analysis should be included in the TRRP Master Plan EIR.

3. Responses Requested from Other Parties

- a. Caltrans District 10

State Highway 99 crosses the TRRP. A Class I pedestrian and bicycle path is proposed to cross under this structure. Do you have any concerns that should be addressed in the Master EIR?

B. Increased Demand for Long-Term Water Supplies

1. "Probable Environmental Effects":
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1)(C))

THIS ISSUE WILL NOT BE STUDIED IN THE MASTER EIR.

The proposed project would have no significant effect on demand for long-term water supplies. The TRRP would only require minor extensions of water-related utilities, such as water pipelines for a limited number of restrooms and drinking fountains, primarily at the Gateway Parcel. The majority of the vegetation proposed for park is composed of native plants which will only require irrigation during a short period of initial

establishment. The park will also require minor extensions of permanent water lines for use in the irrigation of a turf grass zone in the Gateway Parcel and for soccer fields in the Carpenter Road Area.

2. "Meaningful Responses" are requested from potentially Responsible Agencies:
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1))

Responses from responsible agencies are not requested regarding demand for long-term water supplies. However, responsible agencies may respond if desired.

3. Responses Requested from Other Parties

None requested.

C. Degradation of Air Quality

THIS ISSUE WILL BE STUDIED IN THE MASTER EIR.

1. "Probable Environmental Effects":
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1)(C))

The TRRP is located within the San Joaquin Air Basin, a large basin that includes the eight counties of the southern Central Valley region. Within the TRRP area (i.e., Modesto), ozone and particulates are the key air quality issues. According to California Air Resources Board (CARB), data for the 14th Street station in Modesto, State and federal standards for ozone and particulates have been exceeded through 1997 to 1999; standards for carbon monoxide have not been exceeded during this period. The TRRP is adjacent to numerous sensitive receptors including residential neighborhoods, elementary schools, and parks.

Implementation of the TRRP Plan would result in grading and earthwork in the Gateway Parcel and in other areas of the park. Temporary air quality impacts due to these construction activities (diesel fumes and particulate dust) are anticipated.

2. "Meaningful Responses" are requested from potentially Responsible Agencies:
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1))

The parties/agencies listed below may have statutory responsibility in this environmental area; some are listed in Appendix B of the CEQA Guidelines. The questions below are to determine if there is any information related to your agency's area of responsibility that should

considered in the TRRP Master Plan EIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(b)).

a. San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District

With regard to Section 2.3.1 of your Agency's "Guide for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts," are there any recent changes to the guide or other information you would like to have addressed in the Master EIR regarding air quality effects of the TRRP? When providing this information, please indicate what analysis should be included in the EIR.

b. State Air Resources Board

Your agency is listed as having statutory authority over this environmental area in Appendix B of the CEQA Guidelines. Is there information you would like to have addressed in the Master EIR regarding air quality effects of the TRRP Master Plan? When providing this information, please indicate what analysis should be included in the EIR.

3. Responses Requested from Other Parties

None requested.

D. Loss of Productive Agricultural Land

THIS ISSUE WILL NOT BE STUDIED IN THE MASTER EIR.

1. "Probable Environmental Effects":
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1)(C))

The Gateway Parcel is designated Prime Farmlands by the California Department of Conservation on the 1990 Stanislaus County Important Farmlands Map.¹ Loss of agricultural land within the designated urban area boundary of Modesto was analyzed in the Master EIR for the Urban Area General Plan, 1995. Through this process, the City of Modesto acknowledged and made findings that if development was within the Baseline Developed Area as identified on the General Plan Growth Strategy Diagram, the project shall be considered to have a minimal effect on the conversion of agricultural lands, and no mitigation would be required (Modesto, 1995). Those areas on the north side of the Tuolumne River are within this boundary, including the Gateway Parcel. Further, the Mancini area (which is on the south side of the river) is not designated as

¹ City of Modesto, Final Master EIR of the Urban Area General Plan, 1995. Figure 4-1.

Prime Farmland. For these reasons, the TRRP Master Plan is not anticipated to result in loss of productive agricultural land.

2. "Meaningful Responses" are requested from potentially Responsible Agencies:
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1))

Responses from responsible agencies are not requested regarding agricultural resources. However, responsible agencies, may respond if desired.

3. Responses Requested from Other Parties

None requested.

E. Generation of Noise

THIS ISSUE WILL BE STUDIED IN THE MASTER EIR.

1. "Probable Environmental Effects":
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1)(C))

Noise generators in the project area include roadways, railroads, the Modesto City/County Airport, and nearby industry. Sensitive receptors to noise include residences, schools, parks, churches, and local wildlife.

The TRRP is envisioned as a quiet, contemplative space providing visual and auditory relief from adjacent urban areas. The TRRP would not introduce uses that would permanently increase ambient noise levels. As a result, the proposed project would not likely result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise

Special events and concerts at the proposed amphimeadow in the Gateway Parcel may be amplified which may increase noise levels. Though it is acknowledged that these special events could generate noise that could result in significant noise impacts, potential impacts of special events will not be examined in detail in the Master EIR. As allowed by Section 21157(b)(3) of the Public Resources Code, the Master EIR will identify these activities as subsequent projects for which there is not sufficient information available to support a full assessment of potential impacts in the Master EIR. These activities would require additional subsequent environmental review to be implemented.

To assess potential short-term noise impacts, the Master EIR will identify sensitive receptors and their relative exposure including the nearby schools and residential areas. Noise levels of specific construction equipment will be determined and resultant noise levels at receptors will

be calculated. Predicted noise levels will be compared with applicable State and local standards, and the significance of short-term noise impacts will be determined.

Implementation of the TRRP may expose additional people to existing noise generators, including Highway 99 and the Union Pacific Railroad, both extending over the Gateway Parcel, and the City/County Airport adjacent to the easternmost segment of the park. As the TRRP itself is considered a sensitive receptor, the EIR will evaluate the effects of exposing additional numbers of people to these existing noise generators.

2. "Meaningful Responses" are requested from potentially Responsible Agencies:
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1))

The parties/agencies listed below may have statutory responsibility in this environmental area; some are listed in Appendix B of the CEQA Guidelines. The questions below are to determine if there is any information related to your agency's area of responsibility that should be considered in the TRRP Master Plan EIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(b)).

- a. City of Modesto Engineering and Transportation Department
(Airport manager, Glen Lewis/Howard Cook)

Is there other information you feel should be added to the TRRP Master EIR regarding noise and the implementation of the TRRP Master Plan? If so, please indicate what analysis should be included in the EIR.

- b. Stanislaus County Planning and Community Development Director
(Ron Freitas)

Is there information you would like to have added to the TRRP Master EIR regarding generation of noise? When providing this information, please indicate what analysis should be included in the EIR.

- c. State Aeronautics Department

Your agency is listed as having statutory authority over this environmental area in Appendix B of the CEQA Guidelines. Is there information you would like to have added to the TRRP Master EIR regarding generation of noise, or any information regarding changes to noise levels from the Modesto City/County Airport? When providing this information, please indicate what analysis should be included in the EIR.

d. State Department of Fish and Game

Your agency is listed as having statutory authority over noise in Appendix B of the CEQA Guidelines as excessive noise may affect wildlife. Do you have any criteria for evaluating noise on wildlife? Is there information you would like to have added to the TRRP EIR regarding generation of noise? When providing this information, please indicate what analysis should be included in the EIR.

e. State Health Services Department, State Office of Noise Control (Russ Dupree)

Your agency is listed as having statutory authority over this environmental area in Appendix B of the CEQA Guidelines. Is there information you would like to have added to the TRRP Master EIR regarding generation of noise? When providing this information, please indicate what analysis should be included in the EIR.

3. Responses Requested from Other Parties

None requested.

F. Loss of Sensitive Wildlife and Plant Habitat

THIS ISSUE WILL BE STUDIED IN THE MASTER EIR.

1. "Probable Environmental Effects":
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1)(C))

The TRRP is located within and adjacent to the riparian corridor of the Tuolumne River. The parklands consist of developed areas such as existing parks, and other recreation facilities, as well as undeveloped land. Although most of the undeveloped land within the TRRP Master Plan area has been subject to past disturbance, a portion of the land consists of remnant riparian forest. However, much of this existing riparian habitat is degraded. Implementation of the Master Plan is intended to improve the habitat value along these corridors. The Tuolumne River and environs is also habitat and potential habitat for several State and federally listed or candidate species.

Although the Tuolumne River itself is a water body of the United States and is therefore regulated by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, there are no known federally protected wetlands on the project site. However, wetland areas do exist along the stream banks, and could be affected by construction activities.

2. "Meaningful Responses" are requested from potentially Responsible Agencies:
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1))

The parties/agencies listed below may have statutory responsibility in this environmental area; some are listed in Appendix B of the CEQA Guidelines. The questions below are to determine if there is any information related to your agency's area of responsibility that should be considered in the TRRP Master Plan EIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(b)).

- a. National Marine Fisheries Service (Dennis Smith)

Your agency is responsible for restoration of habitat for threatened and endangered fisheries. The Tuolumne River is critical habitat for steelhead and fall run Chinook Salmon. Is there any information you would like to have added to the TRRP Master EIR regarding wildlife and plant habitat effects from implementation of the TRRP Master Plan? When providing this information, please indicate what analysis should be included in the EIR.

- b. State Department of Fish and Game
(William Loudermilk, Regional Manager; Timothy Heyne, Biologist)

Your agency is responsible for the enforcement of the 185-foot riparian easement over the Gateway Parcel. In addition, we anticipate your involvement in implementing a fish count facility and oversight of restoration plans and various permitting processes. Is there any information you would like to have added to the TRRP Master EIR regarding wildlife and plant habitat effects from implementation of the TRRP Master Plan? When providing this information, please indicate what analysis should be included in the EIR.

- c. State Department of Parks and Recreation

Your agency is listed as having statutory authority over biological resources in Appendix B of the CEQA Guidelines. Is there any information you would like to have added to the TRRP Master EIR regarding wildlife and plant habitat effects from implementation of the TRRP Master Plan? When providing this information, please indicate what analysis should be included in the EIR.

d. State Department of Health Services

Your agency is listed as having statutory authority biological resources in Appendix B of the CEQA Guidelines. Is there any information you would like to have added to the TRRP Master EIR regarding wildlife and plant habitat effects from implementation of the TRRP Master Plan? When providing this information, please indicate what analysis should be included in the EIR.

e. State Water Resources Control Board

Your agency is listed as having statutory authority over biological resources in Appendix B of the CEQA Guidelines. Is there any information you would like to have added to the TRRP Master EIR regarding wildlife and plant habitat effects from implementation of the TRRP Master Plan? When providing this information, please indicate what analysis should be included in the EIR.

f. United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Your agency has statutory authority over biological resources . Is there any information you would like to have added to the TRRP Master EIR regarding wildlife and plant habitat effects from implementation of the TRRP Master Plan? When providing this information, please indicate what analysis should be included in the EIR.

3. Responses Requested from Other Parties

a. Turlock Irrigation District (Tim Ford, Biologist)

Is there any information you would like to have added to the TRRP Master EIR regarding wildlife and plant habitat effects from implementation of the TRRP Master Plan? When providing this information, please indicate what analysis should be included in the EIR.

G. Potential Disturbance of Archaeological or Historical Sites

THIS ISSUE WILL BE STUDIED IN THE MASTER EIR.

1. "Probable Environmental Effects":
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1)(C))

A review of files at the Central California Information Center in Turlock determined that the only known significant historic resource in the TRRP is the 7th Street Bridge, which crosses over the Gateway Parcel. The review

also identified one historic-era trash pit near John Thurman Ball Field, which has not been evaluated for its historic significance. Although no Native American archaeological sites have been discovered in the TRRP, only a small portion of the park has been surveyed for such resources, and there exists the potential for unknown subsurface archaeological sites near the current and historic shorelines of the Tuolumne River and Dry Creek.

Implementation of the TRRP Master Plan would allow for subsurface grading and construction of new recreational facilities within the TRRP, primarily in the Gateway Parcel. These activities would not affect the historic 7th Street Bridge. However, construction grading may disturb previously unknown subsurface archaeological or historic resources at the Gateway Parcel or other areas of the TRRP, if present.

The Master EIR will include mitigation measures related to specific, ground-disturbing projects.

The site has no known human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries. However, it is impossible to be sure about the presence or absence of human remains on a site until site excavation and grading occurs. In the event that such remains are encountered, there shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains, in accordance with state law. The Stanislaus County coroner would be contacted and appropriate measures implemented. These actions would be consistent with the State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, which prohibits disinterring, disturbing, or removing human remains from any location other than a dedicated cemetery.

2. "Meaningful Responses" are requested from potentially Responsible Agencies:
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1))

The parties/agencies listed below may have statutory responsibility in this environmental area; some are listed in Appendix B of the CEQA Guidelines. The questions below are to determine if there is any information related to your agency's area of responsibility that should be considered in the TRRP Master EIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(b)).

a. California State Office of Historic Preservation
(Daniel Abeyta, Acting SHPO)

Your agency is listed as having statutory authority over cultural resources in Appendix B of the CEQA Guidelines. Is there information you would like to have added to the TRRP Master EIR on effects to cultural resources in the TRRP? When providing this

information, please indicate what analysis should be included in the EIR.

b. Native American Heritage Commission

Your agency is listed as having statutory authority over cultural resources in Appendix B of the CEQA Guidelines. Is there information you would like to have added to the TRRP Master EIR on effects to cultural resources in the TRRP? When providing this information, please indicate what analysis should be included in the EIR.

c. Caltrans District 10

Your agency has statutory authority over the 7th Street Bridge. Is there information you would like to have added to the Master EIR? When providing this information, please indicate what analysis should be included in the EIR.

d. State Lands Commission

Your agency is listed as having statutory authority over cultural resources in Appendix B of the CEQA Guidelines. Is there information you would like to have added to the TRRP Master EIR? When providing this information, please indicate what analysis should be included in the EIR.

3. Responses Requested from Other Parties

None requested.

H. Flooding and Water Quality

THIS ISSUE WILL BE STUDIED IN THE MASTER EIR.

1. "Probable Environmental Effects":
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1)(C))

All of the TRRP falls within the 100-year floodplain and much of the park falls within the proposed 100-year floodway as designated by FEMA. It also falls within the floodway designated by the State Reclamation Board. No housing or other inhabitable structures would be constructed within the defined flood zones. Although the proposed project may contribute additional runoff, it is not anticipated to substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area.

The Lower Tuolumne has been designated an "impaired waterbody" pursuant to Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. The constituent pollutants include Group A Pesticides, DDT, and unknown toxicity. The primary human health-related water quality issue in the lower Tuolumne River is high levels of fecal coliform. The Stanislaus County Department of Health recommends posting bathing areas with a warning sign against water contact when fecal coliform counts exceed 200 organisms per 100 mL for two consecutive monthly samples or for a single sample of greater than 400 organisms per 100 mL. Data from the Stanislaus County Department of Health (1994) indicate that these criteria had been exceeded several times from 1991 to 1994. In 1991, six of the seven sites sampled near Modesto exceeded these criteria; in 1992, four of seven sites exceeded criteria; and in 1993 and 1994, neither of two sites exceeded criteria.

Water quality in the Tuolumne River is also affected by a number of point sources within the Tuolumne River Regional Park project site. The confluence of the Tuolumne with the muddy flow from Dry Creek produces a visible change in water quality below the confluence. Dry Creek generally carries a higher sediment and nutrient load than the Tuolumne above this point due to the grazing and agricultural land uses in its watershed. Two additional major point sources that can potentially impair water quality within the TRRP project area are the wastewater treatment plant, to the east of Carpenter Road, and the old landfill site, immediately adjacent to Carpenter Road to the east and west. The wastewater treatment plant is only a water quality concern during high flows when floodwaters may inundate the treatment ponds. Little is known about the contents of the nearby landfill, which is believed to be unlined and uncapped, and could be contributing pollutants to the nearby water table and river.

The project does not propose any uses or pollution sources that would further compromise the existing water quality, further violate water quality standards, or necessitate waste discharge requirements. The project would not alter the existing landfill or the wastewater treatment plant. The enhanced riparian systems as a result of the project may improve the water quality on the lower Tuolumne River.

There is no known potential for tsunamis or seiches at the project site.

2. "Meaningful Responses" are requested from potentially Responsible Agencies:
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1))

The parties/agencies listed below may have statutory responsibility in this environmental area; some are listed in Appendix B of the CEQA Guidelines. The questions below are to determine if there is any

information related to your agency's area of responsibility that should be considered in the TRRP Master EIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(b)).

- a. State Department of Water Resources, Reclamation Board (Peter D. Rabbon, General Manager, Ricardo Pineda, Chief Engineer)

With regard to your Agency's jurisdiction is there information you would like to have added to the Master EIR regarding potential policy conflicts? When providing this information, please indicate what analysis should be included in the EIR.

- b. City of Ceres Public Works Director (Joe Hollstein)

Is there additional information you wish to provide with regard to flooding and water quality effects that should be included in the TRRP Master EIR? Please provide this information, and tell us what analysis should be provided in the EIR.

- c. City of Modesto Engineering and Transportation, Utilities Planning Division (Glen Lewis)

Is there additional information you wish to provide with regard to flooding and water quality effects that would require new analysis? Specifically, are there new NPDES requirements that should be included in the Master EIR? Please provide this information, and tell us what analysis should be provided in the EIR.

- d. Federal Emergency Management Agency Region IX (Martha Whetstone, Director)

FEMA is responsible for reducing damage due to flooding and other natural disasters. We are aware of the recent revisions to the 100-year flood plain and floodway boundaries. Are there any additional considerations that we should be aware of? What type of analysis should be included in the Master EIR?

- e. Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (5)

Your agency has statutory responsibility over setting and enforcing the water quality standards in the area. Are there any recent revisions to the regional water quality standards that should be included in the TRRP Master EIR? Is there any recent water quality information that can be added to the analysis? Is there any other information you would like to have added to the TRRP Master EIR regarding the best management practices in the park? When providing this information, please indicate what analysis should be included in the EIR.

f. Stanislaus County Public Works Director (George Stillman)

Is there information you would like to have added to the TRRP Master EIR regarding flooding and water quality effects of implementation of the TRRP Master Plan? When providing this information, please indicate what analysis should be included in the EIR.

g. State Department of Fish and Game (William Loudermilk)

Your agency is listed as having statutory authority over water quality in Appendix B of the CEQA Guidelines. Is there information you would like to have added to the TRRP Master EIR regarding water quality and its effect on fish and wildlife in the riparian areas of the Tuolumne River and Dry Creek from implementation of the TRRP Master Plan? When providing this information, please indicate what analysis should be included in the EIR.

h. United States Army Corps of Engineers

Your agency has statutory responsibility over flooding and hydrology, and has permit authority over stream channel alterations. In addition, there have been several studies prepared to date, including a 1998 Reconnaissance Study, that address flood control issues on the Tuolumne River. Is there information you would like to have added to the TRRP Master EIR regarding flooding? When providing this information, please indicate what analysis should be included in the EIR.

3. Responses Requested from Other Parties

a. Modesto Irrigation District (Walter Ward)

Is there additional information you wish to provide with regard to flooding and water quality effects that should be included in the TRRP Master EIR? Please provide this information, and tell us what analysis should be provided in the EIR.

b. Turlock Irrigation District

Is there additional information you wish to provide with regard to flooding and water quality effects that should be included in the TRRP Master EIR? Please provide this information, and tell us what analysis should be provided in the EIR.

I. Landslides and Seismic Activity

THIS ISSUE WILL NOT BE STUDIED IN THE MASTER EIR.

1. "Probable Environmental Effects":
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1)(C))

There are no known active faults in the project area that would expose people or structures to potential, substantial adverse effects. The current Uniform Building Code indicates that Modesto is in the lower risk zone (Zone 3) for seismic activity. As no inhabitable structures (i.e., restrooms and overlook platforms could be constructed) would be constructed as part of the proposed project, there would be no impact related to seismic hazards, and issues associated with expansive soils are not considered significant. Because the general land slopes along the river banks are relatively slight, the potential for slope failures due to seismic activity is not significant.

2. "Meaningful Responses" are requested from potentially Responsible Agencies:
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1))

Since there are no anticipated impacts to landslides and seismic activity as a result of the TRRP, responses from responsible agencies are not being requested at this time. Please feel free to comment on this subject, however, if desired.

3. Responses Requested from Other Parties

None requested.

J. Hazardous Materials

THIS ISSUE WILL BE STUDIED IN THE MASTER EIR.

1. "Probable Environmental Effects":
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1)(C))

The proposed project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials as no unusual use of hazardous materials are anticipated as a result of the project. The proposed project would not emit hazardous emissions and does not include the handling of hazardous or acutely hazardous materials.

Approximately 37 acres of land on both sides of Carpenter Road were formerly used as a landfill and are presently being monitored for methane

gas discharges. The Carpenter Road west site (approximately 28 acres) was open from 1956 to 1967. The Carpenter Road East site (approximately 9 acres) was open from 1967 to 1968. Neither of the sites had been used as a burn site, and hazardous materials are not known to have been received at the sites. Both sites were "trench-and-fill" construction. Cover material for each of these sites is native soil. Landfill gases have not been detected at off-site locations, and no gas collection system exists at these sites. In 1987, at the request of the Air District, the City of Modesto performed emissions screening and driven hole tests at the site. Nine locations exceeding 10 parts per million (ppm) were noted at the Carpenter Road West site and three locations were noted at the Carpenter Road East site. Driven hole tests resulted in 47% and 43% methane concentrations at Carpenter Road East and West. More recent test data is not available.

The landfill would be required to be capped prior to reuse for recreational purposes. Any post closure land use changes (i.e., implementation of the TRRP Master Plan) must be submitted to the California Integrated Waste Management Board for review. Requirements for the design and maintenance of post closure land uses are contained in Title 27, Section 21190 of the California Code of Regulations. Construction of a park and a trail through this area, as provided by the project, could expose people to methane gas.

Though it is acknowledged that development of the landfill property could result in potentially significant hazard impacts, the Master EIR will not examine this issue in detail. As allowed by Section 21157(b)(3) of the Public Resources Code, the Master EIR will identify disturbance or development of the landfill property as a subsequent project for which there is not sufficient information reasonably available to support a full assessment of potential impacts in the Master EIR. Development of the landfill property would require additional subsequent environmental review to be implemented.

2. "Meaningful Responses" are requested from potentially Responsible Agencies:
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1))

The parties/agencies listed below may have statutory responsibility in this environmental area; some are listed in Appendix B of the CEQA Guidelines. The questions below are to determine if there is any information related to your agency's area of responsibility that should be considered in the TRRP Master Plan EIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(b)).

a. City of Modesto Fire Department (Doug Hannink)

Is there additional information you would like to provide regarding the potential exposure of additional people to wildfires resulting from implementation of the TRRP? In providing this information, please tell us what analysis should be included in the EIR.

b. Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (5)

Your agency is listed as having statutory authority over this environmental area in Appendix B of the CEQA Guidelines. Is there information you would like to have added to the Master EIR regarding generation of hazardous materials effects from implementation of the TRRP? When providing this information, please indicate what analysis should be included in the EIR.

b. Solid Waste Management Board (Susan Markie)

The Solid Waste Management Board is currently monitoring this site for methane gas production. Is there information you would like to have addressed in the Master EIR?

c. Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District

Is there additional information you would like to provide regarding the potential exposure of additional people to wildfires resulting from implementation of the TRRP? In providing this information, please tell us what analysis should be included in the EIR.

d. Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources

Is there information you would like to have added to the Master EIR regarding effects from implementation of the TRRP? When providing this information, please indicate what analysis should be included in the EIR.

e. Stanislaus County Environmental Health Department

Your agency is listed as having statutory authority over this environmental area in Appendix B of the CEQA Guidelines. Is there information you would like to have added to the Master EIR regarding generation of hazardous materials effects from implementation of the TRRP? When providing this information, please indicate what analysis should be included in the EIR.

f. State Department of Conservation

Your agency is listed as having statutory authority over this environmental area in Appendix B of the CEQA Guidelines. Is there information you would like to have added to the Master EIR regarding effects on agricultural lands from implementation of the TRRP? When providing this information, please indicate what analysis should be included in the EIR.

g. State Department of Fish and Game

Your agency is listed as having statutory authority over this environmental area in Appendix B of the CEQA Guidelines. Is there information you would like to have added to the Master EIR regarding potential effects on fish and wildlife habitat from implementation of the TRRP? When providing this information, please indicate what analysis should be included in the EIR.

h. State Department of Water Resources

Your agency is listed as having statutory authority over this environmental area in Appendix B of the CEQA Guidelines. Is there information you would like to have added to the Master EIR regarding effects on water resources from implementation of the TRRP? When providing this information, please indicate what analysis should be included in the EIR.

i. State Integrated Waste Management Board

Your agency is listed as having statutory authority over this environmental area in Appendix B of the CEQA Guidelines. Is there information you would like to have added to the Master EIR regarding potential effects from implementation of the TRRP Land Use Plan Update? When providing this information, please indicate what analysis should be included in the EIR.

j. United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX

Your agency has statutory authority over this environmental area. Is there information you would like to have added to the Master EIR regarding effects from implementation of the TRRP? With this information, please indicate what analysis should be included in the EIR.

3. Responses Requested from Other Parties

None requested.

K. Increased Demand for Sanitary Sewer Facilities

THIS ISSUE WILL NOT BE STUDIED IN THE MASTER EIR.

1. "Probable Environmental Effects":
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1)(C))

The increased demand for sanitary sewer facilities for the TRRP will be not be significant. New sanitary sewer facilities will be limited to a small number of restrooms, which will be constructed in the Carpenter Road area and on the Gateway Parcel. These facilities will comply with the wastewater treatment requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board. They will not result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities, the expansion of existing facilities, or cause significant environmental effects.

2. "Meaningful Responses" are requested from potentially Responsible Agencies:
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1))

Responses from responsible agencies are not requested regarding sanitary sewer facilities. However, responsible agencies may respond if desired.

3. Responses Requested from Other Parties

None requested.

L. Increased Demand for Water Distribution Facilities

THIS ISSUE WILL NOT BE STUDIED IN THE MASTER EIR.

1. "Probable Environmental Effects":
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1)(C))

The proposed project would have no significant effect on demand for water distribution facilities. The TRRP would only require minor extensions of water-related utilities, such as water and wastewater pipelines for a limited number of restrooms and drinking fountains, primarily in the Gateway Parcel. The majority of the vegetation proposed for park is composed of native plants which will only require irrigation during a short period of initial establishment. The park will also require minor extensions of permanent water lines for use in the irrigation of a turf grass zone in the Gateway Parcel and for soccer fields in the Carpenter Road Area.

2. "Meaningful Responses" are requested from potentially Responsible Agencies:
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1))

Responses from responsible agencies are not requested regarding water distribution facilities. However, responsible agencies may respond if desired.

3. Responses Requested from Other Parties

None requested.

M. Increased Demand for Storm Drainage Facilities

THIS ISSUE WILL NOT BE STUDIED IN THE MASTER EIR.

1. "Probable Environmental Effects":
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1)(C))

Development on the TRRP site, including roadways, parking areas, and multi-use trails would increase the amount of impervious surfaces, which may generate a small increase in runoff. This small increase in runoff will not require the construction of new storm drainage facilities or the expansion of existing facilities. Much of the runoff will be distributed to the "stormwater wetlands" and vegetated swales within the park in order to filter the water before it reaches the river.

2. "Meaningful Responses" are requested from potentially Responsible Agencies:
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1))

Responses from responsible agencies are not requested regarding storm drainage facilities. However, responsible agencies may respond if desired.

3. Responses Requested from Other Parties

None requested.

N. Increased Demand for Solid Waste Facilities

THIS ISSUE WILL NOT BE STUDIED IN THE MASTER EIR.

1. "Probable Environmental Effects":
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1)(C))

The project would involve activities that would generate small amounts of solid waste requiring collection, transportation, and disposal. In

accordance with State-mandated recycling requirements, some solid waste reduction would be achieved through source reduction and recycling. Solid waste will be collected on site using trash cans spaced through out the park. Standard transportation and disposal methods will be followed. Solid waste generated by park visitors is not expected to substantially affect local landfill capacity or solid waste disposal services.

2. "Meaningful Responses" are requested from potentially Responsible Agencies:
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1))

Responses from responsible agencies are not requested regarding solid waste facilities. However, responsible agencies may respond if desired.

3. Responses Requested from Other Parties

None requested.

O. Increased Demand for Energy

THIS ISSUE WILL NOT BE STUDIED IN THE MASTER EIR.

1. "Probable Environmental Effects":
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1)(C))

Construction and operation of the project would only require minimal use of electricity for night lighting along selected portions of the main trail, the amphimeadow, and the sports complex. Some gasoline will be consumed by construction and maintenance vehicles. The TRRP trail network will provide a convenient and important non-motorized transportation option for local residents, potentially reducing their overall use of gasoline for local transportation.

2. "Meaningful Responses" are requested from potentially Responsible Agencies:
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1))

Responses from responsible agencies are not requested regarding demand for energy. However, responsible agencies may respond if desired.

3. Responses Requested from Other Parties

None requested.

P. Increased Demand for Police Services

THIS ISSUE WILL NOT BE STUDIED IN THE MASTER EIR.

1. "Probable Environmental Effects":
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1)(C))

The Modesto Police Department maintains a service ratio of 1.65 police officers per 1,000 citizens, and can answer most emergency calls within 3-5 minutes (City of Modesto, 1995). The Police Department operates out of two main facilities; 601 11th Street and 12th and F Streets. The proposed project would likely require additional police patrols for enhanced security due to the increased number of park users. These additional patrols would not substantially affect service ratios, response times, or other performance. No new police facilities would be needed as a result of the project.

2. "Meaningful Responses" are requested from potentially Responsible Agencies:
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1))

The parties/agencies listed below may have statutory responsibility in this environmental area; some are listed in Appendix B of the CEQA Guidelines. The questions below are to determine if there is any information related to your agency's area of responsibility that should be considered in the TRRP Master EIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(b)).

a. City of Modesto Police Department (Paul Jefferson)

Is there additional information you would like to provide regarding the increased demand for police services resulting from implementation of the TRRP?

b. Stanislaus County Sheriff (Les Weidman)

Is there additional information you would like to provide regarding the increased demand for police services resulting from implementation of the TRRP?

3. Responses Requested from Other Parties

None requested.

Q. Increased Demand for Fire Services

THIS ISSUE WILL NOT BE STUDIED IN THE MASTER EIR.

1. "Probable Environmental Effects":
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1)(C))

The Modesto Fire Department answers approximately 92-94% of all calls within 6 minutes, and has 10 active fire stations in the city (City of Modesto, 1995). The two closest fire stations to the TRRP are located at 601 11th Street and 629 2nd Street. Implementation of the proposed project would not substantially increase the fire hazard beyond what currently exists at the TRRP. For these reasons, there would be no impacts to fire protection as a result from the proposed project.

2. "Meaningful Responses" are requested from potentially Responsible Agencies:
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1))

The parties/agencies listed below may have statutory responsibility in this environmental area; some are listed in Appendix B of the CEQA Guidelines. The questions below are to determine if there is any information related to your agency's area of responsibility that should be considered in the TRRP Master EIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(b)).

- a. City of Modesto Fire Department (Doug Hannink)

Is there additional information you would like to provide regarding the increased demand for fire protection services resulting from implementation of the TRRP?

- b. Stanislaus County Consolidated Fire District Chief

Is there additional information you would like to provide regarding the increased demand for fire protection services resulting from implementation of the TRRP?

3. Responses Requested from Other Parties

None requested.

R. Increased Demand for Park Facilities and Open Spaces

THIS ISSUE WILL NOT BE STUDIED IN THE MASTER EIR.

1. "Probable Environmental Effects":
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1)(C))

Implementation of the proposed project would greatly increase the amount of parkland available and accessible to the public, thereby taking pressure off of other recreational facilities in the area. The proposed project would not increase the use of other neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of those facilities would occur.

The proposed project may also require additional city parks personnel to maintain and administer the additional facilities and activities envisioned for the TRRP. The number of additional city parks personnel needed would not substantially reduce the department's ability to provide such services elsewhere in the city

2. "Meaningful Responses" are requested from potentially Responsible Agencies:
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1))

The parties/agencies listed below may have statutory responsibility in this environmental area; some are listed in Appendix B of the CEQA Guidelines. The questions below are to determine if there is any information related to your agency's area of responsibility that should be considered in the TRRP Master EIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(b)).

a. City of Modesto Park Planning and Development
(Fred Allen)

Is there additional information you would like to provide regarding the increased demand for city parks personnel resulting from implementation of the TRRP? In providing this information, please tell us what analysis should be included in the EIR.

3. Responses Requested from Other Parties

None requested.

S. Increased Demand for School Facilities

THIS ISSUE WILL NOT BE STUDIED IN THE MASTER EIR.

1. "Probable Environmental Effects":
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1)(C))

The proposed project would not require additional school facilities as no students are anticipated as a result of project development.

2. "Meaningful Responses" are requested from potentially Responsible Agencies:
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1))

Responses from responsible agencies are not requested regarding school facilities. However, responsible agencies may respond if desired.

3. Responses Requested from Other Parties

None requested.

T. Visual Resources

THIS ISSUE WILL NOT BE STUDIED IN THE MASTER EIR.

1. "Probable Environmental Effects":
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1)(C))

The TRRP Master Plan is located adjacent to the Tuolumne River, a significant natural landscape feature. The visual experience of the river corridor includes areas that are of high visual quality, and other areas where the visual environment has been degraded by urban development. Along the river corridor, the area with the highest existing visual quality is the eastern-most portion of the park, which supports a majestic, mature oak woodland on the north bank. The project would not damage existing scenic resources, including but not limited to significant or unique trees, rock outcroppings, or significant historic resources. The mature oak woodland would be preserved.

The natural environment in other reaches of the park has been degraded, resulting in an overall lower visual quality. These more degraded portions of the park are highly visible (i.e., the Gateway Parcel, Carpenter Road) from the Seventh Street Ninth Street and Highway 99 bridges. Extensive planting of the project area would improve its appearance.

2. "Meaningful Responses" are requested from potentially Responsible Agencies:
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1))

No agencies with statutory responsibility in this issue area have been identified to date.

3. Responses Requested from Other Parties

None requested.

U. Mineral Resources

THIS ISSUE WILL NOT BE STUDIED IN THE MASTER EIR.

1. "Probable Environmental Effects":
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1)(C))

The project site is not known to contain any mineral resources that are important to the region or the State. The project site is not known to contain locally important mineral resources and none of these resources are delineated on a local plan, specific plan or other land use plan.

2. "Meaningful Responses" are requested from potentially Responsible Agencies:
(CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a)(1))

Responses from responsible agencies are not requested regarding mineral resources. However, responsible agencies may respond if desired.

3. Responses Requested from Other Parties

None requested.

V. Specific Questions Directed to Specific Agencies

We have attempted to notify all relevant agencies and have included those agencies indicated in CEQA Guidelines Appendix B as having Statutory Authority. However, do not rely strictly on the guidance presented below. In fact, any agency is free to comment on any aspect of this NOP.

Those agencies, the information requested, and the references where discussed in Section IV, "Probable Environmental Effects" are:

1. Caltrans, District 10
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Traffic and Circulation Needs: Item IV-A
 - (2) Potential Disturbance of Archaeological or Historical Sites: Item IV-G
2. City of Ceres Planning and Community Development Director
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Traffic and Circulation Needs: Item IV-A
3. City of Ceres Public Works Director
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Traffic and Circulation Needs: Item IV-A
 - (2) Flooding and Water Quality: Item IV-H
4. City of Modesto Fire Chief
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Generation of Hazardous Materials: Item IV-J
 - (2) Increased Demand for Fire Services: Item IV-Q
5. City of Modesto Police Chief
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Increased Demand for Police Services: Item IV-P
6. City of Modesto Engineering and Transportation Department
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Traffic and Circulation Needs: Item IV-A
 - (2) Generation of Noise: Item IV-E
7. City of Modesto Engineering and Transportation Department, Utilities Planning Division
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Flooding and Water Quality: Item IV-H

8. City of Modesto Park Planning and Development
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Increased Demand for Park Facilities and Open Space: Item IV-R

9. Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region IX
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - 1) Flooding and Water Quality: Item IV-H

10. Modesto Irrigation District
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Flooding and Water Quality: Item IV-H
 - (2) Increased Demand for Energy: Item IV-O

11. National Marine Fisheries Service
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Loss of Sensitive Wildlife and Plant Habitat: Item IV-F

12. Native American Heritage Commission
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Potential Disturbance of Archeological or Historical Sites: Item IV-G

13. Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (5)
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Flooding and Water Quality: Item IV-H
 - (2) Generation of Hazardous Materials: Item IV-J

14. San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Degradation of Air Quality: Item IV-C

15. Solid Waste Management Board
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Generation of Hazardous Materials: Item IV-J

16. Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Generation of Hazardous Materials: Item IV-J

17. Stanislaus County Consolidated Fire Department
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Increased Demand for Fire Services: Item IV-Q

18. Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Generation of Hazardous Materials: Item IV-J

19. Stanislaus County Environmental Health Department
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Generation of Hazardous Materials: Item IV-J

20. Stanislaus County Planning and Community Development Director
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Traffic and Circulation Needs: Item IV-A
 - (2) Generation of Noise: Item IV-E

21. Stanislaus County Public Works Director
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Traffic and Circulation Needs: Item IV-A
 - (2) Flooding and Water Quality: Item IV-H

22. Stanislaus County Sheriff
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Increased Demand for Police Services: Item IV-P

23. State Air Resources Board
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Degradation of Air Quality: Item IV-C

24. State Aeronautics Department
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Generation of Noise: Item IV-E

25. State Department of Conservation
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Generation of Hazardous Materials: Item IV-J

26. State Department of Fish and Game
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Generation of Noise: Item IV-E
 - (2) Loss of Sensitive Wildlife and Plant Habitat: Item IV-F
 - (3) Flooding and Water Quality: Item IV-H
 - (4) Generation of Hazardous Materials: Item IV-J

27. State Department of Health Services
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Generation of Noise: Item IV-E
 - (2) Loss of Sensitive Wildlife and Plant Habitat: Item IV-F

28. State Department of Parks and Recreation
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Loss of Sensitive Wildlife and Plant Habitat: Item IV-F

29. State Department of Water Resources
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Flooding and Water Quality: Item IV-H
 - (2) Generation of Hazardous Materials: Item IV-J
30. State Integrated Waste Management Board
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Generation of Hazardous Materials: Item IV- J
31. State Lands Commission
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Potential Disturbance to Archaeological and Historical Sites: Item IV-G
32. State Office of Historic Preservation
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Potential Disturbance of Archaeological or Historical Sites: Item IV-G
33. State Water Resources Control Board
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Loss of Sensitive Wildlife and Plant Habitat: Item IV-F
34. Turlock Irrigation District
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Loss of Sensitive Wildlife and Plant Habitat: Item IV-F
 - (2) Flooding and Water Quality: Item IV-H
35. United States Army Corps of Engineers
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Flooding and Water Quality: Item IV-H
36. United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region IX
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Generation of Hazardous Materials: Item IV-J
37. United States Fish and Wildlife Service
 - a. Information Requested on:
 - (1) Loss of Sensitive Wildlife and Plant Habitat: Item IV-F

VI. References

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